



CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN EDUCATION POLICY

Policy Statement

The Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine requires all faculty, regardless of title or status, to conduct educational activities free from real or perceived bias.

Purpose

The Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine is committed to excellence in medical education and maintaining the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and professionalism. One aspect of ensuring excellence is to identify and manage conflicts that may arise in the context of educational activities.

Scope and Application

This policy applies to faculty, regardless of title or status, staff, and students at the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine.

Definitions

Conflict of Interest:

A conflict of interest arises when a faculty or staff member's personal, financial, or professional interests have the potential to compromise their objectivity, judgment, or decision-making in matters related to medical education at the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine.

A conflict of interest may be present when the faculty or staff member:

1. Has a personal, social, or familial relationship with the student;
2. Has a business or financial relationship with the student or the student's immediate family;
3. Has provided health care services to the student or the student's immediate family;
4. Has graded the student in a course for which the course grade is the subject of a pending adverse action or remediation plan; or
5. Serves as the student's academic coach, advisor; or has another significant relationship with the student.

Policy

Faculty, staff and students at the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine must keep the learning environment free from real or perceived bias that could arise from a conflict of interest in the admission, assessment or promotion of students.

Faculty who are involved in the academic assessment or promotion of medical students should not provide health services, including medical care or psychiatric/psychological counseling (except in case of emergency) to any medical student while serving, or in reasonable anticipation of serving, in the role of supervisor, teacher, preceptor or evaluator of the student.



Procedures

If a faculty or staff member feels they are involved in an activity where a real or perceived conflict of interest exists or could exist, it is their responsibility to bring that conflict to the attention of the leader of said activity. Where conflicts are identified, the leader of the activity will work with the faculty or staff member to implement appropriate management strategies, such as recusal from decision-making, modification of responsibilities, or disclosure.

Students are expected to disclose potential conflicts of interest with the course director, clerkship director, or the leader of an activity (e.g., committee chair, research director, or other supervisor) prior to the beginning of the course, clerkship, or activity so that the conflict can be managed (e.g., a reassignment can be made). Students may also report any potential conflict to the Assistant or Associate Dean for Student Affairs, who may also assist with review of potential conflicts and determination of whether a conflict is present.

The student evaluation form completed by supervisors/preceptors will include required documentation regarding whether the supervisor/preceptor had a conflict of interest of any kind during the course or clerkship. The course or clerkship director will review any potential conflicts with the student and if necessary, the Assistant or Associate Dean for Student Affairs may assist with any instances where such conflicts may have occurred to determine if any actions are necessary to manage the conflict.

Students from the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine may not participate in academic activities (e.g., clinical rotations or research) in the UH Student Health Center (SHC) or with the UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). Health care professionals in the SHC and CAPS are not affiliated with the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine and have no involvement in the academic assessment or promotion of medical students.

Responsible Official & Additional Contacts

Responsible College of Medicine Officer: Senior Associate Dean for Education
Approval body: Executive Committee

Policy History

Original Approval Date:

Revision 3: XX/XX/XXXX

Revision 2: XX/XX/XXXX

Revision 1: 12.13.2023

SECTION 10. Related Policies/Guidance Documents

UH Policies on Conflict of Interest (Research, Financial COI)