



Policy on Student Conduct and Responsibility

Harvard Medical School has responsibility of ensuring that its graduates meet certain standards of professional conduct and responsibility. These standards include reliability, honesty and integrity, responsibility in professional relationships, responsibility in relationships with patients and families, and responsibility related to substance abuse.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of these standards, examples of which include:

1. RELIABILITY

- Can be depended upon to do his/her duty as defined by clerkship and course objectives
- Completes tasks he/she was assigned or agreed to perform
- Attends and participates in a timely fashion in all scheduled activities, including class, clinic, rounds, etc.

2. HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

- Is honest and ethical with regard to assignments, examinations, research activities, and patient care
- Acknowledges his/her own mistakes and takes steps to correct them
- Adheres to ethical and legal standards of conduct

3. RESPONSIBILITY IN PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Knows and acts in accordance with own cognitive, physical, and emotional limitations
- Takes steps to act on constructive criticism
- Handles stress appropriately
- Is considerate and respectful of colleagues
- Listens to and maintains effective communication with colleagues
- Uses appropriate language and tact in all professional situations
- Does not make inappropriate demands of/on colleagues
- Does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, national origin, ethnic background, political beliefs, veteran status, disability status or any other improper basis
- Shows appropriate judgment in responding to unethical, unprofessional or dangerous behavior on the part of others
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4. RESPONSIBILITY IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

- Knows and acts in accordance with own cognitive, physical and emotional limitations
- Is considerate, conscientious and respectful toward patient's and family's physical interests and emotional concerns
- Listens to and maintains effective communication with patient and family
- Uses appropriate language and tact in all professional situations
- Keeps accurate medical records
- Does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, national origin, ethnic background, political beliefs, veteran status, disability status or any improper basis
- Is appropriately groomed in all professional situations
- Maintains appropriate boundaries in the doctor/patient relationship

5. RESPONSIBILITY RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Is aware that substance abuse is not compatible with professional conduct
- Is aware that the use of any substance in the setting of patient care and research activities is not compatible with professional conduct
- Shows appropriate judgment in seeking evaluation and assistance if impaired or potentially impaired by substance abuse