

School of Health Sciences

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The following principles and values guide the practice of health care professionals and form the basis of professional attitudes and behaviour. It is expected that all faculty, staff, clinical preceptors and students will conduct themselves according to these principles.

ALTRUISM

Altruism requires that the needs of others, including patients/clients, colleagues, faculty, and preceptors be placed before self-interest.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Professionals are accountable to their patients/clients, colleagues, faculty, preceptors, society as a whole and to their profession for adhering to ethical principles and professional standards.

EXCELLENCE AND COMMITMENT TO LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Professionals make a conscientious effort to exceed expectations and a commitment to life-long learning. This commitment to excellence should be maintained throughout one's professional life.

DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Professionals demonstrate a commitment to competent practice. It entails being available and responsive to the needs of clients/patients, colleagues, faculty, and preceptors.

HONOUR AND INTEGRITY

Professionals maintain the highest standards of conduct. Such standards include recognizing and reporting unsafe, incompetent, or unethical practice.

RESPECT

Professionals demonstrate respect for others including (but not limited to) patients/clients and their families, colleagues, faculty, preceptors and other professionals. Adherence to this principle is central to cooperation.

COMPASSION AND EMPATHY

Compassion includes sincerity, kindness, and caring, together with the willingness to carry out all professional responsibilities in response to the needs of the patient/client. Compassionate practice requires empathy, i.e., the ability to enter into and appreciate fully the feelings and motives of others, and the demonstration of appropriate communication.



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF HEALTH