



# Examining Gender Differences in Mentoring and Clerkship Experiences During Undergraduate Medical Education

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## INTRODUCTION

- Mentorship has been found to positively impact student success in undergraduate and graduate medical education.
- However, there are known gender disparities between males and females throughout medical education.
- Using data from the 2022 Independent Student Analysis (ISA), a student-run anonymous survey, we sought to determine if gender differences existed among Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSUSOM) students when examining student satisfaction of mentorship and core clerkship experiences.
- In doing so, we hoped to gain insight as to factors that may contribute to gender disparities in medical education early in a student's medical career.
- The trends observed in this study support more targeted research addressing gender disparities at WSUSOM and identify key interventional strategies to help mitigate the negative impacts of gender disparities in medical education.

## METHODS

- ISA survey was distributed to all students at WSUSOM and questions pertaining to clerkships only went to M3 and M4 students.
- Survey was anonymous and not required, but over 80% of each class responded. Respondents had the option to fill out demographics including gender.
- All questions were Likert-scale style questions on satisfaction (very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, N/A, satisfied, very satisfied).
- Chi-squared analysis was used to compare satisfaction and dissatisfaction of female and male students on core clerkships and mentorship.
- Dissatisfaction (dissatisfied + very dissatisfied) percentages were graphed for comparison.

## RESULTS

### M3 STUDENT CLERKSHIP DISSATISFACTION

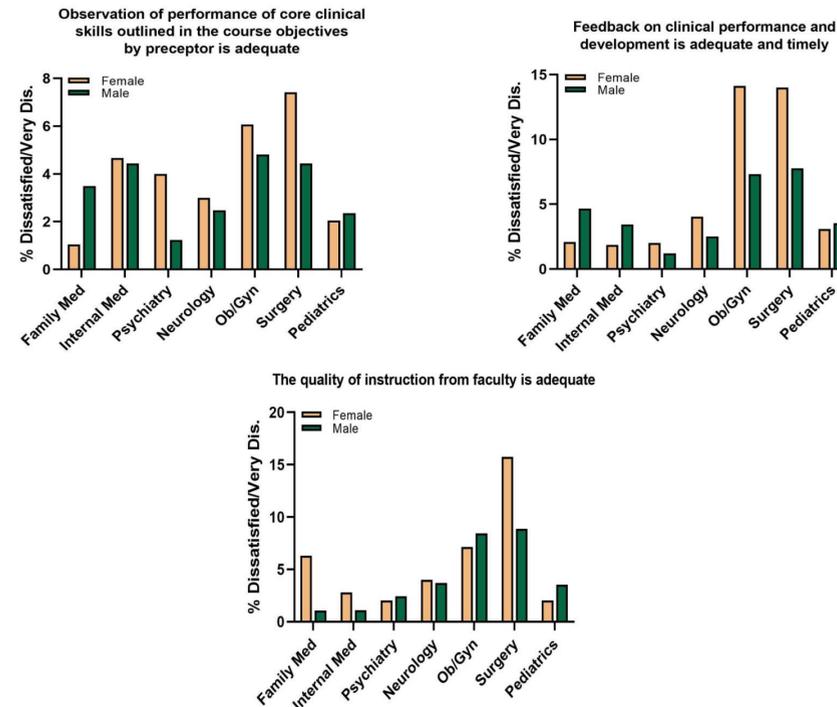


Figure 1. M3 Student Dissatisfaction with Core Clerkships.

### M4 STUDENT CLERKSHIP DISSATISFACTION

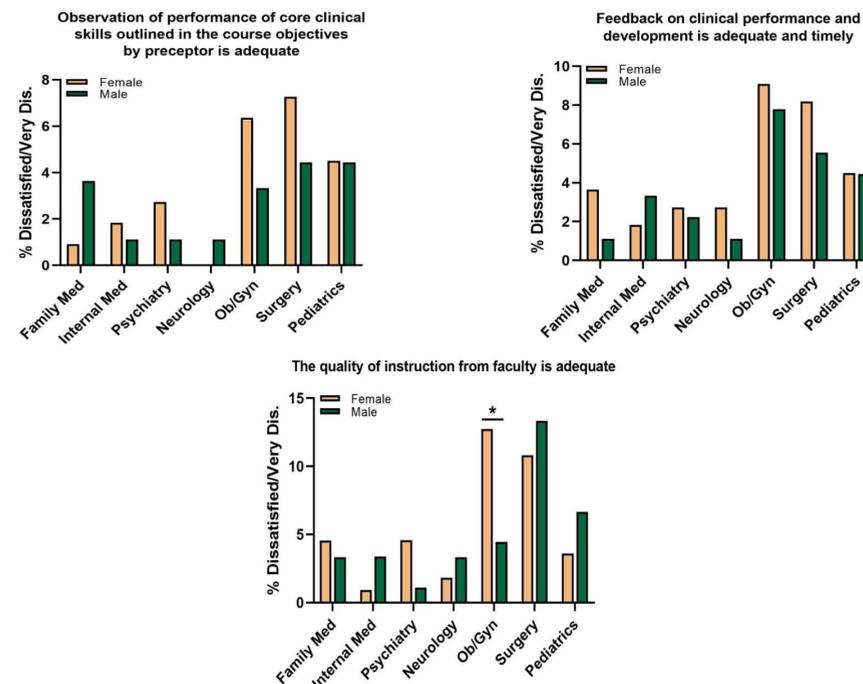


Figure 2. M4 Student Dissatisfaction with Core Clerkships.

## RESULTS

### MENTORSHIP DISSATISFACTION

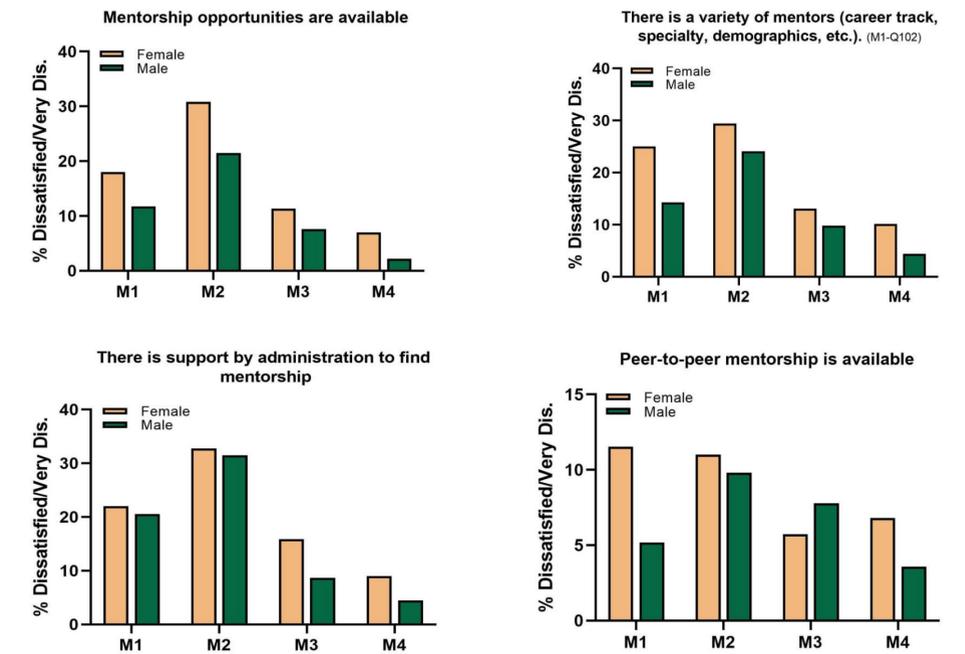


Figure 3. Student Dissatisfaction with Mentorship by Class

## CONCLUSIONS

- Female students were more likely to be dissatisfied by mentorship opportunities and support for finding mentorship at WSUSOM than their male counterparts.
- While the only statistically significant difference was found in M4 review of the ObGyn clerkship, female students were more likely to be dissatisfied with clerkship feedback, preceptor observation, and faculty instruction than male students overall. Student review of clerkships tends to be high, which may have decreased the power of this study.
- Male students in their M4 year were more likely to be dissatisfied with clerkship experience than male students in their M3 year, which may be due to increased period of recall for M4 students.
- Additional analysis is necessary to determine if satisfaction is also different in students who identify as non-binary or is clerkship site specific.
- Dissatisfaction with mentorship during both pre-clerkship and clerkship years may contribute to higher levels of dissatisfaction with clerkship experiences among female students and is an avenue to pursue for increasing satisfaction and decreasing gender disparities.
- Future research in this area would benefit from further elucidation and background on factors impacting student satisfaction with clerkship experiences at WSUSOM.

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