

Policy Name: Professionalism	
Originating Officer (Title), Council, or Committee: Shelly Monks, Vice President, and Chief Academic Officer, Designated Institutional Official	Effective Date: TBD
Approved By: Graduate Medical Education Committee	Last Reviewed Date: 07/23/2024
Page 1 of 6	

1.0 Scope:
1.1 Applicable Entities:

This policy applies to Texas Health Resources.

1.2 Applicable Departments:

This policy applies to the Texas Health Graduate Medical Education Program and its Trainees employed by Texas Health (“Institution”).

2.0 Purpose:

2.1 To provide guidelines and define the Graduate Medical Education policy for professionalism at Texas Health Resources sponsored training programs.

3.0 Policy Statements:

3.1 At Texas Health, we are committed to creating a workplace where diversity is celebrated, and inclusion exists at all levels. As such, Texas Health does not tolerate discrimination in any form or any behaviors that are incompatible with our core values – Respect, Integrity, Compassion, and Excellence and Our Texas Health PromiseSM.

4.0 Policy Guidance:

4.1 Texas Health, in partnership with the program director(s) of its ACGME-accredited program(s):

4.1.1 Will promote and facilitate a culture of professionalism that supports patient safety and personal responsibility.

4.1.2 Educate Trainees and faculty members regarding professional responsibilities of physicians, including obligation to be appropriately rested and fit to provide the care required by the patient.

4.2 Texas Health, as the Sponsoring Institution, will provide systems for education in and monitoring of:

4.2.1 Trainees’ and core faculty members’ fulfillment of educational professional responsibilities, including scholarly pursuits; and,

Policy Name: Professionalism

Page 2 of 6

4.2.2 Accurate completion of required documentation by Trainees

4.3 Texas Health will ensure that each of its ACGME-accredited training programs provides a professional, equitable, respectful, and civil environment that is free from unprofessional behavior, including discrimination, sexual, and other forms of harassment, mistreatment, abuse, and/or coercion of Trainees, other learners, faculty members, and staff members.

4.4 Texas Health, in partnership with its ACGME-accredited programs, maintains a process for education of Trainees and faculty members regarding unprofessional behavior, and a confidential process for reporting, investigating, monitoring, and addressing such concerns in a timely manner.

4.4.1 The learning objectives of the program will:

- a. Be accomplished through an appropriate blend of supervised patient care responsibilities, clinical teaching, and didactic educational events;
- b. Be accomplished without excessive reliance on Trainees to fulfill non-physician obligations;
- c. Ensure manageable patient care responsibilities; and
- d. Include any additional requirements specified by the program's ACGME Review Committee.

4.4.2 The Program Director of each ACGME-accredited program, in partnership with the Sponsoring Institution, must promote, facilitate, and provide a culture of professionalism that supports patient safety and personal responsibility.

4.4.3 Trainees and faculty, must demonstrate an understanding of their personal role in the:

- a. Provision of patient- and family-centered care;
- b. Safety and welfare of patients entrusted to their care, including the ability to report unsafe conditions and adverse events;
- c. Assurance of their fitness for work, including:
 - Management of their time before, during, and after clinical assignments; and,

Policy Name: Professionalism
Page 3 of 6

- Recognition of impairment, including from illness, fatigue, and substance use, in themselves, their peers, and other members of the health care team.
 - d. Commitment to lifelong learning;
 - e. Monitoring of their patient care performance improvement indicators; and,
 - f. Accurate reporting of clinical and educational work hours, patient outcomes, and clinical experience data.
- 4.4.4 All Trainees and faculty members must demonstrate responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest. This includes the recognition that under certain circumstances, the best interests of the patient may be served by transitioning that patient's care to another qualified and rested provider.
- 4.4.5 All Trainees participating in an ACGME-accredited Program sponsored by Texas Health Resources, must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles. Specifically, they must demonstrate:
- a. Compassion, integrity and respect for others;
 - b. Responsiveness to patient needs;
 - c. Respect for patient privacy and autonomy;
 - d. Accountability to patients, society, and the profession; and
 - e. Sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including but not limited to diversity in gender, age culture, race, religion, disabilities, and sexual orientation.
- 4.4.6 Each sponsored ACGME-accredited Program will establish overall goals and objectives and rotation specific goals and objectives which clearly outline standards for professionalism.
- 4.4.7 All Trainees are expected to behave professionally including, but not limited to the demonstrating the following:
- a. Accept criticism in a non-defensive manner
 - b. Demonstrate appropriate sensitivity to patients and their families

Policy Name: Professionalism
Page 4 of 6

- c. Complete tasks in a timely manner (both clinical and administrative)
- d. Be available for professional responsibilities
- e. Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- f. Maintain professional demeanor, including:
 - Have an appearance and dress that are in line with professional standards as established by departmental policies
 - Exhibit respectful and courteous behaviors
 - Be responsive to questions and accommodating to requests
 - Express anger in a non-public and non-physical manner
 - Adhere to professionally accepted boundaries for patient relationships
 - Adhere to sexual harassment and discrimination policies
- g. Comply with all requirements set forth by the Texas Health Resources, and program specific, GME policies and procedures.

4.4.8 Unprofessional conduct, including, but not limited to the following, is unacceptable and may be subject to progressive discipline:

- a. Failure to be truthful in all circumstances
- b. Violation of state and federal rules/laws and standards of practice
- c. Chronic tardiness and/or failure to complete tasks in a timely manner
- d. Disregard for other team members
- e. Disrespect for authority
- f. Inappropriate behavior with patients, families, or other members of the health care team
- g. Public or physical displays of anger
- h. Failure to follow up on clinical activities
- i. Abuse of Power

Policy Name: Professionalism
Page 5 of 6

- j. Failure to respect/abide by policies of Texas Health Resources and any hospital affiliates.
- k. Inappropriate use of social media
- l. Use of personal email for sending Texas Health Resources business
- m. Unexplained absences
- n. Failure to adhere to departmental dress standards

4.4.9 Unprofessional behavior is grounds for disciplinary academic and/or punitive action(s):

- a. Program directors will investigate complaints and prescribe remediation if indicated.
- b. Persistent problems will be brought before the programs' specific evaluation group for recommendations and additional remediation (i.e. Clinical Competency Committee).
- c. Should unprofessional behaviors continue and fail to be remediated disciplinary action up to and including termination may be imposed.

5.0 Definitions:

5.1 ACGME - Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

5.2 Trainee - Resident or Fellow in a sponsored Graduate Medical Education program.

6.0 Responsible Parties:

6.1 Graduate Medical Education Committee

6.1.1 Implementation and oversight of the policy is the responsibility of the Program Directors and the Graduate Medical Education Committee.

7.0 External References:

7.1 [Current ACGME Policies and Procedures](#)

8.0 Related Documentation and/or Attachments:

8.1 [Personal Conduct - THR System Policy](#)

Policy Name: Professionalism

Page 6 of 6

9.0 Required Statements:

Not Applicable