

Supplemental Digital Appendix 1

Focus Group Questions Used to Assess Students' Perspectives on the Purpose of the Fourth Year of Medical School, University of Colorado School of Medicine's 2011 Graduating Class

1. Broadly speaking, what is the purpose of the 4th year?
2. What purpose did the 4th year fulfill for you personally?
3. Consider your best performance you had in your 3rd year clerkships. How did it influence your choice of courses in the 4th year?
Probe:
 - *How did you determine your best performance?*
 - *What information did you use in your self-assessment?*
 - *How important was feedback in your self-assessment?*
4. Consider your poorest performance you had in your 3rd year clerkships. How did it influence your choice of courses in the 4th year?
Probe:
 - *How did you determine your best performance?*
 - *What information did you use in your self-assessment?*
 - *How important was feedback in your self-assessment?*
5. When you look back over your 4th year, what are 3 things that would have help you take better advantage of your 4th year?
Probe:
 - *What about knowledge about yourself? Describe what kind of self-knowledge and how would it have helped.*
 - *Are there any school-life balance issues you would have decided differently?*
 - *What factors influenced your course choices in the 4th year?*
 - *Who influenced your choices in the 4th year?*
6. How important, if at all, was self-assessment of strengths and weakness in determining your plan for the 4th year (e.g., the balance of academic pursuits, personal lifestyle to specific courses)?
7. Is there anything you'd like to add that we think would be important for us to know about the purpose of the 4th year?

Supplemental Digital Appendix 2

Questionnaire for Assessing Students' Perspectives on the Purpose of the Fourth Year of Medical School, University of Colorado School of Medicine's 2011 Graduating Class

The following questions ask about factors that informed your course choices for Phase IV.

Consider each of the following goals or purposes for the fourth year and indicate how important they were to your choice of courses and scheduling.

Goals/Purpose of 4 th Year		Importance			
		Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very
1.	To develop skills needed for residency	1	2	3	4
2.	To strengthen my residency application	1	2	3	4
3.	To obtain letters of recommendation for my residency application	1	2	3	4
4.	To take classes that I would never have opportunity for again	1	2	3	4
5.	To take classes that interest me	1	2	3	4
6.	To explore various career options	1	2	3	4
7.	To take time off or have more time for myself	1	2	3	4
8.	To address gaps in my skills or knowledge	1	2	3	4
9.	To gain exposure to other medical practice settings	1	2	3	4
10.	To gain exposure to international settings	1	2	3	4
	Other (please describe)	1	2	3	4