

University of Missouri College of Optometry
Student Statement of Ethical and Professional Behavior

Fundamental Assumptions

The Student Statement of Ethical and Professional Behavior is based upon the following assumptions about the nature of education and the atmosphere we believe is most conducive to learning.

1. The Student Statement of Ethical and Professional Behavior is designed to help students at the University of Missouri College of Optometry achieve their educational goals by creating a culture of intellectual vibrancy and fairness.
2. Successful implementation of this statement will be fully realized if a) it is part of a College wide effort to improve the culture of learning at the College; b) it is embraced with goodwill by the members of our College community.
3. Students at the University of Missouri College of Optometry were admitted on the basis of their academic record, experience in the profession, and a broad range of personal attributes. The application of this whole-person concept gave the faculty and administration good hope that each student could make substantive and constructive contributions to the culture of learning at the College and, ultimately, to the profession. Every student thus enters with a unique matrix of talents and experiences that enriches the culture of learning at the College.
4. The faculty and students share the responsibility for effective teaching and learning. The obligation that faculty and students have toward each other is based upon a commitment to professional and ethical principles and is, thus, far more profound than any obligation founded upon the principles of commerce.
5. While every student has ultimate responsibility for his/her own educational life at the College of Optometry, people who enter a community with goodwill have implicit obligations to other members of that community. It is therefore reasonable for students to expect collegiality and goodwill from their colleagues and professors and be willing to offer the same in return.
6. Every student has the right to faculty who have appropriate academic and clinical credentials to teach in a professional medical curriculum. The student has a right to a culture that is conducive to learning and to a faculty who make an honest intellectual commitment to fairness.
7. As a member of a professional medical community, everyone is obligated to help maintain certain academic, professional, cultural and social standards.

To satisfy the promise I made implicitly at my admission interview, I hereby publicly declare that I accept the Fundamental Assumptions outlined above, and I agree to make a good faith effort to be guided by the spirit of the following Student Statement of Ethical and Professional Behavior. Furthermore, I understand that my failure to adhere to these expectations may place me in conflict with the desired goals of the college and could be grounds for further action including delay of academic progress and dismissal from the professional program.

Academic

1. As a student wishing to enter medical health care, I understand that I will be trusted implicitly by my patients. To meet my obligations to patients, I shall hold myself to the highest standards of intellectual achievement. I will do my utmost to come to class on time and to be physically and intellectually prepared to participate actively. I will work outside of class to supplement my classroom learning.
2. I will convey professionalism in all interactions, including written and spoken correspondence with fellow students, faculty & staff members, and the college administration.
3. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form. I will do my best to reduce the likelihood that students, in moments of desperation, will commit such acts, but I will hold any student accountable for their actions on behalf of the College, the profession, and the public. I will commit myself to the following:
 - a. I will not use old examinations as a means of preparing for my exams unless the instructor publicly gives permission to use old tests as one resource in a larger plan of preparation.
 - b. I will not take others' work as my own, whether that work has been published or whether it is another's classroom, laboratory, or extra-curricular work.
 - c. I will contribute constructively to all group projects.
 - d. I will not seek an unfair advantage during examinations by
 - i. Sharing or soliciting information about a lab practical with classmates in a later lab
 - ii. Copying the work of my neighbor either furtively or with their consent
 - iii. Attempting to elicit from the professor information that is not available to all students
 - iv. Soliciting information before a proficiency about the nature of a potential patient's refractive error and/or general ocular health.
4. I will not upload or post any protected intellectual property belonging to my professors, including lecture and lab documents to any site without permission from the professor. This includes any UMSL external sites like Quizlet and Chegg.
5. I will not falsify clinic records in any manner including but not limited to forging a preceptor's signature, fabricating findings for an examination procedure that was not performed, copying findings from a previous year's examination, entering data or test results after the exam date without documentation. I will actively protect patient privacy.
6. I will seek to understand and comply with the Ethics Policy promulgated by the National Board of Examiners of Optometry (NBEO). <http://www.optometry.org/ethics.cfm>

7. Unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record, I will refrain from the use of electronic devices for non-educational activities during classes and laboratories.
8. I understand not adhering to the academic expectations outlined above could result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

Cultural

1. I understand that my classmates will one day be my colleagues and share my alma matter. I understand that I have a professional obligation to my classmates as human beings and colleagues and also, indirectly, to their patients. As such, I will strive to help them when they struggle and to make my individual talents and experiences available for their benefit. This does not obligate me to volunteer every spare moment to tutoring other students. It means that I commit myself to maintaining an attitude that reveals shared goals and intellectual openness.
2. I will not be quick to form judgments based upon rumor, nor will I propagate rumors about any member of the faculty or student body.
3. I will not cause the obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, conduct proceedings, or other University activities, including its public service functions on or off campus, as stated in 200.010 of the University of Missouri System Collected Rules and Regulations.
4. I will strive to make constructive changes for the betterment of our college. I will never be silent when I see an injustice simply because it may be unpopular to speak up. I will do this in an effort to ensure that my needs and those of my classmates are met by the faculty and administration.
5. I will not tolerate bigotry in any form, either from my student colleagues or from the faculty. I will take with grave severity any form of bias that I see as a student—even if it doesn't affect me directly—and I will take appropriate action to guarantee that such bigotry does not harm myself, my classmates or the culture of my College or my profession.
6. I understand not adhering to the cultural expectations outlined above could result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

Social

1. I realize that while attending school sponsored events or professional conferences, I will be partly identified as a student of the University of Missouri College of Optometry. I will strive to behave at all times in a manner that does honor to that affiliation.
2. I will exercise good judgment when posting information on social media including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and Group Me. I recognize that information exchanged via e-mail and posted on social media is unprotected and will adhere to HIPAA laws when using electronic

communication and when posting on social media.

- a. The posting of pictures, opinions or information on social media that could be perceived as inappropriate towards the University, the College of Optometry, members of the College and/or associated clinical sites should be avoided.

3. I understand not adhering to the social expectations outlined above could result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

Discipline

Failure to comply with the academic, cultural, and social standards of the College of Optometry may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program. Academic dishonesty of any form may be considered grounds for dismissal. Issues of academic dishonesty are subject to the UM-Collected rules 200.010 and 200.020. (https://www.umsystem.edu/ums/rules/collected_rules/programs/ch200/200.010_standard_of_conduct).

Apart from and in addition to these professional standards by which Optometry students will be graded and evaluated academically, all University of Missouri students are subject to the Standard of Conduct for students which appears in Section 200.010 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri

http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/rules/collected_rules/programs/ch200/200.010_standard_of_conduct and for which they may be disciplined in accordance with the procedures in Section 200.020

http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/rules/collected_rules/programs/ch200/200.020_rules_of_procedures_in_student_conduct_matters.

BY PLACING MY NAME AND SIGNATURE BELOW, I SIGNIFY MY AGREEMENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

"I acknowledge that I have read all of the terms of the above College of Optometry Student Statement of Ethical and Professional Behavior and that I understand such terms. I agree to all of the terms of the above as one condition to my enrollment in the College of Optometry as a student in good academic standing."

Student Name (Print) _____

Signature _____

Date: _____