

# Do Clinical Boot Camps Improve PA Student Preparation for Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences?

Darcy Ortiz MHA, MPAS, PA-C

Department of Physician Assistant Studies, John Sealy School of Medicine  
The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX



## 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.

Block	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3
Internal Medicine	Radiology review	IM Case studies	IM Auscultation lab
Primary Care/ Mental Health	ENT	PC/MH Case studies	Primary Care Auscultation lab
Surgery/EM	OR etiquette & skills	Sterile technique, gowning, gloving	Suturing and knot-tying
Women's/ Children's	Pelvic/ breast task trainers	OB simulation/ empathy belly	Pediatric station

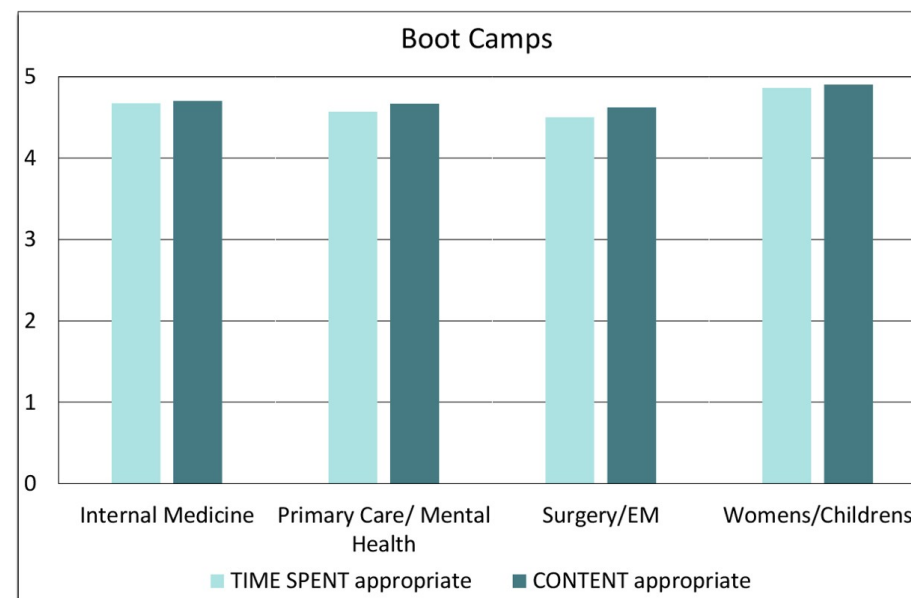


## METHODS

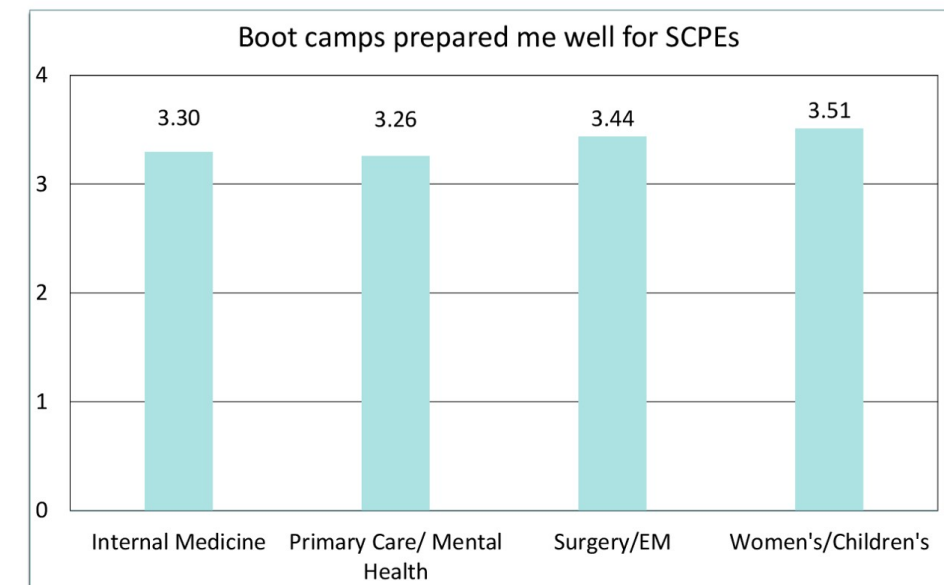
- Students completed an online survey immediately following the boot camps.
- Using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree; 5 = Strongly Agree), students evaluated time spent and content appropriateness for the boot camps.
- The survey asked multiple qualitative questions, including what was their favorite 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.



## RESULTS



## 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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