

Advisors

Faculty members from all School of Medicine departments volunteer to serve as advisors to medical students. Advisors counsel students regarding academics or other areas pertinent to students' satisfactory progress in the medical curriculum. They also assist students with such aspects of their clinical years as fourth-year electives, specialty selection, and residency application.

Faculty advisors and medical students are encouraged to meet at least once per semester. Advisors assist personnel in the School of Medicine Office of Student and Career Services in following the academic progress of their advisees.

Student-student advisory systems are at the discretion of the respective classes of the School of Medicine. Incoming first-year students are assigned student mentors in the summer so that they may meet preceding matriculation.

Student Housing

The majority of students elect to rent/purchase housing in the area adjacent to the School of Medicine campus. Information is posted on the bulletin board in the student mailroom in building 3. Additional information about off-campus housing can be obtained from:

Office of Off-Campus Housing Service
Russell House University Union
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

The University provides a limited number of housing units for married couples. They are assigned on the basis of date of application receipt. For information, contact:

University Housing
University of South Carolina
Attn: Family Housing
1215 Blossom Street
Columbia, SC 29208

Student Bookstores

The University Bookstore, located in the Russell House University Union on the University campus, stocks textbooks, supplies, general interest books, popular and classical recordings, and a wide range of gift items.

Student Lounge/Canteen

A large well-furnished student lounge and adjoining small kitchen area are located on the first floor of the Basic Science Annex on the School of Medicine campus. The lounge, containing a television, computers, and a telephone, is available to students 24 hours a day.

Arthur L. Humphries Physical Fitness Center

The Arthur L. Humphries Physical Fitness Center is located on the ground floor of the Dorn V.A. Medical Center Auditorium. Equipped with a variety of exercise machines and mats, the center is open to School of Medicine students, faculty, and staff and Dorn V.A. Medical Center physicians, staff, and patients (under medical supervision).

Services for Students with Disabilities

The University of South Carolina does everything reasonably possible in an attempt to accommodate students with disabilities in the attainment of their academic objectives. The Student Disability Resource Center is available to help disabled students with any problems in their campus

life experience and to facilitate any adjustments that might be required. Medical students are invited to contact:

Student Disability Services

1705 College Street
Close-Hipp, Suite 102
Columbia, SC 29208
Phone: 803-777-6142
Fax: 803-777-6741
Email: sadrc@mailbox.sc.edu

University Programs

As students of the University of South Carolina, medical students are entitled to use all facilities and programs available to University students. A partial listing follows.

Russell House University Union

Located at the center of the campus, this facility contains numerous meeting rooms, a ballroom, television and conversational lounges, music listening rooms, a browsing lounge, a theater, and office space for student organizations, including the Student Government, campus newspaper, and radio station.

A variety of services is provided throughout the building. Personnel assist students in locating services. University Dining Services operates food service facilities in the Russell House University Union.

Carolina Productions arranges educational, recreational, and social activities for and with the entire University community. For information, contact the Carolina Productions in the Russell House.

Athletics

The University sponsors extensive programs in men's and women's intercollegiate sports. Its athletic teams, the Gamecocks and the Lady Gamecocks, compete as members of the Southeastern Conference of NCAA Division 1A.

Among the facilities for athletics at the University are Williams-Brice Stadium, Colonial Center, an all-weather track, a baseball stadium, and tennis courts. The Blatt Physical Education Center and the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center provide extensive indoor space for student sports, including Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Intramural Recreational Athletic and Club Sports

The Division of Student and Alumni Services of the University conducts an extensive intramural athletic and recreational sports program for all students, with competition in many areas. Students may participate as individuals and teams in more than 25 intramural sports and in 13 club sports.

Student Health

The School of Medicine is committed to providing all students with appropriate health care and personal counseling in a compassionate, confidential, and professional manner. Student confidentiality is a priority. No physician treating a student will be involved in the education, evaluation or advancement process for the School of Medicine, with the exception of emergency services, wherein USCSOM Columbia faculty and residents may be the clinical staff responsible for the facility to which the student presents, and it is in the best interest of the student to receive

immediate care. The student will be transferred to the care of non-faculty physicians as soon as medically appropriate.

Student Health Policies

Contagious Infections and/or Diseases

The School of Medicine has adopted the following policy regarding applicants and students with contagious infections and/or diseases:

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine supports fully the spirit and intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 in fulfilling its role of providing a medical education to qualified candidates with contagious infections and/or diseases who do not constitute a direct threat to the health and safety of other individuals and who are otherwise able to fulfill the requirements incident to attending medical school.

In fulfilling its obligation to educate future physicians, the School of Medicine is charged with maintaining the integrity of the curriculum; preserving, as part of the curriculum, those elements deemed necessary to the education of physicians; and adhering to procedures consonant with those established with the Centers for Disease Control, among others, to maintain the health and safety of patients.

It is, therefore, the policy of the School of Medicine to fulfill the above-stated obligation, and to provide expert and safe patient care; protect the personal rights of students with contagious infections and/or diseases, including the right to be free from disparate treatment and improper management of confidential information; provide information, education, and support services that promote the professional and personal well-being of students; provide a safe working environment for all students; and provide for the implementation of laws and regulations pertaining to public health and welfare.

Therefore, pursuant to the above-stated policy, in appropriate cases, after obtaining the advice and consultation of the appropriate clinical clerkship director, the School of Medicine will monitor and modify the clinical activities of infected students who pose unwarranted risks to patients. The decision to modify the clinical activities shall be based upon an objective evaluation of the individual student's experience, technical expertise, functional disabilities, and the extent to which the contagious infection and/or disease can be readily transmitted. The infected student shall be afforded full participation in clinical activities that do not pose unwarranted risks to patients, as determined by the appropriate clinical clerkship director. In all instances where the educational activities of a student are modified, steps shall be taken to ensure that his/her educational experience is equivalent to that of his/her uninfected peers. In such cases, maintaining the integrity of the educational experience afforded such a student shall be of paramount importance.

Chemical Dependency

The School of Medicine has adopted the following policy regarding chemical dependency in medical students:

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine recognizes that chemical dependency represents a problem of national proportions and that medical students may be at increased risk.

The School of Medicine is therefore committed to providing an integrated substance abuse curriculum to medical students as a component of their medical education, to promoting student wellness by identifying and assisting students who may be chemically dependent, and to providing access for medical students to confidential chemical dependency

treatment programs that will not jeopardize their professional career goals.

Definitions

Substance abuse is characterized as insidious, progressive, chronic, malignant, primary, family-centered, and treatable. The medical consequences resulting from impairment from substance abuse range from a mild hangover to death due to bleeding, infection, or trauma. For medical students, impairment is defined as recurring trouble associated with alcohol or drug abuse; the trouble may occur in any of several domains, including interpersonal (family or other relationships), educational, legal, financial, or medical. Examples include the range of behaviors from absences from class, clinical clerkships, and electives; repeated lateness in the initiation or completion of assigned responsibilities; binge drinking to violence while under the influence of chemicals; traffic accidents and arrests for driving under the influence; attempts to reduce chemical use; receipt of criticism about alcohol and/or drug use from fellow students, faculty members, medical residents, and other clinical supervisors; and, most especially, the student's continued drinking and/or drug use in spite of adverse consequences.

Sources of Assistance

Confidential assistance for medical students with suspected chemical dependency impairment may be obtained from any of the following sources:

- Community resources: The South Carolina Medical Association Physicians' Assistance and Advocacy Committee has formally agreed to provide compassionate assistance to medical students and medical residents with chemical dependency problems. Confidential assistance with assessment, intervention, or treatment questions can be obtained by contacting the Physicians' Assistance and Advocacy Committee chair at 803-798-6207 or 800-327-1021. South Carolina Medical Association offices are located at:
132 Westpark Blvd.
Columbia, SC 29210
- University of South Carolina/School of Medicine resources: Medical students concerned about their use/abuse of chemical substances and/or that of their peers may obtain confidential assistance by contacting UofSC Counseling and Psychiatry Services (803-777-5223). The Psychological Services Center (803-777-4864), and the Thomson Student Health Center (803-777-3957), all on the Columbia campus of the University of South Carolina provide confidential assessment, referral, and treatment. Assistance is also available from the associate dean for medical education and academic affairs (803-216-3600), the assistant dean for student affairs (803-216-3630).
- Other resources: An additional list of resources is published annually by the University of South Carolina in the Carolina Community: Student Handbook and Policy Guide provided to each medical student at the beginning of the fall semester. The Carolina Community also contains those University policies and procedures relating to the use of alcohol and other drugs to which all enrolled University students are subject as members of the University community.

Student Health Services

Student Health Services provides accessible, convenient, high quality, low cost health care. The health services team is sincerely interested in your health and wants to be your partner in wellness.

Student Health Services provides on-campus medical, mental health, ancillary, and health and wellness services for students. Services include

1. ambulatory primary care at clinics and ancillary services located at the nationally accredited Thomson Student Health Center;
2. a comprehensive array of counseling, testing, and psychological and psychiatric services available at the nationally accredited Counseling and Human Development Center; and
3. a wide variety of wellness-oriented programs and educational services offered by the Office for Campus Wellness and the Office for Sexual Health and Violence Prevention.

Students are encouraged to visit the various Student Health Services Web sites for additional information on clinics, services, and programs (803-777-3175).

Counseling/Consultation Services

Students in the School of Medicine have available to them various counseling, consultation, and psychotherapeutic resources. These may be sought from the Office of Student and Career Services, faculty and student advisors, and psychologists and psychiatrists with appointments in the School of Medicine, as well as from the various services and counseling centers on the University campus. Emergency psychiatric services and confidential assessment, referral, and treatment services are available on a 24-hour-a-day basis from the School of Medicine Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science (803-434-4300).

Students enrolled in the School of Medicine program at the Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center have access to equivalent counseling and medical services; information about these services is provided to students at the time of third-year orientation.

Medical Insurance

Students enrolled in the School of Medicine are required to have a current medical insurance policy in effect at the time of fall registration and throughout the academic year and to provide the School of Medicine with verification/proof of insurance or sign a formal declaration waiver form.

A comprehensive health insurance policy is made available by Pearce & Pearce, Inc. through the University of South Carolina for students and their spouses and/or children. Brochures and registration materials are available to all students. The policy is in effect from August 1st to July 31st, with fee payment due at the time of fall and spring registrations.

Immunizations

Students are also required to provide, prior to matriculation, a current medical history, the results of a physical examination, and immunization data on forms provided by the School of Medicine. In order to ensure the health and safety of students and patients in both the classroom and clinical settings, students must provide documentation of immunizations: two dates/doses of MMR or immune state (titers) for rubeola, rubella, mumps; varicella (either a titer or documentation of two doses of varicella vaccine, history of chickenpox is no longer accepted); polio at the time of initial matriculation (refusal form available); and evidence of a tetanus booster. A TB test is required within six months of matriculation. If the results of TB testing are positive or if the student is known to have tested positive previously, the student must provide proof of positive PPD and negative chest x-ray within the last three years. Continuing students will receive TB testing each year as arranged by the medical school. Evidence of a hepatitis-B vaccine is required with a blood titer prior to matriculation, or to be completed by the end of the first semester (refusal form available). Students accepted in transfer must also provide

documentation of hepatitis B immunization and evidence of immune status by blood titer by the end of the first year of transfer (refusal form available). A hepatitis B immunization program is available, at cost, through the School of Medicine during the first year of medical education.

Drug Screenings

Drug screening is required prior to matriculation and at the beginning of the M-III year.

Workers Compensation Insurance

All medical students are covered by Workers Compensation insurance through the State Accident Fund for any injuries sustained by students during the course of those clinical activities that are a part of their medical educations. The premium for this insurance is paid by the School of Medicine. Information about Workers Compensation insurance policies and procedures and the reporting requirements for injuries sustained by students during their medical educations is provided to students annually and available in the Office of Student Services.

Disability Insurance

A disability insurance policy is available and required for all medical students. Annual premium payment is due at the time of fall registration.

Student Organizations

Students enrolled in the School of Medicine may participate in a wide variety of University organizations, including those of specific interest to medical students.

Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA)

AOA is the national honor society for medical students. Election to AOA membership is based upon academic achievement, integrity, leadership ability, and service to the School of Medicine. Eligibility for AOA membership is limited to third- and fourth-year medical students.

Medical Student Association (MSA)

The goal of the MSA is to foster the exchange of ideas among health science students. Toward this end, periodic seminars are held at which research and health-related topics of both a general and specific nature are discussed. The MSA also sponsors social, athletic, and community service activities for students and faculty members.

American Medical Student Association (AMSA)

AMSA is a national student organization that offers supplementary educational programs, including sections in specialized fields and summer preceptorships. Membership dues are a one-time fee that includes organizational membership, publications, an opportunity to purchase life insurance, and other services. Members are also eligible to attend the annual national convention.

American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)

AMWA is a national organization representing women medical students and physicians. Its goal is to enhance the education and training of members and to educate them and the public on health issues of women.

Medical Student Section of the American Medical Association (AMA-MSS)

The AMA-MSS enables students to be represented in the activities of organized medicine within the state and nation.