

## DUTY HOURS POLICY

The Duty Hours Policy for NSU MD students while on clinical rotations outlines expectations for student participation in clinical activities while acknowledging the need to balance time for learning, study, and personal wellness.

### **Maximum Hours of Clinical and Educational Work per Week:**

Clinical and educational work hours for medical students must be limited to no more than 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period, and students must have one day off free of clinical work and required education in seven.

### **Mandatory Time Free of Clinical Work and Education:**

- Medical Students should have eight hours off between scheduled clinical work and education periods. There may be circumstances when students choose to stay to care for their patients or return to the hospital with fewer than eight hours free of clinical experience and education. This must occur within the context of the 80-hour and the one-day-off-in-seven requirements.
- Medical students must have at least 14 hours free of clinical work and education after 24 hours of in-house call.

### **Maximum Clinical Work and Education Period Length:**

- Clinical and educational work periods for medical students must not exceed 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical assignments.
- Up to four hours of additional time may be used for activities related to patient safety, such as providing effective transitions of care, and/or student education.
- Additional patient care responsibilities must not be assigned to a medical student during this time.

### **Clinical and Educational Work Hour Exceptions:**

In rare circumstances, after handing off all other responsibilities, a medical student, on their own initiative, may elect to remain or return to the clinical site in the following circumstances:

- continue to provide care to a single severely ill or unstable patient
- humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family
- attend unique educational events.

These additional hours of care or education will be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit.

### **Reporting Violations of the Duty Hours Policy:**

If a student encounters a violation of the Duty Hours Policy, the student may report it to his/her attending, the clerkship director, the Director of Clinical Sciences and the Clerkship Curriculum, the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs or with another NSU MD faculty or staff member. If a student prefers to report anonymously, he/she can file a report using the system provided on the NSU MD website.