

TITLE OF POLICY

Separation of Assessment and Student Advocacy/Role of Students' Family

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish mechanisms for ensuring that faculty who serve as student advocates do not assess their students and do not play a role in their promotion.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY AND REVIEW CYCLE

The Office of Student Affairs will review the policy on an as-needed basis and the Education Committee will review and approve it.

LCME REFERENCE(S)

LCME 9.9: Student Advancement and Appeal Process

LCME 11.1: Separation of Assessment and Student Advocacy Roles

LCME 11.2: Career Advising

HISTORY OF APPROVALS AND UPDATES

Approved by Education Committee October 2019

Approved by Education Committee October 2025

DEFINITION(S)

NA

POLICY

Faculty in advisory roles may not evaluate the academic performance of any student for whom they advise and may not play a role in the student's promotion. To prevent this from taking place, the MD Program at UNC SOM has established a formal advising system, the Advisory College, wherein each student is assigned an advisor who is not permitted to provide evaluations of their work. In addition, members of the Advisory College may not serve as members of the Student Progress Committee. UNC medical students have access to and can obtain academic counseling from individuals, specifically those in the Office of Academic Excellence, who have no role in making assessment or promotion decisions about them.

In addition to the advising system, students may also receive advice from the Associate and Assistant Deans of Student Affairs. The Associate and Assistant Deans for Student Affairs do not serve as course directors, submit course grades or make decisions regarding the promotion or progress of students through the curriculum. They serve as *ex officio* members of the Student Progress Committee. MSPEs are typically signed by the Senior Associate Dean for Medical Student Education but may be signed by the Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs or the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, at the student's request.



Family members may not evaluate the academic performance of any student to whom they are related by blood or marriage, nor may they play a role in the student's promotion. Faculty members or students aware of a conflict should notify the course director, who will make alternative arrangements.

PROCEDURE(S)

See the [Policy on Student Progress Committee Functions](#)