



University of the Virgin Islands School of Medicine

Policy Name and Section: <i>Policy on Medical Treatment for UVISOM Students</i>	Effective Date:	UVISOM Policy Number: <i>022</i>
Responsible Authority: <i>Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs</i>	UVISOM Document where Policy is Available: <i>UVISOM Student Handbook</i>	Approval Body and Date: <i>Executive Council, Self-Study Committee, Curriculum Committee March 2016</i>

Physicians associated with affiliated organizations with faculty privileges in the UVI School of Medicine (UVISOM), and who have influence (evaluation, grading) on medical students' academic progress, shall not be available for the care and treatment of psychiatric, psychological or other health issues that may afflict UVISOM students. UVISOM students seeking care for such an affliction at affiliated organizations will be directed to see other providers as appropriate. Medical students will be notified of this provision during their orientation to the UVISOM, and it will be stated in their student handbook. Additionally, this specific information will be posted on UVI Health Services web sites.

PURPOSE

To prevent any conflict of interest between UVISOM students and physicians who may also be faculty members, in particular, conflicts with physicians at affiliated organizations who hold faculty positions in the UVISOM and have academic and/or clinical teaching responsibilities with medical students.

PROCEDURE

Individuals who provide psychiatric, psychological, or other health care to medical students shall NOT be involved in the academic evaluation or take part in decisions regarding advancement and/or graduation of a medical student. All such practitioners will be educated about the UVISOM policy on treatment of medical students.

The UVISOM will supply UVI Health Services with a list of matriculated students each year. UVI Health Services will flag all of these records to indicate they are UVISOM students. When medical students make an appointment at UVI HS with possible psychiatric, psychological or other health concerns, they will be advised that they can request an appointment with someone who is a non-faculty member or a faculty member who does not have an academic role with them.

UVISOM faculty, as well as affiliated organization physicians with faculty privileges in the UVISOM, who have influence (evaluation, grading) on medical students' academic progress shall not be available

for the care and treatment of psychiatric, psychological, or other health issues that may afflict UVISOM students. UVISOM students seeking care for such services at UVI Health Services, Schneider Regional Medical Center, Governor Juan F Luis Hospital, St. Thomas East End Medical Center Corporation, Frederiksted Health Care, Inc., or USF-Affiliated teaching hospitals will be directed to see other non-UVISOM affiliated providers. A student seeking care from any facility where UVISOM faculty practice should identify himself or herself as a student in the UVISOM to ensure that he/she is not evaluated by a faculty member.

UVISOM faculty members will be educated on this policy and be made aware that they should not have involvement in the care of a student they are responsible for evaluating. If a faculty member who has academic or clinical teaching responsibilities inadvertently sees a medical student with psychiatric, psychological, or other health issues, she or he must either remove themselves from any evaluation or grading role with that particular student, or refer the student to another physician who does not hold such academic or teaching responsibilities. If the situation arises where a student has the potential to see a specialist involved in student evaluation, the student has two options:

- The student can choose to see the specialist (because there are no alternative specialists available). In this case, the specialist would recuse himself from evaluating the student and instead provide clerkship materials to the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs to assign the student a grade.
- The student may contact the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs directly to gain assistance in finding a medical provider to see who is not involved in an evaluative capacity.

Note

- If the student and faculty member have had a doctor-patient relationship prior to student entering medical school, this relationship must be disclosed to clerkship director, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, or Associate Dean for Student who will determine whether an alternative arrangement for grading or instruction will be necessary.

The Office of Student Affairs and Admissions will provide assistance to medical students to coordinate personal counseling or psychological counseling that is accessible and totally confidential with licensed private providers on both St. Thomas and St. Croix. Information about such session will NOT become part of a student's permanent file. Students can seek referral services on their own behalf, or, if the need arises, the Committee on Student Progress may arrange for an independent evaluation of a student, subject to the student's approval. With the exception of life-threatening situations (clear danger to self or others) no information is released without the written consent of the student. Counseling files cannot be accessed.

When students require counseling services or psychiatric care, they will be referred to a private independent practitioner. Island Therapy Solutions is available to provide comprehensive psychological services to enrolled students. Island Therapy Solutions is composed of a professional staff of licensed (or licensed eligible) psychologists, mental health counselors, and psychiatrists who provide both a confidential atmosphere and a safe environment in which students may explore and resolve issues of concern. Island Therapy Solutions employees have no affiliation with the UVISOM. The center maintains and assures confidentiality as provided by law. Counseling services are available for all enrolled UVISOM students. The UVISOM student will use their health insurance policy to pay for the

services. If the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions requests that the student obtain therapeutic services or a student requests services through the Student Affairs Office, any deductible or co-pay that is required will be taken care of by the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions.

If a student does not want to involve the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions, he/she may contact Island Therapy Solutions directly. The student's visit will remain completely confidential and will not be communicated to the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions. In such a case, there would be no way for the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions to assist with the deductible or co-pay expense.