

DATE: February 5, 2020

TO: Class of 2021

FROM: Erica Nelson, MD, Chair
Mary Aiello, MA, Assessment Program Coordinator
Clinical Competency Examination (CCX) Committee

RE: Summative Clinical Competency Examination for Class of 2020

The Summative Clinical Competency Examination (SCCX) is a comprehensive 14-patient multidisciplinary clinical practice examination. Its purpose is to provide faculty and students with a standardized measure of student competence and readiness for graduate medical education as well as to provide feedback about the effectiveness of the SIU SOM curriculum.

The CCX Committee, composed primarily of faculty from clinical departments, selects all SCCX case problems from Appendix A (*Must See objectives*) of the SIU School of Medicine Graduation Objectives. The SIUSOM Objectives, along with the Honor Code and other information, can be found on the CCX Assessment website at

<http://www.siumed.edu/oec/ccx-assessments.html>

SCCX cases are selected to cover the range of patients, experiences and expectations to which you have been exposed during the first three years of medical school. Each SCCX case is based on a real patient, developed by faculty, and approved by the CCX Committee before it is used.

The SCCX will take two full days to complete and will include seven cases each day, each beginning with a standardized patient (SP) encounter. The SPs will complete H&P checklists and Patient Satisfaction rating scales, and will write comments about your interpersonal and communication skills.

- In the first ten cases, a 20-minute SP encounter will be followed a 45 minute CCX computer examination during which you will list hypotheses, findings, preliminary diagnosis justification, labs/interpretation, diagnosis, diagnosis justification, problem list, and management for the patient. When case CCXs differ from this format you will be advised in the CCX instructions for that case. Diagnosis Justification instructions are the same as in prior years (*Please explain your thought processes in getting to the final diagnosis: i.e, how you used the data you collected from the patient (history and physical) and from laboratory work to move from your initial differential diagnoses to your final diagnosis. Please include both positive and negative findings in this discussion. Please be thorough.* The scoring form used is on the CCX Assessments website.

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- The last four cases will be administered like the USMLE, Step 2 Clinical Skills exam with 15-minute SP encounters followed by 10-minutes for writing patient notes. The patient notes will include history findings, physical exam findings, differential diagnoses (with supporting findings) and diagnostic work-up. (The form is posted on the *CCX_Assessments* website.)

Our curriculum is designed to prepare you for the SCCX, however, it is recommended you invest additional preparation time as needed to ensure you are competent in the following areas:

- You should be able to perform **all components of the Head to Toe Physical Exam**.
- You should know **what questions and what physical exam are needed for all complaints** listed in the Objectives for Graduation, Appendix A.
- You should be able to **generate a thorough differential diagnosis and write basic management orders for all complaints** listed in Appendix A.
- You should be able to **justify your final diagnosis** clearly and thoroughly using your findings, lab results, and explain why *other* hypotheses on your differential list were ruled out.

If you want extra practice using the CCX program, the J_Keller CCX case is available at the following link: <https://siumed.dxrccx.com> . Select the following directory *siosom_s_ccx_*. Type in a random user name and password each time you access the practice case. No data/records are kept.

The SCCX will be administered six times over a three-week period (March 3 - March 20) with 12-14 students in each group. The school expects you to maintain strict confidentiality about the exam cases. The SCCX is a **secure examination** and is protected by the **SIU School of Medicine Secure Examination Policy**. Sharing information about or having unauthorized knowledge about the exam (or its cases) constitutes a violation of the policy and will be considered a serious breach of professional conduct that will be immediately dealt with in accordance with school policies. You will sign an oath of confidentiality before you begin the SCCX.

SCCX results are reported to the Student Progress Committee (SPC) in April with the following recommendations:

- **Students who fail the SCCX** will be recommended to take the 3-week *Clinical Reasoning* course. It will be given only once: **June 15 through July 2, 2020**.
- **Students who fail Patient Satisfaction** will be recommended to take the 1-week *Enhancing Communication in the Physician/Patient Relationship* course. It will be given only once: **June 8 through June 12, 2020**.

A **SCCX Orientation** session will be held on Thursday, **February 13, 2020** at 5 PM in the West Auditorium discussing SCCX expectations and plans in more detail. The session PowerPoint slides will be posted on the CCX Assessments website (along with other pertinent information about the exam) for those unable to attend. **Review the SCCX instructions posted on the website before you come to take the examination.**

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Your daily schedules will be available on the CCX Assessments website later this week. Please arrive at the PDL ten minutes before you are scheduled to begin. If you have questions, contact:

- Dr. Nelson at enelson@siumed.edu
- Mary Aiello at maiello@siumed.edu or at 545-7126

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