Turning Up: An Exploration of Compulsory and Assessed Attendance in Medical Schools

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Outline

Why is attendance mandatory?

How is attendance assessed?

Should attendance be mandatory?
  - Benefits
  - Drawbacks

Conclusions and recommendations
Why is attendance assessed?

Evidence of engagement is necessary
(General Medical Council 2011 & 2016)

Medical school curricula must adhere
to GMC guidance

Attendance = Engagement
How is attendance assessed?

Certain sessions are identified as mandatory to attend.

Method of recording attendance varies:
- ID scans
- Geofencing
- Registers

80% attendance is needed to ‘pass’:
- Attendance below 80% can be mitigated for to avoid ‘failing’
Benefits to mandatory attendance

Shown to improve:
- Professionalism (Hochberg et al. 2010)
- Teamwork (Shrader et al. 2013 & Kates and Ackerman 2002)

Enables personal growth
- Due to interpersonal interactions (Newstrom and Rubenfeld, 1983)
Benefits to mandatory attendance

Access to the ‘hidden curriculum’
(Lemp and Searle, 2004)

Highlights students with potential problems
Drawbacks to mandatory attendance

Inaccessible
- Disregards personal situations
  (Maslow, 1962)

Adds unnecessary stress
- Mitigation can be difficult

Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs
(McLeod, 2018)
Drawbacks to mandatory attendance

Removes student autonomy
  - Develops culture of presenteeism

Doesn’t benefit academic performance
  - Explaining the benefits of attending does (Moore, 2005)
Conclusions and recommendations

Attendance should be monitored - but not assessed.

Medical students should be afforded autonomy and compassion.
  - The *benefits* of attendance should be explained
Thank you for listening
Do you have any questions?

If you have any questions, comments or feedback that you don’t wish to express now, please feel free to get in touch:

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Or you can provide feedback anonymously through Qualtrics:

Dominic O’Brien - Qualtrics Feedback Survey
References

General Medical Council. 2011. Assessment in Undergraduate Medical Education. London: General Medical Council/Medical Schools Council.


