



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

School of Medicine

OPERATING POLICY

CLINICAL STUDENT WORK HOURS

CATEGORY: MEDICAL EDUCATION

COORDINATOR: DR. TAMARA SHANKEL

Background

Loma Linda University School of Medicine recognizes the importance of balance and wholeness in student's lives. It is also imperative that students gain valuable clinical experience, which includes caring for patients during night and weekend hours. In addition to the educational value of caring for patients in these hours, it is also essential that students develop professionalism and altruism in learning to put patients' needs ahead of their own when necessary. Part of professionalism is for students to develop personal habits (work, study, rest, etc.) that allow them to present themselves for duty prepared to learn and care for patients.

Student safety is of the utmost importance. Students who are too tired to drive home after working will be allowed to use a call room in the hospital to rest until they believe they are safe to drive home.

Policy

In general, students should not work more than interns and residents. Therefore, the residency work hour limitations will also apply to students as follows:

1. Students will not work more than 80 hours per week when averaged over four weeks.
2. Students will have one day in seven off work when averaged over four weeks.
3. Students will not work more than 24 hours in a shift/call, with an additional 4 hours allowed for handoff of care and educational activities.
4. Students should have 8 hours free of duty between work shifts.
5. After a 24-hour shift, students should have 14 hours free of duty.
6. Clerkship educational committees will designate specific work hour expectations and inform students, faculty and residents of these expectations.

7. If a student chooses to work outside of required clerkship responsibilities, they are required to ensure that their total work hours and clerkship responsibilities do not violate the above work hour policies. Students who choose to work should notify the Office of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Work hours activities include patient care and all required educational activities. Studying, reading and academic preparation do not count towards the work hour maximums. Travel time to rotations does not count as work hours. Home call does count towards work hour maximums.

Clerkship directors are responsible for monitoring student work hours. Work hour compliance should be confirmed with students at the mid-rotation evaluation, and at the end of the clerkship. Students who believe that they are being asked to violate work hour limitations should first meet with the Clerkship Director. If the clerkship director is not available, or does not address the student's concerns to their satisfaction, they should meet with the Associate Dean for Clinical Education or the Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education.