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**LCME Update of Medical Students, Patients, and COVID-19:
Guiding Principles for Early Graduation of Final-Year Medical Students
March 25, 2020**

In the context of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic, medical schools may be considering an option for eligible final-year medical students to graduate early. Based on the current situation, the LCME recommends that medical schools follow these guidelines, which are **consistent with LCME standards**, in determining which of its final-year students are eligible for early graduation.

1. The medical school should review its **educational program objectives (EPOs), the learning objectives of its required courses and clerkships, and required clinical experiences and skills. If students have met these requirements and been assessed on these required learning objectives, they may be eligible for early graduation. The school should confirm the eligibility of each student with its Student Advancement and Promotion Committee.**
2. **Electives, by definition, do not have required learning objectives; therefore, the school can choose to waive, after review and approval by its Curriculum Committee and Student Advancement and Promotion Committee, graduation requirements based upon a requisite number of elective weeks.** In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the LCME previously has released and posted on its website (www.lcme.org) two related guidance documents: *LCME Guidance Principles* (March 12, 2020) and *LCME Approaches to the Clinical Curriculum* (March 20, 2020). Each of these should be reviewed by the school in conjunction with this guidance document on early graduation.
3. Schools are encouraged to directly contact the LCME Secretariat (lcme@aamc.org) if they require additional guidance in determining which of their current final-year medical students are eligible for early graduation.