

Helpful Hints for Students (FYI as given to students)

The following are some helpful hints for you as you begin your LPP experience:

1. It is your responsibility to contact the preceptor and arrange on-site visits. Discuss with your preceptor the best way to communicate with him/her – phone, email, etc.
2. In regard to attire, this is best discussed with your preceptor. Some preceptors may wear white coats and prefer that you wear them as well. Some may prefer ties, and *jeans are not* appropriate.
3. Punctuality - remember, many of your preceptors have very busy practices. Please be on time for scheduled visits or notify your preceptor if you will be late.
4. Get to know the staff at your preceptor's office. Physicians, even in a solo practice, do not work alone. The office staff may include nurses, receptionists, lab personnel, and office workers. Let them know who you are as soon as possible. In many instances, these people can be very helpful, supportive and instructive.
5. How should you introduce yourself? Most preceptors will introduce you to patients and staff as a student/doctor or medical student. You can clarify this with your preceptor.
6. School ID badge - Always wear an identifying name badge, especially when dealing with patients in a clinic or hospital setting.
7. Some preceptors are busier than others and may not have the time to discuss individual patients with you during patient hours. Ask your preceptor **when** the best time is to ask questions or discuss things. Also - ask your preceptor for feedback on your progress if he/she does not voluntarily give this to you!
8. It may help to jot things down on a small notepad during your visit. In this way, you can keep a record of your questions, what things to “look up” later, or to discuss in your small group session, or to ask your preceptor at the end of the session. Please use the checklists to help you to evaluate what you've done at each session and what goals you have for the next session.
9. Active observation is important in LPP. You have been taught interviewing frameworks in DCS 1 small groups---observe how your preceptor collects information and what information they collect. Do they adhere to the frameworks you have been taught? If not, why not? Consider discussing their approach with them and how they were taught these skills.
10. **Confidentiality** - In order to ensure the confidentiality of the doctor-patient experience, any discussion of patient-related issues must be conducted in an appropriate private setting and only with those individuals directly concerned with patient care.
11. **Please** review the complete medical history framework – this is the format you will use for the rest of your career! Please note: this format is the same for obtaining the history, orally presenting the history, and writing up the history. Learn it now and learn it well!

Most importantly, **Enjoy this opportunity!** If you have any questions or issues, please contact LPP@umassmed.edu