Designing a coach advising curriculum to promote deliberate career exploration for new clerkship electives

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Consortium project

Our goal is to design and evaluate a coach advising curriculum in the context of new clinical electives in the clerkship year, called Clinical Immersive Experiences (CIExes). Guided by the master adaptive learner framework (Cutrer 2017), we hope to promote students’ deliberate career exploration through close guidance by their coaches.

Our project will occur in three phases:

- **Jan 2019 – June 2019:**
  1. Understand students’ practices in selecting CIExes and the value students find in CIExes
  2. Understand how coaches are supporting students in CIEx choices

- **July 2019 – Dec 2019:**
  Design an advising curriculum around CIExes to engage students and coaches in discussions about career exploration, including potential student models, coach faculty development, scheduled meetings

- **Jan 2020 – Dec 2020:**
  1. Implement longitudinal elective advising curriculum with feedback from key stakeholders
  2. Evaluation and ultimate dissemination of program

The UCSF Bridges Curriculum

**Reimagining the clerkship year**
- UCSF’s clerkship year redesign incorporates deliberate opportunities for career exploration through CIExes
- Family medicine, previously a 6 week block clerkship, is now longitudinal, one day every other week
- This opens 6 weeks for students’ career exploration
- Students are required to enroll in three 2-week CIExes
- Over 70 different CIExes currently exist

**4 Types of CIExes**
1. **Apprenticeship:** explore a potential field of career interest, gain mentorship, see “a day in the life of” a given specialty
2. **Integrative:** explore a clinical topic from perspective of multiple different specialties
3. **Subspecialty:** delve deeper into a specialty of interest through immersive inpatient or outpatient experiences
4. **Clinical skills building:** provide focused skills building (e.g. clinical reasoning, organization, note-writing)

Coaching Program

Coaches are clinician educators who provide advice, assistance, and encouragement in all aspects of students’ education and professional development across all 4 years of medical school with a focus on:
1. Longitudinal coaching and advising
2. Individualized support
3. Formal instruction in clinical skills

Need/Gap Addressed

The need for this advising program is multifactorial:
1. LCME standards mandate effective career (including elective) advising systems (Standard 11.2),
2. Students’ graduation questionnaires indicate a desire for improved advising throughout medical school at UCSF, and
3. The development of CIExes as early career exploration opportunities in the clerkship year necessitates improved advising around selecting CIExes to maximally utilize this new opportunity.

Our advising curriculum may be applied to other career/elective advising contexts in UME and GME.

Grant team members

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