Career Advising Policy

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to outline the options and expectations for academic and career advising at JCESOM.

Definition: From the LCME Structures and Functions of a Medical School the following standard has been provided:

Standard 11: A medical school provides effective academic support and career advising to all medical students to assist them in achieving their career goals and the school’s medical education program objectives. All medical students have the same rights and receive comparable services.

Element 11.2: A medical school has an effective career advising system in place that integrates the efforts of faculty members, clerkship directors, and student affairs staff to assist medical students in choosing elective courses, evaluating career options, and applying to residency programs.

Background:

All students have both required and optional opportunities to seek advice. Having access to faculty and staff at JCESOM is an important resource for students and provides them with guidance and mentorship during their medical school career. Advising starts on the first day of medical school and continues until graduation. There are multiple different advising structures designed to support students’ individual needs at various stages of medical training. These include:

- Pre-Clinical Mentors
- Learning Communities House Advisors
- Career Advisory Deans and Selected Faculty
- Career Advisory Support Personnel in the OSA

A pre-clinical mentor is assigned during the first year as a mentor to provide their first exposure to the clinical setting. Additionally, the students are divided into Learning Communities at the start of their first year and will remain with their Learning Community for the duration of medical school. Students are matched with Career Advisory Deans in their field of interest as they progress through the curriculum and begin to identify their specialty choice. The staff within the Office of Student Affairs are an additional source of information and are invaluable advisors for students as they navigate medical training.

Policy: Through regular meetings with Learning Community House Advisors and Career Advisory Deans students are able to explore academic and career interests under the guidance of faculty. The student is required to attend one-on-one meetings with their Career Advisors at least once per semester, and may meet more often as they prepare residency applications during the final year.
Career Advising Program

- **Fall MS1**
  - Learning Communities Fall Event
  - Acclimate to Learning Communities
  - Provide guidance for adjustment to medical school
  - Promote use of Careers in Medicine (CIM)

- **Spring MS1**
  - Meet with Learning Communities House Advisor
  - Adjusting to medical school and current concerns
  - Review CIM Medical Specialty Performance Inventory (MPSI)
  - MS1 Checklist

- **Fall MS2**
  - Meet with Learning Communities House Advisor
  - Review CIM Physician Values Practice Scale (PVIPS)
  - Discuss possible specialty interests
  - Interest Group introduction and attendance

- **Spring MS2**
  - Meet with Learning Communities House Advisor
  - Discuss student prep for STEP1 and academic progress
  - Refresh CIM Resources and updates on specialty choice
  - Clinical Expectations for 3rd year

- **Survey Monkey to Assess Specialty Preference for Placement with Career Advisory Deans**

- **Fall MS3**
  - Meet with Career Advisory Dean
  - Adjustment to Clinical Curriculum
  - Specialty choice and review scoring data for specialties
  - Texas Star & if applicable, CIM Specialty Indecision Scale (SIS)

  **Rising 4th yr meeting, specialty choice re-assessed for need for new Career Advisory Dean/Subspecialist**

- **Spring MS3**
  - Meet with Career Advisory Dean or Selected Subspecialist
  - Conduct reality check as to specialty choice with STEP1 data
  - Discuss 4th year and interviewing balance
  - Plans for LoR

- **Jul-Sept MS4**
  - Meet with Career Advisory Dean or Selected Subspecialist
  - Review Personal Statement and Application
  - Residency interviewing skills
  - Discuss risk for not matching

- **Winter MS4 (optional)**
  - Meet with Career Advisory Dean or Selected Subspecialist
  - Discuss how interviews went and ranking programs
  - Transition to residency
  - Anything student may need
Additional Advising Resources:

AMMC Careers in Medicine:  www.aamc.org/cim

AMA:  Coaching in Medical Education | AMA (ama-assn.org)

AMA:  A Guide to Being a Good Coachee | AMA (ama-assn.org)

FREIDA:  http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/education-careers/graduate-medical-education/freida-online.page

ERAS:  http://www.aamc.org/eras

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