



POLICIES

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Retired:

Revised:

Approved by:

Maria F. Lima, Ph.D. Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research

Subject:

Academic Dishonesty Policy

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is:

To define the expectations of MMC PA program students regarding academic honesty and professional conduct.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Meharry Medical College is an academic community and expects its students to have a commitment to academic integrity through serious observance of standards for academic honesty and respect. A college can function properly only when its members adhere to clearly established goals and values. Therefore, academic standards are established to ensure that these principles are upheld.

Specific to the academic pursuits of students, Meharry Medical College, believes the maintenance of academic standards is a joint responsibility of the students and faculty of the College. Freedom to teach and to learn is dependent upon individual and collective conduct to permit the pursuit and exchange of knowledge and opinion. Faculty have the responsibility to create an atmosphere in which students may display their knowledge. This atmosphere includes an orderly testing room and sufficient safeguards to inhibit dishonesty. Students have the responsibility to rely on their knowledge and resources in the evaluation process. The trust developed in the maintenance of academic standards is necessary for the fair evaluation of all students.

Therefore, it is the intention of the MMC PA Sciences Program to assist learners in developing a mindset of maintaining academic integrity at all levels of progress throughout the program.

Students are expected to demonstrate integrity by following all MMC PA Sciences Program policies. Physician Assistant students are also expected to display the highest ethical standards commensurate with work as a health care professional. These standards are outlined in the [Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the Physician Assistant Profession](#) published by the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

All students are subject to the regulations of the MMC Student Code of Professional Conduct and Honor Code ([SOGSR Student Academic Policies and Procedures Manual, pg. 86-91](#)) of Meharry Medical College. Instances of suspected plagiarism,

Effective Date:
January 1, 2019

Subject:
Academic Dishonesty Policy

cheating on examinations, or other violations of the Student Honor Code, should be reported either to the Office of the General Counsel or the Office of the Dean, SOGSR.

DEFINITIONS:

Academic Dishonesty – A student may receive academic and disciplinary sanctions for cheating, plagiarism or other attempts to obtain or earn grades under false pretenses.

Cheating – For purposes of this policy, cheating is defined as: (1) obtaining or providing unauthorized information while executing, completing or in relation to coursework, through verbal, visual or unauthorized use of books, notes, text and other materials; (2) turning in the same work in more than one class (or when repeating a class), unless permission is received in advance from the instructor; (3) taking an examination for another student, or arranging for another person to take an exam in one’s place; (4) altering or changing test answers after submittal for grading; (5) altering or changing grades after grades have been awarded; (6) altering or changing other academic records once these are official; and/or (7) facilitating or permitting any of the above-listed items.

For purposes of this definition of cheating, the term “unauthorized” is defined as: an examination, laboratory experience or report, papers, homework or quizzes or any other class assignment or class activity.

Disruptive Behavior- For purposes of this policy, “Disruptive Behavior” is defined as behavior, including but not limited to the disruption, obstruction or unauthorized interruption of teaching or the learning environment (e.g. repeated outburst from a student which disrupts the flow of instruction or prevents concentration on a subject taught, failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum, failure to follow course, laboratory or safety rules), unauthorized text messaging, and the continued unauthorized use of any electronic device which disturbs others.

Intellectual Honesty- Is an applied method of problem solving, characterized by unbiased, honest attitude, which can be demonstrated in a number of different ways.

- One’s personal faith does not interfere with the pursuit of truth;
- Relevant facts and information are not purposefully omitted even when such things may contradict one’s hypothesis;
- Facts are presented in an unbiased manner, and not twisted to give misleading impressions or to support one view over another;
- References, or earlier work, are acknowledged where possible, and plagiarism

Effective Date:
January 1, 2019

Subject:
Academic Dishonesty Policy

avoided.

Plagiarism- Defined as (1) the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit; (2) the submission of ideas, processes, results or words not originating with the author and developed specifically for the work at hand without the appropriate credit being given; or (3) assisting in the act of plagiarism by allowing one's work to be used as described above. Any ideas, processes, results, or words not originating with the author and developed specifically for the work at hand should be credited appropriately.

PROCEDURE:

Students are required to sign the **Honor Code Pledge** ([SOGSR Student Academic Policies and Procedures Manual, pg. 93](#)) at Meharry Medical College. Faculty and staff also have a responsibility to participate in the implementation, enforcement, and application of the Honor Code.

Violation of PA Academic Dishonesty Policy

All students are required to adhere to the MMC PA Sciences Program Academic Dishonesty Policy in addition to those which govern the physician assistant profession. Physician assistant students must conduct themselves in a highly professional manner consistent with the patient care responsibilities with which they will be entrusted during their training in the program. Students must adhere to the above standards.

Review Process

Students failing to adhere to the standards of this policy will be referred to the Student Progress Committee.

EXHIBITS: