Layered Learning

WHAT TO EXPECT AS A RESIDENT

What is Layered Learning?

Layered Learning refers to a medical student, a resident, and a preceptor all working together at the same time to teach and learn from each other. Usually this involves the resident supervising the student independently, with both of them regularly checking in one-on-one with the preceptor.
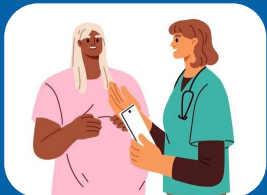
Teaching in Layered Learning

As a resident in a Layered Learning environment, you will supervise and mentor the medical student to guide their learning. To prepare the resident for their teaching, the preceptor will touch base with the resident to help them understand the responsibilities and expectations of teaching.

What will teaching in Layered Learning look like for a resident?

While every teaching clinic approaches Layered Learning differently, the diagram below provides a brief overview of what a patient interaction might look like in an environment with an R2 and a Year 3 medical student.

Beginning

The R2 or preceptor confirms the patient's comfort with being seen by a learner & briefs patients on their teaching role.

During

The student will see the patient, taking their history, etc. Meanwhile, the resident sees their own patient.

After

The student will review with the resident, before returning to see the patient together.

Check-In

During check-ins throughout the day, all learners can discuss questions and curious cases with their preceptor.

Advice from a Former Student

"Having a resident as a teacher can make it less scary to ask questions, since they're not the ones evaluating you. They can also be a great mentor - you can ask them to share tips and stories based on their own experiences of medical school and residency."

Advice from a Former Resident

"When building a relationship with a student, it helped to be honest with myself and the learer about what I can and can't teach. As an R2, it was important to remember that this was my last opportunity to ask questions easily, and learners appreciated my transparency."