



Educational Philosophy

Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine recognizes the need for innovative medical education to meet the changing healthcare needs of individuals, our communities, and the global society. We promote a learner-centered approach that comes to life through adult learning principles of self-directed, peer-supported, and experiential inquiry and learning to achieve our vision to be distinguished as a leader among medical schools through community collaboration in:

- Medical education – across the continuum of undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education supporting all healthcare professionals as lifelong learners;
- Patient care – of individual patients as well as community public health and global health;
- Research – including discovery and other forms of scholarship; and
- Service – to our community and globally.

The faculty use contemporary technologies and instructional strategies that focus on problem-solving in a stimulating team-oriented learning and working environment. We respect our learners' initiative for self-directed learning, and decision-making abilities to make sound decisions as they gain maturity, insight, and experience. We understand the need for connecting medical knowledge to real-world situations through reflection, hands-on experience, and faculty mentoring in a climate of psychological safety. Faculty help learners establish achievable development goals and hold them accountable for their own learning.

At the medical school, learning is a shared activity that requires our students to acquire and integrate new knowledge through experiential interaction with faculty, peers, and others in a collegial and supportive atmosphere. Our team-oriented environment enables individual and group learning through problem-based active learning strategies including team-based learning, case-based learning, and simulation-based learning.

Our patient- and family-focused curriculum encompasses the breadth of biomedical sciences and clinical medicine—from genes to cells to individuals to society and the world—that embodies professionalism, critical thinking, integrative reasoning, evidence-based problem-solving, personalized medicine, healthcare quality, team-based interprofessional care, scholarship, active citizenship, and lifelong learning. Our graduates are knowledgeable, ethical and skilled physicians who are prepared to excel in any chosen specialty field and will become outstanding clinicians, leaders, educators, advocates, and researchers.