



Policy Title
Student Mistreatment

Identifier
USCSOMG – STAF – 6.01

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Prepared by: Office for Student Affairs | |
| Reviewed by: Associate Dean for Student Affairs | Review Date: 06/29/2025 |
| Approved by: USCSOMG Policy Committee | Approval Date: 07/10/2025 |
| | Effective Date: 07/11/2025 |

LCME Standards

3.6 – Student Mistreatment

10.6 – Content of Informational Materials

Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville students, faculty, residents, staff and visiting students

Policy Statement

The educational program at USC School of Medicine Greenville has been developed to support and encourage the collegiality and professionalism essential to an effective learning environment. The primary objective of the mistreatment policy is to ensure that students who believe that they have been punitively assessed, harassed or mistreated because of race, ethnicity, religion, creed, sex, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, and/or any other protected class have their concerns promptly addressed in a fair, unbiased, and just manner.

Reason for Policy

To provide USC School of Medicine students, faculty, residents, and staff with clarity on the student mistreatment policy and reporting procedures.

Definitions

Mistreatment can be defined in eight general domains:

- Public belittlement or humiliation
- Threats of physical harm or actual physical punishment
- Requirements to perform personal services
- Being subjected to unwanted sexual advances
- Being asked for sexual favors in exchange for grades
- Being denied opportunities for training, subjected to offensive remarks/names, or receiving lower grades or evaluations based on color, ethnicity, religion, creed, sex, gender identity or expression, national

origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, familial status, citizenship status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition or veteran status.

Procedures

Students who feel they have been mistreated by students, faculty, residents, or staff are encouraged to report the incident. There are several mechanisms available to report student mistreatment.

- **Learning Environment Concern Form (including Mistreatment)** – An online mistreatment report form. Although forms may be submitted anonymously, the reporter is encouraged to self-identify to facilitate appropriate follow-up. This form is received and reviewed by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and the Manager of Student Affairs. The matter is then referred to the appropriate School administrative office or personnel for additional investigation. If the submitter has identified themselves, they will receive notice of the outcome of the evaluation of their report. If the form was filed anonymously, no notification of the outcome would be possible.
- **Health System Compliance Hotline** – Students can confidentially or anonymously report concerns regarding the clinical training environment at the partner health system. A caller may remain anonymous but is encouraged to self-identify as a USC School of Medicine Greenville student to ensure that the reported incident is forwarded to the Office of Student Affairs. The Compliance Hotline is operated by an independent outside firm to further protect anonymity. To reach the Compliance Hotline, call 1-888-243-3611 (English) or 1-800-297-8592 (Spanish). Callers are encouraged to keep the case number and PIN number provided by the operator.
- **A formal report to the USC School of Medicine Greenville administration** – Meeting with a member of the school's administration, including assistant or associate deans in the Offices for Medical Education, Student Affairs, or Admissions, and/or Chief Officer for Culture, Access, & Stakeholder Engagement. Upon meeting with a member of administration, a mistreatment report form is completed for tracking purposes and/or reported to the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX for compliance purposes, where appropriate;
- **Faculty and resident evaluations** are distributed to students at the end of each module and clerkship. These evaluations are confidential, but not anonymous. There is a section that allows students to note concern in any faculty or resident treatment of medical students.
 - Clerkship faculty and resident evaluations are reviewed by the clerkship director, program director, Assistant Dean for Clerkship and Post- Clerkship Curriculum, vice chair of academics and department chair, and the Associate Dean for Medical Education
 - Pre-clerkship faculty evaluations are reviewed by the Assistant Dean for Pre-Clerkship Curriculum, Chair of biomedical sciences, and the Associate Dean for Medical Education
 - IPM faculty evaluations are reviewed by the Director of IPM, department vice chair, department chair, and the Associate Dean for Medical Education.

The Associate Dean for Medical Education communicates with the Department Chairs, Vice Chairs of Academics, and/or Residency Program Director to assure that the concerns have been received and are being addressed.

Non-retaliation

It is a violation of University of South Carolina's Equal Opportunity, Anti-Discrimination, & Harassment Policy for any person to retaliate, intimidate or take reprisals against a person who files a complaint, testifies, assists or participates in any manner in the investigation/resolution of a complaint of unlawful discrimination or harassment. Appropriate sanctions/disciplinary actions will be taken against any person who is found to have violated this policy.

Sanctions

Disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal/termination of the student, staff, or faculty member responsible for the mistreatment.

Additional Contacts

Office of Student Affairs

Office of Medical Education

Office for Culture, Access, & Stakeholder Engagement

Office of Civil Rights & Title IX

Office of Compliance Services, Prisma Health

Related Information

[USC School of Medicine Greenville Student Handbook](#)

[USCSOMG – HR–1.00 Equal Opportunity and Anti-discrimination Policy](#)

History

| Date of Change | Change |
|-----------------------|---|
| June 2025 | Removed reference to the ombudsperson until the position is filled. Reviewed and updated protected class categories. Added PH Corporate Compliance Services. Included ADME to follow up |
| March 2025 | Strengthened language in response to policy audit |
| April 2022 | Updated link to Mistreatment online form; formal approval is not required. |
| April 2021 | Clarified definition of mistreatment, updated methods of reporting incidences to include faculty/resident evaluations. |
| June 2020 | Added language on non-retaliation based on feedback from LCME Self Study process |
| July 2019 | Clarified definition of mistreatment. Editorial changes made due to branding updates and titles. |
| June 2018 | Policy formalized into standardized template, LCME CQI |