

**UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science (SMMS)
PROGRAMME FITNESS TO PRACTISE STATEMENT**

1. UCD Policy Definition
 - 1.1. Fitness to Practise means having the skills, knowledge, health and character necessary to safely and effectively undertake and complete a programme with professional practice, experiential learning and/or clinical work, fulfilling the responsibilities within the scope of practise in a chosen field.
2. Purpose of the UCD Fitness to Practise Policy
 - 2.1. To protect the public, students, placement providers and the University;
 - 2.2. Instil in students the qualities and competencies required for professional practise and to support and guide students who experience issues that may affect their ability to practise;
 - 2.3. Provide a suitable framework for the effective management of Fitness to Practise issues that may arise, either prior to or during a student's programme of study.
3. Fitness to Practise in Medicine and Radiography
 - 3.1. These programmes have a clinical component and a student must be Fit to Practise to fulfil programme requirements. It is the position of the School of Medicine and Medical Science that its students conduct themselves professionally at all times in order to justify the trust the public places in them and in their professions. A guide to Fitness to Practise in these programmes has been developed using the principles of the Medical Council of Ireland and The Health and Social Care Professionals Council (CORU). This statement should be read in conjunction with the full policy document which indicates the procedures to be followed in the case of a complaint.
4. Aims of the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science Fitness to Practise Statement

The Fitness to Practise statement aims to;

 - 4.1. Ensure students understand the level of professional attitudes and behaviour required of them throughout their programme of study
 - 4.2. Safeguard members of the public and patients with whom the School's students have contact during their programme
 - 4.3. Meet the requirements of the UCD Fitness to Practise Policy and School Fitness to Practise procedures.
5. Fitness to Practise Principles

Four core principles underpin the School's Fitness to Practise Policy;

 - 5.1. The primacy of the patient experience; making patient care and that of their significant others the primary concern, treating patients as individuals and respecting their autonomy, dignity and confidentiality;
 - 5.2. Working with others in a spirit of mutual respect, collegiality and partnership to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of those receiving care, their families, carers and the wider community;
 - 5.3. Providing a high standard of practise and care at all times;
 - 5.4. Being open and honest, acting with integrity and upholding the reputation of the professions.
6. Fitness to Practise Standards

The following standards of conduct and comportment provide the basis for determining Fitness to Practise:

 - 6.1. Competency

Students shall:

 - 6.1.1. Work within the limits of their competence with regard to their stage of education and training. This includes seeking and accepting supervision as deemed appropriate. Students should seek advice if uncertain whether clinical tasks are within their scope of competence;
 - 6.1.2. Respect the rights of patients and their families, which includes respecting diversity and refraining from discrimination against any patient or their significant others;
 - 6.1.3. Clearly identify themselves as students whilst on placement and ensure patients have given consent before proceeding to engage with them;

- 6.1.4. Maintain the safety, autonomy and dignity of patients at all times.
- 6.1.5. Respect persons' rights to confidentiality.

7. Teamwork

Students shall:

- 7.1. Work in a collaborative manner with patients and their significant others.
- 7.2. Work effectively and appropriately within a team based setting.
- 7.3. Be aware and respectful of the work and contributions of others in the healthcare environment.
- 7.4. Have a responsible attitude towards time keeping and respect for colleagues.
- 7.5. Demonstrate positive team working skills whilst respecting personal and professional boundaries.
- 7.6. Engage in open, positive and constructive interaction with members of the public, patients and their families, research participants, supervisors, other staff on placement, classmates, the course team, and university staff.
- 7.7. Adopt the dress code of their host organisation whilst on placement.

8. Honesty and Integrity

Students shall:

- 8.1. Be honest and trustworthy in recording patient interaction and experience obtained.
- 8.2. Be honest and trustworthy in all aspects of the academic work they undertake, for example, in submitting programme coursework and assessments, applications and CVs.
- 8.3. Respect and uphold local healthcare policies.
- 8.4. Respect and uphold the law, informing the School immediately if they accrue any criminal conviction.
- 8.5. Engage in appropriate conduct and behaviour outside of the University and placements, for example on social media.
- 8.6. Take responsibility for their own learning and attend all lectures, clinical skills laboratories and clinical placements.
- 8.7. Be open to new learning experiences and demonstrate the ability to receive and respond to feedback in a constructive and non-defensive manner.

9. Personal well being

Students shall:

- 9.1. Seek medical help if they have a concern about their personal health.
- 9.2. Not place colleagues or patients at risk because of personal health problems.
- 9.3. In the interest of patient safety comply with medical advice if diagnosed with a particular health problem.
- 9.4. Not engage in the misuse of alcohol and/or drugs, placing others at risk.
- 9.5. Fulfil all health immunisation requirements
- 9.6. Demonstrate appropriate communication with peers, patients and families, clinical colleagues and staff of the University.