Use of Social Media

As described above, behavior of students in the academic setting and beyond must be in keeping with the ideals of the institution and the profession of medicine. The following paragraphs indicate the current standards for behavior that relate to the use of social media.

Each student is responsible for his or her postings on the Internet and in all varieties of social media. In all communications, students are expected to be courteous, respectful, and considerate of others. Inappropriate postings on the Internet or social media will be considered lapses in the standards of professionalism expected of Emory School of Medicine students. Students responsible for such postings are subject to the Conduct Code process in the same manner as for any other unprofessional behavior that occurs outside the academic setting. Students who do not follow these expectations may face disciplinary actions including dismissal from the School of Medicine.

Students within the School of Medicine are urged to consider the following before posting any comments, videos, pictures, or essays to the Internet or a social media site:

1. There is no such thing as an “anonymous” post. Furthermore, any posts or comments submitted for others to read should be posted with full identification of the writer. Where your connection to Emory is apparent, make it clear that you are speaking for yourself and not on behalf of Emory. A disclaimer, such as, "The views expressed on this [blog; website] are my own and do not reflect the views of my University or the School of Medicine" are required.
2. Internet activities may be permanently linked to the author, such that all future employment may be hampered by inappropriate behavior on the Internet.
3. Making postings “private” does not preclude others copying and pasting comments on public websites. “Private” postings that become public are still subject to sanctions described in the School of Medicine Conduct Code.
4. Do not share information in a way that may violate any laws or regulations (i.e. HIPAA). Disclosing information about patients without written permission of the patient and the School of Medicine, including photographs or potentially identifiable information is strictly prohibited. This rule also applies to deceased patients.
5. For Emory’s protection as well as your own, it is critical that you show proper respect for the laws governing intellectual property, copyright and fair use of copyrighted material owned by others, including Emory’s own copyrights and brands. Curricular materials developed by Emory faculty and staff or faculty/staff of other medical schools or educational institutions should not be distributed or redistributed. When in doubt, students should seek guidance regarding appropriate use of such materials.
6. Do not share confidential or proprietary information that may compromise Emory’s research efforts, business practices or security.

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