



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Elson S. Floyd
College of Medicine

Policy Title: Student Clinical and Education Work Policy

Policy Number: CU.08.01.170808

Applies to: All medical students assigned to participate in clinical activities and/or related educational sessions

Date: 2/14/2022

1.0 Policy Statement

Washington State University's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine (COM) seeks to maintain an appropriate balance among clinical activities, educational sessions and unscheduled time for all medical students that optimizes patient safety, student education, and student well-being. As such, the COM establishes as policy that:

- 1.1 In concordance with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's work hours policy standard, COM student clinical and education work is limited to a maximum of 80 hours per week.
- 1.2 All hours that students spend in clinical activities and related educational sessions must be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit.
- 1.3 Students may voluntarily remain longer than 80 hours in unusual circumstances where, in the student's judgment, the extra time benefits patient care or the student's education. Such additional time will be counted toward the 80-hour limit.
- 1.4 At minimum, an 8-hour rest is required between work periods.
- 1.5 Clinical work periods must not exceed 24 hours of continuously scheduled clinical work.
- 1.6 Students may be on overnight call or 24 hours of continuously scheduled clinical work no more than every 4th night.
- 1.7 After 24 hours of continuous clinical work, students should have at least 14 hours free of clinical activities or related educational sessions.
- 1.8 Students must be provided with one (1) day in seven (7) free of all educational and clinical responsibilities, averaged over a four-(4)-week period, inclusive of call.
- 1.9 The COM is responsible for educating students, faculty, and staff about fatigue and fatigue mitigation strategies.
- 1.10 Students will track and report their duty hours in a timely fashion.
- 1.11 The COM is responsible for overseeing student duty hours and any violations of student duty hours.

2.0 Definitions

Clinical activities: Curricular, time-limited instructional events that are based on or substantially related to the clinical care of patients. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, direct patient care, patient rounds, patient documentation, case conferences and clinical lectures in healthcare delivery that take place as part of their clinical training.

Duty hours: Hours that students spend on their scheduled clinical curriculum activities and/or related educational sessions.

Educational sessions: Curricular, time-limited instructional events delivered to students to impart knowledge that may but need not be substantially clinical.

3.0 Responsibilities

Office of Curriculum

4.0 Procedures (subject to change—see the Office of Curriculum for updated procedures)

Reporting and reviewing duty hours: Students are required to document duty hours in their portfolio within the learning management software. Clerkship Directors (CD) are responsible for reviewing student duty hours reports within their respective clerkship.

Managing duty hour violations: When a student experiences a duty hour violation, the student must report the violation to the respective CD with an explanation of the circumstances. The CD will notify the Associate Dean of Clinical Education (ADCE) of the individual violation. If a pattern of violations exists, the CD will be responsible for reporting the violations to the ADCE and the Clinical Experience Subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee (CES). The ADCE is responsible for reconciling individual violations of duty hours on the ADCE's respective campus. The CES will be responsible for jointly working with ADCEs to resolve patterns of violations.

5.0 Related Policies

N/A

6.0 Key Search Words

Duty hour restrictions, reporting violations.

7.0 Revision History

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