

MD Program Educational Philosophy

University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine

I. Introduction and Background

The vision of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) is *Maika'i Loa: "Attaining lasting optimal health for all"*. A stated part of the mission of the school is to educate current and future healthcare professionals and leaders while establishing community partnerships, fostering multidisciplinary collaboration, and pursuing alliances unique to Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific region¹.

The primary purpose of the MD Program curriculum is to develop outstanding physicians who are uniquely qualified to care for the people of Hawaii and the Pacific. The JABSOM Curriculum Committee is responsible for overseeing and managing the review, development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the MD Program curriculum across the four years of medical student training². The Committee provides the leadership for the development of a curriculum that meets or exceeds Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) guidelines, anticipates future trends in medical education, and ensures that the educational program of the John A. Burns School of Medicine is innovative and visionary, while still practical, applicable, and based on real-world performance³. The vision, mission, and values of the school guide the Curriculum Committee in carrying out its functions and the educational philosophy outlined in this document.

II. Goals and Objectives of the JABSOM MD Program Curriculum

The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) defines the goal of medical education as "to produce physicians who can meet the changing needs of society and of the health care environment"⁴. JABSOM MD Program curriculum goals and objectives are articulated in the JABSOM Graduation Objectives⁵.

III. Educational Philosophy

The educational philosophy of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine is to train each medical student to:

1. Develop into a lifelong learner.
2. Be a compassionate, knowledgeable, and skilled physician/scientist.
3. Practice, teach, and/or undertake research with the highest professional and ethical standards to meet the health care needs of the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Basin.
4. Be an independent, self-directed learner. These skills will be fostered through the use of progressive, innovative, patient-centered, problem-based, active, integrated

methods of instruction that promote independent, self-directed learning whenever possible, and utilizing appropriate methods of assessment.

IV. Guiding Principles Regarding Decisions in Medical Education and Curriculum at JABSOM

The following principles will be considered in all decisions related to medical education and curriculum at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.

1. **JABSOM is committed to the principles and practice of problem-based learning.** JABSOM has a well-earned national and international reputation as a champion of problem-based learning (PBL), and as a leader in effective, lasting innovations in the use of PBL in medical education.
2. **JABSOM's curriculum is "patient-centered".** Patient-Centered Medical Education⁶ is an approach to medical education that places the patient at the center of the learning experience and requires students to consider the patient and family in all aspects of learning.
3. **The curriculum will address national standards and initiatives in medical education.** JABSOM will anticipate and remain abreast of the latest national accreditation standards and initiatives, and strive to be among the leaders in educational innovation and reform.
4. **The curriculum will reflect current biomedical and social issues.** The content of the curriculum will keep current with the latest advances in medicine and the related sciences, as well as timely social issues.
5. **The curriculum will reflect and represent the needs and issues of the community served.** The curriculum will reflect the needs and issues that are most meaningful to the diverse population of Hawaii and respect the culture and environment of our community.
6. **The curriculum will reflect JABSOM's value of the integration of basic and clinical sciences across the four years of the medical school training.**
7. **The curriculum will reflect JABSOM's value of inter-professional education during medical school training.**
8. **Curriculum development will be approached in a scholarly fashion.** Scholarship is defined as "an attitude that engenders critical thinking and reflection, careful acquisition of new knowledge, and communication of this process and its results to others"⁷.

9. **Student assessment, curriculum evaluation, and program improvement will be approached in a thoughtful manner.** Student assessment must be fair, valid, and reliable, and use tools that are appropriate for what is being assessed. Curriculum evaluation is a critical step in the ongoing monitoring, review, and improvement of the educational program.
10. **The curriculum will foster a high standard of professional, ethical, and social responsibility in faculty and students.**
11. **The curriculum will incorporate educational technology when feasible and appropriate to enhance knowledge acquisition and the development of skills essential to the care of patients.** While respecting the educational primacy of patient care experiences, JABSOM also recognizes the potential that the rapidly developing field of educational technology offers towards improving the educational experience of medical students.
12. **The curriculum will monitor student workload to protect students from excessive demands that may affect their well-being.**
13. **JABSOM is committed to faculty development.** Faculty members will be prepared for the roles they play as teachers, advisors, role models, and scholars.
14. **JABSOM is committed to creating and sustaining a learning environment characterized by a strong relationship between faculty and students that promotes increased student motivation, higher academic achievement, and student well-being.**

V. Summary

The points outlined in this Educational Philosophy serve as a guide for making institutional decisions related to curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation. They represent the spirit and vision of maintaining the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine as a national and international leader in medical education.

References:

1. About JABSOM. <http://jabsom.hawaii.edu/values-vision-mission/>
2. Bylaws of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. Revised April 2006.
3. General Guide to the M.D. Program 2014-2015. University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.
4. Association of American Medical Colleges. Medical School Objectives Project (MSOP). 1996.
5. Graduation Objectives. University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. Revised May 2014.

6. Kasuya R, Sakai D. Patient-Centered Medical Education: Has an Educational Paradigm Finally Found a Name? *Hawaii J Med Pub Health*. February 2013, 72(2): 63-65.
7. Boyer EL. *Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities for the Professorate*. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. 1990.

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