Do Clinical Boot Camps Improve PA Student Preparation for Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences?
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BACKGROUND
- The University of Texas Medical Branch Physician Assistant (PA) Students have an intense one-year curriculum on didactic material before rotating through twelve, four week Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPEs).
- The twelve SCPEs are divided into four “blocks,” with three SCPEs in each block that have similar specialties.
- As the clinical year progressed, faculty found that specialty-specific clinical skills and knowledge declined.
- Boot camps were introduced to refresh the students’ skills before they began the next block of SCPEs.

INNOVATION
- Boot camps are three-hour hands-on training sessions that help prepare PA students for their subsequent block.
- Each boot camp consists of three stations that the student rotates through in small groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Station 1</th>
<th>Station 2</th>
<th>Station 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Radiology review</td>
<td>IM Case studies</td>
<td>IM Auscultation lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care/Mental Health</td>
<td>ENT</td>
<td>PC/MH Case studies</td>
<td>Primary Care Auscultion lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery/EM</td>
<td>OR etiquette &amp; skills</td>
<td>Sterile technique, gowning, gloving</td>
<td>Suturing and knot-tying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s/Children’s</td>
<td>Pelvic/breast task trainers</td>
<td>OB simulation/empathy belly</td>
<td>Pediatric station</td>
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METHODS
- Students completed an online survey immediately following the boot camps.
- Using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree; 5 = Strongly Agree), students evaluated time spent and content appropriateness for the boot camps.
- The survey asked multiple qualitative questions, including what was their favorite favorite part of boot camp and any additional content they would like covered.
- After boot camps for blocks 2, 3, and 4, students were asked if the previous boot camp prepared them well for the previous block on a 4-point Likert scale.

RESULTS
- The students (n=319) rated the content appropriateness with a mean of 4.72 and the time spent with a mean of 4.61 on a 5-point Likert scale.
- When students (n=252) were asked if the previous boot camp prepared them well for the previous block, the mean was 3.36 on a 4-point Likert scale.
- Qualitative data was overwhelmingly positive.

CONCLUSIONS
- Students felt that participation in boot camp helped them on their next block of SCPEs.
- Qualitative feedback received will be used to improve future boot camps.
- PA programs should consider implementing boot camps to help prepare the students for upcoming SCPEs.

REFERENCES

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