

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES FOR THE
UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

Theme 1 - Scientific Foundations of Clinical Practice

Physicians must acquire a core body of basic science knowledge. This core body of knowledge provides a foundation for practicing medicine and integrating future knowledge. Physicians must be able to use and apply this core body of knowledge to the identification, evaluation, and treatment of disease and the promotion of health.

Theme 2 - Professionalism

Physicians must be dedicated to compassionate and empathetic care for their patients and be committed to conducting their professional activities with fairness and integrity.

They must consistently exhibit professional attitudes and behaviors in daily medical practice and their life in the community. As professionals, physicians should achieve the highest level of competence personally possible by obtaining the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors needed to care for patients and understand that learning is a lifelong process.

Theme 3 - Problem Solving and Clinical Decision Making

Physicians must be able to address a patient's clinical history effectively and efficiently. They must be able to develop a differential diagnosis and management plan.

Theme 4 - Information Management and Critical Thinking

Physicians must effectively use a variety of information gathering and inferential tools for diagnosis, treatment, and clinical research. Physicians should have an understanding of probability, biostatistics, formal decision analysis, epidemiology, research design, informatics, bioethics, health policy, and health law, which are often useful in developing rational, effective therapies for groups and individual patients.

Theme 5 - Communication

Physicians must be excellent listeners and have good written and spoken communication skills. A physician's ability to communicate with patients, families, caregivers, and colleagues and staff in a way that conveys sensitivity, compassion, and concern is one of the most important aspects of mastering the "art of medicine." Effective communication allows physicians to work within a group, collaborate with others to accomplish specific goals, and is central to their role as teachers.

Theme 6 - Clinical Skills

Physicians must be able to perform a large set of basic clinical skills. They must be able to interview and examine patients and use diagnostic tools appropriately. Physicians must be able to perform a core set of therapeutic procedures.

Theme 7 – Economics of Medicine and Healthcare Delivery Systems

Physicians must understand the business aspects of medical practice in order to effectively meet the practice challenges of a changing healthcare environment. They must understand healthcare as a system, how it is financed and how resources are managed. Physicians must be sensitive to the problems of at-risk and underserved populations and maintain a commitment to advocate for patient centered healthcare reform.

Theme 8 - Social, Cultural, and Community Contexts of Health

Physicians must be exquisitely sensitive to human differences and strive to make themselves aware of the key aspects of age related, gender, ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic and other social and community factors that shape patients' perceptions of health and disease and the doctor-patient relationship. Physicians must be aware of the health needs and resources within their community.