

**Office of Medical Education Research and Development
School of Medicine
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
New Orleans**

Achieving new visions of educational excellence through creativity, collaboration, and scholarship

Introduction

The Office of Medical Education Research and Development (OMERAD) was established in October 2002 as a School-wide, central resource and consultant center for promoting excellence, innovation, research, and scholarship in teaching and education, broadly defined. In many ways, the OMERAD can be conceived as an internal consulting group in teaching and education provided by the Dean's Office to the faculty and other members of the School of Medicine academic community.

Through faculty development, scholarly work, and collaboration with faculty and others at LSUHSC-NO and in the professional field, the OMERAD contributes to an academic environment in which educational excellence and scholarship are embraced, valued, and recognized. Within their areas of expertise and drawing upon resources and the expertise of others, the OMERAD faculty and staff consult, network, and collaborate with school leaders, faculty members, staff, and learners across the medical education continuum to facilitate high quality educational programs, services, and scholarship.

The OMERAD is also the administrative home for the LSUHSC-NO Academy for the Advancement of Educational Scholarship. Established in 2004, the Academy is an innovative health sciences center-wide member organization committed to facilitating and recognizing faculty members' involvement, ongoing professional development, excellence and engagement in scholarly teaching and educational scholarship.

Mission and Core Purposes

The OMERAD exists to collaborate with others and to contribute to excellence and scholarship in the following four domains:

1. Medical education research, assessment, and evaluation;
2. Faculty development, particularly in ways that enhance quality engagement, scholarly approach and scholarship, leadership, and academic advancement, as related to faculty members' roles and responsibilities and their professional goals in teaching and education;
3. Educational program development, enhancement, and innovation; and
4. Educational innovation through special projects and initiatives to enhance teaching, learning, assessment and evaluation, individual and organizational development, and overall educational excellence.

The four domains embedded within the core purposes of the OMERAD are conceived as interactive and dynamic components of a system, rather than as separate areas of operations and scholarly pursuit. We engage in activities and developments within each of these domains, and the overall operational functions of the OMERAD

that are consistent with the mission and vision of the School of Medicine. To the best of our ability, we also strive to anticipate faculty and educational needs that may be associated with innovations and new directions. Finally, the OMERAD exists to complement existing organizational structures, processes, and resources and to apply its specific areas of expertise and contributions in ways that most effectively benefit the members of the LSU School of Medicine and its programs and missions and maximize the use of available resources.

Vision

We strive to be an integral component of quality medical education and a valued resource within LSUHSC-NO academic community and to be recognized as a regional and national leader in the areas of educational excellence and innovation, educational scholarship, and faculty professional development as scholarly teachers and educators.

Primary Responsibilities and Functions:

1. Develop, conduct, and disseminate educational research and scholarly work in medical education.
2. Develop and conduct faculty development programs and activities that facilitate effective teaching and learning methods and scholarship in teaching and learning, faculty members' effectiveness as organizational members and leaders, and continuous professional learning and reflective practice as medical educators.
3. Collaborate with others to facilitate faculty members' effective use of educational and institutional resources for teaching, learning, assessment, and professional development through consultation and effective information sharing strategies (e.g., face-to-face, print and web-based information resources and communications).
4. Contribute to organizational structures and processes that motivate, nurture, recognize, and reward faculty members' development, achievement, and contributions to teaching and educational excellence, scholarly engagement, and scholarship.
5. Collaborate with other offices, groups, and individuals to identify, develop, and refine assessments of teaching that facilitate appropriate recognition of excellence in teacher/educator roles for the purposes of faculty promotion, acquisition of tenure, merit, and teaching/education awards.
6. Consult with deans, department heads, program directors, course directors and coordinators, and faculty members, as appropriate, regarding various aspects of educational and organizational development (e.g., course and curriculum design and renewal, instructional design, effective teaching and learning, assessment and the evaluation of academic departments and programs, courses and curricula, and students, accreditation; educational leadership development and enhancement, and change processes).
7. Consult with faculty, administrators, and others as appropriate, regarding the assessment and evaluation of learners, provide advice regarding the design and implementation of student outcome and performance-based assessments (e.g., simulations, simulated/standardized patients, computer assisted learning, computer based testing, and outcomes assessment plans), and collaborate with other offices and programs (e.g., Office of Medical Education, Learning and Simulation Centers) to facilitate high quality, cost-effective, and meaningful assessments.

8. Serve as a resource to the School for innovative approaches and models, techniques and technologies, and opportunities and directions in education.