Assessment System -- Narrative Assessment

Rationale

Narrative assessments reflect the student's performance at a personalized and individualized level, with resulting potential for student self-reflection and self-improvement.

The BSOM is committed to ensuring that medical students receive narrative feedback/assessment whenever feasible during all phases of the curriculum to promote a well-rounded view of the student’s achievement.

Scope

Brody School of Medicine students, faculty, course/clerkship directors, residents who participate in teaching and evaluating medical students, and other personnel working with these students in the School of Medicine.

Definitions

Narrative Assessment: An instructor's or observer's written subjective assessment of a learner's work or performance, including non-cognitive achievement.

Responsibilities

Office of Medical Education (OME): Work collaboratively with course/clerkship directors to ensure faculty and residents are trained on how to provide narrative feedback.

Office of Faculty Development (OFD): Work collaboratively with course/clerkship directors to ensure faculty and residents are trained on how to provide narrative feedback.

Executive Curriculum Committee (ECC) and its Subcommittee: To monitor the curriculum for opportunities that would allow narrative assessment and ensure narrative assessments are distributed throughout the courses and clerkships.
Procedures for Implementation and Review

1. **Foundational Curriculum**: Students in required courses with longitudinal individual or small group experiences, laboratory experiences, and clinical experiences with the same facilitator for six or more sessions must receive narrative assessment. Narrative assessments are encouraged but not required when teaching methodologies are appropriate but there are less than six sessions of contact (examples: simulation, history and physical gathering, etc.).

2. **Core Clerkship/Advance Clerkship Curriculum**: Required clinical clerkships must include formative narrative assessment at the mid-rotation feedback session, and summative narrative assessment of overall performance (considering competency in patient care, medical knowledge, professionalism, interpersonal and communication skills, systems-based practice, and practice-based learning and improvement) on the final grade form.

3. During the foundational curriculum students will receive narrative assessment that includes one or more of the following aspects:
   
   1. Application of foundational knowledge in case-based learning small group lessons
   2. Clinical skills, as observed during medical interviews, patient presentations, physical examinations and from medical documentation
   3. Teamwork skills, interpersonal communication and professionalism during laboratory and medical simulation sessions
   4. Use of evidence, fluency of written communication and critical thinking during required experiences

4. Narrative feedback must address both the student’s strengths and specific areas for improvement.

5. If a student raises a concern about the narrative feedback, the course and/or clerkship director must discuss the concern(s) with the student.

6. Course/clerkship directors will collaborate with the Office of Medical Education or the Office of Faculty Development to ensure faculty are trained to provide narrative feedback.

7. The Executive Curriculum Committee and its subcommittees monitor the curriculum for opportunities that would allow narrative assessment. They ensure narrative assessments are distributed throughout the courses and clerkships.
### Schedule for Review
The policy is reviewed and may be revised by the Executive Curriculum Committee as necessary, but at least every three – five years.

### Related Policies

### Applicable Laws, Regulations & Standards
- 9.0 Teaching, Supervision, Assessment, and Student and Patient Safety
- 9.5 Narrative Assessment