

# ACGME CORE COMPETENCIES

---

## PATIENT CARE AND PROCEDURAL SKILLS

**Expectations:** Fellows are expected to exhibit progressive improvement in their level of knowledge and skill throughout their training. Methods of demonstration include the care of patients and families, participation in didactics and clinical conferences, presentations, and/or examinations. Fellows must exhibit consistent interest, enthusiasm, and motivation for learning and practicing knowledge and skills in didactic and clinical situations.

### **Knowledge/Skills/Attitudes:**

#### **Fellows must demonstrate competence in:**

- Evaluation and treatment of patients representing the full spectrum of psychiatric illnesses in children and adolescents, including developmental and substance use disorders.
- Must provide care to a sufficient number and adequate variety of patients representing the full spectrum of psychiatric illnesses in children and adolescents.
- Management and effect decision-making to provide clinical care for children, adolescents, and families.
- Treatment of children and adolescents for the development of conceptual understanding and beginning clinical skills in major treatment modalities, which include brief and long-term psychotherapy, individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, crisis intervention, supportive therapy, psychodynamic psychotherapy, cognitive behavioral therapy and pharmacotherapy.
- Evaluation and treatment of patients from diverse cultural backgrounds and varied socioeconomic levels.
- Performance and documentation of an adequate individual and family history, mental status, physical and neurological examinations when appropriate, supplementary medical and psychological data, and integration of these data into a formulation, differential diagnosis, and comprehensive treatment plan.
- Participation in services aimed at preventing psychiatric problems or maintaining mental health in the clinical care of children, adolescents, and families and in the education of parents, other professionals, and in community forums.
- Participation in liaison and multidisciplinary team activities during various rotations to coordinate and facilitate the prevention and treatment of psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents.

#### **Fellows must demonstrate through the clinical care of children, adolescents, and families the abilities to:**

- Employ an interpersonal approach which consistently emphasizes the importance of demonstrating respect, caring, and clear communication.

- Gather essential, accurate, and complete information about patients and families.
- Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment.
- Develop and carry out comprehensive patient treatment plans which include consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of the individual child, family, school, extracurricular activities, other involved agencies as well as the need to educate all involved on the relevant psychiatric and developmental issues.
- Use of information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education.
- Perform competently all medical and psychiatric practices considered essential for child and adolescent psychiatry which include screening for medical problems.
- Consider the impact of medical problems and treatment on psychiatric disorders and development.
- Conduct a comprehensive and developmentally appropriate diagnostic assessment.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive treatment plan.
- Perform a variety of therapeutic interventions/techniques including:
  - Psychopharmacology/ Medication management
  - Individual psychotherapy, brief and long-term
  - Group psychotherapy
  - Family psychotherapy
  - Crisis intervention
  - Psychodynamic psychotherapy
  - Behavioral management
  - Cognitive behavioral therapy
  - Play therapy
- Work as a consultant to other professionals and agencies working with children, adolescents, and families.
- Provide quality clinical care of children, adolescents, and families and to educate parents, other professionals, and community forums the ability to provide services aimed at preventing psychiatric problems or maintaining mental health.
- Participate in the team and liaison activities of various rotations and an ability to obtain and convey information as a consultant and/or multidisciplinary team member or leader to facilitate patient care.

## **MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE**

**Expectations:** By graduation, Fellows must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.

Fellows are expected to exhibit progressive improvement in their level of knowledge throughout their training. Methods of demonstration include the care of patients and families, participation in didactics and clinical conferences, presentations, and examinations.

## **Knowledge/Skills/Attitudes:**

### **Fellows must demonstrate competence in their knowledge of:**

- Basic neurobiological, psychological, and clinical sciences relevant to psychiatry and the application of developmental, psychological, and socio-behavioral theories relevant to the understanding of psychopathology.
- The full range of psychopathology in children and adolescents, including the etiology, epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of the major psychiatric conditions that affect children and adolescents.
- The recognition and management of domestic and community violence, including physical and sexual abuse, as well as neglect, as it affects children and adolescents.
- Diversity and cultural issues pertinent to children, adolescents and their families
- The appropriate uses and limitations of psychological tests.

### **Fellows must participate actively in:**

- Didactic curriculum and be prepared to discuss cases and readings, be able to effectively present various topics in different forums, and be an active participant as evidenced by the ability to make relevant comments during discussions.
- Clinically based conferences, bringing to these conferences' literature and knowledge of the clinical sciences that are relevant to the clinical situation being discussed.
- Clinical situations, bringing to patient care, consultation, & advocacy, a knowledge of the clinical sciences that are relevant to the situation.
- Effective learning and dissemination of relevant data and knowledge.

## **PRACTICE BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT**

**Expectations:** By graduation, Fellows must demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and life-long learning.

## **Knowledge/Skills/Attitudes:**

### **Fellows are expected to develop competence in skills and habits to meet the following goals:**

- Identify strengths, deficiencies, and limits in one's knowledge and expertise.
- Set learning and improvement goals.
- Identify and perform appropriate learning activities.
- Systematically analyze practice using quality improvement methods, and implement changes with the goal of practice improvement.
- Incorporate formative evaluation feedback into daily practice.
- Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health problems.
- Use information technology to optimize learning.
- Participate in the education of patients, families, students, fellows and other health professionals.
- Take primary responsibility for lifelong learning to improve knowledge, skills, and

practice performance

## **INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

**Expectations:** By graduation, Fellows must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals.

### **Knowledge/Skills/Attitudes:**

#### **Fellows must demonstrate competence to:**

- Communicate effectively with patients, families and the public, as appropriate, across a broad range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds.
- Communicate effectively with physicians, other health professionals and health related agencies.
- Work effectively as a member or leader of a health care team or other professional group.
- Act in a consultative role to other physicians and health professionals.
- Maintain comprehensive, timely and legible medical records.
- Collaborate with other professional mental health personnel, pediatricians, teachers and other school personnel in the evaluation and treatment of patients.

## **PROFESSIONALISM**

**Expectations:** By graduation, Fellows must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles.

### **Knowledge/Skills/Attitudes:**

#### **Fellows are expected to demonstrate competence in:**

- Compassion, integrity and respect for others.
- Responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest.
- Respect for patient privacy and autonomy.
- Accountability to patients, society and the profession.
- Sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient's population, including but not limited to diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities and sexual orientation
- The ability to maintain high standards of ethical behavior including appropriate professional boundaries.
- Programs must distribute to fellows and operate in accordance with the American Medical Association (AMA) Principles of Ethics, with "Special Annotations for Psychiatry" as developed by the American Psychiatric Association and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) code of ethics to ensure that the application and teaching of these principles are an integral part of the educational

program.

## **SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE**

**Expectations:** By graduation, Fellows will demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care.

### **Knowledge/Skills/Attitudes:**

#### **Fellows will demonstrate competence in their ability to:**

- Work effectively in various health care delivery settings and systems relevant to child and adolescent psychiatry.
- Coordinate patient care within the health care system relevant to child and adolescent psychiatry.
- Incorporate considerations of cost awareness and risk-benefit analysis in patient and/or population-based care as appropriate.
- Advocate for quality patient care and optimal patient care systems.
- Work in interprofessional teams to enhance patient safety and improve patient care quality.
- Participate in identifying system errors and implementing potential systems solutions.
- Know how types of medical practice and delivery systems differ from one another, including methods of controlling health care cost, assuring quality and allocating resources.
- Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of mental health care for children and adolescents.
- Advocate for quality patient care and assisting patients in dealing with system complexities, including disparities in mental health care for children and adolescents.
- Work with health care managers and health care providers to assess, coordinate and improve health care.
- Know how to advocate for the promotion of health and the prevention of disease and injury in populations.
- Participate in the practice of utilization review, quality assurance and performance improvement.