

UT San Antonio School of Dentistry Professionalism Expectations

Professionalism is a significant aspect of a student's academic performance. The expectations are outlined below. We require you to apply principles of ethical reasoning and professional responsibility as you make decisions in the classroom, laboratory, and the clinic. Students are expected to conduct themselves in the manner described below both on and off campus where appropriate. In most cases, deviations from expected professionalism will initially be addressed with verbal counseling and followed up with a formal evaluation form with recommendations that will be shared with you and copied to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs for placement in the Dental Deans Office. Repeated lapses in professional behavior after initial counseling or, in rare cases, deviations deemed severe enough by the Course/Module Director(s) may result in a lowered course grade or even in course failure. Lack of Professionalism is non-remediable.

1. Didactic Environment

Professional conduct in academic settings including lectures, laboratories, and institutional communication.

Expectations:

- a. Demonstrate respect for administrative team, faculty, staff, patients and peers
- b. Communicate professionally and respond to communications promptly
- c. Conduct oneself with academic integrity
- d. Submit proper documentation for absences
- e. Use electronic devices appropriately during academic activities
- f. Maintain appropriate personal hygiene and dress standards
- g. Demonstrate respect for university property

Violations may include (but are not limited to):

- Academic dishonesty, plagiarism, collusion, or misrepresenting facts for academic gain
- Disruption of the educational environment or inciting lawless action
- Unauthorized use of university property or vandalism
- Hazing, retaliation, or theft
- Submitting false information
- Violations of information resource systems policies
- Alcohol or drug use that interferes with academic responsibilities
- Gambling or dishonest conduct

2. Clinical Environment

Professional behavior in clinical settings, including patient care and teamwork.

Expectations:

- a. Demonstrate respect for administrative team, faculty, staff, patients and peers
- b. Adhere to ethical and professional conduct as defined by institutional standards
- c. Prioritize patient welfare and dignity at all times
- d. Demonstrate awareness of clinical responsibilities
- e. Maintain accurate, complete, and truthful clinical documentation
- f. Seek supervision or assistance when needed and know one's limitations.

- g. Avoid inappropriate relationships or misuse of professional status.
- h. Abide by clinical rules, university regulations, and off-campus conduct expectations.

Violations may include (but are not limited to):

- Endangering the health or safety of any person (patient, staff, faculty, peers)
- Inappropriate relationships with patients or their families
- Use of alcohol, drugs, or other substances in clinical settings
- Prohibited conduct during suspension from clinical duties

3. Self-Improvement and Adaptability

Commitment to personal growth, accountability, and professionalism under stress.

Expectations:

- a. Accept and respond constructively to feedback
- b. Critically assess and improve one's own performance
- c. Take responsibility for personal errors or shortcomings
- d. Maintain professional demeanor in high-pressure or stressful situations without becoming abusive or excessively critical

Violations may include (but are not limited to):

- Repeated failure to respond appropriately to feedback
- Avoidance of responsibility for errors or refusal to self-reflect
- Inability to manage stress in a professional manner
- Retaliatory behavior or refusal to adapt when required