

Code of Conduct

Assessment of behavioural and ethical performance will be related to the following standards:

1. The student should display skill at communicating and interacting appropriately with patients, families, fellow students, faculty, allied health care personnel and staff.
2. The student should demonstrate:
 - respect, empathy and compassion for patients and their families;
 - concern for the needs of the patients and their families to understand the nature of the illness and the goals and possible complications of investigations and treatment;
 - respect for, and ability to work harmoniously with, other allied health care personnel, and medical colleagues;
 - recognition of the importance of self-assessment and of lifelong learning for the maintenance of competent performance;
 - a willingness to teach others, including colleagues, as well as other allied health care professionals;
 - an understanding of the appropriate requirements for involvement of patients and their families in research;
 - an awareness of the effects that differences in cultural and social background have on the maintenance of health and the development of and reaction to illness; and
 - respect for the patient as an informed participant in decisions regarding his/her care, wherever possible.

The following are examples of situations where a student's fitness for the study and practice of medicine may be considered unsatisfactory. This list is included by way of illustration only and is not exhaustive of the types of situations that may lead to dismissal from the study of medicine. It is hoped, however, that this list might provide some direction to students in understanding the relationship of their activities to the study and practice of medicine. Included as examples of unfitness for the study and practice of medicine are the following:

- breach of any of the above principles of behaviour;
- referring to oneself as, or holding oneself to be, more qualified than one is;
- behaviour or inappropriate judgement which adversely affects the medical education of others;
- failure to be available while on call;
- failure to respect patients' rights;
- breach of confidentiality, in the doctor-patient relationship;
- failure to provide transfer of responsibility for patient care;
- failure to keep proper medical records;
- falsification of medical records;
- sexual or other harassment of a patient, other students, faculty or staff;
- use of alcohol or related substances at a time or in a manner which might affect clinical performance;
- behaviour of an unethical nature;
- unexplained persistent absence from mandatory clinical or tutorial responsibilities;
- behaviour or inappropriate judgement which places a patient at risk;
- irregularities in evaluation procedures;
- any condition which adversely affects a student's ability to perform as a physician if that condition is chronic, recurring and affects judgement; and
- statements, actions (or failure to act) which bring disrepute to the medical profession, or which would adversely affect the patient/physician relationship if disclosed, or which reflect an inability to make competent medical judgement.