Veteran's Administration Clerkships On-Boarding FAQs

1. Does this apply to all VA sites or just the VA in Seattle?

   A: This is a national policy for the VA and includes all VA sites across the country.

2. Why is this VA policy in place?

   A: It is not clear why the VA at the national level is requiring schools to verify this information. However, students have always had to self-disclose this information in the on-boarding paperwork that is completed before doing a rotation at a VA. The new policy is that Schools now must provide this information before a student begins the on-boarding process.

3. If we reply no to releasing our information, will there be any consequences?

   A: You will not be able to do any rotations at a VA facility. This may reduce the number of clerkships available to you.

4. Do you know what the purpose of the gender/country of citizenship question is?

   A: We do not know what the purpose of asking the School to provide the information is since students will be asked to share this information while completing their on-boarding paperwork.

5. Does this align with the mission and values of this School?

   A: The clinical experience students receive during rotations at a VA facility does align with the mission and values of the School. The request to share gender and country of citizenship do not. The School has been working with the Assistant Attorney General for the UWSOM and the national VA to find a way for UWSOM to not be required to share this information in advance. Unfortunately, we have not been successful yet. We will continue to work with the national VA to find a way to resolve this issue.

6. Will there be consequences in terms of professionalism for students who decline?

   A: There will be no consequences regarding professionalism. However, you will not be allowed to do rotations at a VA facility.

7. Is this discrimination or illegal?

   A: The VA follows federal laws and there is no legal reason why the VA can't ask these questions.

   The VA has not declined any student the ability to complete a rotation based on the information provided by a student.