

## Competencies for Medical Education

A Physician is first and foremost a Healer. Six attributes of the physician as healer form the organizing headings of this document:

**Professional, Scientist, Communicator, Clinical Problem Solver, Patient & Community Advocate, and Person.** Under each heading, we describe specific competencies that students graduating from UMass School of Medicine will have demonstrated. As an educational community, we strive to produce graduates who will become caring healers both by assuring that they possess the requisite knowledge and skills and by strengthening their natural talents and desire to care for others.

## Competencies for Medical Education

### PHYSICIAN AS PATIENT & COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

1. Advocacy
  2. Service
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#### Advocacy

**Scope:** The graduate has acquired the knowledge and skills to advocate for improving the health of individual patients and populations in need.

**After graduation, the UMMS student demonstrating advocacy:**

- a. Champions comprehensive services and excellence in care for individual patients and communities with a sensitivity to patient diversity and awareness of health care disparities
- b. Assesses, analyzes and describes the determinants of health of defined populations such as the specific needs and challenges of vulnerable patients and populations
- c. Articulates the strengths and vulnerabilities of the communities that support their learning and training
- d. Recognizes the existence as well as the consequences of individual and institutional bias and acts to identify and overcome personal biases
- e. Identifies and accesses available community resources and relevant advocacy organizations to help patients to obtain needed services
- f. Balances a dedication to the service of individual patients while maintaining a commitment to social justice, including the fair distribution of finite healthcare resources

#### Service

**Scope:** The graduate recognizes the physician's obligation to serve the larger community, both within and beyond the medical school, and seeks opportunities to commit time and expertise to projects that enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of others.

**After graduation, the UMMS student demonstrating service:**

- a. Seeks out volunteer opportunities and participates in initiatives that contribute to the common good such as engaging in service to improve the health and well-being of others and/or influence healthcare and educational policies at local, regional and national levels
- b. Recognizes the need to balance the dedication to the service of individual patients with a commitment to social justice, including the fair distribution of finite healthcare resources