

Geisel School of Medicine Core Competencies

Approved by the Medical Education Committee (MEC): March 18, 2026

Medical Knowledge

Applies and integrates foundational knowledge to improve health care for patients and populations.

1	Demonstrates knowledge of basic, clinical, pathophysiologic, social, and health systems sciences, as well as humanities, needed for clinical practice.
2	Applies foundational knowledge for clinical problem-solving, diagnostic reasoning, and decision-making to clinical scenarios.
3	Discerns the accuracy of information and relevance to clinical problems.
4	Demonstrates knowledge of research design, interpretation, and application to clinical questions.
5	Accesses knowledge relevant to clinical problems using appropriate resources including emerging technologies.
6	Recognize and manage uncertainty in medicine.
7	Contribute to scholarship through the discovery or synthesis of medical knowledge and its communication to peers or the larger community.

Patient Care and Procedural Skills

Demonstrates compassionate, effective, holistic, evidence-informed, and equitable patient-centered care.

1	Integrates patient and caregiver context, needs, values, preferences, and experiences into patient care.
2	Gathers relevant patient histories from multiple data sources, as necessary.
3	Performs relevant physical examinations using appropriate techniques and tools.
4	Identifies patients in need of urgent or emergent care, seeks assistance, and recommends initial evaluation and management.
5	Synthesizes relevant patient data into a concise clinical assessment including a prioritized differential diagnosis.
6	Proposes hypothesis-driven diagnostic testing and interprets results.
7	Formulates therapeutic management plans for commonly encountered clinical conditions.
8	Uses patient-centered language to describe common diagnostic and therapeutic interventions and plans.
9	Demonstrates basic procedural techniques.
10	Incorporates health promotion and disease prevention into patient care plans.
11	Identifies individual and structural factors that impact health and wellness.
12	Develops individualized patient-centered care plans aligned with chronic disease management, palliation, and preparation for end of life.



Practice Based Learning and Improvement

Integrates feedback, evidence, and reflection to adapt behavior, foster improvement, and cultivate life-long learning.

1	Actively seeks and incorporates feedback and assessment data to improve performance.
2	Identifies opportunities for growth in one's own performance through informed self-assessment and reflective practice.
3	Develops, implements, and reassesses learning and improvement goals.
4	Locates, critically appraises, and synthesizes information to support evidence-informed, patient-centered clinical decisions.
5	Demonstrates inquiry by framing discrete questions to guide self-directed learning and knowledge growth.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Effectively communicates and interacts with patients, caregivers, and the health care team to contribute to high-quality patient-centered care.

1	Collaborates with patients, caregivers, and team members to enhance the therapeutic relationship.
2	Collaborates with health care and administrative team members to enhance team and organizational function.
3	Demonstrates active listening.
4	Communicates clearly, accurately, and compassionately in verbal, non-verbal, written, and electronic formats.
5	Demonstrates skills to educate patients, caregivers, peers, and team members.
6	Formulates and shares feedback constructively with others.

Systems Based Practice

Applies knowledge of the larger context of health, including its social and structural determinants, and of systems and resources within and outside of health care, to optimize high- quality care for patients, communities, and populations.

1	Applies knowledge of social and structural drivers of health.
2	Recognizes mechanisms to reduce disparities and advance health equity in patient care and health care systems.
3	Adapts performance to various health care teams, delivery settings, and systems.
4	Collaborates in transitions and coordination of patient care.
5	Evaluates the risks and benefits of healthcare interventions, including but not limited to the use of current and emerging technologies in patient care.
6	Analyzes patient safety concerns, systems issues, and opportunities for quality improvement.
7	Describes health policy and the financial context of health care.
8	Applies knowledge of local population and community health needs, disparities, and resources.
9	Identify the distinguishing characteristics and patterns of health care delivered in different regions including potential causes and consequences of the observed variations.

Professionalism

Demonstrates integrity, respect, and ethical reasoning, and promotes inclusion of differences in all interactions to improve health care for patients, communities, and populations.

1	Demonstrates respect and compassion for patients, caregivers, families, and team members.
2	Safeguards patient privacy, confidentiality, and autonomy.
3	Uses ethical principles and reasoning to guide behavior.
4	Adapts actions and communication according to the situation.
5	Demonstrates accountability for professional responsibilities including acknowledging mistakes and taking corrective action to address them.
6	Identifies personal limits of knowledge and skills and seeks help appropriately.
7	Identifies personal biases and strategies to mitigate their effects.
8	Demonstrates humility and a willingness to learn from others with different backgrounds and experiences.
9	Recognizes and addresses personal well-being needs that may impact professional performance.
10	Completes duties and tasks in a thorough, reliable, and timely manner.

The authority to approve the Geisel School of Medicine's competency framework lies with the Medical Education Committee.

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