

SENSITIVE EXAM TEACHING ASSOCIATE (SETA) JOB DESCRIPTION

Primary purpose

The SETA Program was developed in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine. In this program, specially trained Sensitive Exam Teaching Associates—or SETAs—use **their** bodies to teach learners how to perform sensitive exams.

The SETA program is divided into two sections:

Sensitive Exam Teaching Associate Program Part 1: Urogenital and Rectal Examination component

Sensitive Exam Teaching Associate Program Part 2: Breast and Gynecological Examination component

Sensitive exams for Part 1 of the program include examination of the penis, scrotum/testes, examination for inguinal hernias and a digital (finger) examination of the prostate and rectum.

Sensitive exams included in Part 2 of the program include a breast and pelvic examination, including the use of a speculum for visualization of the vagina and cervix.

In a session, two SETAs teach the sensitive exam, focusing on the clinical examination components while emphasizing patient communication, consent and professionalism. Specifically, SETAs provide feedback on technique, communication skills, and patient rapport during sensitive exams. As a result, learners experience safe, educational encounters and critical learning experiences that allow them to gain confidence in their examination techniques and communication skills. This program is offered in safe, nonthreatening environments in both Saskatoon and Regina.

Nature of work

SETAs report to the Director of Clinical Learning Services and work directly 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 a variety of students in the medical field including medical, nurse practitioner and physician assistant students as well as international medical graduates.

Prior to teaching sessions, SETAs undertake extensive training. 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 learners on how to perform a physical examination and to help them develop patient-centered communication skills.

In addition to being very rewarding, SETA work can be physically and emotionally demanding due to its personal 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 work in pairs and are examined by the learners. It is important that SETAs are comfortable with both being examined as well as being present while their SETA partner is being examined. A professional, sensitive, and accepting demeanour must be presented to the students at all times.

Teaching sessions are a maximum of four hours and occur primarily during daytime hours. This position is offered Monday through Friday 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 a model or 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 and seek assistance as needed.

Qualifications

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.

SETAs require the presence of the anatomy to be examined (SETAs participating in part one of the program must have a penis, at least one testicle, prostate and anus/rectum. SETAs participating in part two of the program must have at least one breast, a vagina, cervix and uterus)

Prior to training, SETA candidates must complete a Criminal Records Check including vulnerable persons sector and successful trained SETAs must complete an attestation of criminal activity each year they continue with the program.

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 understand large amounts of 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.