Washington University School of Medicine Narrative Assessment Policy

—This policy applies to Gateway Curriculum students.—

Background

Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM) is committed to providing the highest quality medical education to our students who are preparing to lead the future of health and medicine. Narrative assessment provides students with the critical guidance needed to improve performance. Acknowledging the importance of narrative assessment, the LCME element 9.5 requires that students receive narrative feedback on competency development, including non-cognitive achievement. The purpose of narrative assessment is to ensure that students are provided feedback on their development and progress, with sufficient time to receive support in bringing their performance onto a better trajectory, when necessary.

Policies

Narrative assessment is a required component of the assessment of each student in the Gateway Curriculum at WUSM across all competency domains.

Narrative assessments of a medical student's performance will be provided when all of the following curricular conditions are met:

• Students work in small groups of less than or equal to 12 members.
• Small groups of the same composition are observed longitudinally by the same faculty member for at least three sessions, with a ratio of one faculty member to one student team.

Narrative assessment can be provided in courses that do not meet these criteria, provided there is documentation that the nature of the interaction allows for meaningful feedback regarding the indicated competencies.

The Washington University School of Medicine Narrative Assessment Policy was last approved by the Committee on the Oversight of Medical Education governing body on Oct. 4, 2021. All substantive edits to this policy require approval by the Committee on the Oversight of Medical Education governing body.