

UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Family Medicine

CLERKSHIP DUTY HOURS GUIDELINE

The goals of medical students and the faculty of the School of Medicine are one and the same: To get the best medical education possible while not ignoring overall health and happiness. Attention needs to be paid to both duty/work hours and personal time.

Work hour rules have been developed for residents, but similar rules have not previously been developed for medical students. There are obvious differences in terms of goals, reimbursement, and responsibilities between residents and students. Nonetheless, the following guidelines for students were developed by the Required Clerkship Committee in May/June 2005.

Clerkship WITH Call:

1. No more than 80 hours of awake time in the hospital or clinic per week.
2. Post-call, if you did not sleep, go home at the same time as the intern or resident, within 30 hours of starting the prior day.
3. Post-call, if you slept at least 5 hours, you should stay through the working day.
4. You should have at least one full day off per week, averaged over a month.
5. No matter how many hours you have been on duty, always check out with the team before leaving for the day.

Clerkship WITHOUT Call:

1. No more than 80 hours of awake time in the hospital or clinic per week.
2. Parking and transportation issues may demand you leave the hospital by a certain time (i.e. shuttle service or security escort service availability).
3. Feel free to come in early or stay late. Family and personal obligations are important and need to be balanced.
4. You should have at least one full day off per week, averaged over a month.
5. No matter how many hours you have been on duty, always check out with the team before leaving for the day.