

Medical School Duluth Campus Honor Code

The Honor Code and Honor Council are the means by which a student at this University takes responsibility for his/her actions and those of his/her peers. This honor system holds as its fundamental standards that: 1) a student shall maintain academic honesty and 2) a student shall never allow his/her behavior to compromise patient care. It should be understood that the responsibility of the student for upholding the honor system is not imposed upon him/her by the administration or the faculty, but is assumed by the student. Furthermore, the Honor Code depends for its effectiveness primarily on the individual and collective desire of all members of the academic community to prevent and deter violations rather than on proceedings to impose penalties after violations have occurred. However, when transgressions do occur, the student and faculty are obligated under the honor system to uphold the fundamental standards of the Code.

The primary responsibility for the successful function of the honor system lies within the individual. Each student who has entered the field of medicine should have developed concepts of honor and integrity, which will guide his/her behavior throughout his/her education and subsequent career. Thus, each student is asked to monitor and encourage his/her peers on the importance of honesty and integrity. Faculty also bear a responsibility to assure the professional conduct of each student. If a student fails to show professional conduct expected by his/her peers or the Medical School faculty, then guidance or disciplinary action is required.

If a student or faculty member observes or suspects a possible violation of academic honesty, clinical honesty, or professional conduct, it is recommended that he/she discuss the incident with the suspected student to clarify if an offense had occurred. In the case of an honor code violation, the observer must report this to the Honor Council. If the person suspecting or observing a violation of the Honor Code is unable or would prefer not to discuss the incident with the student suspected of a violation, the person observing or suspecting the violation report and discuss the incident with the chairperson of the Honor Council in a timely fashion. If the chairperson feels that the incident merits further attention, the chairperson will then meet with the individual suspected of a violation. If the incident is not sufficiently clarified by either the reporting individual or the chairperson, the violation must be reported to the full Honor Council as a signed statement.

Although it is not possible to list every situation that violates the Medical School Duluth Campus Honor Code, the following examples will provide a reference point regarding the rules and spirit of the honor system:

1) Academic Honesty

Each student should adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

Cheating – either intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials—including but not limited to calculators without the approval of the course director, information, people or study aids in any academic exercise, or receiving any kind of unauthorized assistance on any examination or assignment to, or from, another person.

Fabrication – knowing falsification, reproduction, lack of attribution, of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Plagiarism – intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

Examination by Proxy – taking or attempting to take an exam for someone else other than the student is a violation of both the student enrolled in the course and the proxy or substitute.

Grade Tampering – any unauthorized attempt to change, actual change of, or alteration of grades or any tampering with grades.

2) Professional Integrity

As a future health professional, each student should also adhere to the highest standards of professionalism. Examples of clinical dishonesty include: misrepresentation of effort, credentials or achievement in the clinical setting; any action which compromises the quality of patient care; violation of patient confidentiality; in appropriate conduct toward patients or staff; and other conduct which is unbecoming a health professional.

3) Personal Conduct

Each student will conduct/present him/herself in an appropriate, professional manner when he/she is representing the Medical School Duluth Campus. In addition, the student will respect the fellow students' privacy and person, conducting him/herself in a manner consistent with the Medical School Duluth Campus Conduct Code.

The Honor Council will consist of six student-elected representatives, three from each class, elected in the first year to serve a two-year term. One of the students from the second year class will be selected to serve as a chairperson of the Honor Council. In addition, one Regional Campus Dean-appointed faculty member will serve on the Council for a five-year period as a means to maintain cohesion. The Council will serve as a judicial body responsible for evaluating all reported infractions, as well as making a recommendation concerning disciplinary action.

Hearings by the Honor Council will adhere to the following minimal guidelines:

- a) The proceedings will be kept private.
- b) There will be adequate notice to all concerned parties.
- c) There will be provided an opportunity for the student accused of the alleged violation to be heard.
- d) An adequate record of the proceedings will be maintained.

Upon matriculating as a student at the Medical School Duluth Campus each student is required to sign the following statement as a pledge upholding these concepts of the honor system:

“I hereby affirm that I understand and accept the provisions and stipulations of the University of Minnesota, Medical School Duluth Campus Honor Code. I pledge to adhere to the highest standards of academic and clinical honesty and integrity, and to conduct myself in a manner which represents the high expectations placed on physicians by the public.”

Approved by School Assembly: October 10, 1988