

TITLE OF POLICY

Visiting Student Professionalism Policy

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes standards and norms of professionalism for students enrolled as visiting students in elective rotations.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY AND REVIEW CYCLE

The Education Committee reviews and approves the policy as needed.

LCME REFERENCE(S)

10.8

HISTORY OF APPROVALS AND UPDATES

Approved by Education Committee

POLICY

I will uphold, apply, and encourage standards of professionalism at all times during my elective rotation period at the School of Medicine at The University of North of Chapel Hill (“UNC-Chapel Hill” or the “University”) including, but not limited to, complying with the following principles.

Nondiscrimination/Respect

I acknowledge that UNC-Chapel Hill does not tolerate discrimination against patients, students, instructors, residents, or other trainees on the basis of legally protected categories, including age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. In addition to the legally prohibited behavior described above, the School of Medicine prohibits other actions that harm the learning environment, including disrespect for patients on account of their appearance, socioeconomic status or any other personal attributes. During my time in this elective, I recognize that I may need to open myself to examining my own personal attitudes, perceptions, and stereotypes, which may negatively affect my patient care or professional relationships. I recognize that this policy is founded in UNC’s commitment to embracing, acknowledging, and supporting all members of the medical school community to create an inclusive environment for all to work, learn, teach, research, and serve.

Learning Environment

It is the goal of UNC SOM to provide a learning environment that is welcoming to all learners, is safe to ask questions, and is inclusive. If you feel the learning environment is not optimal, please submit an anonymous or confidential report at the following link:



<https://www.med.unc.edu/md/forms/student-mistreatment-and-learning-environment-concern/>

Honesty

I recognize that the School of Medicine has indicated that honesty, respect, and personal responsibility are the cornerstones of a positive learning environment. Honesty is considered an absolute requirement in interactions with patients, peers, and hospital teams. In an effort to uphold this commitment to promoting a positive learning environment and quality patient care, I will not lie, steal, cheat, hide parts of the truth, or assist others in doing so. I will fully disclose my status as a medical student and will ensure that my superiors are aware of the actions I take regarding patients. I will demonstrate personal accountability for my actions and actively seek feedback, admit my errors openly, and will honestly modify my behavior where necessary.

Furthermore, it is the student's responsibility to wear their name badge at all times and to introduce themselves as medical students, thus representing themselves honestly.

Privacy/Confidentiality/Informed Consent

I recognize that I am expected to familiarize myself with and apply the policies of confidentiality outlined in the University's HIPAA training. I will protect patient privacy, avoid unauthorized use of intellectual property, and obtain patient consent when discussing or sharing details of their case. I realize that I must pay attention to my surroundings when discussing patient details, and ensure that information is not accessible by those not directly involved in the medical treatment of that patient. I will follow applicable institutional policies regarding informed consent and will inform patients and/or family members of my status as a medical student and the name of the supervising physician under whom I am working.

Evaluation

I recognize that my participation in this elective is not for the purpose of obtaining a letter of recommendation or to get an interview in order to match in a residency program. The purpose of my participating in a student elective is to further my medical education and advocate for patient interests above all else in my elective decisions. I understand that my participation in the program will be evaluated by a clinical course faculty and that I may be dismissed if my performance, including (without limitation) my failure to comply with the School of Medicine or University's policies regarding professionalism, academic integrity and other agreements associated with the University and UNC Health Care entities, is not satisfactory. In the instance of elective termination or my dismissal, I recognize that the Office of Student Affairs will contact my home medical school. I recognize that I am accountable for my own actions and must be able to adapt my behaviors in response to constructive criticism. I am aware that the Office of Student Affairs will communicate with my course faculty to obtain a grade of completion and summary comments about my participation in this elective. In addition to this



completion grade, I realize that I may or may not receive any additional evaluations from faculty, that letters of recommendation are not guaranteed and that evaluations may be withheld due to policy violations.

Professional Demeanor/Appearance/Attendance

I am expected to comply with the UNC Hospitals dress code described to me by my medical supervisors, and to maintain appropriate professional hygiene and appearance while engaging in clinical work. I am also expected to report to my elective on-time and to make attendance a priority. If I am to miss any days, I will communicate with my team ahead of time to obtain permission and keep them informed.

Amour Relationships/Harassment

I recognize the University prohibits sexual violence, sexual exploitation, interpersonal violence and sexual or gender-based harassment. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sex-stereotyping based on sex, gender or sexual orientation, and other verbal, physical or electronic conduct of a sexual nature that create a hostile, intimidating or abusive environment. Sexual contact without the demonstrated consent of both parties is prohibited. I recognize that amorous relationships with a supervising or evaluating staff/team member are not allowed, and that my supervisors are not permitted to ask students for personal or sexual favors as this can violate the trust between teacher and learner in an educational environment.

If you feel at any time that these same standards are not being demonstrated towards yourself or others, please contact the Office of Student Affairs for assistance. For complaints under the University's Policy on Prohibited Harassment, Discrimination and Related Misconduct, please also refer to the reporting options available pursuant to that policy. By signing this document, I acknowledge that UNC-Chapel Hill may take appropriate action to address violations of the above listed expectations and any other University policies or procedures, including but not limited to:

- Contacting my home medical school leadership
- Issuing a report to be included in my formal record with UNC-Chapel Hill
- Contacting any appropriate outside organizations or authorities required to address the situation
- Terminating my elective participation, resulting in no faculty evaluation and/or an "Incomplete" or Failing grade.

Clinical Supervision



Supervising physicians should model professionalism, ensure medical students are aware of the expectations for their behavior, provide students with appropriate learning opportunities, ensure patients are aware that students are involved in their care, ensure students are appropriately supervised, and ensure students are aware of the procedures or other tasks they are permitted to perform with appropriate supervision.

Students should behave professionally with all members of the health care team, practice self-awareness, seek assistance when needed, inform patients of their medical student status, and inform their supervising physician about concerns related to the level of supervision being provided.

<https://www.med.unc.edu/md/policies/wp-content/uploads/sites/883/2019/01/Clinical-Supervision-of-Medical-Students-LCME-9.3.pdf>