

HWCOC Educational Program Objectives (EPOs)

Updated May 2026

EPO #	Educational Program Objective
1. Knowledge for Practice	
1.1	Demonstrate understanding of the foundational sciences and their application to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of human diseases and disorders.
1.2	Demonstrate knowledge of the causes and consequences of disease, including underlying molecular, cellular, structural, physiological, and pathological changes.
1.3	Apply principles of epidemiology and biostatistics to assess health risks, interpret clinical data, and inform preventive and therapeutic decision-making.
1.4	Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of psychosocial and cultural influences on the prevention and management of disease, as well as attitudes and barriers to care.
2. Patient Care	
2.1	Gather accurate and comprehensive patient information through patient-centered histories.
2.2	Perform both complete and focused physical exams with attention to appropriate technique and patient comfort.
2.3	Synthesize foundational science and clinical information to develop, prioritize, and justify differential diagnoses using evidence-based reasoning.
2.4	Propose and interpret laboratory data, imaging studies, and other tests in order to determine diagnoses.
2.5	Apply medical knowledge, clinical reasoning, and evidence-based practice to develop and monitor plans of care.
2.6	Perform essential clinical and procedural skills under appropriate supervision, with attention to safety, effectiveness, patient comfort, and informed consent.
2.7	Recognize urgent and life-threatening conditions, initiating appropriate escalation and coordination of care.
2.8	Incorporate patient preferences and clinical evidence while counseling and educating patients and their families in order to foster shared decision making.

3. Interpersonal and Communication Skills	
3.1	Communicate effectively with patients and families, across a broad range of socioeconomic, linguistic, and cultural backgrounds.
3.2	Communicate effectively with colleagues within one's profession and with other health professionals to support continuity, coordination, and quality of care.
3.3	Demonstrate the ability to synthesize and communicate clinical information in both oral and written formats.
3.4	Demonstrate sensitivity, honesty, and compassion in clinical encounters, with insight and understanding of emotions and responses to emotions.
4. Practice-based Learning and Improvement	
4.1	Demonstrate the skills of self-directed learning and engage in reflective practice to identify and fill knowledge gaps and areas for improvement.
4.2	Critically appraise and apply medical literature to improve patient care and population health outcomes.
4.3	Demonstrate the ability to effectively provide, receive, and implement feedback.
4.4	Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate, appropriately utilize, and reflect on the role of emerging technologies in clinical practice to support decision-making, improve patient care, and advance population health outcomes.
5. Professionalism	
5.1	Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical standards of medical practice, including beneficence, non-maleficence, respect for patient autonomy, and justice.
5.2	Demonstrate professional behaviors including adaptability, conscientiousness, discernment, respect, integrity, and accountability.
6. Systems-based Practice	
6.1	Apply principles of health systems science to improve clinical care and decision-making, demonstrating understanding of

	systems thinking, financing, policy, law, quality improvement, informatics, and patient safety.
6.2	Understand the need to advocate for changes that advance patient care and population health.
7. Collaboration and Teamwork	
7.1	Demonstrate effective collaboration and teamwork skills.
7.2	Function effectively as a member of interprofessional teams, demonstrating mutual respect, shared accountability, and collaborative problem-solving.