The Risk Assessment & Mental Status Exam Exercises

OSCE #1 (two exercises, back-to-back)

- When: Week 2, on Thursday (typically)
- Length: 2 hours
- Students are in 1 group and start at the same time (see Calendar for details)
- Grading: Each exercise is 15 points, 4.17% of the total grade
- Review: the mental status exam, suicide risk factors, protective factors

Objectives

The student will demonstrate an ability to:

- 1. Document a comprehensive mental status examination
- 2. Identify suicide risk factors & protective factors
- 3. Determine if a patient should be admitted or stay in the hospital

Overview

- The intent of the exercises is not to be difficult. The intent is to become familiar with this material early in the clerkship so it can be applied on service.
- Students will watch a video of a patient encounter in the Clinical Skills Center.
 NOTE: Some clerkship groups will have only 1 video that covers the Risk
 Assessment & MSE exercises. Some have 2 videos: one for each of the exercises.
- Headphones are provided but you are encouraged to bring your own
- Students will write a full MSE and answer 4 6 questions on the MSE.
- Students will then answer questions on risk assessment.
- An outline of the MSE parameters and the risk assessment exercise are both below.

Edited: 9/6/2025

Schedule

2:40 – 4:00 PM Risk Assessment and Mental Status Exam Exercise

4:00 – 4:40 PM Discussion with Drs Doyle & Shu

MSE Exercise Outline

Domain	Notes
Appearance	Comment on clothing & hair as part of your description
Behavior	Comment on attitude towards the interviewer, & movements
Mood	
Affect	Comment on State, Range, Appropriateness, & Congruence
Speech	Comment on Clarity, Quantity, Rate, Flow, Tone, & Volume
Thought Process	What is the predominant thought process? Any additional?
Thought Content	Include your perception
Cognition	NOT NEEDED in this exercise
Insight	Provide your reasoning for your description of insight
Judgment	Provide your reasoning for your description of judgment

Risk Assessment Exercise

- Identify the patient's non-modifiable and modifiable suicide risk factors
- Identity the patient's protective factors
- What suicide risk factors were specifically inquired about in the interview but were NOT found to be present?

Edited: 9/6/2025

- What information supports that the patient is collaborative?
- What information supports that the patient is NOT collaborative.
- Offer your opinion on the patient's suicide risk at the present time:
 - o No risk
 - o Low risk
 - o Moderate risk
 - High risk
- If applicable, do you recommend
 - o Admitting the patient?
 - o Delaying the patient's discharge?