



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**
WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official:
Associate Dean for Clinical
Education **Responsible Office:**
Office of Medical Education
Most Recent Revision: 12/2023

POLICY ON MEDICAL STUDENT CLINICAL DUTY HOURS

Policy/Procedure Statement

Medical students must have ample opportunity to consolidate their learning through self-study. Their level of clinical responsibility should allow adequate time for study, review, and preparation for required evaluations. Finally, student responsibilities should be commensurate with a lifestyle that allows adequate time for other non-educational tasks and healthy behaviors.

Duty Hours Policy:

- a) Students must not exceed an AVERAGE 80-hour weekly schedule across any four-week period. All required clinical and scheduled educational and assessment activities are to be included.
- b) Students must not be required to exceed 30 continuous duty hours, e.g. 24 hour shifts plus up to 6 added hours for continuity of care and education.
- c) Students must be allowed 1 full day off in 7 or 2 full days off in 14. Teaching days, examination days, and other scheduled educational activities (e.g. Intersession days) do not count as days off.
- d) Students must not be required to complete overnight call on the evening prior to an examination or performance-based assessment.
- e) Religious holidays must be respected. Students requesting time off for religious observances must notify supervising faculty in advance and assure appropriate clinical coverage by another student, resident, or faculty member. Students may be required to make up any missed academic or clinical work at the discretion of the course director or supervising faculty.
- f) Official GW University Holidays must be respected for all courses and clerkships in the clinical years. One exception is that students on required Acting Internships may have clinical responsibilities on holidays at the course director's discretion. These days may be counted as days off in accordance with the "1 in 7 or 2 in 14 days off" noted above. The official GWU Holidays can be found at this link <https://hr.gwu.edu/university-holiday-schedule>
- g) Students must not be required to stay past midnight prior to Intersession days. They must not be required to participate in morning rounds or other clerkship activities during the morning of Intersession. Students can be required to resume clinical responsibilities or take overnight call in the evening after Intersession days conclude.
- h) Please also see the Policy for Student Absence for Medical and Dental Care.

Monitoring Duty Hours:

Student duty hour logs are monitored in an ongoing manner. Clerkship directors review the student duty hourlogs at the mid-point of the clerkship to determine if there are any instances or trends where students are inappropriately being asked to exceed duty hours, so this can be addressed and corrected. In this case, clerkship directors make adjustments as necessary with the supervising faculty and affected students (without impact on student evaluations) so that duty hours are not exceeded. Additionally, aggregate data is collected at the end of each clerkship and a report is forwarded to the Office of Medical Education. Any problems identified are addressed by the Associate Dean for Clinical Education, clerkship directors and the Clinical Subcommittee. A summary report of aggregate student duty hours is sent to the Clinical Subcommittee and on to Committee on the Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum (CUMEC) annually. Student perceptions of duty hours are monitored through clerkship evaluations. Ongoing, regularly scheduled decanal meetings with student leadership include discussions of duty hours.

Students are required to complete duty hour logs by the close of business on the final day of the clerkship. Failure to comply with this standard will be documented in the clerkship evaluation in the “Responsibility/Reliability/Dependability” section of the Professionalism evaluation and are subject to be included in the student’s Medical Student Performance Evaluation.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

As per LCME DCI element 8.8, to address the duty hours for medical students during the clerkship phase of the curriculum, including on-call requirements for clinical rotations

Who Needs to Know This Policy

Medical students, faculty members, residents, fellows, and staff

Policy Contact

Associate Dean for Clinical Education

Who Approved This Policy

Committee on the Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum:

Most recent approval December 21, 2023