



College of Osteopathic Medicine
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Element 9.10: Non-Academic Health Professionals

- **9.10-1 Supporting Documentation**
 - Policies and Procedures on Recusal from Student Assessment and Promotion for Health Professionals Providing Services to Students – [link](#)

1. GENERAL

This SHSU-COM health services policy describes resources and supportive opportunities available to encourage students, staff and faculty to maintain their health and seek services when needed.

2. MEDICAL STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

- 2.1. All medical students enrolled at SHSU-COM are required to show proof of health insurance. All students must maintain health insurance coverage throughout their enrollment at SHSU-COM.
- 2.2. Students may obtain health insurance privately or through one of the Sam Houston State University student health insurance plans. The SHSU health plan is available to all students. Family coverage is also available through this program.

3. PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES

- 3.1. Students may be seen by a physician or medical practitioner of their choosing or may be seen at the SHSU Student Health Center.
 - 3.1.1. Additional physical health service locations shall be provided for students to access diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic health services in all locations where students receive education from the COM.

4. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- 4.1. SHSU has confidential counseling services at the Huntsville campus and The Woodlands Center that are available to all students.
- 4.2. Additional mental health service locations shall be provided for students to access diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic mental health services in all locations where students receive education from the SHSU-COM.

4.3. Medical students shall have 24/7 access to mental health resources.

5. PROVISION OF MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES

5.1. SHSU-COM and the Council on Osteopathic College Accreditation prohibits the provision of health care services to students by faculty involved in their evaluations.

5.1.1. It is a violation of this policy for students to request faculty to provide medications or other treatments outside of a physician-patient relationship.

5.1.2. Students on self-selected elective rotations, outside the purview of SHSU-COM, must plan for their health care needs at the rotation site independently with the assistance of SHSU Student Affairs.

5.1.3. Faculty providing health services, via a therapeutic relationship, shall be required to recuse themselves from the academic assessment or promotion of the student receiving those services.

Procedure Title: Healthcare Providers

**Corresponding Policy: SHSU-COM Health Services Policy
COCA Standard/Element: COCA 9.10 Non-Academic Health Professionals**

Effective: Upon Receiving Pre-Accreditation Status

Revised: March 7, 2023

Approved by CEC: May 2, 2023

Description:

SHSU-COM shall train faculty, staff, and students to ensure that students do not enter into a diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with students. A reporting structure shall also be in place to ensure compliance.

Procedure Step/Task		Responsible Party
1.	Clinical faculty shall be notified that they are not to enter a diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with students.	Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs; Office of Clinical Education
2.	The students shall be notified that they are not to enter a diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with full time or community clinical faculty who may evaluate them.	Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs; Office of Clinical Education
3.	A student who has a previous diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with a clinical faculty member shall not be evaluated by that faculty member and shall be precluded from having that health care provider as their primary preceptor.	Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs; Office of Clinical Education
4.	In the event that a student, in an emergency or other urgent situation enters into a diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with a faculty member, the event shall be reported within 24 hours, and the faculty member must recuse him/herself from evaluation or promotion decisions regarding that student. If the student is on a rotation with the faculty member, the student shall be assigned to an alternate preceptor.	Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs; Office of Clinical Education
5.	Nothing in the policy is meant to preclude a health care professional from entering into a diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with a student in an emergency situation.	Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs; Office of Clinical Education