



SENSITIVE EXAM TEACHING ASSOCIATE (SETA) JOB DESCRIPTION

Primary purpose

The SETA Program was developed in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Medicine.

In this program, specially trained male and female sensitive exam teaching associates—or SETAs—use their bodies to teach health science students how to perform sensitive exams (such as breast, pelvic, and urological examinations) and to guide students while an exam is performed. This program is offered in safe, nonthreatening environments at sites in Saskatoon and Regina to teach, enhance, and assess the knowledge, skills, and behaviours of medical and nurse practitioner students.

Specifically, SETAs provide feedback on technique, communication skills, and patient rapport during sensitive exams. As a result, health science students experience safe educational encounters and critical learning experiences that allow them to gain confidence in fine technical competencies and sensitive communication skills.

Nature of work

Reporting to the Director of Clinical Learning Services and under the supervision of the College of Medicine's Sensitive Exam Faculty Module Director and the SETA Program Coordinator, SETAs facilitate sensitive exam educational encounters with health science students and medical candidates. Teaching sessions are a maximum of four hours and occur primarily during daytime hours.

Female SETAs—referred to as Gynecological Teaching Associates or GTAs—demonstrate and teach breast and pelvic exams. Male SETAs—referred to as Male Urological Teaching Associates or MUTAs—demonstrate and teach urological exams. Initially, SETAs undertake an extensive training program and receive certification upon completion. Skill maintenance training sessions are also conducted throughout the year.

As teaching associates, SETAs must have an interest in education. The focus of their work is to instruct health science students and medical candidates how to perform a physical examination and to help them develop patient-centred communication skills.

In addition to being very rewarding, SETA work can be physically and emotionally demanding due to its invasive nature. As such, each SETA must be comfortable with his/her/their body as well as discussing and demonstrating his/her/their anatomy with others.

During teaching sessions, SETAs should expect health science students and medical candidates to interview, counsel, and physically examine them. A professional, sensitive, and accepting demeanour must be presented to the students at all times.

This position is offered Monday through Friday during daytime hours on a casual, as-needed basis with occasional opportunities to work evenings and weekends.

Typical duties

- Participate in training sessions to learn and maintain required skills.
- Expertly perform required physical exam on another SETA.
- Work in a professional manner when interacting with learners, university faculty, supervisors, and peers while remaining punctual and reliable for all scheduled activity.
- Create a relaxed and professional environment while providing quality instruction.
- Accept and incorporate ongoing feedback from the module director, faculty, and students.
- Provide feedback to learners and faculty as trained and appropriate.
- Work collaboratively with the educational team.
- Maintain confidentiality of records, activities, and all other sensitive information as required.
- Self-assess personal wellbeing after simulation activities and seek assistance as needed.

Qualifications

Experience

No specific training or experience is necessary before joining the SETA Program—the USask Clinical Learning Resource Centre regularly provides SETAs with all necessary training and support resources prior to their involvement in each educational encounter.

With that said, experience in role-playing, teaching, or healthcare is considered an asset.

Skills

- Sophisticated communication and interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate comfortably, articulately, and clearly.
- Ability to work with others in a respectful and professional manner.
- Ability to memorize and understand large amounts of complex information related to physical examinations.
- Ability to maintain a high comfort level while discussing and demonstrating personal anatomy.
- Ability to provide consistent, objective, and focused feedback and evaluation to students.
- Ability to negotiate personal boundaries and request assistance if needed.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of records and information.

Education

Completion of Grade 12 is required for simulated patients in the SETA Program.