

Section Six Assessment and Faculty Conflict of Interest

A. Separation of Academic Assessment and Provision of Health Services to Students

Approved: December 12, 2012

Revised: June 19, 2013, November 9, 2021

LCME Accreditation Element 12.5 requires that health professionals at a medical education program who provide psychiatric/psychological counseling to a medical student must have no involvement in the academic assessment or promotion of the medical student receiving those services, excluding exceptional circumstances. To meet this standard, the following policy will be implemented at the College of Medicine – Tucson (COM – T).

Policy Statement:

Health professionals who provide psychiatric/psychological counseling or other sensitive health services to medical students will not be involved in the academic assessment or promotion of the medical student receiving those services. Health professionals may give lectures in a large class setting, but they may not facilitate small group discussions; serve as clinical preceptors or course/block/clerkship directors; or serve on the student progress or appeals committees.

Procedures by which this policy is implemented include:

1. Health professionals from the University of Arizona Campus Health Service who serve as instructional faculty in a block/course/clerkship in which the faculty member is expected to participate in academic assessment or promotion decisions for students may not provide health care to COM – T students. When a COM – T student requires urgent or emergent health services, the student should be referred to another physician who is not involved in the academic assessment or promotion of the medical student unless either a delay in referral would cause harm to the student, or no other healthcare provider is available to provide such care.
2. At the beginning of small group sessions in each block, each faculty member who serves as a facilitator in small group learning sessions will be asked to review the students assigned to their group and assure that they have not provided psychiatric/psychological counseling or other sensitive health services to any of these students. If a faculty facilitator has provided such services, the block/course/clerkship director will reassign the student or the faculty member to a different group.
3. If faculty with COM – T appointments practice at a facility where students seek health services or counseling, students will not be assigned to those providers for care.
4. Students who determine that a faculty member from whom they have received psychiatric/psychological counseling or sensitive health services might be involved in assessment of their performance should notify the block/course/clerkship director or the Office of Student Affairs immediately; the director will reassign the student or the faculty member.
5. When students who are participating in a preceptorship or a rural health professions placement located distant from Tucson require urgent or emergent health services, their preceptors will refer the student to another member of the practice or another physician in the community or neighboring community who can competently care for the student and

who has no involvement in the academic assessment or promotion of the medical students. The preceptor will retain the authority to countermand this provision if the student requires more immediate attention than would be possible through a referral for care.

6. If a health professional teaching in the MD program receives a student performance assessment form to complete regarding a student to whom they have provided psychiatric/psychological counseling or sensitive health services, they will check the box at the top of the assessment form, which says the following, and return the blank form:
Pursuant to accreditation standards, I will not participate in assessment of this student's performance.

Relevant LCME Standard:

12.5 Non-Involvement of Providers of Student Health Services in Student Assessment/Location of Student Health Records

The health professionals who provide health services, including psychiatric/psychological counseling, to a medical student have no involvement in the academic assessment or promotion of the medical student receiving those services, excluding exceptional circumstances. A medical school ensures that medical student health records are maintained in accordance with legal requirements for security, privacy, confidentiality, and accessibility.