1) General Policy Statement

The LCME states: A medical school ensures that a narrative description of a medical student’s performance, including his or her non-cognitive achievement, is included as a component of the assessment in each required course and clerkship of the medical education program whenever teacher-student interaction permits this form of assessment.

Course Directors are therefore required to provide narrative assessment of each student for all courses that have learner-educator interactions that permit direct observation of the learner’s behaviors. This includes all courses utilizing small group and laboratory sessions where the director or facilitator is present for two or more sessions with the same students. All core clerkships must provide narrative assessment of each student. Narrative assessments should cover topics such as behavior, interpersonal skills, professionalism, initiative, dependability and interactions with patients, peers, members of other professions, and supervisors.

2) Responsible Department/Party/Parties:

   i. Policy Owner: Office of Academic Affairs

   ii. Supervision: Academic Affairs and Curriculum Committee

3) Definitions

Definition of Narrative Assessment: Written comments from faculty that assess student performance and achievement in meeting the objectives of a course or clerkship. (Element 9.5)

4) Implementation of the policy: Compliance with the Policy will be assured by:

   • Determination of which courses must provide Narrative Feedback
   • Compliance reviews at the end of each of these courses

5) Distribution of the policy: The policy will be posted with other academic policies.