



Office of the Dean  
School of Medicine

**Policy Title:** Policy on the Appropriate Treatment of Medical Students

**Last Review/Revision/Approval:** February 2025

**Review Cycle:** 4 years

**Body Responsible for  
Review/Revision:** Office of Student Affairs and Records

**Responsible Dean:** Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Records

**Relevant LCME Element:  
(if applicable)** 3.6

**Policy Statement/Purpose:**

The Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans is dedicated to providing its students, residents, faculty, staff, and patients with an environment of respect, dignity, and support. The diverse backgrounds, personalities, and learning needs of individual students must be considered at all times in order to foster appropriate and effective teacher-learner relationships. Honesty, fairness, evenhanded treatment, and respect for students' feelings are the foundation of establishing an effective learning environment.

Students have the right to be treated with respect and integrity. Mistreatment and abuse of students by faculty, residents, staff, or fellow students is contrary to the educational objectives of LSUHSC-NO and will not be tolerated. Mistreatment and abuse include, but are not limited to, berating, belittling, or humiliation; physical punishment or threats; intimidation; sexual harassment; harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, or disability; assigning a grade for reasons other than the student's performance; assigning tasks for punishment or non-educational purposes; requiring the performance of personal services; or failing to give students credit for work they have done.

**Policy Directives:**

Faculty, residents, staff members, and students receive instruction on the appropriate treatment of students through departmental orientations and meetings, faculty and resident development activities, and specific instructional sessions related to professional behavior and appropriate treatment of colleagues, teachers, and students. Information related to mistreatment is included in the Student Handbook.

This policy and specific procedures therein are derived from the institutional Chancellor's Memorandum (CM) 56 - *Student Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities*. Students who experience or observe incidents of mistreatment are encouraged to report them and may do so without fear of retaliation. The school does not tolerate any form of retaliatory behavior towards students who report mistreatment. Students may choose to bring issues of concern to the course directors, site or clerkship directors, or faculty members for informal discussions. Students who choose to discuss the issue further or make a formal report regarding their concerns about mistreatment have several options and may either identify themselves or choose to remain anonymous, depending on the reporting venue:

- LSUHSC CARES: The link to this institutional reporting site is at the bottom of the LSUHSC webpage, <https://www.lsuhs.edu/administration/academic/lsuhsc-cares/>. Students may report anonymously or non-anonymously and their report is routed to the appropriate personnel to help resolve the issue.
- SOM Learning Environment Form: The link to this is on the Office of Student Affairs webpage, [https://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/student\\_affairs/conduct\\_treatment.aspx](https://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/student_affairs/conduct_treatment.aspx). Students may report anonymously or non-anonymously. Reports go directly to the director of Student Affairs who forwards them to the appropriate faculty member to help resolve the issue.
- SOM Council on Student Professional Conduct: The link to this council is on the Office of Student Affairs webpage, [https://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/student\\_affairs/](https://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/student_affairs/). Students may use this mechanism for concerns that they have been mistreated by another student.
- LSU Ombudsperson: The link to the LSU ombuds is on the Office of the Chancellor webpage, <https://www.lsuhs.edu/administration/chancellor/ombuds.aspx>. The ombuds provides a confidential, impartial, and informal process for students to seek guidance regarding concerns about mistreatment. The ombuds does not report concerns directly to any office or individual without specific consent from the student.

The school compiles data on student mistreatment through numerous avenues, including student evaluations and national surveys. The Student Experience Committee reviews these data and a summary of mistreatment incident reports biennially and makes recommendations as needed to the relevant individuals or bodies, such as curriculum committees or dean.