



Policy Title:
Scholarly Requirement Policy

Policy Identifier:
USCSOMC – UME – 1.08

Prepared by: Scholarly Requirement Working Group	Creation Date: 2022
Reviewed by: Distributed Curriculum Subcommittee, Curriculum Committee	Review Date: October 15, 2024
Approved by: MD Program Policy and Procedures Committee	Effective Date: July 2023
Category: Undergraduate Medical Education	

LCME Standards

- 3.2 Community of Scholars/Research Opportunities
- 6.3 Self-directed and Lifelong Learning
- 9.6 Setting Standards of Achievement

Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Columbia students, beginning with the entering class of Fall 2023.

Policy Statement

Beginning with the entering class of Fall 2023, all University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia students are required to complete an approved scholarly activity graduation requirement for the Doctor of Medicine degree program.

Reason for Policy

The LCME expects that a medical school provides support for medical student participation in research and other scholarly activities and ensures that opportunities exist for self-directed learning.

Definitions

Scholarly Activity: Scholarly activity in the medical field includes activity in foundational/translational biomedical research, quality improvement/patient safety, community health/improvement, and medical education research.

Requirements

- Completion of a peer-reviewed or judged presentation. Work must be, at minimum, presented at Discover USC (or similar event hosted by the University), a USC School of Medicine or hospital research showcase, or a state, regional, national, or international professional conference/meeting. The student must be the presenting or co-presenting author regardless of where the work is presented.
- Creative endeavors with a medical/health sciences theme that engage the community may also



meet the scholarly activity requirement. Examples include, but are not limited to, a written work, theatrical play, visual art (painting, sculpture, mural, etc.), song/musical composition, or public service announcement under the approval and direction of a three-member committee.

- Submission of Scholarly Activity Attestation form to the Career Advising and Professional Development Blackboard site for review and approval by:
 - **December 1st** for May and August graduates
 - **July 1st** for December graduates

Procedures

- Opportunities to fulfill the scholarly activity requirement include, but are not limited to:
 - [Student Opportunities for Academic Achievement Through Research \(SOAR\)](#)
 - [QUEST – Quality Education and Systems Training](#)
 - [Praxis in Social Medicine \(PRISM\)](#)
 - [March Seabrook Leadership Program \(MSLP\)](#)
 - Any degree program pursued concurrent with the MD which includes a thesis/dissertation requirement (e.g., PhD, MS)
 - Research elective
- Students pursuing scholarly activities outside of the School of Medicine Columbia should request pre-approval one month prior to the desired start date of the activity from the Associate Dean for Research or his or her designee. Examples include (but are not limited) summer research internships at another university or volunteer research under the direction of a scientist at another university.
- Projects not listed above must be carried out under the approval and direction of a three-member committee; one of whom will serve as the director and must be a USCSOMC faculty member. The other two will serve as reviewers. The committee must be approved by the Associate Dean for Research or his or her designee. Creative endeavors must still be documented, and if possible, their effect(s) assessed for purposes of the presentation requirement as described above.

Program Assessment

The Distributed Curriculum Subcommittee (DCS) shall work with the Director of Program Assessment to evaluate the scholarly activity requirement and report its findings annually to the Curriculum Committee.

Contacts

Office of Undergraduate Medical Education

History

Date of Change	Change
January 2024	Revised to provide a clear outline of procedures and requirements.
October 2024	Revised procedure to provide instruction on projects external to those listed or at an institution not affiliated with the USCSOMC.