

Student - Policy on Conflict of Interest Regarding Evaluations and Educational Experiences with Student Relatives

Policy Number: 301.1019.101

Policy Revision Date: 2019-07-25

Policy Category: Academic

**Policy Owner: Associate Dean for Student Affairs,
Vice Dean**

Policy Audience: Student Council

1. Definitions:

2. Leadership Council Review:

June 25, 2019

3. Introduction / Purpose:

To avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest that may result when students engage in formal educational experiences with relatives, certain procedures must be followed:

4. Governance and Enforcement:

Associate Dean for Student Affairs or Vice Dean

5. Policy:

Credit-bearing Courses:

Students may participate in educational experiences presented by a relative. In such instances another faculty member must grade the papers/exams and assign a final grade for the course. The instructor and chair of the department will identify the other faculty member.

Students may not be under the direct supervision of a relative in clinical courses. A faculty member or other institutional official will recuse him/herself from any discussion or vote relating to a matter where there is a potential for or the existence or appearance of a conflict of interest and will state publicly that there is a personal conflict.

For the purposes of this policy, a relative is considered to be anyone with whom the faculty member has a close, personal relationship, such as a spouse or partner, member of the same household, parent or grandparent, child or grandchild, sibling, aunt or uncle or a spouse, partner or child of any of the foregoing.

Bias in Assessments Due to Relationships:

The Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine expects both faculty and students to avoid situations where a faculty/student personal or family relationship could bias assessments or teaching situations or could create the appearance of bias.

In case of doubt about such a situation, students should contact the Associate Dean for Students, and the faculty member should contact his or her department chair. Those persons have the authority to decide whether there is a conflict or appearance of one, and how the situation will be managed. The decision may be appealed to the Vice Dean.

The Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine views this issue as a matter of professionalism, and all suspected violations of this policy will be reviewed by the Vice Dean or the Dean's delegate. Policy Elaboration:

Please refer to the Conflict of Interest Policy for additional information about what is considered a conflict of interest. This policy statement contains non-inclusive lists of examples of situations giving rise to a conflict.

6. Key Stakeholders:

Student Council