



POLICY TITLE

Medical Student Shadowing Policy

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To establish a process for UNC SOM Medical Doctorate students to shadow faculty outside the scope of the formal curriculum for the purposes of enrichment and career development. Currently, there is no shadowing within the Operating Room setting – this policy will be updated when shadow opportunities there become available. This policy applies only to Medical Doctorate students enrolled at UNC SOM and does not apply to or provide shadowing opportunities to visiting students or students in other UNC programs.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY AND REVIEW CYCLE

Associate Dean or Assistant Dean for Student Affairs will review at least once every 2 years and will check in with UNC Healthcare legal team and Shadowing Services Office to ensure we are in compliance.

LCME REFERENCES(S): N/A

HISTORY OF APPROVALS AND UPDATES

Approved by the Education Committee September 2025

POLICY

To be eligible for shadowing in the UNC Healthcare system, a UNC SOM Medical Doctorate student must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Be in good academic standing
- 2) Be enrolled or on an academic leave (such as graduate study or research leave). Students on a non-academic leave (personal, medical, administrative) are not eligible.
- 3) Be in full compliance with all compliance training, health and safety requirements that are required of students participating in clinical rotations
- 4) Not be on *Academic Performance Monitoring (Supported Status)*

Shadowing preceptors must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Be a faculty member. Trainees at any level are not eligible to serve as a shadowing preceptor.
- 2) Must have privileges at UNC Hospitals
- 3) Must approve the shadowing experience in advance

If a student does not meet these requirements and does not provide shadowing information in advance of the shadowing experience, this would be considered a professionalism lapse and would be referred to the Committee for Professionalism Education.



PROCEDURES

Students who want to shadow a faculty member need to register their shadowing experience at the following link **at least 2 weeks in advance**. Information provided here includes but is not limited to dates/times of shadowing experience, faculty member name, department and contact information, location of shadowing, student name and student graduation year. By adding information to the link, the student represents that the faculty member has already agreed to host the student. The information will be reviewed for approval by the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, and confirmation will be sent to the student. The confirmation must be received prior to attending shadowing.

The shadowing opportunity is limited to observation only. Students who are shadowing are not permitted to provide patient care or participate in the patient encounter beyond just observation.

https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6rEdWGCG2apZr38