

CUSOM Medical Student Shadowing Policy

Clinical shadowing refers to an observational experience in which a student spends time following a physician in order to learn more about a specific specialty, residency program, clinical facility or in an effort to increase their experience and exposure to the practice of medicine.

Many students choose to engage in clinical shadowing experiences during breaks in their formal medical school curriculum such as during block breaks, summer break or weekends. Shadowing experiences can be extremely valuable and students may choose to include these experiences in their resume, personal statement or Dean's letter (Medical Student Performance Evaluation or MSPE). Shadowing experiences can occur with CUSOM-appointed clinical faculty members or physicians not affiliated with CUSOM.

It is essential that students choosing to engage in shadowing experiences understand the differences between shadowing and the clinical rotations students participate in as part of their medical school curriculum. Clinical rotations that occur in conjunction with the CUSOM clinical curriculum (Early Clinical Experiences, Outreach, International Medical Missions and OMS3 and OMS4 scheduled rotations) are done with clinically appointed CUSOM faculty and follow very specific guidelines in regards to student's roles, responsibilities, supervision requirements, and feedback and evaluation processes.

In contrast to clinical curriculum experiences, shadowing experiences do not occur as part of the student's required medical school curriculum, and may lack the defined structure, supervision, feedback mechanisms and medical-legal protections provided by formal clinical rotations.

General Guidelines for Shadowing

Students choosing to engage in a shadowing experience acknowledge they will do so while following the principles.

1. Shadowing experiences are meant to be observational only and if any hands-on activity occurs with patients, this should be patient examination only and MUST be repeated by the physician. To protect patients and students, students are **not to perform any invasive procedures while on shadowing experiences**, including but not limited to suturing, endotracheal intubation, performing arterial blood gas testing, or placing IV's, Foley catheters, or central lines or **exams such as pelvic, rectal and genitourinary**. Students should not perform any Osteopathic manipulation while on shadowing experiences.
2. **Students are not protected by malpractice insurance provided by Campbell University, Incorporated while engaged in physician shadowing experiences unless the experience is with a CUSOM appointed faculty member**. Students are required to let non-CUSOM appointed physicians they are shadowing know that they are not covered by malpractice insurance provided by Campbell University, Incorporated.



3. Students must follow all hospital system, facility, and/or ambulatory policies when engaging in any type of shadowing experience. Individual physicians you choose to shadow with may not be familiar with their facility or health care system policies so make sure that you review and comply with any applicable policies.
4. Individual physicians that you may be shadowing may not know your level of training and it is therefore the student's ethical and professional duty to fully explain their level of training.

Shadowing with CUSOM clinical faculty members

1. Shadowing experiences with CUSOM clinical faculty members may be counted as Early Clinical Experiences (ECE).
2. Students shadowing with CUSOM clinical faculty members should wear their CUSOM name badge and white coat (unless directed otherwise by their preceptor).
3. Students wishing to schedule a shadowing experience with a CUSOM clinical faculty member must **submit the Shadowing Agreement Form**, completed in its entirety.
4. In general, shadowing experiences should be arranged in conjunction with the preceptor and Regional Dean (where applicable), both of whom must sign the form to indicate their approval.
5. In addition, the student must sign the form and initial all required attestations.
6. The completed form must be submitted to the Office of Clinical Affairs for review and approval at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the requested shadowing experience.

Shadowing with non-CUSOM physicians

1. Students who desire to shadow with non-CUSOM physicians must arrange the experience on their own.
2. Shadowing experiences with non-CUSOM clinical faculty members **will not be counted as Early Clinical Experiences (ECE)**.
3. These are non-CUSOM sanctioned experiences thus:
 - a. CUSOM will not obtain affiliation agreements with the sites in order to provide shadowing experiences.
 - b. CUSOM will not provide the physician or site with any student records including, but not limited to, results of drug screens and background checks, immunization records, academic performance information or letters of recommendation.
 - c. Students **may not wear their CUSOM white coat or name tag**.
 - d. Students are **not protected by malpractice insurance**.



- e. Students acknowledge that Campbell University will not be liable for any medical coverage if they are to be injured or become ill during the clinical shadowing experience. They also release Campbell University from any liability from any injury or illness that occurs on the shadowing experience.
- 4. **Even if engaging in shadowing experiences with non-CUSOM faculty or clinical sites, students should abide by all general guidelines noted previously in this document.**

Violation of any conditions of these Shadowing Guidelines will be handled as a professionalism issue and may be referred to the APPS committee.