

MD Degree Program Competencies

Saint Louis University School of Medicine

1. Patient Care and Procedural Skills

Students will demonstrate the ability to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health. Students will be able to perform, under supervision, basic medical, diagnostic, and surgical procedures necessary for advancement to residency.

Upon graduation, Saint Louis University School of Medicine students will be able to:

- PCPS 1.1** Assess a variety of patients, presenting with undifferentiated urgent, acute, or chronic health problems in a variety of settings (inpatient, ambulatory, emergency).
- PCPS 1.2** Promptly recognize a patient who requires urgent or emergent care, initiate evaluation and treatment, and seek help.
- PCPS 1.3** Provide care that is patient-centered, compassionate, and respectful.
- PCPS 1.4** Perform the basic medical, diagnostic, and surgical procedures considered essential to begin residency.
- PCPS 1.5** Gather pertinent information about patients and their condition(s) through focused or comprehensive (as appropriate), history-taking and physical examination.
- PCPS 1.6** Select and interpret laboratory data, imaging and other tests using evidence-based and cost-effective principles.
- PCPS 1.7** Demonstrate the ability to make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment.
- PCPS 1.8** Under supervision, develop and carry out patient management plans that include patient preferences and circumstances.
- PCPS 1.9** Initiate counselling and education for patients and their families that will empower them to participate in their care and enable shared decision-making.
- PCPS 1.10** Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate referrals for patients including ensuring continuity of care throughout transitions between providers or settings, and following up on patient progress and outcomes.

2. Knowledge for Practice

Students will demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.

Upon graduation, Saint Louis University School of Medicine students will be able to:

- KP 2.1** Identify key clinical questions in caring for patients, identify information resources, and retrieve information and evidence that will be used to address those questions.

- KP 2.2** Demonstrate knowledge of, and the ability to apply, established and emerging bio-physical scientific principles fundamental to health care for patients and populations.
- KP 2.3** Demonstrate knowledge of, and the ability to apply, established and emerging principles of clinical sciences to diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making, clinical problem-solving, and other aspects of evidence based health care.
- KP 2.4** Demonstrate knowledge of, and the ability to apply, principles of epidemiological sciences to the identification of health problems, risk factors, treatment strategies, resources, and disease prevention/health promotion efforts for patients and populations.
- KP 2.5** Demonstrate knowledge of, and the ability to apply, principles of social-behavioral sciences to provision of patient care, including assessment of the impact of psychosocial, cultural, and spiritual influences on health, disease, health disparities, care-seeking, care-compliance, barriers to and attitudes toward care.
- KP 2.6** Demonstrate literacy in the use of computers (broadly defined), medical informatics, electronic health records, and other technology to support patient care decisions.

3. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Students will demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on self-evaluation and life-long learning.

Upon graduation, Saint Louis University School of Medicine students will be able to:

- PBLI 3.1** Identify strengths, deficiencies, and limits in one's knowledge, skills and/or attitudes; Identify and perform learning activities that address deficits in knowledge, skills and/or attitudes.
- PBLI 3.2** Set learning and improvement goals to continuously advance one's knowledge, skills, and/or attitudes.
- PBLI 3.3** Systematically analyze health care practice using quality improvement methods and be prepared to offer suggestions for change with the goal of improving the practice of medicine.
- PBLI 3.4** Incorporate feedback from patients, peers, supervisors, and others into daily practice.
- PBLI 3.5** Locate, evaluate, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to patients' health problems.

4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Students will demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and other health professionals.

Upon graduation, Saint Louis University School of Medicine students will be able to:

- ICS 4.1** Provide accurate, focused, and context-specific documentation of a clinical encounter in written and/or electronic formats.
- ICS 4.2** Present a concise oral summary of a patient encounter to achieve a shared understanding of the patient's condition.
- ICS 4.3** Communicate effectively with patients, families, and other health care professionals across a broad range of socioeconomic, cultural, and spiritual backgrounds.
- ICS 4.4** Communicate and work effectively with others as a member of a health care team.
- ICS 4.5** Demonstrate sensitivity, honesty, and compassion in difficult conversations (e.g., about issues such as death, end-of-life issues, adverse events, bad news, disclosure of errors, and other sensitive topics).

5. Professionalism

Students will demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles.

Upon graduation, Saint Louis University School of Medicine students will be able to:

- P 5.1** Demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for others.
- P 5.2** Demonstrate responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest.
- P 5.3** Demonstrate respect for patient privacy and autonomy.
- P 5.4** Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including but not limited to diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities, and sexual orientation.
- P 5.5** Articulate and demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles including, but not limited to, patient autonomy, informed consent, confidentiality, beneficence, provision or withholding treatment, and respect for human life.
- P5.6** Demonstrate one's responsibility to act for the good of others and apply knowledge and skills in helping the vulnerable. This includes understanding and working to eliminate health disparities, and developing skills for advocacy, policy change, and community development.
- P5.7** Identify, practice, and promote actions and behaviors that enhance the common good of society.

6. System-Based Practice

Students will demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care.

Upon graduation, Saint Louis University School of Medicine students will be able to:

- SBP 6.1** Explain current health care systems, describe their failures, and be prepared to intervene in systems to improve quality and safety in health care.
- SBP 6.2** Work effectively in a variety of health care delivery settings and systems.
- SBP 6.3** Facilitate and/or support the coordination of patient care within the health care system.
- SBP 6.4** Incorporate considerations of cost awareness and risk-benefit analysis in patient and/or population-based care.
- SBP 6.5** Advocate for quality patient care and optimal patient care systems.
- SBP 6.6** Demonstrate personal and systems quality improvement processes and communication skills across professions that lead to a reduced risk and improved quality of care.
- SBP 6.7** Identify and incorporate community assets and needs into patient care and practice planning, particularly among populations that are marginalized or underserved or contain significant health disparities.

7. Interprofessional Collaboration

Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in an interprofessional team in a manner that optimizes safe, effective patient- and population-centered care.

Upon graduation, Saint Louis University School of Medicine students will be able to:

- IC 7.1** Communicate one's roles and responsibilities clearly to patients, families, and other professionals.
- IC 7.2** Use the knowledge of one's own role and those of other professions to appropriately assess and address the healthcare needs of patients and populations.
- IC 7.3** Demonstrate knowledge of effective communication tools and techniques, including information systems and communication technologies, to facilitate discussions and interactions that enhance team functions.
- IC 7.4** Organize and communicate information with patients, families, and health care team members in a form and format that is understandable, avoiding discipline-specific terminology when possible.
- IC 7.5** Communicate with other health professionals in a responsive and responsible manner that supports the maintenance of health and the treatment of disease in individual patients and populations.
- IC 7.6** Use respectful language appropriate to a given situation, crucial conversations, or interprofessional conflict.

8. Personal and Professional Development

Students will demonstrate the qualities required to sustain lifelong personal and professional growth.

Upon graduation, Saint Louis University School of Medicine students will be able to:

- PPD 8.1** Use self-awareness of knowledge, skills, emotional and spiritual assets and limitations, as well as critical reflections, to self-regulate personal and professional behavior and seek to seek assistance when needed
- PPD 8.2** Demonstrate healthy coping mechanisms to respond to stress.
- PPD 8.3** Identify and use strategies to manage conflict between personal and professional responsibilities.
- PPD 8.4** Demonstrate self-confidence and trustworthiness that makes patients, families, and members of the health care team feel secure in your responsibilities for patient care.
- PPD 8.5** Recognize that ambiguity is part of clinical health care and respond by utilizing appropriate resources in dealing with uncertainty.
- PPD 8.6** Identify and utilize resources (personal, professional and institutional) that provide support and direction for a positive, rewarding, and sustained career in medicine.

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