



# Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Policy Title: Comparability of Educational Experiences and Assessment

Policy Number: EC.08.02.220201

Applies to: MD program

Date: 02/01/2022

**1.0 Policy Statement:** It is the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine policy that the medical curriculum will include comparable educational experiences and equivalent methods of assessment across all campus locations within a given course whether in the pre-clerkship or clerkship curriculum so that all medical students have the opportunity to achieve the same medical education program objectives. The Office of Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation will be responsible for maintaining a central monitoring system of the education and assessment. Multiple scheduled reviews will take place throughout each academic year to identify and address any potential inconsistencies and will be conducted by the responsible course team.

## 2.0 Definitions

*Comparable educational experiences:* Assigned learning experiences that are sufficiently similar so as to ensure that medical students are achieving the same learning objectives and outcomes at all training sites at which those experiences occur.

*Equivalent methods of assessment:* The methods of student assessment and the instruments used for assessment are as close to identical as possible across all training sites at which core curricular activities take place.

*Central Monitoring:* Tracking by institutional level offices (Office of Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation and Office of Curriculum) and the Undergraduate Medical Education Committee of desired and expected learning outcomes by students, as well as their completion of required learning experiences.

*Training sites:* Locations where medical student learning occurs under the supervision of faculty.

*Course Team:* The leadership group for each individual course in the MD program.

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## **3.0 Responsibility:**

Associate Dean for Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation

## **4.0 Procedures**

The Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine uses ongoing assessment and evaluation metrics to monitor the learning environments to ensure comparable educational programming and outcomes across all training sites.

Comparability of education and assessment across all training sites will be ensured by:

- Undergraduate Medical Education Committee
- Education Directors
- Course teams with support from the Associate Dean for Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation

Established core components in both the Pre-Clerkship and Clerkship phases of the curriculum include the following comparable educational elements:

- a) Learning objectives: Course and clerkship specific objectives are centrally developed and used at all training sites and are made known to all medical students and those faculty members, residents, and others with teaching and assessment responsibilities in those required experiences.
- b) Required clinical experiences: Clerkship specific required encounters, including patient type and clinical condition, the skills to be performed by medical students, the appropriate clinical settings for these experiences, and the expected levels of medical student responsibility, are the same at all sites.
- c) Assessment instruments and criteria for evaluation: The instruments and criteria used for student assessment are the same at all sites. The procedure for determining final grades is the same at all sites.
- d) Instruction at each site: All faculty members, residents and others involved in teaching have a clear understanding of the core competencies, the developmental expectations, the learning objectives, and the methods for both formative and summative assessment. If more support for this is needed, this work is done in collaboration with the Office for Faculty Development.

Responsibility for oversight of comparability is assigned to the Office of Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation, which will ensure appropriate metrics and an appropriate schedule are used to monitor components of comparability of education and assessment across all training sites. Monitoring will occur centrally through the curriculum management system and course dashboards. The Office of Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation, in conjunction with the Office of Curriculum, will provide quarterly summaries of comparability to the course teams. This may be done more frequently if needed. Comparison data and evaluation mechanisms may include, but are not limited to the following:

- a) Clinical assessments
- b) Required clinical experiences: Clerkship-specific required encounters, including patient-type and clinical condition, the skills to be performed, the appropriate

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clinical settings, and expected levels of student responsibility, are the same at all sites.

- c) NBME subject exam and NBME Comprehensive Clinical Science Exam data
- d) Student experience data: student satisfaction data including but not limited to satisfaction with the quality of the learning environment, quality of supervision, quality of teaching, and quality of feedback.
- e) Final grade data

The annual pre-clerkship and clerkship review process conducted by the Foundations of Medicine and the Clinical Experiences Subcommittee monitors the quality of the curriculum and provides the Undergraduate Medical Education Committee an appraisal of the following:

- a) Learning objectives
- b) Educational activities and assessments
- c) Strengths and areas for improvement
- d) Outcome data related to comparability across instructional sites.

If any inconsistencies are identified, the Education Directors will work to remediate these as needed, in conjunction with:

- Associate Deans for Clinical Education,
- Associate Dean for Curriculum, and
- Associate Dean for Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation

Any training site that is not able to meet the established core components of the specific curricula or are otherwise unable to provide a high-quality teaching and learning environment will not be utilized.

## 5.0 Related Policies

N/A

## 6.0 Key Search Words

Comparable Educational Experiences, Central Monitoring, Equivalent Methods of Assessment, Course Team
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## 7.0 Review and Revision History

Original Approval	Policy number	Review/Revision
02/01/2022	EC.08.02.220201	

**Responsible Office:** Office of Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation

**Policy Contact:** Associate Dean for Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation

**Supersedes:** N/A