

1.1 Teacher-Learner Agreement

Among the four missions of the CUSOM is the education of future physicians. Our students have gone through a rigorous selection process and represent a group of highly skilled and academically well-prepared students. The CUSOM holds in high regard professional behaviors and attitudes, including altruism, integrity, respect for others and a commitment to excellence. All members of the medical school community, including students, faculty, residents, fellows, staff, and administrators are held to high standards in these areas.

Effective learning is best fostered in an environment of mutual respect between teachers and learners. In the context of medical education, the term “teacher” is used broadly to include peers, resident physicians, full-time and volunteer faculty members, clinical preceptors, nurses and ancillary support staff, as well as others from whom students learn. Students and teachers share the challenge of learning and teaching not only the art and science of medicine, but also the acquisition of behaviors and values that characterize the ideal physician.

This Agreement serves both as a pledge and a reminder to teachers and students that their conduct in fulfilling their mutual obligations is the medium through which the profession perpetuates its ethical values. Failure to uphold the principles of the teacher learner agreement may result in referral to the Office of Professional Education (Faculty), the Student Professionalism Committee or the Student Promotions Committee (Students).

1.1.1 Guiding Principles

Duty: Medical educators have a duty not only to convey the knowledge and skills required for delivering the profession's standard of care but also to model the values and attitudes required for preserving the medical profession’s social contract with its patients.

Integrity: Learning environments that are conducive to conveying professional values must be based on integrity. Students and residents learn professionalism by observing and emulating role models who epitomize authentic professional values, attitudes and, especially, behaviors.

Respect: Respect for every individual is fundamental to the ethic of medicine. Mutual respect between students, as novice members of the profession, and their teachers, as experienced and esteemed professionals, is essential for nurturing that ethic. Given the inherently hierarchical nature of the teacher-learner relationship, teachers have a special obligation to ensure that students and residents are always treated respectfully.

1.1.2 Responsibilities of Teachers and Students

Teachers Must:	Students Must:
<p>Duty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maintain high professional standards in all interactions with patients, students, colleagues, and staff.- Provide relevant and timely information.- Provide explicit learning and behavioral expectations early in a course.- Provide timely, focused, accurate and constructive feedback on a regular basis.- Practice insightful (Socratic) questioning, which stimulates learning and self-discovery and avoid overly aggressive questioning which may be perceived as hurtful, humiliating, degrading or punitive.- Be familiar with the Student Honor Council process and the Student Professionalism Committee process and the role that faculty and students play in each (see sections 1.3.1 and 1.3.2);- Provide thoughtful and timely evaluations at the end of a course.- Disclose to students, during lectures, seminars and mentored research activities, the existence of any financial ties or conflicts-of-interest that are related to the material being taught.- Be familiar with the responsibilities of the Teacher-Learner Agreement and utilize appropriate mechanisms to encourage students who experience mistreatment or who witness unprofessional behavior to report the facts immediately (see section 1.2.2 for options) and to treat all such reports as confidential. <p>Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Display honesty, integrity and compassion.- Solicit feedback from students regarding their perception of their educational experiences and personal interactions. <p>Respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Treat students fairly, respectfully and without bias related to age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, spiritual or political beliefs, disability or country of origin, federal and state protected classes.- Be prepared and on time.- In all educational, research and clinical care settings, welcome and respect patients and others who lower socioeconomic backgrounds, disadvantaged, uninsured or non-English speaking.- Recognize and respect patients' rights to privacy	<p>Duty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Be active, enthusiastic, curious learners who work to enhance a positive learning environment.- Demonstrate professional behavior in all settings.- Recognize that not all learning stems from formal and structured activities.- Recognize their responsibility to develop personal learning goals and to participate as active learners.- Demonstrate a commitment to life-long learning, a practice that is essential to the profession of medicine.- Recognize the privileges and responsibilities that derive from the opportunity to work with patients in clinical settings.- Recognize the duty to place patient welfare above their own.- Recognize and respect patients' rights to privacy.- Provide teachers and the School of Medicine with constructive feedback that can be used to improve the educational experience.- Be familiar with the responsibilities of the Teacher-Learner Agreement and utilize appropriate mechanisms to report exemplary professionalism and professionalism lapses (see section 1.2.2 for options). <p>Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recognize personal limitations and seek help whenever it is needed.- Display honesty, integrity and compassion; these attributes include the responsibility for upholding the School of Medicine Honor Council Principles (see section 1.3.2);- Solicit feedback on their performance and recognize that criticism is not synonymous with "abuse". <p>Respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Treat teachers and fellow students fairly, respectfully and without bias related to age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, spiritual or political beliefs, disability or country of origin, federal and state protected classes.- Be prepared and on time.- In all educational, research and clinical care settings, welcome and respect patients and others who are lower socioeconomic backgrounds, disadvantaged, uninsured or non-English speaking.- Recognize and respect patients' rights to privacy