

PROGRAMME FITNESS TO PRACTISE STATEMENT
School of Medicine

1. Fitness to Practise in the School of Medicine

It is the position of the School of Medicine that students enrolled in its professional programmes will conduct themselves appropriately in order to justify the trust the public places in them and in their intended professions. This statement should be read in conjunction with the UCD Student Fitness to Practise Policy which sets out the formal procedural processes for Student Fitness to Practise issues. It should also be read in conjunction with the current School of Medicine *Infectious Diseases Policy*. Students of Medicine programmes should also read it in conjunction with all elements of the currently applicable *School of Medicine Passport to Clinical Education*; and the guidance documents *Learning with Patients & Guide to Learning on Clinical Sites*. *Students of Medicine degree programmes must comply with all provisions of these guides and of the Passport to Clinical Education. Any issues arising will be managed via the Fitness to Practise Policy & Procedures.*

2. Aims of the Fitness to Practise Statement

This statement aims to:

- 2.1. Ensure students understand the level of professional attitudes and behaviour required of them throughout their programme of study.
- 2.2. Safeguard patients, staff on clinical sites, and members of the public with whom the School's students will have contact during their programme of study.
- 2.3. Meet the requirements of the UCD Fitness to Practise Policy.

3. Fitness to Practise Principles

These core principles underpin the Fitness to Practise Statement:

- 3.1. The primacy of the patient experience. This means making patient care, and that of their significant others, the primary concern. Patients' dignity, confidentiality, safety and autonomy, must be respected.
- 3.2. Working in a collegial manner. This means that students are expected to work with others in a spirit of mutual respect, collegiality and partnership in order to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of those receiving care, their families, carers and the wider community.
- 3.3. Providing a high standard of practice and care.
- 3.4. Acting with integrity. This means being open and honest about your academic and clinical commitments. Students must uphold the reputation of their intended professions.

4. Fitness to Practise Standards

4.1. Competence

Students must:

- 4.1.1. Work within the limits of their competence with regard to their stage of education and training. This includes seeking and accepting supervision or taking direction from academic or clinical site staff as deemed appropriate. Students should seek advice if uncertain whether clinical tasks are within their competency.
- 4.1.2. Respect the rights of patients and their families. Students will respect diversity and will refrain from discrimination against any patient or their significant others.
- 4.1.3. Clearly identify themselves as students whilst on placement and ensure patients have given consent to have students present before proceeding to engage with them.
- 4.1.4. Always maintain the dignity, confidentiality, safety, and autonomy of patients.
- 4.1.5 Take direction from clinical site staff in matters pertaining to their learning or attendance.

4.2. Teamwork

Students must:

- 4.2.1. Work collaboratively and appropriately within a multidisciplinary team-based setting.
- 4.2.2. Be aware and respectful of the work and contributions of others in the healthcare environment.
- 4.2.3. Have a responsible attitude towards timekeeping and respect for colleagues.
- 4.2.4. Demonstrate positive team working skills whilst respecting personal and professional boundaries.
- 4.2.5. Engage in open, positive and constructive interaction with members of the public, patients and their families, research participants, supervisors, staff on placement, classmates, the programme team, and university staff.
- 4.2.6. Adopt the dress code, all local policies (e.g. infection prevention and control) and comply with any additional requirements of their host organisation whilst on placement.

4.3. Honesty and Integrity

Students must:

- 4.3.1. Be honest and trustworthy with patient interactions and the experience obtained.
- 4.3.2. Be honest and trustworthy in all aspects of the academic work they undertake.
- 4.3.3. Respect and uphold local healthcare policies.
- 4.3.4. Respect and uphold the law, informing the School immediately if they accrue any criminal conviction.
- 4.3.5. Engage in appropriate conduct and behaviour outside of the University and placements, for example on social media.
- 4.3.6. Take responsibility for their own learning and attend all lectures, clinical skills laboratories and clinical placements.
- 4.3.7. Be open to new learning experiences and demonstrate the ability to receive and respond to feedback in a constructive and non-defensive manner. This includes following academic advice when it is provided by an academic responsible for student progression or mentorship / supervision.

4.4. Personal well-being

Students must:

- 4.4.1. Seek appropriate help if they have concerns about their personal mental or physical health.
- 4.4.2. Not place colleagues or patients at risk because of personal health problems.
- 4.4.3. In the interest of patient safety, comply with medical advice if diagnosed with a particular health problem.
- 4.4.4. Not engage in the misuse of alcohol and/or drugs, placing others at risk.
- 4.4.5. Fulfil all health immunisation requirements within the timeframe stipulated
- 4.4.6. Demonstrate appropriate communication with peers, patients and families, clinical staff and staff of the University.

5. Version History

Version	Approval Date	Summary of Changes	Approved by:
1	February 2014	First Version	School of Medicine Programme Board
2	February 2022	Wording changes made to comply with updated UCD Fitness to Practise Policy documentation and to account for a change in the School of Medicines' name.	School of Medicine Programme Board
3	March 2022	Accepted by Medicine Programme Board	Medicine Programme Board
4	June 2023	Inclusion of text linking FtP in the context of other Programme requirements.	Chair of Medicine Programme Board
5	Jan 2024	Amended wording in sections 4.1.1 and 4.3.6	Medicine Governing Board