



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)

LCME 10.8: Visiting Students

HISTORY OF APPROVALS AND UPDATES

Approved by Education Committee May 2024

POLICY

Students must uphold, apply, and encourage standards of professionalism at all times during their 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

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. Students should recognize that they should examine their own personal attitudes, perceptions, and stereotypes, which may negatively affect their patient care or professional relationships. Students should 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 the learning environment is not optimal, students can submit an anonymous or confidential report at the following link:



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

Honesty

At UNC School of Medicine 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, students must not lie, steal, cheat, hide parts of the truth, or assist others in doing so. Student must fully disclose their status as a medical student and ensure that their supervising physicians are aware of their actions related to patient care. They will demonstrate personal accountability for their actions and actively seek feedback, admit my errors openly, and will honestly modify 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

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

Evaluation

Students should understand that obtaining a letter of recommendation or being invited to interview for their residency program is not a natural consequence of completing coursework with a specific department. The purpose of a student elective is to further their medical education and advocate for patient interests above all else in my elective decisions.

Assessment of student performance will be performed as described in the course syllabus.

Students may be dismissed if their performance, including but not limited to failure to comply satisfactorily 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. In the instance of elective termination or dismissal, the Office of Student Affairs will contact the visiting student's home medical school. Students are accountable for their own actions and must be able to adapt behaviors in response to feedback. The registrar's office in the Office of Student Affairs will communicate with course faculty to obtain a grade of completion and summary comments about participation in this elective. In addition to this



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

Professional Demeanor/Appearance/Attendance

All students are expected to comply with the University dress code AND the dress code of the healthcare system in which they are working and learning.

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of North Carolina prohibits discrimination and harassment. All students, including visiting, students are responsible for reviewing and being compliant with the full policies at our Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office [website](#).

Students may contact the Office of Student Affairs for assistance if they feel they are experiencing harassment or discrimination. 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. 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>