

**VCU**

## Inpatient and Outpatient Experiences in Clinical Learning Environments Policy

### Policy Statement and Purpose

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This policy establishes the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine's (VCU SOM) formal process for establishing the minimum amount of time students must complete in inpatient vs outpatient settings, in accordance with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) requirement of medical schools to ensure that the medical education curriculum includes clinical experiences in both inpatient and outpatient settings. This includes defining a formal process for determining the balance of time between inpatient and outpatient experiences that is both appropriate, and allows the learner to meet the objectives of each individual clerkship.

### Stakeholders

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The faculty, staff, and students of the VCU School of Medicine are responsible for knowing this standard operating procedure, its contents, and provisions.

### Definitions

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**ADCME:** Assistant/Associate Dean for Clinical Medical Education

**CBG Program:** Competency Based Graduation Program. This parallel curricular track leads to completion of the MD degree in 3 years.

**CC:** Curriculum Council

**CDs:** Clerkship Directors.

**Inpatient Experiences:** Inpatient experiences refer to direct patient encounters that take place in inpatient learning environments.

**MD Program:** Doctor of Medicine program at the VCU SOM

**Outpatient Experiences:** Also referred to as Ambulatory experiences, outpatient experiences refer to direct patient encounters that take place in outpatient learning environments, such as medical offices and clinics, ambulatory surgery centers, hospital outpatient departments, and telehealth visits, without admission to a facility.

**VCU SOM:** Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

### Responsibilities

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**Students:** Students are responsible for demonstrating achievement of clerkship-level and institutional-level learning objectives through experiences in inpatient and outpatient settings that align with the thresholds established for each individual clerkship.

**CC:** The CC is responsible for reviewing current clinical training time in inpatient and outpatient learning environments and determining designated minimum training time in each setting for learners in the MD Program and CBG Program.

**CDs/ADCME:** Clerkship Directors and the Assistant/Associate Dean for Clinical Medical Education are responsible for recommending thresholds for inpatient and outpatient experiences that allow for student achievement of both clerkship-level and institutional-level learning objectives.

## Procedures

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### Determination of Inpatient and Outpatient Experiences

- In alignment with the Curricular Review and Evaluation Policy, the CC reviews each clerkship annually, including information regarding:
  - Time spent by learners in inpatient and outpatient learning environments
  - Curriculum mapping, including linkages between clerkship-level objectives and MD Program objectives, instructional methods, and assessment methods
  - Required Clinical Experiences (RCEs) and compliance with RCE logging requirements by students
- The reviewed information, along with recommendations from Clerkship Directors and the Assistant Dean for Clinical Medical Education, and local and national trends in medical education, is used by the CC to inform decisions about thresholds for inpatient and outpatient experiences across each clerkship and in totality of the clerkship phase as a whole.

### Current Inpatient and Outpatient Experiences by Clerkship

*Curriculum Council Approved: (01.23.2025)*

4-Year MD Program		
Required Clerkship	Percentage of Total Clerkship Time	
	% Outpatient	% Inpatient
Ambulatory	100%	0%
Family Medicine	100%	0%
Internal Medicine	25%	75%
Neurology	50%	50%
OB/GYN	30%	70%
Pediatrics	33%	67%
Psychiatry	0%	100%
Surgery	up to 20%	80-100%

\*Chart reflects the four-year MD curriculum and three-year Competency-Based Graduation Program.



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## **Review of Approved Inpatient and Outpatient Experiences**

- The CC reviews and approves the current thresholds for inpatient and outpatient experiences annually

## **Related Policies**

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Curricular Review and Evaluation Policy  
Competency Based Graduation Program Procedures  
Completion of Required Clinical Experiences Policy

## **Review Cycle and Revision History**

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The policy is reviewed and may be revised by the Curriculum Council as necessary, but at least every three years.

**Current Approved Version: 01.23.2025**

**Previously Approved Versions: 05.23.2024  
12.14.2023**

## **Applicable Laws, Regulations & Standards**

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LCME Standards for Accreditation of Medical Education Programs Leading to the MD Degree:

- LCME Standard 6, Element 4



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