

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTC SOM)

Statement: Statement of Professional Values
Subject: Student Affairs
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Rev.: 2
Original date: 9/1/2010
Revision dates: 12/22/2017

An essential task in the professional development of a medical student is to gain an understanding of the fundamental and universal principles and values of the medical profession and commit to the integration of these values and principles into his/her professional identity and roles. Professional principles and attributes have been defined and articulated by many. The AAMC in its Medical School Objectives Project, Report I: "Learning Objectives for Medical Student Education: Guidelines for Medical Schools", developed a consensus statement of "...the attributes that medical students should possess at the time of graduation," and broadly defined the "...learning objectives for the medical school curriculum derived from those attributes"¹. The descriptions include: altruistic, knowledgeable, skillful, and dutiful.

The American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation (ABIM), in collaboration with the American College of Physicians Foundation (ACP) and the European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM), has developed a physician charter identifying fundamental principles and responsibilities of medical professionalism. The identified fundamental principles of professionalism include the primacy of patient welfare, patient autonomy, and the principle of social justice. The identified set of professional responsibilities include commitments to: professional competence, honesty with patients, patient confidentiality, maintaining appropriate relations with patients, improving quality of care, improving access to care, a just distribution of finite resources, scientific knowledge, maintaining trust by managing conflicts of interest, and professional responsibilities.³

VTC SOM endorses the above principles and responsibilities as guiding principles for medical student education and recognizes these are consistent with the articulated mission of VTC SOM to "...produce physician thought leaders through an educational experience grounded in inquiry, research, and discovery" who will be prepared to serve the patients in the most capable and compassionate manner.

VTC SOM has created two companion documents: The VTC SOM Attributes of Professionalism and the Teacher-Learner Compact which serve as the guides for ethical and professional behavior for students, faculty, and staff. In addition, VTC SOM has developed an Honor Code. These three documents can be found in the VTC SOM Student Handbook.

Inherent in these professional values of students is the recognition of confidentiality and privacy of patient records. Under no circumstances should students access the records of or be involved in the care of fellow students.

² Association of American Medical Colleges, Medical School Objectives Project Report I: "Learning Objectives for Medical Student Education: Guidelines for Medical Schools". January 1998.

https://services.aamc.org/Publications/showfile.cfm?file=version87.pdf&prd_id=198&prv_id=239&pdf_id=87

³ ABIM Foundation Medical Professionalism Project. Ann Intern Med. 2002;136:243-246.

<http://www.annals.org/content/136/3/243.full.pdf+html>