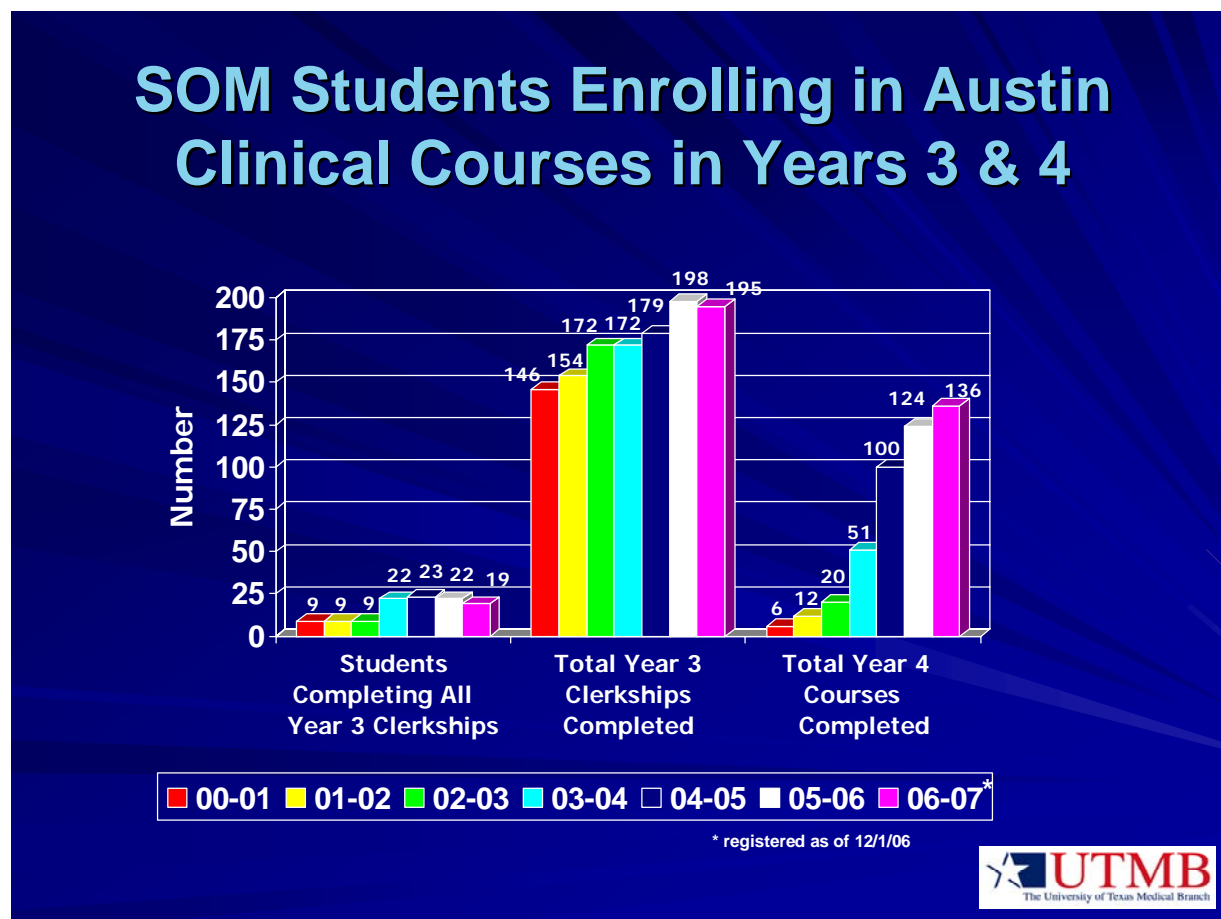


Office of Regional Medical Education UTMB School of Medicine

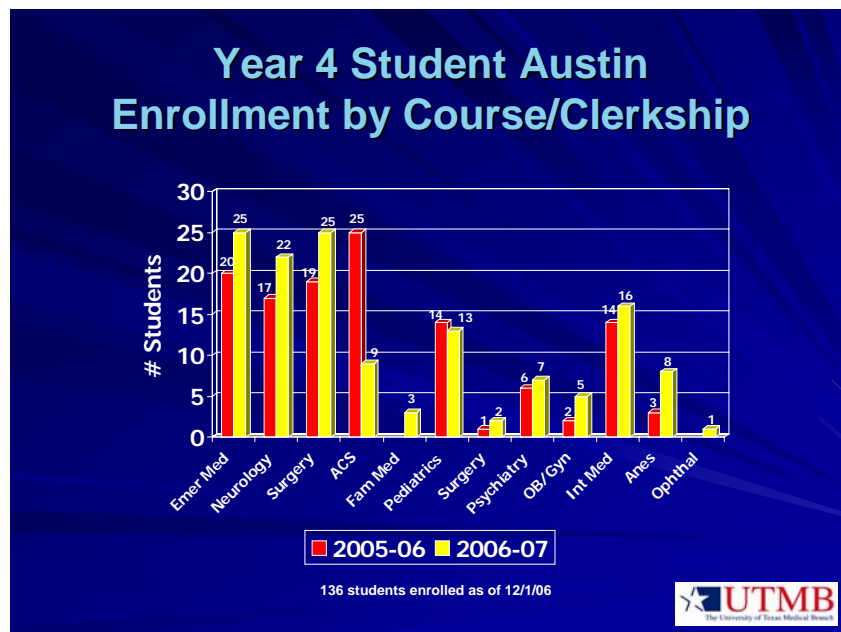
Section I Update on Student Programs

Student Participation in Austin Programs

Approximately one-sixth of all Year 3 clerkship rotations are now conducted in Austin, with 79 students (40% of the class) completing at least one clerkship there. Student enrollment in Austin remains near capacity, with 195/208 (94%) of available positions filled in 2005-06. As a result, clerkship directors in Galveston and Austin gave careful thought to expansion, resulting in an increase of over 20% in available positions for 2006-07. With Year 3 clerkships well established, a gradual increase in Year 4 students matching to rotations in Austin is being seen, with 56 students scheduling 136 rotations so far in 2006-07, a 10% increase over the previous year.



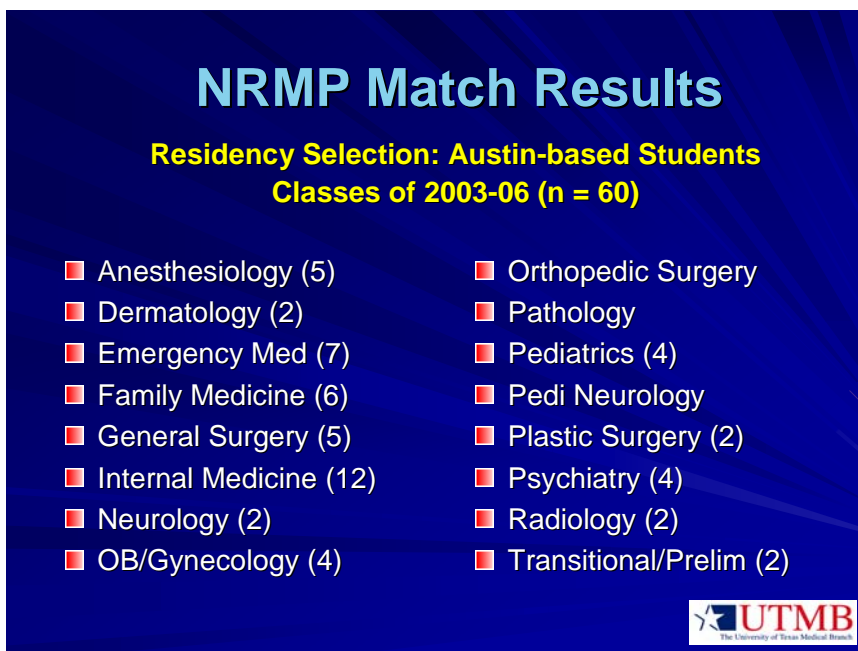
All year-round (Austin-based) student assignments are voluntary, as are virtually all individual clerkship assignments in Austin. Because clinical capacity in Galveston is limited in some departments, increasing student interest in Austin rotations remains an important part of future development.



Student demand for Year 4 required rotations in Austin (Senior Emergency Medicine, Neurology, and Surgery) is particularly high, with enrollment consistently near full capacity. Interest in electives has grown as well, including requests for new electives. The Ambulatory Medicine Selective (ACS) has introduced another source of interest in Austin rotations; Austin is the most popular choice for ACS students outside the Houston-Galveston area.

Student Outcomes: Career Choice

The career choice of Austin-based students in the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) for the classes of 2003 through 2006 is shown here. In part because of exposure to community-based medicine, many had speculated that students attracted to Austin would be more likely to select primary care residencies. Results reveal Austin-based students have chosen a wide range of careers, include primary care disciplines and subspecialty areas. Their choices do not differ significantly from Galveston-based students. Several students have matched to residency training programs in Dermatology, Radiology, Orthopedic Surgery, and other very competitive disciplines.

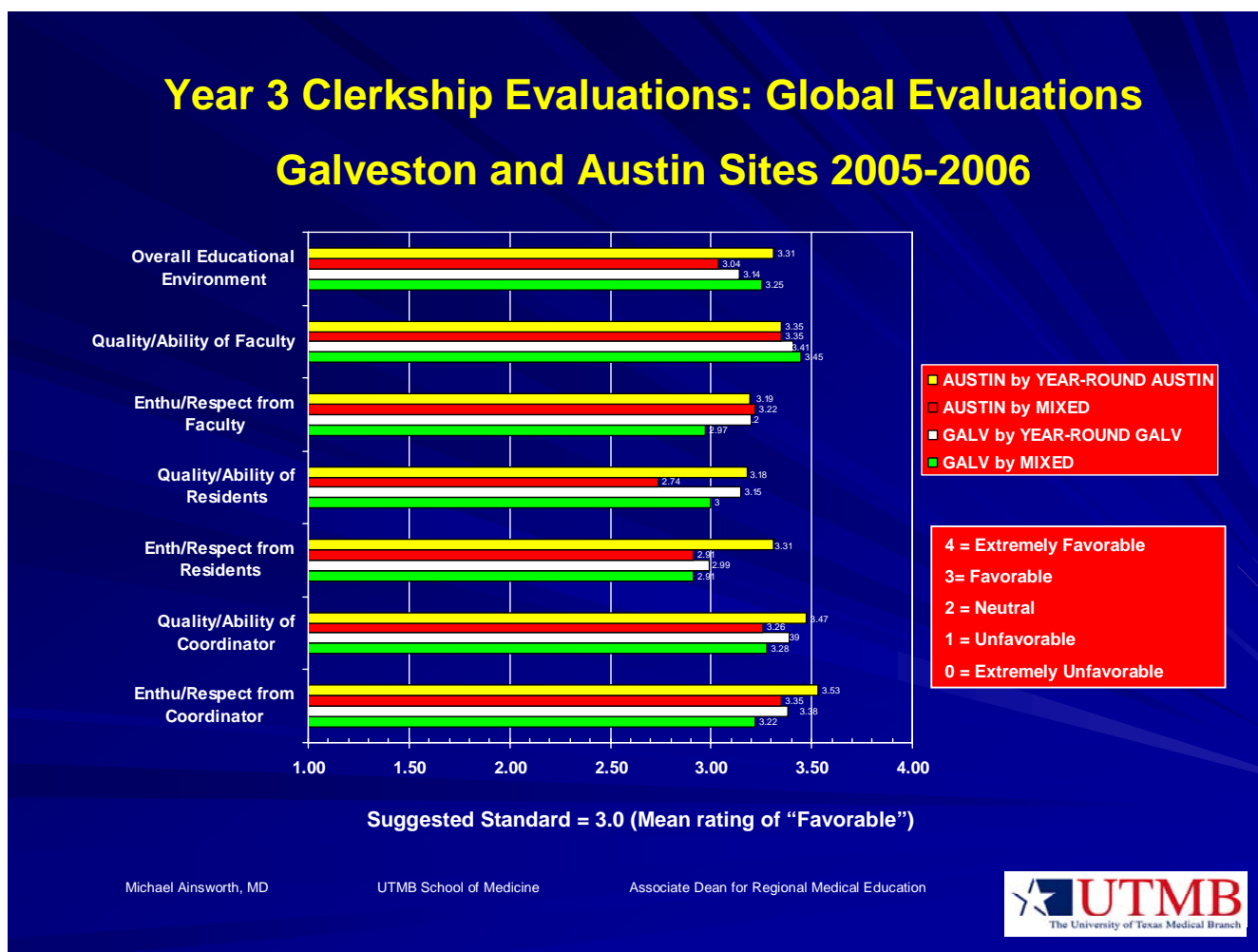


Career advisors are identified for all Austin-based students in a discipline of the student's preference. Mentoring is provided by the Associate and Assistant Dean in Austin, and extensive sessions to assist students in residency selection, such as career planning workshops, are offered in Galveston by the Office of Student Affairs. These are available by video to students who choose not to travel from Austin for them.

Student Outcomes: Global Evaluations

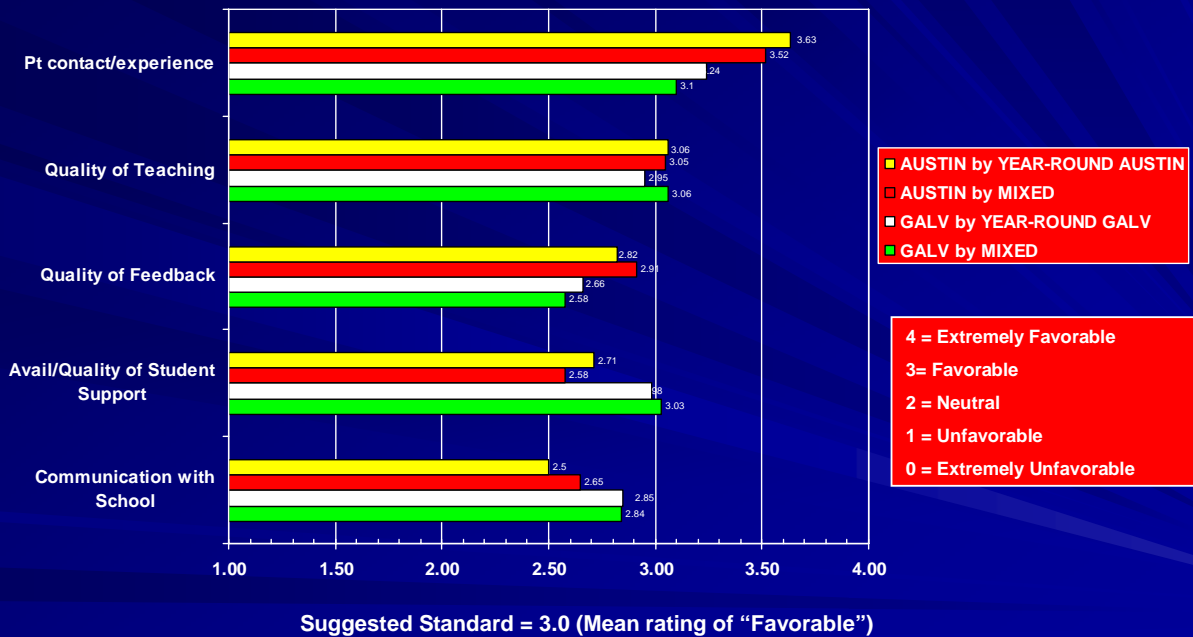
Toward the end of each academic year, students in Austin and Galveston complete global evaluations asking them to characterize total experiences independent of individual clerkships. In 2006, evaluations by Austin students remained highly favorable – Austin experiences were comparable to Galveston experiences in most of the categories shown below. Some other findings include:

- (1) Students in Austin gave higher ratings for patient contact and experiences as well as ratings related to quality of teacher feedback.
- (2) Students in Austin year-round still have concerns about availability/quality of student support, and communication with the school.



Narrative comments from students emphasize the personal nature of Austin rotations and the extensive direct contact they enjoy with faculty members. They indicate that hands-on experience is extensive, and that they value the positive professional role models they encounter in Austin. Some students express anxieties about separation from the campus in Galveston, and that a close working relationship between residency directors on both campuses is important to students.

Year 3 Clerkship Evaluations: Global Evaluations Galveston and Austin Sites 2005-2006



Michael Ainsworth, MD

UTMB School of Medicine

Associate Dean for Regional Medical Education



All global and clerkship-specific evaluations of student experiences are shared with clerkship directors on each campus, reviewed at periodic clerkship director meetings, and are discussed at an annual clerkship directors conference each February. Additional resources, including an upgrading of videoconferencing capabilities is now complete, and are expected to improve communication between campuses, and to strengthen the administrative relationship between clerkships in Austin and Galveston.

Student Outcomes: Clerkship Academic Performance

Students who select Austin for year-round assignment are, as a group, academically comparable to their Galveston counterparts. Academic performance, as measured by NBME Subject examinations taken at the end of each clerkship, are comparable as well. Some differences in faculty evaluations seem to be present across the campuses, with Austin faculty generating higher clinical evaluation scores than Galveston faculty in some clerkships, while in other clerkships Galveston faculty submit higher ratings. This is a reminder of the need for continued faculty development on both campuses.

Section II Program Enhancements

Emphasis in 2006-07 and Beyond

- **Austin-based staff**
 - Student coordinator hired June 2005
 - Assistant Dean appointed Jan 2006
 - Medical educator appointed June 2006
- Staff office opened in Brackenridge Hosp October 2005
- 3rd annual Clerkship Directors' Conference Feb 2007
- Small class size funding supplement achieved
- Expansion of student computer resources complete
- Videoconferencing expansion complete
- Formal student mentoring and advising begun
- Gradual, progressive increase in student capacity



More seamless integration of Information Resources is already being realized, with upgrading of student computers and videoconferencing capabilities complete. The School's Office of Regional Medical Education (ORME) opened its office at Brackenridge Hospital in 2005 and initial staffing is now complete. Austin clerkship directors meet monthly with the Associate Dean for Regional Medical Education, and an Austin-Galveston joint Clerkship Directors Conference is held annually. With funding for the campus more secure, emphasis is being placed in improving student support and mentoring, and expanding student capacity in a thoughtful and data-based manner.

Section III Regional Education Programs Throughout the State

Expansion of faculty development programs for all regional community preceptors continues. Both locally developed resources and those available from other institutions are used. Recognition of excellence through the Teachers of Distinction awards is now in its eighth year, supplemented by additional awards, including an award that emphasizes the physician's commitment to training in medical education - the Master Preceptor Award. These programs are described on the ORME website at <http://meded.utmb.edu/orme>.

A dilemma faced by previous UTMB students was the low level of professional liability (malpractice) insurance offered by the UT-System, preventing students from taking electives at 30+ US medical schools, whose typical insurance requirement were substantially higher. This has been resolved by UT-System allowing students to purchase supplemental coverage at a reasonable fee (~\$80-400 for month-long rotations) for electives at schools in 42 other states, and a private vendor has been identified offering coverage in other states, although available only as an annual premium.