Duty Hours
For Medical Students in the Third and Fourth Year

Section: 4
Policy number: 4.3
Responsible Office: Student Affairs and Admissions
Issued: 07.26.16
Latest Review: 11.13.017

POLICY STATEMENT
Duty hours shall not exceed 80 hours per week (including in house call activities). Students shall be provided with, on average, one 24 hour period off each week. Adequate time for rest and recreational activities shall be provided. In-house call shall not average more frequently than every third night, over a rotation. Duty hours in the hospital or clinic setting shall not exceed 24 consecutive hours, including hours spent sleeping while on in-house call if less than four hours. There are no exceptions.

REASON for POLICY
The participation of medical students in third and fourth year clerkships and courses involves two important but often conflicting responsibilities on the students; development of clinical skills and professional attributes and contribution to medical teams and care of patients. In balancing these competing needs, it is recognized that the third and fourth year courses must provide students with adequate time for individual study, sleep, and relaxation. Accordingly, the policy on student duty hours has set forth the maximum acceptable time that a student may be involved in clerkship and fourth year course responsibilities.

SCOPE of POLICY
This policy applies to:
√ Deans, Directors, and Department Heads
√ Faculty
√ Managers and supervisors
√ Staff
√ Students
Others:

WEB SITE REFERENCES
Policy Office: http://www.med.und.edu/policies/index.cfm
Responsible Office: http://www.med.und.edu/administration/deans-office/index.cfm
DEFINITIONS

Duty Hours  All required and voluntary educational activities in clerkships and courses during the third and fourth years of the medical school curriculum, including inpatient and outpatient care, administrative activities related to patient care (charting, discharge planning, transfer planning, etc.), and scheduled educational activities such as conferences, rounds, lectures, etc. Duty hours do not include reading and preparation time spent away from the duty site or service learning activities.

RELATED INFORMATION

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CONTACTS

General questions about this policy can be answered by your department’s administrative office. Specific questions should be directed to the following:

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Telephone/FAZ</th>
<th>Email contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy clarification</td>
<td>Student Affairs</td>
<td>777.4221/777.4942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy format</td>
<td>Dean’s Office</td>
<td>777.2514/777.3527</td>
<td><a href="mailto:judy.solberg@med.und.edu">judy.solberg@med.und.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigation Report</td>
<td>Office of Safety</td>
<td>777.3988/777.3341</td>
<td><a href="mailto:und.safety@und.edu">und.safety@und.edu</a></td>
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PRINCIPLES

I) Duty hours shall not exceed 80 hours per week (including in house call activities). Students shall be provided with an average of one 24 hour period off each week. Adequate time for rest and recreational activities shall be provided. In-house call shall not average more frequently than every third night, over a rotation. Duty hours in the hospital or clinic setting shall not exceed 24 consecutive hours, including hours spent sleeping while on in-house call if less than four hours. There are no exceptions.

II) The participation of medical students in third and fourth year clerkships and courses involves two important responsibilities that at times may make conflicting demands on the students’ time. These two responsibilities are:

A) The development of the student’s clinical skills and professional attributes.

B) Student contribution to medical teams and care of patients

III) In balancing these two potentially competing needs, it is recognized that the third and fourth year courses must also provide students with adequate time for individual study, sleep, and relaxation.
Accordingly, the following policies set forth the maximum acceptable amount of time that clerkships and fourth year courses may require of students.

PROCEDURES

I) Duty hours shall not exceed 80 hours per week. These 80 hours including in-house (but not out-of-house) call activities.

II) Students shall be provided a minimum of one day in seven free of clinical work and required education (when averaged over four weeks). School holidays that occur during a rotation may be included as days off for the time period during which they fall.

III) Adequate time for rest and recreational activities shall be provided. This will include a minimum 8 hour time period free of student responsibilities between all daily duty periods and a 14 hour time period free of student responsibilities after in-house call.

IV) In-house call shall not occur more frequently than every third night, averaged over a rotation (four or eight-week period).

V) Duty hours in the hospital or clinic setting shall not exceed 24 consecutive hours, including hours spent sleeping while on call if less than four hours.

VI) Students shall not be expected to use duty hours on tasks that are not directly related to learning activities (e.g., performing personal favors or services for other medical personnel), nor should they be expected to do tasks unrelated to their learning activities (such as covering for residents who must leave due to work hour restrictions).

VII) Clerkship directors and elective preceptors may promulgate duty hour restrictions that are more (but not less) stringent than those outlined herein.

VIII) Duty hour tallies do not include service learning or other UND SMHS sanctioned activities. Voluntary return to the hospital or clinic would be included in the duty hour tally.

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<td>Clerkship Director and Elective Preceptors</td>
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REVISION RECORD
08.13.13—CSCS Approved
09.27.17—MCC Approved
11.13.17—FAC Approved
11.13.17—Dean Approved