



Policies and Procedures

Subject: Resident Involvement in Scholarly Activities: Teaching, Leadership, Research, and Health Advocacy	
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The CanMEDS framework and the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) encourage residents to participate in scholarly activities including teaching, leadership, research, and health advocacy to effectively meet the health care needs of the people they serve.

The CFPC accreditation standards require that family medicine programs have an educational environment which supports and promotes residents learning in an atmosphere of scholarly inquiry including protected time. How each site chooses to meet this competency will vary, but some guidelines are provided below. There should be a minimum of 40 hours per year of protected time for scholarly activities with each site providing specific parameters around this time, based on site clinical and curricular structure.

Teaching:

Residents are encouraged to teach. For residents wishing to teach medical students, it is ideally done under the supervision of their preceptors. However, there may be opportunities where residents wish to teach or tutor with distant supervision (i.e. tutorials, clinical skills, PIERS sessions, etc.). As per the Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) and Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME) policies, residents cannot be the primary assessors of medical students. Any teaching/tutorial sessions requiring assessment should be done under the supervision of a preceptor.

For residents interested in further developing their teaching skills, there are two elective experiences available:

- Dalhousie Family Medicine Longitudinal Education Elective. This is offered to PGY2/3 residents. Information is circulated in the spring. Please contact Dr Kathleen Horrey if you would like more details Kathleen.Horrey@Dal.Ca
- Faculty of Medicine Medical Education Elective for Residents offered in block 9 (timing may vary):
<https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/core-units/cpd/research/ResearchEducationandTrainingOpportunities.html>



Leadership:

For residents interested in leadership, there is a Dalhousie Postgraduate Medicine Education Leadership Elective offered in Block 4 (timing may vary). Contact jenny.acuna@dal.ca for more details.

Representatives of Maritime Resident Doctors are entitled to participate on boards, committees and liaison positions for organizations/associations that have an impact on Resident education, well-being, advocacy, and clinical duties as per the resident collective agreement. Entitlement to participation will be subject to the ability of the representative to meet pedagogical requirements, as determined by the Resident's Program Director, but permission will not be unreasonably withheld. The guidelines below would still apply.

For other residents wishing to engage in leadership, opportunities and time missed must be approved by the resident's site director. Resident participation in accreditation surveys and residency selection processes is encouraged.

In addition to the 40 protected hours outlined above in paragraph 2, residents in the Associate Chief roles will be provided with 4 hours of protected time per block (or averaging 1 hour per week at a longitudinal site) to perform the duties associated with their position. The resident who is an Associate Chief and the Family Medicine Program Chief will be provided with a total of 8 hours of protected time per block (or averaging 2 hours per week at a longitudinal site).

Resident Project and Quality Improvement:

Every resident is expected to complete a scholarly project. As per the Dalhousie Family Medicine Resident Project Guide, residents should expect to commit approximately 40 hours of work to their resident project over two years. Every resident will also be expected to complete a smaller Quality Improvement project. The 40 hours of protected time for scholarly activities outlined above in paragraph 2, can be used for resident project or QI project work. However, residents may choose to do project or QI work on their own time, outside of protected hours, if they prefer to do other scholarly activities during protected time.

Residents interested specifically in research projects are encouraged to reach out to the Dalhousie Family Medicine Research Director to discuss ideas, options and supports.

Advocacy:

Requests to have health related advocacy work included in the training program will be considered on an individual basis. Interested residents should submit their detailed request in writing to their Site Director.



Guidelines for Scholarly Activities:

If the resident's preceptor brings them along to scholarly activities, that would be considered part of the clinical learning experience with that preceptor.

Below is a guide to help identify appropriate situations under which residents can participate in scholarly activity in the absence of a preceptor:

1. The resident should be in good standing academically.
2. The resident should give their preceptor as much notice as possible for time that will be missed.
3. The resident must have written permission in advance from their preceptor/clinical experience.
4. The resident must notify the site administrator/site director.
5. The time spent should minimally interfere with clinical duties, on call responsibilities or academic teaching sessions. The total time spent away from a clinical learning experience must not exceed 30% as per the Minimal Attendance Policy.
6. Residents who spend time on these activities outside of regular clinical hours will not be excused from clinical experiences in lieu.

If a resident feels they require additional time for scholarly activities beyond what the site provides, a request outlining the need, plan, and additional time requested should be submitted in writing to the Site Administrator/Site Director for discussion. If there isn't agreement, this should be addressed at the site level first. If the resident feels that a request for additional time for scholarly activities has been inappropriately declined, the resident can appeal to the Resident Program Committee Executive (RPCE) in writing. The decision of the RPCE will be final.