

Appendix A: PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS

A student who is preparing to enter a health profession has responsibilities that other students in the University do not have. The student who is involved in health science education is responsible not only to the educational institution, their colleagues and faculty, but also to clinical sites, and ultimately to present and future patients as well. Preparation time for students in the health professions is spent acquiring new information, practicing skills until they are perfected, and developing professional attitudes that are the hallmark of the health care practitioner. The following rules of conduct for all aspects of the professional education (classroom, clinic, seminars and service learning) have been developed by the faculty of the Physical Therapy Program, and are applicable during all learning experiences in the program.

1. Each student is to be in the assigned classroom or clinical department at the required time. Tardiness affects classroom dynamics, the work environment of the clinic and the comfort and well being of the patient. If you are unable to be in your assigned location because of illness or other extenuating circumstances, you must call the designated person in the clinical department prior to the time of your expected arrival and the designated person in the physical therapy program. All clinical absences must be approved by the Director or Associate Director of Clinical Education (DCE) and made up at the discretion of the clinical instructor. Excessive tardiness to class, clinic or other program-related activity will be regarded as inappropriate professional behavior.
2. During the time a student is in the clinical site, he/she is required to dress neatly and professionally, in accordance with the program dress code. The student is required to follow the classroom and lab dress code on campus.
3. A student in a clinical site or in the classroom is expected at all times to behave in a manner that is not disruptive. Loud talking, horseplay, abusive language, or attendance while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs will not be tolerated and be dealt with immediately.
4. A student is expected to maintain a respectful attitude toward faculty, peers, other health professionals and patients. When constructive criticism is offered, it should be accepted with a positive attitude. Though you may not agree with everything that is said to you, an argumentative and/or belligerent response is not acceptable. The ability to accept responsibility for one's actions and admit errors is a highly desirable trait in a student and in a health professional.
5. Integrity is an essential quality of the health care provider. Dishonesty or cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Students who observe or suspect dishonesty, cheating, or ethical breaches in the clinic or the classroom are expected to report their concerns immediately to the Program Director or the DCE.
6. Students and professionals must always respect the rights of the patient. These rights include the right to privacy, the right to dignity, the right to confidentiality of information, and the right to a sympathetic understanding of the fears and insecurities that go along with being ill and hospitalized. The behavior of the student should promote calmness and confidence in the patient and should never be unsettling.

7. Students shall adhere to the regulations described in KRS 327 (Kentucky Physical Therapy Practice Act) and 201 KAR Chapter 22 (Administrative Regulations – see appendix) or the respective practice acts and regulations dictating physical therapy practice in states of performed clinical education rotations.
8. All students must agree to and comply with student responsibilities as outline in the Clinical Affiliation Agreements.
9. All students must comply with this Professional Code of Conduct. If at any time a student disregards these standards or engages in behavior that endangers themselves or others, the classroom instructor, the designee of the clinical facility (including but not limited to the Center Coordinator of Clinical Education, the Clinical Instructor or facility administrator), the Director or Director of Clinical Education, the Program Director or the Dean of the Lansing School may immediately remove her/him from the clinic. In this event, the student must report immediately to the Program Director, or, in the director’s absence, to the director’s designee. In the director’s absence, a faculty member in consultation with a minimum of two additional faculty members may make a recommendation to the Dean regarding student dismissal from the program. Students maintain all appeals processes outlined in the current Bellarmine University Student Handbook.

Breaches in this Professional Code of Conduct for Students may result in dismissal of the student from the Program.

I have read this document and have received a copy.

Signature

Date