Problem Learner Course  
Summer Term

Mechanics:  1 credit course, 8 two hour session

Overview: Managing problem learners is a challenge for faculty. Problem learners are a small percentage of the total population of learners, but account for a large amount of faculty time. The challenges of managing problem learners include: identifying these students, diagnosing the reason for their academic difficulties, and developing and monitoring a remediation strategy. This course will provide a hands on instruction to these issues emphasizing problem identification and diagnosis. Strategies for avoiding problems will also be addressed.

Requirements: Attendance at class and completion of all homework assignments.

Course Structure: Session 1 will begin with a didactic overview of the problem learner including a discussion of the stepwise process for evaluating a learner. Homework assignments will be handed out for completion by the next class. Each subsequent class will begin with a review and discussion of the homework assignment based on the last lecture and conclude with the introduction of a new subject and homework assignment.

Session Topics:

Session 1: Identifying Problem Learners
Session 2: Avoiding Problems: Behavior Based Interviewing
Session 3: Impaired Learners
Session 4: Professionalism Concerns
Session 5: Feedback and Remediation
Session 6: The Marginal Learner
Session 7: Medical Student Promotion Committee
Session 8: Legal Issues/Students with Disabilities

Goals of the Course:

At the end of the course, learners will be able to:

1) Define a problem learner
2) Develop a differential diagnosis for a problem learner
3) Discuss a stepwise process for evaluating the problem learner
4) Implement behavior based interviewing for learner selection
5) Develop a plan for managing impaired students
6) Understand professionalism lapses and how generational differences impact this assessment
7) Give problem learners feedback and develop a remediation plan
8) Develop a management strategy for the marginal learner
9) Discuss legal issues in termination of problem learners including learners with disabilities