Curriculum

Daily morning conferences provide exposure to a variety of surgical topics. These conferences are directed toward resident education and are delivered by staff, residents, hospital providers and outside speakers. These conferences occur every Monday through Friday from 0645 to 0720.

SCORE
Residents are provided access to Surgical Council On Resident Education (SCORE). The SCORE curriculum serves as the backbone to our education program. Weekly reading and questions are used to guide faculty or resident-led morning small group sessions.

Morbidity & Mortality (M&M)
M&M is an interactive weekly conference that emphasizes practical learning through discussion of all surgical complications.

Grand Rounds
Virginia Mason has a weekly, multi-disciplinary Grand Rounds that occurs every Friday morning from 0730-0830. A variety of topics are discussed by speakers from across our institution and others.

Tumor Boards/Multidisciplinary Conferences
These conferences bring together specialists and team members in surgery, radiology, pathology and oncology to discuss and plan care for patients to ensure that we are providing the most appropriate treatment.

Journal Club/Selected Readings
Surgical journal club is held monthly and reviews relevant recent published surgical articles. Selected Readings is based on the similarly named series from UT-Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. These meetings are held every 4-6 weeks off campus and review the selected topic.

Resident Reading Club
Once per month there is a resident-led journal club that covers a wide array of surgical topics including historical articles of interest, seminal articles, as well as more recent updates in the field. These sessions occur in place of a Grand Rounds.

Skills Labs
Interns participate in a skills boot camp that provides hands-on training for commonly encountered procedures. Examples include thoracostomy tube and central line placement, incision and drainage procedures, and bowel anastomoses. Additionally, throughout the year there are skills labs dedicated to hands-on technical training.

Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS)
We have implemented a progressive curriculum outlining the appropriate steps residents should be taking to acquire FLS skills and prepare for their examination. This begins with an introduction to FLS, testing, intermittent observation, and re-testing to track progress.

Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES)
We have a GI mentor simulator that is available at all times to the residents. We also have a progressive curriculum guiding residents toward skill acquisition and exam preparation. Similar to the FLS curriculum, there is an introduction to the GI mentor and provision of an outline of a resident’s progression.

Ultrasound Training
We conduct an annual ultrasound course led by our radiology colleagues designed to teach a solid understanding of ultrasound and relevant techniques for surgeons.
Mock-Orals Simulation
In the spring, there is an intensive Oral Board simulation led by staff attendings. These sessions occur during morning conference and are set up in a manner to simulate the residency’s annual Mock Oral Exam, as well as the American Board of Surgery’s General Surgery Certifying Exam.

Mock Orals
The Mock Oral Exam is provided annually for categorical surgical residents in order to prepare them for the American Board of Surgery Certifying Examination.

SESAP
Residents are provided with the Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program (SESAP), the learning program written by the American College of Surgeons. This program aids in preparation for the annual American Board of Surgery In-Training Exam (ABSITE) as well as the ABS Certifying Exam.