What Factors Predict Honors for Internal Medicine Clerkship Students?

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**RESULTS (N=1,405)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>446 (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>959 (68%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact time, weeks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>78 (6%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>332 (24%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>377 (27%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 or more weeks</td>
<td>614 (43%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact hours / week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-10 hours</td>
<td>67 (5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-20 hours</td>
<td>307 (22%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-30 hours</td>
<td>295 (21%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 30 hours</td>
<td>736 (52%)</td>
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**MEASUREMENT**

- **11 characteristics, 4-point ordinal scale, behavioral descriptors**
  - Usually unable to formulate an assessment of basic medical problems.
  - Usually handles major problem; may not integrate all aspects; suggests elemental understanding
  - Formulates assessment of major problem; may have trouble identifying/prioritizing multiple problems
  - Consistently able to formulate assessment of basic problems; also can prioritize multiple problems

**AIM**

To examine which items of clinical evaluations best predict and distinguish an honors recommendation in the internal medicine clerkship.

**BACKGROUND**

- Medical schools use a variety of criteria to designate an honors grade.
- No common rubric exists to define an honors student.

**METHODS**

- **Design:** retrospective
- **Setting:** UAB School of Medicine, internal medicine clerkships
- **Participants:** teaching ward attending and residents supervising MS-3 students
- **Exclusion:** electives, 4\textsuperscript{th} year rotations
- **Years:** July 2015-June 2017
- **IRB:** approved
- **Funding:** none

**CONCLUSIONS**

- Strong clinical reasoning skills and a broad knowledge base set apart honors students
- Other important characteristics include response to feedback and communication skills (written and verbal)

**ODDS RATIOS**

- Strong predictors of honors recommendation:
  - Clinical reasoning
  - Knowledge of diseases
  - Prescriptions
  - Miscellaneous

**REFERENCES**