

Title: UWSOM Accreditation Updates: Progress on Citations & Student Focus Groups

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) is the national agency that accredits all MD programs in the U.S., ensuring our medical education program meets rigorous quality standards. In each 8-year accreditation cycle, the LCME issues ‘citations’ on areas for improvement and requires the school to submit status report demonstrating improvement in student experiences and programmatic enhancements. The LCME’s decisions on those reports inform the school of areas of sustained excellence and ongoing need for continuous quality improvement (CQI) efforts.

We’re pleased to share the most recent LCME’s determinations on three areas of outstanding citations:

Element	LCME Decision
Element 3.2 Community of Scholars/Research Opportunities	Satisfactory
Element 5.11 Study/Lounge/Storage Space/Call Rooms	Satisfactory
Element 12.4 Student Access to Health Care Services	Satisfactory with a Need for Monitoring

The “satisfactory” ratings for 3.2 and 5.11 provide evidence of the positive impact of the school’s improvement efforts. At the same time, the “monitoring” status for 12.4 points to additional work the school is required to implement for improving students’ access healthcare during clerkships.

Below, we illustrate LCME expectations for each element, our improvement efforts based on student feedback, and the impact of the work.

YOU SPOKE | WE LISTENED

Element 3.2 Community of Scholars/Research Opportunities

What LCME expects: An environment that fosters intellectual inquiry and provides sufficient opportunities, encouragement, and support for student participation in research and scholarly activities.

- **Improvements Made:**
 - **New pathways & partnerships:** Launched the Clinical & Translational Research (CTR) Pathway, piloted a RUOP/SoD hybrid, and expanded NIH-funded MedStAR placements.
 - **Remote/hybrid expansion:** Increased remote project options from 48 to 85 and provided moving stipends for out-of-state summer projects.
 - **Communication & resources:** Weekly Zoom office hours (attended by ~40 students), redesigned searchable research database with specialty, location, and remote filters, and a consolidated Triple I online hub

- **Impact:** 91% (Spring 2024) and 90% (October 2024) of students agree they have access to research opportunities.

Element 5. 11 Study/Lounge/Storage Space/Call Rooms

What LCME expects: Adequate study space, lounge areas, personal storage facilities, and secure call rooms for medical students at each campus and clinical site. You asked for clearer info on where and how to use our spaces.

- **Improvement Made:** Enhanced communication on the available spaces and how to use them
 - **Seattle campus:** Communicated the list of study/relaxation spaces in the new Health Sciences Education Building, main Health Sciences Building, and South Campus Center; opened the renovated ECourt Café as a study/lounge area
 - **Gonzaga:** New Spokane Inland Empire Railroad (SIERR) study rooms; couches in the student lounge; the prayer & meditation room refurbished; orientation tours of all campus and library spaces.
 - **Wyoming:** Reserved study offices on 2nd & 4th floors; movable whiteboards and partitions; orientation tours provided
 - **Alaska:** Added a 195 sq ft WWAMI-only study hall; orientation scavenger hunt to locate library and Student Union spaces.
 - **Montana:** 24/7 access to the WWAMI suite; partnership with Bozeman Health for additional conference rooms; clear signage for shared spaces.
 - **Idaho:** Sound-proofing upgrades in WWAMI building; regular communication about spaces and space tours.
- **Impact:** 87% of MS1 and 89% of MS2 agree they have adequate study and relaxation spaces in both Spring and Fall surveys.

Element 12.4 Access to Health Care Services

What LCME expects: Access to needed diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic health services at locations reasonable to educational experiences, with policies permitting excused absences for care.

- **Improvements Made:**
 - **Policies:** Reinforced the Attendance & Absentee Policy (up to two excused days per clerkship) and the Policy on Student Access to Anticipated Healthcare, in partnership with Student Committee on Healthcare Access.
 - **Healthcare Access website:** Updated with in-region Assistant Clinical Dean contacts for in-person care and detailed telehealth options via the Husky Health program; linked policies on securing time off for appointments.
<https://education.uwmedicine.org/student-affairs/health-insurance/>
 - **Wellness days:** Built two “wellness half-days” into each of two integration weeks in clinical phases for appointments without grade impact.

- **Data monitoring:** Added an End-of-Clerkship survey item to track excused time requests; reviewed two survey results. 61% of MS3 and 73% of MS4 agree that they can access personal health care services during the clerkship phase of the medical education program.
- **Ongoing work:** UWSOM leadership is working with the UW to offer students a health insurance option that will work across the WWAMI region, details coming soon.

NEXT STEPS

In addition to enhancing access to health care during clerkships (12.4), we want to partner with you by examining more deeply the themes raised in the Independent Student Analysis (ISA) report. We're convening nine focus group sessions, co-facilitated by students with faculty and staff, ensuring your voice guides our CQI work.

Your voice is crucial—thank you for helping us build a stronger, more responsive learning environment! Every student that participates will receive a \$25 Tango gift card. Please note, if you are a student employee, we will need to select an equal value prize from Amazon instead.

Questions? Email us at eqi@uw.edu