

Policy Number	UME.HS.107
Policy Title	Student Access to Programs Supporting Behavioral and Physical Health
Effective Date	1/1/2020
Last Revision Date (if any)	1/1/2023
Scope	All (Faculty, Students, Staff)
LCME Element(s) (if any)	

Student Access to Programs Supporting Behavioral and Physical Health

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedural guideline and policy is to outline access to and options available for students at the University of Pennsylvania who may be in need of behavioral health support and treatment, and/or physical health support and treatment.

II. SCOPE

All (Faculty, Students, Staff)

III. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES for VOLUNTARY, BY-REFERRAL, and ADMINISTRATIVELY RECOMMENDED ACCESS

Voluntary: Students who self-identify as needing behavioral or physical health treatment may voluntarily seek it through [Student Health and Counseling \(aka CAPs\)](#), personal providers, or seek guidance through [Student Health Services](#) or [Student Intervention Services](#). These are confidential services, protected by HIPAA and no information will be shared with school personnel except in cases of Title IX required reporting.

By Referral: Students who wish to be referred for behavioral and/or physical health treatment may ask for the help of any PSOM faculty or staff member, their peers, friends, and family. Those persons may contact [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#), personal providers, or seek guidance through [Student Health Services](#), or [Student Intervention Services](#). These are confidential services, protected by HIPAA and no information will be shared with school personnel except in cases of Title IX required reporting.

Administratively Recommended: The Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, at the request of the Student Standards Committee (SSC) or other academic leadership, may recommend that a student undergo evaluation and/or treatment for suspected health problems by a consulting psychiatrist or other behavioral or health professional chosen by PSOM. This evaluation would serve to identify and/or address suspected academic, personal, and/or behavioral concerns that were brought to the attention of academic leadership.

The content and outcome of the evaluation will be confidential and available to the student. With the student's informed consent, the provider's recommendation(s) will be sequestered and maintained separately from the permanent academic record, in the Office of the Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education. The information will be shared on an as-needed basis with the

Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education and Associate and Assistant Deans in the PSOM Academic Programs Office. Summary information may be shared with SSC only on a need-to-know basis to best support the student and develop/inform/approve any needed academic plan.

IV. POLICY for INVOLUNTARY EVALUATION

PSOM may invoke the University of Pennsylvania’s policy of [Involuntary Leave of Absence](#), which includes, “In most cases, the student will be required to undergo an immediate assessment of his or her psychological, psychiatric or other medical condition. This assessment will be performed by Student Counseling Services, the Student Health Service, or other appropriate professionals.”

Information related to the outcome of the evaluation will be considered private, but not necessarily confidential when determining if the student will be placed on an involuntary leave of absence. The evaluation will be sequestered and maintained separately from the permanent academic record, in the Office of the Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education. The information will be shared on an as-needed basis with the Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education and Associate and Assistant Deans in the PSOM Academic Programs Office.

V. POLICY AUTHOR(S)

Senior Vice Dean for Medical Education (original)

Associate Director for Educational Academic Affairs (revisions)

VI. REFERENCES

[Student Health and Counseling \(aka CAPs\)](#)

[Student Health Services](#)

[Student Intervention Services](#)

University of Pennsylvania’s policy of [Involuntary Leave of Absence](#)

VII. GOVERNING BODY

Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

Ratified by the Medical Faculty Senate

VIII. POLICY HISTORY

Date	Change
01/01/2020	Created/Approved
01/01/2023	Revised