

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Retired:

Revised:

Approved by:

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

Subject: MMC PA Program Students' Responsibilities and Rights Policy.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is:

To outline the rights and responsibilities of Meharry Medical College students enrolled in the Physician Assistant Sciences Program.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Upon matriculation, all MMC PA students are required to read and sign acceptance of the following principles. As a student of the MMC PA Program, I understand that it is a great privilege to study medicine. Over the course of my training, I will assume responsibility for the health and well-being of others. This undertaking requires that I uphold the highest standards of ethical and professional behavior. Accordingly, I have adopted the following statement of principles to guide me throughout my academic, clinical, and research work. I will strive to uphold both the spirit and the letter of this code in my years in the MMC PA Program and throughout my medical career.

HONESTY

- Students will maintain the highest standards of academic honesty.
- Students will neither give nor receive aid in examinations or assignments unless the instructor expressly permits such cooperation.
- Students will be truthful with patients and will report accurately all historical and physical findings, test results, and other information pertinent to the care of patients.
- Students will conduct research in an unbiased manner, report results truthfully, and credit ideas developed and work done by others.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Students will regard confidentiality as a central obligation of patient care.
- Students will limit discussions of patients to members of the health care team in

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settings removed from the public ear (not in elevators, hallways, cafeterias, etc.)

- Students will maintain patient confidentiality when required.
- Students will be truthful with patients and will report accurately all historical and physical findings, test results, and other information pertinent to the care of the patient according to the patient's wishes.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

- Students will uphold an atmosphere conducive to learning.
- Students will treat patients and their families with dignity, and respect their physical and emotional needs.
- Students will demonstrate respect and confidentiality when discussing patient issues with other members of the health care team.
- Students will strive to communicate effectively and cooperatively with all members of the health care team.
- Students will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, culture, socioeconomic status, or any other basis.
- Students will attempt to resolve conflicts in a manner that is fair and dignified to each person involved.

RESPONSIBILITY

- Students will conduct themselves professionally -- in demeanor, use of language, and appearance -- in the presence of patients, in the classroom, and in health care settings.
- Students will be reliable in completing course and rotation tasks, and will attend and participate in all required activities, including (but not limited to) class, clinic, and rounds.
- Students will recognize his or her own limitations and will seek help when appropriate.

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- Students will set patient care as the highest priority in the clinical setting.
- Students will provide unbiased constructive evaluations of colleagues and faculty and courses when asked.
- Students will not use alcohol or drugs in any way that could interfere with clinical or educational responsibilities.
- Students will adhere to the MMC campus policy regarding tobacco use and maintain compliance with the local tobacco policies while on clinical rotations.
- Students will not use their professional position to engage in romantic or sexual relationships with patients or members of their families.
- Students will report all apparent violations of the Students' Rights and Responsibilities policy to the appropriate individual in accordance with the Professionalism Policy.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS OF FACULTY, RESIDENTS, AND FELLOWS

- Students have the right to expect clear guidelines regarding assignments and examinations, as well as to have testing environments that are conducive to academic honesty.
- Students cannot be compelled to perform procedures or examinations which they feel are unethical or beyond the level of their training.
- Students have the right not to be harassed and not to be subjected to romantic or sexual overtures from those who are supervising his or her work.
- Students have the right to learn in a challenging but respectful environment.

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE:

EXHIBITS:



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