



QUILLEN COLLEGE of MEDICINE

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Policy Name/Number: Clinical Medical Student Duty Hours / MSEC-0910-6

Policy Owner: Kenneth Olive, MD, / EAD & MSEC Chair (2008-2013); Ramsey McGowen, PhD / MSEC Chair (2013-2019); Ivy Click, EdD / MSEC Chair (2020-)

Committees, Departments, or Individuals Responsible for Implementation: Clerkship Directors

Original Approval Date/By: 9/7/2010 – MSEC

Effective Date: 5/23/2024

Most Recent Revision Date: 11/2/2021

Policy Advisory Committee Review Date: 5/23/2024

Date of Next Review: 5/23/2027

(All policies are reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee every 3 years unless circumstances for an earlier review is identified.)

(A) Policy Statement:

All assignments must provide meaningful educational value. Excessive work hours and fatigue can impact medical student learning just as it impacts patient care.

(B) Purpose of Policy:

Medical student assignments, including the nature and content of activities and the number of duty hours required, must be determined by the educational value of the assignment. All assignments must provide meaningful educational value. Excessive work hours and fatigue can impact medical student learning just as it impacts patient care.

(C) Scope of Policy (applies to):

M3 and M4 medical students enrolled in the Quillen College of Medicine.

(D) Policy Activities:

1. Duty hours consist of hours required
 - a. In hospital or clinic/office.
 - b. In didactic education (lectures, conferences, etc.).
 - c. In any mandatory educational activity.
2. At home call is not included in duty hours determination.
3. Student study at home is not counted as duty hours.
4. IN-HOUSE NIGHT CALL is permitted under the following conditions:
 - a. Is a valuable educational experience. Facilitates being a member of healthcare team.
 - b. Adequate rest facilities available in hospital.
 - c. Occurs no more frequently than once every week.
 - d. Call will not precede day of an exam or quiz.
 - e. If student feels fatigued after the call, he/she is to be excused for an appropriate length of time from rounds, classes, etc. Any didactic materials should be made available to the student. It is the responsibility of the student to effectively communicate with team members regarding their need or a period of post-call rest.
 - f. The student should not leave normal student responsibilities without such communication.

- g. Hours of in-house call count toward 80 hours total
- 5. Medical student duty hours should not exceed on average 80 hours / week.
- 6. Must be limited to a maximum 24-hours of continuous duty, and up to four added hours for continuity of care and education (justification and/or documentation for exceeding 24 hours of continuous care must be submitted to the Clerkship Director).
- 7. An adequate rest period is required, which should consist of 8 hours of rest between duty periods and 14 hours after 24 hours of in-house call.

M3 Students are to log their duty hours into the curriculum management system for documentation purposes. Duty hour compliance will be monitored by Departments and Academic Affairs on a periodic basis.

M4 students are to report duty hour concerns and/or violations to the Rotation Director and on final course evaluations in the curriculum management system for documentation purposes.

Students who feel they are consistently expected to work more than 80 hours per week should notify the clerkship/rotation director. If the issue is not resolved the student should contact the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs.