



**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**

WASHINGTON, DC

**Responsible University Official:** SMHS Assistant Dean  
for Clinical Education

**Responsible Office:** Office of Medical Education

**Most Recent Revision:** 7/2015

## **POLICY ON MEDICAL STUDENT CLINICAL DUTY HOURS**

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### **Policy/Procedure Statement**

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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 formative and summative evaluations. Finally, student responsibilities should be commensurate with a balanced life-style that allows adequate time for other non-educational tasks and healthy behaviors.

#### Duty Hours Policy:

- 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 in the duty hour estimates. Students must not be required to exceed 30 continuous duty hours.
- 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.
- Students must not be required to complete overnight call on the evening prior to an examination or performance-based assessment.
- 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 should be required to make up any missed academic or clinical work at the discretion of the course director or supervising faculty.
- Mandatory University Holiday observances must be respected (these apply to third year students ONLY). These days may be counted as days off in compliance with the "1 in 7 or 2 in 14" policy.
- Students must not be required to stay past midnight prior to Intersession days. They must not be required to complete morning rounds or attend other educational activities during the morning of Intersession. Students can be required to resume clinical responsibilities or take overnight call in the evening after Intersession days concludes.

#### Monitoring Duty Hours:

Student duty hour logs will be monitored in an on-going manner. Clerkship directors review the student duty hour logs at the mid-point of the clerkship to determine if there are any violations or trends requiring investigation or correction. During mid-clerkship review, violations are addressed with the students with adjustments made as necessary. Additionally, aggregate data is collected at the end of each clerkship and a report is forwarded to the Office of Medical Education. Identified problems will be addressed by the Assistant Dean for Clinical Education, clerkship directors and the Clinical Subcommittee. A summary report of aggregate student duty hours will be sent to the

Committee on the Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum (CUMEC) annually. Student perceptions of duty hours will be monitored through clerkship evaluations and exit interviews with senior medical students. On-going regularly scheduled decanal meetings with student leadership will 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

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## **Who Needs to Know This Policy**

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

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## **Policy Contact**

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Assistant Dean for Clinical Education

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## **Who Approved This Policy**

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Committee on the Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum  
Jeffrey S. Akman, M.D., Vice President for Health Affairs, and  
Dean, School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
August 27, 2015

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## **History/Revision Dates**

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Last Amended: June, 2015