



Newsletter

Dear Students,

We wanted to remind you that we are planning for our school's LCME review in March of 2027. The LCME is the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, and they are our accrediting body. Accreditation is important to you as it allows you to continue your education into residency and fellowship. It is important for us as it allows us to continue to recruit outstanding students.

This newsletter is now the sixth in the series. The purpose of these newsletters is to provide you with information that will help you prepare for your role during that visit.

Soon, you will be asked to complete the ISA – Independent Student Analysis. Class of 2027, you will complete your ISA today, from 1-2 in LH2. Please skip lunch today, as we'll have food for you. Students from other classes, you'll hear more soon at one of your upcoming Town Hall meetings. The ISA is a student lead initiative which creates a survey for you to complete and then analyze so that the results can be provided to the LCME. The LCME will use the results to focus upon areas of your medical school where improvements are needed.

We'd like you to answer these questions accurately, and we'd like to equip you with the information to do just that.

In this sixth newsletter, we would like to focus on **“Space – instruction, relaxation, storage and clinical care”**.

We believe that access to space for relaxation, studying, storing your personal items and completing your clinical work is important for your education. We have certainly struggled in some of these areas in the past, but we are working hard to make improvements and we're starting to see the fruits of our labor.

We received citations regarding space from our last LCME review and are continuing to work to make improvements in these areas. Specifically, your Deans have been meeting with leadership and your student body to come up with solutions. In fact, we have developed a committee which consists of a group of students called the “Space Force” representing all classes. This committee has collected data from your classes to help us make the right improvements.

Silent Study Space

We realize that you desire more silent study space.

First, we already established 24/7 silent study space in the library, but we know you wish to increase the size of that space. We also know that you want an option of seating arrangements in this area, inclusive of individual desks with enclosed sides, booths and tables. The new library design has taken this to heart, and construction in this area will begin in the summer of 2026 so as to create minimal disruption for you.

Next, we have secured additional silent study space in the HSC which is near to the library and exclusive for RSOM students. The plans for this space were based upon your input and are now finalized with your approval. Construction will begin in this area prior to the summer as that construction will not cause any disruption for you. The plans for this space include options for a variety of learning styles: desks, tables, comfortable chairs and small enclosed rooms.

Group Study Space

We also understand that you would like more group study space.

With this in mind, we have already added additional classroom access afterhours.

Additionally, based on your input, we now have plans finalized to improve the space in the MART. We will soon start replacing the furniture, providing you with tables and booths for group study.

We also plan to replace the blue rolling desks with more comfortable chairs with rolling desks in some of the classroom areas.

Clinical Space

We know that the clinical spaces are tight for students and all our healthcare providers. We have identified the most problematic areas and are working with leadership to make short- and long-term changes. Storage space remains a problem for all of our students and employees but you all have access to lockers which will continue to be provided.

Relaxation Space

We have already worked with you to complete a major cleanup of the student lounge. Additionally, we have plans to add a water station and workspaces for research and clinical work.

We are currently exploring outdoor space options with ideas to add umbrellas to tables to provide sun protection and heaters in areas to extend the outdoor season.

As you can deduce, some of these projects will occur quickly while others will take longer, but we will continue to work to make these improvements. With this in mind, when you answer the questions about space, I'd like you to consider two things. First, consider the wording of the question. It asks if you have access to study and relaxation space and does not ask you about your satisfaction with such. Next, regardless of how you answer the questions, we know your desires and will continue to work to make these improvements over the next several months.

Sincerely,
Andrew Wackett, MD
Vice Dean of UGME