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Policy for Alternative Assignments

1. For Doctoring/Clinical activities, in Y1 and Y2, the Y1 and Y2 Doctoring Directors are responsible for assignment of students to mentored clinical activities in the community.
2. In Y3 and Y4, the Admissions and Records Officer oversees the scheduling of curricular activities and ensures that students are assigned.
3. If students request an alternate experience in any year, they will submit their request through the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions or Unit/Year Directors and, if deemed appropriate, the change will be made and documented.

Honor Code

Students of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine are accepted into the School of Medicine after due consideration and evaluation and are expected to understand and accept the responsibilities of their profession. Recognizing that all persons have their own beliefs and values, the Faculty explicitly state their belief that medicine as a profession demands the highest level of competence with regard to knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior in the care of patients and/or in the generation and dissemination of knowledge. The essence of medicine is embodied in the concept of professionalism.

Professionalism requires the physician to serve the interests of the patient above his or her self-interest. Professionalism aspires to altruism, accountability, excellence, duty, service, honor, integrity and respect for others.

Altruism is the essence of professionalism. The best interest of patients, not self-interest is the rule.

Accountability is required at many levels -- individual patients, society and the profession. Physicians are accountable to their patients for fulfilling the implied contract governing the patient/physician relationship. They are also accountable to society for addressing the health needs of the public and to their profession for adhering to medicine's time-honored ethical precepts.

Excellence entails a conscientious effort to exceed ordinary expectations and to make a commitment to life-long learning. Commitment to excellence is an acknowledged goal for all physicians.

Duty is the free acceptance of a commitment to service. This commitment entails being available and responsive when "on-call", accepting inconvenience to meet the needs of one's patients, enduring unavoidable risks to oneself when a patient's welfare is at stake, advocating the best possible care regardless of ability to pay, seeking active roles in professional organizations, and volunteering one's skills and expertise for the welfare of the community.

Honor and integrity are the consistent regard for the highest standards of behaviors and the refusal to violate one's personal and professional codes. Honor and integrity imply being fair, being truthful, keeping one's word, meeting commitments, and being straight-forward. They also require recognition of the possibility of conflict of interest and avoidance of relationships that allow personal gain to supersede the best interests of the patient.