



College of Osteopathic Medicine  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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**Element 6.9: Clinical Education**

- **6.9-3 Supporting Documentation**
  - Clinical Education Delivery Policies and Procedures – [link](#)



## 1. GENERAL

The SHSU-COM clinical education standards policy is meant to guide the faculty member, osteopathic medical student, as well as other health professionals and clinical site leadership in the methods and plan for clinical education and to ensure compliance with requirements of the Council on Osteopathic College Accreditation, licensing boards, and other interested stakeholders, as well as to prioritize patient safety. This shall be accomplished in a way that assures that all osteopathic medical students shall be provided with equivalent experiences leading to competency and success in graduate medical education programs.

The definitions used in this policy are as follows:

- **Equivalent experience:** The application of syllabi and expectations related to patient care experiences for students. Absolute equivalency is not possible due to variability of patients and patient presentations, but students shall have overall equivalency of educational experiences. (see policy on Student Outcomes at Clinical Sites and Comparability)
- **Clinical Education:** The opportunity for students to experience direct patient care with oversight and monitoring of clinical activities by an attending physician or resident/fellow. (see policy on Medical Student Supervision)
- **Electronic Health Record:** A database record of patient encounters, used in either inpatient or ambulatory settings, or both.
- **Patient encounter:** The face-to-face interaction with a patient that includes history taking, examination skills, medical decision making, and opportunities to observe, assist and be trained in the performance of procedures under the supervision of an attending physician.
- **Medical Procedure:** A medical treatment or operation that often requires penetration of the skin as well as the application of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine.
- **Clinical Site:** Any medical or health related facility at which a student will have contact with patients or others seeking medical care.
- **Community Physician Faculty:** A credentialed physician at a clinical partner institution.

## 2. REGIONAL MODEL FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION

In its effort to improve the medical workforce in communities in SHSU's service area, clinical education shall occur through a model of regional sites. The regions and facilities available for rotations are included in the clerkship manual.

Students shall accomplish their core rotations and many of their elective rotations within one region. Additionally, the SHSU Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice shall provide hands-on training in osteopathic manipulative medicine in the regions on a rotating basis. SHSU-COM shall provide faculty development to optimize the ability of community preceptors to provide equivalent experience across sites.

Each region will have an assigned clinical coordinator who will work within the region to assure student rotations are arranged, attending physicians are available, and provide backup plans for attending vacations, illnesses, and other unforeseeable events. The Lead Coordinator housed at the medical school shall provide continuity, guidance, and direct supervision of the regional coordinators. The Director of Clinical Education shall oversee the coordination and is responsible for day-to-day student clinical education activities across the clinical sites.

## 3. OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL STUDENT SUPERVISION AND LEARNING

Osteopathic medical students require supervision by a physician properly credentialed to oversee any activities in which the student engages in the care of patients. These activities can be under the supervision of appropriate SHSU-COM or community physician faculty. Students are not permitted to provide care to patients outside of their clerkships or other SHSU-COM sanctioned educational opportunities, as stated in the SHSU-COM policy on student supervision. All core rotations and many selective and elective rotations have syllabi to support education at the sites and guide preceptors in expectations for training. Syllabi include recommended readings and objectives based on the *Core Competencies for Osteopathic Medical Students*, produced by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

Osteopathic medical students gain experience and knowledge in the care of patients through patient encounters. They may make entries into patient health records that are appropriate for their level and role with the permission of the attending physician and under the rules of the clinical site. Although these elements of medical practice are important to the process of learning to care for patients, no student may write orders that are instituted without direct supervision and documentation of approval by the attending physician.

Osteopathic medical students may be supervised by attending physicians (DO or MD), residents, or fellows in training as permitted by the policy of the clinical site. Student doctors are required to complete at least one core rotation in the 3rd year where residency training is present.

Osteopathic medical students will be evaluated by Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical

Achievement Test (COMAT) examinations as well as by preceptor evaluations. For rotations at affiliated clinical sites that do not have associated COMAT exams, SHSU faculty may create evaluation tools for the rotations. Evaluations will be provided to preceptors using an electronic medical education solution. Grades for rotations shall be based largely on COMAT exam scores and SHSU produced evaluation tools, and preceptor evaluations shall be used to gauge professionalism, ethics, and participation in the rotation experience. The osteopathic medical student will evaluate preceptors and educational experience for all rotations.

**Procedure Title: Clinical Education**

**Corresponding Policy: Clinical Education Standards Policy  
COCA Standard/Element: COCA 6.9 Clinical Education**

**Effective: Upon Receiving Pre-  
Accreditation Status  
Revised: December 8, 2020  
Approved, SHSU-COM  
Executive Committee:  
December 8, 2020**

**Reviewed and Approved:  
SHSU-COM CEC, May 2, 2023**

**Description:**

SHSU-COM shall provide clinical education through the establishment of clinical clerkships with formal curricular structure that are in alignment with its mission and objectives. Such education shall be inclusive of experiences with the clinical practice of osteopathic physicians.

<b>Procedure Step/Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
1. SHSU-COM shall determine the scope and distribution of clinical experiences, including clinical experience with osteopathic physicians. SHSU-COM shall ensure that core rotations to be required of each student shall reflect the physician workforce intent of the COM in preparation for entry into graduate medical education (GME).	Curriculum Committee
2. Each core clerkship will have a formally constructed syllabus that includes the learning objectives, competencies, and professional activities (EPAs) to be acquired by each student. The syllabus will further identify the assessment tools that shall be applied to determine each student's level of achievement.	Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs, Director of Clinical Education, Clerkship Directors
3. SHSU-COM shall maintain an inventory of affiliated core clerkship positions that is in excess of its projected annual enrollment.	Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs, SHSU-COM Dean
4. Faculty providing ambulatory clinical experiences shall be limited to two students per clerkship period. Hospital-based rotations shall be limited to four students per faculty attending.	Clerkship Directors