

14. Undergraduate Medical Education Learning Objectives

Preamble

In 1987, the Faculty developed Undergraduate Medical Education Performance Expectations which were based upon the Edinburgh Declaration, the Barer-Stoddart report, various reports of the EFPO (Educating Future Physicians for Ontario) project and the Toronto Consensus Statement on Doctor/Patient Communication, as well as the Canadian Medical Association Code of Ethics. In 2003, this document was revisited to reflect more current thought in medical education. In particular, the Learning Objectives address the broader concept of learning goals as well as objectives to assist students to meet these goals. Moreover, the Learning Objectives were rewritten to be congruent with the CanMeds competencies of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the Four Principles of the College of Family Physicians of Canada. The Learning Objectives also are meant to reflect the Mission Statement for Undergraduate Medical Education.

These reports and statements have served to emphasize the areas that are important for the education of physicians: areas of communication, collaboration, and ethics and accountability, as well as the range of settings in which learning should occur. In addition, patient and societal expectations of physicians have changed and will continue to change and therefore must be accompanied by change in expectations of student performance.

These Learning Objectives will assist:

- a) Students in understanding the behaviors and the scope of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes expected of them by the end of medical school;
- b) Faculty in the development of goals and objectives, in prioritizing and organizing their teaching efforts, and in the development of appropriate systems of student evaluation.

These expectations identify six primary, albeit overlapping, areas of responsibility:

1. Clinical Care
2. Scientist and Scholar
3. Communication
4. Ethics and Accountability
5. Professional and Personal
6. Social Accountability and Responsibility

These Learning Objectives should serve students as a guide and framework in their efforts to master the four-year program.

By implication, faculty have an obligation to ensure as much as possible that the actual program in terms of objectives, material taught, teaching and learning settings and the format and content of evaluation is supportive of students as they strive to fulfill these expectations.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a supportive environment which will assist our students to become confident, caring, ethical physicians with the ability to think critically and apply their knowledge and skills in the best interest of their patients. The educational experiences we provide will prepare students to enter their choice of training, to continue successfully in their lifelong education, and subsequently to meet their responsibilities to patients and society.

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION LEARNING OBJECTIVES (JUNE, 2003)

The objectives of the undergraduate medical education program cover six major areas:

1. Clinical Care

Learning Goal

The student will utilize a patient/family centered approach and best evidence, to formulate diagnoses and differential diagnoses; develop, organize and implement prevention, investigation and management plans, and offer appropriate follow-up.

Program Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Apply the basic science principles that underlie the practice of evidence-based medicine.
- Elicit a complete, accurate, and focused history.
- Complete a thorough, accurate and focused physical examination.
- Formulate a differential diagnosis
- Order and use appropriate investigations.
- Make a diagnosis based on evidence
- Recognize the indications for basic medical procedures and perform them appropriately.
- Care for patients in a range of settings, in a cost effective and efficient manner and maintain foremost the interests of individual patients.
- Recognize the biological, psychosocial, economic, and spiritual influences on patients' well being.
- Incorporate health promotion and disease prevention strategies with their patients.

2. Scientist and Scholar

Learning Goal

The student will utilize sound scientific and/or scholarly principles in all aspects of their professional lives including; interactions with patients and peers, educational endeavors and research activities.

Program Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Engage in ongoing self-assessment and structure their continuing medical education to address their specific needs.
- Apply principles of the scientific method within evidence-based medicine.
- Take responsibility for their educational experiences.
- Acquire basic skills that can be applied to teaching encounters such as presentation skills, giving feedback, patient education as well as design and dissemination of research knowledge.

3. Communication

Learning Goal

Students will utilize the knowledge, skills and attitudes associated with a patient centered approach so that they can communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, families and other health care providers.

Program Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Explore and consider the influence of the patient's ideas, beliefs and expectations along with factors such as age, ethnicity, culture and socioeconomic background during interactions with patients.
- Utilize effective communication skills during data gathering and information sharing including attentive listening, open-ended inquiry, empathy and clarification to ensure understanding.
- Clearly discuss with the patient their diagnosis and options, and sensitively negotiate appropriate treatment plans that are in the best interest of the patient and society.
- Develop efficient techniques for accurate and timely record keeping and other forms of written and verbal communication.
- Assess their own communication skills to develop self-awareness and improve their relationships with others.
- Possess skills in health promotion and counseling for life style changes.

4. Ethics and Accountability

Learning Goal

Students will comprehend the core concepts of clinical ethics and law and will apply both to their practice as physicians.

Program Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Describe the basic concepts of clinical ethics and be able to apply them to actual cases and situations.
- Understand the need to make health care resources available to patients in a manner which is fair and equitable, without bias, discrimination or undue influence.
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic legal concepts as they apply to the practice of medicine.
- Employ professional accountability to initiate, maintain and terminate patient-physician relationships.
- Demonstrate respect for the patient's individual rights of autonomy, privacy, and confidentiality.

5. Professional and Personal

Learning Goal

Students will utilize the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will allow them to make professional decisions in all aspects of their medical activities.

Program Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Recognize and follow the codes of professionalism adopted by the Faculty of Medicine as well as those developed by their peers and supported by the Faculty.
- Engage in critical self-evaluation, self-directed learning and have the humility to seek assistance whenever necessary.
- Maintain perspective and balance in their professional and personal lives.

6. Social Accountability and Responsibility

Learning Goal

The students will recognize the need for physicians to function as advocates within the health care system, to manage resources judiciously and to acknowledge their social accountability.

Program Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Recognize society's role in their education and acknowledge that this is a privilege accompanied by responsibility and accountability to that society.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the determinants of health at local, national and global levels.
- Describe the structure of the Canadian health care system and demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes to work within it for the betterment of patients and community.
- Manage health care errors in a responsible, sensitive and legally appropriate manner.
- Recognize the role physicians play within the public and environmental health system.