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Innovations and Prospects for the Development of Modern Science in the Context of Global Transformations

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STRUCTURE OF PRACTICAL SKILLS TASKS FOR THE OSCE IN THE 2025 – 2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

In Ukraine, the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is the second and final stage of the Unified State Qualification Examination for medical students [1, p. 9]. According to current national requirements, the OSCE is administered exclusively in simulation centers at medical universities, where students demonstrate the clinical competencies acquired during their training by completing a series of examination stations [2, p. 4]. The OSCE typically consists of 8 – 12 stations, including five specialty-specific stations assessing practical skills, five stations involving standardized patients, and two stations with written assignments [3, p. 104].

The OSCE covers the core clinical disciplines, and its examination scenarios are developed in accordance with the Ukrainian Higher Education Standards and the approved educational curriculum [4, p. 447]. The curriculum covers 235 diseases (blood and hematopoietic disorders; mental and behavioral disorders; diseases of the nervous system; eye

diseases; diseases of the ear, nose, and throat; cardiovascular diseases; diseases of the respiratory system and mediastinum; gastrointestinal diseases; genitourinary diseases; diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue; musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders; endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases; infectious and parasitic diseases; sexually transmitted infections; and diseases of the female reproductive system), 65 symptoms and syndromes, 38 emergency conditions, 63 laboratory and instrumental diagnostic studies, and 34 medical procedures.

During the 2025 – 2026 academic year, the OSCE at Odesa National Medical University comprised 10 examination stations. The examination included a total of 528 tasks, of which 203 practical skills tasks (Figures 1 and 2).

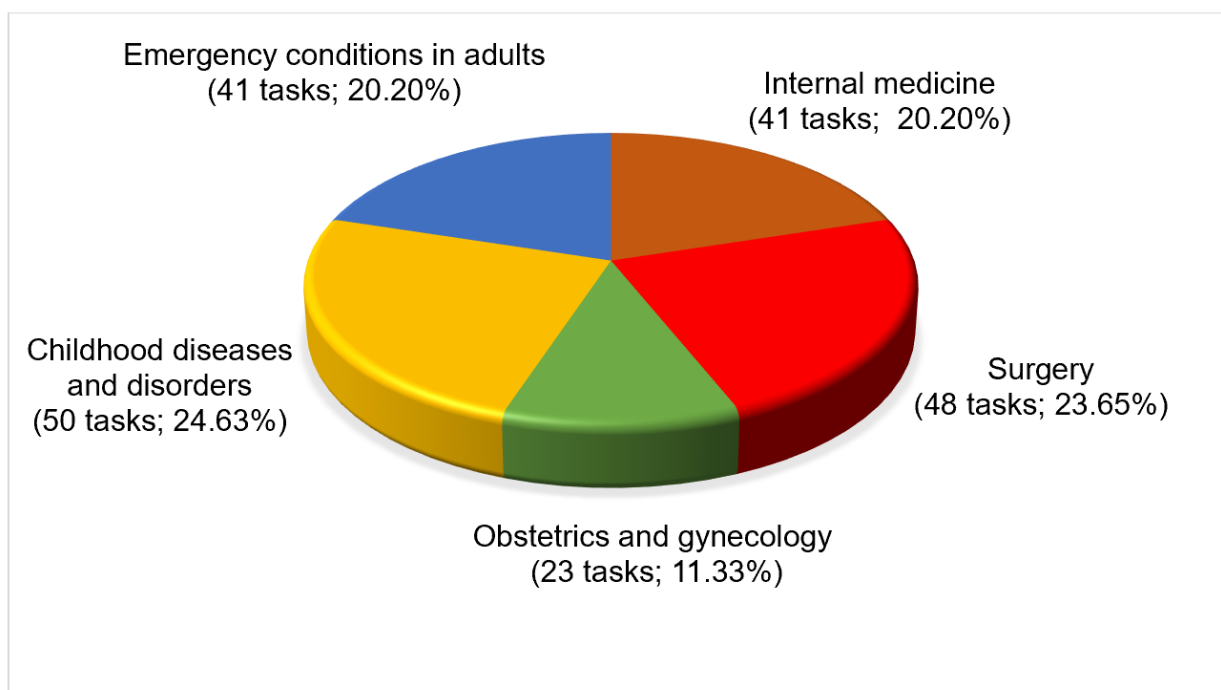


Figure 1. Distribution of Practical Skills Tasks in the OSCE, 2025 – 2026 Academic Year

Source: Developed by the authors

The largest proportion of practical skills tasks was allocated to Pediatrics (24.63%) and Surgery (23.65%), whereas Obstetrics and Gynecology accounted for the smallest proportion (11.33%).

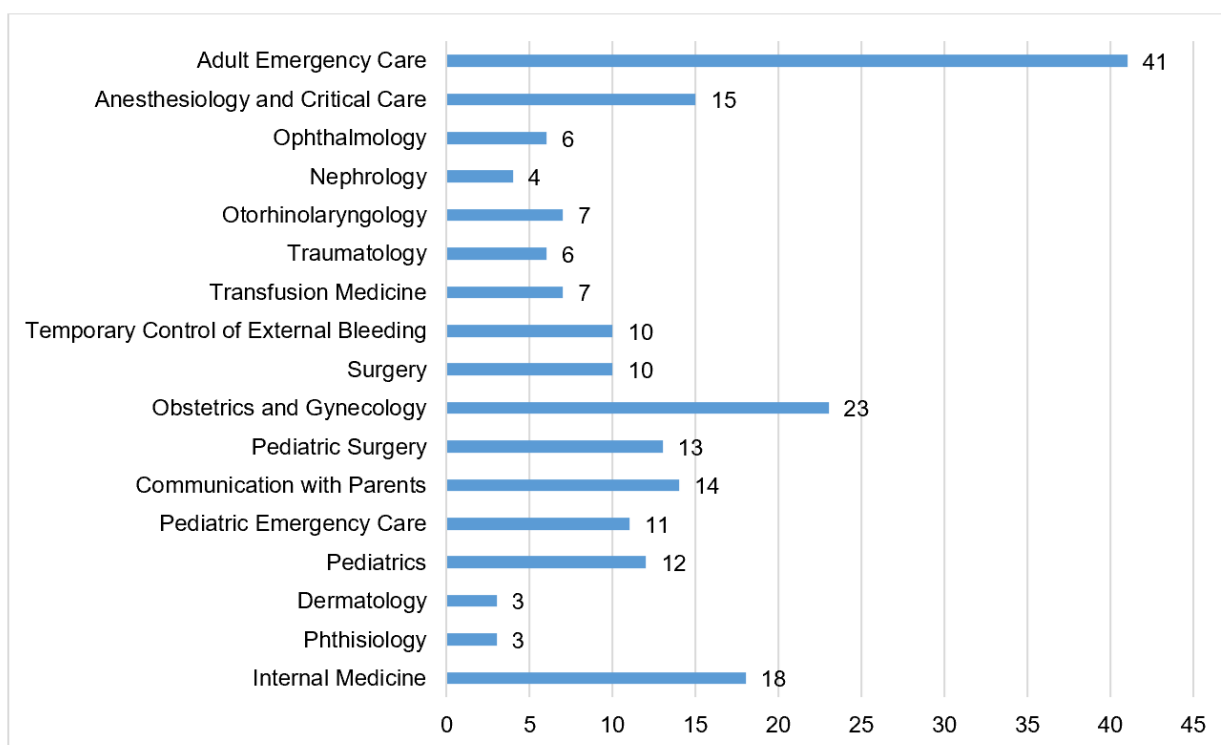


Figure 2. Distribution of Practical Skills Tasks by Specialty in the OSCE, 2025 – 2026 Academic Year

Source: Developed by the authors

Analysis of the practical skills component of the 2025 – 2026 OSCE revealed several noteworthy patterns (Figure 3).

Communication skills represented a similar proportion of assessment tasks in Pediatrics (9.78%), Surgery (8.25%), and Adult Emergency Care (6.63%), but were not assessed in Internal Medicine or Obstetrics and Gynecology. History-taking skills, including patient complaints and obtaining the medical history, accounted for 10.23% of Surgery tasks, represented less than 1% of Pediatrics tasks, and were absent from the remaining disciplines.

The greatest emphasis on physical examination was observed in Internal Medicine (43.07%), whereas Adult Emergency Care devoted the smallest proportion of tasks to this competency (4.41%). Comparable proportions were found in Obstetrics and Gynecology (21.39%) and Pediatrics (19.82%).

Assessment of procedural skills was relatively consistent across all disciplines, ranging from 23.68% to 38.98%. The highest proportions were observed in Surgery (38.98%) and Adult Emergency Care (37.12%).

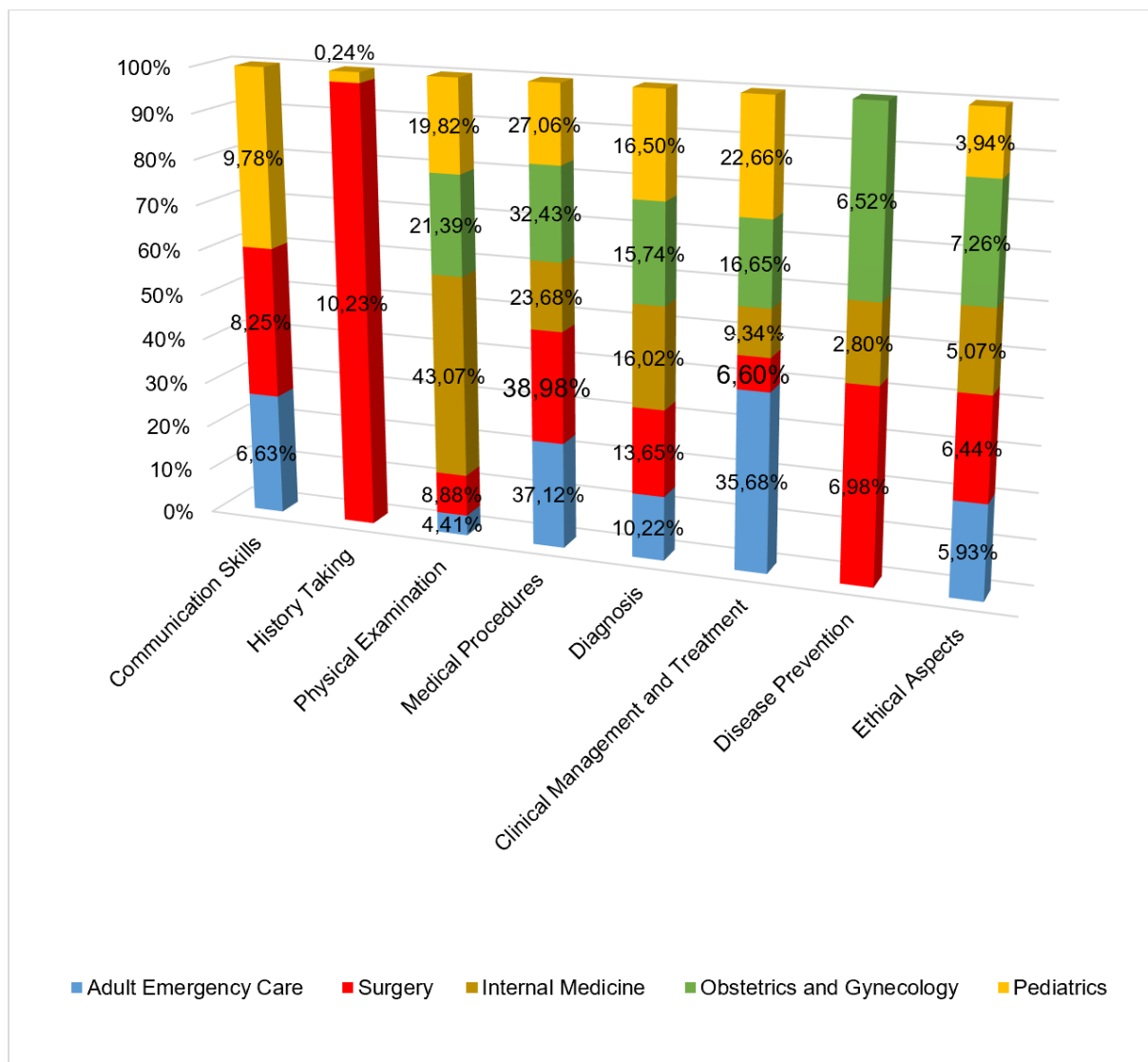


Figure 3. Structure of Practical Skills Tasks in the OSCE, 2025 – 2026 Academic Year

Source: Developed by the authors.

The proportion of diagnostic tasks was also relatively consistent across disciplines, ranging from 10.22% to 16.50%. Pediatrics had the highest percentage of diagnostic tasks, whereas Adult Emergency Care had the lowest. Assessment of clinical management and treatment was most prominent in Adult Emergency Care (35.68%) and least represented in Surgery (6.60%). Disease prevention was not included in the Pediatrics or

Adult Emergency Care tasks; in the remaining disciplines, it accounted for 2.80% – 6.98% of the assessment tasks. Evaluation of ethical and professional conduct was similarly represented across all clinical disciplines, ranging from 3.94% to 7.26%.

The practical skills component of the 2025 – 2026 OSCE focused primarily on the assessment of clinical competence and diagnostic reasoning (33.94%), followed by procedural skills (31.85%). Tasks evaluating clinical management and treatment accounted for 18.19% of the total, whereas disease prevention and ethical aspects together represented 8.99%. Assessment of communication skills accounted for 7.03% of all practical skills tasks.

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