UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
SANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Pre-clerkship Workload Policy

LCME Standard: 8.8.1
Originating Office: Office of Medical Education
Responsible Executive: Associate Dean of Medical Education
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I. REASON FOR THIS POLICY

The LCME, in Element 8.8, indicates the medical school faculty committee responsible for the medical curriculum and the program's administration and leadership ensure the development and implementation of effective policies and procedures regarding the amount of time medical students spend in required activities, including the total number of hours medical students are required to spend in required activities during the pre-clerkship phase of the curriculum.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Pillar 1 phase of medical student training is a three-semester period that provides students with both biomedical science and foundational clinical skills training. Each semester includes 2-4 biomedical science courses with each biomedical science course running concurrently with one clinical foundations course. Scheduled class time may occur from 8AM to 5PM, Monday through Friday, and is limited to 32 hours or less of both scheduled class time and out-of-class required curricular activities. Each regular week of scheduled activities (5 days without one or more holidays) will include at least 8 hours of unscheduled

time within the regular weekly schedule for students to engage in independent study, self-directed learning or review. The workload limit includes only time devoted to curricular activities and does not include time spent in independent study or extracurricular activities.

Preparing for scheduled learning activities may require students to complete work outside of regularly scheduled class time. These out-of-class activities may include assigned reading or completion of online self-study modules or other preparatory work. The time required for students to complete these out-of-class activities is included in the total activity hours per week and is subject to the workload hour limit of 32 total hours. The amount of time required for students to complete out-of-class reading was calculated based on published estimates of average medical student reading capabilities (Klatt, et. al).

III. DEFINITIONS

None

IV. PROCEDURES

Not applicable

V. RELATED DOCUMENTS, FORMS AND TOOLS

This policy is also posted in the Pillar 1 Handbook.

Klatt, EC and Klatt, CA, *Academic Medicine*, Vol. 86, No. 9, September 2011. doi: 10.1097/ACM.0b013e31822579fc