

The Valley College of Osteopathic Medicine

Professional Conduct Policies

Policy Number: COM 5-1

Effective Date: May 1, 2024

Revisions and Dates:

Responsible Party: Office of the Dean

Approved by: Alissa Craft, DO, MBA, Dean

Policy & Procedure Statement

The Valley College of Osteopathic Medicine (The Valley COM) strongly supports the foundational values of respect for person, place, and property and as such values the ethical and professional behaviors that support that foundation. Those values can include but are not limited to ethical leadership, practice, and learning; cultural awareness and embracing diversity; accountability to others and self; fostering a culture of service; and providing an environment that is safe and conducive to the goal of learning, healing, community engagement and the practice of medicine.

The Valley COM holds its administration, faculty, staff, and students to the highest standards of professional behavior. Accordingly, all members of The Valley COM community are expected to comply with the rules and regulations of the institution, all State and Federal law, and the AOA Code of Ethics.

This policy extends to The Valley COM administration, faculty, staff, and students as well as any other persons conducting business with or visiting the institution. Outside personnel or who violate the code of conduct may be restricted from any further business with The Valley COM.

Student Professional Identity Development

An important aspect of The Valley College of Osteopathic Medicine curriculum is the development of professional behaviors and identity. Medical education literature demonstrates that unprofessional behavior exhibited during training is a predictor of future referrals to state regulatory boards and/or the need for disciplinary actions. Since

such behavior presents a potential danger to the provision of good patient care, equal importance is placed on professionalism, as is placed on academic performance.

Recognizing the responsibility to display appropriate professional behaviors, the college sets expectations for professional conduct and evaluates students in this sphere to document satisfactory acquisition of these important behaviors. The Valley College of Osteopathic Medicine considers breaches of professional conduct similar to academic deficiencies.

Listed below are examples of expectations of professionalism and it is expected that every student, faculty, and staff member at The Valley College of Osteopathic Medicine will model these behaviors, adapted from the AOA Code of Ethics, to ensure respect for others, quality patient care and growth of the profession.

- Maintain confidentiality and honor the privacy of others.
- Demonstrate altruism and a commitment to service.
- Maintain honor and integrity.
- Demonstrate caring, compassion, and empathy towards others.
- Demonstrate respect for all students, faculty, staff in all interactions.
- Adhere to the laws of the jurisdiction, the policies of the school, and the expectations of the clinical settings in which we practice.
- Strive for excellence and be “self-regulating” in all conduct.
- Avoid sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment.
- Avoid plagiarism and cheating in educational and research activities.

Procedure Statement

The Valley COM holds professional conduct as a foundational element of the osteopathic profession and therefore expects all engaged in the teaching, learning, administration or service to the college or the profession to comport themselves with honor, respect, and integrity. The college also recognizes the importance of due process and assurance of fair and accurate investigation and proceedings. The college will adjudicate instances of purported violation of the Code of Conduct or any professionalism policy with due diligence and respect to all parties through the appropriate processes. This care and due diligence will occur during all phases of the process to include notification, investigation, hearing, and appeal process.