April 2011 MSEC Report for Pathology I & II

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

The goals of the Pathology Department for the sophomore pathology course include the following:

• to enable the student to learn the pathogenesis and pathophysiology of disease
• to enable the student to learn the gross and microscopic morphology of disease
• to enable the student to integrate this knowledge into their basic science knowledge
• to enable the student to use this knowledge to enhance their future practice of medicine
• to enable the student to acquire and develop active, independent learning skills
• to enable the student to understand the activities and skills of a pathologist
• to improve student satisfaction with the sophomore pathology course

The objectives through which the Pathology Department implements our goals for the sophomore pathology course include the following:

• to provide the student with didactic lecture sessions
• to provide a complete and comprehensive set of notes about the pathophysiology of disease
• to integrate this material into a review of other basic science material
• to utilize a complete and comprehensive set of pictures illustrating the gross and microscopic morphology of disease

CORE CONTENT:

The content for the Pathology Courses comes from "Pathologic Basis of Disease", 8th Edition by Robbins and Kumar (2009), W.B. Saunders, Co. Additionally, "Atlas of Pathology" by Robbins and Cotran is a source for pictures.

TEACHING METHODS:

Both Pathology I & II have a series of didactic lectures. The PowerPoint files for all of the lectures are available online. There is a comprehensive set of notes for all of the lectures that includes additional material. This Word file is also available online. Also a CD is available that contains a program (Adobe Air) that utilizes a database of over 4,000 questions (the majority of which have explanations). Students can use this program to study for any of the Pathology sections/lectures or make a practice exam that covers any combination of material that they choose. Additionally, all examinations from 1995 until the present are available for review.

EVALUATION METHODS:

There are four tests each semester, each of which is at the end of a teaching module. There is a comprehensive final examination (not a "shelf" examination) at the end of the spring semester that includes material from both Pathology I and II.
**GRADING STRUCTURE:**

At the end of the semester the sum of the points earned from the exams are used to calculate a percent of the total points possible. The calculations are carried out to two decimal places only. A final average greater than or equal to 69.50% is a passing grade, while a final average of less than 69.50% is not passing. There is no curve of either individual test scores or the final grade averages. A letter grade will be assigned to all of the passing grades using the following scale:

- 89.50% or greater = A
- 79.50% to 89.49% = B
- 69.50% to 79.49% = C

There is one make up exam for each semester. These make-up exams are meant to be taken when a student cannot take one of the regularly scheduled tests due to sickness, family leave, etc., or if a student wishes to attempt to replace their lowest exam percentile score on (only) one of the module tests by re-taking an exam for that module. In the latter case, the better of the two scores will be the one used for computing the letter grade, but there will be no change in the numeric score.

**SUMMARY OF STUDENT FEEDBACK:**

The student feedback has consistently been positive. No major complaints have been registered.

**SUMMARY OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:**

The student performance is overall very good. For Pathology I 2010 there were 28 A’s, 27 B’s, and 9 C’s and the class average was 86.5%. This is comparable to Pathology I & II for the past several years.

**PLANS FOR CHANGE:**

There are presently no plans to change Pathology I or II other than to keep the material current and up-to-date and correlate the lectures to new editions of the Robbin’s textbook as they become available.