

Policy Name: 12.4.1 Student Access to Health Care Services

LCME states that a medical school must provide its medical students with timely access to needed diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic health services at sites in reasonable proximity to the locations of their required educational experiences and has policies and procedures in place that permit students to be excused from these experiences to seek needed care.

Scope:

Attendance and engagement contribute to a student’s education and professional identity formation. Healthcare professionals have a responsibility to ensure they cover their clinical responsibilities and patient care needs. Practicing this duty with peers and teaching faculty fosters professional identity formation and is therefore a part of the professionalism competency at UT Tyler School of Medicine (SOM).

Policy:

Medical students may be excused from classes or clinical rotations in order to access health services as described in the School of Medicine Student Handbook. Students should make every effort to schedule elective healthcare appointments during Independent Study Time or Green Space. If this is not possible and students must miss mandatory activities, the course or clerkship director may require make-up coursework or shifts. In the event of urgent or emergent medical issues that require an absence from class or clinical activities, students should contact the Office of Student Affairs and the course or clerkship director as soon as possible. Students are expected to follow all relevant School of Medicine policies governing communicable diseases and percutaneous exposure and should be excused from classes or clinical activities in a timely manner in order to adhere to these policies.

Attendance is required for most educational activities and strongly encouraged for all others. The course/clinical experiences syllabi and the student handbook will outline in clear terms the attendance expectations for educational activities. Attendance expectations are in accordance with the SOM duty hour guidelines. Note that some clinical, laboratory, and other experiences are impossible to make-up without repeating the entire course and/or academic year.

Attendance expectations:

Educational Activity	Attendance Expectation	Rationale
Small group sessions/courses (e.g., CBL, IPE, TOPS, PHSS, Structure lab, Synthesis and Consolidation, Exams)	Required	Professional responsibility to your small group. Active learning requires participation for maximal benefit. Content will not be covered elsewhere; participation is required for maximal benefit. Clinical skills develop through guided practice. Clinical practice cannot be replicated passively. Achieving inter-professional competencies require interaction with colleagues.

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Large group interactive sessions	Strongly encouraged	Interaction requires participation for maximal benefit.
Clinical experiences (e.g., core clerkships and electives, OSCEs)	Required	Clinical application and practice cannot be replicated with passive activities. Professional identity formation requires working with rolemodels and actively participating in patient care responsibilities.