

Standard 9 – Element 9.10-1

Evidence Submission

Recusal From Student Assessment and Promotion

Policies and Procedures for Recusal from Student Assessment and Promotion

The Recusal from Student Assessment and Promotion Policy and Procedure is designed to uphold the highest standards of fairness, integrity, and impartiality in the evaluation and advancement of our students. This policy establishes clear guidelines for situations where faculty, staff, or administrators must recuse themselves from participating in student assessments, grading, or promotion decisions due to potential conflicts of interest or biases. By ensuring that all evaluations are conducted objectively and without undue influence, we protect the integrity of the academic process and foster a trust-filled environment where students are assessed solely on their merit and performance. This policy reflects our commitment to ethical standards and the equitable treatment of every student as they progress through their medical education.

Policy for Faculty Recusal

It is the policy of DYU-COM that any faculty member who is a healthcare professional with a previous or ongoing therapeutic relationship with an osteopathic medical student must recuse themselves from all activities involving student assessment, grading, and promotion of that individual. For the purposes of this policy, a “therapeutic relationship” occurs when a licensed clinician assumes the responsibility for the evaluation, diagnosis, or management of a student’s medical or behavioral health condition.

Procedures for Grading During Faculty Recusal

Any faculty member assigned to a situation where a therapeutic relationship exists must identify the conflict of interest to the Course Director. The Course Director will either assign the student assessment and/or grading to a different faculty member or perform it themselves. If the Course Director also has a potential conflict, then the Associate Dean for Pre-Clinical Education will perform the assessment (or designate another qualified faculty member) and assign the grade.

Procedures for Final Course Grades

During all first and second-year pre-clinical courses, a Course Director who has a previous or ongoing therapeutic relationship with a DYU-COM student is prohibited from making any decisions regarding final course grade determinations for that student. In these cases, the Course Director must report the potential conflict of interest to the Associate Dean for Preclinical Education who will then designate another qualified faculty member to make the student's summative assessment or final grade determination. In cases in which there is no qualified faculty member, the Associate Dean for Pre-Clinical Education will assume these responsibilities.

Procedures for Clinical Rotation Evaluations and Grades

During third and fourth-year clinical rotations, supervising faculty preceptors who have a prior or current established therapeutic relationship with a current DYU-COM student are not permitted to determine the end-of-rotation evaluation for that student. If a preceptor is assigned to supervise such a student for a clinical rotation, they should immediately notify the Associate Dean for Clinical Education, who may identify an alternative clinical practice or service for the student's rotation, or in cases where that is not feasible, identify another preceptor on the rotation to complete the end-of-rotation evaluation.

Committee Work Protocols

In the case of committee meetings, a call shall be made for a declaration of any conflict of interest from committee members prior to student case discussions. Any committee member(s) identifying a potential conflict will be required to recuse themselves from both the discussion phase of the meeting as well as the decision-making process for matters in which a potential conflict exists.

Responsible Unit: DYU-COM Administration Last Review Date: October 2026 Next Review Date: June 2027
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