

Clerkship Grading Criteria for the NRMP Class of 2026

Clerkship students will receive a letter grade of (H) Honors, (HP) High Pass, (P) Pass, or (F) Fail based on two components: (1) Clinical performance and (2) NBME Subject Examination performance based on the *Equated Percent Correct* score. Each of these components also carries a numerical raw score. Eligibility for Pass, High Pass, and Honors assume a passing shelf score on the first attempt. Note that each clerkship has specific requirements that must be met to pass the clerkship. Observed Professional Activities and Required Clinical Encounter completion are prerequisites for clinical honors designations. For an overall grade of Pass, a student must pass both components on the first attempt.

For an overall grade of High Pass, a student must achieve Honors in one component while passing the other component on the first attempt.

For an overall grade of Honors, a student must achieve Honors in both components on the first attempt.

The clerkship director may override a given grade due to student professionalism issues or failure to complete requirements. Basic criteria for clinical honors and NBME Honors are summarized in the following table.

Clerkship	Campus	Clinical Honors	NBME Honors
Family Medicine	Birmingham	Honors Boxes checked by Faculty Preceptor <u>plus</u> Oral Exam of 90 or higher	75 th percentile or higher (raw score of 81 or higher)
	Huntsville	Committee decision <u>plus</u> Oral Exam of 90 or higher	
	Montgomery	Honors Box checked by Faculty Preceptor <u>plus</u> Oral Exam of 90 or higher	
	Tuscaloosa	Honors Boxes/Committee	
Medicine	Birmingham	50% or more of Honors Boxes checked	55 th percentile or higher (raw score of 77 or higher)
	Huntsville	Honors Boxes/Committee	
	Montgomery	Honors Boxes/Committee	
	Tuscaloosa	Honors Boxes/Committee	
Neurology	Birmingham	50% or more of Honors Boxes checked	55 th percentile or higher (raw score of 83 or higher)
	Huntsville	Honors Boxes/Committee	
	Montgomery	Honors Boxes/Committee	
	Tuscaloosa	Honors Boxes/Committee	
Ob-Gyn	Birmingham	50% or more of Honors Boxes checked <u>plus</u> Oral Exam of 90 or higher	55 th percentile or higher (raw score of 81 or higher)
	Huntsville	Committee decision <u>plus</u> Oral Exam of 90 or higher	
	Montgomery	Committee decision <u>plus</u> Oral Exam of 90 or higher	
	Tuscaloosa	Committee decision <u>plus</u> Oral Exam of 90 or higher	
Pediatrics	Birmingham	Honors Boxes/Committee	55 th percentile or higher (raw score of 81 or higher)
	Huntsville	Honors Boxes/Committee	
	Montgomery	Honors Boxes/Committee	
	Tuscaloosa	Honors Boxes/Committee	
Psychiatry	Birmingham	50% or more of Honors Boxes checked by faculty	55 th percentile or higher (raw score of 86 or higher)
	Huntsville	Honors Boxes/Committee	
	Montgomery	50% or more of Honors Boxes checked	
	Tuscaloosa	Honors Boxes/Committee	
Surgery	Birmingham	50% or more of Honors Boxes checked	55 th percentile or higher (raw score of 76 or higher)
	Huntsville	50% or more of Honors Boxes checked by Faculty	
	Montgomery	50% or more of Honors Boxes checked	
	Tuscaloosa	Honors Boxes/Committee	

1. NBME passing and honors threshold scores based on Heersink SOM & NBME historical norms

2. “Honors Box” refers to the clinical honors designation item on the clerkship student evaluation form. Upper level resident evaluation designations and all residents’ comments can be included in student grading.

3. “Committee Decision” refers to a faculty-led committee grade review; that incorporates “Honors Box”

4. “Honors Box” percentages are the normal method to distinguish clinical honors students, however the clerkship director or committee retain the final decision on clinical honors

5. These guidelines govern grading for the 2026 NRMP cohort at the time of the clerkship or clerkship students who take the clerkship prior to the 2025 criteria being published. Grades will not change based a student’s subsequent change to another NRMP year.

Raw Score: If a student fails the clerkship, the clerkship raw score is 69. Otherwise, the raw score is a weighted average of a Clinical score and an NBME Exam scaled score. The clinical score is 95 for a student who achieves clinical honors and 85 for a student who passes but does not receive clinical honors. If a student fails and retakes the NBME Exam, the first (failing) score is still used in the raw score calculation. The weights for the two components by clerkship, along with the NBME Passing Score are summarized in the following table:

	Family Med	Medicine	Neurology	Ob-Gyn	Pediatrics	Psychiatry	Surgery
Clinical Weight	.70	.65	.65	.70	.65	.65	.65
NBME Weight	.3	.35	.35	.30	.35	.35	.35
NBME Passing Score (raw)	63	60	67	66	66	73	59