

NEOMED PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT 2026-27

NEOMED students are expected to abide by the Professional Commitments during their tenure at NEOMED, including classroom and clinical settings. Professionalism in the health professions requires that healthcare providers place the interests of patients above their own. This highest standard of professional conduct calls upon students at NEOMED to demonstrate a commitment to altruism, accountability, excellence, duty, service, honor, integrity, and respect for others throughout their academic studies, clinical training, and professional careers. The professional expectations outlined below include examples of behaviors to which NEOMED students are expected to aspire in both academic and clinical settings.

1. **Altruism:** The essence of professionalism that maintains that the best interest of patients, not self-interest is the rule.

- Demonstrate humility. Each student is the sum of not only their own work, but also the teaching, lessons, encouragement, and giving of others.
- Assist other health professional students in need.
- Contribute a positive image of the health professions.
- Relate to others in a caring, empathic manner and strive to prevent and relieve human suffering.

2. **Accountability:** Required at all levels, including accountability to the individual patient for fulfilling the implied contract governing the health care professionals/patient relationship; to society for addressing public health needs; and to the profession for adhering to the highest level of ethical precepts.

- Read, understand, and abide by the **NEOMED COMPASS**, particularly as it relates to expectations of student conduct, academic performance, and professional expectations.
- Participate in and assume an appropriate and equitable share of responsibilities among peers and colleagues, including group work duties.
- Be present, punctual, and prepared in all mandatory activities at the University and at clinical sites.

3. **Excellence:** To reach excellence requires a conscientious effort to exceed ordinary expectations and to make a commitment to life-long learning.

- Demonstrate NEOMED's Core Values in all we do including: Integrity, Collaboration, and Excellence.
- Present oneself in a professional manner with respect to punctuality, proper preparation, accountability, communication, attire, hygiene, body language, engagement, and emotional regulation.
- Self-assess personal challenges and developmental needs, and seek support and assistance to improve future performance.

4. **Duty:** Every health care professional in training, or in the field, accepts a commitment to service as a personal and professional goal. This requires availability and responsiveness, accepting inconvenience to meet the needs of the patient, sometimes enduring unavoidable risk to oneself when a patient's welfare is at stake, advocating for the best possible care regardless of ability to pay and the willingness to accept active roles in professional associations, and to volunteer one's skills and expertise for the welfare of the community.

- Participate in and contribute to improving public health care within the local and global community.
- Champion the needs and health issues of those who may be unable to speak on their own behalf to improve social sustainability.
- Assume leadership opportunities within out-of-classroom organizations, professional groups, and informal groups devoted toward addressing health care.

5. **Honor and Integrity:** To regard the highest standard of behavior and refuse to violate the personal and professional codes of the profession require honor and integrity which imply fairness, truthfulness, keeping one's word, meeting commitments, and being straightforward. The goal is to recognize any conflicts of interest and avoid situations that make personal gain more important than the best interest of the patient.

- Safeguard patient confidences and privacy whether through written, verbal, electronic, or social media sharing.
- Deal with confidential information with discretion and appropriateness.

6. **Respect for Self and Others:** Respect for self and others including patients, their families, faculty and staff, and other health care professionals is the essence of humanism and is central to valuing others. Respecting others means valuing their individuality, their backgrounds, opinions, and talents that individuals contribute to the community and is a fundamental requirement for valuing others.

- Act appropriately and respectfully in all verbal and nonverbal interactions with patients, standardized patients, residents, peers, hospital personnel, faculty, and staff.
- Value, respect, and convey a sense of caring toward all persons.
- Nurture and allow free and open discourse, listen to new ideas, and value intellectual diversity of thoughts and talents.
- Follow healthy life-style habits, willingly seek care and support from others, and attend to my own physical and emotional health and well-being in order to provide care of the highest standard.

*Our thanks to the American Board of Internal Medicine for these six definitions of professionalism as developed in the Project Professionalism document which has been expanded to include all health professions and various examples of professional expectations at NEOMED

