UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Narrative Assessment Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

Policy Contact	Assistant Dean for Assessment
Responsible	Office of Medical Education; CCC
Accountable	Course and Clerkship Directors
Consulted	PCC, CYC
Informed	SOM Faculty, SOM Students

LCME Standards

9.5 Narrative Assessment

A medical school ensures that a narrative description of a medical student's performance, including non-cognitive achievement, is included as a component of the assessment in each required course and clerkship of the medical education program whenever teacher-student interaction permits this form of assessment.

Scope and Purpose

To outline the rationale and requirements for providing narrative assessment of medical student performance during all four years of the Renaissance Curriculum.

Policy Statement

Provision of narrative comments should occur in required courses and clerkships in which a student is able to independently demonstrate a performance or behavior and can be individually observed by an educator. In required pre-clerkship courses, narrative assessment will be provided if a student has 5 or more sessions in a small group or clinical setting of 12 or fewer students with the same educator. In each required clinical clerkship, narrative assessment will be provided to all students.

Procedures

Pre-Clerkship Phase

A. Foundations of Research and Critical Thinking (FRCT) - Formative narrative feedback will be provided as appropriate throughout the course and will also be included as part of the summative assessment of student learning in the evaluation of the final research project.
B. Practice of Medicine (PoM) 1 and 2 - Formative narrative feedback of student performance will be provided after each case write-up and summative narrative assessment at the end of each PoM course. Domains should include professionalism, communication skills, and clinical skills.
C. Faculty members are encouraged to provide extemporaneous narrative feedback in any course during the pre-clerkship phase.

Clerkship and Advanced Clinical Phase

A. All students in required clerkships and sub-internships must receive narrative feedback in addition to a final grade as part of their performance evaluation.
B. All summative clinical evaluations must include a section for narrative comments.
C. Narrative feedback must be submitted such that the student's final grade may be certified no later than six weeks after the completion of a clerkship.

Exceptions

There are currently no recognized exceptions to this policy. Adherence to the policy is also necessary to ensure continued compliance with LCME requirements.

Sanctions

Failure to adhere to narrative assessment requirements could result in counseling and/or remediation by the Office of Medical Education.

Definitions

Formative ("feedback")—comments provided to students intended for formative purposes only and not included as a part of a graded assessment

Summative ("assessment")—comments that are part of a graded assessment

Narrative comments–written descriptions of student performance and/or behavior, usually at least 2-3 sentences in length, that are intended to provide students with additional information about their strengths and opportunities for improvement beyond numeric data.

Forms

FRCT Mentor Evaluation Form
Practice of Medicine Final Evaluation Form
Clerkship Final Evaluation Form

Related Policies/Procedures

Grading Policy

History

Approved: June 21, 2022

Revised: