

## **COURSE FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK POLICY**

### **PURPOSE:**

To outline the rationale and requirement for providing formative assessment and feedback to medical students during pre-clerkship courses.

The policy relates directly to LCME ELEMENT 9.7, which states *“The medical school’s curricular governance committee ensures that each medical student is assessed and provided with formal formative feedback early enough during each required course or clerkship to allow sufficient time for remediation. Formal feedback occurs at least at the midpoint of the course or clerkship. A course or clerkship less than four weeks in length provides alternate means by which medical students can measure their progress in learning.”*

### **DEFINITION:**

Formative feedback is information communicated to a medical student in a timely manner that is intended to modify the student’s thinking or behavior in order to improve subsequent learning and performance in the medical curriculum.

### **POLICY:**

All courses in the pre-clerkship phase of the curriculum that are longer than 4 weeks in duration must provide students with formative feedback on their performance at least by the midpoint of the course for the purpose of providing the student with an opportunity to self-evaluate their performance, and, if necessary, take steps to improve.

The specific nature and format of the formative feedback is determined by the course director, and may include, but is not restricted to, the following:

- Sectional and mid-course exams
- Small group application exercises and problem-solving sets
- Small group discussions
- Large group discussions
- Laboratory sessions
- Case study discussion sessions
- Team-based learning sessions
- Practice questions
- Quizzes
- Question and Answer sessions
- USMLE-style question review sessions
- Preceptor-supervised history and physicals
- Clinical skills practice sessions
- Clinical skills assessments
- Standardized patient feedback opportunities
- Peer-to-peer feedback opportunities
- Face-to-face feedback sessions

**MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE:**

The CCA will monitor compliance with the formative feedback policy on an annual basis. Each individual course is required to indicate their continued compliance with the policy by documenting their use of formative feedback strategies on the annual course inventory forms at the completion of each academic year. Any request to change or modify the provision of a formative feedback by a course director must be fully justified and submitted on the annual inventory forms. Requests will be reviewed by the curricular year directors, who will forward such requests along with any recommendations to the CCA. The CCA will evaluate any request, together with the recommendations of the curricular year directors, then render a final binding decision.

<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Central Curricular Authority
<b>Date of approval:</b>	October 9, 2023
<b>Revised:</b>	N/A
<b>Review cycle:</b>	Three years