UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
School of Medicine Greenville

Policy Title
Clerkship and Post-Clerkship Duty Hours

Identifier
USCSOMG – UME– 3.04

Prepared by: Assistant Dean for Clerkship and Post Clerkship Education	
Reviewed by: Clerkship and Post-Clerkship Subcommittee	Reviewed Date:
Approved by: Curriculum Committee	Approved Date:
	Effective Date: 03/01/2027

LCME Standards
8.7 – Monitoring Student Time

Scope
University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville students, faculty and staff

Policy Statement
Duty hours in the clerkship and post-clerkship phase are modeled using the Prisma Health GME Clinical Experience and Educational Hours policy. Duty hours must be limited to 80 hours per week, averaged over 4 weeks.

Due to the rigor of the medical education curriculum, it is strongly recommended that students do not pursue outside employment opportunities.

Reason for Policy
The medical school faculty ensures that the medical education curriculum includes unscheduled time to allow medical students to develop lifelong learning skills. In keeping with LCME expectations, the medical school faculty committee responsible for the medical curriculum and the program's administration and leadership are committed to 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 clinical and educational activities during clerkships.

Procedures
Duty Hours in Clerkship and Post-clerkship Phase
Duty hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the education of the medical student, i.e., patient evaluation, time spent in-house during call activities, and scheduled activities such as conferences. Duty

hours do not include reading time spent away from the course site. Duty hours do not include travel time to or from the course site.

Duty hours must be limited to 80 hours per week, averaged over 4 weeks, including all in-house call activities.

Medical students must be provided with 1 day in 7 free from all educational and clinical responsibilities, averaged over 4 weeks, inclusive of call. One day is defined as one continuous 24-hour period free from all clinical and educational duties.

Adequate time for rest and personal activities must be provided. Medical students must be provided with 8 hours off between scheduled work or educational activities. After a 24-hour call, medical students must have at least 14 hours free from scheduled work or educational activities.

On-call Activities
The objective of on-call activities is to provide medical students with a continuity of patient evaluation experiences throughout a 24-hour period. In-house call is defined as those duty hours beyond the normal work day, when medical students are required to be immediately available in the assigned institution.

In-house call must occur no more frequently than every third night.

Clinical and educational work periods for all medical students do not exceed 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical assignments. Students may remain onsite for effective transitions in care, and/or didactic education; however, this period of time must be no longer than an additional 4 hours.

Report Infractions
Students must report infractions of the duty-hour policy to the course director and/or the Office for Medical Education. Students also have an opportunity to report infractions on the duty hour policy on the Course Evaluation or on a learning environment concern form.

Monitoring

It is the responsibility of the clerkship director and supervising faculty to monitor and ensure that medical students do not exceed the limitations of their duty hours during the clerkship and post-clerkship phase.

The Office for Medical Education monitors responses to the Course Evaluation for reported violations in Duty Hours. Infractions are investigated by the Office for Medical Education with a report to the Clerkship and Post-Clerkship Subcommittee and the Curriculum Committee. Appropriate action is taken to ensure infractions do not continue. A report on duty hours is included in the Clerkship Phase report, which is reviewed annually by the Curriculum Committee.

Sanctions
Deviations from the Duty Hour Policy by a course are monitored and addressed by the Curriculum Committee.

Additional Contacts
Office for Medical Education
Clerkship Director(s)

Clerkship Coordinator(s)

Related Information

USC School of Medicine Greenville Student Handbook

History

Date	Change
March 2027	Split policy into Clerkship and Post Clerkship Phase. Updated identifier
April 2025	Updated language to be aligned with the Prisma Health GME policy. Removed exceptions to this policy
July 2024	Added expectations for PCAT, clarified expectations in Pre-clerkship Phase, and updated monitoring section.
July 2019	Added EMT shifts in M1/M2 years. The average workload in M1/M2 remains at 28 hours per week. Clarified monitoring procedures and updated branding.
June 2018	Moved to standardized template for LCME CQI