

**Simulation Center**

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Greetings, fellow healthcare providers:

First, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do to improve the lives of North Dakotans every day.

As you know, the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UND SMHS) shares your commitment and passion for patient health; you, through your dedication at point-of-care, and we in educating future healthcare providers. In doing so, the UND SMHS relies on our clinical faculty and other volunteer preceptors to help educate, train, and evaluate our medical and allied health students.

What you might not know is that we still face many challenges in accomplishing our shared mission that can be met within the constraints of clinical practice today. One particularly urgent need we have now is for the grading of student clinical skills exams, i.e. histories and physical examinations.

Assessing each clinical skills event requires six to ten physician preceptors; securing a full complement of graders to view and grade student skills live can be very challenging for us at times. If we can't get enough graders, we can't assess all of our students and they cannot advance on in their studies.

But this challenge is also an opportunity for you. Opportunities for precepting/grading can take as little as one hour at a time of your choosing with no required travel or an hour for in person lectures, discussion groups, or patient wrap-ups.

Furthermore, these can now be conducted at a distance. Because the exams are now video-recorded, you can grade them remotely at a time that works with your schedule (usually within 7 – 10 days after the exam has been given). As such, I'm writing to encourage you to consider serving as a "video" grader for SMHS medical students from your home sites.

We conducted our own research on in-person vs. video grading and found that graders demonstrate little variance in their grading whether they assess students "in-house" or by remote video. With this in mind, SMHS may be missing an opportunity to expand its team of preceptors by requiring that they be here in Grand Forks. After all, a larger team of preceptors means less work for everyone involved overall in training the next generation of physicians and other allied health providers.

If being a preceptor/grader is something that might appeal to you, we would be thrilled to have you as part of our team. For physicians who are interested, UND SMHS will provide training as well as educational credit. The training most likely would be completed at regional locations, thereby allowing physicians around the area to attend.

Becoming a preceptor/grader, also opens the door for consideration for an appointment as a clinical faculty member. Clinical faculty members are primarily clinicians who are or have been employed by regional health care systems or facilities. Their primary role is to contribute to the educational mission of the School, although they may occasionally contribute to the service, scholarship, and administrative missions as well. If appointed as a clinical faculty member in an appropriate clinical department, some of the benefits include:

- Access to our medical library and research database
- Access to TeachingPhysician.org which offers videos, tips and links to pertinent topics.

- A 10% discount at the UND Bookstore
- Free access to SMHS “medical media,” for work-related projects including posters, flyers and illustrations for research

This could all be available to you —plus educational credit—without leaving your home clinic site or losing patient-contact hours.

As our forthcoming *Fifth Biennial Report on Health Issues for the State of North Dakota* notes, our state is still grappling with the challenges wrought by a shortage of not only primary care providers but specialists. Your participation in the SMHS Simulation Center Preceptor Program would go a long way toward helping us both reduce the workload on the small number of existing physician preceptors and ensure that the next generation of North Dakota physicians is getting the best and most timely training and assessment possible.

If you are interested in being a video grader, please contact Dawn Drake at 701-777-4028 or email [dawn.drake@med.und.edu](mailto:dawn.drake@med.und.edu). If you are interested in helping in other ways with the educational mission of the UND SMHS in the future or prefer to indicate your interest online, you may also complete a survey by following the link below; we'll keep your name on file for future opportunities and get back to you!

[https://und.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_d6ySsKVpkKTsEbr](https://und.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d6ySsKVpkKTsEbr)

Thank you again for all you do for the health of people in North Dakota – we appreciate you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "A".

Jon W. Allen, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Director of Simulation and Clinical Skills