

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTCSOM)

Statement: Teacher-Learner Compact

Subject: Student Affairs

Administrator: A. Knight

Rev.: 2

Original date: 9/1/2010

Revision dates: 12/2/2016

VTCSOM recognizes that preparation for a career in medicine demands acquisition of a large fund of knowledge and a wide variety of skills. It also demands strengthening virtues that support the relationship between doctor and patient and sustain the practice of medicine as a moral enterprise. The process of undergraduate medical education requires substantial involvement and contribution from faculty members and students. The Teacher-Learner Compact serves both as a pledge and as a reminder to teachers and learners that their conduct in fulfilling their mutual obligations is the medium through which the profession inculcates its ethical values.

Students are exposed to multiple learning environments in clinical and non-clinical settings throughout the course of their medical education. These learning environments must support and reinforce the professional attributes, principles, and responsibilities outlined in the Standards of Ethical and Professional Conduct Policy. All faculty and students, commit to uphold the guiding principles, responsibilities, and commitments put forth in this agreement.

The responsibilities for faculty will include:

1. Treat learners with respect.
2. Treat learners and colleagues equally without regard to gender, race, disability, cultural origins, age, or religious beliefs.
3. Treat colleagues and patients in a professional manner.
4. Provide current, high quality materials in an effective format for learning.
5. Respect the student's time by:
 - a. Being on time for scheduled encounters.
 - b. Developing educational experiences which are meaningful to the practice of medicine and reasonable for the time period allotted.
6. Provide timely and constructive feedback.
7. Provide a role model for professionalism.

The commitments of faculty include:

- ✓ We pledge our utmost effort to ensure that all components of the educational program for students are of high quality.
- ✓ As mentors for our student colleagues, we maintain high professional standards in all of our interactions with patients, colleagues, and staff.
- ✓ We respect all students as individuals, without regard to gender, race, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation; we will not tolerate anyone who manifests disrespect or who expresses biased attitudes towards any student.
- ✓ We pledge that students will have sufficient time to fulfill personal and family obligations, to enjoy recreational activities, and to obtain adequate rest; we monitor and, when necessary,

reduce the time required to fulfill educational objectives, including time required for “call” on clinical rotations, to ensure students’ well being.

- ✓ We do not tolerate any abuse or exploitation of students.
- ✓ We encourage any student who experiences mistreatment or who witnesses unprofessional behavior to report the facts immediately to appropriate faculty or staff; we treat all such reports as confidential and do not tolerate reprisals or retaliations of any kind.

The responsibilities for students will include:

1. Treat learners, faculty, and patients with respect and professionalism.
2. Treat learners and faculty equally without regard to gender, race, disability, cultural origins, age, or religious beliefs.
3. Commit the time and energy necessary to attain the goals and objectives of the curriculum.
4. Respect the time of other students and faculty by being on time for scheduled educational encounters.
5. Contribute to the quality of group assignments and work products by actively engaging in discussion, problem solving, and development of materials.
6. Communicate concerns and suggestions regarding learning environment and educational community in a timely, constructive, and professional manner.

The commitments of students include:

- ✓ We pledge our utmost effort to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors required to fulfill all educational objectives established by the faculty.
- ✓ We cherish the professional virtues of honesty, compassion, integrity, fidelity, and dependability.
- ✓ We pledge to respect all faculty members and all students as individuals, without regard to gender, race, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation.
- ✓ As physicians in training, we embrace the highest standards of the medical profession and pledge to conduct ourselves accordingly in all of our interactions with patients, colleagues, and staff.
- ✓ In fulfilling our own obligations as professionals, we pledge to assist our fellow students in meeting their professional obligations, as well.