

Policy on Medical Student Duty Hours

I. PURPOSE

An important component of managing the curriculum is planning and monitoring student workload during clinical experiences. The Curriculum Committee is responsible for overseeing the arrangement of the curriculum, and establishing limits on student workload. The school must monitor student workload to assure that there is adequate time for independent studying and preparation for in-class activities.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Medical students
- Faculty
- Clerkship/elective directors

III. POLICY

Duty hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the clinical student program, i.e., patient care (both inpatient and outpatient), administrative duties related to patient care, the provision for transfer of patient care, time spent in-house during call activities, and scheduled academic activities such as conferences. Duty hours do not include reading and preparation time spent away from the clinical site.

Duty hours are averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house all activities and must be limited to 80 hours per week on average.

Averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of call, students must be provided with 1 day in 7 free from all educational and clinical responsibilities. One day is defined as one continuous 24-hour period free from all clinical, educational, and administrative Activities.

It is the responsibility of the Clerkship Director, faculty, and the individual student to ensure full compliance with both the letter and spirit of these respective duty hour Requirements.

IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)

- Office of Medical Education

V. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Policy on Calendar and Scheduling

VI. REFERENCES

LCME Element 8.8: Monitoring Student Time. The medical school faculty committee responsible for the medical curriculum and the program's administration and leadership ensure the development and implementation of effective policies and procedures regarding the amount of time medical students spend in required activities, including the total number of hours medical students are required to spend in clinical and educational activities during clerkships.

VII. APPROVALS

Dean, School of Medicine, June 10, 2008; reviewed September 5, 2018

Educational Policy Council review: September 4, 2024.