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DEAN’S MESSAGE

There has never been a greater need for the skilled, caring and knowledgeable physician. We at Ross University School of Medicine (RUSM) are part of a proud and noble tradition helping to meet that need. Over the past five years, RUSM has had more graduates placed in U.S. residency programs than any other school in the world. Our aspiring physicians come here to do what it takes to learn, to persevere, and to succeed in improving themselves and the future care of their patients. We attract an impressively credentialed faculty and staff that are similarly motivated. We welcome you as you begin this new chapter in your lives, and are excited to have you join our community.

Joseph A. Flaherty, MD
Dean and Chancellor, Ross University School of Medicine

USING THE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Overview
This Student Handbook is effective as of September 1, 2015. Its contents apply to all students, including those on semester break, Approved Absence (AA) or Temporary Withdrawal, and those visiting other medical schools or clinical affiliates. As these policies govern your time as a student at RUSM, we expect you to be familiar with the content of both this Student Handbook and the Academic Catalog. Any student who receives financial aid should also read the Financial Planning Guide, since only general aspects of financial aid are included here.

Current Policies
Please be aware that this edition of the Student Handbook supersedes all prior editions, online or in hard copy. From time to time, updates to policies will be made to both the Student Handbook and Academic Catalog. RUSM reserves the right to change the rules, regulations, course offerings, degree requirements, academic calendar, and other material contained in this Student Handbook or the Academic Catalog at any time. We will make every attempt to notify students in advance of significant changes in policy, but we recommend you refer to these documents frequently. It is the student’s responsibility to keep current on all University policy.
PROFESSIONALISM AND CONDUCT
STANDARDS OF EXPECTED CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR

Purpose
RUSM respects the strong work ethic and vision that motivates students to join our school. We know the commitment required to navigate the road ahead of you, and recognize the crucial role that a safe, productive academic environment plays in the pursuit of a medical career. We have established this Code of Conduct to promote a healthy learning environment, and expect you to become familiar with the code, through study and through close observation of these ethics in action among your colleagues and teachers.

Use this as a professional tool to guide you in beginning your career as a trusted member of the medical community. As with physicians, RUSM students are expected to display the highest standards of ethical and professional behavior. This extends to all aspects of your life, requiring conduct that displays honesty, maturity and respect for others. The Dean and the Dean's designees developed and enforce these policies and procedures both to promote an atmosphere conducive to active learning, and to preserve the educational mission of RUSM.

By applying, accepting admission, enrolling in and attending classes at RUSM or using the many services at your disposal, you indicate your acceptance of these standards of conduct. Adherence to the Code of Conduct, together with the Honor Code, the Technical Standards, and the AMA Guidelines in effect at any time, will contribute to your credibility and success as a medical professional and are essential to your successful completion of the RUSM program.

Not only students, but their guests, partners, family members, and former students granted temporary access and any person authorized to act on a student's behalf, are also required to comply with the Code of Conduct. Students, partners, family members, former students with temporary access or their guests or agents who fail to do so will be subject to disciplinary action. Students are responsible for their guests, partners, family members or agents and their compliance with the Code of Conduct and all policies set forth in this Student Handbook and on the RUSM student Portal, as well as all other published RUSM policies. Students may be held accountable for the actions of their partners, family members, guests or agents.

These standards of conduct govern your actions at all times during your educational career with RUSM, regardless of when or where such conduct occurs. These standards apply to student conduct occurring on or off campus and during periods of active enrollment, semester break, AA, emergency or short-term personal leaves or while suspended or withdrawn from RUSM. There are several sets of standards you will be expected to meet throughout your tenure as a medical student and during your career as a physician; students must also be capable of meeting all levels of proficiency and ethical conduct defined in the following standards.

- **Technical Standards**: These define a basic level of proficiency in medical science and application that students are required to obtain during their schooling in order to demonstrate a capacity to serve competently as a physician.
- **American Medical Association Code of Ethics**: The AMA Code of Ethics defines the essentials of honorable behavior for the physician. RUSM relies on the AMA Code of Ethics, among other sources, when evaluating whether a student’s conduct befits that expected of a medical professional and, thus, students should familiarize themselves with the AMA Code of Ethics.
- **Honor Code**: The Honor Code and Constitution developed by members of the Student Government Association (SGA) is accompanied by a mandatory pledge by each student and other members of the RUSM community to conduct themselves honorably at all times and in all dealings with others.
- **Code of Conduct**: The Code of Conduct is set forth below.
Knowing and following these standards will provide a basis of understanding the capabilities, character and demeanor of the qualified, ethical physician. Any behavior in conflict with the tenets of these documents may result in disciplinary action (see Sanctions listed in the Policies and Administrative Procedures section of this Student Handbook). In addition to taking appropriate disciplinary measures, RUSM also may report illegal or criminal conduct to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

RUSM TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Qualifications for Doctor of Medicine Degree Candidates

Introduction
The Liaison Committee on Medical Education has recommended that all medical schools develop technical standards to assist them in determining whether applicants for admission to the School of Medicine or candidates seeking the degree of Doctor of Medicine are qualified to pursue a career in medicine. This document, Qualifications for Doctor of Medicine Degree Candidates, contains RUSM technical standards, based on guidelines produced by the Association of American Medical Colleges. This document is also published in the Student Handbook distributed to all matriculating candidates. All applicants who reach the interview stage will be required to read the Technical Standards and to sign a copy of this document to indicate that they understand the Technical Standards. The signed form is kept as a permanent part of the record of all matriculating candidates.

Technical Standards

Medicine is a physically and mentally demanding profession in which practitioners are asked to place the interests of their patients above their own, which requires commitment to a life of service, and dedication to continuous learning. RUSM has a responsibility to society to train physicians who are prepared to care for their patients with critical judgment, broadly based knowledge, and well-honed technical skills. The abilities that physicians must possess to practice safely are reflected in the technical standards that follow. Thus, applicants and candidates must be able to meet these standards and successfully complete all identified requirements to be admitted to RUSM, to progress through the curriculum and ultimately, to receive the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine must be capable of performing in the following defined areas: Observation, Communication, Motor, Strength and Mobility, Cognitive and Social.

A. Observation

Candidates must be able, with or without reasonable accommodation, to observe and participate in experiments. In order to make proper clinical decisions, candidates must be able to accomplish the following, with or without accommodation: (i) observe a patient accurately using all necessary senses, (ii) acquire information from written documents, films, slides or videos, and (iii) interpret X-ray and other graphic images, and digital or analog representations of physiologic phenomena, such as EKGs.

B. Communication

Candidates must be able to accomplish the following, with or without reasonable accommodation: (i) communicate effectively, sensitively and rapidly with patients and members of the health care team (both verbal (spoken)and written), (ii) understand and convey information essential for the safe and effective care of patients in a clear unambiguous and rapid fashion in emergency situations, and (iii) relate information to and receive information from patients in caring and confidential manner. Candidates must be fluent in English.
C. Motor

Candidates must possess the motor skills necessary to themselves accomplish the following, with or without reasonable accommodation: (i) perform palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other diagnostic maneuvers, (ii) perform basic laboratory tests (urinalysis, CBC, etc.), (iii) carry out diagnostic procedures (proctoscopy, venopuncture, paracentesis, etc.) and (iv) provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physicians are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers.

D. Strength and Mobility

Candidates must have sufficient posture, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and endurance, with or without reasonable accommodation, for necessary standing, sitting, and participating in the laboratory, classroom and clinical centers. They must have sufficient personal dexterity to perform examinations and procedures as required on their clinical rotations.

E. Cognitive

In order to solve clinical problems effectively, candidates must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize in a timely fashion. In addition, they must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

G. Social

Candidates must demonstrate throughout their medical education compassion, integrity, concern for others, necessary and appropriate interpersonal skills, interest and motivation. Candidates must possess the emotional health required for the full utilization of their intellectual abilities, for the exercise of good judgment, for the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, for the development of effective relationships with patients and for effective functioning as a member of the health care team. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients.

AMA ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

American Medical Association Principles of Medical Ethics Preamble

The medical profession has long subscribed to a body of ethical statements developed primarily for the benefit of the patient. As a member of this profession, a physician must recognize responsibility to patients first and foremost, as well as to society, to other health professionals, and to self. The following Principles adopted by the American Medical Association are not laws, but standards of conduct which define the essentials of honorable behavior for the physician.

Principles of medical ethics:

1. A physician shall be dedicated to providing competent medical care, with compassion and respect for human dignity and rights.
2. A physician shall uphold the standards of professionalism, be honest in all professional interactions, and strive to report physicians deficient in character or competence, or engaging in fraud or deception, to appropriate entities.

3. A physician shall respect the law and also recognize a responsibility to seek changes in those requirements which are contrary to the best interests of the patient.

4. A physician shall respect the rights of patients, colleagues, and other health professionals, and shall safeguard patient confidences and privacy within the constraints of the law.

5. A physician shall continue to study, apply, and advance scientific knowledge, maintain a commitment to medical education, make relevant information available to patients, colleagues, and the public, obtain consultation, and use the talents of other health professionals when indicated.

6. A physician shall, in the provision of appropriate patient care, except in emergencies, be free to choose whom to serve, with whom to associate, and the environment in which to provide medical care.

7. A physician shall recognize a responsibility to participate in activities contributing to the improvement of the community and the betterment of public health.

8. A physician shall, while caring for a patient, regard responsibility to the patient as paramount.

9. A physician shall support access to medical care for all people.

Adopted June 1957; revised June 1980; revised June 2001

HONOR CODE

The Concept of Honor at RUSM
The Honor System at RUSM is a deeply cherished obligation founded upon the personal integrity of each individual member of the RUSM community. It requires that all members of this community conduct themselves honorably at all times and in all dealings with others. This shared commitment to high ethical standards creates an atmosphere of trust and respect vital to the unique sense of community, which characterizes the institution.

Authority for the maintenance and operation of the Honor Code is delegated directly by the Board of Trustees to the students through the Dean, with concurrence of the faculty. It is the students who are responsible for determining when a breach of honor has been committed, and it is they who are entrusted with enforcing the system. Accordingly, every member of the student body has the responsibility, not only for understanding the provisions of the Honor Code, but also for maintaining at all times the highest possible degree of personal integrity. Moreover, every student must realize that acceptance of admission to RUSM includes the explicit agreement to abide by the provisions of the Honor Code.

The presence of the Honor Code and its provisions does not in any way abridge or subrogate the responsibilities of the faculty in monitoring the student body in all areas herein identified, and in bringing actions through previously adopted mechanisms if incidents occur which are not brought to the attention of RUSM by the Honor Council.

THE HONOR CODE
The Honor Code applies to every student who is enrolled at RUSM. Accordingly, every student shall be required to verify acceptance of the Honor System by signing the following Honor Pledge:

"As a student at RUSM, I, (student name), do hereby accept the Honor System. I have received the Student Handbook and am fully aware of the Honor Code and Constitution and Student Code of Conduct contained within. I agree to read and become familiar with the Honor Code and Constitution and the Student Code of Conduct.

Accordingly, I resolve to refrain from conducting myself in a manner that is unbecoming of a medical professional. I acknowledge that, in support of the Honor System, it is my responsibility to report any violations of the Honor Code or Student Code of Conduct. I understand that with any violation of the Honor Code or Student Code of Conduct, a plea of ignorance will not be acceptable, and the violation may result in my permanent dismissal from RUSM.

I pledge that I shall endeavor at all times to create a spirit of honor of my chosen profession by upholding the Honor System myself and helping others to do the same."

Registration as a student at RUSM is not complete until signed verification of the Honor Pledge is on file, and no grades can be recorded until this is done. If the Pledge is not signed by the end of the fourth week of the semester, the student’s matriculation may be cancelled and all fees paid will be forfeited in accordance with the withdrawal policy described in the Academic Catalog. The ultimate responsibility for signing the Honor Pledge rests with each individual student. On the first day of classes each semester, students receive a link to the Student Handbook and this pledge by incorporation. The Honor Council President will contact administration in instances where this electronic document delivery does not occur.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

The RUSM Code of Conduct can be found in the Policies and Administrative Procedures section of this Student Handbook.

We recognize that the vast majority of our students and administration work honorably together in compliance with these standards of conduct. However, should a student or RUSM colleague ever feel threatened, or witness conduct contrary to these standards, we have established policies to assist you in appropriately addressing these concerns. The process for filing a complaint is detailed in the Policies & Administrative Procedures Section of this Student Handbook.
ACADEMIC
TERMINOLOGY

The following terms are used throughout this Student Handbook. These are relevant in the guidelines that govern your progress as a student at RUSM, prior to joining a residency program. The Dean of RUSM determines these guidelines, with assistance from RUSM's Promotions Committee and other faculty committees.

Following the terms, we have provided you with a list of acronyms and associated website links. This will be a convenient reference for you, as you navigate the many aspects and programs involved in your academic success.

Definitions of Academic Terms

**Academic Amnesty/Grade Replacement:** Students completing semester one in May 2013 and beyond will be able to replace failing (F/NP) grades in their GPA after repeating the course and receiving a passing grade.

**Academic Probation:** A student on academic probation must improve his or her academic performance during a specified timeframe or be subject to dismissal and/or loss of Title IV funding.

**Administrative Withdraw:** The discharge of a student from RUSM due to failing to comply with academic requirements.

**Approved Absence:** A student in good academic standing who wishes to temporarily interrupt his or her studies (AA).

**Core Clerkship:** A required clinical course that introduces students to the discipline and to develop their expertise and knowledge base (i.e. Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry or Surgery).

**Dismissal:** The discharge of a student from RUSM.

**Dismissal Appeal:** A student may appeal a decision resulting in dismissal. If this appeal is approved and the student returns to matriculation, he or she is then put on academic probation for a defined period of time (e.g., the following enrolled semester). The student must improve academic performance during this timeframe as specified in the approval or be subject to dismissal.

**Elective Clerkship:** A clinical course that varies in duration and specialty. Students select elective clerkships to develop and expand their knowledge in a specialty and/or improve their expertise in cores.

**Emergency Leave of Absence:** A period during which a student is temporarily excused from classes during a semester for up to two weeks.

**Gap Disclosure:** A brief summary submitted by the student describing the period(s) of temporary withdrawal (non-enrollment) that is longer than four weeks in duration.

**Good Standing:** A student maintains good standing by complying with all academic policies and procedures, and by remaining current with financial obligations. For students not in good standing, RUSM reserves the right to withhold services, transcripts, grades and certifications.
Independent Study: A required period of time without active enrollment to allow students to prepare for remediation of exams.

Promotion: A student’s advancement to the next level in his or her academic program.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP): Satisfactory academic progress indicates that a student has met degree requirements to acceptable levels within a specified time period. Your SAP standing is important during academic evaluation and determination of eligibility for financial aid. Students who do not meet SAP requirements are subject to dismissal and/or loss of Title IV funding.

Timeframes: If you began first semester prior to May 2013, to maintain SAP, you must complete the Foundations of Medicine portion of the curriculum within 75 instructional weeks (five semesters) or fewer, and complete the clinical portion within 135 instructional weeks; you have 210 instructional weeks to finish the entire program. If you began first semester in May 2013 or after, to maintain SAP, you must complete the Foundations of Medicine portion of the curriculum within 90 instructional weeks (six semesters) or fewer, and complete the clinical portion within 135 instructional weeks; you have 225 instructional weeks to finish the entire program.

Short-Term Personal Leave of Absence: A period during which a student is temporarily excused due to extraordinary personal circumstances for up to one week.

Temporary Withdraw: A period during which a student is not currently enrolled for more than four weeks.

Withdrawal: A student initiated request to discharge him/her from RUSM.

Academic Acronyms
The field of medicine is full of acronyms. The chart below serves as a convenient reference for you in navigating through medical education. You’ll notice that this chart also includes links to websites that offer further information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronyms</th>
<th>Application</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Approved Absence: A student who wishes to temporarily interrupt his or her studies may apply for an Approved Absence (AA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAMC</td>
<td>Association of American Medical Colleges: The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 141 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and 90 academic and scientific societies. <a href="http://www.aamc.org">www.aamc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACGME</td>
<td>Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education: ACGME is a private professional organization responsible for the accreditation of about 9,200 residency education programs in the U.S. <a href="http://www.acgme.org">www.acgme.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AICM</strong></td>
<td>Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMA</strong></td>
<td>American Medical Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CBSE</strong></td>
<td>Comprehensive Basic Science Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CCSE</strong></td>
<td>Comprehensive Clinical Science Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CK (USMLE Step 2 CK)</strong></td>
<td>Clinical Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CS (USMLE Step 2 CS)</strong></td>
<td>Clinical Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>XCD</strong></td>
<td>Eastern Caribbean Dollars (Currency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECFMG</strong></td>
<td>Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **ERAS** | Electronic Residency Application Service® | Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS) is a service that transmits applications, letters of recommendation (LoRs), Medical Student Performance Evaluations (MSPEs), medical school transcripts, USMLE transcripts, COMLEX transcripts, and other supporting credentials from applicants and their Designated Dean's Office to program directors. ERAS consists of MyERAS, Dean’s Office Workstation (DWS), Program Director’s Workstation (PDWS), and ERAS Post Office.  
[https://www.aamc.org/services/eras/](https://www.aamc.org/services/eras/) |
| **FERPA** | Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act | Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) |
| **FSMB** | Federation of State Medical Boards (Step 3) | Test offered to students who have graduated from medical school. The Step 3 test helps students attain licensure.  
[www.fsmb.org/](http://www.fsmb.org/) |
| **GPA** | Grade Point Average | Numeric representation of a student’s academic performance. |
| **IMF** | Internal Medicine Foundations | The first required clinical clerkship. |
| **IMG** | International Medical Graduate | Graduate of an international medical school. |
| **LCME** | Liaison Committee on Medical Education | The accrediting authority for medical education programs leading to an M.D. degree in U.S. and Canadian medical schools.  
[www.lcme.org](http://www.lcme.org) |
<p>| <strong>LOE</strong> | Letter of Eligibility | One form of the NYSED application pack. The LOE is for students who wish to complete non-affiliated clerkships in the state of NY. |
| <strong>MD</strong> | Doctor of Medicine | Medical school graduate. |
| <strong>MMR</strong> | Measles, Mumps, Rubella | Three titers that are required for clearance into IMF and clinical |
| <strong>MPS</strong> | Minimum Passing Score | Lowest score required in order to pass a certain test or exam. |
| <strong>MSPE</strong> | Medical School Performance Evaluation/Dean’s | Comprehensive evaluation letter that documents a student’s medical school performance. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>NBME</strong></th>
<th><strong>National Board of Medical Examiners®</strong></th>
<th>Provides online services for students and graduates of U.S. and Canadian medical schools, including application for USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, Step 2 CS, provision of score documents, certificates and/or confirmation letters. <a href="http://www.nbme.org">www.nbme.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NRMP</strong></td>
<td><strong>National Resident Matching Program®</strong></td>
<td>NRMP facilitates the placement of applicants for postgraduate medical training positions into residency programs at teaching hospitals throughout the United States. <a href="http://www.nrmp.org">http://www.nrmp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NYSED</strong></td>
<td><strong>New York State Education Department</strong></td>
<td>NYSED is the governing body of the state of NY that approves IMG students to rotate within the state of NY.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OASIS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Online Applicant Status and Information System</strong></td>
<td>Provides general information and the status of items related to ECFMG Certification. <a href="https://oasis2.ecfmg.org">https://oasis2.ecfmg.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RUSM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ross University School of Medicine</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.rossu.edu">www.rossu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Satisfactory Academic Progress</strong></td>
<td>SAP represents an acceptable level of performance in meeting degree requirements within specified time periods. It is used in both academic evaluation and in determination of financial aid eligibility. Students maintain SAP at RUSM by meeting the requirements listed under the Promotions Policies section of this Student Handbook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>NBME Subject Clerkship Exams</strong></td>
<td>An exam RUSM students must take at the end of each required core clerkship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SGA</strong></td>
<td><strong>Student Government Association</strong></td>
<td>Association on the medical school campus that focuses on increasing the quality of campus life for RUSM students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>USMLE</strong></td>
<td><strong>U.S. Medical Licensing Examination®</strong></td>
<td>Exam that medical doctors are required to pass before being permitted to practice medicine in the U.S. <a href="http://www.usmle.org">www.usmle.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree is awarded upon successful completion of the following:

- Foundations of Medicine curriculum
- Clinical Science curriculum (including Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine (AICM)/Internal Medicine Foundations (IMF))
- United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE) Step 1
- USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK)
- USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS)

To be eligible for graduation*, students must successfully complete all coursework and USMLE requirements within seven calendar years of their matriculation date. If at any point it becomes clear that a student is unable to meet all graduation requirements within seven years, he/she will be subject to dismissal.

*Students graduating after January 1, 2017 may do so on one of three graduation dates each academic year: 11/30, 03/31 and 04/30. Requests for special graduation dates will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. See the Special Graduate Date Request policy in the Policies and Administrative Procedures Section of this Student Handbook.

The MD degree program is designed to meet the core competencies established by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). ACGME competencies are discussed throughout the program, and will be identified as applying to the following categories of competency:

- Patient care
- Medical knowledge
- Practice-based learning and improvement
- System-based practice
- Professionalism
- Interpersonal skills and communication

RUSM is currently adopting changes in the Foundations of Medicine curriculum; not all changes will affect every student currently enrolled. There follows a brief overview of the Foundations of Medicine and Clinical Science curricula and associated programs in this context. Both curricula are covered in more detail further in this section.

Foundations of Medicine Overview

The Foundations of Medicine curriculum is designed to:

- Offer an in-depth, comprehensive program of biomedical sciences for medical practitioners.
- Provide supporting patient case correlations and clinical competency experience.
- Present a physical diagnosis course to prepare students for clinical clerkships.

For students entering the program in May 2013 and beyond, two tracks are offered for completion of the Foundations of Medicine program.

- **Standard Accelerated Curriculum:** This offers completion of the same prescribed coursework within four semesters
- **Ross+:** This offers completion of the prescribed coursework within five semesters.
The first semester for the Standard Accelerated Curriculum and the Ross+ Curriculum are identical. Mid-way through the first semester program, students are given the option to either continue in four semester accelerated curriculum or enter into the five semester curriculum for the remainder of the Foundations of Medicine program. Started in September 2013, this option allows students entering Semester 2 to enter the program suited to their particular learning styles and preferences.

**Passing Courses:** Students who began first semester in May 2013 or after are required to pass all courses in a semester to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Should a student fail one course in a semester, the student must repeat the entire semester (regardless of performance in other courses). A student will not be allowed to proceed with subsequent semesters until the student has successfully completed each prior semester’s study. A student who repeats is required to have a signed appeal and Academic Plan on file outlining the requirements of satisfactory academic performance and the consequences of failure to meet the plan. Please note that no semester may be repeated more than once.

**Grade Point Average:**
Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 or higher for advancement to Internal Medicine Foundations (IMF). If a student earns a cumulative GPA of 1.99 or lower, the Promotions Committee will carefully review the student’s complete academic record and either permit the student to begin IMF on academic probation or recommend the student for dismissal. If the student is permitted to advance to IMF, RUSM must develop an academic plan outlining the specific steps the student must take in order to achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.00 upon completion of the term.

**Clinical Sciences Curriculum Overview**
The Clinical Sciences curriculum consists of 90 weeks of clinical training, although students may be granted additional time upon request and with the permission of the dean.

This study begins with the first clerkship, Internal Medicine Foundations (IMF). IMF trains students in taking medical histories and making physical diagnostics, and enhances critical thinking and problem-solving skills. IMF is six weeks in duration and is offered six times during each academic year at the Miramar campus. Taking USMLE Step 1 is a prerequisite for taking IMF.

Students are required to submit their USMLE Step 1 sitting date to the Office of the Registrar 30 days prior to the start of the IMF session. Students failing to do so are subject to administrative withdrawal. A student who falsely submits a USMLE Step 1 sitting date and/or fails to sit for Step 1 prior to IMF will be subject to disciplinary action. If a student fails USMLE Step 1, he/she will be allowed to complete IMF but will be placed into Temporary Withdraw (TW) until he/she passes USMLE Step 1 and begins clinical clerkships and electives.

The balance of the Clinical Sciences curriculum consists of required clerkships and electives. During this phase, students receive hands-on training in patient care while rotating through various medical specialties with teaching hospitals and other approved healthcare facilities in the U.S. In addition to clerkships and electives, students are required to pass the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) to pass this phase of training.

Students beginning in core clerkship tracks after January 1, 2015 must complete their entire core clerkship track prior to completing any elective rotations. Once students begin a track, they may not exit the track for any reason until all six core clerkships are completed. Upon completion of IMF, and prior to starting core clerkships, students may request permission to complete up to eight weeks of special elective clerkships. Students should contact their clinical advisor for more information.

Students who are not in a tracked program after January 1, 2015, or students who are in a core clerkship track beginning after January 1, 2015 where only five cores are offered, may complete one elective clerkship (up to
four weeks) before completing their final core clerkship(s). Once a student begins her/his first core clerkship, the student must complete all six core clerkships within 60-weeks of the start date of the first core clerkship.

*Elective clerkships that are part of the General Surgery 12 week core will not be counted as this one elective clerkship.

The total number of clinical credit hours required for graduation will remain unchanged, however, the distribution of the required clerkships and electives are dependent on when the student successfully completes IMF and the required core Surgery clerkship as outlined in the tables below:

Clinical Science Curriculum Requirements Effective May 1, 2014:

| For students who completed AICM prior to 2/25/2012 and completed their Required Core Clerkship in Surgery and Surgery Elective by 4/30/2014. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine (12 weeks) |
| Required Core Clerkships (48 weeks) |
| Internal Medicine – 12 weeks |
| Surgery – 12 weeks |
| Pediatrics – 6 weeks |
| Psychiatry – 6 weeks |
| Obstetrics/Gynecology – 6 weeks |
| Family Medicine – 6 weeks |
| Electives (30 weeks) – must include: |
| Surgery Electives (minimum 4 weeks) |
| Medicine Electives (minimum 8 weeks) |
| Total: 90 Weeks |

| For students who completed AICM from 2/25/2012 thru 8/31/2014 and have completed their Required Core Clerkship in Surgery and Surgery Elective by 4/30/2014 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine (9 weeks) |
| Required Core Clerkships(48 weeks) |
| Internal Medicine – 12 weeks |
| Surgery – 12 weeks |
| Pediatrics – 6 weeks |
| Psychiatry – 6 weeks |
| Obstetrics/Gynecology – 6 weeks |
| Family Medicine – 6 weeks |
Electives (33 weeks) – must include:
Surgery Electives (minimum 4 weeks)
Medicine Electives (minimum 8 weeks)

Total: 90 Weeks

For students who completed AICM from 2/25/2012 thru 8/31/2014 and have completed their Required Core Clerkship in Surgery by 8/31/14 but have NOT completed a Surgery Elective

Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine (9 weeks)

Required Core Clerkship Clerkships (44 – 48 weeks – depending on duration of Surgery Core Clerkship*)
Internal Medicine – 12 weeks
Surgery – 8-12 weeks*
Pediatrics – 6 weeks
Psychiatry – 6 weeks
Obstetrics/Gynecology – 6 weeks
Family Medicine – 6 weeks

Electives (33-37 weeks depending on duration of Surgery Core Clerkship) – must include:
Medicine Electives (minimum 8 weeks)

Total: 90 Weeks

For students who complete IMF on or after 9/1/2014

Internal Medicine Foundations (6 weeks)

Required Core Clerkship Clerkships (44 weeks)
Internal Medicine – 12 weeks
Surgery – 8 weeks
Pediatrics – 6 weeks
Psychiatry – 6 weeks
Obstetrics/Gynecology – 6 weeks
Family Medicine – 6 weeks

Electives (40 weeks) – must include:
Medicine Electives (minimum 8 weeks)
10 weeks of direct ACGME electives (example: Cardiology elective must have a fellowship in Cardiology)

Total: 90 Weeks
**Timeframes:** To maintain SAP, students must complete the Foundations of Medicine portion of the curriculum within 90 instructional weeks (six semesters) or fewer, and complete the clinical portion within 135 instructional weeks; and have 225 instructional weeks to finish the entire program. Students have seven (7) years from the date of their matriculation to complete all degree requirements, including passing all USMLE Step exams.

**STUDENT GRADING AND PROMOTIONS POLICIES**

**Grading Policies for Foundations of Medicine Semesters**
Grading and promotion policies create a minimum acceptable grade, based on a defined Minimum Passing Score (MPS). Some courses at RUSM are high pass/pass/no pass, although most use A, B+, B, C+, C, and F grading designations. Students taking courses with letter grades require a minimum C grade within a given semester to promote to the next semester. All grades are posted on myRoss at the end of each semester.

**Grades**
For coursework begun during or after the January 2012 semester, grades are interpreted and GPAs are determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Percentage Range</th>
<th>Quality points per credit hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-100</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>MPS-69</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail (below MPS)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HP</td>
<td>High Pass</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>No Pass</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W*</td>
<td>Withdrawn Before Interim Exams</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP*</td>
<td>Withdrawn Passing</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WF*</td>
<td>Withdrawn Failing</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Course repeated in subsequent semester</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UP</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory Progress</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Withdrawal from a single course during a semester is not permitted. However, if a student withdraws from the term, a grade may be given for any courses that have been fully completed.*

Starting in May 2013, students completing semester one, will receive one of three grades: High Pass, Pass or Fail. Grades for the first semester do not count toward the cumulative GPA. Courses in remaining semesters will receive an A, B+, B, C+, C or F grade and will impact the cumulative GPA.

All students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 in order to advance to IMF. Students with a cumulative GPA lower than 2.00 are subject to dismissal.
Academic Amnesty/Grade replacement policy:
Students completing semester one in May 2013 and beyond will be able to replace failing (F/NP) grades in their GPA after repeating the course and receiving a passing grade. The course with the “F” grade will be removed from the GPA calculation, but the attempted hours will still count in the calculation of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

Recognition of Exemplary Grades
Students earning exemplary grades are recognized as follows:

- **Dean’s Honor Roll**: Students who earn a High Pass in Foundations of Medicine and a Pass in Clinical Skills of Semester 1 qualify for the Dean’s Honor Roll.

- **Dean’s List**: During foundational science semesters, students who have maintained a 3.50 GPA in two successive Foundations of Medicine semesters qualify for the Dean’s list. They remain on the Dean’s list as long as they maintain a 3.50 GPA each semester. The Dean’s list is posted at the beginning of each semester, as soon as grades are available. Semester 2 students are eligible to be on the Dean’s List if they have a 3.50 GPA for semester 2 and earned a HP during semester 1.

- **Distinguished Scholar**: Students maintaining a 4.00 GPA during the Foundations of Medicine semesters are designated as Distinguished Scholars.

- **Graduation with Honors**: Honors designees are published in the commencement program, and will be printed on those graduates’ diplomas. To be eligible for Honors status, students must do the following:
  
  - Be a student in good standing,
  - Have not received an UP, NP, F, WF, or R in any course,
  - Have a 3.00 cumulative GPA through the Foundations of Medicine semesters,
  - Have passed USMLE Step 1 with a score of 210 or higher,
  - Have passed USMLE Step 2 CK with a score of 200 or higher, (for students who completed first semester prior to May 2013) or with a score of 220 or higher (for students who completed first semester after May 2013),
  - Passed USMLE Step 1, USMLE Step 2 CK, and/or CS in no more than 1 attempt, and
  - Meet one of the following combined Foundations of Medicine and Clinical Sciences cumulative GPA requirements:
    - 3.50 – 3.59 Honors
    - 3.60 – 3.79 High Honors
    - 3.80 – 4.00 Highest Honors
    - Transfer students who did not complete the Foundations of Medicine curriculum at RUSM must have maintained the RUSM grade point averages listed above plus earned a score of at least 230 on USMLE Step 1.

Promotion Policies: Foundations of Medicine Semesters
Students who receive passing grades and are otherwise in good standing are promoted to the next semester. Students who fail any semester for the first time will be allowed to repeat the failed semester on Academic Probation. Students failing two semesters will be recommended for dismissal.

Students who have been dismissed have the right to appeal a dismissal. If a student successfully appeals a dismissal and is allowed to return, the student will be placed on Academic Probation for the next semester.
Repeating, Return from Approved Absences and Readmitted:

- Students who began first semester before May 2013 are required to pass all blocks in a semester to maintain SAP.
- Students who began first semester in May 2013 or after are required to pass all courses in a semester to maintain SAP.

Failing Grades: Foundations of Medicine

Should a student fail one course in a semester, the student must repeat the entire semester (regardless of performance in other blocks or courses) and will be enrolled in the Essentials of Lifelong Learning Skills (ELLS) course.

Students repeating a semester will be placed on Academic Probation.

Students will not be allowed to proceed with subsequent semesters until they have successfully completed each prior semester’s study.

Students who repeat are required to have an Academic Plan on file with the Office of the Registrar outlining the requirements of satisfactory academic performance signed by the student and the Associate Dean of Student Affairs or the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Please note that no semester may be repeated more than once.

1) A student repeating the previous semester will be enrolled in Foundations of Medicine, Clinical Skills and ELLS.

2) Students who are returning from an AA and have successfully passed the previous semester will be enrolled in Foundations of Medicine and Clinical Skills.

3) Students returning after being readmitted due to failing two semesters or successfully appealing their dismissal will be enrolled in Foundations of Medicine, Clinical Skills and ELLS.

4) Students who withdrew with W/WP and were readmitted will be enrolled in Foundations of Medicine and Clinical Skills.

5) For students who withdrew with a WF and were readmitted will be enrolled in Foundations of Medicine, Clinical Skills and ELLS.

Grade Appeal Policy for Foundations of Medicine

Students who wish to appeal a grade in a Foundations of Medicine course must submit their appeal to the Course Director. Appeals must be submitted within 15 calendar days of receipt of the grade notification.

The student may appeal the decision of the Course Director to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs by submitting, within 15 days of the decision, a concise written statement of appeal based on one or more of the following reasons:

- There is new evidence that was unavailable at the time of the original investigation that would affect the outcome of the original decision.
- There were procedural irregularities in the process that affected the outcome.
- The grade was not reasonable based on the evidence compiled during the investigation.
Promotion Policies: Clinical Science Semesters

Clinical Sciences Clerkship Eligibility
In order to be eligible to begin the remainder of the clinical core clerkships, students must meet all of the following prerequisites:

- Successfully complete all the requirements of the Foundations of Medicine curriculum;
- Pass the USMLE Step 1;
- Successfully complete the IMF (previously AICM) clerkship;
- Approved Health Clearance; and
- Pass background checks.

Clinical Sciences Clerkships
Passing the USMLE Step 1 and IMF clerkship are required for continuation into the remaining clerkships. Students who have completed these steps may begin clerkships at any time during this period. Beyond this timeframe, students who have not resumed clinical training enter their grace period or repayment status on their student loans and must be reported as withdrawn, for most purposes, to outside agencies.

For students who completed AICM prior to September 2014, RUSM requires 57 instructional weeks of core clerkships (including 9 weeks of AICM) and 33 instructional weeks of electives, for a total of 90 instructional weeks of clinical training.

For students beginning IMF on or after September 2014, RUSM requires 50 weeks instructional weeks of core clerkships (including 6 weeks of IMF) and 40 instructional weeks of electives, for a total of 90 instructional weeks of clinical training.

The entire clinical segment, currently 90 instructional weeks, must be successfully completed within 135 instructional weeks of attendance. Students must take all core clerkships at clinical sites affiliated with RUSM.

Note: These requirements may be subject to change in the future depending on regulatory and other academic requirements.

Clinical Sciences Grading
Students must take and pass all required and elective clinical clerkships. Each of the six core clerkships provides curricular guidelines that students must follow. At the conclusion of the core clerkship, students must pass the appropriate NBME Subject Clerkship Examination (SCE). The SCE policy can be found in the Policies and Administrative Procedures section of this Student Handbook.

Letter grades are assigned at the conclusion of each clerkship. The final grade for a clinical core clerkship is based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Clinical Core Clerkship Grade Calculation</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Clerkship Evaluation</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Clerkship Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eCollege® and E*Value™</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please also note the following:
If a student fails an elective clerkship, that student must successfully repeat the same number of weeks as the failed elective.

Students who receive two F or R grades during the Clinical Sciences (IMF, core clerkships, or electives) are subject to dismissal.

Clinical Grade Appeals
Students may appeal a clinical evaluation grade within 30 days of the grade being posted. Appeals must be written and submitted via email to the Graduate Medical Education (GME) coordinator and copied to GradeAppeals@RossU.edu. The appeal must include the student’s name, ID #, copy of the evaluation, and a concise written statement of the rationale for the appeal. The clinical preceptor will investigate, as appropriate, and decide to change or uphold the original grade.

The student may appeal the decision of the clinical preceptor to the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs by submitting, within 30 days of the decision, a grade appeal form and a concise written statement of appeal based on one or more of the following reasons:

- There is new evidence that was unavailable at the time of the original investigation that would affect the outcome of the original decision.
- There were procedural irregularities in the process that affected the outcome.
- The grade was not reasonable based on the evidence compiled during the investigation.

The decision of the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs, or his/her designee, on the appeal is final.

Grade Appeal forms can be found on the student portal.

Failing Grades: Clinical Sciences
A student receiving an "F" in any portion of the Clinical Sciences curriculum will be subject to review by Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Students on Academic/Financial Aid Probation may be allowed to continue clinical clerkships at the discretion of Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Students will be subject to additional tuition expense if they exceed the 92 weeks covered by the standard tuition rates.

If a student is dismissed for unsatisfactory progress and successfully appeals, he/she may be allowed to repeat the semester on probation. However, including instructional weeks of repeated semesters, maximum timeframe limits for entire completion of the curriculum must not be exceeded.

ACADEMIC STANDING & PROGRESS

Good Standing and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Good Standing: Students maintain good standing by displaying SAP as defined below, complying with all other academic rules and regulations, and by remaining current with financial obligations. RUSM reserves the right to withhold services, transcripts and certifications from students who are not in good standing.
**Satisfactory Academic Progress:** SAP represents an acceptable level of performance in meeting degree requirements within specified time periods. It is used in both academic evaluation and in determination of financial aid eligibility. Students maintain SAP by meeting the requirements listed under the Promotions Policies.

SAP is evaluated at the end of the student’s academic year (normally two semesters) according to the following criteria:

- **Qualitative and Quantitative Measures**
  At the end of each semester, each student’s academic progress is evaluated by RUSM. This evaluation involves two metrics, one quantitative and one qualitative.
  - The quantitative measure evaluates the student’s Pace of Progression (PoP) through the medical education program with the maximum timeframe. The PoP is calculated by dividing the cumulative course credits or clinical weeks that the student has successfully completed by the cumulative course credits or clinical weeks that the student has attempted.
  - Students in their first academic year are subject to a pace of progression rate of 50%. Students in their 2nd year or higher are subject to a pace of progression of 67%. Please note that courses with a grade of W, WP, WF, R and I are not counted in the cumulative GPA but are counted in the total attempted credits. Transfer credits accepted will count as attempted and completed credits for the calculation.
  - The qualitative measure evaluates the student’s cumulative GPA. Students are required to maintain a 2.00 cumulative GPA in order to meet the qualitative measure at the time of review.
  - Students completing semester one in May 2013 or later, may receive academic amnesty for NP and F grades that are repeated and passed. Classes that are replaced as part of academic amnesty are counted in the quantitative measures (PoP) but are not counted in the qualitative measure (cumulative GPA).
  - Students repeating semester one will not have a calculated GPA at the end of the academic year. SAP will only be measured based on the progression rate as specified above.

- **Failure to meet the SAP criteria**
  **Academic and Financial Aid Probation**
  If the results of the SAP evaluation indicate that a student has not met either one of the qualitative or quantitative measures, the student will be notified in writing that he/she is not eligible for federal financial aid and is subject to dismissal from RUSM. A student receiving such notification may appeal the determination and request reinstatement on academic/financial aid probation and will be issued an academic plan based on RUSM’s guidelines.

  - Students making an appeal must submit a written statement including information on why he/she failed to make SAP and what changes will be made that will allow him/her to demonstrate SAP at the next evaluation (i.e. student habits, unusual circumstances encountered, etc.).
  - Students should submit their appeal to PromotionAppeals@RossU.edu.
  - If the student appeals the adverse SAP determination and Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designee determines that the student should be able to make SAP during the subsequent(s) term(s) of enrollment and meet RUSM’s SAP standards as stated in the academic plan developed for that student, that if followed, will ensure that the student is able to meet RUSM’s SAP standards by a specific point in time, then RUSM may place the student on academic/financial aid probation.
  - A student whose appeal is approved and is reinstated on academic/financial aid probation may receive federal financial aid for an additional term of enrollment or timeframe as stated on the academic plan. While a student is on academic/financial aid probation, RUSM will require the student to fulfill specific terms and conditions in
accordance with the academic plan, such as engaging in certain recommended RUSM activities designed to improve performance.

- At the end of the one term of enrollment while on academic/financial aid probation, in order to remain enrolled at RUSM and qualify for future federal financial aid funds, the student must meet RUSM’s SAP standards OR must meet the requirements of the academic plan developed by RUSM.
- A student on academic/financial aid probation may still be dismissed if he/she fulfills the criteria for academic dismissal (See Academic Disciplinary Actions section of this Student Handbook).
- Special Note: Students that fail a semester and repeat it will have not earned a GPA for the academic year as all of the courses are Pass/Fail courses. These students will not be considered to be failing the quantitative component (GPA). These specific sets of students are expected to have a GPA of 0.0.
- Students withdrawing in the second half of the academic year will not be measured for SAP until they complete the 2nd full semester. A full academic year history is needed to evaluate SAP criteria.

**Academic Progress Standards for Clinical Students**
In addition to the SAP criteria above, the following are additional required criteria for measuring SAP for students in the clinical phases of their training:

- Passing the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE) in no more than three consecutive attempts and within the prescribed timeframe for each attempt.
- Taking the USMLE Step 1 within six months of becoming eligible.
- Passing the USMLE Step 1 in no more than six attempts.
- Passing all clinical core NBME Subject Clerkship Exams
- Taking the USMLE Step 2 CK and USMLE Step 2 CS within six months of completing the required clinical core clerkships.
- Passing the USMLE Step 2 CK and CS in no more than six attempts.

**Maximum Timeframe for SAP**
Students who completed their first semester prior to May 2013 must complete the entire MD program in a maximum of 210 instructional weeks of attendance. Students who completed their first semester on or after June 2013 must complete the entire MD program in a maximum of 225 weeks. Any student who does not complete the program within the appropriate timeframe will no longer be eligible to receive federal financial aid. Once it becomes mathematically impossible for a student to complete within the maximum timeframe, the student will be dismissed.

**Note:** This refers to actual attendance in regular or remedial semesters, as well as actual instructional weeks of attendance in the clinical training segment. It does not include the following:

- Periods when the student is on an AA for preparation and time needed to schedule and take the USMLE Steps 1, 2 CK and 2 CS (See Absences, Withdrawals and Deferrals.); or
- The time of regularly scheduled breaks between semesters; or
- While pending assignment to a scheduled clinical clerkship; or
- A semester during which an AA is taken, or in which the student withdraws prior to the end of week two of the semester, will not be counted toward the limit for meeting the above requirements.
Students who do not meet the standards for SAP are subject to dismissal. However, under very unusual circumstances, the Student Promotions Committee may determine, on an individual basis, that a student may continue at RUSM for one semester (on Probationary status).

**Probation**

Students may be placed on academic probation for academic issues. Academic Probation is based on both course work and professional behavior, and is recommended by the Promotions Committee to the Dean. Academic Probation may be imposed in any semester, including clinical semesters.

RUSM grants professional degrees, and thus professional behavior is as important as academic performance. Students may also be placed on Non-Academic Probation for professionalism or behavioral problems, upon recommendation of the Grievance Committee or Honor Council to the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Non-Academic Probation is based on a student’s behavior which does not meet one or more of the requirements in this Student Handbook (See Code of Conduct), and can be imposed in any semester, including the clinical semesters.

**EXAMINATIONS**

*Foundations of Medicine Examinations*

**Locations of Exams**
All examinations in the Foundations of Medicine semesters are taken on the Portsmouth campus, except clinical practical examinations, which may be given in the Princess Margaret Hospital or other RUSM approved settings.

**Examination Protocol**
All students must bring their official RUSM identification card to all exams, and be at their assigned locations 15 minutes prior to the beginning of an examination. Students arriving at the examination location without ID or once the proctor has begun giving instructions will be denied entry to the exam and will receive a mark of zero on the examination.

If a student suspects a fellow student of cheating during an exam, the student should discreetly alert an exam proctor. A student found cheating on an examination receives a grade of zero for that examination, and is subject to dismissal from RUSM. No bags, books, electronic devices, or cellular phones may be brought into the examination room.

During electronic examinations, if there are unavoidable human/technical difficulties that occur, the Executive Chief Proctor may offer student(s) a choice of accepting the results of the exam(s) or immediately retaking the exam. Make-up exams are not conducted after scheduled exam dates; therefore, student(s) who choose to re-test will re-test immediately upon conclusion of the scheduled exam and after a 15 minute supervised break.

**Missed Examinations**
Students are expected to take all exams. However, with prior approval, students may occasionally be allowed to miss mid-term exams in an emergency. In these cases, the missed exam score is determined by replicating the student’s final examination scores.

In order to be excused from a mid-term examination, the student must present valid documentation prior to the exam describing the nature of the emergency to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, or his/her designee, and must include appropriate supporting documentation. Approval is at the discretion of the Associate Dean, or
his/her designee. A mid-term examination missed without prior approval will be assigned a grade of zero. (See more on excusable absences in Attendance section)

Final examinations must be taken on schedule; failure to do so could result in a failing grade for the course. A student missing the final while on an AA will receive a grade of “I” (Incomplete) and must take that examination at the end of the following semester. The “I” grade will revert to an “F” if the incomplete exam is not made up by the end of the following semester. RUSM will not modify exam group assignments, for either written or clinical exams, to accommodate a student’s travel off the island. Do not book a flight on the same day as your exam.

**NBME CBSE**
The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Comprehensive Basic Sciences Exam (CBSE) or “COMP” exam has proven to be a good predictor of student performance on the United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE) Step 1 exam. In an effort to assess the readiness of RUSM students to pass the Step 1 on their ‘first attempt’, RUSM requires that students first pass the National Board of Medical Examiners’ (NBME) Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE). Students are required to take the CBSE at the end of their final Foundations of Medicine semester. Students must obtain a passing score, as determined by the Dean, prior to being certified to take Step 1 of the USMLE. Students are given three opportunities to obtain a passing grade and must pass: (1) within no more than three consecutive attempts, (attempt dates are pre-established by the Office of the Registrar and are determined based on the date of the first attempt, a scheduled exam that a student does not take is considered an attempt) and (2) within six months of becoming eligible. Any student failing to do so is subject to review by the Promotions Committee-Foundations of Medicine. The Promotions Committee-Foundations of Medicine will then conduct a careful review of the student’s entire academic record, and either grant a student an additional opportunity to take the NBME.

**Clinical Sciences Exams**

**NBME Subject Clerkship Exam (SCE)**
Students must pass the SCE at the conclusion of each core clerkship. (See the SCE policy in the Policies and Administrative Procedures section) Scores of 75 or above on SCE will be noted on the MSPE.

A student must pass at least five (5) subject clerkship examinations to be eligible to sit for the NBME Comprehensive Clinical Science Examination (CCSE). Students will not be scheduled for the NBME CCSE until successful completion of five (5) core clerkships, including passing each SCE exam.

**NBME CCSE**
Students enrolling in IMF after September 1, 2014, are required to sit for the CCSE to be eligible to sit for the USMLE Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS exams. This is a formative exam to gauge a student’s readiness for USMLE Step 2 and to prepare every student to score his/her best possible score.

The examination will be provided at no cost to students unless the student is a no-show or fails to cancel/reschedule within the time frame indicated by the Office of the Registrar. While students may sit for the NBME CCSE after completing the required clinical core clerkships, students are encouraged to complete all clinical core clerkships prior to sitting for USMLE Step 2 CK.

Students who fail the exam a second time may sit for the USMLE Step 2 CK, RUSM strongly recommends that they obtain academic counseling before so doing.
USMLE STEP EXAMS

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates® (ECFMG) Certification & Verification for the USMLE Step Exams

RUSM students must be ECFMG certified and verified by the Office of the Registrar.

To be ECFMG certified, students must meet the following:
1. Enrollment as a full-time student in good standing;
2. Have met all financial obligations; students with a bursar hold will not be certified and verified;
3. Successful completion of required courses/clerkships:
   - Step 1: Pass all courses in the Foundations of Medicine curriculum; and
   - Step 2 CK/CS: Successfully completed five (5) clinical core clerkships;
4. Passed the required NBME Comprehensive Exams:
   - Step 1: Pass NBME CBSE; and
   - Step 2 CK/CS: Pass or sit twice for NBME CCSE;
5. Complete the Becker Professional Education or RUSM Mock CS Review or the Ambulatory Care Competencies elective for USMLE Step 2 CS; and

Upon receipt of Form 186, the Office of the Registrar will confirm the student has met the eligibility requirements as stated above and submit Form 186 to ECFMG for processing and certification. Upon certification, the student will be verified by the Office of the Registrar to schedule an exam sitting date.

When requesting re-certification (in order to take an examination a second or third time), you must submit to the Office of the Registrar a complete copy of your USMLE score reports for all previous examinations. Please note that all USMLE scores (pass or fails) must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar within 30 days of receipt. Students who fail to submit their score reports are subject to Administrative Withdrawal.

Students who are dismissed or withdrawn (personally or administratively) will have their ECFMG status revoked. If the student is reinstated or readmitted, he/she will need to reapply to ECFMG and register for a new exam.

USMLE Step 1

Overview

USMLE Step 1 assesses fluency in basic medical science. Students must sit for USMLE Step 1 to start IMF. Students must pass USMLE Step 1 in order to proceed to the core clinical clerkships portion of the curriculum.

Eligibility

In order take USMLE Step 1, you must be ECFMG certified by the Office of the Registrar. Eligibility for certification includes the following:
1) Enrollment as a full-time student in good standing;
2) Have met all financial obligations; students with a Bursar hold will not be certified or verified;
3) Passed all courses in the Foundations of Medicine curriculum;
4) Passed NBME CBSE; and
5) Submitted a completed ECFMG Form 186 to the Office of the Registrar. Applications and forms are available on the ECFMG website: www.ecfmg.org.
Timeframe
Students must sit for the USMLE Step 1 exam for the first time within six (6) months of passing the CBSE and pass within six attempts. No extensions will be granted to this rule. Students who fail to sit for their first attempt by this deadline will be Administratively Withdrawn from RUSM.

Students must pass USMLE Step 1 in a maximum of six attempts in order to receive the MD degree. Failure to pass the test within six attempts will result in dismissal. Students who are dismissed or withdrawn (personally or administratively) will have their ECFMG status revoked. If the student is reinstated or readmitted, he/she will need to reapply to ECFMG and register for a new exam.

Enrollment in IMF on or after September 1, 2014
Students scheduled to begin IMF must sit for the USMLE Step 1 before starting IMF. Students may defer IMF to allow remediation of the NBME CBSE or to prepare to sit for Step 1. Once a student passes the CBSE, he/she must sit for USMLE Step 1 within six (6) months, regardless if the student is deferring IMF.

Step 1 Failures
Students who fail USMLE Step 1 will be required to sit for their retake within six (6) months of their prior exam attempt. Any student who fails to sit for their USMLE Step 1 retake by this deadline will be administratively withdrawn from RUSM. Students must submit their failing USMLE Step Score report to Registrar prior to being verified for the retake. Students who fail USMLE Step 1 while enrolled in IMF will be allowed to complete IMF but will be placed in a Temporary Withdraw (TW) status until he/she passes USMLE Step 1 and begin clinical clerkships.

Students have up to six (6) attempts to pass USMLE Step 1, however these attempts must be in accordance with the requirement for the student to complete his/her degree requirements within seven (7) years of matriculation. If it is determined that the student will not be able to complete his/her degree requirements within the seven year timeframe, he/she will be dismissed from RUSM.

Students who are dismissed or withdrawn (personally or administratively) will have their ECFMG status revoked. If the student is reinstated or readmitted, he/she will need to reapply to ECFMG and register for a new exam.

USMLE Step 2 CK
Overview
USMLE Step 2 CK assesses the application of medical knowledge and clinical science in the care of patients. It specifically emphasizes health promotion and disease prevention. Step 2 CK is taken in a student’s clerkship years following completion of required clinical training.

Students are eligible for certification to take the USMLE Step 2 CK upon:
1) Successful completion of five clinical core clerkships;
2) Students must pass or sit twice for the NBME CCSE to be eligible to sit for USMLE Step 2 CK. This exam is provided at no cost to the student unless the student is a no-show or fails to cancel/reschedule the exam within the timeframe indicated by the Office of the Registrar.
   • Students may take the CCSE upon successful completion of five clinical core clerkships; however students are strongly encouraged to complete all clinical core clerkships prior to sitting for the NBME CCSE and USMLE Step 2 CK.
   • If a student passes the first administration of CCSE, then the student is eligible for certification to take USMLE Step 2 CK.
   • If a student fails the first administration of CCSE, then the student must take the CCSE a second time;
3) Students who fail the second administration of the NBME CCSE are strongly encouraged to seek academic counseling before taking USMLE Step 2 CK; and
4) Students must submit their USMLE Step 2 CK application to the Office of the Registrar at least six weeks before their requested eligibility window, but no more than 120 days before.
**Timeframe**

Students must sit for their first attempt for USMLE Step 2 CK within six months of completing their required six core clerkship clerkships. Students who fail to sit for their first attempt by this deadline will be Administratively Withdrawn from RUSM.

Students must pass USMLE Step 2 CK in a maximum of six (6) attempts in order to receive the MD degree. Students may request an AA for a period of up to ten weeks to prepare for USML Step 2 CK. Failure to pass the test within six attempts will result in dismissal.

Students who are dismissed or withdrawn (personally or administratively) will have their ECFMG status revoked. If the student is reinstated or readmitted, he/she will need to reapply to ECFMG and register for a new exam.

Although RUSM requires students to sit for USMLE Step 2 CK by December 31 of the calendar year prior to their match year, please note that many residency program directors have reported they prefer to see USMLE Step 2 CK scores on residency applications.

Applications are typically due in September the year prior to the National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP) (**The MATCH**)™. Since it takes approximately six to eight weeks to receive a score report, it is recommended that students wishing to include USMLE Step 2 CK scores in their residency application materials take USMLE Step 2 CK by July 1 of the year prior to The MATCH. As an example, a student desiring to match in March 2017 with a USMLE Step 2 CK score submitted as part of his/her application, should sit for USMLE Step 2 CK by July 1, 2016.

While RUSM is aware of the urgency students place on getting into The MATCH as early as possible, we strongly urge students not to rush into these very critical exams and risk poor performance. To ensure future career success, RUSM recommends students fully prepare for the exams and perform well on them, even if that means matching a year later. Students who rush into the exams and fail face the risk of not matching at all.

**USMLE Step 2 CK Failures**

Students who fail USMLE Step 2 CK will be required to sit for their retake within one (1) year of their prior exam attempt. Any student who fails to sit for their USMLE Step 2 CK retake by this deadline will be administratively withdrawn from RUSM. Students must submit their failing USMLE Step 2 CK Score report to Office of the Registrar prior to being verified for the retake. Students have up to six attempts to pass USMLE Step 2 CK, however these attempts must be in accordance with the requirement for the student to complete his/her degree requirements within seven (7) years of matriculation.

If it is determined that the student will not be able to complete his/her degree requirements within the seven (7) year timeframe, he/she will be dismissed from RUSM. Students who are dismissed or withdrawn (personally or administratively) will have their ECFMG status revoked. If the student is reinstated or readmitted, he/she will need to reapply to ECFMG and register for a new exam.

**USMLE Step 2 CS**

**Overview**

USMLE Step 2 CS assesses your ability to obtain a relevant medical history, perform a proper physical examination in a clinical setting, and compose a competent written record of the experience. It also evaluates your ability to communicate effectively using the English language. The USMLE Step 2 CS is taken during the clinical clerkship portion of your medical studies.

Students are eligible for certification to take the USMLE Step 2 CS upon:

1) Successful completion of five clinical core clerkships;
2) Completion of the Becker Professional Education or RUSM Mock CS Review or the Ambulatory Care Competencies elective;

3) Students must pass or sit twice for the NBME CCSE to be eligible to sit for USMLE Step 2 CS. This exam is provided at no cost to the student unless the student is a no-show or fails to cancel/reschedule the exam within the timeframe indicated by the Office of the Registrar.
   - Students may take the NBME CCSE upon successful completion of five clinical core clerkships; however students are strongly encouraged to complete all clinical core clerkships prior to sitting for the NBME CCSE and USMLE Step 2 CS.
   - If a student passes the first administration of NBME CCSE, then the student is eligible for certification to take USMLE Step 2 CS.
   - If a student fails the first administration of NBME CCSE, then the student must take the CCSE a second time.
   - Students who fail the second administration are strongly encouraged to seek academic counseling before taking USMLE Step 2 CS; and

4) USMLE Step 2 CS applications must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar at least six weeks before the requested eligibility window, but no more than 120 days before.

Timeframe
Students must sit for their first attempt for the USMLE Step 2 CS within one (1) year of completing their required six core clerkship clerkships. Students who fail to sit for their first attempt by this deadline will be Administratively Withdrawn from RUSM.

Students must pass Step 2 CS in a maximum of six attempts in order to receive the MD degree. Students may request an AA for a period of up to ten weeks to prepare for the USMLE Step 2 CS. Failure to pass the test within six attempts will result in dismissal.

Students who are dismissed or administratively withdrawn will have their ECFMG status revoked. Students who are reinstated or readmitted will need to reapply to ECFMG.

Although RUSM requires students to sit for USMLE Step 2 CS by December 31 of the calendar year prior to their match year, please note that many residency program directors have reported they prefer to see USMLE Step 2 CS scores on residency applications. Applications are typically due in September the year prior to The MATCH. Since it takes approximately 12-16 weeks to receive a score report, it is recommended that students wishing to include USMLE Step 2 CS scores in their residency application materials take USMLE Step 2 CS by July 1 of the year prior to The MATCH. As an example, a student desiring to The MATCH in March 2017 with a USMLE Step 2 CS score submitted as part of his/her application, should sit for USMLE Step 2 CS by May 15, 2016.

Step 2 CS Failures
Students who fail USMLE Step 2 CS will be required to sit for their retake within one (1) year of their prior exam attempt. Any student who fails to sit for his/her USMLE Step 2 retake by this deadline will be administratively withdrawn from RUSM.

Students must submit their failing USMLE Step Score report to Office of the Registrar prior to being verified for the retake. Students have up to six (6) attempts to pass USMLE Step 2 CS; however these attempts must be in accordance with the requirement for the student to complete his/her degree requirements within seven (7) years of matriculation.

If it is determined that the student will not be able to complete their degree requirements within the seven year timeframe, he/she will be dismissed from RUSM. Students who are dismissed or withdrawn (personally or administratively) will have their ECFMG status revoked. If the student is reinstated or readmitted, he/she will need to reapply to ECFMG and register for a new exam.
USMLE Score Reports
Students must submit USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS score reports to the Office of the Registrar (Registrar@rossu.edu) within 30 days of receiving exam results. For those seeking to start a clinical clerkship after IMF, score reports need to be submitted 30 days prior to the start of the clerkship. Students who fail to submit their USMLE Step score reports within 30 days of receipt will be Administratively Withdrawn.

COMMENCEMENT

Unless otherwise excluded pursuant to this Student Handbook, a student may participate in commencement if the student:

1. Has completed all degree requirements and will have a degree conferred between 11/30 thru 5/31 of the academic year;
2. Has completed all degree requirements (including USMLE Step 2 CK and CS) other than the completion of clerkships ending 6/30 of the current academic year; and
3. Did not participate in commencement for the academic year their degree was conferred but successfully matched into a residency program in the current academic year.

LICENSURE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE

RUSM graduates must be certified by the ECFMG to practice medicine in the United States. Steps to certification include graduation from a school listed in the International Medical Education Directory (IMED) and successful completion of Step 1 and Step 2 of the USMLE.

You will take the USMLE Steps 1 and 2 during your time at RUSM. Step 1 is a test assessing the application of basic medical sciences in patient care. USMLE Step 2 consists of two examinations: a CK exam and a CS exam. Prior to sitting for these exams, you must apply and be ECFMG certified by the Office of the Registrar.

RUSM graduates must also pass the USMLE Step 3 test to be licensed to practice medicine in the United States. Students may sit for the USMLE Step 3 test following graduation, during residency, or upon conclusion of residency, depending on state board requirements. More information may be obtained from the ECFMG at:

3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104–2685
Telephone: (215) 386–5900
Fax: (215) 387–9196
www.ecfmg.org

RUSM does not control state licensing requirements, and graduation from RUSM alone does not ensure that you may be licensed to practice medicine in every state. While RUSM will assist students with state licensure during school and after graduation, students are ultimately responsible for knowing and ensuring that they meet the licensing requirements of each state in which they may wish to practice.
RUSM may be called upon by State Medical Boards, ECFMG, FCVS, Government Agencies, and Employers to report unusual circumstances that may have occurred during the course of your medical education. These include but are not limited to:

- academic and/or disciplinary probation;
- disciplinary action due to unprofessional conduct/behavior;
- the subject of negative reports for behavioral reasons or an investigation by the medical school or parent university and;
- limitations or special requirements imposed on the individual because of questions of academic incompetence, disciplinary problems, or any other reason.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Academic Probation
The Academic Probationary status of a student is determined by the Student Promotions Committee. Students are placed on Academic Probation under the following circumstances:

- When repeating a Foundations of Medicine semester;
- When cumulative GPA is below 2.00;
- When taking an AA with 1 or more WFs;
- After readmission with 1 or more WFs earned during the last attempted term;
- After readmission with a previous cumulative GPA under 2.0;
- After failing a clinical clerkship;
- After failing a SCE; or
- After successfully appealing a dismissal.

Students will be removed from Academic Probation if, at the end of the next semester, they pass all courses and their cumulative GPA is 2.00 or higher and/or successfully remediated a SCE.

Academic Probation has important financial aid consequences, which are explained in the Office of Student Finance publication, “Financial Planning Guide” available on the www.RossU.edu website.

Students must clear any academic deficiency and should have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher by the end of the pre-clinical curriculum to advance to clinical training.

Administrative Withdrawal
Students are subject to Administrative Withdrawal if they:

- Do not register for Foundations of Medicine and IMF semesters by the prescribed deadline determined by the Office of the Registrar;
- Do not return to campus to check-in during the designated check-in period prior to the start of the semester. Check-in period is determined by the Office of the Registrar;
- Fail to report to a clinical clerkship on the first day of the clerkship (for IMF and clinical clerkships);
- Do not return at the time specified at the end of an AA without prior approval or take an unauthorized leave;
- Do not sit the NBME CBSE within three consecutive attempts (or fourth attempt if granted);
- Do not sit for their first attempt of the USMLE Step 1 within six months of becoming eligible;
- Do not sit for their retake of USMLE Step 1 within six (6) months of prior attempt;
• Do not sit for their SCE during designated exam window;
• Do not sit for their first attempt of the USMLE Step 2 CK within one (1) year after completing their core clinical clerkship;
• Do not sit for their retake of USMLE Step 2 CK within six (6) months of prior attempt;
• Do not sit for their first attempt of the USMLE Step 2 CS within one (1) year after completing their core clinical clerkship;
• Do not sit for their retake of USMLE Step 2 CS within six (6) months of prior attempt;
• Do not submit USMLE Step results within 30 days of receipt;
• Do not submit sitting dates for Step exams within 30 days of being verified with ECFMG by the Office of the Registrar;
• Do not submit missing file documentation within one semester of being admitted, including but not limited to transcripts, letters of recommendations and immigration documents;
• Do not submit required health documents prior to starting IMF; or
• Failure to meet the conditions of their readmission.

A student who is Administratively Withdrawn will be reported as withdrawn effective the last date of any academically related activity or the date the institution determined the change in status. The withdrawal date will be reported to the U.S. Department of Education which will cause the student’s loans to enter repayment status, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the loans. Please consult with the Office of Student Finance to determine the impact on individual loan repayment.

**Academic Dismissal**

Students are subject to Academic Dismissal based on the following:

• Failing any course or semester upon two attempts;
• Failure of remedial courses;
• Student is, or will be, unable to complete the Foundations of Medicine curriculum in no more than 75 instructional weeks (five semesters) for students who completed their first semester prior to May 2013. Students who complete their first semester after May 2013 must complete their Foundations of Medicine curriculum in 90 instructional weeks (six semesters). The Promotions Committee may make an exception based on academic progress or mitigating circumstances;
• Failure to achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or above by the completion of the Foundations of Medicine curriculum;
• Failure to pass the NBME CBSE in three consecutive attempts;
• Failure to pass the USMLE Step 1 or Step 2 CK or CS in six (6) attempts;
• Failure to pass any SCE in four (4) attempts;
• Failure of two clinical clerkships (including IMF);
• Failure of a clinical clerkship where a grade of R was awarded for the same clerkship;
• Failure to abide by RUSM policies;
• Student demonstrates the inability to meet the RUSM’s technical standards;
• Failure to meet the conditions of their reinstatement on appeal; or
• Failure to complete all required degree requirements within seven (7) years of matriculation or as otherwise noted on reacceptance or reinstatement.

Students may also be dismissed for non-academic reasons or professionalism concerns pursuant to the Code of Conduct. (See **Code of Conduct** section in this Student Handbook).

**Appeals Process for Academic Dismissal: Foundations of Medicine**

First Appeal: Any student dismissed from the Foundations of Medicine curriculum may appeal the dismissal to the Student Promotions Committee – Foundations of Medicine Subcommittee. Academic Dismissal Appeal form and letter should be emailed to PromotionAppeals@RossU.edu and the Office of the Registrar (Registrar@RossU.edu)
and must be made within 15 calendar days of the date on the dismissal notification letter. The appeal will be heard by the Student Promotions Committee – Foundations of Medicine Subcommittee, which will then make an official decision to uphold or overturn the dismissal.

Second Appeal: In cases of procedural irregularity, inappropriate decisions, or where additional data has become available that was not considered by the Student Promotions Committee – Foundations of Medicine Subcommittee, a final appeal may be made to the Dean of RUSM. Academic Dismissal Appeal form and letter must be emailed to the Dean at PromotionAppeal@Rossu.edu and the Office of the Registrar (Registrar@RossU.edu) within 15 calendar days of the date on the decision letter from the Student Promotions Committee – Foundations of Medicine Subcommittee and specifically address the rationale for the appeal. The Dean will respond within 15 calendar days of receipt of the appeal. The Dean’s decision is final.

A student who successfully appeals a dismissal decision will be reinstated for the semester subsequent to the semester in which the decision regarding the appeal is made. For example, a student who is dismissed at the end of the September 2015 term, and is allowed to return, would be on inactive status for the January 2016 term and then resume his/her studies during the May 2016 term if his/her appeal is granted.

For a student who successfully appealed a dismissal for failure to pass the NBME CBSE will be notified of the conditions of reinstatement and provided a deadline to sit for the exam. Requests to change the conditions of the reinstatement are not granted, including an extension to sit for the exam. Students who are unable to meet the condition of their reinstatement have the option to withdraw. Failure to meet the condition of the reinstatement will result in a dismissal from RUSM.

Appeals Process for Academic Dismissal: Clinical Sciences
First Appeal: Any student dismissed from the Clinical Science curriculum may appeal the dismissal to the Student Promotions Committee – Clinical Sciences Subcommittee. Academic Dismissal Appeal form and letter should be emailed PromotionAppeals@RossU.edu and the Office of the Registrar (Registrar@RossU.edu) and must be made within 15 calendar days of the date on the dismissal notification letter. The appeal will be heard by the Student Promotions Committee – Clinical Science Subcommittee, which will then make an official decision to uphold or overturn the dismissal.

Second Appeal: In cases of procedural irregularity, inappropriate decisions, or where additional data has become available that was not considered by the Student Promotions Committee – Clinical Sciences Subcommittee, a final appeal may be made to the Dean of RUSM. Academic Dismissal Appeal form and letter must be emailed to the Dean via PromotionAppeals@Rossu.edu and the Office of the Registrar (Registrar@RossU.edu) within 15 calendar days of the date on the decision letter from the Student Promotions Committee – Clinical Sciences Subcommittee and specially address the rationale for the appeal. The Dean will respond within 15 calendar days of receipt of the appeal. The Dean’s decision is final.

Academic Dismissal Appeal Form may be found on the student portal.
POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES
ABSENCES, WITHDRAWALS AND DEFERRALS

The RUSM curriculum is designed to offer a series of integrated learning experiences that build upon one another. Interruptions to this educational schedule, therefore, create undesirable breaks in the continuous learning process. Interruptions are of concern to medical licensure boards, and they can also affect financial aid eligibility and loan repayment status. Therefore, absences are approved only under extraordinary, well-documented circumstances.

The profession of medicine demands a great deal of time and attention; many components of the medical education program cannot be made up or remediated. You will frequently be required to make tough choices concerning the competing demands of educational and personal interests. Prior to submitting a request for an absence, you should carefully consider your priorities in terms of successfully completing your RUSM MD degree. Typically, excused absences will only be granted if you have a significant, unavoidable conflict and can make up the missed activity or make alternate arrangements for the activity. Students are advised to consult with the Office of Student Affairs, as appropriate, to discuss plans for any interruption of their studies.

In certain circumstances (i.e. academic difficulty, course or USMLE failure, failure to meet technical or professional standards), students may be placed on leave of absence by the medical school.

Approved Absence (AA): Foundations of Medicine

The instructional weeks of the Foundations of Medicine curriculum are scheduled three times per calendar year with short breaks between semesters. Outside of these scheduled breaks, Emergency Leaves of Absence (ELOA) and Short-Term Personal Leaves (STPL), students must be continuously enrolled. A student who wishes to temporarily interrupt his/her studies may apply for an AA. To qualify for an AA, the student must meet the criteria established below:

An AA must be requested in writing on the standard form (posted on myRoss), stating specific reasons and return date, and must be approved by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, or her/his designee.

An AA may commence during a semester (to continue until the end of the semester) or between semesters (to cover a period of time equal to one semester). When applying for an AA, the student must indicate when he/she intends to resume studies, which must be at the beginning of a subsequent semester. An AA may not exceed 180 days under any circumstances, including vacations.

The student must notify the Office of the Registrar if he/she is unable to resume courses/clinical clerkships at the end of the AA. Notifications must be received prior to the end of the AA. Students who provide advanced notification will be placed in a Temporary Withdraw (TW) status. If the student does not resume his/her course/clinical clerkship schedule on the date indicated on his/her application without advanced notification to the Office of the Registrar, he/she will be administratively withdrawn retroactive to the date of his/her last academically related event before the AA.

The student should be in good academic standing at the time of his/her application for an AA. The student may not be on academic probation, retaking the NBME CBSE and or failing at the time of application. Students who are retaking the NBME CBSE will be placed in a Temporary Withdraw (TW) status after the end of the vacation period to continue preparation for their remediation. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs, or his/her designee, will meet with the student to discuss the reasons for the application, ramifications of the proposed absence and review the student’s academic standing at the time of the
application. Students who are repeating a semester are on academic probation and are thus not eligible to take an AA.

In certain unusual situations, students may request an AA following a short period of unacceptable academic performance. The student must indicate the reason for the absence on his/her application. Acceptable reasons for an AA may include, but are not limited to, any of the following: personal or family medical emergency, other personal or family emergency, or legal or financial hardship. In addition to providing a written explanation at the time of application, the student may be asked to provide additional documentation. In Dominica, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, or his/ her designee, will review the student’s application, meet with the student as necessary to understand the situation and discuss ramifications of the absence with the student. During the Foundations of Medicine segment, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs together with the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs will approve or deny the request for an AA. During the Clinical Sciences segment, the Assistant Dean for Clinical Student Affairs makes the determination.

Students are only eligible for an AA after successfully completing one full semester at RUSM.

Students may not have more than one AA within a 12-month period.

Students must confirm with the Office of the Registrar their intent to return eight weeks prior to their scheduled return date, unless otherwise approved at the time of their application. Failure to do so may result in the student’s administrative withdrawal. Students who are approved for an absence for medical reasons must supply satisfactory documentation of fitness from a healthcare professional. The documentation must substantiate to RUSM’s satisfaction that the student is able to comply with RUSM’s Technical Standards and is fit to return to classes.

Students who are granted an AA during a semester will be reported as not enrolled to all lenders until returning to courses the following semester. Students are subject to individual lenders’ loan repayment policies. Once a student returns to classes, he/she must submit a deferment form/enrollment letter to lender(s) to be placed into in-school deferment status with the lender(s).

Students who are granted an AA during a semester will receive W, WF or WP grades for that semester and must repeat the semester upon their return. In such situations the student will not be charged twice for the same semester.

A student who takes an AA prior to completing 60% of the semester, as determined by his or her withdrawal date or date of his or her last academically related event, will receive a partial tuition credit during the interrupted semester and the remainder of the tuition waiver will be applied in the semester in which he/she returns.

A student who takes an AA after completing 60% of the semester will not receive tuition credit for the interrupted semester but will receive a full tuition waiver for the semester in which he or she returns. Students will be responsible for covering any costs associated with an increase in tuition.

A student who is not actively enrolled for financial aid purposes will be withdrawn, effective the last academically related activity or the date the institution determined the change in status. (Note the effect of this on financial aid obligations; see Financial Planning Guide.)

Please note that all gaps of enrollment longer than 31 calendar days in duration (with the exception of scheduled breaks), including AA and TWs, are reported in the MSPE submitted to the NRMP.

All students returning from an AA must follow the standard registration and check-in procedures prior to the start of the semester, being certain that the Office of the Registrar and the Office of Student Affairs are notified of their
presence on campus to resume study and must pursue the curriculum then in effect. Students are subject to all policies that are in force at that time and must pay the current tuition and fees. Similarly, students who defer their enrollment or are readmitted or reinstated to RUSM after any period of absence are also subject to all policies, tuition, and fees then in effect.

Students who were failing one or more courses at the time of withdrawal will also be on financial aid probation, and will not receive funds to continue if they are still on academic probation in the succeeding semester.

**Approved Absence (AA): Clinical Sciences**

During the clinical clerkship phase, an AA may be taken only:

- Before IMF – request must be received 30 calendar days prior to the start of IMF. Students must be in good academic standing (cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher) and have passed the NBME CBSE;
- After completion of IMF and before the start of clinical clerkships, for up to 10 weeks and to 180 calendar days; and
- During clinical clerkships (for up to 10 calendar weeks) to study for USMLE Step 2 CK or CS if a clinical clerkship scheduled at the end of the absence.

At the end of a clinical segment or clerkship the student must return to resume clinical clerkships at the time specified or be subject to Administrative Withdraw. Students must notify the Office of the Registrar prior to the end of the AA if they are not returning to start clerkships. These students will be placed in a TW status.

Students may not have more than one AA within a 12-month period.

Students must confirm with the Office of the Registrar their intent to return eight weeks prior to their scheduled return date, unless otherwise approved at the time of their application. Failure to do so may result in the student’s administrative withdrawal. Students who are approved for an absence for medical reasons must supply satisfactory documentation of fitness from a healthcare professional. The documentation must substantiate to RUSM’s satisfaction that the student is able to comply with RUSM’s Technical Standards and is fit to return to classes.

Students who are granted an AA during a semester will be reported as not enrolled to all lenders until returning to courses the following semester. Students are subject to individual lenders’ loan repayment policies. Once a student returns to classes, he or she must submit a deferment form/enrollment letter to their lender to be placed back into in-school deferment status with that lender.

A student who is not actively enrolled for financial aid purposes will be withdrawn, effective the last academically related activity or the date the institution determined the change in status. (Note the effect of this on financial aid obligations; see **Financial Planning Guide**.)

Please note that all gaps of enrollment longer than 31 calendar days in duration (with the exception of scheduled breaks), including AA and TWs, are reported in the MSPE submitted to the NRMP.

**Short-Term Personal Leave (STPL): Foundations of Medicine**

The Associate Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designee will consider petitions for excused absences via a STPL for reasons that are not addressed by the exceptions listed in the section on attendance.

Petitions for permission to miss or reschedule a required exercise (other than exams), on the basis of extraordinary personal circumstances (those that are not included in the three exceptions listed in the attendance policy), are considered by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designee. The
petitioning process begins by submitting a STPL request form. These forms are available on myRoss. The request form must be submitted in advance of the start date of the requested leave.

Students should understand that the profession of medicine is one that demands a great deal of time and attention. There are components of the medical education program that cannot be made up or remediated. Students will frequently be required to make tough choices concerning the competing demands of educational and personal interests. Prior to submitting a request for a STPL, students should give careful consideration to the priorities required for successful completion of the RUSM medical degree. Typically, excused absences will only be granted if the student has a significant, unavoidable conflict and the missed activity can be made up.

Students on a STPL may not miss more than one week (7 calendar days). Students who experience difficulty returning to Dominica (for travel or other reasons) and cannot return within this timeframe will not be allowed to resume their academic work in the same semester. Students who miss more than one week will be required to convert their leave to an AA and will need to resume their studies during a subsequent term.

**Short-Term Personal Leave (STPL): Clinical Sciences semesters**
STPL is generally not available during Clinical Sciences curriculum, as activities are generally not rescheduled. However, the Department of Clinical Medicine (DCM) may reschedule students for Clinical Sciences activities missed due to excused absences in the rare circumstances when doing so does not impede or impair curriculum delivery or compromise the department’s record keeping, as determined by the department chair.

**Emergency Leaves of Absence (ELOA): Foundations of Medicine**
On occasion, students may need to interrupt their enrollment during a semester for unavoidable, non-academic reasons. With the approval of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, or her/his designee, a student may be temporarily excused from classes during a semester due to documented emergency circumstances. These include severe illness or major injury to the student, or a similar emergency or death in the student’s immediate family. If an emergency leave of absence is granted, the following conditions apply:

- **Documentation.** Documentation of the emergency is required for ELOA approval. If the student does not provide documentation, the ELOA may be nullified and the student’s absence will no longer be considered excused.

- **Timeframe.** If the student is able to return within two weeks (14 calendars days) of such an emergency and complete all coursework for that semester, his or her absence will be treated as an ELOA and will have no effect on enrollment status.

- **Frequency and SAP.** For students on ELOA, the interrupted portion of the semester will not be counted when determining time limits for SAP. No more than one ELOA will be granted per semester.

- **Conversion to Approved Absence.** Students must return from an ELOA or have applied for and been granted an AA within the two-week timeframe. Those who do not return within this period will be administratively withdrawn.

**Emergency Leaves of Absence (ELOA): Clinical Sciences**
On occasion, students may need to interrupt their enrollment during a semester for unavoidable, non-academic reasons. With the approval of the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs and the Assistant Dean of Clinical Student Affairs, or her/his designee, a student may be temporarily excused from clinical clerkships during a semester due to documented emergency circumstances. These include severe illness or major injury to the student, or a similar emergency or death in the student’s immediate family. If an ELOA is granted, the following conditions apply:
• **Documentation.** Documentation of the emergency is required for ELOA approval. If the student does not provide documentation, the ELOA may be nullified and the student’s absence will no longer be considered excused.

• **Timeframe.** If the student is able to return within two weeks of such an emergency and complete all coursework for that semester, his or her absence will be treated as an ELOA and will have no effect on enrollment status.

• **Frequency and SAP.** For students on ELOA, the interrupted portion of the semester will not be counted when determining time limits for SAP. No more than one ELOA will be granted per semester.

• **Conversion to Approved Absence.** Students must return from an ELOA or have applied for and been granted an AA within the two-week timeframe. Those who do not return within this period will be administratively withdrawn.

**Temporary Withdrawal (TW)**

Students who completed Foundations of Medicine curriculum are subject to TW for absences longer than 31 calendar days in duration (scheduled breaks between semesters do not apply). Students who fail to return after an AA will be subject to AW. Students who have not returned from an AA but have notified the Office of the Registrar will be moved to a TW status effective their withdrawal date or the date of their last academically related event. Notifications must be received prior to the end of the AA.

Enrollment gaps longer than 31 calendar days in duration (with the exception of scheduled breaks), including AAs and TWs, are reported in the MSPE submitted to the ECFMG.

Students who are in a TW status in order to sit for the NBME CBSE or USMLE Step Exams must submit an examination sitting date within 30 days of being verified by the Office of the Registrar or be subject to AW.

Students in TW status who have not completed all degree requirements within seven (7) years of matriculation will be subject to dismissal. Students in an AA or TW status are reported as not enrolled to student loan lenders.

Please speak with the Office of Financial Aid regarding the impact on financial aid.

**Unauthorized Absences**

Except when granted an ELOA as outlined above, students who leave during a semester or a scheduled clinical clerkship will be administratively withdrawn.

Students wishing to return to RUSM after an unauthorized absence must apply for readmission. Applications for readmission will be reviewed by the Readmission Committee to determine if the student is eligible for readmission, and if so under what conditions (such as academic probation). (See instructions for reapplying in the **Policies and Administrative Procedures** section)

**Exception for Clinical Clerkship Breaks:** Due to scheduling constraints between clinical clerkships (and external institutions’ procedures), brief breaks in study may occur. Such breaks, if less than 31 calendar days (including weekends) in duration beginning **after** the last day of the student’s previous clerkships, will have no impact on the student’s enrollment status. The **Financial Planning Guide** offers information about the loan disbursement policy for longer gaps in study.
Student Withdrawals

Students may voluntarily withdraw from enrollment. They must then apply for readmission if they wish to return to RUSM, and will be subject to the tuition policy for withdrawals and loan refund federal policy (See Tuition Refund Policy for Withdrawals section). Readmission is not guaranteed but applications will be reviewed by the Readmission Committee. Readmitted students will typically be subject to all academic policies and tuition and fees in effect at the time of re-enrollment, without any “grandfathering” provisions based on their original admission. See additional readmission information in the Policies and Administrative Procedures section of this Student Handbook. Student withdrawals are governed by the following policies:

- **Application for Withdrawal.** Students in Foundations of Medicine may not withdraw from a single course during a semester; they must withdraw completely from RUSM. Within the Foundations of Medicine curriculum, students may begin the withdrawal process by completing an Application for Withdrawal form available at myRoss. They must then obtain all required clearances and approvals. For students in Clinical Sciences, students may request to withdraw by submitting a request via “askRoss” and must be approved by the Assistant Dean for Clinical Student Affairs.

- **Transcripts.** Students withdrawing from RUSM will receive W (if no exams were taken), WP or WF on their transcripts depending on whether they were passing or failing a course or clinical clerkship at the time of their withdrawal (See Student Grading and Promotions section). All approved withdrawals must then be submitted to the Office of the Registrar.

- **Refunds.** Refunds, if required, will be determined by the last academically-related activity (See Tuition Refund Policy for Withdrawals section)

- **Readmission with WF.** Students who receive WF in any course or clinical clerkship at the time of withdrawal will be reviewed by the Readmission Committee to determine whether they are eligible for readmission.
  
  - Students who were failing one or more Foundations of Medicines courses at the time of withdrawal will be put on academic probation if they are readmitted and will be required to take the ELLS course.

Deferrals

Prior to the start of classes, students admitted to a specific semester may request to defer their admission to a subsequent semester. The following policies apply to deferrals:

- **Timeframe.** This privilege is limited to no more than the upcoming two semesters. Students who do not begin enrollment during that period are considered deactivated and must re-apply for admission.

- **Applications and Requirements.** Applications for deferrals must be made to the Admissions Office. Students deferring to a future semester must meet all the requirements in effect for that semester.

- **Week One Deferrals.** Entering students who, following their initial check-in on campus, wish to defer their enrollment to the following semester may do so through Student Affairs. This option is only available during week one of the semester.

- **Deactivation.** On occasion, students who are admitted for a given semester do not arrive on campus to check-in for that semester, and they do not request a deferral. These students are administratively withdrawn and are considered to have deactivated their applications. They must re-apply for admission.
Disciplinary Dismissals
RUSM may implement disciplinary actions for non-academic infractions that may result in suspension or dismissal. Students may be put on an involuntary withdrawal, temporary suspension, or dismissed from RUSM for poor academic performance, violations of the Honor Code, or for disruptive or unprofessional behavior (See the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Actions section).

As a general RUSM policy, students who are dismissed will not be considered for readmission. Dismissal of this kind during an academic semester does not warrant reduction of tuition and fees.
ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The RUSM curriculum represents a core curriculum essential to all physicians. Therefore, RUSM expects that each student admitted will be capable of completing the full curriculum of required courses, clerkships, and electives under the established RUSM policies within seven (7) years of matriculation. All students and applicants must be capable of meeting the RUSM Technical Standards (as outlined in the Professionalism and Conduct section) with or without reasonable accommodation, at each stage of their medical education. Our goal at RUSM is to provide equal opportunity without undermining the integrity of any course, clerkship, or program. Requests for accommodation should be made as soon as the need is known and within the guidelines described here. Requests are processed in Foundations of Medicine and Clinical Sciences by the appropriate Accommodation Coordinator in the Office for Student Affairs.

Application

*Foundations of Medicine* Requests for accommodation during the foundational science portion of the curriculum should be submitted in writing to the Accommodations Coordinator for Foundations of Medicine.

*Internal Medicine Foundations (IMF)*

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all accommodation requests and materials are up to date prior to commencing IMF and/or Clinical Sciences. Requests for accommodation during the clinical portion of the curriculum should be submitted to the Director of Office of Consultation and Support Services for IMF/Clinical Sciences. Accommodations that were received during the Foundations of Medicine curriculum will be taken into consideration but cannot ensure similar accommodations in the Clinical Sciences curriculum (see Clinical Sciences section).

*Clinical Sciences*

Although RUSM may have granted a student’s request for accommodations during the Foundations of Medicine curriculum, this in no way assures that the same accommodations requested will be deemed reasonable in the context of IMF/Clinical Sciences. The Director of Office of Consultation and Support Services is available to advise and assist RUSM students with the accommodation request processes of the clinical training institutions, but has no role in the outcome of such requests.

Timeframe

For recently-admitted students, requests for accommodation should be submitted within 30 days of acceptance. When the need for an accommodation arises after a student has begun medical studies, please allow at least four (4) weeks once all documentation has been received by the Accommodations Coordinator for Foundations of Medicine or the Director of Office of Consultation and Support Services for IMF/Clinical Sciences to allow time for an evaluation of the request and documentation. RUSM will make all reasonable efforts to review such requests in a timely manner, but cannot guarantee the disposition of requests prior to any specific examination or phase of the curriculum.

Responsibility

To qualify for accommodation, a student must identify him/herself to the Accommodation Coordinator for Foundations of Medicine or the Director of Office of Consultation and Support Services for IMF/Clinical Sciences, declare the disability or suspected disability in writing, and request accommodation. It is also the student’s responsibility to obtain a thorough written evaluation from an appropriate professional, documenting the presence, extent, and ramifications of the disability. In addition, the documentation should explain what specific types of accommodation the evaluator believes might be most helpful in offsetting the effects of the disability to an acceptable extent (in a medical school environment, if possible). Responsibility for the timely submission of
requests and supporting documentation rests upon the student seeking the accommodation. Our goal at RUSM is to provide equal opportunity without undermining the integrity of any course, clerkship or program. Requests not submitted with at least four (4) weeks or not accompanied by sufficient supporting documentation will impede RUSM’s ability to respond in a timely manner.

Confidentiality
RUSM keeps all accommodation requests confidential to the extent necessary to consider the request and implement the accommodations upon approval. RUSM reviews requests to determine whether they are supported by adequate and appropriate documentation. After careful review in consultation with appropriate professionals, the Accommodation Coordinator for Foundations of Medicine or the Director of Office of Consultation and Support Services for IMF/Clinical Sciences will make a recommendation to the Associate Dean, Student Affairs or the Senior Associate Dean, Student Affairs. The decision of the Associate Dean, Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designee will then be communicated in writing to the student.

Propriety
All accommodations will be reasonable and appropriate to the circumstances, allowing equal opportunity for students with disabilities. Accommodations must not infringe on, or fundamentally alter, the essential requirements of the medical education program, as outlined in the RUSM Technical Standards.

Accommodations and USMLE/NBME Testing
If a student with a disability requires an accommodation for any phase of the USMLE testing, it is the student’s responsibility to seek that accommodation directly from the NBME and/or the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) in compliance with their policies. Although RUSM previously may have granted accommodation requests for the student, disability accommodations for these examinations are determined solely by the policies or processes of the NBME or FSMB. The Accommodations Coordinator for Foundations of Medicine or the Director of Office of Consultation and Support Services for IMF/Clinical Sciences is available to assist students with the process governing requests for an accommodation for the USMLE, but RUSM has no role in the outcome of these requests. Please note that NBME’s review for accommodations takes a minimum of 90 days, so please apply in time to allow adequate review. Students seeking accommodation through the NBME must adhere to the curricular and administrative deadlines for sitting for USMLE Step examinations.

External Facilities
RUSM makes no guarantee that any facility outside of its campuses, including housing and other establishments, will provide accommodations for individuals with disabilities.
ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

1.0 Overview

All students, faculty, administrators, and support staff are expected to recognize the potential for alcohol and drug abuse whenever illegal drugs or alcohol are sold, given, manufactured, and/or used and that such abuse is in conflict with the University’s purpose. To mitigate abuse, the University has established policies and regulations which adhere to applicable laws and statutes regarding such abuse. The regulations and policies governing the use of alcohol and other substances apply to all students, guests, and visitors on University property or as part of any University activity. The responsibility for knowing and abiding by the provisions of these policies rests with each individual.

Medical students are held to the same ethical and behavioral standards as physicians during both the pre-clinical and clinical years of medical school. Untreated abuse and/or dependence are unacceptable to the school and are cause for administrative action up to and including dismissal. Both for reasons of personal well-being and because of the nature of the profession, students are expected to show restraint and responsibility regarding the use of any substance. Students are also expected to seek help for alcohol or substance abuse problems if they are aware of them. Possession or use of illegal substances or unlawful use of lawful controlled substances could result in a criminal conviction, which could preclude licensure to practice.

2.0 Applicable Law

All members of the University community shall abide by the laws of the US Federal Government, the Commonwealth of Dominica and any local laws, ordinances and regulations where the student is located at any time during which he or she is affiliated with or represents RUSM relative to the possession, consumption, distribution, transportation, manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages or products.

Conviction for the possession or distribution of illegal drugs, alcohol may result in various penalties according to the nature of the offense. The prescribed penalties under Dominican law are included in the Drug Prevention (Of Misuse Act), Chapter 40:07 of the laws of the Commonwealth of Dominica. According to this Act, —a person found in possession of a controlled drug on any school premises is deemed to have the controlled drug for the purpose of drug trafficking unless the contrary is proved, the burden of proof being on the accused. On summary conviction of these charges, penalties include a fine of one hundred fifty thousand EC dollars and imprisonment for a term which may extend for fifteen years.

3.0 Prohibited Activities

RUSM strictly prohibits the unlawful manufacturing, distribution, dispensing, use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs and controlled substances or the misuse of prescription medications/drugs at any time during which a student is affiliated with or representing RUSM.

Any violation of the Policy on Substance and Alcohol Abuse is considered a violation of school conduct and is subject to the penalties of the school in addition to local, state and federal jurisdictions.

4.0 Penalties/Sanctions

All students are expected to be familiar with and to respect local and Federal laws with regard to the use and possession of drugs or alcohol. Violation of the law could subject the student to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal and possible referral for prosecution. The University will impose sanctions for violation of the standards of behavior (on and off campus) consistent with local and federal laws, and University policies. Violations will result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, and referral for possible prosecution. Sanctions imposed will depend upon the severity and frequency of the violation. In addition to, or in lieu of discipline, violators may be required to complete an appropriate rehabilitation program.
The RUSM Honor Code governs all students. Violation of policies specific to alcohol and other drugs are considered violations of the Honor Code. They include the unlawful possession, use, manufacture, sale or distribution of alcohol and other drugs.

Applicable sanctions include, but are not limited to, probation, probation and referral for treatment and rehabilitation (without adjudication), suspension or expulsion. The University may refer any case to the proper local, state and/or federal authorities for appropriate legal action. Individuals disciplined under the University Policy on Substance and Alcohol Abuse have the right to an appeal in accordance with applicable University grievance protocol.

Persons convicted of drug possession under US Federal law are ineligible for federal student grants and loans for up to one year after the first conviction, five years after the second; the penalty for distributing drugs is loss of benefits for five years after the first conviction, ten years after the second, permanently after the third conviction.

The University sanctions imposed under the Policy on Substance and Alcohol Abuse neither diminish nor replace the penalties available under generally applicable civil or criminal laws. Violations of University standards may also violate federal, state and local laws of the United States, England and the Commonwealth of Dominica, or other appropriate governance body.

Violators will be subject to all appropriate penalties within the jurisdiction of the offense. Within the Commonwealth of Dominica jurisdiction, drug trafficking, which includes producing, supplying and using, is punishable by fines, deportation and/or imprisonment.

5.0 Prevention & Assistance

The University recognizes alcohol and drug abuse and dependency as clinical disorders defined in the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-IV-TR) of the American Psychiatric Association.

Excessive drinking and drug use will lead to a wide variety of health problems and professional difficulties. The use of any amount of drug prescription, illicit or legal (including alcohol), will alter the chemical balance of the body. Misuse or compulsive use of alcohol and other drugs can often cause serious damage to major body organs such as the brain, stomach, lungs, liver, kidneys, heart, as well as, the immune and reproductive systems. Pregnant women put the fetus at risk for serious birth defects and complications at birth, as well as the possibility of delivering a baby with a drug dependency who may exhibit withdrawal signs. Other health problems include sleep disturbances, malnutrition, convulsions, delirium and greater risk for life threatening accidents and events such as traffic deaths and suicides. Intravenous drug users, who share needles, are at high risk for contracting HIV/AIDS. Use and/or withdrawal from a substance can also create mental problems including, but not limited to depression, anxiety, paranoia and delusions.

RUSM will facilitate substance abuse prevention through general promotion of a substance-free educational environment. In addition to the active enforcement of the Policy on Substance and Alcohol Abuse, students will be informed of any current and subsequent changes to the Policy on Substance and Alcohol Abuse. Additionally, the medical school curriculum incorporates information on the effects that alcohol and drugs have on both mental and physical health. At RUSM, an atmosphere will exist wherein individuals with alcohol and/or drug problems are encouraged to seek help.

For information or assistance with substance and/or alcohol abuse matters, or for information on programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, an individual can confidentially contact RUSM Counseling Services.

Modeled upon the principles of the AMA’s Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA), RUSM offers services that are geared toward ensuring the personal health of students by providing support and avoiding punitive measures. RUSM, through Student Affairs and the Counseling Services, helps coordinate intervention services, conduct
screening assessments, make appropriate referrals for comprehensive assessment and treatment, provide case management services for those with continuing problems, and encourage a collegial supportive environment. Moreover, they help promote students’ overall health and wellness as a priority for the profession. Students are encouraged to seek guidance from these programs at the earliest sign of need. To further utilization, help will be provided through a system that remains separate albeit appreciated by the University’s disciplinary system.

Students seeking assistance for a substance abuse problem will not be subject to sanctions by the University as a result of seeking such assistance.

The use of drugs and alcohol can cause physical and psychological dependence and can interfere with memory, sensation and perception. Drugs impair the brain’s ability to synthesize information. Regular users of drugs develop tolerance and physical dependence often experienced by withdrawal symptoms. The psychological dependence occurs when the drug taking becomes central to the user’s life. Medical students who are aware of or suspect a colleague of abusing alcohol or drugs are encouraged to intervene and provide assistance, or to refer the matter to the medical education administration.

- If a medical student in good standing seeks help for substance abuse, support is available through Student Affairs, the Health Clinic or Counseling Services.

- If a medical student violates school policy or has academic difficulties and a substance abuse problem is identified, assistance will be provided if the student acknowledges the problem, consents to treatment in an appropriate rehabilitation program, and complies with the program.

- If a medical student violates school policy or has academic difficulties and a substance abuse problem is identified, and the student refuses to acknowledge the problem, or does not consent to therapy, or does not comply with the appropriate rehabilitation program, disciplinary action up to and including dismissal or expulsion may be recommended.

- If a student reports to school or to a clinical setting under the influence of alcohol or drugs, they will be immediately suspended and possibly dismissed or expelled from the University.

RUSM will facilitate substance abuse prevention through general promotion of a substance-free educational environment, by informing students on current and subsequent changes to policies on alcohol and other drugs and through advocating an atmosphere where individuals with a problem are encouraged to seek help. The medical school curriculum incorporates information on the effects that alcohol and drugs have on both mental and physical health.

A list of some drug and alcohol prevention, counseling, treatment and rehabilitation, and re-entry programs is available at RUSM Counseling Services located adjacent to Classroom 1. Any student, spouse, or faculty member can confidentially contact Counseling Services for additional referral information.

\textbf{Controlled Drugs Prescription Policy}
The policy for the acquisition and possession of prescription/controlled drugs by RUSM students as advised by the Counseling Services of RUSM in conjunction with the Ministry of Health of Dominica is as follows: any student of RUSM who requires a prescription for a controlled substance will need to present to his or her physician adequate proof or evidence that he or she has the diagnosed condition for which the drug is indicated as a pharmacological treatment.
APPEALS

Initiation and Scope
Parties may appeal the outcome of formal academic and non-academic disciplinary actions. These appeals must be submitted in their proper form within 15 calendar days of notification of the decision of the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designee. Appeals are considered only when it is clearly established by the appealing party, in a concise written statement, that one of the following occurred:

- **The decision was unreasonable** based on the information presented at the hearing and/or based on the alleged violation;
- **The sanction was unreasonable** based on the information presented at the hearing and/or based on the violation;
- **There was a misinterpretation** of the Code of Conduct or other policies, by the Grievance Committee, Honor Council or administrator during the adjudication of the case;
- **A procedural error occurred** that resulted in an unfair hearing; or
- **Relevant information was not brought out** in the initial hearing that may have been sufficient to alter a decision, because such information was not known to the person appealing at the time of the original hearing.

The specific basis or bases for the appeal must be identified by the appealing party in the written appeal.

Administrative Response
Neither the Complainant nor Respondent will attend Appeal hearings. With the exception of appeals involving new information not known at the time of the original hearing or informal resolution, the Dean, or designee’s, review will be limited to the written appeal, documents and evidence originally presented at the hearing or informal resolution, and the official record of the hearing. The Dean, or his/her designee, may:

- Uphold the original finding and outcome;
- Require a (new) hearing;
- Send the appeal back to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Grievance Committee or Honor Council for review of the decision or sanctions;
- Reverse the original decision by finding that a violation or no violation of the Code of Conduct occurred; or
- Amend sanctions where the original sanctions imposed are found to be unreasonable.

Notification
The Dean, Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs, or their designee, will notify the parties of the appeal decision within 15 calendar days of the Dean’s receipt of the written appeal.
ATTENDANCE

Foundations of Medicine
Students are expected to attend class. The policies that govern attendance and dress code requirements are described in writing in the syllabus for each course at the discretion of the faculty member. Keep in mind that RUSM is non-sectarian and does not close for religious holidays. Attending examinations and other required exercises is mandatory. Missing a mandatory attendance activity can result in a zero, except for the following:

Mandatory Attendance Activities (non-exams):

- Students who have been granted a LOA from the office of Student Affairs prior to the event will be excused. (See Absences, Withdrawals and Deferrals section)
- Military obligations, jury duty, or the mandate of a subpoena, with proper advance notification to the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs.
- Students who experience a medical emergency on the day of an event must contact the Health Clinic or Counseling Center prior to or at the scheduled time of the event. The Health Center (treating physician) or Counseling Center (treating counselor) will assess the student and determine if he/she is able to participate in the event. If the treating physician/counselor determines the student is unable to attend, documentation must be filed with the corresponding department for the event (i.e. Department of Clinical Skills). Even if the illness is self-limiting and does not require an immediate appointment, the student must contact the Health Center/Counseling Center for assessment as soon as symptoms are experienced and prior to the event. Students may contact the Health Center/Counseling Center afterhours by calling the RUSM emergency line (235-9111) or on call counselor (275-1385). RUSM Health Center or Counseling Center personnel WILL NOT provide a medical excuse to a student for a previously unreported student illness after a missed mandatory academic activity has occurred.

Petitions to Miss a Foundations of Medicine Exam or Miss/Reschedule a Mandatory Foundations of Medicine Academic Activity
The Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs, or his/her designee will consider petitions for excused absences that are not addressed by the above exceptions. Proper documentation and supporting documents must be submitted to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designee prior to the event for review and consideration on the basis of extraordinary personal circumstances.

Clinical Sciences
Students in the Clinical Sciences curriculum are expected to be in attendance 100% of the time and comply with the dress code established by their respective preceptor. It is up to each individual hospital to enforce its attendance rules, and RUSM students are expected to abide by those rules.
Illness/Emergencies
Students are required to inform the hospital coordinator and/or preceptor of any absence due to illness or emergency. Students may be required to provide documentation for an absence (i.e., note from physician). Students may be required to make up the time missed.

Weather-Related
RUSM defers to the clinical site to determine whether or not students should attend clinical clerkships during inclement weather. Students may be required to make up time missed for inclement weather.

Duty Hours
Student work hours are limited to 70 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house call activities and all moonlighting.

Dropping a Clerkship
Students are not permitted to drop a clinical clerkship within 30 calendar days of the start date, or after beginning the clerkship. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the Assistant Dean for Clinical Student Affairs, at his or her discretion.

If a student drops a clinical clerkship within 30 calendar days of the start date or after beginning the clerkship without permission of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Student Affairs, the student will:
- Receive an F grade;
- Not be permitted to begin another clinical clerkship until after the end date of the clerkship he/she dropped;
- Not receive priority in re-scheduling; and
- Receive a hold on the student’s account.

Time Away from Clerkships and Electives
RUSM permits students to take time off of clerkships and electives for residency interviews, conference attendance, and examinations. For every week of the clerkship/elective, a student may take a total of one half day for off for interviewing, conferences, and/or examinations; therefore, students on four (4) week clerkships are permitted a total of two (2) days off for these activities, students on six (6) week clerkships are permitted a total of three (3) days, and students on 12 week clerkships are permitted a total of six (6) days for interviewing, conferences, and/or examinations. Please note that time away for interviews, conferences, and examinations must be pre-approved by your preceptor.
CAMPUS LIFE – INTRAMURALS, CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND STUDENT LEADERS

Intramurals, Clubs and Organizations, Student Leaders
While you will be primarily focused on your education at RUSM, we also encourage involvement in the many extracurricular activities available on campus. A wide variety of clubs, sports, student organizations, activities and associated leadership opportunities can enrich your learning experience by helping you to make friends, acquire new skills, serve the community, and develop leadership abilities. Students participating in Intramurals, Clubs and Organization are reminded that their conduct is, at all times, expected to meet the standards of a medical professional and the Code of Conduct. Student Leaders of such groups are reminded of RUSM’s strong policy against discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, status as a parent, marital status or political affiliation.

Intramural and Extracurricular Activities. RUSM has an active sports community, offering a chance for needed exercise and socialization. Members of the RUSM community participating in these activities are expected to display good sportsmanship and standards of conduct becoming of the medical professional.

Clubs and Organizations. Clubs and organizations sponsored by RUSM offer a wide variety of opportunities to pursue other interests. Collective and individual behavior at group activities should serve as a reflection of the standards of RUSM. Extracurricular clubs and organizations must obtain prior approval from RUSM in the design and display of clothing or memorabilia which include their group’s name and/or any reference to RUSM; and must demonstrate good judgment in the design and placement of logos and other identifiable information.

Student Leaders. Groups and the organization of extracurricular activities offer many opportunities for students looking to enhance their leadership skills. Officers and leaders of organizations, including the SGA, should be careful in selecting activities that represent the ideals of RUSM, both on- and off-campus. Leaders are responsible for exemplifying the Code of Conduct required of students, and also assuring the compliance of members. Student Leaders must also maintain good academic standing.

Group/Member Sanctions and Disciplinary Actions: Any individual or group behavior that is in conflict with the standards set by the SGA, Campus Life department, Student Affairs and administration may result in sanction or reprimand from the group’s governing body, including the SGA, and possible additional disciplinary action by RUSM. Failing to enforce proper behavior may also subject leaders to the loss of their leadership position. When appropriate, student leaders may be required to represent their members and answer for behavioral misconduct during disciplinary proceedings.
CLINICAL CLERKSHIPS AND ELECTIVES IN NEW YORK

All students that are scheduled for clerkships within the state of New York, albeit a core or elective clerkship, must submit their completed New York State Education Department application to their designated program coordinator 30-days prior to the start of their clerkships, along with any additional requested documentation. Should a student be scheduled for an affiliate clerkship, the student must complete the long-term clerkship application; while a student seeking a non-affiliate elective clerkship must submit a Letter of Eligibility application with required payment. Additional information is located on the student portal.
CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct applies to any covered person as that term is defined in the Code.

ARTICLE I: TERMINOLOGY

1. The terms “University” or “RUSM” means Ross University School of Medicine.
2. The term “covered person” includes any person taking courses (either full-time or part-time, either onsite or online, and including but not limited to students who take time off between terms), receiving or seeking to receive services from the University, or otherwise pursuing undergraduate, graduate or professional studies at the University.
3. The term “faculty member” means any person hired by or contracted with the University to conduct instructional activities.
4. The term “Staff” means any person employed by the University.
5. The term “member of the RUSM community” includes students, faculty members or staff, and any other individuals associated with the University. The conduct administrator shall determine a person’s status in a particular situation.
6. The term “RUSM premises” includes all land, buildings, facilities, student housing and other property in the possession of or owned, used, or controlled by the University (including parking lots, adjacent streets and sidewalks).
7. The term “conduct panel” means any person or persons authorized by the conduct administrator or his/her designee to determine whether a respondent has violated the Code of Conduct and to recommend imposition of sanctions.
8. The term “conduct administrator” means an RUSM official authorized by the University to manage Code of Conduct proceedings and/or impose sanctions upon respondents found to have violated the Code of Conduct. A conduct administrator may serve simultaneously as a conduct administrator, and as the sole member or one of the members of the conduct panel. Nothing shall prevent the University from authorizing the same conduct administrator to impose sanctions in all cases at a particular location or locations.
9. The term “policy” is defined as the policies, rules and procedures of the University including, but not limited to, those found in the Student Handbook, housing handbook and academic catalogs.
10. The term “organization” means any number of persons who have complied with the formal requirements for University recognition/registration as an organization.

ARTICLE II: CONDUCT ADMINISTRATOR AND CONDUCT PANEL

1. The conduct administrator shall determine the composition of conduct panels and determine which conduct panel shall be authorized to hear each case. Where a multi-person panel is used instead of hearing by a conduct administrator, the conduct panel shall include, at minimum, three members of the RUSM community.
2. The conduct administrator shall develop procedures for administration of the Code of Conduct and for conducting hearings which are consistent with the provisions of this Code of Conduct.
3. Decisions made by a conduct panel and/or conduct administrator shall be final, pending the appeal process.
4. In appropriate situations, the conduct panel and/or conduct administrator may also provide a respondent who is subject to the hearing process with referral information for external counseling or other services available within the greater community that may help the respondent to ameliorate his/her conduct to prevent further violations of the Code of Conduct.
ARTICLE III: PROSCRIBED CONDUCT

Jurisdiction
The Code of Conduct applies to behavior that affects the RUSM community, irrespective of where or when that conduct may occur. Discipline may extend to off-campus activities and locations (including but not limited to off-campus activities, events, and housing) when the actions in question adversely affect the RUSM community and/or pursuit of its objectives.

Conduct – Rules and Regulations
Any respondent found to have committed misconduct, including the following types of misconduct, may be subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined in Article IV.

1. Acts of dishonesty including, but not limited to, the following:
   a. Furnishing false information to any University official, faculty member or office.
   b. Forgery, alteration or misuse of any University document, record or instrument of identification.
   c. Computer piracy, including duplication of computer software, copyright infringement and unauthorized computer entry.
2. Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings and other University activities, including its public service functions on or off campus, or other authorized non-University activities, when the act occurs on RUSM premises.
3. Physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, and harassment including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, coercion and/or other conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person, either on or off RUSM premises or at any University-sponsored activity.
4. Bullying and cyberbullying, which is using one’s power to control or harm individuals who cannot defend themselves including, but not limited to, face-to-face interactions and any electronic communication (communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager) whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents.
5. Attempted or actual theft of and/or damage to property of the University or property of a member of the RUSM community or other personal or public property.
6. RUSM specifically prohibits any organization, chartered or otherwise, officially or in fact, from participating in the activity of “hazing,” defined as any action taken or situation created which, regardless of intent or consent of the participants, may reasonably produce bodily harm or danger, mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, fright, humiliation or ridicule, or otherwise compromises the dignity of an individual; compels an individual to participate in an activity that is unlawful and or contrary to University rules, policies and regulations; will unreasonably or unusually impair an individual’s academic efforts, and/or occurs on or off campus. Hazing is further defined as an act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for, continued membership in a group or organization. Such activities and/or actions prohibited include, but are not limited to: tests of endurance; submission of members or prospective members to potentially dangerous or hazardous circumstances; any activity that by its nature is so intense that it would cause severe mental anxiety, mental distress, panic, human degradation or public embarrassment; creation of excessive fatigue or a late work session that interferes with scholastic activities or deprives persons of the opportunity for sufficient sleep (six hours per day), decent edible meals and/or access to means of bodily cleanliness; forcing or coercing a person to consume alcohol or other substances, in any amount; any requirement that compels an individual to participate in an activity that is illegal, perverse or indecent; and compelling individuals to engage in sexual behaviors, sexual or racial harassment or slurs, or exhibitionism.
7. Violation of conduct guidelines, including those in student leases and housing handbooks, applicable to University-controlled housing.
8. Gambling on RUSM premises, at University functions or through the use of University equipment.
9. Failure to comply with directions of University officials or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.
10. Unauthorized possession, duplication or use of keys, or unauthorized entry to or use of premises.
11. Violation of published University policies, procedures, rules or regulations.
12. Violation of any applicable federal, state or local law.
13. Use, possession or distribution of narcotic or other controlled substances, except as expressly permitted by law, a valid doctor’s order, and the University, or being under the influence of such substances. Please note in particular that even where otherwise permitted under local law, marijuana use, possession, or influence on University premises, at University events, or that adversely affects the RUSM community, is prohibited.
14. Use, possession or distribution of alcoholic beverages, except as expressly permitted by law and University regulation; or public intoxication.
15. Illegal or unauthorized possession of firearms, explosives, other weapons or dangerous chemicals.
16. Participation in a demonstration that disrupts normal operations of the University or infringes on rights of other members of the RUSM community; leading or inciting others to disrupt the scheduled and/or normal activities within any University building or area; intentional obstruction that is unreasonable and interferes with freedom of movement and/or free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
17. Conduct that is disorderly, disruptive, lewd or indecent; breach of peace; or aiding, abetting or procuring another person to breach the peace.
18. Aiding, abetting or inducing another to engage in behavior prohibited by the Code of Conduct.
19. Theft or other abuse of computer time, including but not limited to:
   a. Unauthorized entry into a file, to use, read or change contents, or for any other purpose.
   b. Unauthorized transfer of a file.
   c. Unauthorized use of another individual’s identification and password.
   d. Use of computing facilities to interfere with work of another student, faculty member or University official.
   e. Use of computing facilities to send obscene or abusive messages.
   f. Use of computing facilities to interfere with normal operation of the University computing system.
   g. Introduction, reproduction and/or promulgation of any computer virus.
20. Abuse of the disciplinary system, including, but not limited to:
   a. Falsification, distortion or misrepresentation of information before a conduct panel.
   b. Disruption or interference with orderly conduct of a conduct proceeding.
   c. Knowingly instituting complaint or conduct proceedings without good cause.
   d. Attempting to discourage an individual's proper participation in, or use of, the complaint or conduct procedures.
   e. Attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a conduct panel prior to, and/or during, the course of the conduct proceeding.
   f. Harassment (verbal or physical) and/or intimidation by a student of a participant in the conduct or complaint processes prior to, during and/or after a conduct proceeding.
   g. Failure to comply with sanction(s) imposed under the Code of Conduct.
   h. Influencing or attempting to influence another person to commit an abuse of the conduct or complaint procedures.

Involvement of Law Enforcement or External Judicial Authorities
Complainants who believe that they are victims of crime or other violation of law (for example, assault, battery, sexual misconduct) may notify and seek assistance from the University, local law enforcement and/or other community resources concurrently. The conduct administrator can provide information about how to contact local law enforcement or other local community resources.
The University is committed to maintaining an environment that is safe for all members of the RUSM community. Safety concerns, including those arising out of Code of Conduct proceedings, should be brought to the attention of the campus incident commander or the conduct administrator for evaluation of any appropriate measures to be taken by the University to promote security. Complainants may also seek protective, restraining, or “no-contact” orders from an external law enforcement or judicial authority; complainants who do so should notify the conduct administrator or campus incident commander so that the University can cooperate as appropriate in the observation of the order.

The University may institute Code of Conduct proceedings against a respondent charged with violation of applicable law without regard to the pendency of civil litigation or criminal arrest and prosecution. Proceedings under this Code of Conduct may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings. If a code of conduct violation is also a civil violation (e.g. rape), we may be obligated to report it to civil authorities, regardless of the victim’s preference.

If the alleged violation of law is also the subject of Code of Conduct proceedings, the University may advise external authorities of the existence and status of the Code of Conduct proceedings. The University cooperates fully with law enforcement and other agencies in enforcing law on University property and in the conditions imposed by criminal courts for the protection of victims and the rehabilitation of violators. Individual students, staff, or faculty members, acting in their personal capacities, remain free to interact with a governmental representative or law enforcement official as they deem appropriate.

ARTICLE IV: CONDUCT PROCEDURES

Complaint and Hearings

1. Any member of the RUSM community or the University itself may file complaints against any covered person for misconduct. In instances where community safety is a concern, notice of a possible violation may result in complaints being filed by the University whether or not the impacted community member wishes to precede complaints shall be prepared in writing and directed to the conduct administrator at the appropriate University location. Any complaint should be submitted as soon as possible after the event takes place.

2. Once complaints have been filed, the conduct administrator will investigate to determine if complaints have merit and/or if they can be resolved by mutual consent of the complainant and the respondent on a basis acceptable to the conduct administrator (such as mediation). The conduct administrator may also issue a conduct warning to a respondent or complainant where a complaint is resolved by mutual consent. If complaints cannot be disposed of by mutual consent, the conduct administrator may later hold the hearing, either individually or as a member of the conduct panel. Mediation will not be used for complaints involving alleged sexual misconduct.

3. All complaints shall be presented to the respondent in writing, in which a date and time is set for a hearing within a timeframe reasonable under the circumstances, usually not less than two, nor more than 15 calendar days after the respondent has been notified of the complaints. The timeframe for scheduling of hearings may be extended at the discretion of the conduct administrator.

4. The conduct administrator may choose to hold the hearing him/herself, or may require a hearing by the full conduct panel when he/she believes that such a procedure is in the best interest of the University. If either the complainant or the respondent believes that a member of the conduct panel has a conflict of interest, he or she should bring this concern to the attention of the conduct administrator, or if the alleged conflict is held by the conduct administrator to the attention of the location’s complaint administrator (as identified in the Student Complaint Procedure published in this Student Handbook).

5. Hearings shall be held by a conduct panel according to the following guidelines:
   a. Hearings shall be held in private. Admission of any person to the hearing shall be at the discretion of the conduct administrator/chairperson.
b. In advance of the hearing, both the complainant and respondent will be given access to the identified information that is available before the hearing which will be considered by the conduct panel.

c. The complainant and respondent have the right to be assisted by any advisor they choose, at their own expense. The advisor may be an attorney. The complainant and respondent are responsible for presenting his/her own case and, therefore, advisors are not permitted to speak or to participate directly in any hearing before a conduct panel. The complainant and respondent must provide the names (relationship and title, if applicable) of those attending the hearing with them at least one business day before the hearing.

d. The University, the complainant, the respondent and the conduct panel shall be allowed to present witnesses, subject to the right of cross-examination by the conduct panel.

e. Pertinent records, exhibits and written statements may be accepted as evidence for consideration by a conduct panel at the discretion of the conduct administrator/chairperson.

f. All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the conduct administrator/chairperson.

g. After the hearing, the conduct panel shall deliberate in private and determine (by majority vote for a multi-person conduct panel) whether the respondent has violated the Code of Conduct.

h. The conduct panel’s determination shall be made on the basis of whether it is more likely than not that the respondent violated the Code of Conduct.

6. There shall be a single record, such as a tape recording, of all hearings before a conduct panel or conduct administrator. The record shall be the property of the University. Suspensions and expulsions will be noted in the respondent’s academic file.

7. No respondent may be found to have violated the Code of Conduct solely because the respondent failed to appear before a conduct panel. Even if the respondent does not appear, the evidence in support of the complaints shall be presented and considered. Likewise, a respondent may be found to have violated the Code of Conduct even in instances where the complainant has not participated in the conduct proceedings.

8. The complaint administrator shall notify the respondent of the outcome in writing, and in appropriate cases, shall also notify the complainant. In cases of sexual misconduct allegations, the complainant and respondent will be informed simultaneously. Where safety concerns exist, the complainant may be given appropriate notice prior to formal notification.

Sanctions

1. The sanctions listed below may be imposed upon any covered person found to have violated the Code of Conduct. The listing of the sanctions should not be construed to imply that covered persons are entitled to progressive discipline. The sanctions may be used in any order and/or combination that the University deems appropriate for the conduct in question.

   a. Warning – A verbal or written notice that the respondent has not met the University’s conduct expectations.

   b. Probation – A written reprimand with stated conditions in effect for a designated period of time, including the probability of more severe disciplinary sanctions if the respondent does not comply with University policies or otherwise does not meet the University’s conduct expectations during the probationary period.

   c. Restitution – Compensation for loss, damage or injury. This may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary or material replacement.

   d. Housing Suspension – Separation of the respondent from his/her University-controlled housing for a defined period of time. Conditions for returning to housing may be specified.

   e. Housing Expulsion – Permanent separation of the respondent from University-controlled housing.

   f. RUSM Suspension – Separation of the respondent from the University for a defined period of time, after which the respondent may be eligible to return. Conditions for readmission may be specified.
g. RUSM Expulsion – Permanent separation of the respondent from all University locations and RUSM Education Group institutions and locations.

h. Suspension of Services – Ineligibility to receive specified services or all RUSM services for a specified period of time, after which the respondent may regain eligibility. Conditions to regain access to services may be specified.

i. Ineligibility for Services – Permanent ineligibility to receive specified or all RUSM services, and services from other RUSM Education Group institutions.

j. Limiting Order – Restriction on a respondent’s permission to be in the same proximity as the complainant and/or others, with the parameters of the restriction to be defined by the University (e.g., for use with allegations of sexual or other misconduct).

2. More than one sanction listed above may be imposed for any single violation. In each case in which a conduct administrator or a conduct panel determines that a respondent has violated the Code of Conduct, sanction(s) shall be determined and imposed by the conduct administrator. In cases in which a multi-person panel is used, the recommendation of all members of the conduct panel shall be considered by the conduct administrator. Following the hearing, the conduct administrator shall advise the respondent in writing of the determination, the sanction(s) imposed, if any, and appeal procedures. In appropriate cases (e.g., allegations involving certain types of sexual misconduct), the conduct administrator will also simultaneously provide the complainant with written notice of the outcome and appeal procedures.

Interim Suspension

In certain circumstances, the University may impose a RUSM and/or housing interim suspension prior to the hearing before a conduct panel.

1. Interim suspension may be imposed:
   a. to ensure the safety and well-being of members of the RUSM community or preservation of University property; or
   b. if the University deems that the respondent poses a threat of disruption of or interference with the normal operation of the University

2. During the interim suspension, the respondent may be denied access to RUSM premises (including online and onsite classes) and/or all other University activities or privileges for which the respondent might otherwise be eligible, as the University may determine to be appropriate. In appropriate cases, the University may notify the complainant of a respondent’s interim suspension status.

Appeals

1. A decision of a violation of the Code of Conduct and the sanctions reached by the conduct panel or imposed by the conduct administrator may be appealed by the respondent or complainant to the person identified in the determination letter within seven days of the date of the appealing party’s receipt of the determination letter. Such appeals shall be in writing. Receipt of the determination letter is presumed to be three days after mailing (for letters sent via US mail), the date of delivery (for tracked delivery), or the date of electronic transmission (for email). The results of the appeal to the person identified in the determination letter shall be final.

2. Except as required to explain the basis of new evidence, an appeal shall be limited to review of the verbatim record of the initial hearing and documents considered by the conduct administrator or conduct panel for one or more of the following purposes:
   a. To determine whether the original hearing was administered fairly in light of the complaints and evidence presented and in substantial conformity with prescribed procedures, giving the complainant a reasonable opportunity to prepare and present evidence that the Code of Conduct was violated, and giving the respondent a reasonable opportunity to prepare and present a rebuttal of those allegations.
   b. To determine whether the decision reached regarding the respondent was based on reasonable evidence; that is, without substituting its judgment for that of conduct panel or the conduct
administrator, the appellate decision-maker shall consider whether the facts in the case were reasonably sufficient to establish that a violation of the Code of Conduct occurred.

c. To determine whether the sanction(s) imposed were reasonably appropriate for the violation of the Code of Conduct the respondent was found to have committed. (Refer to Article IV (5) (i) for standard of proof.)

d. To consider new evidence sufficient to alter the decision or sanction which was not brought out in the original hearing because such evidence was not known or available to the person appealing at the time of the original hearing.

The person ruling on the appeal shall notify in writing the complainant and respondent of the outcome of the appeal. If the person considering the appeal rules favorably on the appeal, the matter shall be remanded to the conduct panel (either the original panel or a new panel, as determined to be appropriate by the person considering the appeal) and conduct administrator for action to be taken in response to the appeal findings. If the ruling on the appeal is negative, then the decision of the original conduct panel is upheld and finalized.

ARTICLE V: CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROHIBITION ON RETALIATION

Confidentiality

RUSM wishes to foster an environment in which individuals feel free to raise and discuss concerns. RUSM understands that complainants, respondents, witnesses, and others involved in the investigation process and conduct proceedings may be concerned about the confidentiality of information they are sharing.

In some cases, RUSM may be obligated to take action when it becomes aware of information relating to a complaint. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible and consistent with RUSM’s obligations in investigating complaints and addressing conduct appropriately. While the confidentiality of information received, the privacy of individuals involved, and compliance with the wishes of the complainant or witnesses cannot be guaranteed, they will be respected to the extent possible and appropriate. In particular, when possible and consistent with applicable law, personally identifying information about victims of sexual misconduct will be kept confidential as it appears in the University’s publicly available record-keeping.

Retaliation

RUSM prohibits retaliation against anyone who reports an incident of alleged harassment, discrimination or other unlawful conduct, or any person who assists or participates in a proceeding, investigation or hearing relating to such allegations.

Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment. All complaints of retaliation should be reported in accordance with the student complaint procedure available in the Student Handbook. If following the student complaint procedure would result in the student being required to submit his/her complaint to the person whom he/she believes is retaliating against him or her, the student may submit the retaliation complaint to the location leader, who will determine an appropriate party to address the retaliation complaint.

Submission of a good-faith complaint or report of harassment, discrimination or other unlawful conduct will not adversely affect the complainant’s future grades, learning, or academic environment. RUSM will discipline or take appropriate action against anyone who retaliates against any person who reports an incident of alleged harassment, discrimination, or other unlawful conduct, or who retaliates against any person who testifies, assists or participates in a conduct proceeding, investigation or hearing related to such allegations.

Campus Safety and Security

Unless otherwise posted, use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes on RUSM premises or at RUSM events is prohibited.
A truly safe campus can only be achieved through the cooperation of students, faculty and staff. As members of this academic community, students must report crimes, suspicious activities or other emergencies on campus to the appropriate University official (e.g. Campus Security, Students Services or the chief location administrator). Students who witness or are victims of a crime affecting the RUSM community should immediately report the incident to local law enforcement in the community, in which the campus is located, and to the Campus Security, student services office, or to the chief location administrator. RUSM will investigate such crimes and, when appropriate, bring them to the attention of the conduct administrator and other University officials such as the Title IX Coordinator.

Given public concern about escalating incidents of school violence, the University will take appropriate administrative action to protect the community. Student behavior that causes campus safety or security concerns will typically be addressed pursuant to the Interim Suspension provisions of the Code of Conduct. Accordingly, immediate suspension and eventual expulsion may result for students who:

- Possess, sell or otherwise furnish a firearm
- Brandish a knife at another person
- Sell a controlled substance
- Commit or attempt to commit a sexual assault or sexual battery
- Possess an explosive
- Cause serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense
- Possess any knife (excludes pen knives or nail files )or other dangerous object of no reasonable use
- Unlawfully possess any controlled substance
- Commit robbery or extortion
- Commit assault or battery

Nothing in this policy should be construed as limiting or preventing the University’s discretion to take other action which, in the University’s sole discretion is necessary or advisable to promote campus safety and security.

RUSM takes seriously any threats made to cause harm to others or to oneself. Threats to harm others will be handled through the Code of Conduct, and may involve an interim suspension and/or the engagement of law enforcement officials until conduct proceedings are completed. In the case of threats to harm oneself, the University may call local law enforcement officials or other persons acquainted with the person making the threat for the purposes of checking on that person’s welfare. The University may also work with the person to determine available resources and appropriate next steps.
COMMITMENT TO NON-DISCRIMINATION AND NON-HARASSMENT

RUSM is committed to providing an education conducive to the personal and professional development of each individual and is committed to maintaining an academic environment free of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, political affiliation and any other legally protected classes in the relevant jurisdiction that complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, and the local law. RUSM will not tolerate, condone or allow discrimination or harassment, whether engaged in by fellow students, faculty members, or non-faculty colleagues.

What is Discriminatory Harassment?
Examples of words or conduct that may violate this policy are:

- Verbal abuse, slurs, derogatory comments or insults, about, directed at or made in the presence of an individual or group based on protected status. This could include telephone calls, emails, instant messages, etc.
- Display or circulation of written materials or pictures that are degrading to a person or group based on protected status;
- Damage to trespass to, or unauthorized use or property, such as spraying or scratching a motor vehicle, damage or theft of property, based upon the protected status of an individual or group;
- Physical contact or verbal threats based upon the protected status of an individual or group.

What is Sexual Harassment?
Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other conduct of a sexual nature, submission to which is made a condition of a person’s participation in their education. Sexual harassment occurs when a student is the recipient of conduct of a sexual nature where:

- Submission to, or toleration of, such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the student’s enrollment;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a the basis for academic decisions about the student; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the student’s welfare or academic performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, offensive or demeaning academic environment.

Whom to Contact if You Think That You Have Been Discriminated Against or Harassed
The Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs is available to serve as a resource to any student, non-faculty colleague or faculty member who has a sexual harassment inquiry or complaint. A representative in the Human Resources office is another available resource. These resource persons have information about applicable laws, RUSM rules and procedures, options available for resolution of complaints, and confidentiality requirements. Individuals with a sexual harassment inquiry or complaint may be more comfortable speaking with someone of the same gender, and either the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs or the Human Resources representative can assist in finding a resource person of the preferred gender.
Title IX Compliance

RUSM’s Title IX coordinator is responsible for RUSM’s overall compliance with Title IX, including response to reports of sexual misconduct affecting the campus community. Questions regarding the application of Title IX and RUSM’s compliance with it should be directed to the Title IX coordinators, whose contact information is available below. Students who wish to make a report of sexual misconduct affecting the campus community should follow the grievance procedure published in this Student Handbook.

Mr. Mark Ewald
Title IX Coordinator
Director, Ethics and Compliance Services
DeVry Education Group
3005 Highland Pkwy
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Office Phone: 630-353-1437
Email: MEwald@devrygroup.com

Ms. Mikhel Kushner
Associate Title IX Consultant
DeVry Education Group
3005 Highland Pkwy
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Office Phone: 630-515-5440
Email: MKushner@devrygroup.com
COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Filing a Complaint
Any member of the RUSM community (Complainant) may file a complaint against a student (Respondent) if he/she observes conduct that violates these standards by submitting a Complaint form available on the RUSM student portal. Complaints arising in Dominica should be submitted to:

Matthew J. Stewart-Fulton, MSW
Ross University School of Medicine
Coordinator, Student Conduct and Integrity
Ross University School of Medicine
Box 266
Roseau, Dominica, West Indies
Email: MatthewStewartFulton@rossu.edu
Office Phone: 767-255-6524

Complaints arising in the U.S., such as at a clinical affiliate site, should be submitted to:

Jeanie R. Robertson, M.S., LPC
Ross University School of Medicine
Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs
2300 SW 145th Avenue, Suite 200
Miramar, FL 33027
Email: jrobertson@rossu.edu
Office Phone: 770-910-4807

The Complaint should be submitted as soon as possible after the occurrence of the activity or event giving rise to the Complaint. The Complaint shall also:

- Be in writing on the form provided by RUSM;
- Identify the Complainant and any other witnesses to the activity or event;
- Identify the Respondent, by name, if possible;
- Contain a detailed description of the event or activity giving rise to the Complaint; and
- Provide or reference any supporting materials.

Should you fear for your safety in the filing of a Complaint, please state this clearly in the Complaint, and request that your name be kept confidential until these safety concerns are addressed sufficiently. Please also consult with Security and/or the local police department if believe that your security is in imminent danger. If an individual brings allegations of misconduct to RUSM’s attention but does not pursue a written Complaint for any reason, RUSM reserves the right to lodge a written Complaint if necessary to preserve the safety and security of the Complainant or others.

Note on Confidentiality: RUSM recognizes the sensitivity of information often alleged in complaints, and handles all cases with appropriate confidentiality. While access to materials involving non-criminal activity is granted as needed to all parties involved in the resolution of the case, these individuals are not provided with copies of the materials, and they remain the property of RUSM at all times. RUSM provides no assurance, however, that Complaints filed will remain confidential. RUSM may need to disclose a Complaint, or details of a Complaint, in
order to conduct an appropriate investigation into allegations of misconduct, take appropriate remedial or corrective actions, report illegal conduct to authorities, and accomplish other legitimate educational purposes.

Assessment and Preliminary Investigation

Complaint Assessment: Upon receipt of a Complaint, the Student Conduct administrator performs an assessment of the complaints, and may conduct an initial investigation, sufficient to determine whether the misconduct described 1) violates the RUSM Honor Code, Code of Conduct, or any other rule or regulation; and 2) is of severity warranting a hearing. Other administrators and heads of Boards of Conduct may be consulted, as needed, in assessing the complaint and selecting, if necessary, an appropriate disciplinary forum.

Preliminary Investigation: During complaint assessment, a preliminary investigation may be conducted, in which the Complainant and/or witnesses may be interviewed, and supporting documentation examined to assess the veracity and severity of the complaints, and to assist in determining whether a disciplinary forum is merited. For those complaints involving criminal activity involving a possible threat to the Complainant(s), witnesses, or the campus in general, the following assessments may also be conducted. As part of the preliminary investigation, the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs may require students to participate in testing (drug, psychological, etc) in order to thoroughly investigate credible claims.

Security Assessment: In instances of Complaints involving actual or threatened bodily harm or otherwise indicating an imminent security risk to the RUSM campus or community, the Conduct Coordinator shall immediately notify the Campus Incident Commander to conduct a threat assessment. If necessary, immediate actions will be taken to preserve the security of the RUSM campus and community. These may include but shall not be limited to:

- Suspending the Respondent on an interim basis until a full investigation and hearing may be conducted;
- Ordering the Respondent to refrain from any and all contact with the Complainant, witnesses, and/or the RUSM community;
- Advising and/or assisting the Complainant in making a report to the local police department;
- Invoking the assistance of local authorities to ensure the security of the RUSM campus and community; and/or
- Assisting the Complainant with modifying his or her schedule or moving to a new residential location to assure safety.

Note on Criminal Allegations: Nothing shall limit the right of RUSM to immediately remove from RUSM premises or a clinical affiliate premises, or bar from RUSM events, a student accused of a violent, criminal or other egregious act that, as determined in RUSM's sole discretion, warrants immediate suspension and/or removal from campus to maintain the safety of other members of the campus community. A student so removed from the campus or clinical premises shall not re-enter until authorized by RUSM in writing to do so.

Sexual Misconduct Assessment: You may submit complaints of sexual misconduct including sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, stalking, dating violence, and domestic violence for yourself or on behalf of a colleague when such behavior is observed. In these instances, the Conduct Coordinator shall notify the Title IX Coordinator and initiate any preventive security steps, as needed. This may include, but is not limited to, the issuance of a warning to the campus. This serves to 1) end the behavior, 2) prevent its recurrence, and 3) address its effects.

Forums for Resolution

Following assessment, a Complaint may be dismissed, informally resolved, or referred to a Board of Conduct (Honor Council or Grievance Committee) for further action, as explained below. Those involving alleged criminal activity may also be referred to local law enforcement.
• **Dismissal of complaints:** If the Conduct Coordinator makes a determination, in consultation with necessary RUSM administrators and/or the Honor Council President, that the Complaint alleges conduct that 1) does not violate any RUSM rule or regulation; or 2) is not sufficiently serious to warrant disciplinary measures, the Complaint shall be closed with no further action taken.

   **Note:** Multiple complaints of minor infractions by the same student, which alone may not warrant further action, may together indicate a pattern of behavior that warrants disciplinary action.

• **Informal Resolution:** In cases of alleged misconduct that may be more easily resolved, the Conduct Coordinator may recommend an informal resolution. If both Complainant and Respondent agree that the matter may be reasonably expected to be successfully resolved through such methods as restorative justice and mediation, an impartial mediator may then be appointed to oversee and assist the process, if requested.

   **Note:** Mediation may not be used in the resolution of allegations of sexual misconduct.

• **Referral to Honor Council:** If the Conduct Coordinator determines, in consultation with disciplinary forum representatives, that the Complaint alleges conduct violating the RUSM Honor Code and is sufficiently serious to warrant disciplinary action, the Complaint shall be referred to the Honor Council for further action, as described below.

• **Referral to Grievance Committee:** If the Conduct Coordinator determines, in consultation with disciplinary forum representatives, that the Complaint alleges conduct violating the RUSM Code of Conduct and is sufficiently serious to warrant disciplinary action, the Complaint shall be referred to the Grievance Committee for further action, as described below.

**Answering a Complaint**

Should a Complaint warrant a disciplinary action, the Respondent will be notified of the allegations and have **five (5) business days** (defined as a day on which regularly scheduled classes are held on the Dominica campus) to file an answer with the designated head of the forum for resolution.

Answers to Complaints must state:

- Whether or not the student accepts responsibility for the complaints;
- A response statement, written by the student, to the complaints;
- A listing of additional witnesses; and
- An inclusion of or reference to any supporting materials.

Should an answer not be received within 5 business days, the case will move forward without the student’s response. Any written statements, witnesses, or supporting materials subsequently submitted by the Respondent shall be considered at the discretion of the disciplinary forum.

**Referral to Honor Council**

Cases involving infractions of the Honor Code may be assigned to the Honor Council for resolution.

**Composition**

The Honor Council consists of student representatives elected under the auspices of the SGA. They must meet basic requirements outlined in the *Honor Code* and *Honor Constitution*. The Council consists of nine members: two representatives from each class in semesters 1-5 and chaired by the Honor Council President. The Honor Council has authority over complaints including but not limited to violations of the *Honor Code*, *AMA Ethical Guidelines* and/or *RUSM Technical Standards*. 
Purpose
The Honor Council is entrusted by the student body to consider alleged violations of the Honor Code, examine the evidence, and to forward decisions and recommendations for sanctions, if any, to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs or Dean on behalf of the student body.

Oversight
The Honor Council will be supported and guided by the Conduct Administrator in conducting a fair hearing and determination process, which may vary dependent upon the severity of the alleged violation. Neither the Conduct Administrator nor the Faculty Advisor will actively influence deliberations or recommended sanctions. They may, however, provide information and/or feedback to the Council upon request. (See The Honor Code and Constitution section)

Referral to Grievance Committee
Violations of the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Grievance Committee. Allegations involving criminal conduct will also be referred to local law enforcement after consultation with identified victims regarding local investigation standards and customs. Under no circumstances will a victim be compelled to cooperate with such an investigation against his or her will.

The Grievance Committee is an investigative arm of the Office of the Dean, and its authority is derived from that office. Recommendations and reports generated by the Grievance Committee are submitted to the appropriate Assistant or Associate Dean for review. It is comprised of members elected or appointed according to the following policies:

- The Grievance Committee in Dominica consists of faculty members appointed by the Dean and up to four (4) students, one (1) per class in Semesters. Student representatives are elected under the auspices of the SGA. The Grievance Committee is chaired by a faculty member, appointed by the Dean. The Grievance Committee shall elect a vice-chair by majority vote on an annual basis, or as needed.
- The Grievance Committee Stateside convenes on the Miramar Campus and consists of faculty representatives appointed by the Dean. The Chairperson is a faculty member appointed by the Dean. The Grievance Committee shall be reconstituted, as needed, to hear cases.

Procedure
Upon receipt of a Complaint, the Grievance Committee proceeds as follows:

- Notification Letter: Upon receipt of a Complaint, the Grievance Committee, the Conduct Coordinator shall issue a written notice to the Respondent and Complainant of the allegations made and the complaints, including which rule or regulation is alleged to have been violated.
- Answer: The Respondent shall have five (5) business days to file a response admitting or denying the allegations.
- Investigation and Hearing: In conducting its investigation, hearing and deliberations, the Grievance Committee shall not be bound by any rules of evidence, nor be otherwise limited in what it may consider. The Grievance Committee shall make its determinations based on the preponderance of evidence before it and not beyond a reasonable doubt. The Grievance Committee shall:
  1. Set a timeframe reasonable under the circumstances for a hearing, usually not less than two nor more than 15 calendar days after the Parties have received notice of the complaint;
  2. Collect evidence in the form of witness statements, either written or verbal, or other documents it deems relevant;
  3. Give the Parties notice of all evidence received that the Grievance Committee intends to consider, at least two days prior to the hearing if possible;
4. Provide the Parties with an opportunity to appear, preferably in person, at the hearing and an opportunity to be heard, imposing such time or other limitations as the Grievance Committee deems reasonable;

5. Provide the Parties with an opportunity to bring counsel or other representative; however, the Parties shall also be expected to speak on his/her own behalf and the Grievance Committee need not give leave to the counsel or other representative to speak on the Parties' behalf;

6. In private, deliberate, weigh the evidence and make suggested findings of fact based on a majority vote. The Chair shall vote only as needed to break a tie. Upon a determination of an offense, the Grievance Committee will make a recommendation to the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designee as to appropriate sanctions.

Complaint Resolution

Hearings
A hearing before a Board of Conduct (Honor Council or Grievance Committee) will be scheduled after receipt of the answer from the Respondent. If no answer to the Complaint is submitted, the hearing will be scheduled following the deadline for submission (five (5) business days). During a hearing, the Complaint and answer are presented, and both parties may present supporting information, materials and witnesses.

Both the Complainant and the Respondent may invite an advisor of their choice for the proceedings during the hearing. While the advisor(s) may be present at the hearing, they will be in a support role only, and will not be permitted to participate in the hearing.

Bias or Conflict of Interest
Members of the Board of Conduct must disqualify themselves from hearing cases arising from matters in which they were directly involved or concerning people about whom they may be biased. Any such situation shall be brought to the attention of the President/Chair by the Member. If a case involves the President/Chair or people about whom they may be biased, than either the Vice Chair or an unbiased faculty member of the Board of Conduct will be appointed by the Dean to preside over the proceedings in his/her place.

Note: Any Board of Conduct Member who fails to disclose bias or a conflict of interest may be subject to disciplinary action.

Deliberation, Findings, and Final Determination
In deliberations, the Grievance Committee or Honor Council shall examine the relevant facts and supporting information presented, and determine the credibility of witnesses' statements. They shall use the standard of "more likely than not" in determining whether the charged student has committed misconduct pursuant to the Code of Conduct, Honor Code, AMA Guidelines and/or Technical Standards. They shall also consider appropriate sanctions. Upon conclusion of deliberations, all findings and recommendations are forwarded to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs or the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs for a final determination.

Timeline for Resolution
Complaint investigations and hearings are generally completed within 60 business days of the submission of a written Complaint. However, circumstances, such as the complexity or severity of a complaint, may merit a longer process. In formal resolutions, the Associate Dean or his/her designee will provide a final decision, and will provide notice of the outcome to the parties within 15 business days of receipt of the disciplinary party’s findings and recommendations.

Confidentiality
Information prepared in anticipation of or presented at the hearing or deliberation is confidential. Disclosure of confidential information not authorized by RUSM by any individual associated with the hearing will be subject to disciplinary action. Materials prepared in anticipation of the hearing will be accessible to all Board of Conduct members, parties to the Complaint, and advisors, as appropriate, in order to prepare for proceedings. However,
these materials remain the property of RUSM at all times. Reproduction of these materials and/or unauthorized sharing of materials with individuals outside the disciplinary process is prohibited.

Veracity
Hearings are closed to everyone except Board of Conduct members and individuals involved in the hearing. Witnesses shall only be present in the hearing room when appearing before the Board of Conduct to testify. All parties in a case are responsible for presenting truthful information. Any person found knowingly presenting false or misleading information may be subject to disciplinary action.

Relevancy
The Board of Conduct will examine all relevant testimony and materials available at the hearing. Information presented should be limited to that which is relevant to the case. When a witness is available and willing to testify at the hearing, the testimony normally will be presented in person. However, when appropriate, the Chair may accommodate limitations in availability, or concerns for the safety and well-being of the parties or witnesses, by providing separate facilities, using a visual screen, or by permitting participation by written testimony, telephone, video recording, or other means.

Conduct of Parties during a Hearing
All parties in a hearing are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner. The following rules of conduct shall be followed:

- Any attempted or actual intimidation of hearing participants will be subject to disciplinary action.
- All questions during the hearing will come from Board of Conduct members.
- The Complainant and Respondent may suggest questions to the President/Chair, but neither will question witnesses or the other party directly.
- All procedural questions during the hearing are subject to the decision of the President/Chair at the time of the hearing.

Record
There shall be a single verbatim record of the hearing, not including deliberations. This may be a written record, or an audio or visual recording. The record shall be the property of RUSM.

Decisions
A written, dated notice of the decision of the Board of Conduct, including sanctions, if imposed, will be forwarded to the Respondent by the Dean or his/her designee. The notice may also include information about further support available through the Office of Student Affairs. Record of a sanction will be maintained in the student’s disciplinary file and, where appropriate, noted in the student’s permanent educational record.

The Complainant will also be provided written, dated notice of decision. However, the notice sent to the Complainant usually will not contain details about sanctions imposed on the Respondent, particularly where the sanctions do not directly relate to the Complainant. However, decisions involving sexual misconduct will disclose this information.

Appeals
Decisions of the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designee may be appealed to the Dean or the Dean’s designee (see Appeals in this section). When an appeal is filed, Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designee may elect to delay sanctions pending the outcome of the appeal. Sanctions are not typically delayed in sexual misconduct cases.
CONTACT INFORMATION

RUSM communicates important information with students through school-assigned e-mail addresses. Students should use their official RUSM e-mail account to send and receive school-related messages. Note: RUSM has the ability to lock or modify RUSM email accounts without notice.

RUSM requests that students provide alternate e-mail addresses for use in the unlikely event that school e-mail systems are inoperative. Students are responsible for ensuring their contact information is accurate. Please remember to update contact information at the beginning of Semester 1, during the transition to IMF, and during clinical years. Contact information can be updated through myRoss.
COURSE EVALUATIONS POLICY

RUSM is committed to improving the quality and content of its educational program and your feedback is essential for this process to be effective. At RUSM, students are our partners and future alumni and your feedback will help us to improve the student experience. RUSM culture means that this is part of your professional responsibility which you will carry forward into your medical career, voluntarily contributing data and information to improve health care and patient outcomes by completing surveys and evaluations. We ask students to evaluate each module at its conclusion so that any necessary curriculum change can be enacted as soon as possible. The Clinical Skills Course activities occurring in each semester are also evaluated at this time. Curriculum leadership at RUSM review student evaluations and use them to drive curriculum improvement. We also ask for your evaluation of faculty members involved in the delivery of teaching each semester. All evaluations are completed online through a program called E*Value. Evaluations include space for detailed narrative feedback of the content and teaching. In addition, students may be asked periodically to complete other surveys evaluating specific functions and services provided by RUSM. This input is important in assessing the perceptions and needs of our students.

At the end of each of the core clinical clerkships, students are required to evaluate the clerkship through Renaissance. Failure to evaluate a core clerkship results in failing the Renaissance portion of that clerkship. RUSM maintains the confidentiality of all of these evaluations. Faculty members receive aggregate responses for their courses and sometimes receive notification of completion and non-completion. Under no circumstances are students identified or associated with the content of their evaluations. Although confidentiality is maintained, individuals who complete or do not complete the evaluation can be identified by name for reporting purposes. RUSM communicates with students through its own email system. The CoursEval program also utilizes RUSM email to inform students about the evaluation process. Students leaving the Dominica campus are reminded that communication regarding evaluation requirements in IMF and the clerkships will continue through RUSM email.
DOMINICA CAMPUS STUDY SPACE POLICY

1. PURPOSE
   1.1. This document outlines the policy of RUSM, regarding study space on campus. It is designed to allow equal access to study space for all students.
   1.2. To encourage students to be responsible for their personal belongings.
   1.3. To encourage a professional and collegial atmosphere.

2. SCOPE
   2.1. This policy applies to all students of RUSM. The Study Space Policy applies to every area on campus and the rules apply equally. There are no exceptions to the study space policy.

3. PUBLICITY OF POLICY
   3.1. The policy will be advertised via email notification to all students. The policy will also be available on the Student Resources page of the student portal and within the Student Handbook.
   3.2. Incoming first semester students will be informed of the Study Space Policy at New Student Orientation and continuing students will be informed during their respective Continuing Student Orientations. At the beginning of each semester a reminder of the policy will be sent out to the community via e-mail.

4. DEFINITIONS
   4.1. Individual/Quiet Study Space - An individual study space is defined as any place on campus where a student might study, including, but not limited to classrooms, the library, common study areas, open areas and the upper and lower seaside decks.
   4.2. Group study space is defined as one of the locations below where a student can study in a group with the expectation that the location will not be quiet and discussion can take place. This is designed to allow students a place to study in small groups in a collaborative environment.
   4.3. Common Spaces are spaces that are designed for multiple purposes and the use of all RUSM campus community members (students, staff, faculty members, and families). These spaces may be used for studying but are open for other uses as well.
   4.4. Non-study spaces are spaces that are designated for non-study activities.
   4.5. Breaks are time students take during study time when they may leave their belongings unattended.

5. POLICY
   5.1. All Study Spaces
      5.1.1. Inclusive of spaces defined as individual/quiet or group study spaces.
      5.1.2. Study Space is reserved for the use of Students, Faculty, and Staff.
      5.1.3. Hours of operation:
- Jenner Hall and Classrooms: 7am - 2am
- Classroom 1: 8am - 6am
- Library Study Space and Staff Services: 8am - 12am
- Ann Ross Library Study Space (old library): 7am – 5am
- Large Learning Lab: 8am – 2am
- Multi-Purpose Rooms (MPR’s) and Study Rooms: 7am – 2am
- Student Center: 7am – 2am
- CTL Tutoring rooms:
  - Monday – Friday: 7am – 5pm (when CTL classes are not in session)
  - Monday – Sunday: 11pm – 2am

5.1.3.1. Throughout the semester Student Affairs will notify students of changes to study space hours of operation, including the extension of hours for 24 hours studying. Notification will be sent via email, posted on the Student Development student portal page, and could be posted on notice boards/ exterior doors.

5.1.4. Students must be physically present with their belongings at all times or they may be removed. No student may leave their belongings for longer than one hour for any reason anywhere on campus. The exception is the Computer Lab, where belongings cannot be left for more than 15 minutes.

5.1.5. When a space is closed please vacate the room during that time and take all your belongings with you. No one may leave anything anytime, anywhere in a space overnight.

5.1.6. When students are finished studying, or leaving for longer than 1 hour (15 minutes in the Computer Lab), students must collect all belongings and take them along. When they come back if someone else is in that space, then the student may find another vacant space in which to study. If either party becomes argumentative, they may be reported to Student Affairs, the Honor Council, and/or Grievance Committee.

5.1.7. Students are responsible for any unattended items. RUSM reserves the right to remove any unattended items. RUSM, its colleagues or agents will be not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items that are collected.

5.1.8. Cell phones must be turned off or to silent, not vibrate.

5.1.9. Students must leave all furniture and computer equipment in their original locations. The only furniture permitted to be moved are chairs and these must be returned to their original location when a student leaves.

5.1.10. Large Learning Lab, Classrooms, St. James, and the Annex are sometimes utilized for meetings, events as well as study space.

5.1.10.1. These events must be scheduled 48 hours in advance on the room reservation system and approved by Campus Life in Student Affairs.

5.1.10.2. Please reference the room reservation system and/or the schedule/sign on the exterior doors of the space (except MPR’s).

5.1.10.3. Individual students and informal groups cannot schedule a multi-use space for the purpose of studying (except for MPR’s).

5.1.10.4. Scheduled events take precedent for use of the space.
5.1.11. Any conflicts between students or groups over group study space are to be first resolved at the student level. Any concerns can be reported to Security or Student Affairs to investigate and may be sent to Honor Council or Grievance Committee for resolution.

5.1.12. There are no exceptions to the study space policy, every area on RUSM campus owned or rented property is covered by the study space policy and the rules apply equally.

5.2. Individual/Quiet Study Space

5.2.1. Study space is available on a first come basis. When students come to study they may stay and study as long as they like and are physically present in the space. Spaces cannot be held or reserved.

5.2.2. Students are limited to 2 adjoining spaces/chairs, one computer, or one carrel.

5.2.3. Conversations must be taken outside of the study space, even if they are at a whisper level.

5.2.4. Locations:
   - Classrooms One
   - Classrooms 4, 5, and 6
   - Jenner Hall
   - St. James Center Academic Center
   - Annex
   - Library in the Student Center
   - Ann Ross Library Study Space
   - Computer Lab

5.2.4.1. Classrooms- Each semester Classrooms will be assigned to semester groups as their assigned classroom. Unassigned Classrooms will be defined as Multi-Purpose spaces.

5.2.4.2. Students may utilize their semester classroom as a preferential study space. Other classes may use the space based on availability.

5.2.4.3. During lectures or academic activities classrooms are reserved for students limited to the assigned class.

5.2.5. The LIBRARY AND LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER and LIBRARY FOOD POLICY, located on the Student Resources student portal page and in the Student Handbook, provide further guidelines for this space.

5.2.6. All study space hours and locations are subject to change. Modifications will be emailed to students, and posted on the Student Development student portal page, and on notice boards/exterior doors.

5.3. Group Study

5.3.1. Locations:
   - Student Center (except for the Library, food court, and outdoor spaces)
   - MPR's
   - Study Rooms
   - Large Learning Lab
• CTL Tutoring Rooms

5.3.2. Study space is available on a first come basis. When students come to study they may stay and study as long as they like and are physically present in the space. Spaces cannot be held or reserved with the exception of MPR’s and Study Rooms.

5.3.2.1. MPR’s and Study Rooms can be reserved using the room reservation system. Reservations must be scheduled 48 hours in advance on the room reservation system and approved by Campus Life in Student Affairs. Further information on reserving rooms can be found on the Campus Life student portal page.

5.3.3. Conversations and discussion should be kept at a tone that is conducive to studying. Students understand that at times this might be loud.

5.3.4. The STUDENT CENTER FOOD AND DRINK POLICY, located on the Student Resources student portal page and Student Handbook, provides further guidelines for this space.

5.3.5. Policies for the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Tutoring Rooms can be found on the Student Resources and CTL student portal pages.

5.4. Non-Study spaces

5.4.1. Campus Activities Center (CAC):

5.4.1.1. The CAC is NOT a designated study space except for the outdoor areas.

5.4.1.2. The 2nd floor is available to reserve for clubs and organizations and for other meetings.

5.4.1.3. Students are not permitted to study in the indoor areas of the CAC.

5.5. Common Areas

5.5.1. Food Court and Outdoor Spaces throughout campus:

5.5.1.1. These spaces are considered multi-purpose use by all RUSM community members and cannot be reserved (except for the below identified spaces).

5.5.2. Seaside Decks and Sports fields/courts:

5.5.2.1. For multi-purpose use by all RUSM community members

5.5.2.2. The decks and courts can be reserved on the Meeting Room Manager (MRM) system.

6. ENFORCEMENT

6.1. Security, housekeeping and Student Affairs are primarily responsible for enforcing the study space policy. Additionally faculty, staff, and members of the SGA may enforce the policy.

6.1.1. This includes collecting items left unattended for more than 60 minutes for all study spaces except the Computer Lab, which has a 15 minute maximum.

6.1.2. Periodic “sweeps” will take place and those enforcing the policy may come into a study space at any time, wait for 60 minutes, or 15 minutes in a Computer Lab, and then collect any unattended property.

6.1.3. Students are responsible for their belongings. RUSM colleagues are not responsible for the condition of student belongings moved in accordance with this policy.

6.1.4. Belongings left in a study space after it is closed may also be collected.

6.1.5. Any items collected will be held in a room on campus which will be determined at the start of each semester and publicized via email.
6.1.6. Items collected may be held for a maximum of 24 hours. To retrieve property picked up during a sweep students will need to contact the Security department to schedule a time. Scheduling to pick up property from Security may vary depending on operational needs.

6.1.7. Unclaimed items will be donated or sold at a publicly held auction.

6.1.8. RUSM, its colleagues or agents will be not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items that are collected.

7. RAMIFICATIONS

7.1. Students who are non-compliant and/or argumentative and/or who violate the study space policy repeatedly may be taken to the Honor Council or Grievance Committee.
DOMINICA PRINTING POLICY

1. PURPOSE
1.1 This document outlines the print policy of RUSM including weekly student print quotas and additional print purchases on the Dominica campus.

2. SCOPE
2.1 This policy is applicable to all students of RUSM at the Dominica campus. There are no exceptions to the print policy; every student is equally covered as outlined by the policy.

3. DEFINITIONS
3.1 A print is defined as one side of a sheet of paper. A page is defined as two sides of a sheet of paper. A printing week is defined as the seven day period beginning immediately after midnight each Sunday morning and ending on Saturday night at midnight.

4. POLICY
4.1 Student print quotas starting with the effective date of this policy will be 200 black & white prints (100 pages – black & white) per week, according to the stipulations below. Students are allowed a maximum of five color pages per week.

4.1.2 Effective September semester 2010, all students on the Dominica campus will receive the same quota which is 200 prints (black & white) per week as described in 4.1.

4.2 At the end of each printing week students who have not used their allotted quota will forfeit the remainder of their quota; there is no rollover of print quotas.

4.3 In addition to the weekly print quota, any student wishing to purchase additional print credits can do so. Additional print credits are sold in increments of 50 black & white prints for $10.00EC which is subject to change based on costs. A maximum of five color pages may be printed per week using the credits purchased. The additional print credits are available for purchase from the campus copy center.

4.4 Additional print credits purchased are separate from the print quota. Additional print credits purchased will rollover every week until they are used up.

4.5 No refunds will be given for unused print credits even if the student departs RUSM or does not utilize the purchased print credits.

4.6 Any printing problems encountered by students concerning the printing process including printer malfunctions, loss of prints or errors in printing can be reported to the Campus Copy Center by means of a fault report via email (DMITSPrintFaultReporting@rossmed.edu.dm) or telephone number (255-6588, ext 4026588). The fault reporting procedure is located at each print station.

4.7 No printing is permitted while classes or other scheduled activities are taking place in the classroom area.

5. RAMIFICATIONS
5.1 Students who print during class time or when other scheduled activities are taking place may be reported to the class representative.
5.2 Any other violations of the policy considered as unprofessional behavior will be evaluated on an individual basis and may result in other sanctions.

5.3 Students are expected to treat printing equipment and staff who maintain the printing stations, with respect. Any unprofessional behavior could result referral to the Honor Council or Grievance Committee.

6. ENFORCEMENT
6.1 SGA officers, class representatives and students are encouraged to hold their peers accountable for the policy. Additionally all faculty, staff or security representatives of RUSM are permitted to enforce the policy.

7. PUBLICATION OF POLICY
7.1 At the beginning of each semester, a reminder of the policy will be sent out to the community via e-mail by Student Affairs.

7.2 Student Affairs will distribute the print policy to incoming first semester students at orientation.
DOMINICA SMOKING POLICY

1. PURPOSE
   1.1 This document outlines the policy of RUSM, regarding smoking on the Dominica campus. It is designed to maintain a safe, healthy and clean environment for all members of the campus community.

2. SCOPE
   2.1 The policy is applicable to all students, faculty, staff and visitors and includes all classrooms, RUSM owned and rented property or vehicles, private offices, shared spaces, the library, all study spaces, living spaces owned or rented by RUSM, laboratories, gymnasium, stairwells and all open spaces surrounding the above. In addition, there will be no smoking within 100 feet in any direction of the front gates of RUSM.

3. POLICY
   The RUSM campus will be a non-smoking campus with exception of designated areas on campus where smoking will be allowed. These areas will be designated with signage and feature cigarette disposal receptacles. Smoking must remain within 6 feet of the marked areas listed below:

   The western end of the grassy area across from the library and parking lot toward Classroom One within 6 feet of the posted sign.

   At the annex – by the tree line at the back of the property by the posted sign.

   For Jenner Hall – across the main access road.

   For RUH – across the main access road, or public areas near RUH not owned or rented by RUSM.

   For the Campus Activities Center area – outside the entrance gate.

4. DEFINITIONS
   Campus is defined as all grounds owned or rented by RUSM.

5. RAMIFICATIONS
   5.1 Individuals in violation of the policy will be directed to the appropriate smoking areas.

6. ENFORCEMENT
   6.1 Faculty, staff, and security personnel will be responsible for the implementation of this policy.

7. PUBLICITY OF POLICY
   7.1 New students entering RUSM will be given the restricted smoking policy during orientation. At the beginning of each semester a reminder of the policy will be sent out to the community via e-mail.

8. REVIEW
   8.1 Review of this restricted policy will take place within one year of the effective date in consideration of a total smoking ban on campus.
DOMINICA STUDENT CENTER FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

1. PURPOSE

1.1. This document outlines the policy of RUSM, regarding consumption and holding of food and drink in the study spaces of the Student Center. It is designed to prevent or reduce the destruction of the building by rodents and other pests; and to maintain a safe, healthy and clean environment for patrons of the building including its students, faculty, and staff.

1.2. To maintain the cleanliness of the facility and to encourage persons to use alternative areas designated for the consumption of food or drink (from cups/ bottles that can spill), such as the food court and outside venues.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This policy applies to all members of the RUSM community, RUSM colleagues, contractors and their employees and visitors.

2.2. This policy applies to the first floor Multi-Purpose rooms, reception lobby, second and third floors of the Student Center. It does not apply to the food court, outdoor spaces, or faculty/staff offices.

3. DEFINITION

The Student Center is that area of the campus which houses Student Affairs, CTL, the Library, food court, multi-purpose rooms, other offices and study rooms.

Food is any solid or liquid matter which is taken by mouth to satisfy someone’s hunger. Examples of food include, but not limited to ice cream, cookies, cake, sandwich, burger, bread, biscuits, fries, chicken, rice, soup, fruits, shakes and yogurt.

Drinks are defined as any liquid matter which is taken by mouth to satisfy one’s thirst. Examples include (but are not limited to) water, coffee, energy drinks, tea, juice and sodas, and exclude alcoholic beverages.

Spill-proof cups/bottles are defined as cups, mugs, or bottles (vessels) for which the liquid within will not escape when turned upside down or lying on its side.

Faculty/Staff Offices are defined as workstations assigned and regularly occupied by colleagues employed by RUSM.

4. POLICY

4.1. It is the policy of the Student Center that at no time will food be allowed to be visible or be consumed on the second and third floors as well as the Multi-Purpose rooms and reception area of the first floor. The
exception to this being drinks as defined in point 4.2.

4.2. Drinks within a closed spill-proof container are allowed to be out and consumed.

4.3. Individuals possessing food and drink containers are responsible for proper disposal of these containers.

4.4. Food that is not within view (i.e. in an individual’s bag) must be in a closed container that will not spill.

4.5. The individual who possession the drink or food will be responsible at all times for cleaning up any spilled drinks or food.

5. ENFORCEMENT

5.1. Members and designated representatives of campus Security, Student Affairs, RUSM Administration, Student Government Association, or other appointed persons will enforce the policy. Enforcement could include inspection of any articles brought into the Student Center, periodic walk-throughs of study areas or other means of determining if food is present in study spaces.

5.2. Students, staff, or faculty will be asked to produce their RUSM identification card at the time of the violation.

6. RAMIFICATIONS (as defined for Students)

6.1. Students found to have food out, consuming food or drinks that are not within a spill-proof cup/bottle in a Student Center study space will be in violation of the policy and ramifications may include requiring the student to remove food or drink to a location not prohibited by this policy. Students who refuse to abide by this or with repeat violations will lose use of the Student Center study spaces for the day and may be referred to the Honor Council or Grievance Committee.

6.2. The first time that a student is found in violation of the policy, the student will remove the food or drink from the study space. The food or drink must be taken to the food court, outdoor spaces surrounding the Student Center, or other locations where food can be consumed.

6.3. The second time that a student is found in violation of the policy the student must remove the food or drink from the study space (see above) and leave the Student Center study spaces. The student can return to using the study spaces on the following day.

6.4. Any further violations of the policy will be referred to the coordinator of Conduct and Professionalism. The student must also remove the food and leave the Student Center study spaces (see above). The student can return to using the study spaces on the following day.

6.5. Failure to produce a student ID upon request or displaying non-professional behavior when confronted with the violation may result in further disciplinary action. Additionally the individual may be escorted off the campus, and have his or her photo taken for identification purposes.

7. PUBLICATION OF POLICY
7.1. Initially the policy will be reviewed at Orientation. Additionally signs summarizing and referring to the policy will be posted on study space doors, publicized on media site and sent out via email by SGA representatives. The policy will also be available on the student portal under Student Conduct and Integrity as well as Student Development.

7.2. Incoming first semester students will be given the policy at orientation. At the beginning of each semester a reminder of the policy will be sent out to the community via e-mail.

DOMINICA STUDENT GUEST PASS POLICY

Policy:

In accordance with the RUSM ID Policy (version 1.01) subsection 5-viii, any active students wishing to have guests on campus are required to complete a Student Guest Pass Application form on behalf of their guest.

Who is Eligible?

The following expatriate persons are eligible for a guest pass as long as they are visiting for 30 days or less, but no more than 90 days:

1. Spouse/Companion
2. Other Relatives
3. Friends/Acquaintances

Who is Eligible to Sponsor a Guest?

Only an actively enrolled Foundations of Medicine student

Approval Timeframe:

A guest pass application process can take up to 48 hours not including weekends and holidays. The submitted application packet will be reviewed by the Security and Safety Department for approval within twenty-four (24) hours of application submission. During the processing timeframe, guests will not be granted access to the campus.

Proof of Identity:

The only acceptable proof of identity is a valid passport.
This policy supersedes any other previous policies on granting student guest passes/IDs. Additionally, this policy is not applicable to local national guests of any student. Local National guests must follow the already established policy and procedure as stated in the RUSM ID Policy.

Procedure:

Any RUSM student seeking to have a guest on campus is subject to the following procedure:

A. Complete the Student Guest Pass Application Form and submit along with the demographic and signature page of the guest’s valid passport. Completed forms should be submitted to the Office of Student Services.

B. Completed forms will be forwarded to the Department of Safety and Security for review and approval by the Office of Student Services.

C. Department of Safety and Security will advise the student of the final decision and appropriate instructions via his/her RUSM email account.

D. Upon approval, student and guest must appear in-person to the Security Office with the following items:
   1. Valid passport (hardcopy) of Guest
   2. RUSM ID of student with a current semester sticker

E. Upon full verification, a guest pass will be issued for only the dates stipulated on the application form.
   a. Guests will be informed that the pass must be presented to the Security Officers upon entering the campus and should be visible at all times while on campus.
   b. Student will informed to return the expired guest pass to the Security Office upon departure of their guest.

Revocation:

RUSM may revoke any Student Guest Pass and/or remove a Student Guest from campus at any time for any reason, at its sole discretion.

Special Note: Students may initiate the guest pass process prior to the arrival of their guest to the island or to campus by submitting the required documents (guest’s passport page and the application form) via “ask Ross” on the campus student portal or DMStudentServices@rossu.edu.
FACILITIES

RUSM is committed to providing safe and clean facilities to support the academics and general welfare of the RUSM community. The campus contains a variety of spaces indoors and out inclusive of lecture halls, large group & small group study/meeting spaces, individual study space within large venues, labs, etc. In order to help in maintaining the safety, cleanliness and accessibility of these spaces there is an expectation that all RUSM community members will uphold the following expectations:

- Abide by any published policy regulating use of a specific location.
- Users of a space will be courteous to one another while upholding the rules of the space outlined within published policies.
- Users will clean up after themselves:
  - Throw trash away in the proper vessels
  - All furniture within a space will remain in that space.
  - Furniture within a defined space must be returned to its original configuration.
    - In the CAC furniture can be temporarily moved but must be returned to its original location when the event it was moved to accommodate is complete.
- Rooms must remain in safe working order
  - Windows without installed blinds are not to be covered or obscured.
  - Doors cannot be blocked.
  - Coffee makers, hot plates, steamers and other food preparation appliances are not allowed.
- Some rooms can be reserved through the campus room reservation system.
FINANCIAL AID, STUDENT LOAN DEFERMENT, TUITION PAYMENTS AND REFUNDS

Financial Aid
Students attending RUSM may be eligible to apply for student loans to meet their direct and indirect educational expenses. Students attending IMF and other clinical clerkships must review the “Financial Aid during Clinical Sciences” document for additional information about financial aid eligibility and disbursements. [http://www.rossu.edu/medical-school/admissions/financialinfo.cfm](http://www.rossu.edu/medical-school/admissions/financialinfo.cfm)

At RUSM, we know that tuition and loans are an important aspect of our students’ education. We are committed to providing clear information to facilitate our students’ financial responsibility. In this section of the Student Handbook, we’ll describe possibilities for student loan deferment while you study. We’ll also provide information about eligibility, how to pay your tuition and receive tuition refunds during withdrawals and AAs.

Student Loan Deferment
If you have previously received student loans at other institutions, you may wish to defer repayment while matriculated at RUSM. RUSM provides enrollment data to the National Student Clearinghouse which will be accessible to your loan lenders. There are certain cases (i.e., private loans) where you may need to complete a form from your lender and obtain a verification of enrollment from RUSM. The enrollment verification letter is available at the myRoss website, and should be mailed to your lender with the deferment form.

Please be advised that loans cannot be deferred during curriculum gap periods of more than 31 calendar days. This includes gaps due to studying for, sitting for, and waiting for passing results for the USMLE.

Tuition During Remedial Semesters
Full-time tuition is charged for students who are registered full-time (nine or more credits). Students must pay full-time tuition even if they are repeating courses.

Any student wishing to retake a failed course is required to repeat all courses/blocks in the semester. Students who are allowed to repeat coursework must also enroll in the Essential Lifelong Learning Skills (ELLS) remedial course. Upon successfully completing all courses with passing grades, students may progress to the next semester.

Tuition Refund Policy for Withdrawals and Approved Absences
Tuition policies are administered in accordance with federal guidelines.

A withdrawal occurs when a student’s enrollment is permanently discontinued or, in some cases, even temporarily interrupted (see below for further information on AA). An official withdrawal occurs when the student notifies the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and the Office of the Registrar in writing; an unofficial withdrawal occurs when the student does not give written notification. For financial aid and tuition purposes an AA is treated as a temporary withdrawal.

The effective date of withdrawal is normally the student’s last academically related event. When a student withdraws, RUSM assesses tuition based on the period he or she attended, and in correspondence with federal loan entitlement regulations. These are as follows:

- If a new student withdraws prior to the start of the first semester, no tuition charges are due; however, acceptance deposits are forfeited. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Students resident in the state of Missouri at the time they sign the admissions agreement with RUSM will receive a refund of all monies paid if the student cancel the admissions agreement within (3) days, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, of signing.
• If a continuing student withdraws prior to the start of a subsequent semester, no tuition charges are due.

• If a student withdraws during the first 60% of a semester, tuition charges are directly pro-rated based on the portion of the semester that has elapsed. As semesters are normally 15 weeks in length, tuition is usually prorated for withdrawals during weeks one through nine (9).

• Per federal regulations for withdrawal during the first 60% of a semester, student loan entitlement is recalculated. RUSM and the student are each proportionally responsible for returning “unearned” financial aid to the relevant lender(s).

• If a student withdraws after the first 60% (after completing the ninth week) of a semester, the full tuition charges remain due.

**Tuition Policy During Approved Absences**

An AA may be authorized in limited circumstances (see Absences, Withdrawals and Deferrals). For financial aid purposes and tuition adjustments, an AA is considered the same as a temporary withdrawal. Requesting and receiving an AA will have an impact on your obligation to repay tuition and student loans. For purposes of student loan deferment, an AA is the same as a withdrawal, and loans will go into repayment status as of the last academically related event.

A student who begins an AA during a semester and sets a return date at the beginning of the next semester will be reported as “not enrolled” to all lenders. However, the student is not required to reapply for admission to RUSM following such an AA.

The time during which students study for the USMLE following IMF is known as the "vacation period". Student loans will be in deferment status for any student during his/her vacation period. If a student does not return to school at the end of the vacation period, that student will be administratively withdrawn and reported to the National Student Loan Clearinghouse as withdrawn as of the student’s last academically related event, which would typically be the last day of the AICM/IMF course. Student loan status during any AA after the vacation period will be treated as described above in sections regarding AAs. Any student desiring a temporary suspension of student loan payments beyond the vacation period, must contact their loan servicer to seek forbearance.
HEALTH DOCUMENTATION

Students are required to maintain health insurance coverage while enrolled at RUSM. The University offers a student health insurance plan with Aetna Student Health. Students may waive coverage if they hold their own health insurance policy that meets the waiver standards. More information can be obtained at www.aetnastudenthealth.com.

Students must maintain their health documentation status to ensure that no documentation expires before or during a clinical clerkship. Students whose health documentation are incomplete or expire during their clerkship will be subject to disciplinary action which can include removal from one or more clerkships.
HONOR CODE VIOLATIONS AND SANCTIONS

Violations of the Honor Code include lying, cheating, stealing, conduct unbecoming a medical professional and toleration of the aforementioned acts in all their various forms. These terms are explained as follows:

A. **Lying:** Any deliberate verbal, written or other misrepresentation of the truth.

   This violation includes, but is not limited to: forgery and the falsification or misuse of the student identification card by using another's card or by allowing another to use one's own card; falsification of documents concerning sickness or physicians visits, financial aid documents and transcripts; verbal attempts to mislead others; and omissions and embellishments of the plain truth.

B. **Cheating:** Any intentional misrepresentation of another's work as one's own or a misrepresentation of the circumstances under which the work was done.

   This violation includes, but is not limited to, copying, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration and unauthorized divulging of test contents or other information.

C. **Stealing:** Any intent to deprive an owner of property without authorization or consent.

   This violation includes, but is not limited to, the taking of any item belonging to another person or RUSM, the theft or mutilation of library material, the unauthorized use or duplication of a key belonging to RUSM, and failure to pay money when owed to an individual or business.

D. **Conduct unbecoming of a medical professional:** Any behavior deemed inappropriate of a medical professional that would otherwise reflect poorly upon RUSM and its representatives.

   This violation includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, illegal use/possession/distribution/sale of drugs, public intoxication to a gross extent and public indecency. Lesser offenses may also be deemed conduct unbecoming a medical professional.

E. **Toleration:** Failure of a student to report items A: lying, B: cheating, C: stealing and D: conduct unbecoming of a medical professional. Toleration constitutes a violation of the Honor Code and that student is thereby subject to disciplinary action.

Sanctions

1. Following a finding or an admission of responsibility, the Honor Council shall recommend to the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs one or more of the following sanctions:
   a. **Academic violations:** In a case involving academic violations, the academic sanction shall include a failing grade and may include one or more of the following:
      i. **Probation:** Probation places the student on notice that any future violation of the Honor Code will result in either suspension for a specified period of time or permanent dismissal from RUSM.
      ii. **Suspension:** A suspension is the loss of registration privileges for the specified semester(s). The period of suspension must be at least one semester, and may be longer at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs or his/her designee. In cases where the offense takes place in one semester, and the penalty is imposed in a subsequent semester, a failing grade may be assigned in one or more courses for the semester in which the offense took place. The
assigning of a failing grade is in addition to a suspension effective in the specified semester.

iii. **Non-academic probation**: This form of probation is a comprehensive loss of social privileges for the allotted period of probation. The following events/activities are prohibited for the probation period:
   1. SGA or Student Organization entertainment and/or social events
   2. RUSM sponsored social events, not those relating to religion

The non-academic probation sanction does not prohibit participation in any events required by professors or that are considered academic service. The full privileges of being a RUSM student will be restored upon completion of the allocated period of social probation.

iv. **Permanent dismissal**: A student receiving the penalty of permanent dismissal is not eligible to return to RUSM.

v. **Violations of Conduct Unbecoming of a Medical Professional**: In the case of a violation of conduct unbecoming of a medical professional, the sanctions outlined in the Student Handbook may be recommended based on the severity of the offense.

b. **Non-academic violations**: In a case involving non-academic violations sanctions may include one or more sanctions from the list above: RUSM may also choose to impose other sanctions, not listed here, depending on the nature and severity of the misconduct.
HOUSING IN DOMINICA

RUSM is committed to making your stay in Dominica as comfortable as possible by providing information about a wide range of housing opportunities for students and their families. Students should review the material provided in the Welcome Packet and in the housing database to arrange housing prior to arriving at RUSM. Students may access the housing website through myRoss. While RUSM provides information regarding off-campus housing options as a service to our students, RUSM does not own or operate, and is not responsible for, off-campus housing or information provided regarding such housing.

RUSM has a limited number of on-campus housing options, which are primarily reserved for first-semester students. Due to the minimal number of available rooms, these residences are assigned on a “first come, first served” basis. However, students also have access to many housing options within convenient walking distance of the campus. A few apartments are available for students with special needs.

Students are expected to abide by the RUSM Code of Conduct in both on- and off-campus living arrangements. Part of the RUSM honor code includes the avoidance of “any behavior deemed inappropriate of a medical professional that would otherwise reflect poorly upon RUSM and its representatives.” If you would like assistance in finding appropriate accommodations, please call or email the RUSM Housing Coordinators at:

RUSM Housing  
(767) 255-6400 or (767) 255-6433  
Email: Housing@rossmed.edu.dm
IMMIGRATION

All visitors to the US that are enrolled at RUSM must ensure that they are both familiar and comply with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regulations.

It is the responsibility of our students to ensure that their immigration status remains valid at all times while being present in the US both during their enrollment at RUSM, and during residency planning activities.

Students that enroll and attend clinical science semesters and are scheduled at clerkships throughout the US must ensure that USCIS has accurate information on their plans and physical location in the US.

Students must ensure that they provide updated and accurate address information, ensure that they update USCIS with proper hospital documentation should a clerkship arrangement change, and ensure compliance to all local, state, and federal laws.

It is the responsibility of the student to request updated documentation for enrollment verification and hospital confirmation of a clerkship schedule to provide to USCIS to obtain a new visa or extend an authorized stay date.

Visa Requirements Prior to Check-In of Incoming Foundations of Medicine Students
During your studies you will be considered a guest in Dominica. As such, you will be required to comply with all local and international immigration laws. The Office of the Registrar and Immigration Advisor are available to guide you.

Non-resident visitors from many countries may be granted a Visa that is good for up to six months upon entry. Citizens of certain countries require an entry visa, which must be obtained prior to arriving in Dominica. Students who do not obtain a visa during their first semester will not be allowed to register for second semester and may be administratively withdrawn.

Please see the campus Student Services Department for more information, and submit all visa-related requests to the RUSM Immigration Advisors.

Visa Requirements for International Students in Clinical Clerkships
RUSM will provide letters of verifications from the Office of the Registrar and the affiliated hospital sites to qualifying international students requiring a B-1 visa to enter the United States once the student has submitted their USMLE Step 1 sitting date and scheduled their IMF session. It is recommended that international students contact the Director of Student Services in Miramar with any questions relating to Visa requirements during the clinical science semesters.
LIBRARY AND LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER IN DOMINICA

As the intellectual center of the RUSM, the Student Center Library and Learning Resource Center (LRC) enhances self-directed learning and supports evidence-based medicine. It will be one of the mainstays of your studies—providing services, resources, equipment, and facilities to help you succeed.

While you are expected to purchase the required textbooks for each course, the library provides access to many electronic and online resources. To supplement your required readings, the library houses a full range of biomedical books, journals, study aids, audiovisual programs, and computer-assisted materials.

Hours
The Library Director and staff are available to help students access and efficiently use the library’s many resources during the following hours:

- Normal library hours: 16 hours per day, seven (7) days a week (closed at Midnight)

Any changes in library hours are posted on the front door in a timely manner.

Protocol
Normal library protocol applies in the Student Center Library. For instance, you will need to show your student identification card with barcode for all library transactions such as borrowing books and using multimedia resources. Causing excessive noise and distraction is not allowed. Cell phones should be silenced, and all calls taken outside of the library. Eating and smoking are not permitted. As the library is intended for RUSM medical students, faculty, and staff only, no children, family members, or other guests are permitted.

Students are expected to return library materials on time. Overdue fines are assessed to ensure the prompt return of high-use items. Failure to pay fines or return books will affect your ability to borrow other materials. It may also affect the release of final grades or the ability to register for classes.

Personal Items
When you leave the library, you are expected to take notes, books, and personal items with you. Since lost or stolen personal items are the responsibility of the student, you should take care not to leave valuables unattended. Student Life personnel and/or Library Security Officers will remove all items unattended for longer than 15 minutes at computers, and 1 hour in study tables, carrels, and group study rooms as needed throughout the day and during cleaning. These items will be available for pickup 24 hours following their receipt by security. Unclaimed items will be donated or sold at a publicly-held auction. RUSM, its colleagues, or agents are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items that are collected.

Prohibited Behavior
Stealing or damaging library materials, equipment, or furniture is a serious offense. Students will receive disciplinary action if they are caught vandalizing, mutilating, or stealing library materials, equipment, or furniture. Security cameras are in operation in all rooms of the library. Library staff will identify and warn students who consistently ignore the library rules. Any student who physically threatens a staff member will also receive disciplinary action.

Feedback
You are encouraged to make suggestions and provide input regarding library services, resources, and facilities to the Library Director or via the SGA or in the suggestion box outside of the library.

LIFE IN DOMINICA

RUSM is located on the beautiful Caribbean island of Dominica. Known as the “Nature Island,” Dominica appeals to hikers, bikers, beachcombers, scuba divers, and those who simply appreciate spectacular, exotic views. Twenty-nine miles long and sixteen miles wide, it lies at the top of the Windward Islands in the West Indies. The landscape of Dominica is one of lush foliage draping cloud-shrouded, dormant volcanic peaks. Beautiful beaches alternate with dramatic cliffs along the coastline, surrounded by crystalline blue water and stunning vistas.

The island is laced with rivers fed by up to 40 inches of annual rainfall on the coast, and up to 300 inches in the tropical rainforests of the interior. Dominica’s forests abound with rare birds, flowers and animals, including the world’s largest parrot, a beaver without a tail and a giant frog. Lovely waterfalls, underwater cliffs, caves and volcanic springs contribute to Dominica’s reputation as a preferred destination for eco-tourists seeking natural, unspoiled beauty.

The People of Dominica

Although Dominica is located in the Caribbean, it is not considered a resort island. Its culture showcases a meld of Kalinago people, French, British, American and African influences. Most of the island’s inhabitants speak English, though native Dominicans may also speak a French patois. The culture is friendly. Religion plays a central role in life on the island.

The local economy relies primarily on fishing or farming. Dominicans live mostly in villages near the coastal areas, as the interior is too mountainous for crop cultivation. Roseau is the capital and largest town; Marigot hosts the airport; and Portsmouth is home to RUSM. Roads connect these towns and provide access to outside attractions.

RUSM and Dominica

As one of the premier Caribbean medical schools, RUSM is chartered by the government of Dominica. To build a mutually-beneficial relationship with the host country, the officials of RUSM are dedicated to working with the government of Dominica to improve the health and welfare of the local people, while simultaneously providing medical education of the highest quality. Students often participate in health fairs, disease prevention education, and work with local health care professionals as part of their supplemental education.

Climate

Year-round temperatures in Dominica normally range from 75 to 85°F during the day, with comfortably cooler evenings and nights. There are two seasons: the dry season runs from December through June; and the wet season runs during the remainder of the year. Hurricanes are a risk in the early fall, as they are to most parts of the Caribbean and southeastern U.S. Fortunately, the RUSM campus and community are well equipped to deal with tropical storms and hurricanes.

Dress

The climate and local customs in Dominica dictate the style of dress. Because of the warm climate, most people find light cotton clothing to be the most comfortable. Since rain showers occur quite often—especially during summer and fall—umbrellas and light rain clothing are essential. On campus, casual clothes (shorts, sandals, sundresses) are worn most of the time. Professional wear, such as skirts or dresses for women, and slacks and shirts (no jeans or T-shirts) for men, are required for some social events and some clinical skills activities (see Clinical Sciences syllabus for professional dress code policy).
Food
The cuisine of Dominica features a unique mix of African, Caribbean and European influences with a bright local twist. Expect dishes with rice, beans, plantains, and other fruits and vegetables, often with meat and often spicy. Local food is generally safe for consumption, and tap water is consumed by local residents, but we recommend students drink only boiled or bottled water. Filtered water is available on campus. Food boiled in tap water is generally safe.

Local Travel
Travel within Dominica is best done by car. Taxi services are readily available and reasonably priced, and official taxi fares are posted at the airports. Keep in mind that figures are listed in Eastern Caribbean dollars.

If you choose to buy a car or motorcycle, take note that driving is done on the left side of the road. Pedestrian traffic on sidewalks and stairways also stays to the left. A Dominican license is required. You should be forewarned that Dominican roads are dangerous, especially for motorcyclists. Motorcyclists are required to wear helmets on campus, and we strongly advise that they be worn at all times.

Communication
Telecommunications on Dominica are more than adequate: it has well-developed cable television, telephone, and wireless systems.

Banking
Dominica uses Eastern Caribbean (XCD) currency, commonly referred to as EC dollars. The exchange rate officially hovers around 2.70 XCD dollars to one U.S. dollar. Most business establishments readily accept the U.S. dollar, but their exchange rate may be somewhat lower than the official rate. Local merchants and landlords will not accept personal checks drawn on U.S. and Canadian banks.

Banking facilities exist in both Portsmouth and Roseau, and students are advised to open a local account. During the work week, banks close at 2:00 p.m. On Fridays, they are open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Unlike banks in the U.S., Dominican banks are closed on weekends. The bank on campus, National Bank of Dominica Ltd. (NBD), is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. There are two ATMs on campus. Banks will negotiate U.S. checks, but it can take up to 30 days for personal checks to clear. However, NBD immediately clears all checks drawn against RUSM’s accounts (including U.S. loan checks).

Religion
A number of denominations are represented in Dominica. Students have organized Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim religious services.

Local Laws
Students who travel to Dominica from abroad to study at RUSM should remember that they are guests in a foreign country, which has its own unique customs, laws and cultural norms. Students and their guests, including family and friends, are expected to become familiar with and adhere to all local laws. Students are reminded that failure to adhere to local laws may result in serious repercussions beyond disciplinary action by RUSM but also include loss of visitor/student immigration status and/or criminal prosecution.
PETS IN DOMINICA

Dominica requires an import permit for dogs and cats to enter the country. If you are planning to bring your dog or cat with you, please comply with the regulations of the Commonwealth of Dominica, which are available at http://www.rossu.edu/medical-school/documents/AnimalHealthGuidelines.pdf.

While you may bring your pet with you to Dominica, you should be aware that having your pet will limit your housing options. For instance, many landlords do not allow pets, or require an additional security deposit from pet owners.Reviewing the guidelines available online will help you make an informed decision about bringing your pet to Dominica.

While pets are welcome to campus please familiarize yourself with the Animal Policy (http://medhandbook.rossu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Animal-Policy-revised.pdf) prior to entering campus with your pet.
PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO IMAGING POLICY

1. Purpose
   1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that any type of photography such as still pictures, video and film recorded or broadcast by any means including storage by electronic media, which occurs in or around the facilities of RUSM is not used for commercial purposes and that it does not interfere with the educational, scholarly or administrative functions of the institution, or impair any individual’s right to privacy.

2. Scope
   2.1 This procedure applies to all visitors, faculty, staff and students. Pictures are not for publication or public distribution unless approved by the Dean or the Dean’s designee.
   2.2 All individuals found to be in violation of this policy are subject to institutional discipline up to and including expulsion.

3. Procedure
   Photography is generally permitted as long as it is in good taste and for personal use. Prior permission from the Dean or the Dean’s designee is required when (1) the photography is for commercial purposes; (2) photography has questionable content; (3) the photography is intended for a political purpose; (4) the photography will require set up of any equipment which could impede normal activities on campus; or (5) the photography involves human specimens or cadavers. Photography shall be considered to be for commercial purposes if it is intended to be sold or otherwise exchanged for value, or is for any use that could imply endorsement of a product or service. Photography will be considered to be for a political purpose if it is used or intended to support or oppose either a candidate for any public office, or any particular point of view on an issue of public concern or debate. Photography will be considered questionable in content if it may be viewed as libelous, defamatory, predatory, lewd or pornographic.

   Photography for films or videos may require submission of storyboards or scripts prior to approval. All photography permissions are for designated times and dates. RUSM does not guarantee that any specific area or activity on campus will be available at the requested time or date. Permission by RUSM must specify designated times and dates in writing and be signed by the Dean or the Dean’s designee. RUSM may withhold its permission or require conditions for its permission at its discretion.

   Permission of RUSM does not include or imply any permission to photograph any individual, regardless of whether such person is a staff member, patient, student or visitor to the RUSM facilities. Photographers are reminded that they need to obtain the permission of each individual photographed and that commercial use of an individual’s image or likeness typically requires written consent of that individual.

   In the event of an incident or emergency requiring police, fire or other emergency response personnel, access to areas previously open to photographers may be barred or limited to allow emergency personnel to ensure safety and security. Depending on the nature of the photography, the amount of equipment used and the location of the photography, proof of general liability insurance may be required. Specific contractual arrangements must be negotiated in advance.
PREPARING FOR DEPARTURE FROM DOMINICA

When the time comes for you to depart from RUSM, we hope you will have solid skills for the first steps of your fulfilling career, a network of many friends, and confidence in the path ahead of you. The following policies and recommendations regarding your departure from Dominica will help you move successfully to the next phase of your training.

Debt
You must satisfy all local debts before you depart. The Dominican laws on debt are particularly strict. On some occasions when students have attempted to leave the country with unsatisfied debt, they have found themselves detained or jailed. Students are responsible for all debts to landlords, local restaurants, shops, phone companies, RUSM, and others.

Departing Dominica with outstanding debt to RUSM will prevent you from seeking clinical clerkships and proceeding to the next phase of your education. You will not be allowed to obtain needed transcripts from the New Jersey office until you have made arrangement for payment of your student obligations.
PRIVACY RIGHTS AND FERPA NOTIFICATION

RUSM follows the guidelines of the U.S. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and maintains student rights as outlined below:

- **Right to Review.** Students have the right to inspect and review educational records within 45 days of the date that RUSM receives a request for access. Students should submit a written request to the Office of the Registrar that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The Office of the Registrar will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

- **Corrections.** Students have the right to request the amendment of education records that they believe are inaccurate or misleading. Students should write to the Office of the Registrar, clearly identify the part of the record they want corrected and specify why it is inaccurate.

- **Hearings.** If RUSM decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, RUSM will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided when the student is notified of the right to a hearing.

- **Consent.** Students have a right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education record, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

- **Disclosures without Consent.** Disclosure can be made without consent to RUSM officials with legitimate educational interests who need to review a record in order to fulfill their professional responsibilities. A RUSM official is a person employed by RUSM in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom RUSM has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting a RUSM official. Upon request, RUSM may disclose education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

- RUSM may disclose directory information upon request. Directory information includes:
  - Name, address, and telephone listing
  - Dates of attendance, degrees and awards
  - Field of study
  - Most recent school attended
  - Photographs
  - Date and place of birth
  - E-mail address

- Students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by RUSM to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

  Family Policy Compliance Office  
  U.S. Department of Education  
  400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
  Washington, D.C. 20202-8520
For further information, students may also contact the Family Policy Compliance Office directly at 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (voice). Individuals who use TDD may call 1-800-437-0833.

READMISSION TO RUSM

Students who wish to return to RUSM after withdrawing must apply for readmission online at http://www.rossu.edu/medical-school/apply/. Readmission is not guaranteed. Applications for readmission will be reviewed by the Readmission Committee to determine if the student is eligible for readmission, and if so under what conditions (such as academic probation, documentation of ability to meet technical standard). Readmitted students will typically be subject to all academic policies and tuition and fees in effect at the time of re-enrollment, without any “grandfathering” provisions based on their original admission.
REGISTRATION AND OTHER REGISTRAR SERVICES

Registration for New Students
As a new student, you have much to do to prepare for your medical education at RUSM. Your Welcome Packet contains information and forms you need to complete your acceptance, and your enrollment is contingent upon your submission of all required documentation by the end of your first semester. The Office of the Registrar is available to assist you during the process.

Please take seriously your obligation to complete and submit all forms in a timely manner. Your offer of admission lists any documentation needed by the Office of the Registrar to complete your enrollment, including immigration paperwork necessary for obtaining a student visa. If all documentation is not submitted by the end of first semester, you will be subject to administrative withdrawal and may lose the privilege to register for a subsequent semester.

Credit to students transferring from another medical school into RUSM will be evaluated and may be granted at the sole discretion of RUSM. RUSM has no control over and is not responsible for equivalency of RUSM courses to those of other institutions. RUSM course equivalency for other institutions for RUSM students transferring will be determined by the institution to which RUSM students transfer in its sole discretion.

Foundations of Medicine Registration and Check-In
Students enrolled in the Foundations of Medicine curriculum must:

- Register online
- Check-in in person on campus
- Provide a valid student ID card

These steps must be completed by the deadlines established by the Office of the Registrar. These deadlines and the schedule for check-in and registration are updated regularly by the Campus Registrar. For further information, please see the Campus Registrar and/or myRoss.

Student ID
To ensure proper identification and to complete check-in, students must present their official RUSM identification cards.

To replace lost ID cards for students (and companions) on campus, there is a charge of XCD $25. Please see the Safety and Security Department on the Dominica campus for more information. For those students in AICM/IMF or clinical clerkships, please contact RUSM Student Services in Miramar, Florida. There is a charge of USD $10 for replacement cards.

Late Check-In
Students are expected return to campus, check-in on the island, and attend courses as scheduled. Students with extenuating circumstances may request permission to check-in late.

There is a $200 USD late fee for students who check-in after the regular advertised check-in period is complete for the specified semester. Approval for late check-in does not automatically waive the late fee of $200 USD. Students with a medical emergency or who experienced unexpected flight cancellations can request that the late
fee be waived. In both of these situations, supporting documentation will be required before the fee can be
waived. All supporting documentation should be provided at check-in or by the advertised day/date/time for
each semester to the Office of Student Services located on the 3rd Floor of the Student Center. Failing to provide
the supporting documentation by the deadline will result in the late fee being automatically charged to your
account. Acceptable supporting documents are original and rebook flight itineraries or letters from treating
physician/medical facility for medical emergencies.

Any student who has not notified the Office of Student Services, Dominica Campus by 4:00 pm on the first day of
class will be subject to administrative withdrawal and will need to reapply in order to be able to attend classes
for the next semester/term. Additionally, any financial aid disbursements received by RUSM will be returned to
the lender.

Students are expected to plan and complete all personal business in a timely manner in order to schedule an
arrival in Dominica before ending hours of regular check-in. For students with extenuating circumstances, please
note that permission to check-in late may not provide you with an excuse for any academic commitments that
you might have missed.

A 'one time' APPEAL will be accepted and reviewed by the Director for Student Services on a case by case basis. A
written appeal request and any supporting documents MUST be submitted no later than 15 calendar days from the
date late fee charge is posted on your student account. An appeal request can be sent to:
DMStudentServices@rossu.edu. All decisions after the appeal is reviewed are final.

Tuition and Fees
The deadline for tuition and fees is set by the Office of Student Finance, and generally falls about 15 days before
the start of classes. Tuition is deferred for students receiving financial aid until they check-in in-person. At that
point, only students with approved financial aid and/or those sponsored by a RUSM-recognized, third-party payer
will be allowed to register—unless approval is granted by the Senior Director of Student Services or designee.

Where the Senior Director of Student Services authorizes registration with late payment, the student must
complete a promissory note and remit payment within 30 days of the beginning of the semester. Late payments
are subject to a USD $75.00 late fee. Under the terms of the note, the student may be considered for an
administrative withdrawal based on non-payment. If non or under-payment occurs, the student may not receive
credit for that semester.

Clinical Sciences Registration and Check-In
Students in the IMF must:

a) Register online by the deadline established by the Office of the Registrar
b) Check-in in person at their IMF location on the first day of the semester

Students are assigned to core clinical clerkships once they have:

1. Received passing scores in the IMF course
2. Submitted a printed confirmation of taking USMLE Step 1. The printed confirmation can be obtained from
   Prometric immediately following the exam administration.
3. Submitted documentation of the USMLE Step 1 score to the Office of the Registrar (including both sides of
   their USMLE report)
4. Submitted health records and required documentation to the Office of Clinical Clerkships two weeks prior to the start of IMF.

All clerkship assignments are made by the Office of Clinical Clerkships. In general, clerkship programs will be taken according to a pre-arranged schedule. Students will be notified of their entry into a given program via written confirmation from the Office of Clinical Clerkships. Students must schedule through the Office of Clinical Clerkships and be present on the first day of a clinical segment. Failure to do so will result in administrative withdrawal.

Students who begin clinical clerkships on or after January 1, 2015 are permitted to complete one elective prior to completing all core clerkships. Students may not take additional electives until all required core clerkships are successfully completed.

Students who decline their clerkship schedule must sit out for a semester (15 calendar weeks) before reassignment. A student who fails to decline in a timely manner and who does not attend a scheduled clinical clerkship will receive an F on his or her transcript for that clerkship, and will be subject to further disciplinary action from RUSM.

For the Clinical Clerkship segment, international students may require a visa to enter the US. Further instructions and information are available from the Director Student Services in Miramar, Florida.

Students must be able to present their official RUSM identification card at all times. If your ID card is lost or stolen, please contact Student Services – Miramar to request a replacement. Students will be charged a fee of $10 USD to replace an ID card.

Other Registrar Services

Transcript Requests
Students may request official transcripts from the Office of the Registrar at www.rossu.edu/myross/. Requests cannot be taken by telephone. Transcripts cannot be released until all financial obligations to RUSM have been met and any missing administrative documents have been received.

To obtain an unofficial transcript, students may view and print their unofficial grade reports from the myRossU website. There is no charge for an unofficial transcript.

Enrollment Verification Letter Requests
Enrollment Verification Letters can be printed from myRossU. Additionally, students may request an official letter of Enrollment Verification (for student loans, visa requests, etc.) by submitting a request online at www.rossu.edu/myross/. Students should allow at least 10 calendar days for processing.

Clinical Evaluation Requests
Students may request a copy of their clinical evaluations after grades are posted by submitting a request online at www.rossu.edu/myross/. Students should allow at least 15 calendar days for processing.
RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

RUSM is non-sectarian, and as such does not close for the religious holidays of any specific denomination or group. Students who miss classes or laboratories for any reason will be responsible for the content of all missed course work. Examinations that are scheduled to occur on religious holidays generally will not be rescheduled.
SANCTIONS

In keeping with RUSM’s commitment to creating a safe and productive learning environment, RUSM has implemented the disciplinary process to discourage conduct inconsistent with the high standards held by most of its students. Following a disciplinary action, RUSM may impose appropriate sanctions, varying according to the severity of the offense, that RUSM hopes will protect those dedicated to learning this challenging profession and encourage ethical conduct among their peers. This applies throughout your education at RUSM.

Sanctions are determined by the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs following the resolution of a disciplinary action. This may be an informal resolution, such as a Complaint settled through mediation; or a hearing following an infraction of the Honor Code or Code of Conduct. The latter two are held before the Honor Council and Grievance Committee, who may also recommend sanctions.

There follows a list of the most commonly imposed sanctions, but RUSM may also choose to impose other sanctions, not listed here, depending on the severity of the misconduct. RUSM strives to find a balance between encouraging those that deserve a second chance while still protecting the rights of the majority of its students, who deserve an orderly learning environment.

Available Sanctions:

1. **Warning or Admonition.** A warning or admonition is the issuance of an oral or written reprimand. These are generally given to alert a student in danger of more serious sanctions if academic, attendance, conduct or other compliance issues are not promptly addressed.

2. **Required Compliance/Remediation.** When a student is out of compliance with enrollment, admission or health clearance requirements, RUSM will inform the student of the area needing attention, and how the situation may be rectified. In the event of a delay in compliance, RUSM may impose one or more of the following sanctions, and perhaps other appropriate measures as required, until the student becomes fully compliant.
   - Restricted campus/hospital privileges until compliance is reached.
   - Collection of monies or property where restitution is owed.
   - Counseling and education in the area of noncompliance.
   - Participation in psycho-educational groups and/or assigned educational initiatives designed to assist the student towards compliance.

3. **Disciplinary Probation.** Ongoing or serious disciplinary issues may result in the student being placed on Disciplinary Probation for a defined period of time. Students may continue their studies during disciplinary probation, but will have restricted access to other components of campus activity. A student on probation also risks suspension or expulsion in the event of additional violations during this period. Probation may include exclusion from RUSM-sponsored events, such as the following:
   - RUSM-sponsored social events
   - RUSM-sponsored extracurricular activities
   - Campus clubs
   - Student organizations
   - Student leadership roles
   - Involvement in or attendance at public performances on campus
   - Assistance with student/campus publications
   - Attendance at or involvement in events or activities sponsored by student campus organizations
• Commencement

However, students on disciplinary probation will be permitted to participate in any activity or event that is required for course work.

**Lifting of Probation:** Probation is lifted after the time period specified, when a) no further violations are committed; and, b) all terms specified in the disciplinary decision have been successfully completed.

**Student file:** This period of probation is documented in the student file as Disciplinary Probation. Upon completion of the terms of this probationary period, a student may request that the probation be noted as successfully completed. Students are encouraged to document all efforts taken to address any cited violation, and confirm that this documentation is preserved in their student files.

**Financial Aid:** Unlike Academic Probation, periods of Disciplinary Probation will not impact a student's eligibility for or status regarding financial aid.

4. **Suspension.** Students with on-going or serious problems in such areas as compliance or conduct may be recommended for suspension following a formal or informal disciplinary hearing. Suspended students are ineligible to enroll in classes or participate in any activities held on RUSM or clinical premises for a determined period of time. Students on suspension will not be allowed to attend classes, campus-sponsored events, or otherwise visit campus property for the duration of the suspension. There are two types of suspension – Interim Sanctions, imposed during the resolution of a serious disciplinary case; and the Suspension Sanction, imposed by a Board of Conduct following the resolution of such a case.

**A. Interim Sanction:** A student may be suspended on a temporary basis prior to an informal resolution or hearing, according to one or more of the following guidelines:

- RUSM may choose to impose an Interim Sanction when one or more of the following occur:
  a) There is an indication that a student's misconduct will be repeated or continued;
  b) There is an indication that safety for the student and/or the RUSM community will be compromised without immediate action; and/or
  c) Sanction is necessary for RUSM or its affiliates to carry on its functions effectively and efficiently.

- An Interim Sanction may be imposed without advance notice, and take immediate effect.

- As with a Suspension Sanction, interim sanctions imply a loss of all student rights and privileges.

- An Interim Sanction generally does not conclude until after a final disciplinary determination has been made.

- A student on an Interim Sanction may submit a concisely written appeal, limited as to whether the Interim Sanction should remain in effect until the disciplinary action reaches a conclusion. This appeal will be reviewed and decided upon by the Dean or a delegate. (See more on Appeals, below.)

- Time spent in an Interim Sanction does not count toward completion of any Suspension Sanction that may follow the final decision of the disciplinary action, unless the terms of the Suspension Sanction communicate otherwise in clear language.

**Lifting of Suspension:** Interim Sanctions are lifted following the granting of a successful appeal or upon the issuance of a formal or informal disciplinary decision (which may result in a further Suspension sanction). Where conditions are placed upon a student's return, those conditions must be approved as fully completed before the student will be allowed to register for a future semester.

**Student File:** An Interim Sanction may impact the student's transcript. The designation for the missed time on the transcript is determined in consultation with the Office of the Registrar on a case by case basis, following the determination reached by an informal resolution or formal hearing. If designated
as a suspension, it will appear in the student’s educational file as non-academic suspension. Students are encouraged to document efforts taken to address a cited violation.

**Financial Aid:** Eligibility for financial aid may be impacted depending upon the length of an Interim Sanction, and whether it transitions to a suspension sanction following disciplinary action. Students are required to comply with all financial aid repayment obligations during a suspension.

B. **Suspension Sanction:** Following the resolution of a disciplinary action, the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs may impose a suspension upon the student. Suspensions are generally imposed as a sanction following serious infractions of the Code of Conduct or local law, as follows:

- Suspension Sanctions may be imposed as the result of either an informal disciplinary decision or a formal disciplinary hearing.
- Typically suspensions last from one full semester (or until the end of a semester already begun), to one full calendar year (three semesters).
- Suspended students will surrender their RUSM identification card.
- Suspended students may be on campus for the limited purposes of conducting the following consultations and determinations during the **five semester days** immediately following the issuance of the sanction:
  a) Suspended students should consult with Financial Aid regarding the status of their financial aid.
  b) Suspended students should also consult with Student Services and an attorney or other relevant agency regarding the status of their student visa.
- When on any campus for these or other administrative purposes, the student must be accompanied by a RUSM official to the office meeting.

**Lifting of Suspension:** Where conditions are placed upon a student’s return, those conditions must be certified as fully completed before the student will be eligible to register for a future semester. A suspended student, upon return to campus, will be on automatic disciplinary probation for either a designated period of time, identified at the time the original sanction is issued, or until graduation from RUSM.

**Student File:** A suspension will appear in the student’s educational file as Non-academic Suspension. Students are encouraged to document efforts taken to address a cited violation.

**Financial Aid:** Students are required to comply with all financial aid repayment obligations during a suspension.

**NOTE:** Failure to comply with the limitations of any suspension or disciplinary probation may result in extended suspension or permanent expulsion.

5. **Expulsion.** Expulsion means permanent termination of student status. An expelled student is no longer permitted to attend RUSM or any of its affiliated institutions. A student expelled on disciplinary grounds is not eligible for re-admission.

**Student File:** A record of this disciplinary action will be placed in the student’s file.

**Financial Aid:** All financial aid repayment obligations apply.
Records of Sanctions

Any sanctions imposed are recorded in the student’s disciplinary file, and, where appropriate, also noted in permanent educational records. Information regarding probations, suspensions and expulsions are readily available to RUSM officials as needed to assure administrative compliance with those sanctions.

In the event a student withdraws or is dismissed prior to the disposition of a disciplinary action, documentation of a pending disciplinary case without final determination will be included as part of the student’s educational record.

Notifications during Suspensions/Expulsions
RUSM may be obligated to take into account the interest of the following parties when resolving a disciplinary matter:

- **Immigration.** In those situations in which a student is not a citizen of the country where the study of medicine is occurring, RUSM may be obligated to inform immigration authorities of changes to a student’s enrollment status following an expulsion or suspension. A student who has been suspended or expelled may no longer be entitled to the status of a legal resident.

- **Complainants and Victims.** Regarding access to sensitive information during a disciplinary action, RUSM will balance the interests of privacy and other legal rights of the accused student with those of victims and complainants.

- **Legal Authorities:** RUSM may be obligated to disclose information as required to legal authorities, when disciplinary action uncovers evidence of conduct in violation of the law.

- **State Medical Boards, ECFMG, FCVS, Government Agencies, and Employers:** RUSM may be called upon to report unusual circumstances that may have occurred during the course of your medical education.

External Sanctions
RUSM sanctions are separate from applicable civil or criminal laws. Violations of RUSM standards may also violate federal, state and local laws of the U.S., England and the Commonwealth of Dominica, or other appropriate governance body.

Violators will be subject to all appropriate penalties within the jurisdiction of the offense. Within the Commonwealth of Dominica jurisdiction, drug trafficking, which includes producing, supplying and using, is punishable by fines, deportation and/or imprisonment.

*Sanctions may be appealed by following the process outlined in the Appeals section of this Student Handbook.*
SECURITY IN DOMINICA

RUSM takes campus security very seriously, so we maintain a security force on the campus to enhance the safety of our students and help prevent crime; please cooperate with them to further our community’s safety. We urge you to promptly report all on- and off-campus incidents to the RUSM security force (by calling 767-235-9111) or to local police (by calling 767-445-5222).

Statistics
In accordance with U.S. Department of Education requirements, information is published annually about security and safety practices, and campus crime statistics. This information is distributed to current students, and is available upon request by any prospective student.

On-Campus Security and Escorts
To provide 24-hour security for RUSM, students, and staff, RUSM employs a cadre of security officers on its Portsmouth, Dominica campus. Security is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Should you feel unsafe on campus, please call a uniformed security officer to serve as your escort: (767) 255-6234.

All security officers receive in-house training, which is supplemented by formal training at the Dominica Police Training School. Officers also provide security for the RUSM Clinical Facility at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Roseau, which students use during clinical assignments and clinical clerkships.

Security guards have authority to ask questions and request identification at any time. Criminal incidents will be referred to local law enforcement. All crime victims and witnesses are strongly encouraged to report incidents to both campus security and local police. Prompt reporting will ensure timely warning notices to the campus community and timely disclosure of crime statistics.

Off-Campus Security
Most student security problems occur off campus. While Dominica has a relatively low crime rate, students and visitors should still take the same precautions that they would take in major cities in the U.S. These include traveling in groups, locking the doors to accommodations and vehicles, and avoiding confrontations.

Students living in off-campus student housing facilities should check with their apartment landlords for specific safety procedures at their complexes. Although most complexes restrict access to apartments and provide keys for individuals, additional security measures vary from complex to complex. Crimes committed at off-campus housing should be immediately reported to Campus Security. They should also be reported as soon as is reasonably possible to the Student Affairs department.
SEVEN YEAR POLICY

RUSM students must successfully complete all coursework and USMLE requirements within seven (7) calendar years of their matriculation date. If at any point it becomes clear that a student is unable to meet all graduation requirements within seven (7) years, he/she will be subject to dismissal. Students transferring into RUSM with credit must complete all graduation requirements within seven (7) years of matriculation at any medical school.
SEXUAL OFFENSES

Policy on Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention

Policy Statement
This policy applies to complaints of alleged sexual misconduct. RUSM University expressly prohibits any instances of sexual misconduct including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and rape or acquaintance rape. Any acts that fall within the definitions of sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, acquaintance rape, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence or prohibited sexual contact are a violation of University policy, and potentially applicable state and federal law. RUSM is committed to fostering an environment where any type of sexual misconduct is promptly reported and sexual misconduct complaints are resolved in a fair and timely manner.

Creating a safe environment is the responsibility of all members of the RUSM community. Regardless of the definitions provided below, anyone who believes they are a victim of sexual misconduct should report the incident as soon as possible to the Title IX Coordinator or the campus complaint administrator and seek immediate medical and/or safety assistance.

Scope
This policy applies to all members of the RUSM community, and includes, but is not exclusive to, faculty, staff, students, visitors, volunteers, vendors, and persons related to, receiving or seeking to receive services from the University, or otherwise pursuing undergraduate, graduate or professional studies at the University. It also applies to alleged acts of sexual misconduct that adversely affect the RUSM community, whether those acts occur on or off campus.

Definitions

“Acquaintance rape” is a sex crime committed by someone who knows the victim. The perpetrator could be a friend, classmate, relative, or co-worker. Acquaintance rape includes forced, manipulated, or coerced sexual contact or penetration by a body part or object with someone who has not given or is incapable of giving consent.


“Colleague Code of Conduct” refers to the policy titled “DeVry Education Group (DVG) Code of Conduct and Ethics” which is applicable to colleagues and outlines colleague’s rights and responsibilities.

“Colleague complaint procedure” is the vehicle by which a colleague can bring to the University’s attention any complaint relating to his/her experience with the College or a member of the College community. It is the College’s mechanism for investigating and trying to resolve complaints raised by colleagues. This procedure is also referred to as the Open Door Policy.

“Complaint administrator” is a RUSM colleague responsible for conducting an investigation when a complaint of sexual misconduct is raised. To find out who the complaint administrator is at any given location for a particular complaint, consult the location’s student services office or the Title IX coordinator.

“Conduct administrator” is a RUSM/DeVry official authorized to administer disciplinary proceedings for respondents who may have violated the Code of Conduct applicable to students. A conduct administrator
may serve as the sole member or as a participant in the conduct panel. Nothing shall prevent the University from authorizing the same conduct administrator to impose sanctions in all cases at a single or multiple locations.

“Conduct panel” means any person or persons authorized by the conduct administrator to determine whether a respondent has violated the Code of Conduct applicable to students and to determine appropriate sanctions; at RUSM these bodies are the Honor Council and Grievance Committee.

“Consent” is a freely given agreement to engage in a specific sexual act. While the explicit definition of consent varies by jurisdiction, the following general rules apply when assessing whether consent was given. The lack of explicit consent does not imply consent. Where there is use of threat or force by the accused, the lack of verbal or physical resistance or the submission by the victim does not constitute consent. The manner of dress of the victim at the time of the offense does not constitute consent. Past consent to sexual contact and/or a sexual history with the accused does not imply consent to future sexual contact. A person who initially consents to sexual contact or penetration may withdraw continued consent at any time during the course of that interaction. Intoxication due to use of alcohol or drugs may impair an individual's capacity to consent freely and may render an individual incapable of giving consent.

“Coordinator” refers to the University’s Title IX coordinator. Ms. Mikhel Kushner, Associate Title IX Consultant (mkushner@devrygroup.com or 630-515-5440) and Mr. Mark Ewald, Director for Ethics and Compliance Services (mewald@devrygroup.com) are designated to receive and monitor resolution for all Title IX reports.

“CRC” refers to the Coaching Resource Center which is available to managers to assist in addressing colleague relation concerns.

“Dating violence” means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim.

“RUSM premises” includes all land, buildings, facilities, student housing and other property in the possession of or owned, used, or controlled by the University (including parking lots, adjacent streets and sidewalks).

“Domestic violence” refers to felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by either a current or former spouse of the victim; a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; a person who is or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse; a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the jurisdictional domestic or family violence laws; or any other person against a victim who is protected from that person's acts under the jurisdictional domestic or family violence laws.


“Member of the RUSM community” includes RUSM students, faculty members or staff, and any other individuals associated with the University. The conduct administrator or complaint administrator shall determine a person’s status in a particular situation.

“One Up Manager” is a colleague’s manager’s manager. It is the person responsible for receiving a colleague’s complaint when his/her direct manager is implicated in that complaint.

“Policy” is defined as the regulations of the University, for example those found in the Student Handbook, colleague handbook, DVG Code of Conduct and Ethics, and any housing handbooks or catalogs.

“Rape” is defined as sexual intercourse or penetration by a body part or object, through use of coercion.
or force, with someone who has not given or is incapable of giving consent.

“Sexual assault” is defined as physical contact of a sexual nature against the victim’s will or without the victim’s consent.

“Sexual contact” means the deliberate touching of a person's intimate body parts (including lips, genitalia, groin, breast or buttocks, or clothing covering any of those areas), or using force to cause a person to touch his or her own or another person’s intimate body parts.

“Sexual harassment” means unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment occurs when a student or colleague is the recipient of conduct of a sexual nature where: (1) Submission to, or toleration of, such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the student’s education, colleague’s employment; or (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic decisions about the student or professional decisions about the colleague; or (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the colleague/ student’s welfare or professional/ academic performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, offensive or demeaning work/ academic environment.

“Sexual misconduct” is a broad term encompassing sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, and stalking. Sexual misconduct can occur between strangers or acquaintances, including people involved in an intimate or sexual relationship. Sexual misconduct can be committed by men or by women, and it can occur between people of the same or different sex.

“Stalking” is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear for his/her safety. A person commits stalking by knowingly engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person when the person engaging in the conduct knows or should know that this course of conduct would cause a reasonable person to fear for his/her safety or the safety of a third person or suffer other emotional distress.

“Code of Conduct applicable to students” refers to the document titled “Code of Conduct” which is applicable to students and accessible in the Student Handbook. It outlines students’ rights and responsibilities, as well as the process by which the University may take action against a student.

“Student complaint procedure” is the vehicle by which a student can bring to the University’s attention any complaint relating to his/her experience with the University or a member of the RUSM community. It is the University's mechanism for investigating and trying to resolve complaints raised by students.

“Speak Up” refers to SpeakUpDeVryGroup, a reporting system available to colleagues and managed by a third party vendor (EthicsPoint), which encourages DeVry colleagues to come forward with questions or concerns, including allegations of sexual misconduct. Colleagues are expected to ask legal, compliance and ethics questions and report suspected wrongdoing. Colleagues can utilize the SpeakUp program by contacting the third party contractor EthicsPoint by phone at 1 866 421 0617 or on-line at www.speakupdevrygroup.ethicspoint.com.

“Title IX” refers to the U.S. Department of Education regulation which governs the efforts of educational institutions to maintain a campus free from sex and gender discrimination including investigating and remediating sexual misconduct by students, colleagues, or third parties.

“University” or “RUSM” means Ross University School of Medicine
effort to reduce the risk of sexual misconduct such as sexual assault from occurring among its students and colleagues, the University is committed to providing awareness and prevention programming.

The University will identify and provide programs to students, colleagues, faculty, consistent with requirements of Title IX, VAWA, SaVE and other needs as determined on an ongoing basis. These Programs will address all forms of sexual misconduct and include themes of awareness and primary prevention such as bystander intervention and the establishment of community norms.

Disciplinary Action
Acts of dating violence, domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking are subject to disciplinary action by the University. Victims may file a formal complaint with a designated local campus administrator or through the Title IX Coordinator. If the victim wishes to access local community agencies and/or law enforcement for support, the University will assist the victim in making these contacts. The University official who receives notification of the misconduct will offer assistance to victims, which may take the form of opportunities for assistance with academic concerns, changes in housing for the victim or the responding student, changes in working situations and other assistance as may be appropriate and available (such as no contact orders, campus escorts, transportation assistance, or targeted interventions). No victim is required to take advantage of these services and resources, but the University provides them in the hope of offering help and support. A summary of these rights and options is available to victims through Student Affairs, Student services or human resources. The University may also provide referrals to counseling services, at the victim’s option.

When the victim chooses, or the University believes it is necessary, the University will initiate a prompt, fair and impartial investigation. If allegations are substantiated based on the totality of the circumstances, the respondent may be subject to the Code of Conduct process, which may result in the imposition of sanctions/discipline based upon a preponderance of evidence (what is more likely than not). The student complaint procedure which details the investigation and resolution processes for student misconduct can be found in the Complaint Procedure Section of this handbook. The colleague complaint procedure which details the investigation and resolution processes for colleague misconduct can be found in the colleague handbook.

The Title IX Coordinator will monitor the investigation and resolution of sexual misconduct reports and assure compliance with this policy. Furthermore, the Title IX Coordinator will work with campus administration to identify and initiate strategies intended to remedy the effects on the victim and the community to the extent practicable, and reasonably prevent the recurrence of similar misconduct.

Privacy of the records specific to sexual misconduct investigations is maintained in accordance with applicable law, including FERPA. Any public release of information to comply with the timely warning provisions of the Clery Act will not include the names of victims or information that could easily lead to a victim’s identification. In appropriate instances, RUSM will disclose pertinent interim actions and the results of disciplinary hearings regarding the alleged perpetrator of sexual misconduct to the alleged victim. Confidentiality will be maintained whenever possible, however RUSM reserves the right to exercise discretion and disclose details of an incident or allegation to assure community safety or the safety of an individual.

Any individual wishing to discuss an instance of sexual misconduct without triggering an immediate investigation should seek referral to mental health counseling services. Students may seek support on Dominica through Counseling Services at 255-6553, off-island through ASPIRE at 888.470.1531 or via info@myASPIREonline.com and colleagues may seek support 24 hours a day, seven days a week through GuidanceResources at 877-623-3879.

It is RUSM’s policy to hold perpetrators of interpersonal violence, which includes sexual assault, prohibited sexual contact, stalking, dating and domestic violence in any form, accountable for their actions through appropriate student conduct or personnel procedures, and by working with community agencies and law enforcement as appropriate. Mediation will not be used to resolve an allegation of sexual misconduct.

For students: Please see the definitions section above for a list of proscribed conduct that constitutes a violation of
this policy. Appropriate disciplinary sanctions for substantiated violations of this policy, up to and including expulsion, will be imposed in accordance with the Code of Conduct applicable to students found here in the Sanctions section of this Student Handbook. This policy statement is not intended to replace or substitute for the Code of Conduct applicable to students. This policy is a supplement to the community standards that the Code of Conduct applicable to students sets forth. Alleged violations of this policy will be referred to the applicable complaint administrator or conduct administrator for appropriate review. All parties in a student conduct proceeding will be informed of the University’s appeal processes, and their rights to request an appeal. Should any change in outcome occur prior to finalization, all parties will be timely informed, and will be notified when the results of the resolution process become final.

For faculty and staff (all colleagues): Appropriate disciplinary sanctions for violations of this policy include written reprimand or termination of employment or contract, and will be imposed in accordance with applicable University policies and procedures, including the Colleague Code of Conduct, available in the colleague handbook. For offenses including harassment, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, possible sanctions include warning, probation, housing suspension, housing expulsion, limiting order, change in job assignment, office relocation, reduction of awards under the management incentive plan, and termination of employment or contract. Serious and violent incidents and acts of non-consensual sexual intercourse (the policy equivalent to the crime of rape) usually result in suspension, expulsion or termination of employment or contract. In addition, violations of this policy may trigger application of law. Colleagues who are made aware of a possible violation of this policy are required to contact their Manager or One Up Manager and also the Title IX Coordinator. Colleagues can also submit anonymous reports of sexual misconduct by utilizing the DVG “Speak Up” hotline at www.speakupdevrygroup.ethicspoint.com. Colleagues should contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions about whether a report to law enforcement is appropriate. Nothing in this policy prohibits a student or colleague from reporting a crime directly to local authorities.

For everyone: Disciplinary procedures are independent of any and all criminal procedures and proceedings. In all cases, RUSM reserves the right to refer cases for criminal prosecution or to pursue sanctions regardless of criminal prosecution. Violations of this policy by a visitor, volunteer, vendor, agents, or other third parties affiliated with the University may also result in the termination of pre-existing or future relationships. In any complaint of sexual misconduct, the person bringing the accusation and the responding party are both entitled to the same opportunities for a support person or advisor of their choice throughout the process and consistent with guidelines set forth in the applicable handbook. Once complete, the parties will be informed, in writing, of the outcome. Notice to both parties will include the findings, as well as the sanctions/discipline (if any) to the degree possible and always when the sanction/discipline is directly relevant to that individual. Delivery of this outcome will not be unduly delayed to either party, and should occur as near to simultaneously as possible.

Procedures to Follow After a Sexual Misconduct Incident
Victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, rape, and acquaintance rape on campus or at any campus property outside of the main campus, or at any RUSM-sponsored event or activity have the option and are encouraged to contact local law enforcement authorities.

Whenever possible victims should report a violation of this policy as soon as possible and preserve evidence as may be necessary to prove that domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking occurred, or to obtain a protection order. Victims of sexual assault or rape are strongly encouraged to report the incident as described in this policy in order to deter these assaults and to ensure that victims receive the services they need. Steps should be taken to help deal with physical and emotional trauma associated with the violation. Recommended steps include:

1. Go to a safe place; go somewhere to get emotional support.

2. Consider reporting the incident to the police. If requested, RUSM will assist with notification.
3. Report the misconduct on campus to the student central manager, academic affairs specialist, academic advising team lead (for online), One Up Manager, campus incident commander, local University leadership, Title IX Coordinator, or the CRC.

4. For your safety and well-being, immediate medical attention is encouraged. Being examined as soon as possible, ideally within 120 hours, is important especially in the case of sexual assault. The hospital will arrange for a specific medical examination at no charge. To preserve evidence, it is recommended that, if at all possible, you do not bathe, shower, douche, eat, drink, smoke, brush your teeth, urinate, defecate or change clothes before that exam. Even if you have already taken any of these actions, you are still encouraged to have prompt medical care. Additionally, you are encouraged to gather bedding, linens or unlaunched clothing and any other pertinent articles that may be used for evidence. Secure them in a clean paper bag or clean sheet.

5. Even after the immediate crisis has passed, consider seeking professional counseling. This can help to recover from psychological effects.

6. Contact the student central manager, academic affairs specialist, academic advising team lead (for online), One Up Manager, Title IX coordinator, or the CRC if you need assistance with RUSM-related concerns, such as implementing no-contact orders or other protective measures. RUSM may also liaise with local authorities to assist an individual who wishes to obtain protective or restraining orders.

Victims are not required to report an incident to law enforcement authorities, but campus authorities will assist victims who wish to do so. Anyone with knowledge about a sexual assault or other sexual misconduct is encouraged to report it immediately to the Title IX Coordinator in order to permit a coordinated report to the applicable law enforcement authorities when appropriate. Nothing in this policy prohibits a student or colleague from reporting a crime directly to local authorities.

Please refer to the Resources for Victims of Sexual Misconduct section of this document for a link to local resources for advice and assistance to victims.

**Victim Rights**

RUSM will take interim steps to protect victims of sexual misconduct and maintain a positive learning and working environment by minimizing or eliminating contact with the respondent and providing reasonable academic and administrative accommodations in accordance with the Clery Act and Title IX. Victims of sexual misconduct may request a change in their academic or employment arrangements by contacting Student Central office, One Up Manager, Title IX Coordinator, or local leadership. Additionally, reasonable employment arrangements may also be requested through human resources while an investigation ensues. Victim’s rights include:

1. Upon notifying RUSM of an incident of sexual misconduct, the victim will be informed of available options including the necessary steps and potential consequences of each option.

2. Where applicable, the victim will be informed of the institution’s role regarding orders of protection, no contact orders, restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by a civil, criminal, or tribal court.

3. The victim has the right to be free from undue coercion from any members of RUSM to pursue or not pursue any course of action.

4. The victim has the right to be advised of her/his option to notify appropriate law enforcement authorities, and be informed about how to receive assistance from RUSM personnel in notifying these authorities, if requested.

5. The victim will receive information on how to make a confidential report for the purposes of tracking campus crime.
6. The victim has the right to be informed of the applicable disciplinary conduct process and procedures.

7. The victim has the same right as the accused to attend and have others present at student conduct hearings.

8. The victim has the right to be informed of the outcome of any student or colleague conduct proceeding involving alleged sexual misconduct. In the case of student misconduct proceedings, the victim has the right to appeal the outcome.

9. The victim has the right to request a change in academic, on-campus employment, or on-campus living arrangements after the alleged sexual misconduct and to be informed of the reasonably available options for those changes.

10. The victim will be informed about campus and/or community resources for counseling, advocacy, and other services for survivors of sexual assault.

For faculty and staff (all colleagues): In the event that a violation of this policy is reported to you, the victim should be provided with the above-listed options. For more specific instructions on how to properly comply with University’s sexual misconduct policy, please consult with the Title IX Coordinator.

Retaliation

RUSM prohibits retaliation against anyone who reports an incident of sexual misconduct or any person who assists or participates in a proceeding, investigation or hearing relating to such allegations. Any allegation of retaliation related to the investigation or resolution of a sexual misconduct allegation will be treated as an independent Title IX complaint requiring consideration of appropriate reparative interim action, as well as investigation and resolution as described in this policy.

Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment.

All complaints of retaliation should be reported in accordance with RUSM’s complaint procedures. If University procedures would result in the student or colleague being required to submit his/her complaint to the person whom he/she believes is retaliating against him/her, the student or colleague may submit the retaliation complaint directly to the Title IX Coordinator, or to the campus or location leader or One Up Manager, who should also inform the Title IX Coordinator.

Submission of a good-faith complaint or report of sexual misconduct will not adversely affect the complainant’s future academic or work environment. RUSM will discipline or take other appropriate action against anyone who retaliates against any person who reports an incident of alleged sexual misconduct or who retaliates against any person who assists or participates in a proceeding, investigation or hearing related to such allegations.

Confidentiality

RUSM wishes to create an environment in which individuals feel free to discuss concerns and make complaints. RUSM understands that complainants, witnesses, and others involved in the investigation process may be concerned about the confidentiality of the information they are sharing. In some cases, however RUSM may be obligated to take action when it becomes aware of information relating to a complaint.

Confidentiality in cases of sexual misconduct will be maintained to the extent permissible by law and consistent with RUSM’s obligations in investigating complaints. Once an individual discloses identifying information to RUSM through the processes described above and in the applicable complaint procedures, he/she will be considered to have filed a complaint with RUSM. While the confidentiality of information received, the privacy of individuals
involved, and compliance with the wishes of the complainant or witnesses cannot be guaranteed, they will be respected to the extent possible and appropriate.

If a student or colleague wishes to speak with someone who can assure confidentiality, he/she is encouraged to access counseling services available by referral through RUSM’s third party provider, ASPIRE, at 888.470.1531 or via http://myaspireonline.com (for students) or GuidanceResources at 877-623-3879 (for colleagues).

**Resources for Victims of Sexual Misconduct**

Local Resources are reviewed each year and can be found in the Annual Disclosure reports distributed to each campus community and posted on the Student Consumer Info page of the University’s web site. The reports are available by location in a drop-down menu and contain lists of local resources available to victims of sexual misconduct. The resource lists are updated annually.

To access this information, go to:

- RUSM Counseling Center: (767) 255-6552/ (767) 275-1385
- After Hours Call Center: (767) 275-6350 or (767) 235-5380
- RUSM EMS: (767) 235-7677
- Portsmouth Hospital: (767) 445-5237
- Princess Margaret Hospital, Roseau: (767) 266-2000, (767) 448-2231
- Ministry of Community Development, Roseau: (767) 266-3248
- Jeanie Robertson: (770) 910-4807.
- Online assistance: http://www.rapecrisis.com/
SPECIAL GRADUATION DATE REQUEST POLICY

Special graduation date requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A Special Graduation Date (SGD) may be approved for one of the following reasons:

1. You are an International citizen and are required to take USMLE Step 3 to obtain a working Visa. Your International citizenship will be verified.
2. You are applying for California licensing between November 30 and May 31. Please submit the L2 and L5 portions of the California licensing 30 days prior to your SGD requested. If you are requesting an SGD between July 31 and October 31, you must also supply proof that the program for which you wish to interview will not offer an interview without the California status letter, otherwise the November 30 graduation will be sufficient time to obtain the California status letter for purposes of The MATCH.
3. You have received a residency position or other employment, which is scheduled to begin at least one month before your scheduled graduation date. You must submit a copy of a signed contract with your request.

To apply for an SGD, submit a written request to the Office of the Registrar at least 60 days prior to the date you are requesting. You will be notified via email if you are approved. The request must include:

a. The anticipated date you will complete all graduation requirements;
b. How you would like your name listed on the diploma;
c. Email address by which you can be notified;
d. All supporting documents;
   i. Student must provide supporting documentation of California Licensing application or residency/employment acceptance

Graduation Application must be submitted via myRoss.
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

We at RUSM believe that sound extracurricular activities enhance our students’ leadership and social skills, and augment their medical education. Dozens of professional organizations and interest groups at RUSM invite you to make friends, serve others, explore common interest, participate in athletics, and be active in campus leadership. These groups include many national organizations including the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), Phi Delta Epsilon (PHiDE), American Women Surgeons (AWS), and Student National Medical Association (SNMA). We encourage you to be involved.

Student Government Association
Prominent among these organizations is the Student Government Association (SGA). The student body elects class representatives and officers for the SGA each semester. The SGA is active in coordinating athletic events, supporting student philanthropic efforts, underwriting various student interest clubs, sponsoring and arranging social activities on campus, and bringing student concerns to the attention of the administration.

SGA Officer Qualifications
To qualify to serve in an SGA leadership position, you must be a full-time student in good academic standing (as defined in this Student Handbook). Students who are officers in the SGA are considered leaders and role models for the student body. As such, they must maintain a cumulative grade point average (cGPA) above 2.6 prior to election and have no disciplinary action on record. An SGA officer who does not meet these criteria will be asked to resign, and another student will be appointed or elected to serve.

Advisors and Funding
Members of the Office of Student Affairs act as advisors to the SGA. Students are required to pay a fee (assessed with their tuition) to support the efforts of the SGA. In addition, all late registration fees and library fines go entirely to the SGA.

American Medical Student Association
Among the many organizations you may join at RUSM, students often find membership in the American Medical Students Association (AMSA) relevant to their studies and a good opportunity for hands-on community assistance. Membership is optional and dues are voluntary. AMSA works with the faculty to select outside speakers for Research Day, held each semester. They also provide public service opportunities that many students enjoy, such as health screening activities for the general public and providing health related services for students. They also provide access to the programs of the National Body of AMSA in legislative and other governmental areas.
SUBJECT CLERKSHIP EXAM POLICY

In an effort to better prepare RUSM students to pass the USMLE Step 2 CK exam on their ‘first attempt’, the following apply to all clerkships that begin on or after September 1, 2015*:

1. The passing score for the SCE in each discipline will be equal to or greater than the 5th percentile on the NBME score report for that discipline/exam.

2. The minimum passing scores will be reviewed and modified annually. The review will occur during March of each year for implementation on July 1.

3. Students scoring below the minimum passing score on any subject clerkship examination will receive a grade of I in the clerkship and will be required to retake the examination after completion of all core rotations.
   a. The student will be placed on academic probation and must retake the exam.
   b. Upon successful remediation of exam, the student will receive a grade no higher than a C on the examination portion of the final grade (currently the SCE counts 25% toward the final grade).
   c. Once the examination is successfully passed, the I grade will be replaced with the final grade in the clerkship.

   Students failing two or three (2 or 3) clerkship examinations or receiving two or three (2 or 3) I grades are required to take at least six (6) weeks of independent study at the end of their core clerkships to prepare for and retake the failed subject clerkship examinations. The independent study is not a formal course, rather it is simply time off from all other curricular requirements to study for the failed subject clerkship examinations.

4. Students failing four (4) or more subject clerkship examinations or receiving four (4) or more I grades will be required to take an independent study for at least 12 weeks to prepare for and retake the failed subject clerkship examinations.

5. Students required to take six (6) or 12 weeks of independent study time will be placed in a TW status during remediation. Students in TW status are considered not enrolled and may be subject to repayment status depending on the policies of their lenders.

6. A student must pass at least five (5) SCEs to be eligible to sit for the NBME CCSE. Students will not be scheduled for the NBME CCSE until five (5) exams are passed.

7. Students failing any one (1) subject clerkship examination a second time will be required to take an additional six (6) weeks of study time off for each exam that has been failed twice. For example, failing one (1) subject clerkship exam twice will require a student to study for six (6) weeks, failing two (2) subject clerkship exams twice will require a student to study for 12 weeks, etc.

8. Students who fail two (2) or more subject clerkship examinations may not commence electives until all subject clerkship examinations are passed. If a student has started an elective rotation when he/she is
notified of his/her second failed SCE, he/she will be permitted to complete the rotation and be placed in TW status once the elective rotation is completed.

9. Students failing any one (1) subject clerkship examination three (3) times will be required to repeat the clerkship.

10. Students failing any one (1) subject clerkship examination four (4) times will be recommended for dismissal.

*Students remediating SCEs for clerkships that started before January 1, 2015 will be subject to a grading scale with a minimum passing score of 55 for each SCE. Students remediating SCEs for clerkships that began between January 1, 2015 and August 31, 2015 will be subject to a grading scale with a minimum passing score of 58 for each SCE. Students are required to repeat the SCE until they pass and will receive a maximum grade of “C” for the exam portion of the grade.