

“PARTNERS IN PROFESSIONALISM”
AN EDUCATIONAL PROJECT BETWEEN THE STATE MEDICAL BOARD OF OHIO AND
THE OHIO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Purpose:

The educational project promotes professionalism and emphasizes 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:

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. Since September 2007, every first-year medical student is required to participate in the “Partners in Professionalism” project with the Medical Board 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 responsibilities of the Medical Board to all first-year medical students shortly after they receive their white coat.

A Day at the Medical Board

Before the Board visit:

- OU-COM assigns 10-18 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 executive staff and e-mailed to the students.
- A videoconference is held between Medical Board executive staff and the students prior to explain the cases on the Board meeting agenda and answer questions from students.

Board meeting day:

- Medical students travel approximately 80 miles to Columbus, Ohio from OU-COM in Athens, Ohio to attend the Wednesday afternoon segment of the monthly Board meeting. As Ohio’s disciplinary actions are held in public session, students observe the meeting and learn about situations involving licensees that result in disciplinary action by the Board.
 - Students have an opportunity to talk with Board members following the meeting and during “unscripted teaching moments.”
-

After the Board meeting:

- A post-Board meeting videoconference is held the Friday following the Board meeting. Board staff members respond to questions posed by students regarding their observations of the Board meeting.
- Students reflect on their experience and anonymously submit written comments about the experience to the OU-COM program coordinator to provide a qualitative review of the experience.

Building a Relationship with the Board

- The relationship continues with the students later in their academic career with additional programs provided by Board staff designed to more intensely address impairment concerns, boundary issues, and the licensing process.

Results:

Student feedback consistently ranks the experience as educational and eye opening. Many students have suggested that all medical students should have this experience.

Medical Board Contacts:

State Medical Board of Ohio
30 E. Broad St. 3rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6127

Richard A. Whitehouse, Esq., Executive Director (614) 444-4449
Richard.Whitehouse@med.state.oh.us

Joan K. Wehrle, CPMSM, Executive Staff Coordinator (614) 728-3684
Joan.Wehrle@med.state.oh.us
