

Faculty Handbook for the MD Curriculum

SECTION 2. MAINTAINING STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

MEDICAL STUDENT DUTY HOURS

Faculty teaching medical students should be aware of and enforce the OSU COM regulations regarding medical student duty hours.

Clinical rotations for medical students should provide academic and clinical experiences intended to increase the students' knowledge and skills in caring for patients. To that end, the didactic and clinical responsibilities for students should be carefully planned and balanced with concerns for patient safety and student well-being.

The following guidelines are modified from the ACGME resident duty hours standards, to take into account the effects of fatigue and sleep deprivation on learning and patient care.

Medical student duty hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the medical school curriculum and individual department requirements, i.e., patient care and related activities (both inpatient and outpatient,) time spent in-house during call activities, and scheduled academic activities such as didactic sessions and conferences. Duty hours do not include reading and preparation time spent away from the duty site.

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

Students must be provided with 1 day in 7 free from all educational and clinical responsibilities, averaged over a 4-week period, inclusive of call. One day is defined as one continuous 24-hour period free from all clinical activities.

Adequate time for rest and for personal activities must be provided.

In-house call is defined as those duty hours beyond the normal workday when medical students are required to be immediately available in the assigned institution. In-house call must occur no more frequently than every third night. Students should be excused from clinical work at noon following overnight call duties but may stay for specific didactic or skill-training experiences which may occur in the afternoon.

In the pre-clinical portion of the curriculum (Part 1), students are assigned no more than 20 hours per week of new content on average and up to 45 hours per week of total contact time. This includes all assigned lectures, readings, and activities.

MEDICAL STUDENT ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Busy health professionals sometimes find it difficult to balance work and personal responsibilities and needs. However, the OSU COM directs that faculty, staff and trainees be permitted and

enabled to attend to important medical and personal needs to maintain health and well-being. While medical students are encouraged to use unscheduled time for personal needs when possible, some medical, dental, and other personal issues cannot be resolved except during regular business hours. Students may request time off from educational classroom or clerkship responsibilities within the days specifically allotted for various rotations. Prior notification and approval of the clerkship director is required except in emergent situations. **Faculty should learn the rules about excused absences included in the academic program handbooks for the different curricular components and facilitate medical student efforts to meet personal needs and optimize physical and mental health.**

PETS, SERVICE, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

The Ohio State University and Wexner Medical Center have a general “no pets” policy in all of its buildings. Pets are allowed on the grounds when leashed and under control. Service Animals are generally allowed to accompany their handlers in any building or public space where their handlers are permitted. Emotional Support and Visiting Therapy animals may be allowed in specified areas of the University and Wexner Medical Center with advanced approval. All animals are the responsibility of their handlers and should be under their control, house broken, in proximity to the handler and responsive to commands, in harness, on a three-foot lead, or in a carrier, not exploring others or the environment, and not disruptive. An animal’s behavior is considered the handler’s behavior; the animal will be held to the same basic standard of conduct as their handlers. If they are disruptive to university business or community behavioral expectations for educational, medical and residential environments handlers may be asked to correct the animal’s behavior or remove it from the environment. Assistance animals are the general term that incorporate service animals and emotional support animals.

Brief summary:

- Pets are not permitted in university buildings but are allowed on grounds when leashed and under control.
- Service animals and service animals in training are generally allowed to accompany their handlers anywhere their handlers are permitted on campus. If additional precautions are required to enter an area in order to prevent transmission of infectious agents (i.e. personal protective equipment), Service Animals may not be permitted access.
- Use of an Emotional Support Animal on campus is a potentially reasonable accommodation to No Pet Policies in some circumstances. Note that ESAs do not receive the same protections as Service Animals. Pre-approval from the ADA Coordinator’s Office is required to bring an Emotional Support Animal to any University medical facility. Emotional support animals will not be permitted in clinical or simulated clinical environments.

To view the detailed policy visit:

<https://ada.osu.edu/assistance-animals>

MEDICAL STUDENT EXPOSURE TO BLOOD/BODY FLUIDS

Faculty should know the policies regarding what medical students should do once exposed to potential pathogens through blood or other bodily fluids and should help to facilitate the completion of the recommended interventions. **It is important to note that medical students are not medical center employees and should not be sent to employee health.** Instead medical students should be counseled and treated for BBF exposures through student health or the emergency department.

The following is from the COM Student Handbook:

Universal blood and body fluid precautions lessen the risk of exposure to such fluids, and these precautions must be used routinely. Medical students are in many situations during clinical activities where breaks in skin (“sharps” injuries) or mucosal contact may expose them to possibly infectious blood or body fluids.

Students are assigned to several affiliated hospitals as well as University Hospitals. The protocols at each institution are slightly different. The following, however, are common to all facilities:

- Decontaminate (wash with disinfectant) the exposed or contaminated site immediately.
- Make a note of the patient’s name, hospital number, attending physician, and location.
- Report to your immediate supervisor (attending or resident physician).
- Have the injury inspected and an incident report filled out by a supervisor (e.g., resident or head nurse).
- Report the injury as soon as possible to Hospital Epidemiology and Student Health. Notify the attending physician of the patient. Usually, this is done by Hospital Epidemiology or OSU Wilce Student Health Center, since it is the hospital’s responsibility to have the patient’s blood drawn and tests done. The attending physician, though, may order the appropriate testing.
- If outside of regular hours or if there is an emergency in addition to the exposure, go to the ER (if in town in Columbus or otherwise possible, to an OSU ER). Otherwise, go to the OSU Wilce Student Health Center.
- The injured student’s blood may be drawn for baseline serologies at the OSU Wilce Student Health Center, an OSU Emergency room or, if the student is out of Franklin County at the nearest emergency room.
- In the event of a needle stick, the student should call the OSU Wilce Student Health Center Appointment Line at 614-292-4321. They should identify themselves as a medical student who has had a needle stick injury, and they should be routed to the triage nurse for an ASAP appointment. Dr. Sheila Westendorf (614-292-8794) can also be contacted if there are any questions or difficulties. Reports of tests should be sent to the Wilce Student Health Center for follow-up and appropriate medical recording.
- Notify the Associate Dean for Student Life (joanne.lynn@osumc.edu) or the Associate Dean for Medical Education (jennifer.mccallister@osumc.edu) or the dean on call.
- Regardless of where the initial urgent care is received, all follow-up care of a BBFE should be obtained through the Wilce Student Health Center.

- Bills for initial assessment should be submitted to the student’s health insurance. Any uncovered costs and bills should be brought to 155 Meiling Hall (office of the Associate Dean for Student Life). OSU COM will not cover bills from other hospitals in Franklin County for exposures – if in Franklin County, please go to an OSU emergency room.

SUSPECTED STUDENT SUBSTANCE USE

The College of Medicine is committed to the health and well-being of patients and of its students. As part of this commitment, The COM complies with and upholds all federal, state and local laws that regulate or prohibit the possession, use or distribution of alcohol or illicit drugs. Students who are impaired by substance use endanger patients, themselves, faculty and staff, and other students. Substance use shall be defined as:

- 1) the use or possession of any drug in a manner prohibited by law; and
- 2) the use of alcohol or any legal drug or other substance in such a way that the user’s performance as a professional student is impaired.

The COM recognizes that early treatment is essential for successful rehabilitation and recovery for students with substance use. Students are encouraged to voluntarily request referral for treatment before their substance use leads to academic or disciplinary problems.

The College of Medicine policy appropriately establishes substance use guidelines and procedures that are similar to those already in place for all other employees of the hospitals in which medical students work. Students are prohibited from engaging in substance use.

Testing for designated substances will occur on a scheduled basis during first-year orientation and before entrance into clinical duties in the third year of medical school. Prior to testing, students are asked to disclose any substance use and prescription medications to the College administration, who will keep this information confidential.

The College administration also reserves the right to drug test a student at any time that he or she is suspected of substance use (on “For Cause” basis). “For cause” drug and/or alcohol testing may be ordered when concerns are raised and/or recommendation for drug and/or alcohol testing is made to the Associate Dean of Student Life or his/her designee regarding the performance, behavior, or actions of a medical student that indicate a reasonable suspicion for substance impairment. Any faculty member or attending physician may raise a concern with the Associate Dean of Student Life. Once testing is ordered, it must be completed within two hours. Failure to complete testing in a timely manner may result in a presumption of positive toxicology result and summary suspension or other disciplinary action. There will be no opportunity to appeal the order to be tested “for cause.”

Faculty who suspect a medical student of intoxication should immediately contact the Associate Dean for Student Life (292-5126) to set up “for cause” drug testing.

A student with a positive toxicology screen will be placed on immediate Leave of Absence and all educational and clinical activities will be discontinued.