QCOM Fourth Year Attendance Policy

Background

Two policies related to attendance during fourth year rotations exist. The first prohibits scheduling selective rotations in December and January as these are prime residency interview months. The second is that only ½ day per week of excused absence is permitted in elective/selective rotations. The first policy has been adhered to well. The second policy has been practically disregarded. This is due to the unpredictable nature of residency interview scheduling and the reality that students must interview at on average 10-12 programs to have a high chance of matching. In competitive specialties, students need to interview at even more programs. Additionally students have limited ability to determine the timing of their interviews.

Informal surveys of clinical departments suggest that in general faculty members will permit missing up to about 25% of a rotation without requiring the student to make up time.

Policy

While students may vary in the amount of time needed to develop competency in an area, the more time a student spends in the clinical setting, the greater will be their exposure to a range of clinical conditions. Thus, students should attend as much of a scheduled rotation as is practical. Attendance is one measure of professionalism (QCOM Commencement Objectives: Professionalism: Students shall demonstrate the behaviors befitting an ethical professional at all times. Students shall be punctual, reliable, and conscientious in fulfilling professional duties.)

Electives

1. Students may be permitted to miss up to 25% of an elective rotation for residency interview purposes provided the following conditions are met:
   - there is an advance written request supported by documentation of the scheduled interview
   - the instructor approves of the absence.

2. Students missing more than 25% of a rotation may be required to:
   - make up time missed
   - withdraw from the rotation
   - have an alternative activity assigned by the instructor to make up for the time missed.

Selectives

On selective rotations students may miss up to two days with an excused absence without being required to make up missed time. These guidelines may apply to other circumstances (illness, personal issues) on a case by case basis. The instructor may assign an alternative activity to make up for the time missed.

This policy should not be construed to mean that a student is entitled to take up to 25% of a rotation off for any reason.

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