



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
SANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Medical Student Competencies

1. Patient Care

Students are expected to participate in supervised patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Objectives: Students are expected to:

- 1.1 Communicate effectively and demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and families
- 1.2 Perform an appropriate history and physical exam, formulate a differential diagnosis, and develop a management plan for common and/or important conditions in the core clinical disciplines of family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, OB/Gyn, pediatrics, psychiatry and surgery
- 1.3 Use information technology for appropriate documentation, to support patient care decisions, and for patient education
- 1.4 Participate in the common and/or important medical and surgical procedures in the core clinical disciplines
- 1.5 Assist in providing health care services aimed at preventing health problems or maintaining health; Work with health professionals, including those from other disciplines, to provide patient-focused care

2. Medical Knowledge

Students must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.

Objectives: Students are expected to:

- 2.1 Acquire, integrate and apply established and emerging principles of basic and clinically supportive sciences to the care of patients and other aspects of evidence-based healthcare
- 2.2 Demonstrate effective appraisal of, incorporation of, and communication of emerging technologies when applied to medical decision making and evidence-based healthcare
- 2.3 Demonstrate an investigatory and analytical thinking approach to clinical situations involving human health and disease

3. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Students must demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and life-long learning.

Objectives: Students are expected to develop skills and habits to:

- 3.1 Identify strengths, deficiencies, and limits in one's knowledge and expertise
- 3.2 Set learning and improvement goals
- 3.3 Identify and perform appropriate learning activities
- 3.4 Incorporate formative evaluation feedback into daily practice
- 3.5 Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health problems
- 3.6 Use information technology to optimize learning
- 3.7 Participate in the education of patients, families, students, residents, and other health professionals

4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Students must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals.

Objectives: Students are expected to:

- 4.1 Communicate effectively with patients and families, as appropriate, across a broad range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds
- 4.2 Establish rapport and demonstrate empathy with patients and their families
- 4.3 Communicate effectively with physicians, other health professionals, and health related agencies
- 4.4 React appropriately to difficult situations including ethical dilemmas, conflicts, and noncompliance
- 4.5 Work effectively as a member of a health care team
- 4.6 Formulate timely, legible, medical records that are routinely used in medical practice

5. Professionalism

Students must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles.

Objectives: Students are expected to demonstrate:

- 5.1 Caring and compassion in communication with patients and their families
- 5.2 Honor and integrity through interactions with patients and co-workers, and an awareness of potential conflicts of interest
- 5.3 Altruism shown by responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest
- 5.4 Responsibility and accountability to patients, society, the profession, and the education program, as demonstrated by reliability, the timeliness of task completion, and respect of policies.
- 5.5 Leadership skills that enhance team functioning, the learning environment, and/or the health care delivery system
- 5.6 Attention to personal health and well-being to assure professional functioning
- 5.7 Respect for patients, their privacy and autonomy, and respect for all others
- 5.8 Respect for and sensitivity to a diverse patient population, including but not limited to race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, gender, transgender, sexual orientation, religion, age, genetic information, veteran status, or disability

6. Systems-Based Practice

Students must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care.

Objectives: Students are expected to:

- 6.1 Work effectively in various health care delivery settings and systems relevant to their clinical specialty
- 6.2 Develop awareness of risks, benefits, and costs associated with patient and population-based care
- 6.3 Advocate for quality patient care and safety
- 6.4 Work in interprofessional teams to enhance patient safety and improve patient care quality

Together in teaching, innovation and compassion