

# Department of Health Washington Medical Commission

## Notice of Adoption – Policy Statement

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**Title:** Visiting Student Learning Opportunity License Exemptions | POL2025-03

**Issuing Entity:** Washington Medical Commission

**Subject Matter:** This policy clarifies that medical students, residents, and fellows completing elective rotations in Washington State are exempt from licensure. However, they remain accountable to the Washington Medical Commission and may face disciplinary action if necessary.

**Effective Date:** May 9, 2025

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
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## Policy Statement

<b>Title:</b>	Visiting Student Learning Opportunity License Exemptions
<b>Policy Statement Number:</b>	POL2025-03
<b>References:</b>	<a href="#">RCW 18.71.030</a> (6) and (8), <a href="#">RCW 18.71.230</a> , <a href="#">Chapter 18.130 RCW</a>
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<b>Effective Date:</b>	May 9, 2025
<b>Supersedes:</b>	POL2020-01
<b>Approved By:</b>	Karen Domino, MD, Chair (signature on file)

Medical students, residents, and fellows in post-graduate medical training who are completing an elective educational rotation in the state of Washington are exempt from licensure for the specific purpose of completing the rotation. These individuals are accountable to the Washington Medical Commission (commission) and may face disciplinary action if necessary.

[RCW 18.71.030](#) lists exemptions to the requirement to have a license to practice medicine, and states, in part:

- Nothing in the chapter shall be construed to . . . prohibit:
- ...
- (6) The practice of medicine by any practitioner licensed by another state or territory in which he or she resides, provided that such practitioner shall not open an office or appoint a place of meeting patients or receiving calls within this state;
- ...
- (8) The practice of medicine by a person serving a period of postgraduate medical training in a program of clinical medical training sponsored by a college or university in this state or by a hospital accredited in this state, however, the performance of such services shall be only pursuant to his or her duties as a trainee.

The lack of a license requirement does not exempt those trainees covered by this policy from accountability by the commission. Per [RCW 18.71.230](#), any person practicing in the state of Washington under exemptions in [RCW 18.71.030](#)(5) through (13) is subject to disciplinary action by the commission. Any complaints received by the commission on trainees, licensed or

not, are processed according to the relevant procedure: [Complaints against students, residents, fellows WMC](#)

Therefore, medical students, residents, and fellows who are in post-graduate medical training who are completing an elective educational rotation in Washington State are exempt from licensure for the specific purpose of completing the rotation.