Expectations for the provision of narrative feedback to students in UME

Approved by: Undergraduate Medical Education Executive Committee

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The UME program places great emphasis on the provision of feedback to students to support their learning. This includes numerical feedback (see Standards for the disclosure of component marks and final grades to students) and also narrative feedback, in both written and verbal forms.

A narrative description of a student’s performance should be included in every course or curricular theme. In particular, any series of small-group or one-on-one learning experiences should culminate in narrative feedback from the teacher(s). Such feedback may or may not be accompanied by a formal assessment, as deemed most appropriate for the course.

Course directors and thematic faculty leads are expected to review written descriptions and comments they receive about each student’s performance. They are also expected to take every opportunity to share written narrative feedback with students in cases where this does not occur automatically (i.e. when it is not provided verbally or on an evaluation form that the student is able to access).