



Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Policy Title: Academic Workload for Pre-Clerkship Courses Policy

Policy Number: CU.06.01.170530

Applies to: All medical students enrolled in the WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

Date: 2/8/2021

1.0 Policy Statement: It is the policy of the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine to ensure that the medical curriculum includes regularly scheduled class time and unscheduled time for self-directed learning experiences and independent learning activities.

2.0 Definitions:

2.0.1 *Required scheduled learning activities:* Small group sessions, such as case-based learning, art and practice of medicine, evidence-based medicine journal club, clinical skills workshops, labs, leadership, authentic patient care, and interprofessional learning sessions, involving peer-to-peer learning.

2.0.2 *Optional schedule learning activities:* Sessions, such as large group discussion and/or lectures, placed on students' schedules to provide information about optional educational activities.

2.0.3 Unscheduled time is time available for the student to engage in:

2.0.3.1 *Independent learning:* Instructor-/ or mentor-guided learning activities to be performed by the learner outside of formal educational settings (classroom, lab, clinic); Dedicated time on learner schedules to prepare for specific learning activities.

2.0.3.2 *Self-directed learning:* Learners taking the initiative for their own learning: diagnosing needs, formulating goals, identifying resources, implementing appropriate activities, and evaluating outcomes.

3.0 Responsibility:

Associate Dean for Curriculum

4.0 Procedures

The Curriculum Committee will monitor students' schedules and academic workload through ongoing programmatic reviews.

- Average of 21 hours of *regularly scheduled learning activities*, required and optional, in formal educational settings per week over the course of an academic year to include but not be limited to: Large group interactive learning, Case-based learning, Small group learning, Laboratory, Simulation learning, Preceptorships, Inter-professional learning activities, and Community-based activities. Clinical Campus weeks and Assessment weeks are not included in calculating the average

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hours in a typical week. Total scheduled hours not to exceed an average of 25 hours per week.

- Average of 11 hours of required *regularly scheduled learning activities* in formal educational settings per week over the course of an academic year.
- Maximum average of 8 hours per week in *independent learning* as required activities outside of formal educational settings to include: required assigned readings, online modules, educational videos, completion of assignments, and other required activities
- The Associate Dean for Curriculum monitors adherence to this policy through regular course operations

5.0 Related Polices

N/A

6.0 Key Search Words

Academic study, in-class time, out-of-class time, self-directed study, unscheduled time, workload, independent learning, required preparation

7.0 Revision History

Original Approval	Policy number	Revision Date Approval
3/16/2017	CU.06.01.170316	5/30/2017
5/30/2017	CU.06.01.170517	6/21/2018
		2/07/2020
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Responsible Office: Associate Dean of Curriculum

Policy Contact: Curriculum Committee Chair

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