

Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine
Student Handbook 2021-2022
Supervised Patient Care

Medical students will be required to participate in patient care activities throughout the course of the curriculum. Supervised patient care activities will be described in individual course syllabi and will occur at a number of different locations where patient care is provided. The College will determine the learning objectives of each activity and assure that objectives can be reasonably achieved at the assigned venue. The clinical site and supervising faculty, however, retain the authority to stipulate the degree of student involvement in patient care activities. Students must comply with all of the general and specific rules established for health care delivery by the hospital, clinic or facility at which they are being trained.

A medical student is not legally or ethically permitted to practice medicine or assume responsibility for patient care. A student may be involved in assisting in the care of a patient, but only under the supervision of a licensed health care provider. The attending provider is responsible for the medical care of the patient. A student may not administer therapy or perform procedures, except under the supervision of a licensed provider (preceptor) working within the recognized scope of their training. Depending on the nature of the service being provided, the preceptor will ascertain the student's competence and degree of participation. The preceptor or qualified designee shall always be immediately available to the student when patient care is being provided. Patient interview (history taking) and physical examination may be performed without the preceptor in the room if the student is so directed. Students must have a chaperone in the room for sensitive examinations, treatments or procedures involving breasts, genitalia and rectum. These exams should employ appropriate disrobing and draping procedures that respect the patient's privacy. Such examinations shall only be performed with the knowledge and consent of the supervising physician and permission of the patient. It is also recommended that chaperones are present whenever the student is uncomfortable with a patient's behavior in conjunction with performing a sensitive examination. A clear explanation of the nature of any examination or treatment must be given to the patient.