MEDICAL SCHOOL | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Forensic Pathology

LAMP 7119

2026

SYLLABUS STATEMENT

This course was designed by a team of faculty utilizing the evidence-based design processes. The purpose of the syllabus is to provide clarity about course expectations and contact information. Consider using this document as a guide for the course and to provide transparency and accountability for all.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The student will become acquainted with medicolegal death investigation by participating in daily meetings, attending autopsies, and discussing the certification of death as to the cause and manner with the medical examiners. They may also participate in other opportunities, as available, such as going to the scene of death with the civilian investigators and attending attorney meetings or observing courtroom proceedings. The student will be expected to review available literature, including the book Forensic Pathology: Principles and Practice by Dolinak.

This course acquaints students with the field of forensic medicine. The student will become familiar with the function of a medical examiner's office in determining the various causes and manners of death that fall under the jurisdiction of such a public official.

Clinical Sites: HC: Hennepin County Office of the Medical Examiner, 14250 County Road 62, Minnetonka, MN 55345
Prerequisites: none
Terms offered: Summer, Fall and Spring
Length of Clerkship: 2 weeks, 2 credits
Grading Scale: P/N

CANVAS SITE

https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/495698

CLERKSHIP DIRECTOR
Role descriptions & how they can assist
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CLERKSHIP COORDINATOR
Role descriptions & how they can assist
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REFERENCES & ALIGNMENT TO GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Institutional Goals & Objectives	Entrustable Professional Activities	Methods of Instruction
UMN Competencies Required for Graduation	Refer to EPAs	Refer to AAMC Categories

CLERKSHIP CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT TABLE

Clerkship Learning Objective	Assessment (use AAMC assessment categories + clerkship language)	Graduation Competencies	Graduation Competencies Subdomain	Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)
1. Identify which types of deaths fall under the medical examiner's jurisdiction	Supervisor Evaluation (AM002)	Patient Care	PC1, PC2	2
2. Formulate ideas on appropriate ways to sign out a death certificate	Supervisor Evaluation (AM002) Participation (AM012)	Patient Care Knowledge for Practice Scientific and Clinical Inquiry	PC1, PC2, PC3 KP1, KP2 SCI1	3, 5, 7
3. Identify basic patterns of injury and natural disease	Supervisor Evaluation (AM002)	Patient Care Knowledge for Practice Scientific and Clinical Inquiry	PC1, PC2, PC3 KP1, KP2 SCI1	3, 7
4. Recognize common toxicologic agents implicated in deaths	Supervisor Evaluation (AM002)	Patient Care Knowledge for Practice Scientific and Clinical Inquiry	PC1, PC2, PC3 KP1, KP2 SCI1	3, 7
5. Describe the major steps of performing an autopsy and the strengths and limitations of the autopsy as a diagnostic tool	Supervisor Evaluation (AM002) Participation (AM012)	Knowledge for Practice Scientific and Clinical Inquiry	KP1, KP2 SCI1	3, 5, 7

Learning goals aligned to Graduation Competencies

Methods of Assessment - Formative & Summative	**Methods of Instruction**
Exam (AM004) *Narrative assessment (AM010)* *Oral patient presentation (AM011)* *Participation (AM012)*	*Case-based instruction (IM001)* *Concept mapping (IM004)* *Discussions (IM007, IM008)* *Independent learning (IM010)*

Self-assessment (AM017)	*Lecture (IM013)* *Patient presentation (IM015, IM016, IM031)* *Peer teaching (IM017)* *Problem-based learning (IM019)* *Reflection (IM020)* *Self-directed learning (IM023)* *Team-based learning (IM026)* *Team-building (IM027* *Tutorial (IM028)* *Workshop (IM030)*

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Threshold Element Description	Timing	Grading Scale
Journal club presentation at toxicology rounds	End of Rotation	Pass/No Pass
Regular and timely attendance at daily meetings and conferences	Daily	Pass/No Pass
Professionalism in interaction with staff	Daily	Pass/No Pass
Preparation for and participation in conferences and discussions	Daily	Pass/No Pass
Participation in autopsy cases, including follow-up test results and microscopy	Daily	Pass/No Pass

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

- **Excused Absences:** Please see the Medical School's Attendance Requirements and Excused Absence Policy for details/process related to absences.
- **Important Note - Regarding Clinical Practicals**
  You are informed of exam times well in advance of the exam and it is your professional responsibility to complete each exam at the scheduled time.
    - In order to reschedule a Clinical Practical, you must notify your Course Director and Course Manager **immediately**

Sample Clerkship Weekly Calendar

Week	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*	*Sunday*
1	7:30am - 4:00pm	7:30am - 4:00pm	7:30am - 4:00pm	7:30am - 4:00pm	7:30am - 4:00pm	n/a	n/a
2	7:30am - 4:00pm	7:30am - 4:00pm	7:30am - 4:00pm	7:30am - 4:00pm	7:30am - 4:00pm	n/a	n/a

COURSE EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

Student course evaluations represent an important contribution to the educational stewardship of the U of MN Medical School. Each year, the curriculum is carefully re-evaluated in the light of specific student suggestions, and student feedback is taken very seriously. Therefore, completing the course evaluation for each course is a required professional expectation of medical students. The Course Evaluation is open for approximately two weeks following the end of the course, and must be completed in the CoursEval system while it is open.

OTHER COURSE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

Remediation	Students who fail to meet the minimum requirements for passing this course will have their performance reviewed by a campus-specific Scholastic Standing Committee (SSC). SSC will determine eligibility for make-up, retakes, or a different path of remediation. Grading & Grade Appeals information
Mistreatment	Mistreatment and Harassment Policy and Reporting Information
Professionalism	Student Conduct Code
Intellectual Responsibility	Procedures for Reporting Ethics Violations to the Peer Review Committee can be found here, in the event that a student, faculty, or staff member witnesses a violation of the Statement of Intellectual Responsibility.
Disability Resources	Accommodation information: Duluth: DRC website, umddr@d.umn.edu, 218.726.6130 Twin Cities: DRC website, drc@umn.edu, 612.626.1333 If you have, or think you have, a disability in any area such as, mental health, attention, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical, please contact the campus-specific DRC office to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.
All Medical Education Policies	Medical Education Policies
*Syllabus Change	Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.