

1. GENERAL

This SHSU-COM health services policy describes resources and supportive opportunities available to encourage students, staff and faculty to maintain their health and seek services when needed.

2. MEDICAL STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

2.1. All medical students enrolled at SHSU-COM are required to show proof of health insurance. All students must maintain health insurance coverage throughout their enrollment at SHSU-COM.

2.2. Students may obtain health insurance privately or through the Sam Houston State University student health insurance plans. The SHSU health plan is available to all students. Family coverage is also available through this program.

3. PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES

3.1. Students may be seen by a physician or medical practitioner of their choosing or may be seen at the SHSU Student Health Center.

3.1.1. Additional physical health service locations shall be provided for students to access diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic health services in all locations where students receive education from the COM.

4. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

4.1. SHSU has confidential counseling services at the Huntsville campus and The Woodlands Center that are available to all students.

4.2. Additional mental health service locations shall be provided for students to access diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic mental health services in all locations where students receive education from the SHSU-COM.

4.3. Medical students shall have 24/7 access to mental health resources.

5. PROVISION OF MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES

5.1. SHSU-COM and the Council on Osteopathic College Accreditation prohibits the provision of health care services to students by faculty involved in their evaluations.

5.1.1. It is a violation of this policy for students to request faculty to provide medications or other treatments outside of a physician-patient relationship.

5.1.2. Students on self-selected elective rotations, outside the purview of SHSU-COM, must plan for their health care needs at the rotation site independently with the assistance of SHSU Student Affairs.

5.1.3. Faculty providing health services, via a therapeutic relationship, shall be required to recuse themselves from the academic assessment or promotion of the student receiving those services.

**Procedure Title: Physical Health Services**  
**Corresponding Policy: SHSU-COM Health Services Policy**  
**COCA Standard/Element: COCA 9.9 Physical Health Services**

**Effective: Upon Receiving Pre-Accreditation Status**  
**Revised: March 10, 2023**  
**Approved by CEC: May 2, 2023**

**Description:**

SHSU-COM will provide access to physical health services that respect each student’s right to privacy.

<b>Procedure Step/Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
1. SHSU will secure the services of licensed medical providers and maintain clinic facilities that are dedicated to enrolled students.	Student Health Center
2. Facilities will provide services during regular business hours but may extend those hours based on course schedules and other factors.	Student Health Center
3. SHSU Student Affairs will assure that the student clinic is an approved provider for carrier(s) offered by the college.	SHSU Student Affairs
4. Access to psychiatric services will be available via referral to off campus resources. Students may self-refer, be referred by the student clinic or another health care provider.	Student Health Services SHSU Counseling Center
5. SHSU will provide proactive wellness/prevention programming targeted at identified areas of student need.	SHSU Counseling Center Office of Health Promotion
6. SHSU will identify physical health services that can be accessed by COM students who are not located at the SHSU-COM campus.	SHSU Counseling Center
7. SHSU-COM will provide information to its students regarding these services during new student orientation and on the SHSU-COM website.	SHSU-COM Medical Student Affairs, Office of Student Affairs

**Procedure Title: Health Insurance**

**Corresponding Policy: SHSU-COM Health Services Policy  
COCA Standard/Element: COCA 9.11 Health Insurance**

**Effective: Upon Receiving Pre-  
Accreditation Status**

**Revised: March 10, 2023**

**Approved: May 2, 2023**

**Description:**

SHSU-COM students shall be required to retain health insurance while enrolled at the medical school.

<b>Procedure Step/Task</b>		<b>Responsible Party</b>
1.	Students shall be notified that they are required to carry health insurance while enrolled in SHSU-COM.	Medical Student Affairs
2.	Students shall be required to provide proof of insurance upon matriculation and maintain coverage throughout their enrollment period.	SHSU Student Affairs, Medical Student Affairs
3.	Student shall be provided with an opportunity to purchase health insurance through the University program.	SHSU Student Affairs, Medical Student Affairs

**Procedure Title: Healthcare Providers**

**Corresponding Policy: SHSU-COM Health Services Policy  
COCA Standard/Element: COCA 9.10 Non-Academic Health Professionals**

**Effective: Upon Receiving Pre-Accreditation Status**

**Revised: March 7, 2023**

**Approved by CEC: May 2, 2023**

**Description:**

SHSU-COM shall train faculty, staff, and students to ensure that students do not enter into a diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with students. A reporting structure shall also be in place to ensure compliance.

<b>Procedure Step/Task</b>		<b>Responsible Party</b>
1.	Clinical faculty shall be notified that they are not to enter a diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with students.	Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs; Office of Clinical Education
2.	The students shall be notified that they are not to enter a diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with full time or community clinical faculty who may evaluate them.	Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs; Office of Clinical Education
3.	A student who has a previous diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with a clinical faculty member shall not be evaluated by that faculty member and shall be precluded from having that health care provider as their primary preceptor.	Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs; Office of Clinical Education
4.	In the event that a student, in an emergency or other urgent situation enters into a diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with a faculty member, the event shall be reported within 24 hours, and the faculty member must recuse him/herself from evaluation or promotion decisions regarding that student. If the student is on a rotation with the faculty member, the student shall be assigned to an alternate preceptor.	Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs; Office of Clinical Education
5.	Nothing in the policy is meant to preclude a health care professional from entering into a diagnostic or therapeutic relationship with a student in an emergency situation.	Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs; Office of Clinical Education