

Lebanese American University (LAU) School of Pharmacy (SOP) Student Professional Expectations During Crisis

Preface

Lebanon continues to endure multiple, compounding crisis, with war posing the most profound challenges to our safety, stability, well-being and sense of normalcy. In response, the Lebanese American University (LAU) and the School of Pharmacy (SOP) have stressed safety, compassion and academic continuity. We recognize the disparity in how the war impacts faculty, staff and students.

Accordingly, LAU and the SOP are committed to supporting the well-being of all stakeholders acknowledging the anxiety, fear and uncertainty many are experiencing. This commitment begins with accountability at the institutional level. The administration, faculty and staff are dedicated to ensuring safety measures, exercising flexibility and compassion, maintaining timely and transparent communication, and providing the necessary resources, infrastructure, policies and services to support academic process and the mental, psychological and social well-being of our community.

At the same time, these challenging circumstances call for a shared responsibility and expectations. Student pharmacists in a professional program are entrusted with a higher standard. You are being prepared for roles that directly impact patient care and safety. As such, accountability, integrity, professionalism, and service are not optional. They are essential and must be demonstrated consistently, especially during times of crisis.

This document outlines the expectations that ensure accountability, continuity of learning, fairness, and readiness for professional practice.

A. Professional Conduct

You are expected to uphold the highest standards of professionalism at all times, regardless of the modalities of teaching, learning and assessment (in-person, hybrid, online). This includes honesty, integrity, respect, and accountability in all interactions and academic activities. As such, you are expected to maintain a respectful and inclusive campus environment, including refraining from engaging in disruptive or contentious (political, religious...) discussions on campus and practice sites.

Remember, moments of crisis elevate your professional responsibility and identity. They present an opportunity to develop adaptability, personal and professional maturity and perseverance. Let this be a time of reflection on *“not what the university and school can do for me but what I can do for my university, school, peers and the broader community.”*

B. Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a fundamental expectation and is even more critical during challenging times when online or hybrid education and alternative methods of assessment are adopted. Student conduct, individually and collectively, must reflect honesty, independence, integrity and strict adherence to all instructions, as these behaviors are essential to building faculty and public trust, ensuring patient safety and upholding the credibility of the program and profession, all enshrined in the professional oath you took during the White Coat Ceremony.

You are expected to adhere to LAU Student Code of Conduct and:

1. Remain engaged and current with all course materials, seeking support when needed.
2. Complete all assessments honestly and independently.
3. Adhere strictly to exam instructions and permitted resources.
4. Refrain from any form of academic misconduct, including unauthorized collaboration, sharing of exam content, misuse of AI tools, use of unapproved materials or devices, impersonation, or accessing external assistance during assessments.
5. Avoid plagiarism in all assignments and submissions.

C. Communication

You are expected to communicate respectfully, professionally and in a timely manner using official channels. Any circumstances affecting your participation or performance such as connectivity issues, displacement, emotional distress affecting performance, safety in commuting or travel outside the country must be communicated to course coordinators or faculty members.

Class representatives play an important role in voicing concerns and facilitating communication. They should be supported and treated with respect.

It is critical that all communication and decision-making is grounded in official university and SOP updates and thoughtful assessment, not influenced by rumors, pressure from others, or unverified information.

D. Experiential and Clinical Responsibilities

You must maintain professionalism in all experiential components, whether virtual or on-site. You are expected to comply fully with instructions from faculty and preceptors and to exercise sound judgement in balancing personal circumstances with professional responsibilities. While challenges may arise, your commitment to patient care, learning and professional duty should guide your actions.

E. Respect for the Learning Environment

You are responsible for fostering a respectful, supportive and productive learning environment. This includes avoiding disruptive or inappropriate behavior and demonstrating solidarity with your peers who may be directly affected or experiencing emotional distress.

F. Commitment to Professional Development

During crisis, your professional growth does not stop. War increases medication, healthcare access and social challenges. Your education, professional identity and responsibility call upon you and provide you with opportunities to develop and to offer patient care by volunteering in university led mobile clinics and NGOs, contributing to health awareness campaigns and screening programs, and initiating medication, food and life necessities donations.

Such activities will build on your clinical skills, communication skills, critical thinking, culture sensitivity, disease prevention, emotional intelligence, empathy, equity, inter/intraprofessional collaboration, leadership skills, moral reasoning, population health and teamwork.

G. Compassion and Professional Sensitivity

In light of the ongoing crisis, you are expected to demonstrate compassion, empathy, and understanding toward peers, faculty, and patients. This includes being mindful of the challenges others may be facing, exercising patience in interactions, and contributing to a supportive and respectful learning environment. Equally important, to recognize your role as pharmacy students and future healthcare providers to serve, care and heal.

Student Pledge

I acknowledge the responsibility and privilege of being an LAU pharmacy student and I recognize that compassion, culture sensitivity, honesty, integrity, professionalism and service define my role as a future healthcare provider, especially in times of crisis.

I pledge to uphold the highest standards of compassion, culture sensitivity, honesty, integrity and professionalism in all academic activities, including coursework, assessments, exams, simulations, co-curricular activities, experiential learning and community service.

I commit to supporting my peers, respecting the challenges faced by others, and contributing positively to a culture of trust, fairness, and perseverance within our community.

I recognize that failure to adhere to these expectations directly impact my peers, school and public's trust; patient safety; reputation of my profession and my standing in the program. I therefore, commit to demonstrating professional conduct at all times and in the face of uncertainty, acting with integrity, upholding the trust and responsibility entrusted to me and serving with compassion my fellow human beings.

I also acknowledge the importance of seeking guidance, support, or help when needed, understanding that asking for assistance is a vital part of maintaining professional, academic, and personal well-being.

Student name: _____ Student signature: _____

Pre-pharmacy

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