

**Program Modification Proposal
 M.D., Addition of Clinical Program Offering Site in Florence, SC
 University of South Carolina**

Summary

The University of South Carolina requests approval to offer the M.D. program at a new clinical site in Florence, SC, for third and fourth year medical students, to be implemented in July 2015. The proposed program is to be offered through traditional and online instruction. The following chart outlines the stages for approval of the proposal; the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) voted to recommend approval of the proposal. The full program proposal **is attached**.

Stages of Consideration	Date	Comments
Program Planning Summary received and posted for comment	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Program Proposal Received	9/15/14	Not Applicable
ACAP Consideration	10/16/14	Dr. MaryAnn Janosik asked USC representatives to confirm that only third and fourth year medical students would study at the proposed site. Dr. R. Caughman Taylor, Interim Dean of the School of Medicine Columbia, stated that the impetus for adding the proposed site is to attract physicians to the Pee Dee area and he confirmed that the proposed site will be for a limited number of third and fourth year medical students. He explained the differences between the plans for the proposed site and what occurred with the medical school site in Greenville. According to Dean Taylor, "there are no plans to expand" at the proposed site because the state is current graduating a sufficient number of medical students (approximately 400 per year). ACAP members expressed support for the proposed program.
Comments and suggestions from CHE staff sent to the institution	10/28/14	Staff requested that the proposal be revised to include information about the consultation site visit conducted by the LCME Secretariat on May 27-28, 2014, as well as include the information presented by Dean Taylor at the ACAP meeting.
Revised Program Proposal Received	12/2/14	The revised proposal satisfactorily addressed all of the requested revisions (the Justification section now includes the information presented by Dean Taylor at the ACAP meeting)

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend favorably to the Commission the program modification to offer the M.D. program at a new clinical site in Florence, SC, for third and fourth year medical students, to be implemented in July 2015.

University of South Carolina-Columbia
School of Medicine
Program Modification
Addition of Clinical Program Offering Site in Florence, SC
May 21, 2014

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Classification

Program Title: Clinical Program Offering Site in Florence, SC
Academic Unit: School of Medicine
Type of Degree: M.D.
Proposed Date of Implementation: July 1, 2015
CIP Code: 51.1201
Site: Florence, SC
Qualifies for Scholarship Awards: No
Delivery Mode: On-site and Distance Education

Institutional Approval

School of Medicine Executive Committee: May 6, 2014
USC Health Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees: June 12, 2014
USC Board of Trustees: June 20, 2014
Liaison Committee on Medical Education: March 12, 2014
CHE Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs: October 16, 2014

Purpose

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine proposes to modify our current program of study to allow a small number of third and fourth year medical students to complete their clinical training in Florence, SC. On October 2, 2008 the CHE approved a memorandum of understanding that created the Pee Dee Health Education Partnership that brought together the University of South Carolina, Francis Marion University, McLeod Regional Medical Center and Carolinas Hospital System for the expressed purpose of addressing the shortage of health care professionals in the Pee Dee. This program modification is a direct outcome of that partnership.

The program modification would entail approximately 12-15 third year medical students after completing their first two years of medical school in Columbia moving to Florence to complete their third and fourth year clinical rotations. This would include all six required third year clerkships (Family Medicine – 6 weeks, Internal Medicine/Neurology – 12 weeks, Obstetrics-Gynecology – 6 weeks, Pediatrics – 8 weeks, Psychiatry – 6 weeks, Surgery – 8 weeks) along with a required acting internship in their fourth year and at least 22 weeks of electives.

The objectives of this proposed program modification would be to allow our students exposure to the practice of medicine in a small community setting in an underserved part of the state, to introduce them to a potential practice community, to highlight the positive impact that community physicians make as role models, and to continue to meet our mission to improve the health of the citizens of South Carolina.

Justification

Establishing clinical rotations in underserved regions has proven to be an effective method of demonstrating to students the regional opportunities and the demand for healthcare professionals. The relocating of Columbia based medical students to the Pee Dee region will provide ample clinical training and exposure to the Pee Dee community while providing the opportunity to meet that regions demand and need for healthcare professionals. Almost the entire Pee Dee region is designated as a Medically Underserved Area, Health Professions Shortage Area, or both. With its documented health disparities as compared to other portions of the state and its shortage of physicians the Pee Dee provides an excellent source of clinical material for our students. That coupled with two large healthcare systems (Carolinas Hospital System and McLeod Regional Medical Center) will ensure our students exceptional clinical training sites and resources.

Having medical students based in the Pee Dee region will help to elevate the medical care already provided by attracting new services and specialties along with physicians interested in participating in medical student education. By living and working in the Pee Dee region these students are more likely to return to the area once they finish their training to practice. Support for the creation of this clinical training site is quite strong including the Pee Dee legislative delegation, the mayor and city council of Florence, the two healthcare systems, local philanthropic groups, and the administration of Francis Marion University all of who have pledged money, time and resources to make this clinical training site a reality. Likewise the opening of a clinical rotation site in Florence supports the ongoing mission of the University of South Carolina in the education of the state's citizens through community engagement. Simply by educating medical students in Florence we will bring together disparate elements of the community, including the competing healthcare systems, for the betterment of the citizens of the Pee Dee region. We hope our presence will serve as a catalyst for increasing the number of physicians choosing to practice in the area. More physicians means more access to care in this underserved portion of the state.

It is also important to note the differences between the Greenville site and this current program modification in Florence. The Greenville site was established over 20 years ago and already had a number of post-graduate residency training programs when medical students initially started there. It took two decades for the Greenville Hospital System to amass the resources necessary to expand their program. In the past few years with the students in Greenville and the osteopathic medical school in Spartanburg, the number of medical students in the state has grown considerably.

The clinical offering site in Florence does not seek to increase the number of medical students in the state and will be based in an area of South Carolina with considerably less resources and only one post-graduate residency training program. The School of Medicine has no plans to increase the size of the class or to establish anything other than a clinical offering site to train our students.

Enrollment

The proposed program modification will have no impact on current student enrollment. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) currently approves the USC School of Medicine – Columbia for 100 students per class and we have no plans to increase student enrollment at this time. Students rotating in Florence, SC will be a small segment of the current class size. We anticipate sending 12-15 students per year to Florence for their third and fourth year clinical rotations which when fully implemented will place a total of 24-30 students in Florence at any one time.

Curriculum

The LCME requires that training at clinical offering sites be equivalent to the experience at the main campus. Thus there will be no curricular changes with this proposed program modification. Students will be required to complete the same required clinical clerkships that they would in Columbia. Initially, some of the required didactic content (2-3 hours/week) will be delivered by videoconference with our students in Columbia, with the expectation that this content will eventually be delivered in person by our faculty in Florence.

New courses in the form of four-week clinical elective experiences will be developed in Florence for students at either site to take. None of these clinical electives are part of the core curriculum and students are able to freely choose among the offerings to round out their medical education.

Faculty

The School of Medicine has recruited a new full-time Assistant Dean for Medical Student Education – Florence who will be based in Florence and oversee medical student education. It is anticipated an additional full-time faculty member will be hired to oversee student affairs/student services for students at the clinical offering site.

Physicians will be recruited from Carolinas Health System, McLeod Regional Medical Center, and the surrounding community who will serve as clinical faculty for our students. It is anticipated that 35-40 new clinical faculty will be used to educate students at the clinical offering site in Florence. These physicians are either in private practice or employed by the hospitals and will be paid a small stipend as recompense for them volunteering to teach and have students in their clinical practices. An additional stipend will be paid to six physicians in each of the core specialties to serve as specialty specific rotation directors.

Physical Plant

A temporary Office of Medical Student Education has been established by the School of Medicine in Florence in space donated by the City of Florence. It includes faculty office space, a reception area, and a conference room suitable for lectures and videoconferencing. Most of the instruction will take place in the clinical facilities of McLeod Regional Medical Center and Carolinas Hospital System.

In addition Francis Marion University (FMU) has obtained 15 million dollars in funding from the State of South Carolina, the City of Florence, and the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation. These funds will make possible the construction of a medical and health sciences complex in downtown Florence. The FMU Medical and Health Sciences facility will consist of a three-story

building of approximately 45,000 to 50,000 square feet. The third floor of the building will provide space for instruction, simulation and computer labs, student lounge, conference rooms, and permanent offices for the Office of Medical Student Education – Florence. Construction is expected to begin in late 2014 and to be completed by mid-2016.

Francis Marion University is offering to share this space with the School of Medicine in an effort to bring health professions education for its nurse practitioner and physician assistant programs along with our medical student program all under one roof. This will not only allow for the sharing of facilities such as a clinical simulation lab, but also to be able to take advantage of the close proximity to offer interprofessional education instruction between the three disciplines which is now at the forefront of health professional education.

Equipment

No major equipment is anticipated to be needed for this program modification other than what may be needed to up fit a clinical simulation lab in the building described in the Physical Plant section that would be shared with other health professions students from FMU. This would include exam tables, medical examination equipment, clinical stimulation trainers, and video recording equipment to record and assess student performance.

Library Resources

We anticipate our current library resources will be sufficient to support this program modification with an increase in site license user fees to cover the additional faculty using the library resources. Students in Florence will have full access via the Internet to all electronic information resources from the School of Medicine Library. In addition these resources will also be made available to our new clinical faculty in Florence. Through a cooperative arrangement with FMU, students will also have full access to its library which houses a collection of over 415,000 volumes and over 21,000 e-journals, 55,000 e-books, and 101 electronic databases. McLeod Regional Medical Center also has a Health Sciences Library with a full-time librarian to assist students in their research and provides convenient computer access. Likewise Carolinas Hospital System has electronic library services available to students. The School of Medicine already has access to PASCAL which is available for use by our students and faculty.

Accreditation, Approval, Licensure, or Certification

The School of Medicine currently has a full 8-year accreditation through the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) until 2017. In response to our request for consideration of a clinical offering site in Florence, the LCME in a letter dated to the School of Medicine on March 12, 2014 “determined that the resources appear adequate.” A consultation site visit with the LCME Secretariat was conducted on May 27-28, 2014 and reconfirmed the finding of the March 2014 letter regarding adequacy of resources. The next full survey of our program is scheduled for the 2016-2017 academic year. Graduates of the School of Medicine who complete their third and fourth year clinical rotations in Florence would not be affected in their ability to obtain a medical license as the clinical rotations in Florence would come under the purview of our general accreditation by the LCME.

Estimated Costs and Sources of Financing

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SC DHHS) and FMU have signed a contract (effective date of November 15, 2013) that provides funding for the clinical offering site in Florence. The contract, which is renewable, allows FMU to sign a subcontract with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. The subcontract provides the following allocations for the clinical offering site in Florence:

FY	Fixed Costs	Preceptor Stipends
2013-2014	\$270,000	
2014-2015	\$885,000	\$230,000
2015-2016	\$1,000,000	\$415,000
2016-2017	\$1,000,000	\$415,000
2017-2018	\$1,000,000	\$415,000
2018-2019	\$1,000,000	\$415,000

Table I – Costs to the Institution and Sources of Financing

ESTIMATED COSTS BY YEAR (2014 – 2019)						
CATEGORY	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	TOTALS
Program Adm. ¹	312,000	318,240	324,605	331,096	337,719	1,623,660
Faculty Salaries ²	230,000	675,000	695,000	695,000	695,000	3,230,000
Clerical Person. ³	150,000	153,000	156,061	159,181	163,363	781,605
Supplies	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	325,000
Library Res. ⁴	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
Equipment ⁵	24,000	28,000	28,000	26,000	25,000	131,000
Facilities	30,000	0	0	0	0	30,000
Food ⁶	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	24,000	124,000
Travel	20,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	118,500
Housing ⁷	256,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	144,000
Accreditation ⁸	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	14,750	94,750
TOTALS	1,137,500	1,345,740	1,375,166	1,382,777	1,386,332	6,627,515
SOURCES OF FINANCING BY YEAR						
State Funding	1,115,000	1,415,000	1,415,000	1,415,000	1,415,000	6,775,000
Tuition	120,000	120,000	240,000	240,000	240,000	960,000
McLeod RMC	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	180,000
TOTALS	1,271,000	1,571,000	1,571,000	1,571,000	1,571,000	7,915,000

The estimated number of students in the first year would be 12 and be expected to grow to 15 students per class by the third year of the program for a total of 30 students (third and fourth year students combined). The estimated program costs will be funded predominantly through a state contract with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Additional funding will be provided by McLeod Regional Medical Center for services provided by one of the Florence faculty members. A portion of student tuition will also be available to provide additional resources if necessary.

¹ Assistant Dean for Medical Student Education-Florence and Student Services staff member

² Physician preceptors and clinical rotation directors

³ 2 administrative assistants and 1 finance manager

⁴ User fees to provide electronic resources for clinical faculty

⁵ Simulation Lab: Exam tables, medical exam equipment, simulation trainers

⁶ Meals for student meetings, travel for faculty to professional meetings, student mileage

⁷ Rented apartment housing for students on short term clinical rotations

⁸ LCME accreditation, AAMC fees, LCME consultation fee