



INSTITUTIONAL POLICY: ST-08

Category: Student
Subject: Student Behavioral Intervention
Effective Date: June 13, 2025
Updated: December 31, 2025

ST 08-1. Authority

W. Va. Code § 18B-1-6

ST 08-2. Introduction

All students are held to the same ethical and professional standards as physicians. For the benefit of students and patients alike, this policy seeks to (1) address any concerning event, interaction, or pattern of behavior suggesting that a student may be a threat to themselves or others and (2) provide a uniform protocol should inability to meet the health and technical standards be suspected. In recognition of the stresses inherent in medical education, this policy is designed to be supportive, not punitive.

ST 08-3. Role of WVSOM

- 3.1 WVSOM seeks to promote student wellness and success. Students are encouraged to self-refer if they feel that they may be suffering from a behavioral health problem or have reason to believe they are at risk of harm to self or others. If a student fails to self-refer, WVSOM has the authority and responsibility to take appropriate action.
- 3.2 WVSOM shall ensure appropriate levels of confidentiality for a student seeking information, referral, and/or treatment unless the student is at risk of harm to self or others or refuses to comply with WVSOM requirements concerning mental health.
- 3.3 The Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean has the authority to remove a student from any educational activities if there is evidence that (a) the student's behavior may negatively affect student academic performance or patient care, (b) the student no longer meets WVSOM's Health and Technical Standards, or (c) the student is reasonably believed to be at risk of harm to self or others. Repeated violations of this policy will result in additional administrative action, up to and including dismissal.

ST 08-4. Student Removal Hearing

If a student is removed from educational activities under Section 3.3, the student may request a hearing with the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean within five (5) business days of his

or her removal and may present relevant evidence concerning why he or she should be permitted to return to educational activities. Notwithstanding the hearing request, the student shall remain removed from educational activities until the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean permits the student to return to educational activities. The decision of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean is final.

ST 08-5. Behavioral Intervention

- 5.1 Concerns regarding a student's safety or ability to meet WVSOM's Health and Technical Standards should be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean.
- 5.2 Appropriate intervention may be obtained in one of two ways:
 - 5.2.1 **Student self-referral:** A student may self-refer to a qualified provider of his/her choice.
 - 5.2.2 **Administrative referral:** Whether or not a student has self-referred for behavioral health services, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean may require that the student undergo a mental health evaluation and/or treatment to assist in determining the student's ability to meet WVSOM's Health and Technical Standards or whether the student may be at risk of harm to self or others.

ST 08-6. Excused Absences for Health Reasons

- 6.1 Any educational activities missed while on required leave under Section 5.2.2 will be considered excused medical leave if the student complies with WVSOM's requirements, including those mandated by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean, concerning the student's health. However, if the student fails to follow these requirements, then the absences will become unexcused absences. Excused and unexcused absences while on required leave will be in compliance with WVSOM's institutional policy on attendance.
- 6.2 If a student self-refers under Section 5.3.1, any absences will be handled in accordance with WVSOM's institutional policy on attendance.
- 6.3 If a health evaluation is required under Section 5.3.2 and before the student is allowed to return to educational activities, the following must occur:
 - 6.3.1 The student submits a request to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean to return to educational activities;
 - 6.3.2 The student requests from the student's treating health provider documentation of the evaluation findings, whether the student meets WVSOM's Health and Technical Standards, and any other information required by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean in a form acceptable to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean. All required information must be submitted to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean; and
 - 6.3.3 If the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean determines that the documentation submitted is sufficient to make a decision that the student meets WVSOM's Health and Technical Standards, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean may approve the student's request to return to educational activities.

ST 08-7. Leave of Absence for Health Reasons

- 7.1 If a student is placed on a medical leave of absence for, before the student is allowed to return to educational activities, the requirements set forth in Section 6.3 must be met.
- 7.2 If a student is unable to meet WVSOM's Health and Technical Standards with or without reasonable accommodation, the student should request an extension under WVSOM's institutional policy on leave of absence.
- 7.3 Any leave of absence for behavioral health reasons will be in compliance with WVSOM's institutional policy on leave of absence.

ST 08-8. Treatment Failure or Non-Compliance

A student may be subject to administrative action, up to and including dismissal by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean, if the student fails to:

- 8.1 Comply with WVSOM policies and procedures and any requirements mandated by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean;
- 8.2 Comply with treatment recommendations and provide all necessary documentation of compliance; or
- 8.3 Regain or maintain compliance with WVSOM's Health and Technical Standards.

ST 08-9. Implementation of Policy

This policy will be implemented using applicable WVSOM policies and/or procedures.