



## Policy Title

Observation Experience

## Identifier

USCSOMG – STAF – 13.01

<b>Prepared by:</b> Office for Student Affairs	
<b>Reviewed by:</b> Associate Dean for Student Affairs	<b>Review Date:</b> 03/06/2025
<b>Approved by:</b> USCSOMG Policy Committee	<b>Approval Date:</b> 04/02/2025
	<b>Effective Date:</b> 04/02/2025

## LCME Standards

N/A

## Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville students

## Policy Statement

Medical students have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular observation experiences within the partner health system when the following criteria are met:

- Student must obtain approval from the USC School of Medicine Greenville Office for Student Affairs based on the following requirements:
  - Be in both academic and professional good standing, as outlined in the Good Standing [policy](#).
  - Successfully completed the fall term of the M1 year.
  - Completed training in operation room (OR) protocol during M1 Integrated Practice of Medicine (IPM) course to enter the operating room.
  - Be up to date on all required Learning Hub computer-based tests (CBTs).

Be up to date on all Prisma Health requirements listed in myClinicalExchange (mCE).

- The observation experience must not interfere with any required curricular activity.
- If the experience is to take place in an operating room or other area that utilizes radiation, a student may request a radiation badge,, as described in the [Radiation Safety policy](#).
- During the preclerkship years, student liability insurance does not cover this non-curricular observation experience. During the clerkship and post-clerkship years, students are required to maintain observership status when the experience is a non-curricular assigned activity. All students, regardless of year, are to maintain observership status when not on their assigned curricular clinical rotation.

## Reason for Policy

This policy provides USC School of Medicine Greenville students clarity on the observation experience approval process and expectations.

## Procedures

Students interested in participating in an approved observation experience outside of their core curriculum are required to notify the USC School of Medicine Greenville Office for Student Affairs. If the student has met the requirements outlined above, they will be permitted by the Office for Student Affairs to obtain approval to participate in observation. The student will complete the [Observation Request Form](#). Approval of the Observation Request Form and clearance completion requirements are tracked by the Office for Student Affairs (OSA). The Career Services Coordinator will confirm that all requirements have been met and notify the student that the experience is approved. Students can expect this process to take a few weeks.

## Sanctions

Failure to comply with requirements or procedures will result in denial of Observation Experience request. If a student is found to be observing without going through the approval process listed above, the student will be immediately pulled from the experience. If a student fails to comply with school policy and procedures for a second time, the student will be submitted to the Honor and Professionalism Council (HPC) for review.

## Additional Contacts

Office for Student Affairs

## Related Information

USC School of Medicine Greenville Student Handbook

USCSOMG – ACAF– 2.02 Good Standing

USCSOMG – STAF– 5.03 Honor and Professionalism System

[Observation Request Form](#)

## History

Date of Change	Change
April 2025	Liability insurance does not cover non-curricular experience
November 2024	Updates to “should” and “may” language.
July 2024	Expectations and approval process for observation experience has been updated to align with OSA and myClinicalExchange (mCE).
December 2022	Expectations and approval process for observation experience has been updated to align with Prisma Health policy.
May 2019	Added comment on liability insurance. Editorial changes made due to branding updates and titles.
August 2018	Policy formalized into standardized template, LCME CQI