



Policy Title

Expectation of Personal and Professional Conduct

Identifier

USCSOMG – STAF – 5.01

Prepared by: Office of Student Affairs	
Reviewed by: Interim Associate Dean for Student Affairs	Review Date: 4/6/2023
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LCME Standards

- 3.5 – Learning Environment/Professionalism
- 7.7 – Medical Ethics
- 7.8 – Communication Skills
- 7.9 – Interprofessional Collaborative Skills

Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville students

Policy Statement

Students at the USC School of Medicine Greenville have the responsibility to maintain the highest levels of personal and professional integrity and to show compassion and respect for themselves, colleagues, faculty, staff, and most important, the patients who participate in their education.

Reason for Policy

To provide USC School of Medicine students clarity on the standards by which personal and professional conduct is expected of our medical students.

Procedures

Statement of Professionalism

The USC School of Medicine Greenville vision of professionalism has the primacy of patient welfare as its central tenet. The Guiding Principles upon which the USC School of Medicine is founded express core values of altruism, integrity, a commitment to excellence, and high moral and ethical standards as the necessary foundations for the development of medical professionals. Students will be evaluated on professionalism as a component of their overall assessment. The Honor and Professionalism Council (HPC) will be charged with the responsibility of making recommendations for students who have exhibited unprofessional behavior.

As a student, expectations of the personal and professional conduct for the USC School of Medicine Greenville include the following general and specific considerations:

1. The student will show concern for the welfare of patients. They will:
 - display a professional attitude in obtaining medical histories and physical examinations;
 - act appropriately and respectfully in all verbal and nonverbal interactions with patients;
 - treat patients with respect and dignity, both in the presence of patients and in discussions with professional colleagues; and display concern for the patient.
2. The student will show concern for the rights of others. They will:
 - demonstrate a considerate manner and cooperative spirit in dealing with faculty, staff, fellow students, and all members of the healthcare team;
 - treat all persons encountered in a professional capacity with equality regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, creed, sex, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, veteran status., or socioeconomic status; and
 - assume an appropriate and equitable share of duties among peers and colleagues.
3. The student will show evidence of responsibility to duty. They will:
 - effectively and promptly undertake duties, including evaluations, notes, checklists, and other required items and follow through until their completion
 - be punctual and present at rounds, conferences, and all academic and clinical obligations;
 - notify course and clinical clerkship directors (or other appropriate persons) of absence or inability to attend to duties in accordance with attendance policies;
 - see assigned patients regularly and, with appropriate supervision, assume responsibility for their care; and
 - ensure that they can be promptly located at all times when on duty.
4. The student will be trustworthy. They will:
 - be truthful and intellectually honest in all communications;
 - accept responsibility and establish priorities for meeting multiple professional demands and for completing work necessary for the optimal care of patients;
 - accurately discern when supervision or advice is needed before acting; and
 - maintain confidentiality of all patient information.

- adhere to [USC Policy STAF 6.25: Academic Responsibility - The Honor Code](#)
- adhere to [USC Policy STAF 6.26: Student Code of Conduct](#)

5. The student will maintain a professional demeanor. They will:

- maintain appropriate standards of personal appearance, attire, and hygiene
- maintain emotional stability and equilibrium under the pressures of emergencies, fatigue, professional stress, or personal problems; and seek help when needed
- be responsible in the use of alcohol and prescription drugs and avoid their effects while on duty.

6. The student will possess those individual characteristics required for the practice of medicine.

They will:

- be capable of making logical diagnostic and therapeutic judgments;
- communicate effectively with patients, supervisors, and peers;
- establish appropriate professional relationships with faculty, colleagues, and patients; and
- show evidence of the ability to be perceptive, introspective, and insightful in professional relationships.

Procedures

For reporting and investigation procedures, please refer to [USCSOMG – STAF – 5.03 Honor and Professionalism System](#)

Sanctions

For sanctions, please refer to [USCSOMG – STAF – 5.03 Honor and Professionalism System](#)

Additional Contacts

Office of Student Affairs

Honor and Professionalism Council (HPC)

Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee (SEPC)

Related Information

USC School of Medicine Greenville Student Handbook

History

Date of Change	Change
April 2023	Editorial changes made due to branding updates and titles
April 2022	Removed requirements related to COVID-19 based on change in university policy. Formal approval not required.
December 2021	HPC will make a decision on whether a student is responsible or not for reported HPC violations. HPC will make recommendations to SEPC regarding the sanctions. SEPC will make the final decision and communication regarding the sanctions.

April 2021	Updated link to Carolinian Creed and COVID guidance; formal approval not required.
June 2020	Added requirement for COVID-19 adherence to physical distancing and face covering policies
July 2019	Editorial changes made due to branding updates and titles; formal approval not required.
July 2018	Policy formalized into standardized template, LCME CQI