

School of Medicine

Policy Title: Policy on Attendance in Preclerkship Courses

Last Review/Revision/Approval: July 2023

Review Cycle: 4 years

Body Responsible for Review/Revision: Preclerkship Course Director Committee; Curriculum Steering Committee

Responsible Dean: Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

Relevant LCME Element: 12.4
(if applicable)

Policy Statement/Purpose:

Students in the preclerkship phase of the curriculum are expected to abide by all course attendance policies. Students are encouraged to attend all class sessions to enhance learning. Some course sessions are designated by course directors as mandatory with respect to attendance. These include all small group and team-based learning sessions, skills labs, clinical activities, some lectures and patient presentations, and other designated sessions. The school is committed to allowing students who may have extended absences due to illness, infectious or environmental exposures, or temporary disabilities to continue their educational program, provided the student is expected to resume coursework within a time frame that allows all course objectives to be satisfactorily achieved.

Policy Directives:

Each course syllabus outlines the attendance requirements and expectations for that course. Processes for requesting excused absences and remediating absences from mandatory sessions are included in course syllabi and discussed at course orientations.

Students will be excused from required activities if they are ill, need to seek health services, or have infectious or environmental exposures or temporary disabilities requiring their absence. Sufficient remediation for absences will be established at the discretion of the course director. Remediation may involve make-up assignments for missed didactics.

Adherence to these attendance policies is considered a matter of professionalism, therefore excessive absences may be reflected in the evaluation of the student's work habits or professionalism.