 VI. DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (M.D.) POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

H. Scholastic Dishonesty

As part of the UT School of Medicine at San Antonio (SOM)’s recent Professional Identity Development initiatives, and recognizing that professionalism is a critical physician competency, this policy is under review for congruence with professionalism goals. However, any policy modifications will respect the principles of the current policy: reports from complainant(s) and person(s) charged, witness verification of events when possible, due process (decision-making through Student Promotions Committee-SPC), and timely resolution.

Medical students are expected to maintain the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct. Medical students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner in interaction not only with patients, but also with peers, faculty, and staff of the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio (HSC) and the broader community. The SOM, HSC and UT System have written expectations of professional conduct. Medical students are governed by the Code of Professional Conduct in the SOM. Each module, clerkship or course director may also develop written expectations of professional conduct. These expectations are distributed to students, or posted for each module, clerkship or course.

A student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline, after thorough investigation by a Dean for Student Affairs. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, signing a classmate’s name for an activity or attendance, submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Any such act may also constitute a violation of professionalism by the student.

Students should report such acts to a Dean for Student Affairs, the module/clerkship/course director, or other faculty. If the reporting is not made directly to the Dean for Student Affairs, then it will be the module/clerkship/course director’s or faculty’s responsibility to report to a Dean for Student Affairs.

The conduct of the investigation of a report of scholastic dishonesty is in accordance with previously established policies and procedures within the SOM, HSC and UT System:

At present a potential act of scholastic dishonesty is reported to a Dean for Student Affairs who meets with the complainant to determine the charges and to explain the investigative process. If the charges are not in writing, the Dean for Student Affairs will prepare a statement of the charges and obtain verification of the charges from the complainant. The Dean for Student Affairs will be responsible for ensuring that
School of Medicine

no retaliation is made against the complainant. The Dean for Student Affairs will interview the accused student, allowing the accused student the opportunity to respond to the charges and to review the available evidence supporting the charges. The Dean for Student Affairs will interview others as indicated. All HSC personnel and students must cooperate with the investigation. The investigation will be conducted in a timely manner. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Dean for Student Affairs will prepare a written report detailing the charges, the investigative process and the results of the investigation. The Dean for Student Affairs will present the written report to the SPC for recommendations. Any disciplinary action/sanction(s) recommended by the SPC shall be in accordance with applicable SOM and HSC policies (see “sanctions” below). The decision of the SPC is final, pending further appeal to the Dean of the SOM. The sanctioned student may file a written appeal to the Dean of the SOM within five business days from receipt of the SPC written decision. Within 30 calendar days from receipt of the student's appeal, the Dean of the SOM will provide a written decision to the student, the Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education and the Chair of the SPC. The decision of the Dean of the SOM is final. Within 5 business days of the Dean of the SOM's decision, the student may file a written appeal to a higher administrative institutional official, but only on procedural concerns (See “Medical Student Academic Grievance Procedures” for details).

The following sanctions may be assessed by the SPC or by the Dean of the SOM:

- Warning
- Probation
- Withholding of grades, official transcript, and/or degree
- Bar against readmission
- Restitution or reimbursement for damage to or misappropriation of UT System or HSC property
- Suspension of rights and privileges deriving in whole or in part for the SOM, including participation in extracurricular activities
- Suspension of eligibility for any student office or honor
- Cancellation of credit for scholastic work done
- Failing grade or reduction of a grade for an examination, assignment, or course
- Suspension from the HSC for a specified period of time
- Dismissal
- Denial of degree
- Revocation of degree and withdrawal of diploma
- Formal letter of reprimand in the academic file
- Other sanction(s) as deemed appropriate under the circumstances

Reviewed and updated: 7/1/2013
Approved by Medical Faculty Assembly Executive Committee: 8/15/2013