

Unsatisfactory Performance in Professionalism

Students are expected to consistently demonstrate the college's Professional Attributes and to adhere to the tenets of their Class Oath. Behavior of a medical student reflects on the student's ability to become a competent physician. The college expects all medical students to be professional in their interactions with patients, colleagues, and faculty and staff members and to exhibit caring and compassionate attitudes. These and other qualities will be evaluated during patient contacts and in other relevant settings by both faculty and peers. In addition, students must adhere to the Code of Student Conduct of Nova Southeastern University,

Professionalism is one of nine competencies NSU MD students must acquire and demonstrate. During the four years of medical school, development of professional behavior is monitored by both the faculty members and students. Formative peer assessment of professionalism is solicited during the first three years. Summative evaluation of professionalism by faculty members is included in determination of passing grades for all block, courses, clerkships, and electives.

In conferring the M.D. degree, Nova Southeastern University certifies that the student is prepared to enter the challenges of Graduate Medical Education. The M.D. degree also certifies that, in addition to competency in medical knowledge and skills, the graduate possesses those traits essential to the profession of medicine as judged by the faculty members, residents, and the student's peers. Attitudes or behaviors inconsistent with compassionate care; refusal by, or inability of, the student to participate constructively in learning or patient care; derogatory attitudes or inappropriate behaviors directed at patients, peers, faculty or staff; misuse of written or electronic patient records (e.g., accession of patient information without valid reason); substance abuse; failure to disclose pertinent information on a criminal background check; or other unprofessional conduct may evidence of student's failure to satisfactorily achieve the college's academic standards. Similarly, alleged violations of NSU's Code of Student Conduct may indicate unsatisfactory performance in the college core competency of professionalism. SPAC may review allegations of conduct that, in its judgment, indicate an academic deficiency and, if a deficiency is found, may dismiss the student. A SPAC review of a student's academic progress does not preclude an NSU review for student conduct code violations.