

Vice-Dean's Office for Specialty & Subspecialty Education

Faculty of Medicine, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences

Introduction & Mission

The Office of Specialty & Subspecialty Education at the Faculty of Medicine, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, is dedicated to elevating the standards of postgraduate medical training. Its mission is to safeguard, promote, and supervise educational excellence among residents (specialty trainees) and fellows (subspecialty trainees) via robust curriculum design, systematic evaluation, and faculty capacity building.

Scope & Scale

- Currently, the number of specialty and subspecialty residents/trainees at this faculty exceeds 800.
- The programs cover a wide array of about 60 specialty and subspecialty disciplines (both clinical and surgical).
- This breadth reflects the comprehensive nature of the institution's commitment to meeting regional and national health needs.

Historical Background

Since its inception as one of Iran's earliest medical training centers, the Faculty of Medicine in Tabriz has progressively expanded its postgraduate offerings. As medical knowledge advanced and clinical demand grew, a formal administrative office was established to centrally manage the complexity of specialty and subspecialty education.

Key Responsibilities & Functions

1. **Program Oversight:** Monitoring all residency and fellowship programs to ensure compliance with national accreditation standards and alignment with departmental goals.
2. **Curriculum & Assessment:** Designing competency-based curricula, supervising in-training exams, promotion exams, and final board examinations, with emphasis on validity and reliability.
3. **Faculty Development:** Conducting workshops and training for clinical educators in modern teaching, assessment, feedback, and educational scholarship.

4. Trainee Affairs: Managing admissions, promotion decisions, leaves, rotation planning, grievance handling, and administrative policies.
5. Monitoring & Evaluation: Collecting educational metrics, performing program evaluation and educational research, and ensuring continuous quality improvement.
6. Coordination & Secretariat: Acting as the secretariat to the Specialty Education Council , implementing its decisions, and liaising with national medical education bodies.

Organizational Position

The Vice-Dean for Specialty & Subspecialty Education reports directly to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and operates as one of the key academic vice-deanates. This office works closely with clinical departments, hospital leadership, and national regulatory bodies to align training goals with health system priorities.

Vision & Future Directions

- To position the Faculty as a center of excellence in postgraduate medical education within Northwestern Iran.
- To foster innovation in medical education, including blended learning, simulation-based teaching, and competency-based assessment models.
- To cultivate a culture of educational scholarship, publishing work on medical education and encouraging educational research by faculty and trainees.
- To employ data-driven decision-making in ongoing curriculum refinement and optimization of training pathways in concordance with evolving healthcare needs.