



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

# MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA

## AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY/MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA COMPETENCY-BASED OBJECTIVES

REVISED AND APPROVED JUNE 4, 2024 BY COC

<b>Core Competencies: Graduates from the Medical College of Georgia – Augusta University will be able to:</b>	
<b>1. Medical Knowledge</b>	
<b>Primary Objective: Medical students must master a foundation of scientific and clinical knowledge and demonstrate the ability to integrate and apply that knowledge to clinical practice.</b>	
Competencies	
1.1	Demonstrate knowledge of clinically relevant normal and abnormal structure and function of the human body and its component organ systems on the macroscopic, microscopic, and molecular levels.
1.2	Identify the pathology and pathophysiology of common or significant, acute and chronic diseases and correlate them with clinical signs and symptoms.
1.3	Differentiate between normal and abnormal development and age-related changes across the lifespan.
1.4	Demonstrate comprehension of clinical interventions and agents including pharmaceutical, surgical, genetic, complementary and alternative medicines, and other therapies.
1.5	Demonstrate knowledge of preventive medicine and current, evidence-based guidelines for health promotion and disease screening.
1.6	Discuss the scientific method, analyze scientific, translational, and clinical research literature, determine its validity, importance, and applicability to patient care, and explain its significance in language appropriate for the target audience.
<b>2. Patient Care</b>	
<b>Primary Objective: Medical students, as members of the healthcare team, must acquire a high level of skill in providing patient and family centered care that is compassionate and effective for the promotion of health and management of illness.</b>	
Competencies	
2.1	Identify and define the core principles of a Patient and Family Centered Care model of practice (dignity & respect, information sharing, participation and collaboration) and demonstrate the ability treat patients using this approach.
2.2	Obtain a complete and accurate medical history that is appropriate to the age, gender, sexual orientation, culture, use of complementary medicine, family dynamics and socioeconomic status of the patient.
2.3	Perform both complete and symptom-focused physical examinations, including mental status examination.
2.4	Identify, obtain, and interpret the most useful, value-based, clinical, laboratory, imaging, and pathologic evidence for common clinical presentations.
2.5	Organize a patient's medical history, physical examination, and testing results into a logical clinical assessment of underlying pathophysiology.
2.6	Utilize inductive and deductive reasoning to construct differential diagnoses, support evidence-based, clinical decision making, and prioritize treatment based on life-threatening potential of patient conditions.
2.7	Construct and employ appropriate, cost effective, and efficient therapeutic management and prevention strategies for patients with both acute and chronic medical conditions.
2.8	Perform or participate in routine technical procedures. [procedures determined by core clerkships]
<b>3. Practice-based Learning and Improvement</b>	
<b>Primary Objective: Medical students must be life-long learners who continuously appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, investigate and evaluate their patient care approaches, and improve their practice of medicine.</b>	
Competencies	
3.1	Identify and utilize appropriate literature and medical information technologies to investigate clinical questions and apply evidence-based medicine skills and best practice methods to medical treatment and decision making.
3.2	Develop and utilize performance monitoring and self-reflection strategies for continuous individual improvement and life-long learning in the acquisition and application of new medical knowledge and information.
3.3	Demonstrate self-awareness and the ability to think critically and reflectively when evaluating individual and team performance, identifying strengths and limitations in knowledge, skills, and experience through self-assessment.
3.4	Demonstrate the ability to accept constructive criticism of performance from patients, families, colleagues, and other health care professionals, modify knowledge, skills, and behaviors based on feedback, and provide, when appropriate, effective feedback in a respectful manner.
3.5	Demonstrate intellectual curiosity and a commitment to life-long learning that is needed to continually pursue the knowledge and skills needed for competent patient care in a rapidly advancing medical environment.

<b>4. Communication and Collaboration</b>
<b>Primary Objective: Medical students must demonstrate effective listening and written and verbal communication and collaboration skills with patients, families, colleagues, and other professional associates to provide optimal patient and family centered care.</b>
Competencies
4.1 Develop and demonstrate effective and empathetic listening and verbal & non-verbal communication skills that convey respect for patients' privacy, dignity, and culture and are appropriate for each patient's age and abilities.
4.2 Demonstrate the ability to listen, communicate, and function collaboratively with patients, families, colleagues and other healthcare professionals in a respectful and non-judgmental manner in order to provide optimal patient care.
4.3 Demonstrate the ability to give a clear, concise, and organized oral presentation and written documentation of a history and physical exam with basic elements of assessment and plan that addresses the psychosocial and biomedical needs of the patient for a focused or complete patient encounter.
4.4 Present written and oral clinical and scientific information clearly and concisely.
4.5 Recognize barriers to effective communication and implement strategies to overcome these barriers (e.g. health literacy, vision/hearing impairment, disability, pediatric, geriatric) 4.5.1 Conduct an interview with a limited English-speaking patient through appropriate use of an interpreter.
4.6 Communicate with patients for educational purposes and ensure they understand common preventive strategies and healthy behavioral changes, medical risk and benefits in medical decision making, and informed consent.
<b>5. Medical Professionalism and Ethics</b>
<b>Primary Objective: Medical students are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism and ethical behavior.</b>
Competencies
5.1 Provide competent and compassionate medical care that respects patient dignity.
5.2 Demonstrate respect, altruism, honesty, and integrity in all professional activities.
5.3 Demonstrate knowledge of, and the ability to, apply ethical reasoning in medical practice and research.
5.4 Comply with current regulations, laws, and statutes that govern medical practice.
5.5 Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including, but not limited to diversity in age, culture, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.
5.6 Fulfill professional commitments in a timely and responsible manner.
<b>6. Systems-based Practice</b>
<b>Primary Objective: Medical students must develop a knowledge of factors that influence medical care including available health care system resources, social, behavioral, and economic factors, and demonstrate an ability to use them appropriately to provide optimal quality patient care.</b>
Competencies
6.1 Demonstrate the ability to work within an interprofessional patient care team, with an understanding of the physician's role and the unique and complementary abilities of all members of the team to optimize patient safety, care and outcomes in a cost effective manner for the care of individuals and populations.
6.2 Identify patient safety issues, medical errors, near misses, and/or system failures, and contribute to a culture of safety and high quality care for patients.
6.3 Examine the influence of social, behavioral, and economic factors in health maintenance, disease progression, and medical care.
6.4 Compare systems and models for organizing, financing, and delivering health care.
<b>7. Personal Management and Self-Care (Athens Only)</b>
<b>Primary Objective: Medical students must develop an awareness of personal and professional values and needs, the skills to meet those needs, and work to balance their professional identity with a role in life outside of medicine.</b>
Competencies
7.1 Recognize the importance of personal health and wellness to physician wellbeing, healthcare practice, and patient safety.
7.2 Recognize and address personal and professional limitations and attributes or behaviors that may limit one's effectiveness as a physician.
7.3 Identify and develop appropriate self-care strategies and seek assistance when needed to maintain physical and mental health.
7.4 Reflect a role in medicine that meets personal and societal needs, based on individual goals and abilities.
<b>8. Community Health and Advocacy (Athens Only)</b>
<b>Primary Objective: Medical students must maintain a personal commitment to the health of individuals and groups and demonstrate the ability to apply clinical knowledge and skills to a population as a whole, whether at the community, state, national, or international level.</b>
Competencies
8.1 Discuss epidemiology of common societal problems and recognize the role of public health in reducing morbidity and mortality of these problems.
8.2 Identify factors that place individuals of populations at risk for disease including non-biological determinants of poor health such as economic, psychological, social, and cultural factors that contribute to disease.
8.3 Advocate for the interests of patients and families.
8.4 Participate in service learning activities that contribute to the improvement of the community and public health.