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# Assessing Translational Skills in Humanities Electives for 4th Year Medical Students

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# Abstract:

The Creighton School of Medicine allows students to take up to two non-clinical electives in their fourth year of medical school. Two of those options are our literature electives, “Bearing Witness: Memoirs of Dying, Death, and Grief” and “Diagnosing Literature.” In these courses, students are asked to read literature from a medical humanities perspective. They bring the discourses of medicine and health to bear on literature, and they also bring the close reading of literature to bear on the discourses of medicine and health in order to help explore the value of empathy, compassion, and an understanding of the social determinants of health as they prepare for the next stage of their medical training as residents. This project will allow us to assess, in concrete terms, the ways in which students translate their experiences with these literature courses to their development as physicians by gathering and analyzing qualitative data about how course material appears in their personal statements, comes up in residency interviews, changes the way they communicate with peers and patients, and expands their understanding of the role of a medical practitioner.