



Policy & Procedure

Title: Grading of students by academic and non-academic health care professionals

Effective Date: March 1, 2020

Applies to: COMP/COMP-Northwest

Statement: Clinical Faculty/staff employed by the college and may also provide clinical care in the community. Medical students may seek medical care from a clinical faculty member in the college in which they are enrolled, creating a possible clash of multiple interests. In order for students to receive quality and prompt medical care while being assured that their relationship with their clinician will not affect their grade or academic advancement, we have put together the following policy and procedures to address the potential conflict of interests that may arise in these circumstances.

Purpose: To provide boundaries and expectations regarding the potential conflict of interests of clinical faculty regarding education and patient care of COMP and COMP-Northwest medical students.

Related Information: To protect the privileged status of the clinician/patient relationship and to ensure that the academic career of a student is not subject to bias due to knowledge acquired because of a therapeutic relationship. COMP and COMP-Northwest are committed to both the rights of students as patients and to the rights of students to receive education, earn grades and attain academic advancement without bias or favoritism. Both as patients and as learners, students have the right to strict confidentiality of their health and medical conditions, inclusive of both physical and mental health or learning disability. It is not uncommon for our students to seek clinical care from a clinician who also serves as faculty at the college they are enrolled at.

Definitions:

Regulatory Information: We believe that these policies and procedures evidence our commitment to ensuring compliance with COCA standards, specifically standard 9.10: *COM must ensure that any health professional providing health services through a clinician-patient relationship must recuse him/herself from academic assessment or promotion of the student receiving those services.*

Applies to COCA Standard 9, Element 9.10

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Procedure Steps:

Step	Action	Responsible for Implementing
1	Faculty who have participated in supervision, grading, and academic advancement decisions for a student must not solicit that student as a patient in their clinical practice.	OSA/OAA
2	Students must be made aware of this policy and must attest to understanding this policy during orientation and prior to starting their rotations.	OSA
3	Faculty who, during the course of their teaching responsibilities, become aware of a student in urgent need for health care, and/or substance abuse support should call 911 or refer the student to the nearest Emergency Department. They must also notify the Associate/Assistant Dean of Student Affairs immediately or as soon as is reasonably possible. They should inform the student that they will be notifying the Associate/Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.	OSA
4	Faculty or staff members who indirectly become aware of a student experiencing an urgent health problem as specified above should notify the Associate/Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. They should inform the student that they will be notifying the Associate/Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.	OSA
5	Faculty who through their advising roles become aware of student mental or physical health conditions that may be anticipated to impact student performance in a course or rotation should consult with the Associate/Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. They should inform the student that they will be notifying the Associate/Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.	OSA
6	Faculty and students must recognize that the appearance of a conflict of interest may hamper the learning environment for both the student patient as well as their peers and must be taken into account, regardless of whether a conflict of interest exists or not.	Faculty and students/OAA

Related Links:

[COCA Accreditation](#)

[College Catalog](#)

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