

PARTNERS IN PROFESSIONALISM

AN EDUCATIONAL PILOT PROJECT BETWEEN THE STATE MEDICAL BOARD OF OHIO AND THE OHIO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Purpose:

The pilot project aims to promote professionalism and emphasize the ethical responsibilities of medical licensure to medical students. The goal is to educate students in how to avoid problematic behavior or practices, increase awareness of Medical Board functions, increase knowledge of state law and regulations related to medical practice, and enhance the relationship between the Medical Board and licensees.

Methodology:

Instill professionalism and ethics into tomorrow's licensees by incorporating interaction with the medical board into the medical school curriculum.

First year medical students at OU-COM spend 50-100 hours in structured clinical and community settings as part of the Clinical and Community Experiences (CCE) program. Beginning in September 2007, each student in the class of 2011 is required to participate in the "Partners in Professionalism" project as one of their Clinical and Community Experiences. Project activities include:

Medical Board Jeopardy

- The Board's executive director gives an interactive presentation about the roles and responsibilities of the Medical Board to all first-year medical students shortly after they receive their white coat.

A Day at the Medical Board

- OU-COM assigns 10-12 students per month to attend the monthly Board meeting in Columbus.
- Resource materials related to the disciplinary and policy matters on the Board's agenda are prepared each month by Board staff and e-mailed to the students.
- A videoconference is held between Medical Board staff and the students prior to the Board meeting. Board staff members provide an overview of the upcoming Board meeting agenda and answer questions from students. Students who attended the last Board meeting comment on the disciplinary cases they observed and then submit their evaluation forms to the OU-COM program coordinator.
- Medical students travel to Columbus, Ohio from OU-COM in Athens, Ohio to attend the Wednesday afternoon segment of the monthly Medical Board meeting. Students observe the meeting to learn about situations involving licensees that result in disciplinary action by the Medical Board, as well as policy matters discussed and established by the Medical Board.

- Students have an opportunity to talk with Board members following the meeting and during “unscripted teaching moments.”
- Students reflect on their experience and anonymously submit written comments about the experience to provide a qualitative review of the experience.

Building a Relationship with the Board

- After the students have completed their day at the Board, the relationship continues with additional programs provided later in their academic career designed to more intensively address impairment, boundary issues, and the licensing process.

Results:

- Student feedback shows that the experiences has been educational and eye opening. Many students have suggested that all medical students should have this experience.