



# Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Course Title: Elective in Health Policy Formation and Implementation**

**Instructor of Record: Jody Gerome, DO**

**Preceptors: Matt Harney and Jennifer Gwilym, DO**

**Credit Hours: 4, 6 or 8 credit hours**

**Rotation Length: 2, 3 or 4 Weeks**

**Prerequisites: Successful completion of Primary Care Clerkship**

## **Syllabus Components**

1. Rotation Description, Purpose and Philosophy
2. Rotation Objectives
3. Orientation to Rotation
4. Required Activities and Assignments
5. Student Performance Evaluation
6. Recommended Resources
7. Standards of Professional Conduct
8. Tips for Successfully Completing the Rotation

### **1. Rotation Description, Purpose and Philosophy.**

This two to four-week rotation introduces medical students to the state legislative process, state health policy development and implementation, and the role of physicians in developing and shaping health policy. Students will spend time with the OOA Executive Director and attend coalition strategy meetings, legislative committees that deal with healthcare issues, shadow a legislator who is a member of the House or Senate Health Committee, and assist the Ohio Osteopathic Association in researching current topics, drafting policy statements and assisting with legislative and agency briefings.

### **2. Rotation Objectives: Knowledge Domain**

The following objectives are intended to guide the student through the learning process and serve as a baseline for assessing the student's knowledge.

1. Understand the role of the Ohio Revised Code and state agency rules in the regulation of medical practice in Ohio;
2. Understand the role of state departments, policy organizations and advocacy groups in shaping health policy and implementing laws;
3. Understand the process the Ohio Legislative Services Commission uses to take a health care regulatory concept to initial legislation for introduction by a legislative sponsor;

4. Understand the steps involved in the law making process by following legislation through hearings in various House and/or Senate Committees, approval by the House and/or Senate, and eventual signing by the Governor; and,
5. Understand the agency rule making process required to implement enforcement of the law as enacted by the Ohio General Assembly.

**Rotation Objectives: Skills Domain**

Please identify up to five objectives to focus on during this rotation. The student and preceptor should agree that this would be the most beneficial focus for this student’s health policy experience.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

During this rotation, the student is expected to enhance competencies in the following skills:

1. How to read existing laws and proposed legislation.
2. How to research health policy issues and draft policy statements
3. How to effectively communicate the impact that proposed laws and rules will have on health care providers to legislators and state agency officials; and
4. How to testify before legislative committees and agency hearing officers to support, oppose, or propose amendments to proposed rules and regulations.

**Orientation to the Rotation**

The student should meet with the OOA Health Policy Committee Chair and OOA Executive Director prior to the rotation to discuss:

1. Student responsibilities during the rotation;
2. Preceptor expectations during the rotation and the names of legislators and/or agency representatives who will be working with the student;
3. Goals, objectives, and the structure of the rotation.
4. Current draft legislation and/or rules that the student will be following; and
5. Experiences and personal objectives for this rotation.

**3. Required Learning Activities, Assignments and Responsibilities**

In order to earn academic credit for this rotation, the following activities must be completed successfully:

- a. Fulfill all required responsibilities identified by the preceptor during the orientation;
- b. Attend and participate in any assigned shadowing assignments with state legislators and/or agency officials; and
- c. At the end of the rotation:
  - 1) Submit the online Student Evaluation through E\*Value

- 2) Submit via E\*Value a 1 -2 page summary paper specifically describing how the student met the established objectives as stated in this syllabus; and
- 3) Ensure that your written evaluation is completed and submitted via E\*Value.

#### **4. Student Performance:**

A student's grade for this rotation will be based on completion of all assignments and the following criteria:

##### **The Preceptor's Written Evaluation**

A student must receive a passing grade, using the Academic Medicine elective rotation evaluation form, from the preceptor in order to pass the rotation. If the preceptor considers the student's progress to be Needs Improvement, the Assistant Dean will, in consultation with the preceptor, recommend an appropriate remediation plan to the Committee on Student Progress. If the preceptor grades the student progress as Failure, the student will be given a grade of "F" for the rotation and will be referred to the Committee on Student Progress (CSP).

##### **Acceptance of Summary**

The Assistant Dean must determine that the one to two page summary of how the student met the objectives is acceptable. The student must submit his/her personal schedule for the weeks on rotation as documentation of rotation activities.

#### **5. Recommended Resources**

- a. Guidebook for Ohio Legislators <http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/guidebook/guidebook09.pdf>
- b. Ohio Osteopathic Association Web Site  
[http://associationdatabase.com/aws/OOSA/pt/sp/Home\\_Page](http://associationdatabase.com/aws/OOSA/pt/sp/Home_Page)
- c. Health Policy Institute of Ohio Web Site <http://www.healthpolicyohio.org/>
- d. Ohio Lobbying Association Web Site <http://ohiolobby.org/>
- e. Gongwer News Service (obtain daily copy by e-mail from the OOA)

#### **6. Standards of Professional Conduct**

The OU-HCOM Honor Code applies to all activities in Clinical Education. "As a member of the medical profession, I will maintain the highest standards of academic and personal behavior. As a medical student I will not cheat or plagiarize or tolerate that behavior in others." OU- HCOM Honor Code Professional standards required of a member of the Osteopathic profession are a requirement for passing this rotation, as is compliance with the professional standards of the hospital and outpatient offices of the student's preceptor. Students are expected to maintain high professional standards of behaviors. They should exhibit such personal characteristics as honesty and integrity, as well as to maintain patient confidentiality at all times. Violation may result in a failing grade in this rotation, regardless of other academic performance on this rotation, and could subject the student to dismissal from the hospital in which they are based. Such professional conduct shall be evaluated by the Assistant Dean through observation of and interaction with the student, his/her preceptor, other hospital attending physicians and staff.

#### **8. Tips for Successfully Completing the Rotation**

Being successful on this rotation requires you to be a proactive student. Taking an interest in the subject and becoming an ambassador for the profession in public forums is critical. Remember, the policy making environment differs from the classroom. You will be "thinking on your feet" and "learning as you go." In addition, be sure to:

- Review the syllabus to ensure that you understand all requirements.

- Discuss with your preceptor your previous health policy experiences and interest along with personal goals and objectives for this rotation. The rotation orientation is an opportune time to initiate this discussion and to develop positive rapport with your preceptor.
- Clarify your preceptor's expectations of your performance.
- Come prepared to take advantage of the opportunities this rotation has to offer.

***If you have any questions, contact your Academic Program Administrator or Assistant Dean.***