



SCHOOL of  
OSTEOPATHIC  
MEDICINE

**Policy Title:** Student's Rights and Responsibilities  
**Functional Area:** ACADEMIC

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**Status:** Final  
**Effective:** 01/09/2020  
**Approved by:** Leadership Council  
**Policy Contact:** Director of Student Affairs  
**Responsible Office:** Office of Student Affairs  
**Last Reviewed/Updated:** 04/10/2024

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to provide students with an understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

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### Policy Statement

The University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (UIWSOM) provides its students with an environment of respect, dignity, and support. The diverse backgrounds, personalities, and learning needs of individual students must always be considered in order to foster appropriate and effective teacher-learner relationships. Honesty, fairness, evenhanded treatment, and respect for learner's physical and emotional well-being are the foundation of establishing an effective learning environment.

### Student's Responsibilities:

Students are responsible for complying with all policies/procedures, rules and regulations, and other information published by the UIWSOM and the University of the Incarnate Word Student Code of Conduct. In addition, learners are expected to abide by all federal, state, and local laws.

Students are expected to:

- A. Exhibit the highest standard of personal, academic, professional, and ethical behavior.
- B. Treat faculty, staff, peers, clients, patients, and others with dignity and respect.
- C. Abide by the Code of Conduct that applies to their specific professional discipline.

Students who violate any of the above when involved in any school or school-related activity/function, whether on or off campus, will be subject to disciplinary action.

### Students' Rights:

Mistreatment and abuse of students by faculty, residents, staff, or fellow peers is contrary to the educational objectives of the UIWSOM and will not be tolerated. Mistreatment and abuse include, but are not limited to, berating, belittling, or humiliation; physical punishment or threats; intimidation; sexual harassment; harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual preference, age, religion, physical or learning disabilities; assigning a grade for reasons other than the learner's performance; assigning tasks for punishment or non-educational purposes; requiring the performance of personal services; or failing to give learners credit for work they have done. Students have rights as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and all appropriate federal, state, and local laws. Primary among those is the right to a fair and impartial hearing if the student is accused of misconduct or violating university regulations. Additionally, students have the right to file a complaint for alleged mistreatment. The UIWSOM has existing policies and procedures including but not limited to the following: financial aid; sexual harassment; final grade appeal; drugs; alcohol; firearms; student's access to records and privacy; computer/internet use; dress and professional conduct; health insurance; and liability insurance. Issues that relate to these specific policies, which may be found on the UIWSOM website, should be addressed to the appropriate office. The Office of Student Affairs can help students with information about those policies.