Baylor College of Medicine will host a site visit from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) on September 26-29, 2021. Ongoing accreditation from the LCME, the national accrediting body for educational programs leading to the MD degree in the United States and Canada, is essential to our medical school and the college.

The process leading up to this on-site review is officially underway. It is an intensive process requiring all members of our college to be engaged and support the efforts of moving forward, together. The process involves a comprehensive data collection effort, an institutional self-study, and an independent student analysis to identify strengths and challenges of our educational program.

**LCME Kick-Off with Barbara Barzansky, PhD, MHPE**

Dr. Barbara Barzansky helped kick-off BCM’s LCME self-study efforts on Friday, February 7, 2020. Dr. Barzansky met with each of the self-study committees which provided an opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to ask questions and get guidance on many of the LCME elements. More than 200 people attended a lunch kick-off presentation in Kleberg Auditorium.
Element 8.8—Monitoring Student Time

Element 8.8 focuses on how the medical school monitors and manages the time medical students spend in required activities, including the number of hours medical students are required to spend in clinical and educational activities during clerkships. Steps have been taken to consider students’ health and wellness, time for independent study, and career development throughout the medical education curriculum.

In 2016, the SOM Curriculum Committee approved a Duty Hours Policy that states the following:

- Medical student’s duty hours, including all in-house call activities, must be limited to an average of 80 hours per week over a four-week period.
- Duty periods may be scheduled to a maximum of 24 hours of continuous duty in the hospital. An additional four hours may be spent to ensure appropriate, effective and safe transition of care.
- Minimum time off between scheduled duties is 10 hours.
- Students must also receive a minimum of either 24 hours off per seven-day work period, or four days off per 28-day work period.

In 2019, the SOM Curriculum Committee approved an Academic Workload in the Foundational Sciences Curriculum Policy that states the following:

- Students should have 12 hours of unscheduled time per calendar week, averaged over the term. Unscheduled time may be used to complete Self-directed Learning Activities.
- Scheduled Learning Activities are limited to a maximum of 25 hours of per week, averaged over the term.
- Asynchronous Learning Activities are limited to approximately two hours of assigned preparation materials per each hour of required Scheduled Learning Activities, averaged over a week.
- Students in good standing may take enrichment electives, which do not count towards required activities or workload limits.
- To allow adequate time for a student's personal wellness and social engagement, the typical aggregate workload (Scheduled Learning Activities plus Asynchronous Learning Activities) for MS1 and MS2 students in the foundational curriculum is limited to a maximum of 60 hours per week, averaged over the term.

Student may report violations of duty hours/academic workload via course/clerkship directors, end-of-course evaluations, and/or to an appropriate dean.

To review the policies in full please see here:

28.1.04 – Duty Hours Policy
28.1.09 Academic Workload in the Foundational Sciences Curriculum

Element 9.2—Faculty Appointments
Element 9.3—Clinical Supervision of Medical Students

A medical school ensures that medical students in clinical learning situations involving patient care are appropriately supervised at all times in order to ensure patient and student safety, that the level of responsibility delegated to the student is appropriate to his or her level of training, and that the activities supervised are within the scope of practice of supervising health professional.

Elements 9.2 and 9.3 states that supervision of medical student learning experiences on required clerkships is provided by members of the school’s faculty. This is to ensure patient and student safety during learning experiences involving patient care. Physicians who supervise and/or assess medical students are required to have a BCM faculty appointment.

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In 2019, the SOM Curriculum Committee approved a Clinical Supervision of Medical Students Policy that provides the following supervision standards during clinical rotations:

1. **Scope of Practice.** Supervising Health Professionals must operate within their scope of practice during Direct Supervision and Indirect Supervision of medical students.
2. **Student Responsibility Level.** A. The level of responsibility delegated to a medical student by a supervising Health Professional must be appropriate to the medical student’s level of training, competence, and demonstrated ability.
3. **Non-Physician-Providers.** If medical students interact directly with non-physician care providers (e.g., APRN, PA) who are not the supervising Health Professional, then the supervising Health Professional or clinical course director is responsible for ensuring that the non-physician care provider is appropriately credentialed or functioning under the supervision of a credentialed faculty member and is performing tasks within the provider’s scope of practice.
4. **Professionalism Expectations.** Health Professionals will model standards for professional behavior in interaction with patients, learners, staff, and all other individuals on the health care team (as described in the teacher learner compact) and comply with the Respectful and Professional Work Environment Policy: Standards for Employee Conduct (02.5.39).

Medical students must abide by professionalism and self-monitoring standards.

Reporting Supervision and Patient Safety Concerns

1. Any individual, who is concerned about the level of supervision that a student is receiving or for a patient’s safety, should promptly share their concerns with the supervisor and/or clinical course director. Other options include the Integrity Hotline (855-764-7292) or by accessing the Integrity Hotline website (www.bcm.ethicspoint.com).

**In our next LCME Newsletter…**

March continues our review of monthly elements. The Learning Environment elements 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 will be the topics for March. In addition, subcommittee updates will be provided. For more information please visit our LCME Website.

**Resources**

**BCM Self-Study Website:**
www.bcm.edu/lcme

**LCME:**
https://lcme.org/

**Policies & Procedures:** (intranet)
https://intranet.bcm.edu/index.cfm?fuseaction=Profiles.Policies

**SOM Student Handbook**
https://www.bcm.edu/education/schools/medical-school/md-program/student-handbook