

Case Western Reserve University Student Code of Conduct

The CWRU Physician Assistant Program strives to assure clinical affiliates and the public that CWRU PA students meet professional standards of knowledge and skills. The purpose of the CWRU Student Code of Conduct is to set forth comprehensive and informational guidelines relative to student conduct and related procedures. CWRU is a learning community of students, faculty, and staff where freedom of inquiry and freedom of expression are valued. Important aspects of attending the University as a student are having respect for the rights of others in the community, conducting oneself in a manner that is compatible with the University's mission and taking responsibility for one's actions. In addition to exhibiting appropriate maturity and self-control, students, as members of the University community, are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with established standards of behavior and social interaction.

To fulfill its functions of promoting and disseminating knowledge, the University has authority and responsibility for maintaining order and taking appropriate action. As members of the CWRU community, students should:

- Accept responsibility for personal behavior and appropriately challenge the behaviors of others
- Respect individual differences
- Behave in a manner that is honest and upholds the standards of CWRU
- Be an engaged member of the CWRU community

The educational process is ideally conducted in an environment that encourages reasoned discourse, intellectual honesty, openness to constructive change and respect for the rights and responsibilities of all individuals. This Code of Conduct is designed for the promotion and protection of such an environment.

Academic Honesty & Standards of Professional Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Expected conduct is specified in the CWRU PA Student Handbook, and in syllabi and other materials distributed by instructors.

The CWRU PA Program Code of Conduct outlines principles that all CWRU PA students are expected to uphold. Breaches of these principles may be cause for disciplinary review.

This Code of Conduct represents some, though not necessarily all, of the behaviors that may trigger review under the CWRU PA Program's Policies and Procedures for Disciplinary Matters.

Principles of Conduct:

CWRU PA students shall comply with all applicable PA Program, University, and clinical site policies as well as laws, regulations, and standards related to their professional role including, but not limited to, those governing clinical rotations.

CWRU PA students:

- Shall not engage in cheating or other dishonest behavior that violates the security of any form of student assessment (including unauthorized reproducing, distributing, displaying, discussing, sharing, or otherwise misusing any form of assessment including, but not limited to, test questions or any part of test questions) before, during or after an examination.
- Shall always do their own work and may never plagiarize or cheat on tests, papers, or any other form of assessment. CWRU PA students may not solicit, obtain, possess, or provide to another person an examination or portions of an exam prior or subsequent to the administration of the exam. A PA student may not obtain or provide test questions to or from other students in any form—oral, written, or electronic. A PA student may not obtain test questions (in any form) from previous students or graduates of the Program.
- Shall promptly inform CWRU PA Program faculty when possessing knowledge or evidence that raises a substantial question of students cheating on or misusing questions from a CWRU PA Program examination or any other form of student assessment.
- Shall demonstrate and uphold the highest level of integrity and ethical standards with patient care, medical documentation, and scholarly work and in professional relationships with faculty and preceptors.
- Shall behave in a manner that is lawful and ethical, and that upholds accepted standards of professional practice.
- Shall not employ deceptive means, including submitting to the CWRU PA Program any document or testimony regarding student performance that contains a misstatement of fact or omits any facts.
- Shall not falsely represent themselves in any way to be a physician assistant, other health professional, or a physician.
- Shall demonstrate personal and professional responsibility and accountability at all times. This includes but is not limited to accountability to patients, the profession, preceptors, and faculty. Avoidance behavior is not acceptable.
- Shall treat fellow students with courtesy and respect and shall not discriminate against them on the basis of gender, religion, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.
- Shall treat patients and their families with respect and dignity in their presence and in discussion with other medical team members regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or socioeconomic status. Such respect and dignity will be accorded in both interactions with the patient and/or family or in discussions with other medical team members.
- Shall respect appropriate professional boundaries in their interactions with patients, patient's families, and others.
- Shall demonstrate and respect professional relationship boundaries with faculty, staff, preceptors, and other members of the healthcare team.
- Shall avoid behavior that would pose a threat or potential threat to the health, well-being, or safety of others apart from reasonable risks taken in a patient's interest during the delivery of health care.
- Shall demonstrate respect for the right of the patient and their family to be informed and to share in decision-making.
- Shall respect patient confidentiality and right to privacy. The PA student shall not disclose patient confidential information, publicly disclose information about a patient

that the PA student learned as part of the student's educational experience, nor disparage any patient in a public setting (including through social media), based on information observed or learned as a part of the PA student's didactic or clinical educational experience.

- Shall demonstrate good judgment and insight to one's own abilities and professional and personal limitations and know when to ask for help.
- Shall only wear their white coat when participating in the care of patients in an official capacity and at a time specifically designated by the PA Program and/or preceptor. PA students may not wear their white coat to gain access to medical facilities, patient's medical records, or personal/family medical records when they are not participating in an officially sanctioned PA Program educational experience.
- Shall participate in orientation, the classroom, experiential learning, community service, clinical settings, professional meetings and events or any other setting where judgment is required or patient care might be compromised without impairment from alcohol and/or drugs and shall practice without impairment from cognitive deficiency or mental illness that, even with appropriate reasonable accommodation, adversely affects their practice of medicine.
- Shall demonstrate the professional behavior expected of a CWRU PA student including:
 - Excellence
 - Altruism
 - Accountability
 - Honor and Integrity
 - Duty
 - Respect for others
 - Intellectual curiosity
 - Teamwork and Collaboration
 - Advocacy and Equity

In addition to the PA Program Code of Conduct, all CWRU PA students are required to uphold the [University Code of Conduct](#), its proscribed conduct, and [School of Medicine Professional Code of Conduct](#).