

STUDENT'S RESEARCH IN MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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(Abstract)

Professional competence in medicine requires scientific thinking. Therefore, scientific thinking must be an integrated part in all stages of medical education and should be the ambition of teachers in all medical disciplines. Additionally, medical education in the GDR allows students to take part actively in special disciplinary or interdisciplinary research programs with the aim: - to motivate students for scientific thinking and problem solving - to learn research methods and models, handling of facts, logics and ethics and to apply these methods and principles to their own scientific tasks.

The following courses and possibilities are integrated in the curriculum: - possibility to spend at least four weeks of the compulsory year

of nursing practical training before the study of medicine in a basic discipline of one's own choice (up to 10 months for special interested students) - a compulsory practical four-week training period in a basic discipline of one's own choice in the second preclinical year - collaboration in special student research groups in medical disciplines of one's own choice - participation in scientific student meetings (at the faculty, national and international) and/or other scientific meetings.

Every student at the end of his/her studies must defend a thesis in order to receive a diploma (first academic degree) as a compulsory part of the medical studies.