



DECISION 001: Designation of Protected Self-Directed Learning Time (Maximum Average Lecture Hours per week for Year One and Year Two)

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine recognizes and supports the importance of self-directed learning and personal responsibility of students in medical student education. This policy outlines the requirements of course design and limits associated with scheduling lectures in years one and two. UNR Med's goal is to promote excellence in students' mastery of UNR Med's Medical Education Program Objectives (MEPOs) and maximize students' development of the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to enter the practice of medicine.

Development of this Decision:

- A. In September 2010, as the school was undergoing curricular reform, we agreed upon a 28 hour per week lecture maximum for year one and a 24 hour per week lecture maximum for year two. This guideline became practice and standard procedure effectively when it entered the Block Director Guidebook at that time.
- B. At the Block Directors Retreat of June 14, 2017, we discussed the adequacy of the 28 hour per week lecture maximum for year one and a 24 hour per week lecture maximum for year two guideline and we found it to be adequate. Reiterating the standing guideline effectively embeds this into the schools practice and the MESC backs this up with the weight of a decision.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW THIS DECISION

Administrators, Faculty, Staff and Students

DECISION

As has been the practice of this school, and as sanctioned at the June 14, 2017 Block Directors Retreat, and henceforth as a Decision of the Medical Education Steering Committee, we will provide an average within a Block of no less than 30% (12 hours) of a 40 hour work week for self-directed learning for Year One students and 40% (16 hours) of a 40 hour work week for self-directed learning for Year Two students to pursue the following UNR Med Medical Education Program Objectives:

- 4 Personal and Professional Development: Demonstrate the qualities required to sustain lifelong personal and professional growth
- 6 Practice-Based Learning and Improvement: Demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate one's care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and life-long learning

This Decision should not misrepresent to students the idea that much of professional self-directed learning and development (Continuing Medical Education, licensure preparation, and Maintenance of Certification) is not job embedded and often takes place beyond the 40 hour work week. This Decision should only attest to UNR Med's commitment to institutionally valuing self-directed learning.

Medical Education Steering Committee Approval: 7/19/17

Signed:  Kevin C. Facemyer, Ph.D.; Chair, Medical Education Steering Committee