

University of Illinois COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

GRADUATION COMPETENCIES

1. PATIENT CARE

The competent graduate must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health. He/she will be required to construct appropriate management strategies (diagnostic and therapeutic) for patients with common health care problems that may be emergent, acute or chronic, across the spectrum of disciplines, while considering costs for the patient and others. The graduate must be able to combine knowledge of basic biomedical, clinical, and cognate sciences to accomplish the above.

The competent graduate must be able to:

- Obtain a medical history appropriate to the patient's medical concerns;
- Perform a skillful physical examination;
- Formulate a differential diagnosis and problem list;
- Perform, order and interpret diagnostic investigations that result in accurate diagnosis and treatment;
- Utilize data to reason and solve problems;
- Develop management plans;
- Consider cultural and socioeconomic factors in management options;
- Form an effective therapeutic relationship;
- Recognize life threatening health problems and institute appropriate initial therapy;
- Construct a therapeutic plan for relieving pain, ameliorating suffering and directed toward specific resolution of health problems;
- Counsel and educate patients and their families;
- Apply the principles of epidemiology and evidence-based medicine.

MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

The faculty of the University of Illinois College of Medicine believes that any statement of graduation competencies must include mastery of the necessary body of knowledge within the basic, clinical, and cognate sciences to manage patients' health. Moreover, graduates must demonstrate the skills that will enable them to utilize the concepts and knowledge that will be discovered throughout the years following medical school.

The competent graduate must have a thorough understanding of the:

- Scientific principles of basic and clinical sciences that will enable him/her to competently practice evidence-based medicine;
- Determinants of poor health, disease-based risk factors, factors for disease prevention and healthy lifestyles (principles of preventive medicine);
- Elements of health education;
- Principles of epidemiology and population-based medicine;
- Principles, risks, and possible benefits of complementary and alternative medicine;
- Concepts, principles, and application of evidence-based medicine;
- Cultural factors important to health care;
- Relevant legal and ethical concepts.

PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

The competent graduate must be able to study, reflect, and evaluate patient care practices, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and understand their learning needs.

The competent graduate:

- Sets clear learning goals, pursues them, and continuously integrates knowledge gained and applies it to improve medical care;
- Assesses his/her strengths and weaknesses in order to improve performance and identify effective ways to address limitations and enhance expertise;
- Accesses information effectively, efficiently, critically appraises the information and relates it to their patients' health problems;
- Admits his/her limits of knowledge, knows what to do when those limits are reached, can deal with uncertainty, and respects the opinions of others;
- Recognizes the need to learn is continuous;

INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The competent graduate provides compassionate, effective, culturally sensitive patient care.

The competent graduate:

- Listens attentively;
- Communicates clearly with colleagues, consultants, patients, and patients' families both orally and in writing.

PROFESSIONALISM

The competent graduate approaches medicine with integrity and respect for human dignity. They must demonstrate awareness of and commitment to the principles and responsibilities of medical professionalism.

The competent graduate:

- Provides leadership in patient care, while respecting the views and interests of all members of the health care team, the patient and patient's family;
- Maintains and respects patient confidentiality, and is aware of the unique doctor/ patient relationship;
- Knows and admits to his/her limits of knowledge;
- Can deal with uncertainty;
- Respects the opinions of others;
- Recognizes the need to learn is continuous;
- Balances personal and professional commitments to ensure that the patient's medical needs are always addressed;
- Recognizes and avoids conflicts of interest in financial and organizational arrangements for the practice of medicine;
- Demonstrates integrity;
- Demonstrates respect for human dignity;
- Deals honestly with others;
- Recognizes key ethical dilemmas and applies ethical principles.

SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE

The competent graduate demonstrates an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and systems of health care.

The competent graduate:

- Understands the principles of health care delivery and can describe the organization, strengths and limits of various models of health care delivery systems;
- Knows how to partner with health care managers and other health care providers to assess, coordinate, and improve health care and knows how their activities can affect system performance;
- Describes how to appropriately utilize and integrate the services of multidisciplinary health providers;
- Defines health in terms of the community in which the patient lives (population-based medicine);
- Evaluates and integrates community resources into the health maintenance of individual patients and their families;
- Assesses the effect of the physical environment on community health;
- Understands key legal concepts and is aware of professional requirements governing medical practice.

Approved by CCIA: 2 June 04

Approved by College Executive Cmt: 13 October 04