

Guidelines for the New Duluth Rural Curriculum (New Dr.)

1. The length of most course sessions (7weeks) is based upon presumed didactic content. Sessions could be shorter than 7 weeks if there is not enough didactic content to justify a 7 week block.
2. There will be no more than 4 hours in the morning of didactics each day and an average of 10 hours of afternoon didactic activity per week. There is therefore a maximum of 20 hours of morning didactic time weekly, afternoons would have no more than 10 scheduled hours per week and the remaining times are reserved for self study, small group learning, laboratories, Simulation Center activities, E-portfolio, etc. This would create a capped week of 30 maximum hours.
3. Each 7 week session includes a maximum of 140 hours for morning didactics. These maximum hours do not necessarily need to be used for sit down lectures. More active learning is encouraged.
4. Didactics that go into the curriculum must be competency driven/justified.
5. This curriculum design needs to look at the 24/7 time commitment of the students. We need to account for all student time, which includes informal time related to course time.
6. It is not acceptable that an hour of lecture could mandate multiple hours of outside work for students. An hour lecture cannot require more than 20 pages of outside reading for the entire day.
7. Each week a case should be presented, (students should have access to the case a few days prior). Rural Health Scholars and Social and Psychological medicine should begin each week with a case as well.
8. Once a week, a special topic block may be needed to address topics that may not fit into sessions but should be taught across the curriculum, i.e. bugs and drugs.
9. Examinations should not be based upon a fixed formula related to the number of hours taught. Testing should be done in a way that incorporates competencies/disciplines across subject matter throughout the course.