Texas A&M University
Baylor
College of Dentistry

GRADUATE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT
DISCIPLINARY DUE PROCESS

Approved by Graduate Education Council on May 10, 2016, Texas A&M University System
General Legal Counsel May 16, 2016 and Administrative Council on May 18, 2016.
Graduate Student Conduct Disciplinary Due Process

As related to the Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry (TAMBCD) the student’s responsibilities may be classified in five broad areas, which are as follows: 1. Academic performance; 2. Academic integrity; 3. Professional conduct; 4. Conduct associated with the TAMBCD, but not directly related to academic or professional training of the student; and 5. Off-campus conduct, which may reflect adversely on the image and reputation of the TAMBCD and Texas A&M University (TAMU).

Different guidelines exist for the assurance of due process, based upon whether the student difficulties are academic or disciplinary. Academic penalties result from failure to attain a required level of scholarship and performance and disciplinary penalties arise from violation of prescribed code of ethics and professional conduct. Academic performance (see TAMU Student Rules 10, 12, 48, 53 and 59 and any other pertinent rule) is addressed in a separate document entitled, “Academic Due Process for Clinical Graduate Students.”

The students of TAMBCD will be held to the highest standards of personal and professional honor and integrity both on and off campus. Personal and professional integrity and honor are not just concepts; they are the cornerstone of our profession. It is with this understanding that students are entrusted with the duty of holding each other accountable for their behavior, and when inappropriate behavior is witnessed, to refer the matter to the proper authority, including the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies. The purpose of this document is to clarify unacceptable behaviors, and explain the processing and disposition of any allegations. Given the integral nature of ethical and professional conduct in our prescribed competencies of our curricula student behavior must be reviewed and assessed by faculty with direct responsibility for their training and their student colleagues.

Professional conduct, proper patient management, and ethical behavior are essential to maintain the dignity and credibility of the dental professions. An important responsibility for the protection of the profession rests in the dental school. Therefore, the TAMBCD abides by the following Code of Ethics to be embraced by the student body:

- Behave honorably and with integrity at all times.
- Neither permits nor accept that which is not just.
- Refrain from lying, cheating, stealing or intentionally misleading or deceiving anyone as to the known facts.
- Refrain from other forms of unethical or unprofessional conduct.
Examples of unethical conduct are:

**Lying/Falsification:** To deliberately make an untrue written or oral statement or to deliberately create a false impression through words or actions.

**Cheating:** To mislead intentionally or defraud, or to endeavor to mislead or defraud another. To use unauthorized assistance from any source either from individuals or from information resources in submitted work or examinations designed to represent one’s own effort.

**Collusion:** To agree to or to cooperate for an unethical or deceitful purpose.

Additionally, any student who engages in conduct that violates the Texas A&M University System Policies and Regulations, TAMU Rules, TAMBCD procedures, any University administrative directive or federal, state, or local laws shall be subject to discipline. Any student in violation of the law either on or off campus may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal, notwithstanding any action taken by civil authorities because of the violation.

A student’s personal responsibility for his or her actions is paramount; however, we also recognize that the TAMBCD shares in the provision of an environment that fosters a climate of integrity. To this end, academic testing, practical training, practical and clinical examinations and clinical patient care, to the extent possible, will be monitored in a way that encourages integrity and discourages unethical behavior.

It is the students’ responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner refraining from unethical behaviors and intervening when they are witness to or suspect unethical actions in their classmates. Failure to report these behaviors is as destructive to the climate of integrity as engaging in them.

### I. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

#### A. Background

Academic integrity matters are handled in accordance with TAMU Rules 20, 52 and any unique addendum approved by TAMBCD Graduate Education Council under a “Memorandum of Understanding between TAMU Aggie Honor System Office (AHSO) and Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry”.

#### B. Aggie Honor System
1. The foundation of the Aggie Honor System is “An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal or tolerate those who do.”

2. Procedures for handling suspected violations of the Aggie Honor System under the TAMU Rules 20 and 52 include:
   a. Functions of the Aggie Honor System Office
   b. Honor System Rules
   c. Reporting and Adjudication
   d. Sanctions
   e. Appeals
   f. General Information

2. Organization and Procedures
   a. Aggie Honor System Office
   b. Honor System Advisory Council
   c. Honor Council
   d. Adjudication Process
   e. Communications and Training
   f. Academic, Integrity Development Program

II. Student Conduct

A. Background

Student conduct including professional standards are handled in accordance with TAMU Rules 23-31 inclusive and 47, 51, 58 and any unique addendum approved by TAMBCD Graduate Education Council under a “Memorandum of Understanding between TAMU Offices of the Dean of Student Life (ODSL) and Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry”.

B. Code of Conduct Rules, Procedures and Appeals
The code of conduct, procedures and appeals are addressed in the TAMU Rules under the following headings.

1. Basic Rules and Procedures Governing Student Life (Rule 23)
2. Student Conduct Code (Rule 24)  
   The following addendum has been approved by TAMBCD Graduate Education Council and added to this Rule. A student will not treat patients either outside regularly scheduled clinic periods or without appropriate faculty supervision. The student will safeguard the confidentiality of patient records, including encryption of the records if they are stored on an electronic device. Failure to do so may result in revoking of clinical privileges while the matter is investigated and acted on by the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Graduate Education Council. In addition, action taken by the College could include a variety of sanctions up to and including expulsion.
   A student will safeguard the confidentiality of human subject data, including encryption of the data if it is stored on an electronic device. Failure to do so may result in review and administration of appropriate discipline by the Institutional Review Committee and possibly by Graduate Education Council.
3. Student Conduct Code Procedures (System) (Rule 25)
4. Student Conduct Proceedings (Rule 26)
5. Sanctions (Rule 27)
6. Student Conduct Files and Records (Rule 28)
7. Departure from Campus Following Suspension or Dismissal and Request for Reinstatement (Rule 29)
8. Dangerous or Disruptive Behavior Caused by Manifestations of a Serious Psychological Problem (Rule 30)
9. Racial and Ethnic Harassment (Rule 31)
10. Sexual Harassment (Rule 47)
11. Student Conduct Separation and Appeal (Rule 51)
12. University Disciplinary Appeals Panel (Rule 58)