

Critical Care Clerkship – A 4-week clinical rotation with approximately 10-12 students per rotation and a maximum of 14 students. The clerkship is designed to focus on pathophysiological concepts and fundamental approaches to the care of critically ill or injured patients.

Clerkship Director:
Jennifer D. Cox, MD
Jcox1@health.usf.edu

USF Program-Wide Competencies	Clerkship Specific Objectives
Understanding needs and uniqueness of patients. Utilization of empathy, honesty, and integrity in providing care.	Demonstrate respect for patients and a commitment to involve patients as participants in their health care. Respect the patient's informed decisions, including the right to refuse treatment and patient autonomy. Participate in discussions and implementation of withdrawal of care and participate in all family discussions regarding the students' patients.
Scientific approach to medical management and decision-making.	Understand fundamental principles of BCLS and ACLS. Develop an awareness of interrelatedness between various disciplines. Understand pathophysiology, complications, and management of multiple organ system failure. Understand physiology of respiration and pathophysiology of acute & chronic respiratory failure. Understand principles of mechanical ventilatory support, weaning from mechanical ventilation in both acute and chronic respiratory failure. Participate in the care and management of a wide variety of illnesses encompassing all organ systems. Develop a method for interpreting arterial blood gases and how to make appropriate management changes based on the arterial blood gas.
Formulation of effective diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive care plans.	Select proper medications and treatment options. Understand risks and benefits of procedures recommended. Select diagnostic studies with greatest likelihood of useful results. Modify treatment based on new data and monitor a patient's response to treatment, including potential adverse effects. Understand the basis for developing a comprehensive and accurate differential diagnosis. Gain the ability to reassess and form a new differential diagnosis and treatment plan for new problems that arise in critically ill patients.
Collaboration with others on the health care team and an understanding of system based practice.	Enhance understanding of the role of critical care units in overall health care of patients. Appreciate prioritization of care (triage) as used in critical care medicine. Appreciate resources that can help commence planning for necessary care following discharge from ICU, including social work services and ancillary hospital services. Call for appropriate consultation with regard to specialized medical disciplines of cardiology, internal medicine subspecialties, neurology, surgical, radiology, orthopedics, obstetrics and pain management. Fostering a collegial work environment within your service and with consultants. Learn how to communicate effectively through the medical record and verbally with consultants.
Attitudes and values: exemplifying professionalism and patient advocacy.	Demonstrate understanding of psychosocial impact of health and illness of patients and families. Demonstrate increasing skill in talking with patients and families about prognosis, delivering bad news, and discussing end-of-life decisions. Demonstrate discretion when discussing patient related information. Respect patient privacy.
Reflection and renewal: learning and the teaching of others.	Demonstrate the ability for lifelong learning and self education. Demonstrate the ability to disseminate this information and teach colleagues. Demonstrate the ability to adapt to different learning environments-lectures, hands on, simulation, and case studies.
Ethics: utilization of principles governing ethical medical practice.	Respect the rights of patients, colleagues, and other health professionals, and safeguard patient confidences and privacy. Make relevant information available to patients, colleagues, and the public, obtain consultation, and use the talents of other health professionals when indicated.
Skills: competent performance of skills and tasks.	Present a new patient's case, chronologically developing the present illness. Present an established patient's case, focused on treatment plans. Present a differential diagnosis for each problem observed. Record a new patient evaluation for each clinical situation. Observation of Critical Care procedures with potential to perform these procedures with appropriate supervision and guidance. Participate in simulation training and work on developing leadership skills.