

LCME to Conduct Public Hearing on Changes to Accreditation Standards ED-11 and ED-15

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) will hold a hearing for public comment on proposed changes to accreditation standards ED-11 and ED-15 during the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 10, at 1:00 p.m. in Salon K of the Marriott Copley Place Hotel, 110 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts.

Written comments may be forwarded until December 31, 2009, to Barbara Barzansky, MD, MHPE, LCME Secretary, at the American Medical Association, 515 North State Street, Chicago, IL, 60654, or via e-mail to: lcme@aamc.org. Anonymous comments will not be considered. For further information, contact Dr. Barzansky at 312-464-4933.

Background and Rationale

The LCME regularly receives requests from various groups to add specific subject areas to its accreditation standards. Typically, these requests are denied, as the LCME does not wish to prescriptively dictate the content of the curriculum and to add requirements in a piecemeal fashion. However, with the explosion of knowledge, the LCME has recognized a need to provide a framework to assist schools in choosing what content to include in the curriculum. Instead of specifying preclinical and clinical disciplines, the LCME has chosen to amend standards ED-11 and ED-15 to focus on the desired purpose and outcome of the education.

That is, revised standard ED-11 expects schools to choose content from the biomedical sciences relevant to the "health of people." The annotation provides guidance as to what general subject areas could be included that are relevant to this desired outcome. Similarly, revised standard ED-15 focuses on choosing content related to specific competency areas, not on the disciplines per se. This change reflects the goal of increasing the integration of content across the educational continuum.

The proposed changes were approved by the LCME and its sponsoring associations, the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges. In Canada, these changes also were approved by the sponsoring organizations of the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Colleges (CACMS).

Following public comment, the LCME will take final action on these proposed revisions at its meeting scheduled for February 1-3, 2010.

Standard ED-11

Current Standard ED-11

[The curriculum] must include the contemporary content of those disciplines that have been traditionally titled anatomy, biochemistry, genetics, physiology, microbiology and immunology, pathology, pharmacology and therapeutics, and preventive medicine.

There is no current annotation to standard ED-11.

The LCME has approved the following revision and new annotation to replace the existing ED-11:

New Standard ED-11

The curriculum of the educational program must include content from the biomedical sciences that supports students' mastery of the contemporary scientific knowledge, concepts, and methods fundamental to acquiring and applying science to the health of people and to the contemporary practice of medicine.

New Annotation for ED-11

It is expected that the curriculum will be guided by clinically-relevant biomedical content from, among others, the disciplines that have been traditionally titled anatomy, biochemistry, genetics, immunology, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology, physiology, and public health sciences.

STANDARD ED-15

Current Standard ED-15

The curriculum should include clinical experiences in family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, and surgery.

Current Annotation for ED-15

Schools that do not require clinical experiences in one or another of these disciplines must ensure that their students possess the knowledge and clinical abilities to enter any field of graduate medical education.

New Standard ED-15

The curriculum of the educational program must prepare students to enter any field of graduate medical education and include content that will prepare students to recognize wellness, determinants of health, opportunities for health promotion, and symptoms and signs of disease; develop differential diagnoses and treatment plans; and assist patients in addressing health-related issues involving all organ systems and spanning the life cycle.

New Annotation for ED-15

It is expected that the curriculum will be guided by the contemporary content from and clinical experiences associated with, among others, the disciplines and related subspecialties that have traditionally been titled family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, public health, and surgery.