VI. DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (M.D.) POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

J. Academic Advising

Academic, career and personal advising resources for medical students include: the Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, Deans for Student Affairs, Module, Clerkship and/or Course Directors, Veritas Career Advising Leaders/Groups, the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio (HSC)’s Counseling Services and the Office of Student Life Peer Advising Team. Additionally, academic and career advising activities are planned at specific junctures over the four year medical education program and delivered in many different formats.

Veritas is the School of Medicine’s student advising system. Each incoming student is randomly assigned to one of 20 Veritas Groups. Each Veritas Group is led by a clinical faculty member and three 4th year medical students ("Mentors in Medicine=MiMs") and two 2nd year medical students (Veritas Peer Advisors=VPA”). The groups are clustered into five societies. The structure of Veritas allows a cohesive interclass system in which students receive consistent academic, career and personal advising in the same Veritas groups over the four years of medical school. For career advising one resource accessed heavily is the AAMC “Careers in Medicine” program.

For students who encounter academic difficulty, the module, clerkship or course director is typically the first line of consultation. Deans for Student Affairs, in consultation with the Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, monitor students’ progress through centralized processes in order to identify problems as early as possible and provide guidance accordingly.

A primary mission of the medical education program is to promote the retention and advancement of medical students throughout the four year curriculum. As such, student services and support include a pre-matriculation program, individual and group tutoring, large-group review sessions for pre-clinical courses, a USMLE preparation course, consultation services for study skills, time management issues, test-taking assistance, and more. The HSC’s Counseling Services provides aid, support and counsel to students dealing with the complex personal, social and academic demands of medical school. The Office of Student Life Peer Advising Team helps new students transition socially and academically into the HSC’s community.