

YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

GUIDELINES FOR PRE-CLERKSHIP ACADEMIC WORKLOAD

A cornerstone of the Yale System is a curriculum that is flexible and provides opportunities as well as time for students to explore their interests and pursue individual goals. Traditionally, the medical school schedule has included two afternoons free per week, and no weekend or evening required learning activities in the preclinical years. These guidelines are intended to ensure continued flexibility and balance in the curriculum.

- The student schedule will provide two afternoons free per week, no weekend or evening required learning activities and a free summer between the first and second year. This allows time to explore individual interests, conduct thesis research, and pursue independent study.
- The standard expectation is that students spend, on average, up to 3 hours each day preparing for in-class curricular activities (readings, instructional videos, self-assessment quizzes, etc.). Faculty must be mindful of this standard when creating curricular activities and setting expectations for students, especially with the introduction of new learning technologies such as the “flipped classroom” model.

Monitoring Compliance

- Expectations for time devoted to out of class preparation will be monitored by each course director.
- Students who do not attend lectures but then watch a “podcast” of the lecture should not consider this part of class preparation time.
- In the course surveys, students will be asked about time spent out of class preparing for required learning activities. These surveys will be reviewed by the Course Review Committee.
- Findings will be reported to and reviewed by the Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee (EPCC) annually.