Summative OSCE Policy and Procedure

Background

Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs) are used to assess clinical skills competence across the Midwifery Program. Faculty and Clinical Faculty who are grading OSCEs are asked to assess several people in a short period of time. They must ensure consistency of station delivery, as well as comprehensive and accurate grading with little time in between students. In addition, the Program has a responsibility to ensure consistency of OSCE delivery across sites. Video recording of individual OSCEs supports faculty to ensure both consistency and accuracy of grading.

This policy reflects the Program’s best practices with regards to the delivery of summative OSCEs across the program. Formative OSCEs are not subject to this document.

General Procedure

- OSCE examiners are clinical faculty from the local community. Examiners should not examine a student they have precepted in the preceding term.
- The Program will video-record all summative OSCEs including repeat OSCEs, for the purpose of quality assurance.
- In the event of a failed OSCE, video-recording will be reviewed by the examiner. If there is any uncertainty about student performance, a second instructor will review the recording to assist in decision making.
- The student will be offered an opportunity to review the video-recording, for learning purposes.
- Repeat OSCEs will be attended by two examiners to simultaneously observe and mark. The main examiner must be in person. The secondary examiner may be in person, or over zoom depending on human resource availability.
- All OSCE recordings that have been confirmed as a pass will be deleted on the day. Recordings from a second fail must be stored until the student completes the program to facilitate review if there is an appeal of the grade or student status in the program.

*Video recording equipment and process must meet expectations set out in the Department of Family Practice Post-Grad Video Recording Policy.*

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Repeat OSCEs

Students will be notified of the results of their OSCEs as soon as possible. The timing of results release may vary across sites, depending on availability of resources and circumstances. All results will be released no later than 17:00 the same day.

The program standard is for students to repeat OSCEs on the day following the original exam, which is listed in the course syllabus. Students are required to be available for repeating OSCEs in the event of fail, and therefore must not book travel until after the posted date of repeat OSCEs.

In some circumstances, it may be possible for a student to repeat a failed OSCE on the same day. This decision will take the following into account:

- the degree of review required in order for the student to be able to pass,
- that sufficient time has been allowed for the student to review feedback and practice the required skill(s),
- the availability of adequate resources (both supplies and human resources) available at the examination site to run the OSCE(s), and
- that the student is not unduly fatigued or anxious.

These conditions will ensure that the student is provided with optimal opportunity to succeed.

It is critical for the student to understand that a subsequent (second) failed attempt would result in failure of the course. The program therefore encourages students to consider carefully, their readiness for repeating an OSCE on the same day, before choosing to do so.