

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU TO KNOW BEFORE YOU ACCEPT A PLACE IN CURTIN MEDICAL SCHOOL – MEDICINE

Requirement for Professional Behaviour by Medical Students

Medicine is a challenging profession and all medical practitioners are expected to be accountable for their decisions and professional behaviours. Medical practitioners also have certain privileges, such as access to confidential information about their patients, and are expected to behave in a manner befitting those privileges.

As a Curtin Medical School medical student you are expected to meet the professional behaviour standards of a medical student and as you proceed through the MBBS course, the standards of a medical doctor.

Expected Professional Behaviour standards

There are inherent requirements which must be met as part of entry to medical school at Curtin University. This includes certain behaviours you are expected to be able to display, such as communicating effectively and sensitively with others as just one example. In addition to these inherent requirements, you are required to meet certain professional behaviour standards during the five years of medical school.

You will discuss these Professional Behaviour standards during Year 1 Orientation Week. You will also be asked to sign the *Code of Professional Conduct Agreement for MBBS Students*. This Code of Conduct document outlines the standards of professional behaviours expected of all medical students.

As a Curtin Medical School medical student your progression from each academic year to the next is subject to both academic performance and professional behaviour. This means that your progression can be delayed by poor professional behaviour, even if academic performance is satisfactory. It is also possible that your enrolment in the MBBS course can be terminated if your professional behaviour is not satisfactory. It is important you recognise this before you accept a place at Curtin Medical School - Medicine.

Essentially you will begin to practice the professional behaviours of medicine long before you graduate.

What is Professional Behaviour?

Professional behaviours include appropriate interaction and communication with patients and colleagues, a commitment to continuous learning and reflective practice (including responding appropriately to feedback), and an understanding of ethical behaviour in medicine. Professional standards may also apply to activities outside of the work/study environment such as behaviour at social events, use of social media etc.

As a student this extends to your behaviours toward your peers, teachers, examiners and supervisors, members of the public and, importantly, patients encountered throughout your training.

Other examples of professional behaviour include observing confidentiality and privacy. It covers the display of respect, courtesy and empathy toward others, and participating fully and committedly in group/team activities. Professional behaviour requirements as a medical student reflect the expectations of the medical profession, such as being on time, dressing appropriately, speaking to others politely, and meeting deadlines.

Medicine is a challenging profession, and in some instances you may be called upon to place the needs of your patients before your own. This is why a commitment to lifelong learning, reflection, and an adherence to good conduct is essential for you as a medical practitioner in training. It will serve you well in preparation for your future career.