



VCU

Inpatient and Outpatient Experiences in Clinical Learning Environments Policy

Policy Statement and Purpose

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

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

Definitions

VCU SOM: Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

MD Program: Doctor of Medicine program at the VCU SOM

CC: Curriculum Council

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

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.

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

CDs: Clerkship Directors.

ADCME: Assistant/Associate Dean for Clinical Medical Education.



VCU School of Medicine

Responsibilities

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

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: (12.14.2023)

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%
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*Chart reflects the traditional MD curriculum and three-year Competency-Based Graduation Program.

Review of Approved Inpatient and Outpatient Experiences

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

Related Policies

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

Review Cycle and Revision History

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

Current Approved Version: 05.23.2024

Applicable Laws, Regulations & Standards

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

- LCME Standard 6, Element 4