



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
MONA CAMPUS
OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS REGISTRAR

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR AND FITNESS TO PRACTICE

Statement of Responsibilities for Medical Students at the University of the West Indies (UWI)

Introduction

The UWI MB,BS and DDS Degree Programmes provide a broad education for the study of health and disease and is the first stage in a lifelong career commitment.

As a UWI Medical undergraduate you will experience university life, education, medical training and the beginnings of professional development that will help to shape your future as a medical practitioner.

Before embarking on this career, it is important for you to appreciate that becoming a doctor is not only about acquiring knowledge and skills. During your period of training you will necessarily come into close, and sometimes intimate, contact with members of the public who may, because of personal or family illness, be vulnerable or distressed. It is therefore essential that, at all times, you behave in a manner that will not lessen the trust which sick people and their relatives place in you.

As a medical student at the UWI, you are studying not only for a university degree but also for a professional qualification. Successful completion of training will entitle you not only to the MBBS/DDS Degree but also to practice as a doctor. Your training is therefore conducted in an environment that requires you to behave at all times in ways that are consistent with the principles and professional standards of the medical profession.

The Faculty of Medical Sciences selects students whom it believes will demonstrate appropriate standards of attitude and behaviour and includes in its curriculum opportunities to facilitate their achievement. Students who have difficulty in achieving the required standards will be offered support and guidance and if they do not meet these requirements the Faculty will make every effort to identify alternatives within or outside of the University and to facilitate the student's redirection.

The award of your medical degree will entitle you to be provisionally registered by the medical councils of the English speaking Caribbean and to practice during internship as a doctor under supervision. By awarding you with a medical degree, the University of the West Indies states that it considers you fit to practice to the high standards laid down by the Profession.

As a future doctor you are required from the outset to conform to certain standards of behaviour. The Medical Profession has a respected position in society with privileged access to patients and the University has a duty to ensure that no member of the public is harmed as a consequence of participating in the training of its medical students.

.../2

Statement of Responsibilities for Medical Students at the University of the West Indies (UWI)

As a medical student at the UWI, you are expected to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- Demonstrate respect for patients that encompasses diversity of background and opportunity, language, culture and way of life.
- Treat patients politely and considerately, respecting their dignity and their right to refuse to take part in teaching activities.
- Treat information about patients as confidential, taking all reasonable precautions to ensure security of personal data about patients. This includes not discussing patients with others outside the clinical setting, except anonymously and for educational purposes.
- Be aware of the limits of confidentiality (e.g. where a patient may be putting self or others at risk)
- Not abuse a patient's trust (e.g. by engaging in improper personal relationships with patients or their relatives).
- Be aware that certain conditions (mental and physical) may affect your studies, pose a risk to patients or colleagues and require modifications to the way you practice. Should you believe that you have or later develop such a condition, it is your responsibility to seek information and guidance. This will allow the University to meet its obligation to provide information and support and to facilitate (if necessary) an assessment of your fitness to practice.

The University regulations include rules and disciplinary procedures for dealing with serious breaches of conduct. Should your conduct as a medical student fall below the high standards of honesty or behaviour that the public has a right to expect from the medical profession, you may be required to undergo disciplinary proceedings (Faculty Reg. 7,8) which, in exceptional cases, could result in termination of your course.

I certify that I have read and understand the above Statement of Responsibilities governing professional conduct and agree to abide by them at all times.

Name of Applicant (Block capitals)

.....
(Signature of Applicant)

.....
(Date)