

# Medical Student Competencies for Serious Illness Communication

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## Mission Statement:

Upon graduation, medical students will have acquired the foundational knowledge, skills and inspiration to engage as residents in goal-oriented conversations with seriously ill patients, with commitment to lifelong learning and deliberate practice.

## Competency #1:

Explores patient and family understanding of illness, concerns, values, and goals in order to develop goal-concordant treatment plans across settings of care.

## Competency #2:

Demonstrates effective approaches to exploring and responding to strong emotions in patients and families facing serious illness.

## Competency #3:

Applies a patient-centered framework to sharing difficult news, exploring pain and symptom burden, assessing prognostic awareness, discussing resuscitation preferences, and describing care at end of life.

## Competency #4:

Demonstrates awareness of one's own emotions and attitudes, and coping strategies for managing stress and uncertainty when caring for seriously ill patients.

## Competency #5:

Defines and explains the philosophy and role of palliative care, and differentiates hospice from palliative care.

