



POLICIES

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Retired:

Revised:

Approved by:

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

Subject: Consensual Relationships

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is:

To provide MMC PA students with the expectations regarding amorous and consensual relationships in the context of educational or employment supervision and evaluation between a student and a faculty member.

POLICY STATEMENT:

MMC PA Program students are subject to and are expected to comply with the [Institutional Amorous Relationship Policy](#). The following additional policies also apply:

Consensual Relationships with Patients

Consensual amorous, dating, or sexual relationships that might be appropriate in other circumstances have inherent dangers when they occur between a healthcare provider and a patient. It is unethical for PAs to have these types of relationships with patients. It also may be unethical for PAs to become involved in a relationship with former patients or key third parties. Key third parties are individuals who have influence over the patient. These might include spouses or partners, parents, guardians, or surrogates.

Such relationships generally are unethical because of the PA's position of authority and the inherent imbalance of knowledge, expertise, and status. Issues such as dependence, trust, transference, and inequalities of power may lead to increased vulnerability on the part of the current or former patients or key third parties. For these reasons, students are not allowed to date current or past patients. Any student found to be socializing with patients in this manner is subject to disciplinary measures.

Consensual Relationships with Preceptors or Clinical Rotation Staff

Consensual amorous, dating, or sexual relationships have inherent risks when they occur between a student, faculty member, or other member of the MMC community and any person over whom he or she has a professional responsibility. Those with professional responsibility over others and with whom they have a romantic relationship should be aware that their involvement may subject them and the College



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to legal liability; consequently, such relationships are strongly discouraged.

DEFINITIONS:

Amorous Relationships: Romantic or sexual relationships between two individuals of the opposite or same sex who are not married to each other or in a domestic partnership with each other and who mutually and consensually understand the relationship to the romantic and/or sexual nature.

PROCEDURE:

Violation of the Institutional-Amorous Relationships Policy is interpreted and enforced by the Office of General Counsel. The MMC PA Program Student Progress Committee interprets and enforces the *Consensual Relationships with Patients and Consensual Relationships with Preceptors or Clinical Rotation Staff* through the provisions provided in the Professionalism Policy.

EXHIBITS: