



## Preclerkship Student Workload Policy

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| <b>Category:</b>              | 9-General Education Policies   |
| <b>Curriculum Phase:</b>      | Preclerkship                   |
| <b>Author/Authoring Body:</b> | Curricular Affairs             |
| <b>Responsible Unit:</b>      | Curricular Affairs             |
| <b>Policy Contact:</b>        | Curricular Affairs Dean Office |
| <b>Next Review Year:</b>      | 2025                           |

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### Summary

This policy establishes parameters for student workload during the Preclerkship Phase.

### Related LCME Standard: 8.8 Monitoring Student Time

The medical school faculty committee responsible for the medical curriculum and the program's administration and leadership ensure the development and implementation of effective policies and procedures regarding the amount of time medical students spend in required activities, including the total number of hours medical students are required to spend in clinical and educational activities throughout the curriculum.

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### Applicability & Scope

The policy applies to all students in the Preclerkship Phase of the curriculum (M1 and M2), beginning in Academic Year 2024–25 with the classes of 2027 and 2028.

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### Definitions

**Contact Hours** – Faculty-led and faculty-driven formal teaching sessions, designed to enable direct interaction between students and instructors. Each Contact Hour is equivalent to 50 minutes of class time or 60 minutes for an Independent Learning Module (ILM). While contact hours typically occur in synchronous settings, the inclusion of ILMs allows for flexibility in scheduling. These instructional sessions are integral to various components of the medical curriculum, including but not limited to preclerkship blocks, the Clinical Reasoning Course, the Doctor & Patient Course, and the Scholarly Project Program.

**Homework** – Tasks or study materials assigned by faculty instructors intended to reinforce learning and prepare students for various forms of weekly assessments. These assessments may include Team-Based Learning (TBL) exercises, regular weekly quizzes, or quizzes associated with Spiral Curriculum sessions. Homework encompasses a range of activities from problem-solving

assignments to review of relevant content, all aimed at enhancing academic experience and understanding of subject matter.

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## Principles

- A. The weekly workload is structured to strike a balance between rigorous academic engagement, distinction tracks, scholarly projects, club activities, and personal well-being. Students should find sufficient time to immerse themselves in the curriculum while also ensuring they cater to their health and wellness needs.
- B. The priority is the medical curriculum. Required educational activities and assessments hold precedence over other commitments. While extracurricular engagements, including social, supplemental, and service activities, are valued, they should not detract from the primary educational requirements of the program.
- C. Any student who consistently finds themselves overwhelmed with coursework will be strongly encouraged to seek guidance and support from the Office of Student Success.

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## Policy Statement

### I. Student Workload

- A. Medical students are expected to dedicate a total of 40 hours per week to clinical and educational activities, including both contact hours and homework, throughout the Preclerkship Phase.
- B. The maximum weekly contact hours are 32, averaged over 2 consecutive weeks. This includes up to 26 general scheduled contact hours, with an additional 4 hours allocated for the Doctor & Patient Course and 2 hours for the Clinical Reasoning Course.
- C. Students should not exceed 8 hours of homework per week.

### II. Monitoring

- A. For each block, the Block Director(s) will be responsible for tracking weekly workload across all elements.
- B. Student perceptions of workload for each course will be monitored through the Block Advisory Group and in evaluation questions at the end of each block.
- C. Student workload hours will be reported annually to the Tucson Educational Policy Committee (TEPC) and the Tucson Curriculum Management Subcommittee (TCMS) in the Course Oversight & Yearly Operational Tracking Evaluation (COYOTE).

### III. Review

- A. Student workload hours and student perceptions will be reported annually to the TEPC and TCMS in the Level 1 reports.
- B. This policy will be formally reviewed by the TEPC annually.

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## Revision History

**1/10/2024:** The TEPC voted to approve revisions to clarify the policy.

**11/8/2023:** The Tucson Educational Policy Committee (TEPC) voted to approve the policy, effective for Academic Year 2024–25 with the classes of 2027 and 2028.