

Student Expectations

Arrive early

A good rule is to arrive 30 minutes prior to the first patient (even if your preceptor doesn't), possibly even earlier on your first day unless instructed.

Be prepared

If you have access to the medical records, get an idea of at least the first few patients and have questions about them before you see them.

Be a self-directed learner

You may be offered opportunities to interview patients on your own, do supervised procedures, and act as the definitive provider for a given patient. Seize these opportunities. Other students may have been turned down so that you can have this opportunity to learn, so please make the most of it.

Make lists of things you need to learn more about

Study them, offer to present a 5 min presentation on a given topic when your preceptor has time.

Presentations

No matter what level of learner you are, attempt to give a summary statement about the patient and give an organized presentation of each one of their problems. Give a differential diagnosis where possible, and a plan for labs, studies, treatments, referrals and follow-up for each problem.

Be prepared to work until the work is done

If your preceptor lets you go before they are done that is fine, but prepare to be there until they are done with the notes and work for the day (yes, even if you need to bring snacks or dinner). Look up the results for the day and offer to help call patients about lab and study results. Read about topics you wished you knew more about.

Preceptors appreciate curious, self-motivated, hard-working learners who demonstrate a desire to become the best providers. TCC has amazing, interesting patients who often give us the opportunity to learn from them, so we owe it to them to show our dedication first to providing the best care, and second, to prepare you for working with them or other patients in the future.

