



Title/Subject: Inpatient/Outpatient Experience in Clinical Training

Applies to: faculty students staff Clerkship Directors

Policy System Process/Procedure Guideline/Standard Position Description

• **Introduction**

- **Historical/Contextual Overview:** As TAMU COM has expanded to multiple campuses and sites, the CC has worked to determine how to ensure students experience the best balance of ambulatory and inpatient training and help ensure comparability across sites.

A student’s medical education should include a composite of experiences in inpatient and ambulatory settings. While certain disciplines may dictate that patient care experiences occur in either an inpatient or an ambulatory setting, for many disciplines, a variety of experiences in either venue may meet the core requirements of instruction.

Training in either a tertiary site or regional community based site may inadvertently over-represent on setting over another in clinical experiences. With both academic health center and community-based sites, the school must ensure a well-rounded educational experience for medical students that enables patient encounters that are representative of common medical practice across health care models.

LCME element 6.4 requires a school’s curricular committee to “ensure that medical students spend sufficient time in inpatient and ambulatory settings to meet the objectives for clinical education.”

- **Reason for the Policy/Process:** This policy will define how much inpatient/outpatient exposure students will receive within the clinical curriculum. LCME standard 6.4
- **Scope:** This policy applies to clerkship students, clerkship directors, and coordinators.
- **Policy Statement:** Within the core clinical instruction phase of medical education at the TAMU COM, a student should achieve a minimum threshold for instructional time in ambulatory care settings at 30%, inpatient settings at least 40%, and emergency department at 9% of the required clerkship experiences.
- **Procedure/Process:** Each clerkship will build their curriculum to ensure they meet the appropriate portion of the inpatient/outpatient care as assigned below. Specific factors or limited issues not in compliance require a formal report from the respective clerkship director to the Curriculum Committee outlining an exact process/plan to achieve compliance.

Effective Date: Spring 2020

Last Updated: November 2019

Authority: Curriculum Committee

Responsible University Office: Office of Academic Affairs

Responsible University Administrator: Senior Associate Dean of SA and Assistant Dean of AA of Clerkships & Electives

Review/Revision Schedule: Annually

Indexed as: inpatient, outpatient, ambulatory, clerkships



Clerkship	Ambulatory	Inpatient	Emergency Department	Variable Weeks
Obstetrics & Gynecology	33 % (2 weeks)	33 % (2 weeks)		33% (2 weeks) variable
Pediatrics	50% (3 weeks)	50% (3 weeks)		
Psychiatry	At least 33% (2 weeks)	At least 33% (2 weeks)		33% (2 weeks) variable
Family Medicine	At least 83% (5 weeks)			17% (1 week) variable
Internal Medicine		At least 87% (7 weeks)		13 % (1 week) variable
Surgery	At least 12.5% (1 week)	At least 75% (6 weeks)		12.5 % (1weeks) variable
Emergency Medicine			100 % (4 weeks/16 shifts)	
Total:	32 % Ambulatory (14 weeks)	43% Inpatient (19 weeks)	9 % Emergency Dept. (4 weeks)	16% Variable (7 weeks)
44 total clerkship weeks				

- **Compliance/Monitoring:** The Core Clinical Subcommittee and Curriculum Committee will annually review outcomes to understand clerkship and school-level compliance and data for the appropriateness and determination of the threshold level of inpatient/outpatient instruction.

Information sources and data may include but will not limited to:

- Duty hours compared to planned schedules and percentages
- Duty hours compared across campuses/sites
- Director feedback and student focus group
- When available, comparison between scores before and after inpatient/outpatient changes

- **Resources and Tools:**

- Definitions:
 - Ambulatory clinical experiences take place in settings in which direct patient encounters occur in an outpatient setting, usually through outpatient clinic settings. Outpatient/ambulatory care can take place geographically within the hospital as long as the patient is not formally admitted.
 - Emergency Department encounters are tabulated for both standard emergency department/room and freestanding emergency centers/rooms.
 - Clinical experiences in the Radiology Clerkship will not be tabulated for either ambulatory or inpatient clinical encounters as the course has limited direct clinical care.
- Related Policies, Processes, and Guidelines: Clerkship Work Hours Policy

- **Revision History:**

Date of Change	Authority	Summary of Changes	Document Location
October 2019	Curriculum Committee	Determined overall inpatient/outpatient/ED percentages and clerkship specific plans	
November 2019	Curriculum Committee	Adjust Ob/Gyn Clerkship percentages	
11.8.19	OAA	Added monitoring and compliance language	

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