

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

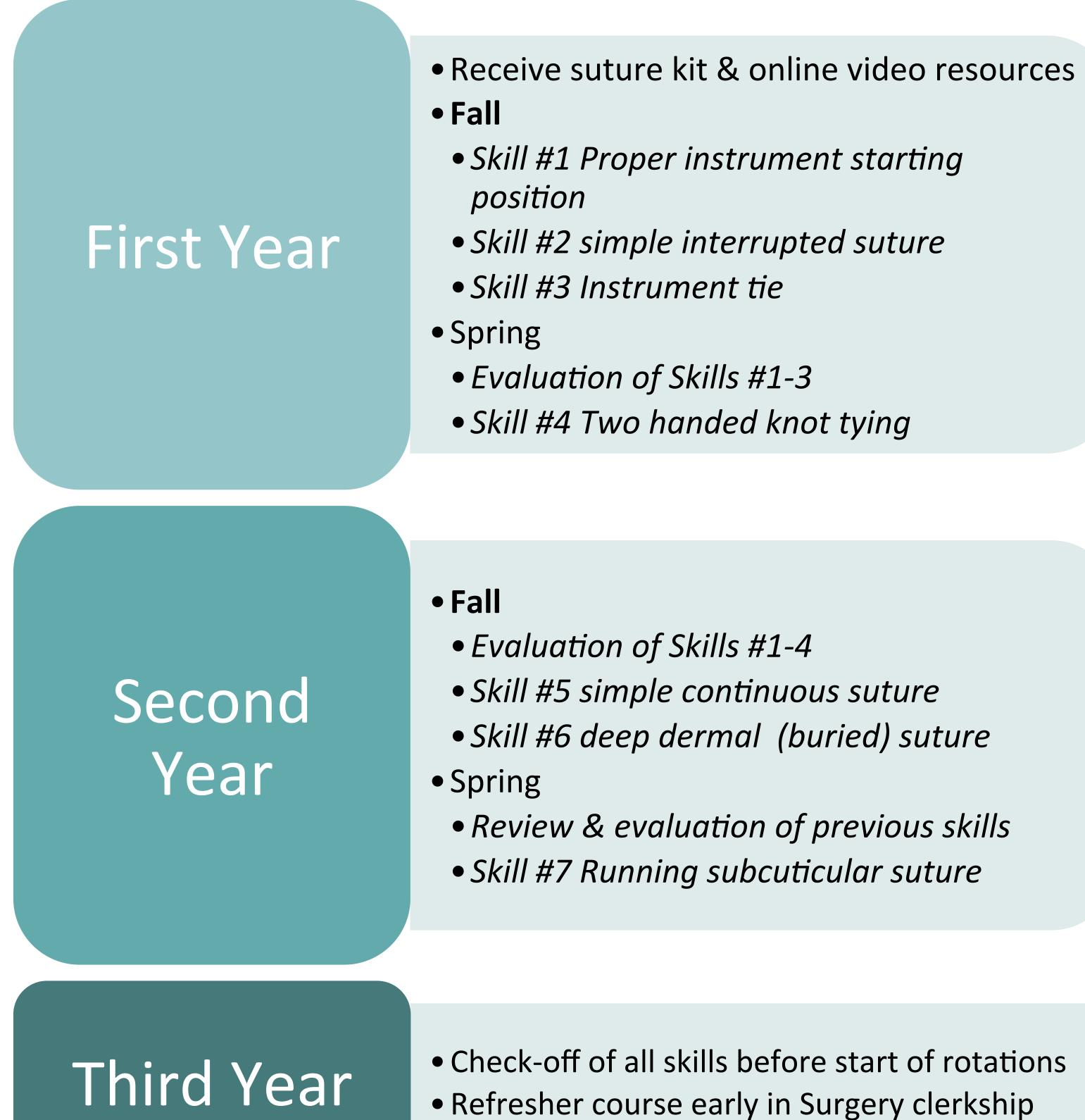
Medical Student Feedback on a Novel Curriculum Module: **Fundamentals of Suturing Skills (FOSS)**

BACKGROUND

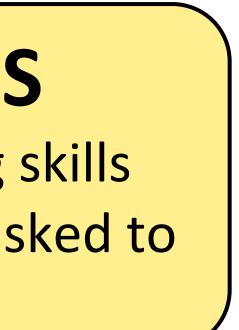
- Ability to suture simple lacerations is expected of many residents, but medical school graduates often feel unprepared to perform this skill.¹
- Various curricula facilitate acquisition of procedural skills such as suturing during medical school,²⁻⁴ but most are offered only as electives for interested students.⁵
- To address this deficiency, residency programs are implementing intern boot camps focusing on basic procedural skills. ⁶⁻⁹

Primary objectives of FOSS

. Provide resources to learn basic suturing skills 2. Build confidence to reduce anxiety when asked to suture during clerkships



Gammill S*, Phelan K*, Bennett T*, Thrush C*, Golinko M[§], Hartzell L*, Bhavaraju A* *Department of Surgery, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas [§]Department of Plastic Surgery, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee

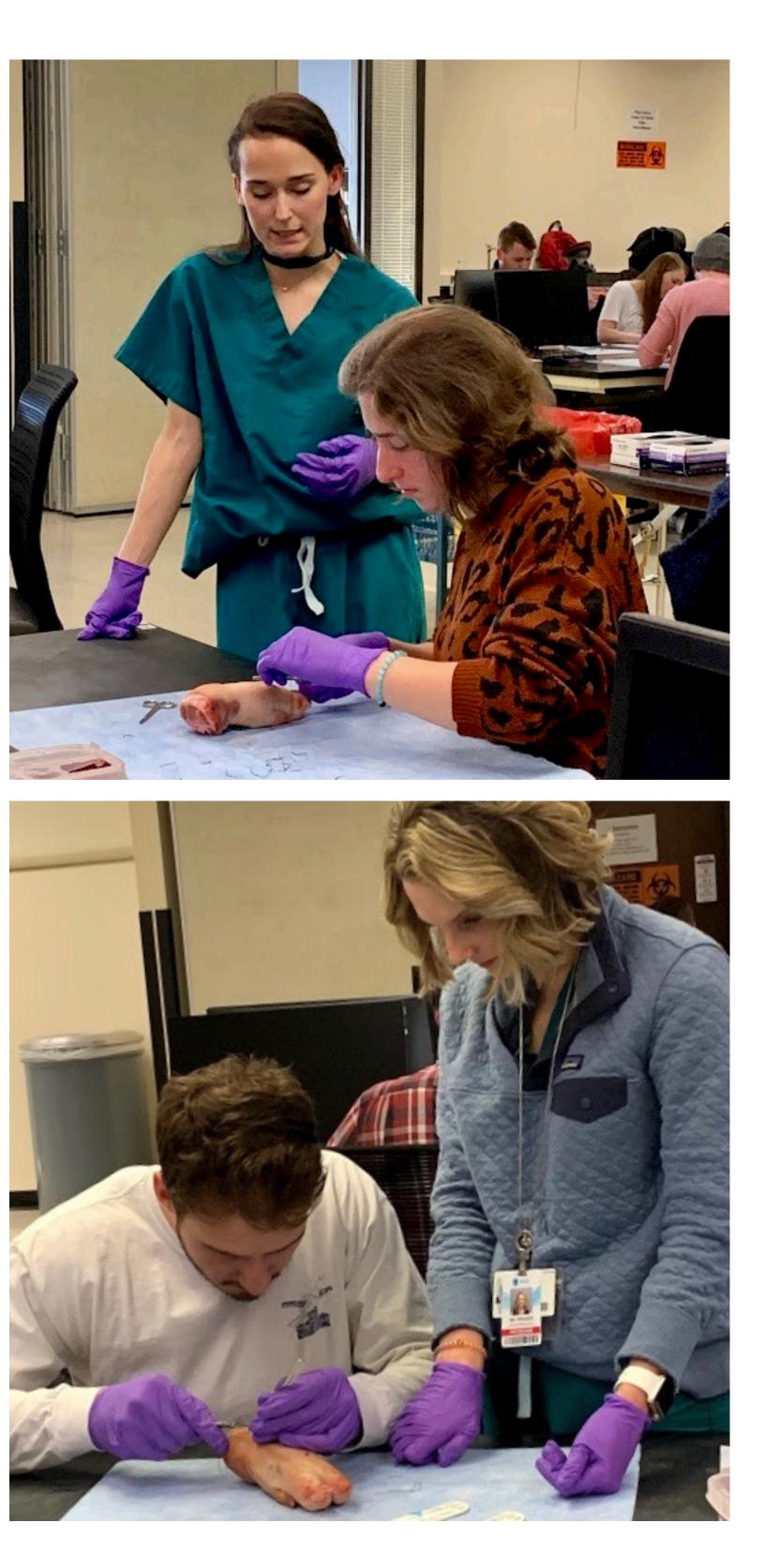






OUTCOMES

- M1 students completed course evaluation surveys before (n=167) and after (n=148) the first FOSS session.
- Prior to FOSS
 - About one-third (37%) had no suturing exposure or direct suturing experience.
 - Of 63% with "exposure", < 5% had any direct suturing experience
- Improvement in students' ratings of comfort (p < 0.0001)</p>
 - Proper instrument position
 - Performing simple interrupted sutures
 - Performing instrument ties
- Majority found course resources very helpful: materials/self-study guides (91%); clinical faculty (99%); session time (99%)
- 83% rated the gross lab sessions as excellent.



- - Faculty leaders
- Classroom space
- Suture material

					Not at a	II Some	what N	loderately	Very	Completely
 How confident are you right now that you could identify the appropriate instruments and equipment needed to suture a patient's wound?]			
2. How comfortable are you suturing a patient's wound right now?]			
3. To what extent did the UAMS Fundamentals of Suturing Skills (FOSS) curriculum prepare you to suture wounds during your third-year clerkships?						C]			
4. Rate your comfort level in completing each task	below:									
	Not at all		Somewhat 3 4		Moderately 5 6		Very 7 8		Completely 9 10	
a. Proper instrument position										
b. Placing a simple interrupted suture										
c. Performing an instrument tie										
d. Performing two-handed knot tying										
e. Placing a deep dermal suture										
f. Placing a horizontal mattress suture										
g. Placing a vertical mattress suture										
h. Completing a running subcuticular suture										
5. Did you successfully tie knots during your clerkships without needing significar					nt	No		Yes		
directions/guidance?				agiinca	iii.					
								If yes,	If yes, how many?	
6. Did you successfully suture actual patient wounds during your clerkships without needing significant directions/guidance?						No)	Yes		
									h	
7. If you could make any changes to improve the FG	OSS cur	riculum	, what	would y	ou sugg	est?		n yes,	how ma	any:

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LIMITATIONS & FUTURE WORK

This curriculum requires widespread institutional support to allocate resources such as those below:

Future work focuses on impact of the course on clerkship experience as shown in the survey below.

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