

## STUDENT CODE OF ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY FOR THE M.D. DEGREE PROGRAM

This code applies to students enrolled in the M.D. degree program at the West Virginia University School of Medicine. It was adopted by the Faculty of the School of Medicine on August 12, 1987. It was amended as part of the *Policy on Academic and Professional Standards Governing the M.D. Program* approved on May 14, 1990 by West Virginia University Faculty Senate. It was amended by the Committee on Academic and Professional Standards on: June 20, 2002. Changes were adopted by the faculty of the School of Medicine in July 2002.

This "Student Code of Academic and Professional integrity for the M.D. Degree Program" incorporates the "Policy on Academic and Professional Standards Governing the M.D. Degree Program at West Virginia University School of Medicine" and governs student behavior in lectures, examinations, laboratories, recitation sessions, clinics, all other academic settings of the School of Medicine and the University, and all other settings which reflect upon the integrity and suitability of the student to practice medicine. Successful progression through the curriculum and graduation with the M.D. degree are contingent upon the student's compliance with this code. Evaluation of student performance under this code follows the procedures established in the "Policy on Academic Standards Governing the M.D. Degree Program at West Virginia University School of Medicine."

The practice of the art and science of medicine must be based on reverence for life, compassion and respect for the patient, competence, and integrity. Hence, the School of Medicine expects its students to exhibit compassion; to be considerate and respectful towards patients, their families, instructors, staff, and each other; to grow in knowledge and clinical skill; and to act honorably at all times.

Specifically, the School of Medicine requires students to adhere to these basic rules of academic and professional integrity:

### **1. I shall dedicate myself to excellence in patient care.**

I, therefore, shall be conscientious in carrying out my assigned duties, follow the guidance of my instructors, and accept responsibility for my actions.

### **2. I shall safeguard a patient's privacy.**

I, therefore, shall not access or disclose confidential information about a person without authorization.

**3. I shall be considerate and respectful towards patients, their families, instructors, staff, and my fellow students.**

I, therefore, shall treat my patients with greatest consideration and respect their dignity. I shall be courteous and civil in my dealings with others within the School of Medicine. I shall respect rules of behavior, professional comportment, and appearance set forth by the School of Medicine or the faculty. I shall render evaluations of courses and instructors in an objective and civil manner. I shall be professional in all forms of communication.

**4. I shall act honorably and with integrity in my pursuit of the M.D. degree.**

I, therefore, shall be truthful about my actions as a student of medicine and accept responsibility for them. I shall reject academic dishonesty and not falsely claim competence or knowledge.

I pledge to refrain from all acts of academic dishonesty. In particular,

**(1) I shall not plagiarize** and not submit as my own any material taken from other sources without acknowledgement or permission.

**(2) I shall not cheat** in connection with any examinations, academic assignments and activities, and clinical duties.

I especially pledge that:

- I shall not communicate with others, except proctors, during an examination;
- I shall not obtain unauthorized help from another person during an examination or graded academic assignment;
- I shall not give help to another student during an examination or graded academic assignment;
- I shall not take an examination in place of another student;
- I shall not gain access to unauthorized material in connection with an examination;
- I shall not make use of unauthorized material in connection with an examination;
- I shall not obtain impermissible advance knowledge of the contents of examination;
- I shall not alter a scored examination or answer sheet and then resubmit it in order to effect a change of a grade or evaluation;
- I shall not allow another student to submit my work for grading or credit;
- I shall not falsify instructional or clinical laboratory results;
- I shall not falsify clinical work-ups and records.

**(3) I shall not engage in forgery, misrepresentation, and fraud.**

I especially pledge that:

- I shall not furnish false statements as a witness for any University or School of Medicine disciplinary investigation or appeal;
- I shall not forge or alter educational records or submit such records to the staff and faculty of the University or School of Medicine for fraudulent purposes;

- I shall not misrepresent educational achievements;
- I shall not misuse School of Medicine records with intent to defraud;
- I shall not falsify research results;
- I shall not misrepresent authorship on scholarly work and publications.

**5. I shall act honorably and with integrity at all times.**

I, therefore, shall not engage in behavior or conduct that demonstrates a lack of personal qualities necessary for the practice of medicine or that may adversely reflect upon the medical profession or the School of Medicine.

**6. I shall support this code of academic and professional integrity.**

I, therefore, shall report to an Associate Dean for Student Services all violations of this code that I witness. I shall also bring to the Associate Dean all serious concerns about the treatment of patients that I cannot resolve with my supervisors.

***Updated: February, 2012***

***Updated: June 2020***