



Policy Title: Policy on Medical Student Clinical Duty Hours and Workload

Approved By: JCOG

Date Approved: 4/11/2024

Review Period: Annually

Responsible Office or Committee: Clinical Assistant Deans

LCME Affiliated Elements: 8.8

Policy Statement:

This policy establishes guidelines and expectations for medical students' involvement in clinical settings to ensure a conducive learning environment while prioritizing their personal health and well-being.

Purpose of Policy:

The purpose of this policy is to strike a balance between the educational needs of medical students and the demands of clinical settings while prioritizing their health and ensuring they have a suitable environment for learning and development.

Scope of Policy:

This policy applies to students enrolled in the University and College Programs in the School of Medicine.

Policy:

Medical students must be presented with a clinical working environment that supports their learning and safeguards personal health. The emphasis should be on opportunities to learn within a reasonable framework of clinical activities. Specific considerations:

- Educational priorities must outweigh the service needs of the clinical setting. Students must not be taken advantage of in attempting to cope with practice needs.
- Student participation in clinical activities must take into account the fact that fatigue impairs learning. Students need to be able to take advantage of opportunities to learn.
- Student participation in clinical settings must take into account the potential adverse impact of fatigue on personal health and safe travel to and from the practice site.
- Students completing a work shift in the hospital and assessing themselves as unsafe to drive must have access to facilities for sleeping and/or alternative transportation to home and back to the hospital.



- Student participation in clinical rotation settings should not exceed intern work hour policies (80 hours/week averaged over 4 weeks, average 1 day off/week).
- Student participation in Acting Internship and other elective clinical rotations must not exceed intern work hour policies (80 hours/week averaged over 4 weeks, at most 24 hours continuously in the hospital, plus 4 hours to manage necessary care transitions, average 1 day off/week).
- Travel to and from clinical sites at the beginning or end of the day does not count toward work hours.
- Students participating in the required Friday afternoon curriculum must be excused from clinical rotations at 11 PM on Thursday nights to assure meaningful participation in the learning activities.

Monitoring of these guidelines will be the responsibility of the Discipline Leader and will utilize direct observation as well as oral and written feedback including end of rotation evaluations.

Medical Student Workload on Clinical Rotations

Medical students must be presented with clinical workload expectations that support their learning while maintaining an appropriate level of engagement with the clinical environment. The specific details of these expectations will vary somewhat with the clinical specialty or rotation, but must:

- Ensure that educational priorities outweigh the service needs of the clinical setting. Students must not be taken advantage of in attempting to cope with practice needs.
- Take into account the fact that fatigue impairs learning. Students must be able to take advantage of opportunities to learn.
- Provide adequate opportunities for assessment of student performance across the range of identified competencies.

Monitoring of these guidelines will be the responsibility of the Discipline Leader and will utilize direct observation as well as oral and written feedback including end of rotation evaluations.