

TITLE

Policy on Academic Integrity

I. PURPOSE

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine should ensure that all members of the community engage in professional behavior related to their academic work, avoiding unethical behavior that negatively impacts the learning environment for all. Integrity is a priority for all academic institutions, out of respect for and fairness to the entire community.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Medical students

III. POLICY

All UPSOM students have the obligation to exhibit honesty and to respect the ethical standards of the academy in carrying out academic assignments. Students may be found to have violated this obligation if they:

1. Refer during an academic assessment to materials or sources, or employ devices, not authorized by the instructor.
2. Provide or receive assistance during an academic assessment to another person in a manner not authorized by the instructor.
3. Engage in unauthorized possession, buying, selling, obtaining, or using of any materials intended to be used as an instrument of academic assessment in advance of its administration.
4. Act as or utilize a substitute for another person in any academic assessment process.
5. Practice any form of deceit in an academic assessment proceeding.
6. Provide or receive aid (to or from others) in a manner expressly prohibited by the instructor, in the research, preparation, creation, writing, performing, or publication of work to be submitted for academic credit or evaluation.
7. Present or submit as one's own, the ideas, representations, or words of another person or persons, or content derived from generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources.
8. Knowingly permit one's work to be submitted by another person without the instructor's authorization.

9. Attempt to influence or change one's academic assessment or record for reasons other than achievement or merit.
10. Indulge, during a class, examination session, or any other academic setting, in conduct that is so disruptive or disrespectful as to infringe upon the rights of the instructor or fellow students.
11. Fail to cooperate, if called upon, in the investigation or disposition of any allegation of dishonesty pertaining to another student, or any other breach of a student's obligation to exhibit honesty.

Any member of the University community who has evidence may bring to the attention of the instructor a complaint that a student has failed, in one or more respects, to meet faithfully the obligations specified in this policy. Allegations brought more than a year after any event/behavior may constitute grounds for dismissal of the complaint.

Students who are alleged to have conducted themselves contrary to the obligations outlined in this policy are entitled to due process, which will occur through existing structures of the School, particularly the Committee on Student Promotions, and the Professionalism Working Group. Students must have an opportunity to respond.

If such allegations of academic dishonesty are founded, actions could include restorative justice, remediation, mediation, a behavior plan, or even dismissal, based on the guidelines and situation. Such actions are outlined in the UPSOM's Code of Professionalism and policies related to the Committee on Student Promotions.

Breaches of academic integrity may result in course or clerkship failures, regardless of other domains of student performance. While such allegations are being explored, students may receive a grade of Incomplete. In situations involving a student's last courses before graduation, degree certifications can be withheld pending outcome of any investigation (that should be expedited as quickly as possible).

IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)

- Office of Medical Education

V. RELATED POLICIES

- Code of Professionalism
- [Code](#) of Student Conduct
- Policy on Standards for Performance and Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Policy on Course Grade Appeals

- University of Pittsburgh [Guidelines](#) on Academic Integrity (Pitt Policies AC39).

VI. REFERENCES

LCME Element 3.5: Learning Environment/Professionalism. A medical school ensures that the learning environment of its medical education program is conducive to the ongoing development of explicit and appropriate professional behaviors in its medical students, faculty, and staff at all locations. The medical school and its clinical affiliates share the responsibility for periodic evaluation of the learning environment in order to identify positive and negative influences on the maintenance of professional standards, develop and conduct appropriate strategies to enhance positive and mitigate negative influences, and identify and promptly correct violations of professional standards.

VII. APPROVALS

Curriculum Committee, approved 3/20/23.

Education Policy Council, approved 4/10/23.

Executive Committee, approved 7/10/23.

Dean, School of Medicine, approved 7/28/23.

PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is supported through the curriculum. Professional and ethical behavior is established, reinforced, and assessed beginning at orientation, throughout the foundations blocks, during the longitudinal research project, and in every clerkship and beyond.

Faculty are also obligated to maintain academic integrity; guidelines are outlined at length in University of Pittsburgh's Guidelines on Academic Integrity:

https://www.provost.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/academic_integrity_guidelines.pdf

The use of generative artificial intelligence may be permissible, as long as it is appropriately cited or integrated within the expectations of a course/faculty. A course director, for instance, could ask a student to use an AI platform as part of an assignment. Absent attribution or explicit/concrete permissions, however, use of AI-generated content on any assessment activity (test, paper, other required assignment) would be considered academic dishonesty.

While students are prohibited from influencing academic assessment for reasons other than achievement, that does not prevent students from appropriately appealing grades issued in curricular courses/clerkships. Students must follow guidelines of the appeal process, however, which include seeking redress with course/clerkship directors, and not attempting to influence other evaluators (preceptors, residents) to alter their assessment.