

STUDENT ETHICAL CODE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF GDAŃSK

PREAMBLE

We, students of the Medical University of Gdańsk, are aware of the profound impact of research and science on the quality of human life and conscious of having an opportunity which for centuries was elitist and unattainable to many young people not because of their personal predispositions, but because of political systems.

The opportunity we have is the chance to gain knowledge. We believe that this Code will testify to our awareness of the remarkable significance of the chance and reflect our sense of responsibility the opportunity puts on our shoulders. Because of its medical profile, the University has a specific role to play in the society, the role stemming from care for protection of human life and health irrespective of the skin colour, nationality, personal beliefs, social status, or other similar factors.

In view of the above we, students of the Medical University of Gdańsk, aware of the School's unique social mission and the burden of responsibility for accomplishing it, adopt this Code which details the core ethical values, principles, and duties so as to support us in our unyielding effort to do good.

I. THE VALUES

The values cherished by the students of the Medical University of Gdańsk are mutually intertwined creating space for science and sound moral stance to develop. The values include: Good, Truth, Dignity, Freedom, Respect for Human Life, and Fairness. Translation of these values into real life determines not only the role, but also the School's position in the society, since the higher position its representatives are perceived to take in human community, the higher ethical standards they should meet.

1. GOOD

Good represents the rudimental value which, when seen in interpersonal relationships, always translates to openness to the needs of another human. Doing good better the man. Importantly, what matters is not only the good of an individual, but also the common good of the whole academic community and the society the University serves.

2. TRUTH

Truth comes down to consistency between beliefs and the reality. The truth is discovered piece by piece, gradually, and arriving at it is the subject matter of all scientific research. Truth plays a fundamental role in the moral life of any human being, since the man can only fulfil himself as a person and appreciate the dignity of human nature when abiding by truth.

3. DIGNITY

Dignity stands for the personal value which determines the way the man should be treated and the way he himself should behave. The dignity of a human being is an inalienable value irrespective of the skin colour, sex, faith, social position, skills possessed, personal beliefs, etc.

4. FREEDOM

Freedom denotes the liberty to make decisions and see them through. Freedom is an elementary value each human being should enjoy. Freedom of expression and freedom of conscience gain a specific dimension in the academic community. The freedom the man enjoys, however, carries responsibility for the choices made and actions taken.

5. RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

Life is an immanent value of each human being bestowed on him by nature itself. The value gains specific significance at medical universities whose mission is to serve human life and health. Therefore, any symptoms of disregard for the value should be censured.

6. FAIRNESS

Fairness stands for unceasing and steady endeavour to give everyone what is due to them. Fairness plays an immense role in appraisal and sharing wealth of both tangible and intangible nature, as it translates to respect for the right to equal and fair treatment of all people.

II. THE PRINCIPLES

The adopted values form the foundations for the general principles governing the University's life.

1. THE PRINCIPLE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The medical school operates *pro public bono*, i.e. for the common good. Any actions taken by the students on the university forum are targeted at the needs of the entire society. Awareness of the role should mould the attitudes of the academic community of the medical school.

2. THE PRINCIPLE OF HONESTY

The academic community accepts diligent and decent behaviour following the adopted obligations as its elementary moral principle in the community life.

3. THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR DIGNITY

The academic community abides by the principle of respecting the dignity of each human being. The principle lays the foundations for any interpersonal relationships.

4. THE PRINCIPLE OF TOLERANCE

In its respect for human dignity and personal freedom of each man, the academic community declares respect for any personal beliefs and any actions in accord with the universal values. Specifically, the principle of tolerance gives every member of the academic community the unconstrained right to present his/her personal views.

III. THE DUTIES

As guidance in our pursuance of the above listed principles we here define the duties which, if performed, should build the ethical image of the student of the Medical University of Gdańsk.

1. Seeking the truth.
2. Abiding by the valid law, and in particular the Higher Education Law Act and the secondary legislation binding at our University.
3. Respecting the core values and following the ethical principles in action, formulation and expression of views.
4. Complying with the principles of honesty, thoroughness and due diligence, and responsibility.
5. Furthering knowledge and skills continuously.
6. Caring about the good name, image, and prestige of the University.
7. Showing mutual respect, goodwill, and culture in the relationships with other members of the academic community.
8. Accepting functions burdened with responsibility in line with personal competencies, and not evading involvement in the works of collective bodies.
9. Inspiring and developing creativity, and building an atmosphere of harmonious development of the entire academic community.
10. Exercising the authority conferred by the academic community in an open and transparent manner.
11. Avoiding actual and potential conflicts of interest, i.e. double loyalty obligations.
12. Demonstrating loyalty towards the academic community of the home school without transgressing on the borders of respect for human dignity and autonomy.
13. Avoiding dissemination of unverified critical information which might shape wrong opinions discordant with the actual facts.
14. Opposing firmly any form of moral pathology, which translates to deeming any of the following unethical: corruption, nepotism, favouritism, fraud, and other forms of dishonesty.
15. Refraining from using personal role in the society for generation of private benefits contrary to the public interest.
16. Accepting the good of the patient as the fundamental value ultimately governing any actions taken at and by the University.
17. Abiding by the principles laid down in codes of professional conduct, especially the patients' rights, in personal behaviour.

IV. CLOSING PROVISIONS

Each student of the Medical University of Gdańsk:

1. Covenants in his/her conscience he/she shall follow faithfully the principles laid down in this Medical University of Gdańsk Student Ethical Code, and disseminate them in the academic community.
2. Covenants he/she shall honourably accept ethical appraisal in the event he/she is in breach of the principles of the Student Ethical Code.