Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

# Fitness to Practice Rules (V1.0)

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## 1. Objective

1.1 These rules aim to document and communicate a code of conduct for practice in courses in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS).

## 2. Scope

2.1 These rules are made under the Student Fitness to Practice Policy (MPF1345).

2.2 These rules apply to all students admitted to professionally accredited courses in MDHS, where:

(a) students undertake one or more professional practice requirements (e.g. placement, experiential learning, clinical work), and

(b) custom rules which supersede these standard rules have not been defined for the course.

2.3 Failure to meet one or more of the fitness to practice rules laid out in this document may lead to a fitness to practice hearing in accordance with the Student Fitness to Practice Policy (MPF1345).

## 3. Rules

### Professional requirements

3.1 Professional regulatory bodies define the professional and personal conduct expected of practitioners. As practitioners-in-training who will be interacting in a professional or clinical setting, students are expected to adhere to the code of conduct and standards

for their intended profession. Student practitioners should be directed to the relevant professional codes of conduct and standards as part of their course (see Appendix A).

3.2 In addition, students who are enrolled in certain health and medical courses or who are undertaking clinical training in a health profession, must be registered with the Australian Practitioner Health Regulation Agency (APHRA) for the duration of their study (see Appendix A). Students must be aware of, and comply with, student registration requirements (or provisional registration requirements for psychology students).

## Health requirements

3.3 To participate in a clinical or professional setting, students must:

(a) Maintain their health and wellness (including by appropriately managing any pre-existing health or medical condition) so that they can conduct their professional responsibilities safely, competently and ethically.

(b) Regularly assess their own health in the context of their professional responsibilities.

(c) Advise the subject and/or course coordinator if they have health or medical issues that may affect their ability to provide safe, competent and ethical care.

## Learning and participation requirements

3.4 When participating in a clinical or professional setting, students must:

(a) Respect peers, clinical, academic and other staff, and patients, including any cultural and personal differences.

(b) Respect the need for confidentiality of patients, family, tutor or student information gained during teaching sessions.

(c) Participate in tutorials and respect the ground rules for tutorials.

(d) Be prepared for learning and teaching sessions.

(e) Notify the appropriate staff members, in advance, of any planned absence.

(f) Complete all tasks in a timely manner.

(g) Monitor announcements and updates of course work through appropriate channels.

(h) Accept feedback from clinical, academic and other staff about professional behaviour and demonstrate modified behaviour.

# 4. Fitness to Practice Officer

4.1 For the courses listed in Appendix A, the Fitness to Practice Officer is the Course Coordinator. Contact details can be found in the Handbook entry for each course (hyperlinked from the course name in Appendix A).

## Version History

| Version | Date | Summary | Changed by |
|---|---|---|---|
| V0.1 | 07/08/2020 | Draft developed through working group deliberations, review of | Drafted by A/Prof Michael Pianta using working group inputs. |

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| | | current MDHS practice, and university policy. | |
| V0.2 | 09/10/2020 | Draft updated based on working group feedback. | A/Prof Michael Pianta |
| V0.3 | 25/10/2020 | Draft updated based on feedback from Fitness to Practice workshop held 16/10/2020. | A/Prof Michael Pianta |
| V0.4 | 11/11/2020 | Draft updated based on feedback from the Learning and Teaching Subcommittee of the Faculty Executive Committee. | A/Prof Michael Pianta |
| V1.0 | 04/03/2021 | Draft updated based on feedback from Legal Services and discussion in the working group. This version is to be made accessible from Schedule 1, in accordance with section 2.1(b) of the Student Fitness to Practice Policy (MPF1345) Endorsed by the Academic ~~Secetary as~~ compliant with policy. | A/Prof Michael Pianta |

# Appendix A

List of courses and links to the Handbook and professional regulatory body codes of conduct/standards.

| School | Course (with hyperlink to Handbook) | AHPRA registration | Professional regulatory body codes of conduct/standards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Medicine | Doctor of Medicine | ✓ | Medical Board of Australia Codes, Guidelines and Policies |
| | Master of Genetic Counselling | | Code of ethics for Genetic Counsellors |
| Melbourne Dental School | Doctor of Dental Surgery | ✓ | Dental Board of Australia Policies, Codes and Guidelines |
| | Bachelor of Oral Health | ✓ | |
| | Bachelor of Oral Health (Degree with Honours) | ✓ | |
| | Doctor of Clinical Dentistry | ✓ | |
| | Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry (Implants) | ✓ | |
| | Graduate Certificate in Dental Therapy (Advanced Clinical Practice) | ✓ | |
| Melbourne School of Health Sciences | Master of Speech Pathology | | Speech Pathology Australia Code of Ethics and Professional Standards |
| | Master of Clinical Audiology | | Code of Conduct for Audiologists |
| | Master of Social Work | | Australian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics |
| | Master of Nursing Science | ✓ | Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Professional Codes and Guidelines |
| | Doctor of Optometry | ✓ | Optometry Board of Australia Codes, Guidelines and Policies |
| | Doctor of Physiotherapy | ✓ | Physiotherapy Board of Australia Codes and Guidelines |
| | Master of Psychology (Clinical Neuropsychology) | ✓ | Psychology Board of Australia Codes, Guidelines and Policies |
| Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences | Master of Psychology (Clinical Neuropsychology)/Doctor of Philosophy | ✓ | Psychology Board of Australia Codes, Guidelines and Policies |
| | Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) | ✓ | |
| | Master of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)/Doctor of Philosophy | ✓ | |
| | Master of Applied Psychology | ✓ | |
| | Master of Professional Psychology | ✓ | |