

What Factors Predict Honors for Internal Medicine Clerkship Students?

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BACKGROUND

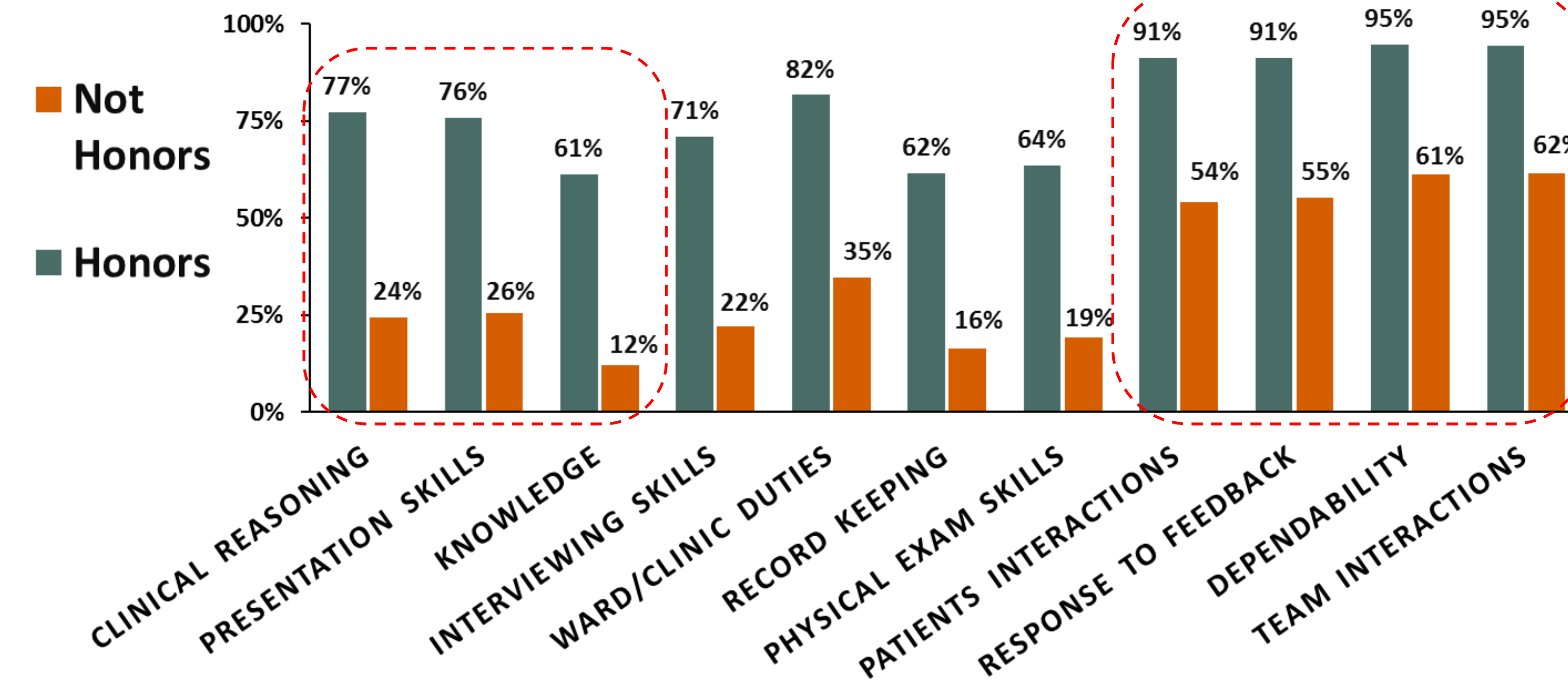
- Medical schools use a variety of criteria to designate an honors grade.
- No common rubric exists to define an honors student.

AIM

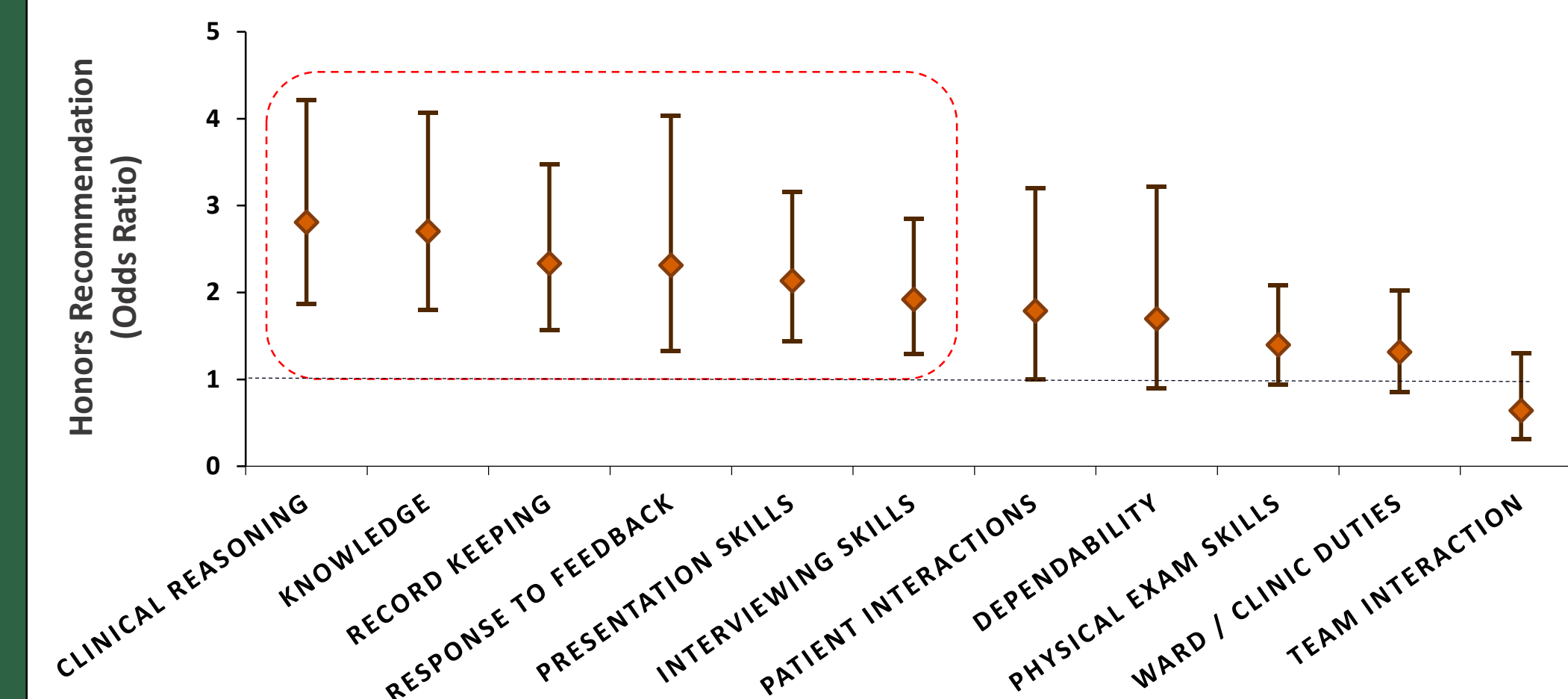
To examine which items of clinical evaluations best predict and distinguish an honors recommendation in the internal medicine clerkship.

METHODS

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



ODDS RATIOS



MEASUREMENT

- 11 characteristics, 4-point ordinal scale, behavioral descriptors

Assessment, Formulation and Clinical Application Skills			
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

- Unadjusted analysis**
- Adjusted analysis**
 - Dependent outcome: honors recommendation
 - Adjusted for: clerkship length, person (attending/ resident), direct observation (physical exam, interview)
 - Unit of analysis: evaluation (clustered using Generalized Linear Latent And Mixed Models, GLLAMM)

RESULTS (N=1,405)

Variable	N (%)
Evaluator	
Faculty	446 (32%)
Resident	959 (68%)
Contact time, weeks	
1 week	78 (6%)
2 weeks	332 (24%)
3 weeks	377 (27%)
4 or more weeks	614 (43%)
Contact hours / week	
1-10 hours	67 (5%)
11-20 hours	307 (22%)
21-30 hours	295 (21%)
> 30 hours	736 (52%)

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)

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