

## EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRY

**LOCATION:** LAC+USC Medical Center

**PREREQUISITE:** Psychiatry Clerkship

**DURATION:** 4 or 6 weeks

**DATES OFFERED:** All Year

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS:** 2

**INSTRUCTION:**

90% Supervised Patient Care

5% Attending Rounds/Small group discussion

5% Lectures

**SUPERVISION:**

100% Faculty

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Students will:

1. Discuss a wide array of psychiatric symptoms and diagnoses including mood disorders, anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, and substance abuse issues.
2. Differentiate between medical versus psychiatric causes of depression, psychosis, altered mental status, and acute behavioral changes.
3. Discuss the prevalence and epidemiology of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, and anxiety disorder.
4. Describe diagnostic tests, symptoms and physical exam findings can differentiate functional vs. organic etiologies of mental disorders.
5. Discuss management of acute psychotic agitation and aggressive behavior using verbal de-escalation, limit setting, seclusion, restraints and medications.
6. Assess, diagnose, and treat suicidal patients
7. List criteria for involuntary hospitalization and when its implementation is warranted.
8. Describe the proper usage of psychiatric medications including antipsychotic, mood stabilizers, antidepressants, benzodiazepines, and anticonvulsants.
9. Describe the side effects of psychiatric medications used in the emergency room setting.
10. Discuss of the signs and symptoms of drug medication, intoxication, and overdose.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Under close supervision by the staff and residents of the service, patients are evaluated in the admitting area and walk-in clinic. Experience is gained in diagnosis, treatment and disposition of many emergency psychiatric problems. The student is also expected to participate in departmental and divisional conferences and seminars. There is no fixed weekly schedule, but students are expected to be available during working hours.

**EVALUATION:**

During orientation, students will be verbally informed of expectations and methods of evaluation. An evaluation form will be filled out by Dr. Signorelli. Students will receive feedback by an evaluation form and from attending physicians during rotation.