

MD Program

Clerkship Clinical and Academic Activity Policy

Curricular Component: Policy: #CC-14 v4

Approved by Clerkship Committee: June 22, 2026

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Approved by MD PEC: July 30, 2026

Approved by SOMAC: pending



Most Recent Revision: June 22, 2026

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

1.0 Background

- 1.1. During Clerkship, learning occurs within the context of patient care (clinical activity) and during formal clerkship teaching sessions (academic activity).
- 1.2. Direct involvement in clinical activities occurs during daytime hours, shift work, and when “on call”. These activities are an essential element of medical education and critical to the development of multiple physician competencies.
- 1.3. This policy is provided to define the parameters of the daytime activity hours (clinical and academic) as well as the “on call” component. The purpose is to ensure learner wellness while promoting an atmosphere within which learning can occur as clinical activities are engaged.
- 1.4. Being “on call” provides students the learning opportunity of being involved in the management of patients presenting after hours as well as that of patients admitted to hospital. There are three types of call: evening call, overnight call, and weekend/holiday call. Courses may involve any combination of these types of call . Course directors will determine the type(s) of call required in their respective courses in consultation with a Director, Clinical Clerkship, based on the educational objectives of the course.

2.0 Policy

- 2.1. When not “on call”, students should be out of the hospital for a minimum of 12 hours per 24-hour period.
- 2.2. Evening call (following regular daytime activity hours) is from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 pm. Students are expected to participate in a full day of clinical and academic activity after an evening call.

- 2.3. Overnight call begins at 5:00 p.m. and lasts until 8:00 a.m. the following day. Students are expected to handover to their team and may then leave “post-call”. Students should be relieved of all clinical responsibilities before 10:00 a.m. at the latest. They are not expected to attend formal teaching, however they are responsible for all the seminar topics and are expected to make up any missed sessions with independent study.
- 2.4. Weekend/holiday call is a daytime call shift that may or may not include evening and/or overnight call hours. For this reason, the start and end time are at the discretion of the Course Director but must be in compliance with policies around duty hours.
- 2.5. The student’s call (both evening and overnight) will average out to no more than 1 call every four days (over the course of a 6-week course).
- 2.6. In a four-week period, a student may be scheduled on call twice in the month consisting of one Friday/Sunday combination or one Saturday.
- 2.7. The student is not to be on call or shift after 6:00 p.m. the night before an examination.
- 2.8. In general, the student is not to be on call or shift after 10:00 a.m. the last Sunday of the rotation, unless required to fulfil the educational requirements for the rotation. If the student is required to travel to or from their home base for the start of their next placement, they are not to be on call or shift after 10:00 p.m. on the last Saturday of the rotation.
- 2.9. Student safety is of paramount importance. Students assigned to evening call will be made aware of available options for safe escort to their transportation at their assigned location if requested.
- 2.10. Attendance at clinical and required academic activities is a professional obligation. Absence without permission or without appropriate notice in case of illness or personal emergency will be handled in accordance with the Student Professionalism Policy.
- 2.11. The Course Director is responsible for monitoring compliance with this policy.

3.0 Reporting of Policy Infringements

- 3.1. Concerns from students, preceptors/faculty, residents or administrative staff regarding breaches of this policy should initially be brought to the attention of the Course Director. It is the Course Director’s responsibility to intervene to resolve the issue(s).

- 3.2. If resolution is not satisfactory and/or there is a pattern of policy infringements, this should be reported to the Director, Clinical Clerkships. The Clerkship Director will facilitate resolution, in discussion with the relevant Course Director, academic department Chair, regional Site Lead, or designate regional provider network.
- 3.3. The designated student representatives will bring any issues or concerns about the policy to the Director, Clinical Clerkship for discussion at the Clerkship Committee.
- 3.4. To support student's anonymity or confidentiality (as appropriate) students will be advised to utilize the mechanisms outlined in the Student Complaints Policy to report individual concerns.