

University of Ottawa



Faculty of Medicine

Declaration of Professionalism

As a medical student, I recognize that I am now a member of the medical community. As such, I accept responsibility for my conduct, and expect the same of my colleagues. I will display these qualities in all academic and clinical settings. I do this as an essential part of my commitment to the provision of the highest standard of patient care, which is the central goal to which I am dedicated. I will demand these standards of myself and strive to support others to uphold them.

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

- I will adhere to and demonstrate the highest level of honesty in all academic activities, including examinations and evaluations, and in all clinical activities.
- I will in no way unfairly attempt to advance my academic standing, nor will I be a party to any such attempts, or assist another student to do so. I will neither provide nor make any attempt to obtain any information, or assist anyone else in doing so, prior to, during or after any examination.
- I will display honesty in all interactions with patients, including accurate and full disclosure of all information relevant to their care. I will be involved in the care of patients appropriate to my level of training and knowledge.
- I will ensure that every research project with which I am involved has received appropriate approval and I will uphold both integrity and honesty in the collection, interpretation and reporting of data.
- I will use the computer facilities and my computer access code for none other than the purposes authorized and I will neither access nor change or destroy any computer data or program belonging to another user or the University.
- I will maintain independent judgement and avoid any real or apparent conflicts of interest.

ALTRUISM AND RESPECT

- I will strive to demonstrate the highest standards of ethical and professional behavior in all academic and clinical settings.
- I will ensure that full and informed consent has been obtained before proceeding with any diagnostic or therapeutic procedures and ongoing patient management.
- I will become aware of and respect patients' rights, religious and cultural identities.
- I will contribute to, collaborate with, and respect the other members of the health care team.
- I will refrain from any form of discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, mental or physical impairment, age or illness. I will avoid sexual and all other forms of exploitation of patients, including abuse, harassment or impropriety.
- I will display and expect non-discriminatory and respectful behaviour towards and from my peers, teachers and support staff
- I will uphold and protect patient confidentiality and dignity at all times, both in the presence and absence of the patient or family, in all communications including medical records, discussions, history taking, and physical examinations.

RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- I will ensure that patient well-being is my main focus and primary obligation.
- I will develop an awareness and respect for the ethical and medico-legal standards in accordance with the guidelines of the relevant professional bodies.
- I will demonstrate an ability to work independently while accepting direction from those charged with my supervision.
- I will acknowledge and recognize my strengths and limitations and I will seek assistance as necessary.
- I will demonstrate accessibility, attendance, punctuality and trustworthiness.
- I will use with discernment alcohol and mood-altering medications in a way that will not interfere with my educational or professional responsibilities. I will not use illegal drugs.
- I will assist other colleagues in need of help in meeting their professional and ethical obligations.
- I will present and conduct myself in a dignified, respectful and professional manner while functioning in an official capacity
- I will promote the dignity of the medical profession in all settings.

COMPASSION AND EMPATHY

- I will display non-judgmental and non-discriminatory attitudes and behaviour towards all patients and their families.
- I will display compassion, empathy and concern for the well-being of all patients and their families.

DEDICATION AND SELF-IMPROVEMENT

- I will continuously strive to develop my knowledge, skills and competence.
- I will promote and uphold the educational standards of the Faculty of Medicine.
- I will assess my educational progress and determine my learning needs.
- I will pursue self-education through the use of appropriate resources and I will prepare myself for all learning sessions
- I will seek further instruction in areas of both strength and weakness.
- I will demonstrate a willingness to teach and share in the learning process with my peers, staff and faculty and as such promote the student-teacher relationship and not abuse this trust for personal gain.
- I will seek help from colleagues and appropriately qualified professionals for personal problems that adversely affect my education, or service to patients, society or the profession.

I have read and understood this declaration of professionalism. By signing this document, in good faith, I agree to uphold the declaration and help my colleagues do so as well.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

This Declaration of Professionalism is based upon and congruent with the "Academic Regulations" in the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Medicine Calendar, and with the "Standards of Ethical and Professional Behaviour" approved by the Faculty of Medicine and the University Senate (1994).