

COMMENTARY

Evaluation of Medical Student Professionalism: A Practical Approach

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ABSTRACT

The College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) has developed an easy and practical method of evaluating medical student professionalism. The evaluation instrument is a single page document listing parameters of professionalism. Next to each parameter are the options of designating a student as either "Inadequate" or "Outstanding" i.e. is the student unable to meet or has he/she exceeded the College's expectations of professional behavior. The form also provides space for comments from the evaluator. A comment is required for all "Inadequate" ratings; "Outstanding" ratings do not require comments but are strongly encouraged. The process allows for faculty, nurses, residents, clerical staff, and even other medical students to submit a form. Generally, however, faculty is the major source of these reports. The use of this form greatly facilitates the evaluation of medical student professionalism and importantly saves faculty time.
