

Show Instead of Tell: Development of Online Video Modules to Teach and Assess Mental Status Examination

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Background

- **Mental status examination (MSE)** is an evaluation of a patient's current mental functioning, which is equivalent to and complements the physical examination. It is a behavioral examination of the brain/mind conducted with a conversational approach, structured but not mechanical (Morrison, 1995)₂.
- Current bedside teaching and assessment of MSE skills among URM medical students is not standardized and is time-intensive for faculty
- Other medical educators have used videos to teach MSE, finding it feasible, acceptable to students, and resulting in better performance on assessment measures (Hansen et al., 2019; Martin et al., 2020).
- **Project aim:** Explore medical students' perceptions of MSE training during psychiatry clerkship, develop online video modules to teach MSE, and assess students' ability in conducting MSE.

Methods

- **Needs assessment:** Medical students from the '21-'22 and '22-'23 psychiatry clerkships were recruited via email and participated in a needs assessment survey. Surveys were analyzed to identify the most challenging components of MSE for students and students' preferred methods of instruction.
- **Video Modules:** We partnered with the Instructional Design for Excellence in Academics team to develop a self-guided, video-based online module to teach MSE and a complementary assessment module to evaluate medical students' abilities to perform MSE.

Results

Needs Assessment

17 medical students completed the needs assessment

Most confusing MSE components

Judgment 64.71%

Affect 52.94%

Insight 52.94%

Preferred method of instruction

Video Review 66.67%

Live Observation 46.67%

Self-assessment, answers provided 26.67%

Note. Most commonly endorsed responses for each question; participants could select multiple responses, so percentages do not sum to 100.

Teaching Module

- Online training module targets 5 major categories of MSE, including 17 videos highlighting a variety of patient presentations and 69 multiple-choice questions.
- Immediate feedback allows students ample opportunity to check their understanding of MSE components.

5 Major Categories of the MSE				
General Appearance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appearance • Attitude towards interviewer • Motor activity • Eye contact • Speech 	Emotions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affect • Mood 	Thoughts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thought process • Thought content • Suicidal ideation • Homicidal ideation • Perception 	Cognition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation • Concentration • Memory • Cognitive function 	Judgement and insight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judgement • Impulse control • Insight

Scan to explore the module for yourself!



Assessment Module

- Online module including 4 videos and 14 multiple-choice questions designed to assess student learning.
- Immediate feedback on answers to support students' continued learning.



Discussion

- Our module standardizes students' exposure to a variety of patient presentations and students' assessment of MSE skills, while reducing faculty burden and increasing opportunity for naturalistic bedside teaching.
- Future directions include pilot testing with current clerkship students to assess student acceptability of the module and to analyze the quality of assessment questions.
- Further development may include the creation of additional assessment videos and questions to build a question/item pool to limit risks to academic integrity.
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¹ The first and second authors made equal contributions to the project and poster.

² References available upon request.