

# **UIC College of Medicine Graduation Competencies**

## **1. Basic and Clinical Science Knowledge Base**

The faculty of the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois believes that any statement of Graduation Competencies must include mastery of the body of knowledge that constitutes the basic and clinical sciences underpinning the practice of medicine. First and foremost, **the graduate must possess a thorough understanding of the scientific principles of basic and clinical sciences that will enable him/her to competently practice evidence-based medicine.**

## **2. Communications/ Biopsychosocial**

The competent graduate listens attentively, communicates clearly with colleagues, consultants, patients, and patients' families in a verbal and written manner so that accurate information is passed from person to person in order to establish an effective therapeutic relationship that contributes to coordinated, comprehensive care. This will ultimately result in effective, sensitive patient care.

## **3. Ethical Reasoning and Judgment**

The competent graduate approaches medicine with integrity and respect for human dignity, deals honestly with patients and members of the health care team, and seeks to promote these virtues in colleagues.

The competent graduate recognizes key ethical dilemmas and conflicts of interest in medical practice and can formulate, defend and carry out a course of action that takes into account the value systems of all patients, while maintaining personal integrity.

The graduate applies key legal concepts and is aware of professional requirements governing medical practice.

## **4. Life Long Learning**

The competent graduate actively sets clear learning goals, pursues them, and continuously integrates knowledge gained and applies it in order to improve medical care.

The competent graduate is able to assess his/her strengths and weaknesses in order to improve performance and identify effective ways to address limitations including seeking help and advice.

The graduate can access information effectively, critically appraise the usefulness of this information and utilize new technologies and scientific advances that are required for the continued enhancement of their medical practice.

## **5. Data Gathering / Problem Definition**

The competent graduate must be able to gather a medical history appropriate to the patient's medical concerns, perform a skillful examination, and formulate a differential diagnosis and problem list. As necessary, the graduate competently performs, orders and interprets diagnostic investigations that result in accurate diagnosis and treatment.

The competent graduate continues to utilize data to reason and solve problems and to retrieve information from multiple sources, including family and consultants, as well as electronic databases.

## **6. Management/ Clinical Decision Making**

The competent graduate must be able to manage the patient by combining knowledge of basic biomedical and clinical sciences with diagnostic and therapeutic techniques, medications, and use of healthcare resources, while considering cultural and socioeconomic factors as well as the patient's personality to help the patient attain and sustain an optimal health state.

The competent graduate appropriately utilizes and integrates the services of multidisciplinary health providers.

## **7. Health Maintenance/ Disease Prevention**

The competent graduate knows the determinants of poor health, disease-based risk factors, factors for disease prevention and healthy lifestyles (principles of preventive medicine), and the elements of health education and applies the principles of epidemiology and evidence-based medicine to evaluating risk factors and management strategies.

The competent graduate teaches patients and their families in order to prevent health problems and achieve the optimum standards of health care and disease prevention.

The graduate is able to evaluate and integrate community resources into the health maintenance of individual patients and their families.

## **8. Social and Community Contexts of Health Care**

The competent graduate understands and is sensitive to the influence of "culture" on health, taking into account the spiritual, ethnic, socioeconomic, psychological, familial, legal, and political factors that impact their patients. He/she is able to define health in terms of the community in which the patient lives (population-based medicine). The graduate can assess the effect of the physical environment on community health.

The graduate is nonjudgmental towards individual patients and provides care regardless of personal feelings about the patient.

The graduate understands the principles of health care delivery and can describe the organization of a health care delivery system in those terms.

The graduate can describe the principles, risks, and possible benefits of complementary medicine.

### **9. Professional Behavior (Personal, Family, Community)**

The competent graduate provides leadership in patient care, while respecting the views and interests of all members of the health care team, the patient and patient's family.

The graduate maintains and respects patient confidentiality, and is aware of the unique doctor/patient relationship.

The graduate knows and admits the limits of knowledge, can deal with uncertainty, and respects the opinions of others.

The graduate recognizes the need to learn is continuous.

The graduate balances personal and professional commitments to ensure that the patient's medical needs are always addressed.

The graduate recognizes conflicts of interest in financial and organizational arrangements for the practice of medicine.