

Expectations of Medical Students

Background

UNSW is committed to the principles of equity, diversity and inclusiveness and the Faculty of Medicine & Health encourages applications from students with disabilities and from diverse backgrounds. This document has been developed to clarify expectations of UNSW medical students, with the aim of helping prospective applicants and students make informed decisions about future study and professional requirements.

Where there are disabilities that impact upon an applicant's or student's ability to meet these expectations, the University will provide reasonable adjustments to meet these expectations: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/equitable-learning>. Reasonable adjustments are intended to assist a student to undertake the course or program on the same or similar basis as a student without the disability. Adjustments must be reasonable and cannot undermine the academic integrity of a course or program.

The UNSW Medicine Program is accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) and supported by the Australian Federal Government for the purpose of training students to be registered as medical practitioners. Following graduation, medical students are required to undertake a further postgraduate year (PGY1 or internship) of supervised medical practice to be eligible for general medical registration in Australia (<https://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration.aspx>).

Working as a medical practitioner is both rewarding and challenging. The Medical Board of Australia's **Good Medical Practice Code of Conduct** describes what is expected of all registered practitioners (<https://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Policies/Code-of-conduct.aspx>). Risk management is an essential aspect of good medical practice. Risk management includes students and registered practitioners recognising and managing any health conditions that could adversely affect their judgement and/or performance.

Expectations of medical students

We expect that students will engage with their studies and apply themselves to achieve success. In addition to complying with UNSW policies and procedures, medical students at UNSW are expected to adhere to the [Professionalism in Medicine Student Code of Conduct](#), which outlines expected behaviour in learning environments and situations encountered while in the medical program.

Clinical learning in simulated and actual clinical environments is an essential component embedded across the entire six years of the UNSW Medicine program. Most clinical placements take place in NSW Health Facilities and all students are required to comply with NSW Health policies. This includes compliance with police checks, vaccination and wearing of personal protective equipment [Student Compliance | HETI \(nsw.gov.au\)](#).

In order to succeed in clinical learning, it is expected that students engage with patients, fellow students, doctors and other health practitioners. Three important, interlinked areas of expectation are:

1. Physical and observational capabilities.
2. Effective communication.
3. Teamwork.

Examples of expectations in these areas are provided below.

1. Physical and observational capabilities

Medical students will be expected to demonstrate their ability to acquire information (both in verbal form and through physical examination of the patient, including typical techniques of observation and inspection, palpation, percussion, and auscultation), carry out a range of procedures suitable to their level of capability, and understand and carry out their role in assisting during a range of medical situations, from routine through to life-threatening emergencies. By graduation, they will be expected to recognise, assess, and support the management of a deteriorating and critically unwell patient who requires immediate care, including directing or performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation or other urgent or emergent manoeuvres.

2. Effective Communication

Medical students will be expected to communicate effectively and sensitively in spoken and written English with a range of different people to establish rapport, involve patients and carers in decision making, and practise in a culturally safe way to deliver high quality, safe care. Medical students will be expected to complete clinical tasks in reasonable time frame. The UNSW Medicine program's graduate capabilities include demonstration of effective communication with patients, carers, and other professionals, as well as maintaining accurate and pertinent documentation of such interactions. Effective communication includes interpreting investigations, and following, formulating, and transmitting patient care plans.

3. Teamwork

Medical students will be expected to work cohesively, respectfully, and effectively as part of diverse teams, taking responsibility for their actions. They will be expected to contribute to the teams they belong, aligned with their learning plan. Medical students will be expected to recognise, respect, and incorporate the skills of other professionals into their clinical performance.

If you have any concerns about the expectations for medical students, you may contact our Student Experience Team at mh.medadmission@unsw.edu.au, who will be able to provide you with further advice.

If you have concerns regarding practising as a medical doctor after graduation, we recommend that you contact the Medical Board for advice. Their contact details are available on the following website: <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/About-Ahpra/Contact-Us.aspx>

Support for students

- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Service: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- Mind Hub (Online Mental Health Support): <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/mind-hub>
- Student Support Advisors: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/study-support-and-education-support-advisors>
- Special Consideration: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

