



Clerkship Conflict of Interest Policy for MSUCOM Student Evaluation

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/1/26

NEXT REVIEW: 5/1/27

APPROVED BY: Academic Programs

CATEGORY: Academic Programs

APPLIES TO: Students in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Program

REFERENCES AND RELATED POLICIES:

- Policy on Physician Recusal from Academic Supervision
 - COCA Continuing Accreditation Standards
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PURPOSE

This policy aims to uphold the integrity and impartiality of the evaluation, advancement, and assessment process for MSUCOM clerkship students by mitigating potential conflicts of interest.

Definition

A personal or therapeutic relationship, as relates to this policy, includes, but not limited to, any individual to whom the student is related, including by marriage, has a personal relationship with, or is a healthcare provider to the student.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. Individuals involved in assessing, advancing, or evaluating students must maintain a professional distance and cannot have a personal or therapeutic relationship with the students they assess.
 - a. This includes, but is not limited to, the following situations.
 - i. Core or elective rotation supervisors, including resident supervisors.
 - ii. MSUCOM Clerkship Instructors of Record
2. It is the responsibility of the student to disclose any personal or therapeutic relationships they may have with potential faculty or supervisors, including resident supervisors. Upon identification of such relationships, students should promptly notify the appropriate personnel for reassignment.

- a. The student should contact the Associate Dean for Clerkship Education (Dr. Enright enright4@msu.edu) for clerkship reassignment.
 - i. In the event a conflict occurs with a clerkship instructor of record, an independent validation of the student's grade will be completed by another faculty member or department chairperson.
 - ii. In the event a conflict occurs with a clerkship core or elective rotation, the clerkship team will reassign the student.
 - b. A student does not need to share any personal health information when notifying the college of a potential conflict of interest. If requesting a change in assignment, the student will need to define the perceived conflict of interest.
3. Clerkship students are prohibited from scheduling elective rotations with an individual to whom they have a personal or therapeutic relationship.
4. When certain occasions arise during the MSUCOM D.O. clerkship program, a student may be asked to provide a letter from a physician. Students must not provide a letter from someone to whom the student has a personal relationship with (any individual to whom the student is related, including by marriage).
5. Conflicts of interest not related to a personal or therapeutic relationship may be reported without any consequence; consideration of a change in assignment outside the scope of this policy will be considered by college administrators.
6. To respect the privacy of each party, a student should not participate as part of the health care team in the care of a fellow MSUCOM student.
7. Failure to disclose and adhere to this policy may result in:
 - a. A report to the Common Grounds Professionalism Committee and/or the Committee on Student Evaluation
 - b. An N-grade in the rotation
 - c. Submission to the MSPE