



POLICY ON SEPARATION OF ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT AND PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES TO STUDENTS

Approved: December 12, 2012

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LCME Standard 12.5 requires that health professionals at a medical education program who provide psychiatric/psychological counseling or other sensitive health services to a medical student must have no involvement in the academic assessment or promotion of the medical student receiving those services, excluding exceptional circumstances. In order to meet this standard, the following policy will be implemented at the College of Medicine – Tucson (COM-T):

- 1) Health professionals who provide psychiatric/psychological counseling or other sensitive health services to University of Arizona medical students will not be involved in the academic assessment or promotion of the medical student receiving those services. Health professionals may give lectures in a large class setting but they may not facilitate small group discussions; serve as clinical preceptors or course/block/clerkship directors; or serve on the student progress or appeals committees.
- 2) Procedures by which this policy is implemented include:
 - a) Health professionals from the University of Arizona Campus Health Service or any partner clinical site who are expected to participate in academic assessment or promotion decisions for students may not provide health care to COM-T students. When a COM-T student requires urgent or emergency health services, the student should be referred to another physician who is not involved in the academic assessment or promotion of the medical student unless either a delay in referral would cause harm to the student, or no other healthcare provider is available to provide such care.
 - b) At the beginning of each block of small group sessions, each faculty member who serves as a facilitator in small group learning sessions will be asked to review the students assigned to their group and assure that they have not provided psychiatric/psychological counseling or other sensitive health services to any of these students. If a faculty facilitator has provided such services, the block/course/clerkship director will reassign the student or the faculty member to a different group.
 - c) If faculty with appointments at the College of Medicine – Tucson practice at a facility where students seek health services or counseling, students will not be assigned to those providers to receive care.
 - d) Students who determine that a faculty member from whom they have received psychiatric/psychological counseling or sensitive health services might be involved in



assessment of their performance should notify the block/course/clerkship director or the Office of Student Affairs immediately; the director will reassign the student or the faculty member.

- e) When a student who is participating in a preceptorship or a rural health professions placement located distant from Tucson requires urgent or emergency health services, their preceptor will refer the student to another member of the practice or another physician in the community or neighboring community who can competently care for the student and who is not involved in the academic assessment or promotion of the student. The preceptor will retain the authority to countermand this provision if the student requires more immediate attention than would be possible through a referral for care.
- f) If a health professional who has taught in the medical student curriculum receives a student performance assessment form to complete regarding a student to whom they have provided psychiatric/psychological counseling or sensitive health services, they will check the box at the top of the assessment form, which states the following, and return the blank form:

Pursuant to accreditation standards, I will not participate in assessment of this student's performance.