



<b>ACADEMIC DIVISION – UGME POLICY</b>	<b>Policy #: UGME 13102-001</b>
<b>Title: MEDICAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATION IN THE OPERATING ROOM</b>	<b>Effective Date: 03/1/2011</b>

**POLICY**

The purpose of a surgical elective is to help medical students understand the science of surgery and the role of surgery in clinical medicine. Students learn pre-operative and post-operative evaluation, the indications for surgery, non-operative management of certain conditions, and the need for long-term follow-up of patients with chronic diseases.

An important aspect of the elective is active participation in patient care as part of the surgical team. This experience provides an opportunity for the medical student to observe the relationship between noninvasive diagnoses, surgical exploration for direct diagnosis, surgical treatment, and postoperative course.

**PURPOSE:**

To establish a general policy defining privileges for medical students rotating through the Operating Room(s).

**SCOPE:**

All medical students assigned to the Ochsner Medical Center completing a surgery clerkship.

**POLICY:**

All medical students must be in an approved surgical elective or clerkship experience and registered with the Department of Undergraduate Medical Education.

Prior to participating on a surgical team in the operating room, all medical students must attend an orientation to the Surgery Department that includes basic OR infection control and aseptic technique. This orientation will be given by the Ochsner Department of Surgery.

Students may participate as a surgical team member, under the direct supervision of any House Staff physician with the approval of the attending surgical staff physician, assisting or performing functions, for which they have been adequately prepared, such as:

- prepping the patient for surgery
- recording and documenting operative procedures
- performing minor portions of the operation such as placement of tubes, catheters, drains and closing superficial non-cosmetic wounds.



Handling of tissue must be performed under the direct supervision of an attending surgical staff or a PGY3 or above surgical resident or fellow, and all chart notes must be co-signed.

Students should never be placed in a position where they interfere with the smooth functioning of the team or act in any way that could be detrimental to the patient.

Students should never be left alone with a patient (even at the end of an operation), nor should they perform procedures that exceed their technical capabilities.

### **POLICY ENFORCEMENT:**

The Executive Vice-President / Chief Academic Officer is responsible for enforcing this policy through the Foundation for all undergraduate medical education training programs. Individual program directors are responsible for the consistent application of this policy within a training program.

### **EXCEPTIONS:**

Exceptions to this policy require the approval of the Executive Vice-President / Chief Academic Officer prior to any action taking place.

### **APPROVALS**

### **SIGNATURES:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William W. Pinsky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

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William W. Pinsky, M.D.  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Academic Officer  
Ochsner Medical Center