



# **SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE**

## **ACADEMIC CATALOG AND STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2023-2024**



1858 West Grandview Boulevard • Erie, PA 16509 • (814) 866-6641  
5000 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard • Bradenton, FL 34211 • (941) 756-0690  
20 Seton Hill Drive • Greensburg, PA 15601 • (724) 552- 2880  
1 LECOM Place • Elmira, NY 14901 • (607) —442-3500

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**LECOM**  
**College of Medicine**  
**Erie, Bradenton, LECOM at Seton Hill, LECOM at Elmira**  
**2023 – 2024 Academic Calendar**

Academic Year Begins – 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Year Rotations	May 29, 2023
Registration Day	July 21, 2023
Orientation for the Class of 2027: Academic Year Begins	July 24, 2023
Academic Year Begins – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Students	July 31, 2023
Labor Day (No Classes)	September 4, 2023
Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)	November 22 - 24, 2023
Classes Resume	November 27, 2023
Semester Ends	December 15, 2023
Second Semester Begins – 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	January 3, 2024
MLK Day (No Classes)	January 15, 2024
Semester End Date – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	May 10, 2024
Semester End Date – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year	May 17, 2024
Academic Year Ends – 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Year Rotations	May 24, 2024
Commencement : Erie, LECOM at Seton Hill and Elmira	May 26, 2024
Commencement : Bradenton	June 2, 2024

**2024 – 2025, 2025 – 2026, 2026 – 2027 Academic Calendars**

<b>Calendar Events</b>	<b>2024 – 25</b>	<b>2025 – 26</b>	<b>2026 – 27</b>
Academic Year Begins – 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Year	May 27	June 2	June 1
Registration Day	July 26	July 25	July 24
Orientation – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year : Academic Year Begins	July 29	July 28	July 27
Academic Year Begins – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	August 5	August 4	August 3
Labor Day – No Classes	Sept. 2	Sept. 1	Sept. 7
Thanksgiving Break - No Classes	Nov. 27-29	Nov. 26-28	Nov. 25-27
Classes Resume	Dec. 2	Dec. 1	Nov. 30
Semester Ends	Dec. 20	Dec. 19	Dec. 18
Second Semester Begins – 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Years	Jan. 6	Jan. 5	Jan. 4
MLK Day (No Classes)	Jan. 20	Jan. 19	Jan. 18
Semester End Date – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	May 16	May 15	May 14
Semester End Date – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year	May 23	May 22	May 21
Academic Year Ends – 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Years	May 23	May 29	May 28
Commencement: Erie, LECOM at Seton Hill and Elmira	June 1	May 31	May 30
Commencement: Bradenton	June 8	June 7	June 30



# 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

## 1.1. DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF ACADEMIC CATALOG AND STUDENT HANDBOOK

This publication is a reference guide for students in all programs offered by LECOM's College of Osteopathic Medicine, leading to the degrees of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.N.). The Academic Catalog and Student Handbook contains information about academic standards, grading, class attendance, tuition and fees, refund policy, student promotion, retention, graduation, academic freedom, students' rights and responsibilities, the filing of grievances and appeals, along with other information about LECOM and pertinent to the student body. Separate reference guides are provided for the School of Pharmacy, School of Dental Medicine, School of Podiatric Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, School of Health Services Administration, and the Masters of Medical Sciences in Bradenton. In addition, there is a Clinical Clerkship Manual that covers additional topics pertinent to the clinical years and clinical curriculum.

Each step of the educational process, from admission through graduation, requires continuing review and approval by the LECOM administration. LECOM is not responsible for and disclaims any misrepresentations of its requirements or provisions that might arise as a result of errors in preparation of the Academic Catalog and Student Handbook. LECOM reserves the right, at any time, with or without notice to modify the Academic Catalog and Student Handbook, including but not limited to changes in requirements, courses, policies, and procedures.

Each student enrolled in LECOM is individually responsible for knowledge of the current academic regulations, the general and specific requirements, and the operational policies as contained in the Academic Catalog and Student Handbook and other official documents or announcements of LECOM. This Handbook can be viewed electronically on the LECOM web site at <https://lecom.edu/academics/academic-catalog/>

To the extent applicable, students are subject to and will be expected to observe the provisions of the Code of Ethics of the American Podiatric Medical Association upon matriculation.

The Academic Catalog and Student Handbook is reviewed annually to ensure accuracy and to reflect any revisions to programs or policies. A new Academic Catalog and Student Handbook is published on or about July 1 of each year.

## 1.2. INSTITUTIONAL MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LAKE ERIE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE AND VALUES

### **Institutional Mission Statement**

The **mission** of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine is to prepare students to become osteopathic physicians, pharmacy practitioners, dentists, and podiatric physicians through programs of excellence in education, research, clinical care, and community service to enhance the quality of life through improved health for all humanity. Serving as a guiding light and cornerstone in medical education and true to the core principles of its founders, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine has expanded its reach to include exceptional programs in graduate studies designed to provide scholars superlative education in the respective areas of study. The professional programs are dedicated to serve all students through innovative curriculum and the development of postdoctoral education and interprofessional experiences.

**Institutional Values** indicate how we desire to behave with one another and how we regard our professional community. With its holistic focus on creating an effective learning environment, the

LECOM administration, faculty and student body work together to achieve the following:

1. **Quality in Osteopathic Medical Education**  
continuous improvement of performance that meets or exceeds administrative, faculty and student expectations.
2. **Acceptance of Accountability**  
affirmative response to and action on duties and responsibilities given.
3. **Cooperative Relationship**  
a joint effort and a caring commitment to achieve common goals.
4. **Trust, Honesty, and Integrity**  
adherence to values; truthfulness, worthy of confidence.
5. **Collegiality**  
the spirit of working together for the common good.
6. **Commitment to the Whole**  
an allegiance to a positive course of action for the good of the whole.
7. **Respect for Different Perspectives**  
reverence for and dignified treatment of each individual.
8. **Diversity**  
distinction with identity.
9. **Proactive Organization**  
persistence, preservice and leadership to achieve a vision and strategic goals.

### 1.3. HISTORY OF LECOM

Throughout history, legacy-creating, innovative decisions have distinguished between leader and follower; between insight and apathy; and ultimately, between success and failure. Such is the case with the history that has come to form the heritage of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

As the 20th Century drew to a close, those in governance of Millcreek Community Hospital (MCH) in Erie, Pennsylvania, were faced with a problematic decision. In an era during which it was becoming increasingly difficult to attract new physicians to the calling, this small community hospital sought to maintain its position of leadership within the field of health care. The dilemma was dissected by the group of visionaries at MCH who, through their astute prescience and vigilant observations, made a decision to open a new school of medicine.

At a time during which much of the medical community did not see a need for additional medical colleges, much less the need for physicians, the MCH Board saw it differently. The hospital existed in an area within close proximity to Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Buffalo; an area underserved by physicians. The establishment of a medical college in Erie had the intended effect of allowing the hospital to train needed new doctors and to accommodate the open positions at MCH and at other hospitals throughout the region.

The journey began in September 1988, when the Board of Trustees of Millcreek Community Hospital

conducted a major strategic planning retreat. Attendees at the planning session established a new hospital mission that emphasized the need for educating osteopathic physicians to provide medical services to the medically underserved areas across Northwestern Pennsylvania.

In March 1989, the Board of Trustees assembled an Osteopathic Medical School Task Force that began to explore the feasibility of founding a new osteopathic medical school. The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) was established as the 16th college of osteopathic medicine in the nation with its receipt of a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Charter in December 1992. The Charter Class began on August 9, 1993 at a new campus on West Grandview Boulevard in Erie, Pennsylvania.

With the graduation of the LECOM inaugural class on May 24, 1997, the College received full accreditation from the American Osteopathic Association. Since that time, LECOM has granted the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Degree to more than 8,200 graduates.

For almost three decades, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine has realized its foundational promise under the skillful and steady direction of its President and CEO, John M. Ferretti, D.O., who has established, expanded, and advanced the LECOM mission.

Dr. Ferretti is a Board Certified Internist who was among the College founders and who is a nationally recognized leader in osteopathic medicine. Dr. Ferretti's visionary leadership of the whole of the Institution has ushered in an era of national prominence and unprecedented growth.

In 2000, within a period of only eight years after its founding, LECOM experienced an intensity of rapid growth as a small group of first-year medical students arrived as pioneers in a new Learning Pathway. LECOM would be the first of its kind to introduce an effectively innovative approach to medical education, Problem-Based Learning (PBL). By working in small groups through a paradigm of self-directed study, PBL students are tasked to think clinically and to solve problems in the same way in which a physician diagnoses a patient.

By 2002, College growth and enrollment required LECOM to triple the size of the original medical school building, adding another 100,000 square feet of modern teaching, learning and research facilities. With the acquisition of the neighboring LORD Corporation (now LECOM West) property in 2011, the College is now expansively situated along West Grandview Boulevard where a park-like, 53-acre campus boasts an excellent view of Lake Erie.

A continually growing medical and wellness campus also stretches along Peach Street in Erie as the College and community engage in the whole-body wellness paradigm that has become LECOM Health, the only health system in the United States with an Osteopathic Academic Health Center. The College, Millcreek Community Hospital, and Medical Associates of Erie - the clinical practice network of physician offices located in Erie County - form the core of this highly innovative medical education and patient care system.

True to the College mission, to provide primary health care to Northwestern Pennsylvania, LECOM achieved another milestone with the addition of its School of Pharmacy. The Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania approved the LECOM School of Pharmacy in May of 2001 with its unique three-year, accelerated curriculum. Classes began in September of 2002, and LECOM held its first pharmacy school graduation in June of 2005. Following that commencement, the LECOM School of Pharmacy received full accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. Since that time, LECOM has granted the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree to more than 3,300 graduates.

In addition to the original campus in Erie, Pennsylvania, LECOM has continued its role in the vanguard of national leadership in osteopathic medicine by developing a branch campus in Bradenton, Florida. Located in the lush, palm-embowered setting of Lakewood Ranch, a master-planned community in

Manatee County, Florida, LECOM Bradenton welcomed its first class of medical students on September 13, 2004. With the enrollment of the Bradenton Class of 2011, LECOM became the largest medical college in the nation. In 2007, the School of Pharmacy also expanded to Florida, offering a traditional four-year Doctor of Pharmacy degree curriculum and graduating the first class from LECOM Bradenton in 2011.

In keeping with its proven tradition of leading the field in medical education, LECOM initiated the Masters of Science in Medical Education Degree Program at the Erie campus in 2005. This postgraduate course became the first distance education program at LECOM and it trains physicians to become teachers and leaders in the clinical education of future physicians. In addition to filling the need for teaching physicians, LECOM recognized the need for professors who could teach anatomy, one of the vital basic sciences required in medical education, so the College introduced a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Anatomy Education.

To further the education of potential medical, pharmacy, and dental school recruits, the College also offers the Masters of Science in Biomedical Sciences Degree, a Masters in Medical Science Degree, and the Health Sciences Post Baccalaureate Certificate.

Seeking to quickly and effectively fill the need for more physicians, LECOM added two accelerated programs in the medical college: the Primary Care Scholars Pathway (in 2007), and the Accelerated Physicians Assistant Pathway (in 2011). These Programs allow qualified students to complete the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree in just three years.

The vision of LECOM continued in 2009, with the extension of LECOM Erie to the campus of the private liberal arts institution of Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. LECOM at Seton Hill added an additional 104 medical students to the first-year class, and now, it has an ever increasing medical school enrollment.

In July 2012, the LECOM School of Dental Medicine welcomed students in Bradenton, establishing yet a new era in the betterment of healthcare education. The first class of dental students was graduated in 2016. These scholars undertook three years of academic and basic clinical training at LECOM Bradenton. They completed their fourth year of study at community-based dental outreach offices in DeFuniak Springs, Florida and in Erie, Pennsylvania. These sites were chosen, in part, because of the enduring LECOM commitment to provide care where it is most needed.

Ever vigilant to marking innovative trends in education, LECOM added two distance education pathways in 2014. The School of Pharmacy Distance Education Pathway is one of only four online-distance education programs in the nation for pursuing the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree. The online classes for the Masters in Health Services Administration have provided the highly sought after opportunity for professionals aspiring to take leadership roles in the administration of hospitals, clinical practices, and in other healthcare facilities. Realizing that healthcare professionals are encountering cultural and social attitudes, values, and beliefs that may differ from their own personal perceptions, LECOM developed an online degree for the Master in Science in Biomedical Ethics Degree. This Program fills the need for healthcare workers and administrators who are better prepared to recognize and effectively handle the ethical complexities and dilemmas woven into modern medical practice.

Augmenting the noteworthy educational advancements, LECOM has been ever cognizant of its role in community enrichment, service, and the promulgation of health for all. With the 2009 opening of the John M. and Silvia Ferretti Medical Fitness and Wellness Center, the College founded a medically integrated wellness center that not only serves the fitness and medical education needs of LECOM students and employees of LECOM Health, but one that also offers to the populace of Erie County an opportunity to pursue a better quality of life through prevention and wellness.

Also in 2014, LECOM incorporated LifeWorks Erie now known as LECOM Center for Health and Aging into its family of health and educational services. The affiliation offers programs, services, and lifelong learning opportunities for individuals age 50 and older, has complemented and enhanced the ability of the LECOM Institute for Successful Aging to serve the growing elderly population throughout the region.

In 2015, as LECOM wholly recast the very paradigm in comprehensive patient-centered health care, the LECOM Institute for Successful Aging opened the 144-bed LECOM Senior Living Center adjacent to Millcreek Community Hospital. The welcoming and homelike environment, coupled with a skilled nursing facility, is the next generation of innovative, compassionate, and comprehensive health care designed specifically for older adults.

Ever aware of changing community needs, LECOM recognized the disproportionately growing senior population in Erie County by adding a multifaceted component to its health care programs for older adults. As part of the LECOM commitment to wellness for this growing age group, LECOM purchased Parkside Senior Living Communities consisting of three independent living and personal care apartment complexes, located in Erie, North East, and Millcreek. And added two additional long-term care facilities, LECOM at Village Square and LECOM Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

The prodigious undertaking further solidifies LECOM as the seminal provider of a healthful and proactive amalgam of comprehensive services that afford older adults independent decision-making options throughout each part of the continuum of care.

Life is change; growth is optional. In this area, LECOM always has chosen wisely. Knowing the way in which to grow is just as important as knowing when to do so.

Thus, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine met the new year of 2016 with multiple acquisitions, including Corry Memorial Hospital, LECOM Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and the Visiting Nurse Association of Erie County. Growth continued in 2017, as LECOM Health (joined by Allegheny Health Network) became a partner with Warren General Hospital in Warren, Pennsylvania.

In January of 2014, the College began its Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences with the Master of Science in Medical Education (MSMed Ed), the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences (MSBS), the Master of Medical Science (MMS), the Doctoral Program in Medical Education, the Doctoral Program in Anatomy Education, the Doctoral Program in Medical Microbiology Education, the Doctoral Program in Pharmacy Education, and the Master of Science in Nursing – Clinical Nurse Leader (MSN-CNL) programs. The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences was established to provide educational and research opportunities for students in a variety of different career paths.

In September of 2018, LECOM announced the formation of the LECOM School of Health Services Administration (SHSA). The school teaches the business of healthcare as it prepares future leaders to meet the evolving need for competent and well-trained administrators and providers.

The SHSA program offers the Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA), Master in Health Services Administration (MHSA), Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT), Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE), and Masters in PublicHealth (MPH). The LECOM SHSA programs provide students with indispensable knowledge, leadership, and communication skills required to plan, direct, and coordinate medical and health service organizations such as hospitals, health care facilities, public health care organizations, pharmacies, private practice groups, and senior living centers. The knowledge gained from these programs is vital to the understanding, planning, and implementation of sound fiscal policy, strategic planning, industry compliance, ethics, and responsible governance.

The beginning of all promising enterprises, undertakings, or accomplishments begins with an idea. With

that idea usually follows a set of circumstances, which, in retrospect, appear to have forecast a prophetic outcome.

On July 15, 2019, the New York State Board of Regents approved the LECOM request to operate its Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program in Elmira, New York. With this approval, LECOM welcomed 120 first-year medical students to its newest campus, LECOM at Elmira, in July of 2020.

An expansive, 49,000 square foot state-of-the-art academic building now houses LECOM on the Elmira College campus in Elmira, New York, where LECOM scholars are now trained in the medical excellence that defines a LECOM education.

The leadership at LECOM has held fast to the tenet that the great use of life must be spent for something that will outlast it. Every LECOM endeavor has spoken to that noble end, and in every mission, enduring service and unyielding exceptionalism has been at its heart.

In August of 2019, officials with Corry Memorial Hospital (CMH), an affiliate of LECOM Health, celebrated the Grand Opening of the Corry Medical Arts Building. The state-of-the-art facility is now the home of the Corry Rural Health Clinic as well as offices for primary care and specialty physicians. Residents of Corry, Pennsylvania now have access to expanded healthcare options allowing them to receive high-quality care in their own region. The clinic offers a broad spectrum of services, including family medicine, geriatrics, internal medicine, podiatry, urology, endocrinology, orthopedic surgery, OB-GYN, general surgery, and gastroenterology.

In September of 2019, LECOM Health opened an outpatient pharmacy on Peach Street and it acquired Colonial Family Pharmacy. As of November of 2020, both pharmacies were branded as Colonial Family Pharmacy. LECOM Health has extended its ever stalwart commitment to the Erie region by offering pharmacy services at two convenient Erie locations. Colonial Family Pharmacy offers outpatient pharmacy services in the small-town, personalized, and friendly manner that customers have come to expect from community pharmacies. Recommendations for the correct over-the-counter products for specific needs or conditions - including smoking cessation, pain management, diabetes, and high blood pressure - are backed by the knowledge and training that is the hallmark of the LECOM imprimatur.

In January of 2020, LECOM Health consolidated many of its mental health services. With the opening of the LECOM Institute for Behavioral Health, outpatient psychiatric care and medication management became readily accessible from a team of ten psychiatrists, as well as from expert counselors and compassionate support staff. An established leader in behavioral health care, LECOM Health began providing the needed services at Millcreek Community Hospital in 2001.

Already the fourth largest provider of behavioral health services in Pennsylvania, continuing enhancement and development of behavioral health services has been an ongoing theme at LECOM.

The LECOM Institute for Behavioral Health offers 101 psychiatric and inpatient detox beds at MCH; and recently, it has added a new, 10-bed residential psychiatric health facility for children and adolescents designed to assist youngsters between the ages of seven and seventeen who are navigating emotional difficulties.

Further augmenting the wide range of behavioral healthcare offerings at the Institute, the newly affiliated Achievement Center of LECOM Health provides quality therapeutic services to children and families throughout the region. Achievement Center programs are designed to meet the unique needs of children and adolescents who are experiencing emotional, social, physical, or behavioral challenges.

Furthering its enduring pledge to the healthful improvement of underserved areas, LECOM opened the Union City Rural Health Clinic in June of 2020.

LECOM Health opened its newest senior residential facility in November of 2020. Parkside at Corry features 39 spacious and beautifully designed apartment homes. Boasting a wide range of amenities and services, Parkside at Corry promotes an independent and healthful senior lifestyle.

Early in 2021, LECOM combined the resources of LECOM Health and Corry Counseling Services to further expand behavioral healthcare options, particularly in rural and underserved locales. For more than four decades, Corry Counseling Services has assisted children and adults with mental and developmental disabilities throughout Erie, Warren, and Crawford Counties; now, as part of LECOM Health, the mission expands and strengthens.

In July 2021, LECOM purchased the former Porreco Campus from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. The newly named LECOM Education Center sits on the 28-acre property on West 38th Street, about seven miles outside of Erie. The new facility will be used for small group study for the medical schools Problem Based Learning and Directed Study programs.

Now, in its 30th year, LECOM has established an unassailable reputation as a leader in medical education and patient care, with its graduates highly sought after in the fields of medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry. LECOM also has set the standard for affordable education in a private medical college setting where graduates achieve outstanding board scores and journey forward to make a difference in the field of health care.

The College has solidified its venerable place in medical education through a multiplicity of attributes; one of its most noteworthy offerings focuses upon its student-centered Learning Pathways. LECOM became one of the first institutions to present its curriculum in multiple learning styles designed to address the specific educational needs of its students and it accorded to them a choice of three- or four-year programs.

Coupled with its superlative curriculum, the character of those who practice their noble profession is at the heart of a LECOM education. Those in leadership understood that a physician embodies honor, professional appearance, purposeful action, and responsible behavior. The College adopted an honor code, a dress code for classroom and clinic, and professional policies that inculcate respect for the faculty, colleagues, and classmates.

The visionary leaders of medicine who founded LECOM sought to develop the core attributes that define a healthcare professional: the credo of the calling; the intrinsic purpose of the healer; and the foundation of that which carries a physician to seek the best version of themselves - for each defines the future of medicine.

Much has transpired in almost three decades - education, enrichment, character, and community - all within the prophecy of a prescient body of educators and physicians whose idea of the possible triumphed over doubt.

The founders of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine knew that their actions would inspire, their mission would bring purpose, and their commitment to a vision would result in a better tomorrow, not only for the generations of scholars who have crossed the threshold of a great institution, but also to the communities and to the larger world that they will serve in the calling of a lifetime.

#### **1.4. STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

LECOM prohibits and does not engage in discrimination on the basis of race/ethnicity, religion, gender or sex to include sexual orientation, gender identification, and gender expression, national origin, ancestry, ethnicity citizenship, age, genetic characteristics, disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law. This policy applies to all LECOM programs and activities, including but

not limited to admission, employment, education, scholarship, graduation, loan policies, practices, and procedures.

LECOM seeks to admit qualified students and hire qualified employees for the creation of a diverse body of thought and interest within its community of scholars. Our definition of diversity includes race/ethnicity, religion, gender or sex to include sexual orientation, gender identification, and gender expression, national origin, ancestry, ethnicity citizenship, age, genetic characteristics, disability, or any other characteristic, but is certainly not limited to those considerations. The candidate's background in the sciences, future career intentions, unique abilities, personality, and general accomplishments also are carefully reviewed in seeking to have a diverse student body. For instance, a student who has demonstrated unique talents and skills in research, or who has a unique life mission in public health service, brings to our student body another important measure of diversity.

LECOM has no quotas, nor does it have set asides; regardless of race or ethnicity, all applicants are considered in the same competitive pool using the same policies, procedures, and Admissions Committee members. The Admissions Committee's protocols ensure that all applicants receive individualized and equal consideration.

The Institution and its college and schools are dedicated to ensuring access, fairness, and equity for all persons in its educational programs, related activities, and employment, including those groups who have faced historical barriers to full and fair integration and participation. All LECOM administrators, faculty, staff, students, contractors, consultants, and volunteers are responsible for understanding and complying with the Policy and Statement of Non-Discrimination.

#### **1.4.1. STATEMENT ON INTOLERANCE**

LECOM is committed to creating an educational environment which is free from intolerance directed toward individuals or groups and strives to create and maintain an environment that fosters respect for others. Toward that end LECOM provides opportunities for educational programs and activities to create an inclusive environment.

### **1.5. OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

LECOM's initiative to support this educational undertaking is through the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Teresa Hunter-Pettersen M.D., M.P.A., M.S., Associate Professor of Medical Education, is the Institutional Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Through Dr. Pettersen's efforts, LECOM has established the following Mission, Vision, Purpose, and Value Statements:

#### **DEI Mission Statement**

The mission of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine is to prepare students to become osteopathic physicians, pharmacy practitioners, and dentists' podiatrists, nurses, educators, and members of the health service vocations through programs of excellence in education, research, clinical care, and community service to enhance the quality of life through improved health for all humanity. Serving as a guiding light and cornerstone in medical education and true to the core principles of its founders, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine has expanded its reach to include exceptional programs in graduate studies designed to provide scholars superlative education in the respective areas of study. The professional programs are dedicated to serve all students through innovative curriculum and the development of postdoctoral education and interprofessional experiences.

#### **DEI Vision Statement**

The vision statement of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine's (LECOM) is to celebrate the



oneness of humanity, to foster meaningful discourse in an educational environment that supports a humble posture of learning that is systematic across all Institutional Programs; steep in mutual respect and trust for the diverse community we represent in promoting our mission to education and community service.

### **DEI Purpose Statement**

LECOM's institutional educational policies acknowledge the value of a diverse and vibrant community. LECOM strives to continue to increase its visibility to broaden diversity and inclusivity of its student body, administration, and faculty representation. LECOM's academic community invests in attainment of an education as well as training consistent with its vision.

### **DEI Value Statement**

LECOM's institutional educational policies acknowledge the value of a diverse and vibrant community. LECOM strives to continue to increase its visibility to broaden diversity and inclusivity of its student body, administration, and faculty representation. LECOM's academic community invests in attainment of an education, as well as training consistent with its vision.

### **Provisions for the Highest Quality Educational Experience**

As a doctor's professional practice institution, LECOM is committed to providing the highest quality educational experience, and continually seeks to improve our pedagogical practices and curricular offerings. Students at LECOM bring with them differing backgrounds and perspectives which are to support, to encourage and to engage in the educational learning environment, which leads to deeper understanding, excellence, and innovation from members of the health professions team. Central to LECOM's approach is the pedagogical strategy of classroom discussion, used to broaden and enhance student thinking. These discussions rely on the differing viewpoints, perspectives, and insights that a diverse group of students and faculty bring to the dynamics of adapting a humble posture of learning environments.

### **Preparations for Graduates aimed at Careers in a Diverse Society**

In a multicultural, demographic society, representative of the United States means that LECOM graduates will most likely meet, work with, and serve a vast array of people from diverse backgrounds to whom familiarity and knowledge is not known from their own multicultural background. Even if the differences between our graduates and the patients and colleagues they will serve are not visible, the realities of our diverse society mean our graduates will certainly meet a wide variety of viewpoints and opinions. The best way to prepare LECOM students to succeed in an increasingly diverse society is to expose our students in meaningful ways to a process-oriented learning approach that adjusts for meeting and addressing health equity needs in the patient-centered environment.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – The ADDRESSING Model**

Responsive to the expressed needs of students being trained in the health professions along with best practices in diversity, equity, and inclusion work across higher education, LECOM has adopted the ADDRESSING Model of Cultural Competency as described by Pamela A. Hays, Ph.D. Dr. Hays' work is a resource that better recognizes and understands cultural influences as a multidimensional amalgamation representative of age, developmental and acquired disabilities, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, indigenous heritage, national origin, and gender. The ADDRESSING Model focuses on the unique characteristics of an individual based on intersectionality of the multiple facets that influence an individual life experience. This framework orients the learner about how to become cognizant of realities that underrepresented communities experience such as: living in poverty, living with ethical boundaries while trying to ascertain health services and resources in

a complex system in urban and rural communities across the United States. Students will focus on interpersonal communication skills focused on learning about diverse cultures through experience with members of diverse groups as it relates to the development of culture-specific relationship skill building. Students will focus on developing interpersonal and communication skills as it relates [to working effectively with people of diverse ages, ethnic cultures, religions, disabilities, gender identities, nationalities, and classes]1 as to ensure the development of an appropriate professional relationship and rapport.

Students that LECOM attracts and trains to be leaders in the health professions are an integral and important part of the contributions the Institution supports towards education and healthcare. LECOM strives to meet the demand for strong leadership and innovation with skillful, compassionate practice in the health profession.

## **1.6. LECOM CAMPUSES AND FACILITIES**

### Erie, Pennsylvania Campus

LECOM Main Building  
1858 West Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16509

LECOM West Building  
2000 West Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16509

LECOM Bayfront Building  
1 LECOM Place  
Erie, PA 16505

LECOM Education Center (LEC)  
2951 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erie, PA 16509

John M. & Silvia Ferretti Medical Fitness & Wellness Center  
5401 Peach Street  
Erie, PA 16509

### Greensburg, Pennsylvania Campus

LECOM at Seton Hill Campus  
Lynch Hall  
20 Seton Hill Dr.  
Greensburg, PA 15601

### Elmira, New York Campus

LECOM Elmira Building  
1 LECOM Place  
Elmira, NY 14901

### Bradenton, Florida Campus

College of Medicine and School of Pharmacy Building

4800 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.  
Bradenton, FL 34211

School of Dental Medicine and School of Health Services Administration Building  
5000 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.  
Bradenton, FL 34211

### **1.6.1. THE JOHN M. & SILVIA FERRETTI MEDICAL FITNESS & WELLNESS CENTER**

LECOM and Millcreek Community Hospital launched a project that joins health care services and fitness programs into one center. The LECOM John M. and Silvia Ferretti Medical Fitness and Wellness Center, housing a premier fitness center and clinical offices of Medical Associates of Erie, is a center where the Erie Community can work toward disease prevention as well as seek treatment.

The spa-quality fitness center occupies the first two floors of the three-story building with three swimming pools, aerobic and yoga fitness rooms, basketball and racquetball courts, a 3-lane indoor running track and a physical therapy facility. The third-floor houses offices for the Medical Associates of Erie offering internal medicine, integrative medicine, geriatrics, orthopedic surgery and obstetrics/gynecology. The union of a comprehensive fitness center and medical offices into one center reflects osteopathic medicine's commitment to preventive, holistic health care. The LECOM John M. and Silvia Ferretti Medical Fitness and Wellness Center opened in March 2009. All matriculating students are eligible for membership.

Students at the Bradenton campus can make use of facilities at the YMCA, which is adjacent to the campus. LECOM at Seton Hill students can make use of Seton Hill University's fitness center and athletic facilities. Likewise, LECOM at Elmira students will have access to the facilities of Elmira College.

### **1.7. DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED BY LECOM**

LECOM awards the following degrees to students who have successfully fulfilled all requirements for graduation and who have been recommended for graduation by the faculty:

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)  
Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.)  
Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)  
Doctor of Healthcare Administration (D.H.A.)  
Doctor of Philosophy in Anatomy Education (Ph.D.)  
Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Education (Ph.D.)  
Doctor of Philosophy in Microbiology Education (Ph.D.)  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacy Education (Ph.D.)  
Masters in Health Services Administration (M.H.S.A.)  
Masters in Public Health (M.P.H.)  
Master of Medical Science (M.M.S.)  
Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (M.S.B.E.)  
Master of Science in Biomedical Science (M.S. in Biomedical Science)  
Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (M.S..MCT)  
Master of Science in Medical Education (M.S. Med. Ed.)  
Master of Science in Nursing – Clinical Nurse Leader (M.S.N. – C.N.L.)  
Post Baccalaureate Certificate – Pharmacy Enrichment  
Post Associate Certificate – Pre-Pharm.D. Enrichment

## **1.8. NOTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE**

LECOM professional programs, Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Podiatric Medicine all meet the school education requirements for licensure in all states in the United States. Attainment of the D.O., Pharm.D., D.M.D., and D.P.M. degree is one component of the state licensure process.

LECOM medical students are eligible to sit for the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX) Level 1, Level 2-CE, and Level 2-PE (suspended indefinitely); and LECOM graduates are eligible to sit for the COMLEX Level 3 examination. All components of COMLEX must be successfully passed to obtain licensure in the United States. Individual states may have additional requirements, including requirements for successful completion of graduate medical education (i.e., residency training). Specific requirements for obtaining licensure as an osteopathic physician in the state where a license will be sought should be obtained from that state's licensing board.

LECOM pharmacy graduates are eligible to sit for the North American Pharmacists Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and the subsequent Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam (MPJE). All components of the licensing examination must be successfully passed to obtain licensure in the United States. Individual states may have additional requirements. Specific requirements for obtaining licensure as a pharmacist in the state where license will be sought should be obtained from the state's licensing board.

LECOM dental students and graduates are eligible to sit for the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) and American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) examinations. All components of licensure examinations must be successfully passed to obtain licensure in the United States. Individual states may have additional requirements, including requirements for successful completion of graduate dental education (i.e., residency training). Specific requirements for obtaining licensure as an osteopathic physician in the state where a license will be sought should be obtained from that state's licensing board.

LECOM podiatric medical students and graduates are eligible to sit for the American Podiatric medical Licensing Examinations (APMLE) Level I, II, and II CSPE; and LECOM graduates are eligible to sit for the APMLE Level III examination. All components APMLE must be successfully passed to obtain licensure in the United States. Individual states may have additional requirements, including requirements for successful completion of graduate podiatric medical education (i.e., residency training). Specific requirements for obtaining licensure as an osteopathic physician in the state where a license will be sought should be obtained from that state's licensing board.

## **1.9. ACCREDITATION, LICENSURE AND STUDENT COMPLAINTS**

### **1.9.1. ACCREDITATION**

#### Institutional Accreditation

LECOM is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The Commission is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation.

1007 North Orange Street

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, MB #166

Wilmington, DE 19801

(267) 284-5011

#### College of Medicine Accreditation

LECOM College of Medicine is accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA).

142 E. Ontario Street  
Chicago, IL 6611-2864  
(312) 202-8000

#### School of Pharmacy Accreditation

LECOM School of Pharmacy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) Board of Directors.

190 South LaSalle Street, Suite 3000  
Chicago, IL 6603-3446  
(312) 664-3575

#### School of Dental Medicine Accreditation

LECOM School of Dental Medicine is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and has been granted accreditation status of, “approval without reporting requirements.” The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States

Department of Education.  
211 East Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 6611  
(312) 440-4653

#### School of Podiatric Medicine

LECOM School of Podiatric Medicine is accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) and has been granted “candidacy status,” on October 24, 2022. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

9312 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
(301) 581-9200

### **1.9.2. STATE LICENSURE**

#### State of Pennsylvania Licensure

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine is licensed by the Department of Education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education

Pennsylvania Department of Education  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126  
(717) 783-6788

#### State of New York Licensure

LECOM at Elmira is under the general supervision of the New York State Board of Regents.

NY State Department of Education  
89 Washington Avenue, Board of Regents, Room 110 EB  
Albany, New York 12234  
(518) 474-5889

### State of Florida Licensure

All LECOM programs located at the Bradenton, Florida campus are licensed by the Commission for Independent Education, Florida Department of Education. Additional information regarding the institution can be obtained by contacting:

Commission for Independent Education  
325 West Gains Street, Suite 1414  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(888) 224-6684

### National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)

LECOM participates in the SARA as a voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of postsecondary distance education. As a SARA-approved institution, LECOM is authorized to offer online courses in each state that is part of the agreement without having to get approval from each state individually.

WCET/SAN provides individual state contact information which is available at this link:

<https://wcetsan.wiche.edu/resources/student-complaint-information-state-and-agency>

Map of SARA states: <http://nc-sara.org/sara-states-institutions>

Students may review the institution's final accreditation and licensing documents upon request. Requests should be made to Student Affairs.

## **1.9.3. STUDENT COMPLAINTS TO STATE LICENSING AGENCIES AND ACCREDITORS**

If a student enrolled at a LECOM campus does not receive satisfaction from a complaint filed with LECOM pursuant to the LECOM delineated process for filing a complaint, the student may contact the state department of education in the state where the student is enrolled.

In **Pennsylvania**, students may contact the following to obtain a complaint form and submit it to:

Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education  
Pennsylvania Department of Education  
333 Market Street, 12th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333  
Phone: (717) 783-8228  
Fax: (717) 772-3622  
Email: RA-pls@pa.gov (for submission of form or questions)

Or see the following link for the process and form.

<http://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Postsecondary-Adult/College%20and%20Career%20Education/Colleges%20and%20Universities/Higher%20Education%20Complaint%20Form.pdf>

In **Florida**, students may send by letter or e-mail the following information:

1. Name of Student (or Complainant)
2. Complainant Address
3. Phone Number
4. Name of Institution
5. Location of the Institution (City)

6. Dates of Attendance
7. A full description of the problem and any other documentation that will support your claim such as enrollment agreements, correspondence, etc.

Send Letter To:

Commission for Independent Education

325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1414

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Or E-mail: [cieinfo@fldoe.org](mailto:cieinfo@fldoe.org)

Or Fax: 850-245-3238

In **New York**, students may send by letter or e-mail the following information:

New York State Board of Regents which can be reached at the NY State Department of Education, 89 Washington Avenue, Board of Regents, Room 110 EB, Albany, New York 12234, Phone: 518-474-5889.

LECOM **out-of-state distance learning students** residing in a SARA state may file a complaint with the Pennsylvania SARA portal agency, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, or with a state agency in the state in which they reside.

All State Contacts for Student Complaints:

WCET/SAN provides individual state contact information which is available at this link:

<https://wcetsan.wiche.edu/resources/student-complaint-information-state-and-agency>

SARA complaint process: <https://nc-sara.org/sara-student-complaints>

SARA FAQs about complaints: <https://nc-sara.org/content/sara-and-students>

Pennsylvania SARA information:

[https://www.education.pa.gov/Postsecondary-Adult/CollegeCareer/Pages/State-Authorization-Reciprocity-Agreement-\(SARA\).aspx](https://www.education.pa.gov/Postsecondary-Adult/CollegeCareer/Pages/State-Authorization-Reciprocity-Agreement-(SARA).aspx)

Students interested in: (1) making complaints related to the accreditation standards and procedures, or (2) making complaints regarding the use of these accreditation standards and procedures during an accreditation site visit should make these complaints in writing to the Provost, Dean of Academic Affairs, Dean of the School of Pharmacy or Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, who will maintain records of the receipt, adjudication, and resolution of such complaints.

LECOM students may contact LECOM's accreditor, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) directly regarding an institution's compliance with the Commission's standards for accreditation, requirements of affiliation, and policies and procedures outside of a scheduled accreditation review. Additional information is available by email at [complaints@msche.org](mailto:complaints@msche.org) or via the commissions website: [Complaints and Third Party Comments - Middle States Commission on Higher Education \(msche.org\)](https://www.msche.org/complaints-and-third-party-comments)

**College of Medicine** students may also contact the AOA directly. The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) Department of Accreditation may be contacted by mailing 142 East Ontario Street, Chicago, IL, 60611, by phone at (312) 202-8124, and by e-mail at [predoc@osteopathic.org](mailto:predoc@osteopathic.org).

<http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/accreditation/COM-accreditation/Pages/standards-and-procedures-disclaimer.aspx>

**School of Pharmacy** students may also be sent to the following web sites: [csinfo@acpe-accredit.org](mailto:csinfo@acpe-accredit.org) (regarding a professional degree program) or [ceinfo@acpe-accredit.org](mailto:ceinfo@acpe-accredit.org) (regarding a continuing education provider).

**School of Dental Medicine** may also contact CODA directory. A copy of the appropriate accreditation standards and/or the Commission's policy and procedure for submission of complaints may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 211 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 or by calling 1-800-621-8099 extension 4653. Additional information on filing complaints can be found at <https://coda.ada.org/en/policies-and-guidelines/file-a-complaint>

**School of Podiatric Medicine** may also contact Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) directly by contacting the CPME at 9312 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814 and by email at [CPMEstaff@cpme.org](mailto:CPMEstaff@cpme.org) Additional information on filing complaints can be found at <https://www.cpme.org/files/CPME%20925%20October%202018%20final.pdf>

## 1.10. DISCLAIMER

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) reserves the right to make changes in course offerings, curricula, academic policies, tuition and fee schedules and other rules and regulations affecting students to correct errors, omissions, inconsistencies, and changes required by regulatory, accrediting and/or other governing bodies as necessary. Date of effectiveness and interpretation of said rules, regulations and policies are within the sole discretion of LECOM. These changes will apply to students who are enrolled at the time of the changes as well as those who will become enrolled in the future. LECOM is not responsible for and disclaims any misrepresentations of its requirements or provisions that might arise because of errors in the preparation of the Academic Catalog.

The Academic Catalog is reviewed annually to ensure accuracy and to reflect any revisions to programs or policies. A new Academic Catalog is published on or about July 1 of each year.

## 1.11. WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

Students in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Pharmacy, School of Podiatric Medicine, and School of Dental Medicine, will have a significant portion of their education provided while on clinical rotations away from LECOM. LECOM has agreements with clinical preceptors/sites that are available for review. The number of such agreements is substantial and varies from year to year. The terms of these agreements impose no additional costs to LECOM students. Additional costs may, however, be incurred by students on rotations in terms of travel and living expenses. These costs vary widely, depending on the location of the rotation and the circumstances of the individuals.



## 2. ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

### INTRODUCTION

The educational philosophy and mission of the LECOM School of Podiatric Medicine (SPM) is to prepare students for residency training using a holistic approach where podiatric medical students have an understanding of the overall health of patients while specializing in preventing and treating disorders of the foot and ankle.

The program curriculum is designed to maximize student learning by integrating various teaching pedagogies, such as traditional lectures, labs, small group discussions, problem-based learning, and evidence-based medicine. All courses are supported by the latest technology. Many courses are taken jointly with the osteopathic medical students. The relationship with the osteopathic program provides the opportunity to gain valuable insight into the virtues of interprofessional practice.

The program curriculum is four years in length and follows a two-plus-two format. The first two years consist of basic science, clinical systems, and podiatric specific courses. Integrated into the first two years are courses that introduce students to healthcare management, medical jurisprudence, research/biostatistics, and sociocultural aspects of human behavior. Students begin their formal clinical rotations at the end of the second year. Years three and four are dedicated to a variety of clinical training experiences with an emphasis on podiatric medicine. The majority of third-year rotations occur in the greater Erie community.

### 2.1. MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LECOM, SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE AND EDUCATIONAL GOALS

#### Mission Statement

The Mission of the LECOM School of Podiatric Medicine (SPM) is to prepare students through an innovative curriculum, scholarship opportunities, and service experiences for residency training and who are dedicated to improving the overall health and wellness of all members of society through the practice of podiatric medicine.

#### Educational Goals of the School of Podiatric Medicine

Across LECOM, three institutional student learning outcomes (ISLOs) are integrated into the ethos of the institution and embedded in all programs. The three ISLOs are as follows:

**Discipline Knowledge** – Students completing a degree at LECOM will be able to demonstrate appropriate knowledge specific to their respective discipline.

**Professionalism** – Students completing a degree at LECOM will be able to demonstrate effective skills and attitudes that represent an understanding of professionalism and ethical practice.

**Osteopathic Philosophy** – Students will adopt a holistic approach to the education and practice of their respective discipline.

While LECOM adheres to the foundational tenants of osteopathic medicine and seeks to incorporate these fundamental philosophies into all programs, students in all programs are not expected to learn the osteopathic manipulate treatment skills taught in the osteopathic medicine curriculum. Rather, LECOM intends that the philosophical tenets of osteopathic medicine, which are echoed in the LECOM motto of “*Totam Personam Curamus*” (translated as “We Care for the Whole Person”), are integrated into all curricula and the ethos of the institution. The tenets are as follows:

The body is a unit. The person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.

- The body is capable of self-regulation, self-healing, and health maintenance.
- Structure and function are reciprocally interrelated.
- Rational treatment is based on an understanding of the basic principles of body unity, self-regulation, and the interrelationship of structure and function.

Graduates from the SPM are expected to achieve the following CPME adopted Student Learning Outcomes (Domains):

- Domain I: Medical Knowledge – Graduates will be able to apply current and emerging knowledge of human structure, function, development, pathology, pathophysiology, and psychosocial development to patient care.
- Domain II: Patient Care – Graduates will be able to provide effective, appropriate, and compassionate patient-centered care (with emphasis on the lower extremity) that promotes overall health to diverse populations.
- Domain III: Research and Scholarship – Graduates will be able to apply the scientific concepts of research to further the understanding of contemporary podiatric medicine and its application to appropriate care for patients.
- Domain IV: Interpersonal and Communication Skills – Graduates will be able to exhibit effective communication and interpersonal skills that result in relevant information exchange and decision-making with patients, their families, and members of the healthcare team.
- Domain V: Professionalism – Graduates will be able to exhibit the highest standards of competence, ethics, integrity, and accountability to patients and place patients' interests above oneself.
- Domain VI: Interprofessional Collaborative Practice – Graduates will be able to work as an effective member of a healthcare team.
- Domain VII: Social Determinants of Health and Addiction – Graduates will be able to apply an understanding of common societal problems (e.g., issues of addiction or abuse) and their impact on patients and their families.

## **2.2. ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL**

### **2.2.1. REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants shall meet these requirements:

In order to be considered for the 4-year DPM program at the LECOM School of Podiatric Medicine, all applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- A. Applicants will have completed 90 credit hours from a regionally accredited U.S. or Canadian college or university by the time of enrollment. Applicants participating in special affiliated programs with LECOM and other exceptions to this policy will be considered on an individual basis, but in no case will an applicant be admitted who does not have at least 75 percent of the credits required for a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- B. Applicants must take and submit Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scores to the Application Service. MCAT scores older than three years will not be accepted. The average MCAT score of applicants matriculating into Podiatric Medical Schools is 495. In certain circumstances, an Academic Index Score (AIS) may be used as A screening tool. The AIS is calculated using either the ACT and undergraduate GPA, SAT and undergraduate GPA

or using both the ACT, SAT and undergraduate GPA. The AIS will be calculated from official documents submitted directly to LECOM. The SPM will consider using the AIS in circumstances where due to the schedule of administering the MCAT, later in the academic year, when potential candidates were unable to take the MCAT or in circumstances where an applicant has competitive GPA's but A lower MCAT score.

C. Specific course requirements are as follows:

- Biology: A minimum of eight semester hours, of which a minimum of two hours of laboratory work must be completed.
- Inorganic Chemistry: A minimum of eight semester hours, including two semester hours of laboratory work.
- Organic Chemistry: Organic 1 – Four credits with one credit lab; Organic 2 – Four credits with one credit lab (or a student may substitute 3 credits of Biochemistry for Organic 2).
- Physics: A minimum of eight semester hours, including two hours of laboratory work.
- English: A minimum of six semester hours of composition and literature.

A student must earn a "C" or better in a required course in order for the credits to be counted as satisfying the requirement.

LECOM recommends that prospective students consider taking advanced coursework in addition to biochemistry, such as physiology, microbiology and anatomy.

LECOM requires that all applicants have a 2.7 overall or higher GPA (includes all coursework at the college and graduate level combined).

- D. Demonstration of commitment to service through community service or extracurricular activities.
- E. Demonstration of motivation for and commitment to health care as reflected through employment history, volunteer work, or other life experiences.
- F. Demonstration of good oral and written communication skills necessary to interact with patients and colleagues.

The SPM selects students based on pre-professional academic performance (transcripts), MCAT scores, and two letters of recommendation, to be submitted as part of a completed online application through AACPMAS. Competitive applicants will be invited for an interview.

To be competitive, an applicant should have earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university and possess a minimum science GPA of 2.7 and overall GPA of 3.0.

## **2.2.2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Individuals interested in applying to the School of Podiatric Medicine must complete an American Association of College of Podiatric Medicine Applicant Service (AACPMAS) application.

### **2.2.2.1. AACPMAS APPLICATION**

LECOM participates in a centralized application service, the American Association of College of Podiatric Medicine Applicant Service (AACPMAS), for the collection of application information. All interested applicants must complete a web-based application. The AACPMAS service collates materials, computes grades and transmits standardized information to the applicant as well as LECOM. AACPMAS takes no part in the evaluation, selection or rejection of applicants. Individuals

interested in applying to LECOM should begin the application process by applying to the AACPMAS Online Application at [aacpmas.liaisoncas.com](http://aacpmas.liaisoncas.com). Additional information about AACPMAS and the Online Application can be obtained by contacting: AACPMAS, P.O. Box 9200, Watertown, MA 02471, Phone: 617-612-2900, Email: [aacpmasinfo@aacpmas.org](mailto:aacpmasinfo@aacpmas.org)

To be competitive within the rolling admissions process, prospective students should submit their AACPMAS applications as early as possible. AACPMAS begins processing admission applications on the first Wednesday in August.

Applicants who do not meet the minimal MCAT requirement will receive an email advising them of information on how to submit ACT and/or SAT scores for consideration of an interview based on the LECOM Academic Index Score (AIS) in lieu of the MCAT. Applicants must have either an MCAT or AIS as calculated through the ACT and/or SAT in order to be considered for admission. No consideration for interview can be given without the MCAT or AIS.

The following documents must be submitted to complete the application file:

- A letter of recommendation from a pre-professional or similar committee; or
- Two letters of recommendation from undergraduate or graduate college/university science professors.
- A letter of recommendation from a podiatric physician is *recommended*.

Within the competitive admissions process, the SPM uses multiple criteria to select the most qualified, diverse group of candidates from the applicant pool. Applicants are evaluated based on academic coursework, performance on the MCAT, the application through AACPMAS, letters of recommendation, and interviews. Demonstration of community service through volunteerism or service-oriented employment is preferred.

The SPM uses a rolling admissions process to select qualified candidates. Applications are reviewed and candidates are selected for interview at regular intervals during the admissions cycle.

### **2.2.3. ADMISSIONS INFORMATION**

For further information about the School of Podiatric Medicine, please contact the Office of Admissions for LECOM Erie at (814) 866-6641. Accepted students who are found to have provided false written or oral information or falsified/modified documents to LECOM are subject to the rescission of an offer of acceptance or expulsion. Additionally, any infraction of published LECOM rules and regulations by an accepted student before matriculation may result in rescission of the offer of acceptance.

### **2.2.4. TRANSFER POLICY FOR THE SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE**

The LECOM School of Podiatric Medicine has established a transfer policy and procedure that is consistent with its educational mission and objectives for students requesting to transfer from other accredited podiatric, osteopathic or allopathic medical schools.

Applicants for transfer must be in good academic and financial standing with their current institution, have maintained at least a 3.0 average GPA on a 4-point scale, or “B” average, and have an acceptable reason for seeking transfer.

Students requesting to transfer into LECOM must complete the following procedure:

1. A completed application from AACPMAS.
2. Official transcripts from all previously attended institutions.
3. A letter from the applicant indicating why they wish to transfer to the SPM and explaining any

circumstances resulting in their request for a transfer from their current institution.

4. A letter from the Dean of the podiatric, osteopathic or allopathic medical school they are currently attending, providing the student's enrollment status and the terms of withdrawal from that institution.
5. Letters of recommendation from two (2) faculty members at the institution where the student is currently enrolled.
6. Additional documents or letters of recommendation as determined by the SPM Admissions Committee may be requested.

Acceptance of transfer students is dependent upon the student's qualifications, curricular compatibility and available space in the class they wish to enter. Additional course work may be required to satisfy LECOM's curriculum. The SPM Admissions Committee will evaluate prior course work to determine credit hours accepted for transfer. Students accepted for transfer must minimally complete their last two years at the SPM. Applicants requesting to transfer into the SPM must be eligible for readmission to the podiatry school they are currently attending.

There is no contract, stated or implied, that applicants requesting and applying for transfer into the SPM will be granted admission at any time, or at all. No advance standing will be given to transfer students.

### **2.2.5. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

The following policy has been established for international candidates (those holding or seeking an F-1 visa) applying for admission to LECOM.

- International students applying for admission to LECOM must meet all general admissions requirements as stated in our admissions policy.
- A minimum of 75% of credits required for an earned baccalaureate degree must be completed at a regionally accredited United States or Canadian institution of higher education prior to consideration for admission to LECOM. Proficiency in the English language; both written and spoken, is required.
- All course work taken at foreign institutions must be evaluated by World Education Services, Inc., P.O. Box 745, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10011, (212) 966-6311 or Josef Silny & Associates, Inc., International Education Consultants, P.O. Box 248233, Coral Gables, FL, 33124 (305) 666-0233.
- Credit for advanced standing will not be given for any work completed in foreign graduate or medical schools. All students must apply for first-year status.
- Students must have citizenship or permanent residency status (Alien Registration Card) to be eligible to receive any type of financial assistance through federal loan programs.
- International students not having their permanent residency status must provide written proof of funds on hand sufficient to finance their medical education for the length of the program of study prior to moving forward in the application process.
- At the time of application, international students must meet all the requirements and comply with all the regulations for F-1 visa status in accordance with the U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) regulations governing retention and reporting information by the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

**NOTE:** Students without citizenship or permanent residency status must understand and acknowledge

that LECOM cannot guarantee placement in a residency upon graduation. International students are encouraged to investigate limitations on obtaining medical residency before moving forward in the application process. It is also advisable to examine one's ability to practice with a podiatric medical degree in country or countries you may return to upon graduation.

## 2.2.6. APPLICATIONS TO MULTIPLE LECOM PROGRAMS

Applicants may apply to and be accepted to only one clinical program at a time. Multiple clinical program applications will not be accepted or processed. This does not apply to non-clinical programs. Students enrolled in a LECOM program may not transfer to another clinical program. To be considered for admission to another clinical program, students must first withdraw from their current program and apply for admission through the program's centralized online application service." If accepted, advanced standing will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## 2.2.7. TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and fees are due and payable by registration unless special arrangements have been made with the Accounting Office. The College reserves the right to change tuition and fees without advance notice and to make such changes applicable to present as well as future students.

<b>Matriculation Fee</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Nonrefundable fee</b> <i>(payment credited to the tuition fee upon matriculation)</i>		
<b>SPM Tuition</b>	<b>(All students)</b>	<b>\$37,925</b>
<b>Curriculum Fee</b>		<b>\$350</b>
<b>Technology Fee</b>		<b>\$300</b>
<b>Board Prep Fee</b>		<b>\$200</b>
<b>Textbook Fee</b>		<b>\$2,894</b>
<b>Student Government Fee</b>		<b>\$50</b>
<b>Disability Insurance (Mandatory)</b>	<b>Variable Age Dependent</b>	
<b>Health Insurance</b> <i>(Mandatory Unless Approved for Waiver)</i>		<b>\$4,752</b>

## 2.2.8. ADDITIONAL FEES

<b>Late Tuition Payment Fee</b> (per week)	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Breakage Fee</b>	<b>Cost of replacement</b>
<i>Loss or damage to college property and equipment is charged to the student(s) or club/organization responsible.</i>	
<b>Transcript Fee</b> (per request)	<b>\$10</b>

<b>Student Identification/Key Card – Replacement</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Remediation Exam Fee</b> ( <i>per course</i> )	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Remediation Course Fee</b> ( <i>per course; depends on course length</i> )	<b>\$500/max</b>
<b>VitalSource E-Books Fee</b>	

All students in the School of Podiatric Medicine **are required to purchase** the Sphygmomanometer (BP cuff and gauge) and the Diagnostic Kits (otoscope and ophthalmoscope) from the Welch-Allyn Instrument Sale in the Fall of the 1st year. Required equipment and price list are provided in the matriculation agreement sent upon acceptance. The student's Financial Aid Cost of Education Budget includes necessary funds for the purchase of this required diagnostic medical equipment for all pathways in all locations.

## 2.3. CURRICULUM

The SPM curriculum is four years in length and follows a two-plus-two format. The first two years consists of basic science, clinical systems, and podiatric specific courses delivered through traditional lectures, laboratories, case studies, and small group learning sessions. Integrated into the first two years are courses that introduce students to areas of healthcare management, medical jurisprudence, research/biostatistics, and the sociocultural aspects of human behavior. Many of the courses are taken jointly with osteopathic medical students. The relationship with the osteopathic program provides the opportunity to gain valuable insight into the virtues of interprofessional practice.

Students will complete a Podiatric Medicine Orientation Clinical Rotation at the end of the second year. Years three and four are dedicated to a variety of clinical training experiences with an emphasis on podiatric medicine. Students receive training in ambulatory centers, medical centers and hospitals, and community-based clinics including those in rural areas. In many of these patient-care centers, students will interact with healthcare professionals representing multiple fields of medicine and continue to experience the importance of interprofessional practice to achieve desired patient outcomes.

### 2.3.1. COURSE SEQUENCE, CREDIT HOURS, AND DESCRIPTIONS

#### Preclinical Course Sequence and Credit Hours

Abbr.	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
<b>SPM Year 1 Fall Semester</b>			
ANT	1004	Clinical Human Gross Anatomy	9.0
CLB	1004	Histology	1.0
EMB	1001	Embryology	1.0
MCB	1001	Microbiology/Immunology	4.0
BCH	1003	Biochemistry Core I	3.0
PHY	1010	Physiology	3.0
POD	1001	Foundations of Podiatric Medicine	2.0
HPO	1006	History and Physical Examination I	1.5
RES	1008	Intro to Biostatistics and Research Methodology	1.0
WRK	2020	Emergency Preparedness	P/F
Total Semester Hours			25.5
<b>SPM Year 1 Spring Semester</b>			

Abbr.	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
BHC	1005	Biochemistry Core II and Medical Genetics	2.0
PTH	1003	Pathology	1.0
PHC	1002	Pharmacology	2.0
HCM	1004	Health Care Management I	1.0
BHS	1005	Human Sexuality	1.0
HPO	1007	History and Physical Examination II	2.5
POD	1002	OR Protocols and Techniques	1.0
SYS	1001	Musculoskeletal System	5.0
NAT	1003	Basic Neurosensory System	5.5
NAT	1004	Clinical Neurosensory System	7.0
Total Semester Hours			28.0
<b>SPM Year 1 Summer Semester</b>			
LAW	1001	Medical Jurisprudence	1.0
ADM	1030	Medical Spanish I	P/F
ADM	1035	Medical Spanish II and III	P/F
BHS	1001	Psychiatry	2.5
PUB	1001	Public Health and Preventative Medicine	1.0
Total Semester Hours			4.5
<b>SPM Year 2 Fall Semester</b>			
SYS	1006	Digestive System	7.5
SYS	1004	Cardiovascular System	9.0
SYS	1010	Respiratory System	5.0
SYS	1003	Renal System	5.0
POD	1003	Clinical Pod Med I	1.0
GER	1001	Geriatric Medicine	1.0
Total Semester Hours			28.5
<b>SPM Year 2 Spring Semester</b>			
SYS	1002	Hematology/Oncology System	3.5
SYS	1007	Endocrine System	3.0
POD	1004	Clinical Pod Med II	5.0
CLS	1001	Advanced Cardiac Life Support	1.0
POD	1005	Lower Extremity Anatomy	3.0
POD	1006	Applied Clinical Biomechanics and Podiatric Surgery	5.0
Total Semester Hours			20.5

## **Course Descriptions**

### **Year 1**

#### **EMB 1001 – Human Embryology – 1.0 Credit Hour**

Embryology is the study of developmental anatomy, beginning with the development of gametes and fertilization through the time of birth. The Human Embryology course is presented in parallel with Human Gross Anatomy and Histology. This course exposes the student to a detailed account of early development and development of the organ systems. Systems Embryology consists embryology of each



organ system coincides with a review of the gross anatomy of the system under consideration. In the Systems Embryology lectures, more specialized embryological processes related to each organ system will be discussed.

#### **CLB 1004 – Histology - 1.0 Credit Hour**

Histology introduces the student to the structure and function of cells and the organization of cells into basic tissues. Emphasis is placed on the structural specialization, function, and interaction of cells in forming the four basic tissues, and the study of the structural arrangements of these basic tissues in organs. Laboratory sessions focus on the organization and identification of tissues. Systems histology further integrates these tissues into functional organ systems.

#### **POD 1001 – Foundations in Podiatric Medicine – 2.0 Credit Hours**

Foundations in Podiatric Medicine introduces the student to the history and advancement of the podiatric medical profession and podiatric medical education. Students will become familiar with the governance structure, key policies of the profession, and standards of podiatric medical education.

Fundamental to competent patient care is an understanding of the principles of medical professionalism, integrity, and servant leadership. Furthermore, following the tenets of medical ethics, the doctor-patient relationship, and interprofessional practice serve to all individuals regardless of personal circumstances fortifies the student's ability to provide high quality patient care in a holistic manner. Students are also introduced to the concepts of evidence-based medicine and policies associated with human subject research.

The course concludes with an overview of taking a history and physical exam of the lower extremity, lower extremity surface anatomy, and basic biomechanical principles of the lower extremity. Students will apply this information to a series of clinical cases which demonstrate the diversity of conditions within the scope of podiatric medicine.

#### **ANT 1004 – Clinical Human Gross Anatomy – 9.0 Credit Hours**

Clinical Human Gross Anatomy involves the study of the structure and function of the human body. This is accompanied by an abundance of clinical correlations to prepare students for systemic study of the body, their board exams, clinical rotations and cases/scenarios they will encounter as a physician. The Human Gross Anatomy course includes lectures, discussion sessions and laboratory sessions. Models, radiographs, computer software and special demonstrations are used to facilitate learning. The knowledge gained from these experiences lead the student to develop a fine appreciation for not only the structure of the human body, but also the interrelation of its parts. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on structure-function relationships and the clinical applications of anatomical knowledge.

#### **RES-1008 – Introduction to Biostatistics and Research Methodology – 1.0 Credit Hour**

The Introduction to Biostatistics and Research Methodology course is designed to prepare students to analyze statistical tests in the scientific and clinical literature to afford them skills to critically evaluate if appropriate research methodologies were implemented and the findings were correctly interpreted. The course will cover basic statistical foundations, types of biostatistical tests, clinical studies and interpretation of research findings important for a practicing clinician.

#### **HPO 1006 – History and Physical Examination I – 1.5 Credit Hours**

The first course in this series focuses on history taking and teaches the art of obtaining and documenting an accurate history from patients as they present in a clinical setting. The primary aim of this component of the course is to identify the components of a complete history and develop interviewing skills, which

allow the physician to precisely identify pertinent history which will later direct the physical examination. The student will be presented with methodology, vocabulary and assessment skills that are necessary for patient encounters. The lecture components teach the art of interviewing, difficult patient encounters and humanistic skills. Practical sessions utilize history taking flows where students are paired, working through clinical scenarios via roles of patient and physician. Students also participate in standardized patient encounters. At the completion of the course, the student will demonstrate competency in obtaining histories in clinical presentations.

### **MCB 1001 – Microbiology/Immunology – 4.0 Credit Hours**

Medical Microbiology and Immunology is designed to introduce the student to core concepts in immunology and infectious diseases. Specifically, in the immunology component, students learn the basic concepts of immunology such as the innate and acquired immune systems. The focus of the course is on the immune response to various microbial agents as well as the failures of the immune system such as hypersensitivity, autoimmunity, immunodeficiency and transplantation reactions.

The Microbiology section of the course is designed to provide the student with knowledge of infectious diseases, the organisms responsible for and the response of the body to the presence of these agents. The structure, function, and genetics of bacterial and viral organisms and their relationships to pathogenicity will be discussed. Students will be introduced to the groups of pathogenic organisms including prions, viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites. Particular emphasis will be placed on the bacterial agents associated with the infectious diseases most commonly seen by the osteopathic primary care physician. The virulence mechanisms and laboratory identification features will be covered during this course, with more in-depth coverage of the disease process of these organisms occurring during the systems. The prions, viruses, fungi, and parasites will be discussed in the system with which they are most closely associated. Laboratories introduce students to aseptic techniques and proper handling and disposal of hazardous materials. In addition, the students become familiar with some of the most commonly used tests for laboratory identification of bacterial pathogens.

### **BCH 1003 – Biochemistry I – 3.0 Credit Hours**

The Biochemistry Courses are designed to provide medical students with a basic understanding of the biochemical principles which underlie normal and abnormal physiological processes. These principles are the foundation for the medical explanation regarding molecular mechanisms of many clinical disorders. Throughout the course, clinical correlations are introduced to illustrate the linkages between basic biochemical principles and human disorders. This course will also provide the student with a broad base of knowledge to help facilitate his/her continuing medical education. Biochemistry I will provide the student with basic tenets of biochemistry and introduce the student to various metabolic pathways of the body, and diseases that occur as a result of dysfunction.

### **PHY 1010 – Physiology – 3.0 Credit Hours**

Physiology presents an integrated approach to the fundamental concepts of systems physiology and overall homeostatic balance. Basic physiological terminology and concepts are introduced, and clinically relevant examples of homeostatic control are presented. An overall understanding of the homeostatic functions of the autonomic nervous system and how physiological cell membranes regulate intercellular communication via ionic (electrical) conduction, as well as the maintenance of the body fluids, is essential to understanding the body as a whole. The cellular functioning of skeletal, cardiac, and smooth muscle is also discussed. The Core course is designed to provide first-year students with a solid foundation of basic physiological principles that will be built upon in the subsequent Systems courses and clinical applications.

**BCH 1005 – Biochemistry Core II and Medical Genetics – 2.0 Credit Hours**

Biochemistry II and Medical Genetics, taught in the second semester of the first year, build upon the information learned in Biochemistry Core I and fully prepare the students for special biochemistry topics that are presented throughout each of the 10 organ systems. In addition, the medical genetics portion of the curriculum covers such topics as: autosomal dominance and recessive inheritance, sex-linked and mitochondrial inheritance, clinical cytogenetics, key disorders of metabolism, developmental genetics, cancer genetics, multifactorial inheritance, and gene therapy.

**HPO 1007 – History and Physical Examination II – 2.5 Credit Hours**

Using the sensory faculties, this second course of the series teaches physical examination of patients. Performing concise physical examinations in concert with taking accurate histories provides a solid foundation, which allows the physician to build an appropriate differential diagnosis based on the patients' complaints. This course continues to present methodology, vocabulary and assessment skills that are necessary for examination with correlation to osteopathic principles, therapy and basic sciences. It also provides instruction on documentation of the physical examination. Physical examination flows divide the body into a logical system-based approach. These flows delineate a step wise approach to examination allowing for completeness of the examination. A common-sense approach will be emphasized encouraging the student to “think” about the process of physical examination, and not memorizing a list of exam components. At the completion of this course, students will have the ability to perform complete physical examinations.

**PHC 1002 – Pharmacology – 2.0 Credit Hours**

Core Pharmacology is an introductory series of lectures designed to orient medical students to the effects of drugs on humans in both normal and pathologic states. The first portion of the course deals with general principles in pharmacology, including drug absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination, pharmacodynamics and autonomic pharmacology. The second portion of the course focuses on chemotherapeutic agents used in pharmacological principles previously presented. Concepts and principles, which are important for the rational evaluation and utilization of drugs, are introduced for application in future clinical scenarios. Pharmacotherapeutics is included throughout to complement subsequent presentations.

**PTH 1003 – Pathology – 1.0 Credit Hour**

Pathology is the science that seeks to provide a bridge between the other basic sciences and the clinical sciences. It involves study of the nature of disease, its causes, courses, complications and sequelae. This Core course provides an introduction to the basic changes in the morphology of cells, tissues, and organs in diseased states. Extensive exposure to clinically relevant topics helps the student to differentiate abnormal from normal, and to correlate the clinical aspects of these alterations. Cell injury and cell death, inflammation, repair processes, hemodynamic changes and chemical and physical injuries are also discussed. Throughout the first two years, pathology is represented in each of the Systems to discuss the pathologies peculiar to and characteristic of the various systems of the body.

**HCM 1004 – Healthcare Management – 1.0 Credit Hour**

In addition to mastering basic science and medical principles, students must understand the settings in which they will be practicing medicine. The HCM 1004 course acquaints the students with the U.S. health care system. Topics covered include the locations where health care is delivered, who provides the health care, how health care delivery is regulated, health care financing mechanisms, and evaluation of aspects of the health care system.

**BHS 1005 – Human Sexuality - 1.0 Credit Hour**

The Human Sexuality course develops a sensitivity to and understanding of the sexual attitudes and experiences of varied populations. The psychosexual components and sociocultural aspects of human sexual behavior are explored.

**SYS 1001 – Musculoskeletal System – 5.0 Credit Hours**

The Musculoskeletal System presents and familiarizes the student with the basic vocabulary, principles and techniques that are the focus of the study and treatment of the musculoskeletal system. The skills learned during this system will be of value to the future Osteopathic Physician regardless of specialty interest or future practice setting. The system discusses normal structure and function as well as diagnosis and treatment of common musculoskeletal disorders and pathology. Teaching modalities include lectures, directed study and small group clinical case presentations which provide interactive and case-based learning and application of knowledge to patient care.

**NAT 1003 – Basic Neuroscience – 5.5 Credit Hours**

The Basic Neuroscience System covers the basic structure, function and dysfunction of the human nervous system, using a multidisciplinary team of basic science faculty to cover histology and embryology of the nervous system, neuroanatomy, physiology and biochemistry. This system utilizes lectures, laboratories, independent study and case studies to guide students to clinically important topics in neuroscience. This system begins with coverage of the basic physiology and biochemistry of neurons and glia and proceeds to cover the external and internal anatomy of the central nervous system, sensory and special sensory systems, motor systems, higher cognitive functions and stroke syndromes.

**NAT 1004 – Clinical Neuroscience – 7.0 Credit Hours**

The Clinical Neuroscience System builds on the concepts and topics from Basic Neuroscience and uses a combination of basic science faculty and clinicians. This system uses lectures, laboratories, independent study and case studies to cover topics in Neurology, Pharmacology, Microbiology, pathology, Ophthalmology, and select topics in Ear, Nose and Throat practice. This system covers headaches, tumors, infections, peripheral nerve injuries, sleep/coma, demyelinating diseases, epilepsy, trauma, neurodegenerative diseases, stroke, developmental disorders, hearing loss and associated concepts in Pathology and pharmacology.

**POD 1002 – Operating Room Protocols and Techniques – 1.0 Credit Hours**

Operating Room Protocols and Techniques introduces students to the principles of aseptic technique in the operating room environment. Adherence to surgical protocols and techniques is essential to ensure patient safety while maintaining a sterile environment in the operating room setting. Students are required to demonstrate knowledge in a variety of areas associated with the operating room as well as related techniques

The Operating Room Protocols and Techniques consists of six components: (1) Operating Room Procedure Knowledge, (2) Operating Room Procedures, (3) Wound Healing and Repair Knowledge, (4) Wound Healing and Repair Procedures, (5) Knowledge of Surgical Instrumentation, and Use of Suture Instrumentation. The first component of this course includes a series of lectures on guidelines associated with operating room protocols, expectations and behaviors. The series of lectures is followed by a series of labs where students will demonstrate competency in techniques associated with content presented in the lectures. By completing this course, the student will receive a certificate of course completion. This certificate will provide program directors and institutional preceptors with verification of student training in the basic competencies of operating room protocol.

**ADM 1030, ADM 1035 – Medical Spanish I, II, and III – P/F noncredit**

*Medical Spanish Level 1 and 2: Completion due by the end of Semester 1, Year 2*

*Medical Spanish Level 3: Completion due by the end of Semester 2, Year 2.*

Medical Spanish is an online course presented by Canopy Apps. The course covers a wide breadth of medical concepts and Spanish grammar. Students can progress through the program at their own pace. The content focuses on medical terminology with quizzes, audio conversations, practice with pronunciation and introduction to cultural factors. The course is constructed for individuals at any level of Spanish from beginner to fluent speakers.

**WRK 2020 – Emergency Preparedness Professional Development Course – P/F noncredit**

This course introduces students to emergency preparedness training, planning and practices.

## **Year 2**

**SYS 1006 – Digestive System – 7.5 Credit Hours**

The Digestive System Course consists of both basic and clinical science components. The digestive system presents and familiarizes the student with the basic vocabulary, principles and techniques that are the focus of the study and treatment of digestive system medicine. This course instructs the student on normal structure and function as well as diagnosis and treatment of common digestive disorders and pathology. Teaching modalities include lectures, podiatric related case studies, directed study and interactive case-based labs with the application knowledge to patient care.

**BHS 1001 – Psychiatry – 2.5 Credit Hours**

Introduction to Behavioral Health is offered in the first semester of the second year and is designed to provide a basic overview of psychiatry and psychology while preparing students to recognize and manage psycho-social diagnoses. The goal of the course is to familiarize students with a diversity of nomenclature involved with psychiatric diagnoses and psychopharmacology. Students will practice the skill of conducting mental status examinations with standardized patients. Substance abuse, including opioid abuse, is a subcomponent of the Introduction to Behavioral Health course. The student is introduced to the complex issues relating to alcohol and drug abuse. The pharmacology of the major drugs of abuse is presented, followed by detailed considerations of the causes, manifestations, and treatment of alcoholism and various forms of drug dependence. The comorbidity of substance abuse and other psychiatric disorders is presented.

**SYS 1004 – Cardiovascular System – 9.0 Credit Hours**

The Cardiovascular System Course is a series of lectures, podcasts, podiatric case studies, and web-based distance education modules organized and presented to students to facilitate the development of clinical reasoning and critical thinking skills relevant to the cardiovascular system. Through the utilization of basic science knowledge and principles, students are expected to obtain a strong foundation in understanding the heart and blood vessels in the state of normal health and when afflicted by diseases. The system is enhanced with the application of foundational information pertaining to the cardiovascular system in clinical scenarios and patient encounters.

**SYS 1010 – Respiratory System – 5.0 Credit Hours**

The Respiratory System Course will expand on basic principles mastered during basic science curriculum. Preclinical topics are considered from the viewpoints of the basic sciences disciplines of anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology and physiology. Clinical considerations associated with the respiratory system are presented and integrated with the practical application of basic

science principles. Practical knowledge acquired from the history and physical examination is reviewed, assessed, and discussed within a clinical context including podiatric related cases.

### **SYS 1003 – Renal System – 5.0 Credit Hours**

The Renal System Course focuses on the medical knowledge in basic sciences and clinical applications pertaining to the urinary system. Through the implementation of lectures, podiatric case presentations, interactive case-based labs and team-based learning, the course instructs the student toward understanding the function of the urinary system and its importance for the whole human body, in being prepared to read and interpret urinalyses and to utilize medical knowledge for diagnostic purposes and in making clinical treatment decisions.

### **LAW 1001 – Medical Jurisprudence – 1.0 Credit Hour**

The course provides an overview of basic concepts and the requirements in the legal environment pertinent to the practicing physician. Topics include the overview of the U.S. legal system; relevant legal concepts; physician licensure; pertinent federal law including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) and various federal fraud and abuse laws; malpractice and professional liability; public duties of physicians; workplace law, the medical record and the physician-patient relationship.(NOTE: Students must successfully pass the HIPAA section of the course in order to pass the overall course.)

### **GER 1001 – Geriatric Medicine – 1.0 Credit Hour**

Geriatrics provides instruction to the student on special problems of the elderly with emphasis on improving clinical skills to deal with the unique diagnostic, therapeutic, and psychosocial problems of older adults. Various topics related to the geriatric patient are also integrated into the Systems. With the knowledge obtained from this course, the student will be able to make informed decisions about the availability of healthcare to geriatric patients and improve the physical, psychological, and social well-being of older adults in his/her practice.

### **POD 1003 – Clinical Podiatric Medicine I – 1.0 Credit Hour**

Clinical Podiatric Medicine I reviews the basic elements of establishing an appropriate doctor/patient relationship, the components of a history and physical examination, medical documentation, and prescribing various types of medications. Students will be introduced to common office-based labs ordered and the interpretation of the results. The course also covers the fundamental principles/mechanics of common diagnostic tests and the process to interpret the results of those tests. This course prepares students for future courses and clinical rotations in the podiatric specific curriculum.

### **HMO 1002 – Hematology/Oncology System – 3.5 Credit Hours**

The Hematology-Oncology course focuses on the study of blood and blood disorders. The students will be introduced to various aspects of hematology ranging from the formation, structure and function of blood cells to possible infections and treatments, as well as transfusions and transplantation. The oncology portion of the course encompasses leukemias and lymphomas. The integration of basic science concepts; including histology, biochemistry, microbiology, immunology, pharmacology and pathology, with laboratory values and clinical applications provides a comprehensive view of the material. In addition, the utilization of podiatric case-based sessions contributes to an interactive learning environment.

**POD 1004 – Clinical Podiatric Medicine II – 5.0 Credit Hours**

Clinical Podiatric Medicine II introduces the students to the clinical findings, diagnostic tests, and management principles of common pathologies affecting the adult and pediatric lower extremity. The course builds on the information presented in the Foundations in Podiatric Medicine, Clinical Podiatric Medicine I, and the Clinical Medicine Systems Courses. Clinical Medicine II is segmented into specific topical areas including Sports/Overuse Injuries and Rehabilitation, Rheumatological/Metabolic Bone Disorders and Bone Lesions, Wound and Infectious Disease Management, Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Lesions, Peripheral Neuropathies and Nerve Injuries, Vascular Disorders, and Pediatric Deformities. As appropriate diagnostic labs are incorporated into the course to strengthen the student's knowledge and clinical abilities.

**SYS 1007 – Endocrine System – 3.0 Credit Hours**

The Endocrine System Course provides the student with an understanding of the hormones in the normal functions of the body, in maintaining homeostasis, in the body's response to abnormal conditions, and in pathological states of the human body through the study of the relevant basic science disciplines integrated with the clinical sciences. Podiatric case presentations are included to facilitate application of knowledge to the interpretation of diagnostic tests and patient treatment.

**POD 1005 – Lower Extremity Anatomy – 3.0 Credit Hours**

This is a comprehensive course that encompasses lower extremity anatomy and the fundamentals of musculoskeletal imaging of the foot/ankle. Identification of anatomic structures will be correlated with the basic principles of radiographic imaging and to more sophisticated testing involving nuclear medicine (Bone and WBC scans), CT imaging and MRI. Students will become experts in identification of lower extremity structures as well as reading and presenting normal and pathologic conditions to form differential diagnosis and identifying the imaging modality to obtain best patient outcomes whether the treatment is for conservative therapy or surgical management.

**POD 1007 – Fundamentals of Biomechanics – 2.0 Credit Hours**

Fundamentals of Biomechanics introduces students to the gait cycle and the biomechanical utility and relationships of the hip, knee, ankle, and joints of the foot. This course focuses on the physical and kinetic properties of bone, muscle, and tendon as it relates to function of the leg and foot. Students will learn how positional and rotational changes in the leg and foot affect patterns of gait. The course covers conservative patient care strategies designed to address biomechanical abnormalities. The overall goal of the course is for students to develop an understanding of the normal and pathological biomechanics of lower extremity.

**POD 1006 – Applied Clinical Podiatric Biomechanics and Surgery – 6.0 Credit Hours**

Applied Clinical Podiatric Biomechanics and Surgery is a comprehensive course that demonstrates the relationship of biomechanical imbalances/pathomechanics to the development of a wide range of foot/ankle pathologies. The course builds on the information presented in Clinical Podiatric Medicine I, Clinical Podiatric Medicine II, and Fundamentals of Biomechanics Courses. The course is segmented into specific topical areas including; Principles of Podiatric Surgery, Management and Documentation of the Surgical Patient, Forefoot Conditions, Rearfoot and Ankle Conditions, Soft Tissue Conditions, the Diabetic Foot, Pediatric Deformities, and Infection Management. Applied Clinical Podiatric Biomechanics and Surgery is condition focused rather than procedure-based and provides students with the knowledge needed for clinical rotations.

**Year 3**

### **POD 1008 – Lower Extremity Traumatology – 1.5 Credit Hour**

Lower Extremity Trauma serves as an introductory course into traumatic injuries and emergent pathology associated with the foot and ankle. Students will be asked to identify pathology while correlating physical exam and history findings with advanced imaging and laboratory values. In addition, students will become well versed in developing differential diagnoses and identifying management principles for emergent and traumatic podiatric medicine.

### **POD 1009 – Podiatric Clinical Skills – 1.0 Credit Hour**

Clinical Skills is a hands-on supplemental course in support of previously presented podiatric specific courses. Students will acquire knowledge of basic clinical skills needed in their clinical training experience. Students will communicate the process and demonstrate proficiency in performing various clinical skills at a level appropriate for the stage of their clinical education. The clinical skills in this course include immobilization options, suturing and hand tie techniques, various types of foot/ankle local anesthetic injections, the use of internal and external fixation devices, perform basic forefoot surgical procedures, apply offloading and taping techniques, and read CT's and MRI's.

### **POD 1010 – Evidence Based Medicine – 1.0 Credit Hour**

One 4-week Evidence-Based Medicine Rotation. 50% time on Podiatric Medicine Rotation and 50% of time engaged in an EBM program. This is an in-depth clinical and academic immersion experience leading to student scholarship productivity under the mentorship of podiatric faculty.

## **2.3.2. CLINICAL CURRICULUM – SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE**

The essence of clinical training has been said to be "experience with graduated responsibility" and this concept is followed at LECOM.

Phase III of the curriculum consists of third-year and fourth-year clinical rotations (or clerkships). To achieve curricular goals and objectives these clinical rotations will utilize:

1. A large base of podiatric, osteopathic, and allopathic physicians who have experience in their specialties and are acutely aware of the cultural and socioeconomic milieu of modern medicine;
2. Accredited hospitals in which students can gain the experience of patient care in large tertiary centers, smaller community-based hospitals, rural hospitals and their respective health systems;
3. Outpatient clinical training in an environment and area in which the student may ultimately practice;
4. Community clinics staffed by professionals from the local area; and
5. Studies of developing cost-effective primary care delivery systems.

The clinical curriculum provides training on a rotational basis at a wide variety of geographically diverse sites.

Students will be provided inpatient clinical experiences at hospitals and medical centers and outpatient experiences at hospital-based clinics, free-standing clinics, and physicians' offices. The availability of elective opportunities will enrich undergraduate medical education.

This concentrated clinical training will be initiated in the third year. During the third and fourth years, students will be required to successfully complete their clinical clerkships. Each of these clerkships is defined as one clinical rotation. Rotations are assigned by the Associate/Assistant Deans of Clinical Education.

### **Clinical Education Online Case-based Curriculum**



While on rotations, students may be required to complete online coursework during rotations in the third and fourth years.

Participation in the web-based curriculum located on CANVAS is mandatory.

For goals, objectives and required reading articles during certain rotations, please refer to the Clinical Clerkship Handbook for more details on grading and course materials.

<b>Abbr.</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>SPM Year 2 Clinical Rotations</b>			
POD	1031	Summer Orientation Podiatric Medicine Rotation	4.0
Total Clinical Hours			4.0
<b>SPM Year 3 Clinical Rotations</b>			
POD	1032	Podiatric Medicine I	4.0
POD	1033	Podiatric Medicine II	4.0
POD	1034	Podiatric Medicine III	4.0
POD	1035	Podiatric Medicine IV	4.0
POD	1036	Podiatric Medicine V	4.0
POD	1037	Podiatric Medicine Evidence-Based	4.0
POD	1038	Geriatric Internal Medicine	4.0
POD	1039	Medical Specialty	4.0
POD	1010	Private Practice Podiatric Medicine and Surgery	4.0
POD	1041	Hospital-Based Podiatric Medicine and Surgery	4.0
Clinical Hours			40
<b>SPM Year 4 Clinical Rotations</b>			
POD	1042	Podiatric Medicine and Surgery I	4.0
POD	1043	Podiatric Medicine and Surgery II	4.0
POD	1044	Podiatric Medicine and Surgery III	4.0
POD	1045	Podiatric Medicine and Surgery IV	4.0
POD	1046	Core Rotation I	4.0
POD	1047	Core Rotation II	4.0
POD	1048	Core Rotation III	4.0
POD	1049	Podiatric Medicine Private Practice Rotation	4.0
POD	1050	Medicine Rotation	4.0
POD	1051	Elective Rotation	4.0
POD	1052	Elective Rotation	4.0
Clinical Hours			44.0

Note: All clinical rotations are 4 weeks in length

## **Year 2 (4 weeks)**

### **POD 1031 – Summer Orientation Podiatric Medicine Rotation – 4.0 Credit Hours**

This four-week podiatric medicine rotation provides students with a formal orientation to patient care. The emphasis of the rotation is student performance and documentation of a patient history and physical examination. Students will have the opportunity to develop their professionalism and communication skills. Students will perform basic podiatric care under the direct supervision of a podiatric physician.

### **Year 3 (36 weeks)**

#### **POD 1032 – Podiatric Medicine Rotations I – 4.0 Credit Hours**

#### **POD 1033 – Podiatric Medicine Rotations II – 4.0 Credit Hours**

#### **POD 1034 – Podiatric Medicine Rotations III – 4.0 Credit Hours**

#### **POD 1035 – Podiatric Medicine Rotations IV – 4.0 Credit Hours**

#### **POD 1036 – Podiatric Medicine Rotations V – 4.0 Credit Hours**

Third-Year students will complete 16 weeks of podiatric medicine and surgical rotations. This consists of five 4-week rotations occurring at LECOM Health Clinics (inner city, rural, senior residential living, and sports related), Millcreek Community Hospital, the Erie Veterans Administration, and additional metropolitan healthcare center. Students will participate in podiatric medical and surgical care in both inpatient and outpatient care settings.

#### **POD 1037 – Podiatric Medicine Evidence-Based Rotation – 4.0 Credit Hours**

Students will dedicate 50% of the time on a Podiatric Medicine Rotation and 50% of time engaged in an Evidence-Based Medicine program. This is an in-depth clinical and academic immersion experience leading to student scholarship productivity under the mentorship of podiatric faculty.

#### **POD 1038 – Geriatric Internal Medicine Rotation – 4.0 Credit Hours**

The LECOM Senior Living Center is a multi-level care facility managing senior adult patients from the healthy to those nearing the end of life. This unique clinical rotation experience for third-year students exposes students to the health and psychosocial challenges facing the aging patient population. The rotation will assist students in their medical knowledge of diseases affecting the older adult, improve their communication skills, and value the delivering of compassionate patient care.

#### **POD 1039 – Medical Specialty Rotation – 4.0 Credit Hours**

This third-year clinical rotation is designed to provide students with a clinical experience related to history and physical examination techniques, appropriate diagnostic testing and interpretation, and management options for patients experiencing pathologies associated with the medical specialty. Students identify the correlation between systemic diseases and possible lower extremity manifestations. The rotation may consist of one medical specialty rotation 4 weeks in length or two different medical specialty rotation each 2 weeks in length.

#### **POD 1040 – Private Practice Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Rotation – 4.0 Credit Hours**

This 4-week third-year clinical rotation is designed to provide students with a podiatric private practice patient care experience. Students rotate with a podiatric practice in an assigned location and participate in patient care covering a broad range of foot and ankle conditions. In addition to the patient care experience, students will gain an understanding of the operation and management aspect of a private practice.

#### **POD 1041 – Hospital-Based Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Rotation – 4.0 Credit Hours**

The final 4-week rotation for third-year students in May will be a Podiatric Hospital-Based Rotation selected through the AACPM Clerkship Match process. The rotation will prepare students for the rigor and expectations as a fourth-year student.

### **Year 4 (44 weeks)**

#### **POD 1042 – Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Rotation I – 4.0 Credit Hours**

#### **POD 1043 – Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Rotation II – 4.0 Credit Hours**

#### **POD 1044 – Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Rotation III – 4.0 Credit Hours**

**POD 1045 – Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Rotation IV – 4.0 Credit Hours**

Fourth-year students are required to complete 16 weeks of podiatric medicine and surgery clinical rotations. This is in addition to the 8 weeks associated with the Core Rotation. These four-week hospital/medical center-based rotations are designed to provide students an overall experience in the areas podiatric medicine and surgery. Students gain an understanding of the policies and procedures associated of various healthcare systems. Students are able to see the operations of any associated podiatric residency program. The rotations are selected through the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine clerkship process.

**POD 1046 – Core Rotation I – 4.0 Credit Hours****POD 1047 – Core Rotation II – 4.0 Credit Hours****POD 1048 – Core Rotation III – 4.0 Credit Hours**

Fourth-year students complete a 12-week hospital-based rotation designed to provide a clinical experience over a sustained period of time. In the manner, students are able to develop their communication skills and participate as a team member. The student will also complete four weeks of non-podiatric rotations as made available by the training institution's resources and approved by the SPM Associate Dean for Clinical Education. The core rotation is selected by the student through the Office for Clinical Education.

**POD 1049 – Podiatric Medicine Private Practice Rotation – 4.0 Credit Hours**

The four-week fourth-year podiatric private practice rotation is designed to provide students a clinical experience with an emphasis on the practice of office-based podiatric medicine. As part of the rotation, students will gain a greater understanding of the business and policy operations of the practice by interacting with various office staff.

**POD1050 – Medicine Rotation – 4.0 Credit Hours**

Fourth-year students must complete a four-week medicine-related rotation such as family medicine, internal medicine or similar medical specialty that medically manage their patients. The rotation is designed to expose students to healthcare providers they will interact with as podiatric physicians. Students will participate in obtaining a history, performing a physical examination, develop a differential diagnosis, and formulate an appropriate treatment plan.

**POD 1051 – Elective Rotation I – 4.0 Credit Hours****POD 1052 – Elective Rotation II – 4.0 Credit Hours**

These rotations are 2-4 weeks in duration in one of many medical specialties including but not limited to podiatric medicine and surgery, internal medicine, dermatology, emergency medicine, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, infectious disease, neurology and physical therapy. In addition to the clinical training students will gain valuable interprofessional experience by interacting with other medical specialists and the relationship with podiatric medicine.

**Note: Fourth-year students can take one month off during the academic year.**

**2.3.3. INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE)**

As future healthcare professionals, students will be expected to practice with a variety of interprofessional members of the healthcare team to provide the best patient care possible. LECOM trains students to be prepared for this interprofessional (IPE) environment. Students in LECOM's professional degree programs, including osteopathic medicine (COM), pharmacy (SOP), dentistry (SDM), and podiatry (SPM) are required to participate in a series of IPE curricular activities. LECOM's

IPE curriculum is focused to teach the behavior of collaborative practice that forms the foundation of connected health care teams to execute safe, high-quality, accessible, and patient-centered care desired by all. The IPE curriculum consists of a series of courses and experiences underpinned by four IPE competencies as developed by the Interprofessional Education Collaborative: Roles and Responsibilities, Teams and Teamwork, Communication, and Values and Ethics.

**LECOM IPE courses.** All IPE courses are Pass/Fail (with the exception of the Pharmacy School, which does assess them for part of a grade) and noncredit. Successful pass and completion is required to graduate and is monitored by preclinical and clinical administration and the Institutional Director of IPE to ensure compliance.

1. **IPE 1001: Introduction to IPE.** In this online course, first-year or second year students from the COM, SOP, SDM, SPM are all enrolled together in a large Institutional online course to learn the fundamentals of IPE. In the first part of the course, students gain knowledge of the four IPEC competencies through online modules involving reading assignments, PowerPoint slides, and online quizzes. In the second part of the course, students are broken out proportionately into small interdisciplinary groups of 20 students each. Here, students collaborate together by applying their IPE knowledge to a series of case scenarios related to each IPEC competency through asynchronous online forum group discussions. Faculty from all professional schools facilitate these online discussion groups. Students must pass this IPE course with a minimum of 80% to pass the host course in which this IPE course is embedded, but does not impact the final grade in the host course. However, for pharmacy students, the numeric score earned in IPE 1001 partially contributes to the final course average in the host course. Host courses are listed in the table below.

School	Campus	Host Course #	Host Course Name	Year of Student
COM	Erie	HPO 1006	History & Physical I	First Year
COM	Bradenton	CLE 1002	Clinical Examination I	First Year
COM	Elmira	HPO 1006	History & Physical I	First Year
COM	Seton Hill	HPO 1006	History & Physical I	First Year
SDM	Bradenton	GPD 1001	General Practice Dentistry I	First Year
SOP	Erie	APC 1003	Applied Patient Care III	First Year
SOP-DE	Erie	APC 1004	Applied Patient Care IV	Second Year
SOP	Bradenton	APC 1003	Applied Patient Care III	Second Year
SPM	Erie	HPO 1006	History & Physical I	First Year

2. **IPE 1200: Applied IPE - Clinical Case Scenario.** In this standalone non-credit online course students improve their IPE skills by working together in small, online discussion groups through a computerized IPE case-scenario tutorial. This online course builds on the IPE 1001-Introduction to Interprofessional Education course. IPE course goals are achieved through five online discussion forums where students apply their learning in the four interprofessional competencies. Each student engages in active learning of interprofessional care through the course materials and is assessed on the course content, its importance, and relevance in the health professions. Students from LECOM's health professions schools are proportionated into groups of 10 with a faculty facilitator to work through the case scenario to review, hone, and put into practice their IPE behavioral skills involving communication, roles, teamwork, and ethics.

Students must pass this course with a minimum of 80% or will be sent to their respective School's student disciplinary committee. The table below lists where this IPE course occurs in the curriculum of the professional programs, campuses, and student years:

School	Location	Year of Student
COM	Erie	Second Year
COM	Seton Hill	Second Year
COM	Elmira	Second Year
SOP	Erie	Second Year
SDM	Erie & Defuniak	Fourth Year
SPM	Erie	Second Year

3. **IPE 2001: Reflections in Inter-Professional Care.** In this final online course, all final-year medical and pharmacy students close the loop in LECOM's IPE curriculum by critically analyzing a memorable IPE learning experience encountered during clinical rotations that left an indelible impression. In experiential learning, where students learn through experience, reflection is central. In this online course, students first review the IPE Competencies through required readings, videos, and a short quiz. Then, students create a reflective analysis paper of the remarkable IPE encounter they experienced by applying the REFLECT rubric, which enables students to understand and reflect upon the importance and process of inter-professional care in collaboration within a variety of health professions students. This low-burden, high-impact course is designed to allow all medical and pharmacy students, regardless of campus location, the opportunity to embrace effective IPE and to develop elements of competence in the four Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) domains. Students must pass this senior-level IPE course with a minimum of 80% to pass the host course in which this IPE course is embedded, as listed in the table below:

School	Location	Host Course #	Course Name	Year of Student
COM	Erie	DOR 1036	Senior Capstone	Fourth Year
COM	Bradenton	DOR 1036	Senior Capstone	Fourth Year
COM	Seton Hill	DOR 1036	Senior Capstone	Fourth Year
COM	Elmira	DOR 1036	Senior Capstone	Fourth Year
COM-PCSP	Erie	DOR 1036	Senior Capstone	Third Year
COM-APAP	Seton Hill	DOR 1036	Senior Capstone	Third Year
SOP	Erie	PPE 1005	Pharmacy Practice Essentials	Third Year
SOP-DE	Erie	PPE 1005	Pharmacy Practice Essentials	Fourth Year
SOP	Bradenton	PPE 1005	Pharmacy Practice Essentials	Fourth Year
SPM	Erie	TBD	TBD	Fourth Year

#### **Additional IPE Experiential Learning Opportunities in the curriculum:**

1. **LECOM IPE RESEARCH DAY:** The annual LECOM research day is an IPE event where students from all schools come together to view and discuss research posters and presentations. LECOM IPE RESEARCH DAY is held at the Erie campus each Fall semester and at the Bradenton campus each Spring semester.

2. Interprofessional clinical opportunities exist in the dental clinics (involving medical and pharmacy students) and at the LECOM Senior Living Center in Erie, PA, the latter of which was funded by a major national foundation award for the LECOM LIGHT grant. Other opportunities have included Mental Health First Aid for Veterans, Mental Health First Aid, and the Yellow Ribbon program.
3. Most clinical rotations include interprofessional collaborations among students, preceptors, and other healthcare professionals where LECOM students get to learn from and experience IPE collaborative practice.

## **2.4. SPM ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### **2.4.1. POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR FINAL GRADE APPEALS**

#### **2.4.1.1. CAUSE FOR FINAL GRADE APPEAL**

In order to appeal a final grade, a student must offer convincing arguments that good cause exists for mandating a change of grade. A request for a grade appeal is not always automatically granted.

- A. Each of the following reasons, if supported by sufficient evidence, shall constitute “good cause”:
  1. Assignment of a grade that is malicious and/or discriminatory: i.e., in determining the grade, the Course Director or Coordinator, Program Director, Clinical Preceptor or Systems Co-coordinator (“professor”) clearly did not apply the same standards used for grading other members of the class whose work and behavior were similar to those of the appealing student.
  2. Assignment of a grade that is arbitrary and/or capricious: i.e., the Course Coordinator had apparently no discernible rationale for arriving at the grade given.
  3. The grade was assigned on a basis other than performance in the course.
  4. Assignment of a course grade that has resulted from human error: i.e., the Course Coordinator reported an incorrect grade as the consequence of a mistake in computation, in recording or in some other mechanical aspect of the grading process. In such instances, it is assumed that the error will be corrected as a result of Step 1 of the Appeals Procedure (Faculty-Student Conference).
- B. The following reasons do not constitute “good cause” for the purposes of appealing a grade:
  - Disagreement with the course requirements established by the Professor.
  - Disagreement with the grading standards established by the Professor.
  - Disagreement with the judgment of the Professor in applying his/her grading standards so long as he/she has made a reasonable effort in good faith to be fair and consistent in exercising that judgment. Good faith on the Professor’s part shall be presumed unless the student can offer convincing arguments to the contrary.
  - The student’s desire or “need” for a particular grade, while compelling to the individual on a personal level, shall not be considered “good cause” for purposes of appeal.
  - Students repeating any academic year are ineligible for grade appeals.
  - Scoring less than 70% on a remediation examination or in a remedial course for the SPM.

#### **2.4.1.2. PROCEDURE FOR FINAL GRADE APPEALS IN THE SCHOOL**

##### ***Step 1: Faculty/Student Conference***

A student wishing to appeal a grade shall confer with the faculty member or preceptor who assigned the grade, and also inform the appropriate Associate/Assistant Dean in writing or electronically. In the first and second years of the program, the Associate/Assistant Dean of Preclinical Education should be notified in writing or electronically. In the third and fourth years of the program, the Associate/Assistant Dean of Clinical Education should be notified in writing or electronically.

#### Didactic Courses:

1. A student-faculty member conference shall take place within ten (10) class days after official notification of the grade from the Registrar's office.
2. If either the student or faculty member wants the conference to take place in the presence of a third party, a request will be submitted to the appropriate Associate/Assistant Dean or another member of the SPM to sit in on the conference.
3. The student shall explain the reasons for appealing the grade (see Cause for Final Grade Appeals), and the faculty member shall explain the reasons for assigning the grade.
4. If the faculty member believes the grade should not be changed, the student shall be notified in writing (with a copy to the appropriate Associate/Assistant Dean) within five (5) class days after the conference has occurred.
5. The Associate/Assistant Dean or his/her Designee will consider all the facts presented by the student and faculty member and make a decision regarding any grade change based on the criteria listed in Cause for Final Grade Appeals.
6. The student will be notified in writing within a reasonable time period of the Associate/Assistant Dean's or his Designee's decision.

#### Clinical Courses:

1. The Associate/Assistant Dean or his/her Designee will consider all the facts presented by the students, and preceptor and will make a decision regarding any changes based on the facts presented.
2. The student shall be notified of the Associate/Assistant Dean's or his/her Designee's decision within a reasonable time, usually fifteen (15) class days after the receipt of the appeal.

#### ***Step 2: Appeal to the SPG Committee***

If the student is not satisfied with the decision, he/she may file an appeal to the SPG Committee.

- This appeal must be submitted in writing or electronically, addressed to the Chairperson of the SPG Committee, and shall contain the student's reasons for appealing the grade.
- The appeal should be made within 10 (ten) working days after the student receives the written notification from the Associate/Assistant Dean or his Designee.
- After considering all the facts, the SPG Committee will determine if the grade should be changed.

#### ***Step 3: Appeal to the Dean***

- If the faculty member or student is not satisfied with the finding of the SPG committee, they may appeal to the Dean within three (3) calendar days after being notified of the decision.
- In order for the appeal to be considered, all the necessary documentation, including written arguments, must be filed with the Dean within seven (7) business days after notice of appeal is given. Students may then appeal to the President within seven (7) business days after being notified of the decision rendered by the Dean. All decisions by the President concerning the appeal are final.
- The Dean shall notify the Registrar within a reasonable amount of time (usually five working days) in writing of the final decision.

## 2.4.2. SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

A student is considered to be making satisfactory academic progress if the grade received for each course, system, module, or rotation is 70% (C) or greater. Any grade below a 70% (C) must be successfully remediated as described in Section 2.4.5 prior to the student advancing to the next academic year. Any incompletes must also be resolved and removed from the record prior to progression to the next year, except in courses in the Masters Programs. Exceptions to this policy will be made on an individual basis. This policy applies to all students regardless of whether or not they receive Title IV funding (Federal Direct Loans).

Evaluation by the Student Promotion and Graduation (SPG) Committee occurs no later than the end of each semester or payment period. The SPG Committee notifies Financial Aid so that a notification can be made to the student about financial aid warning status. A student who has failed any course, system, module, or rotation will be assessed pursuant to the rules in Section 2.4.5 Remediation.

If a student is permitted to remediate and continue to the next semester or payment period, a financial aid warning will be issued to the student. While on financial aid warning status the student may continue to receive Title IV funding (Federal Direct Loans) for one additional semester or payment period. If the student fails to achieve satisfactory academic progress while on financial aid warning status, the student will not be eligible for additional financial aid until all requirements for satisfactory academic progress have been achieved. The financial aid warning will be issued to the student at the time the SPG Committee determines the satisfactory academic progress status of the student or prior to the start of the next semester or payment period.

Financial aid warning is defined as a status assigned to a student who fails to make satisfactory academic progress at the end of the semester or payment period and the SPG Committee allows the student to continue to the next semester and receive financial aid.

The coursework for students at LECOM is offered in sequence. A student who is unsuccessful with remediation at the end of an academic year will be evaluated by the SPG Committee according to the established procedure and will be required to either repeat the entire year or be dismissed. LECOM policy requires a pace of 100% progress (completed course credits/attempted course credits) per academic year. Students who are repeating are not eligible for federal financial aid during any semester or semesters in which they are repeating already taken course work.

Students enrolled in the four-year SPM programs must complete all requirements for graduation within six years of matriculation. If a student is unable to meet the maximum timeframe allotted for their program, they would be dismissed. A student must progress through the curriculum at a pace that enables them to graduate in the maximum time allotted.

The SPG Committee, charged with monitoring satisfactory academic progress, makes its recommendations to the Dean of the College of Medicine. If a student fails to achieve satisfactory academic progress while on “Financial Aid Warning” status, they **will not** be eligible for financial aid until all requirements for satisfactory academic progress have been achieved. A student may reestablish eligibility to receive assistance under the Title IV, HEA programs by coming into compliance with the rule that all courses, systems, modules, rotations and subject exams are passed. See Section 2.4.5, Remediation. See Section 3.6 Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Recipients.

## 2.4.3. PROMOTION

- Promotion is defined as progression from one academic year to the next.
- Faculty will recommend students to the Dean for promotion by the SPG Committee.



- A student may not be recommended for progression from one academic year to the next with any outstanding grades of (I) or (F). SPM students must have a grade average of 2.0 or above.
- A student must pass Part I of the APMLE National Board Exam to advance to the fourth year. A student who does not pass Part I after the fourth scheduled administration will be subject to dismissal.
- A student must take Part II of the APMLE National Board Exam to graduate.
- When considering a student for promotion, the student's professional, ethical and personal conduct will also be taken into consideration. Therefore, a student must adequately conform to the standards set forth in the Student Handbook, including all Health and Technical Standards, to be eligible for promotion.
- A student will be promoted only if all academic, legal and financial requirements to the SPM have been satisfied.

#### **2.4.4. PROBATION**

- A. Probation is defined as the time during which a student's academic progress will be closely monitored by the SPG Committee and the Dean. The Dean will specify the probationary period.
- B. A student in the College of Medicine may be placed on Conduct or Disciplinary Probation as a result of seriously deficient ethical, professional, personal or illegal conduct.
  - 1) Members of the faculty or administration will render a special report in writing to the SPG Committee regarding any student whose professional or personal conduct is deemed unsatisfactory. Professional and personal conduct includes, but is not limited to, the lack of attendance, cooperation with instructors, interest shown in assigned work, appropriate attitude toward peers and associates, attendance at regularly scheduled meetings with faculty advisors or personal appearance appropriate to the circumstances.
  - 2) The terms of probation for ethical, professional, or personal conduct will be specified at the time the student is placed on probation.
- C. A student of the College of Medicine may be placed on academic probation upon failure of a course, system, module or for other cause as stated in this document, such as seriously deficient ethical, professional, personal or illegal conduct.
- D. When a student is placed on probation, the appropriate dean will notify the student in writing or electronically of the reasons for probation. A copy of this letter will be distributed to the Chairperson of the SPG Committee and the student's faculty advisor. The Committee will ascertain when the terms of the probation have been satisfied and recommend to the appropriate dean that probation can be rescinded. The student's faculty advisor will also be notified. A copy of this letter will be placed in the student's permanent file if the probation is labeled "Disciplinary" as opposed to "Conduct."
- E. A student on probation may not serve as an officer of an official LECOM club or organization or receive any LECOM scholarship funding and shall not engage in time consuming extracurricular activities.
- F. A first-year or second-year student of the College on probation must meet with his or her faculty advisor at least every two weeks. A third-year or fourth-year student on probation must contact the Office of Clinical Education monthly. The student will remain on probation until the following minimally acceptable standards are met:

- 1) The student will be removed from probation when the specified courses, systems, modules or rotations have been remediated according to the following remediation section.
  - 2) The student will be removed from probation when the specified terms of probation for ethical, professional, or personal conduct are met.
  - 3) Students in their final year are subject to SPG Committee review prior to removal from probation.
- G. Probation should be regarded as a serious matter and is official notice to the student that the quality of the student's performance during the probationary period must improve in order to remain eligible to continue in the College of Medicine. Any student who fails to improve his /her performance in the areas identified by the SPG Committee during the probationary period may continue on probation, be suspended, be asked to withdraw, or be dismissed from LECOM.
- H. Any student charged with a felony will be suspended until the charges are resolved. Time off during suspension will be counted in calculation for the six-year rule.

## **2.4.5. REMEDIATION**

### **2.4.5.1. POLICY STATEMENT**

Remediation is to be regarded as a privilege, which must be earned by a student through an active participation in the educational program as demonstrated by regular attendance, individual initiative, and utilization of resources available to them. All remediation will occur at the end of the academic year.

If a student receives a failing grade in a course, system, module, or clinical rotation, that student will be reviewed by the SPG Committee and procedures for remediation will be recommended by the Committee to the appropriate Dean. Students taking a remedial examination must score 70% or greater in order to pass for the School of Podiatric Medicine. There will be no appeals of the remediation grade. However, the highest grade a student may earn through remediation is 70 (C), and this grade will be recorded on the transcript along with the failed grade.

Any fees associated with remediation shall be collected by the Pre-Clinical Office and sent on to the Bursar.

### **2.4.5.2. PROCEDURES FOR THE SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE**

In reviewing the student's academic deficiencies, the following guidelines shall be used:

- A. The SPG Committee will consider all failure (F) grades for a course, module, etc. as requiring remediation. Students with multiple failures within the academic year may be required to remediate, to repeat the year or may be dismissed. Courses, systems, modules of three credit hours or more are classified as major courses and failure of two major courses or a combination of one major and two minor courses (including remedial courses) may result in the student having to repeat the year or being dismissed.
- B. Educational objectives in remediation are the same as the educational objectives used for the regular curriculum. Where deemed appropriate, the SPG Committee, after consultation with the Course Instructor, Systems Co-Coordinator, or the appropriate Dean may recommend **any** of the options listed below for the student accordingly.
- C. Students who do not achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or greater by the end of the academic year will be required to repeat the year, regardless of the number of courses failed, subject to review by the SPG Committee.

- D. Students who fail to reach and maintain appropriate academic achievement are identified as “at risk”. They will be monitored by the Associate/Assistant Preclinical Deans. School of Podiatric Medicine students who are below a 2.5 grade point average at the end of the first year or fall below a 2.5 during the second year are identified as high-risk students for failing Board examinations and will be closely monitored during the Convergence Course and Clinical Rotations. Underperformance on any preclinical diagnostic exams during the Convergence Course may result in the student being required to use additional time for Board examination preparation.
- E. A student who is granted the opportunity to repeat an academic year due to academic hardship or other types of hardship will be permitted to repeat only one, singular academic year during their matriculation at LECOM. Repeating successive, or multiple years will not be permitted. In these circumstances, any future academic underperformance that would typically result in repeating that academic year will result in dismissal of a student who has already been granted a repeat year previously.

### **Preclinical Coursework**

Students scoring between 65% and 69% in a course or system will take a comprehensive remediation examination.

- A remedial examination fee will be assessed to all individuals taking a remedial exam. The fee must be paid to the Pre-clinical Office prior to the student taking the remedial exam.
- Failure of the remedial exam will result in the student being considered in a similar manner to those students receiving less than 65% in a course or system. (See below).

Students scoring below 65% in a course or system will be required to complete a tutorial course and take a remedial examination(s). Students will be charged an additional fee for on-campus course remediation. The tutorial may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Special projects or studies in the deficient area(s).
- Participation in a directed or self-study course.

The SPG Committee may require students to take a course off-campus. Students electing to do off-campus remediation must have the approval of the SPG Committee. The student will be responsible for registration and any fees involved in those courses.

### **Remediation of Clinical Rotations**

In the case of a failing grade in any competency on any rotation, or a failure in the total grade of any rotation, the student may be required by the SPG Committee to remediate the rotation. The Associate/Assistant Dean of Clinical Education may assign the site and the preceptor of any remedial or subsequent rotation. The student may be charged on a pro rata basis for the cost of any required make-up rotations. In addition, the student may be required to obtain academic or professional counseling.

Students failing two or more rotations within an academic year will be required to meet with the Chairperson of the SPG Committee to discuss their academic progress. The Chairperson of the SPG Committee will report the results of the meeting to the SPG Committee. The SPG Committee may recommend the following:

- Repetition of the academic year; or
- Dismissal from the College.

In addition, the student may be required to obtain academic or professional counseling.

Grades earned during an attempted remediation will be reviewed by the SPG Committee and the Dean of Academic Affairs. Failure to earn a passing level of 70% in remediation may result in dismissal from the College.

Decisions regarding remediation of a rotation will be made on an individual basis after considering all pertinent circumstances. The decision will be made by the Dean of Academic Affairs based upon the recommendations of the SPG Committee. The SPG Committee will base its recommendations on the student's academic record and consideration after consultation with the Preceptor, and/or the Associate/Assistant Dean of Clinical Education, as well as the student involved, when appropriate.

#### **2.4.5.3. REMEDIATION EXPENSES**

Remedial examinations require a \$100.00 processing fee paid in advance. For course remediation, students will be charged an additional fee of \$500.00 for on-campus remediation. All remediation fees should be delivered to the Preclinical Office, and all fees must be paid in full and in advance of the start of the remediation process.

If the student at the end of the academic year is still considered to be making unsatisfactory progress and must remediate, he or she may be removed from the list of financial aid recipients. Refer to Satisfactory Academic Progress Standard for Financial Aid Recipients in this document.

Students attend remediation courses at their own expense. Remediation is not covered by any financial aid and cannot be considered an expense item on the next academic year financial aid budget. Appropriate instructional fees for on-campus remediation will be determined by the SPM.

#### **2.4.5.4. REPEATING THE YEAR**

A student granted permission to repeat the academic year may do so only once, for one singular year, during their matriculation at LECOM. Permission will not be granted for any additional repeat years. Failure to make academic progress after repeating the year will result in dismissal. A repeating student shall be responsible to pay all tuition and fees through private financing as federal loans are not available until academic progress is made. Repeating students must pay 25% of tuition and fees and their full balance due for disability insurance and health insurance prior to returning as a repeater. Funds for their remaining balance must be in place prior to the end of the second week of the semester to be permitted to continue attending LECOM as a repeater. Any repeated year is counted against the six-year limit rule mandated by AOA-COCA (see **Maximum Timeframe to Complete D.P.M. Program in Section 2.4.19**).

#### **2.4.6. DISMISSAL**

LECOM may dismiss a student at any time if circumstances of a legal, moral, behavioral, ethical, health or academic nature justify such an action and if it is deemed necessary to safeguard its standards of scholarship, conduct, and orderly operation.

The SPG Committee may recommend dismissal of a student for any of the following reasons:

- A. Receiving a grade of (F) or below 70% in a remediated course, system, module, or clinical rotation for the College of Medicine
- B. A student fails any additional course after being permitted to repeat an academic year.
- C. Receiving a grade of (F) in two clinical rotations
- D. Receive two failures in one semester of an academic year.
- E. Unsatisfactory professional or personal behavior in any of the following areas:

1. Attendance;
  2. Cooperation with instructors;
  3. Interaction with fellow students, associates, LECOM or clinical site personnel;
  4. Approach to and interaction with patients; or
  5. Personal appearance is not in compliance with the LECOM dress code.
- I. Failure to demonstrate continued academic and professional growth and achievement.
  - J. A student who does not pass Part 1 of the APMLE National Board Exam after the scheduled administration will be subject to dismissal.
  - K. Conviction of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude.

## **2.4.7. NATIONAL BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS (NBPME)**

### **About the Licensure Examination Process**

The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME) administers a series of examinations designated the American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination (APMLE). The licensing process consists of four components: APMLE Part I, APMLE Part II Written, APMLE Part II Clinical Skills Patient Encounter (CSPE), and APMLE Part III. The Part I and Part II Written exams are designed to assess whether a candidate possesses the knowledge required to practice as a minimally competent entry-level podiatric physician. Part III is a licensing exam designed to determine whether a candidate's knowledge and clinical skills are adequate for safe, unsupervised practice.

APMLE Part I evaluates the candidate's knowledge in the basic science areas of General Anatomy (including embryology, histology, genetics, and geriatrics); Lower Extremity Anatomy; Biochemistry; Physiology; Microbiology and Immunology; Pathology; and Pharmacology.

APMLE Part II Written evaluates the candidate's knowledge in the clinical areas of Medicine; Radiology; Orthopedics, Biomechanics, and Sports Medicine; Anesthesia and Surgery; and Community Health, Jurisprudence, and Research. Performance on Part II written examination does not impact eligibility for the Part II CSPE.

APMLE Part II CSPE assesses proficiency in podiatric clinical tasks needed to enter residency. Candidates will be expected to perform a focused physical examination including podiatric and general medicine physical exam maneuvers appropriate for each patient presentation. Podiatric and general medical knowledge, verbal and written communication, and interpersonal skills will be assessed in each exam form. Performance on the Part II CSPE does not impact eligibility for the APMLE Part II Written examination.

APMLE Part III is designed to determine whether a candidate's knowledge and clinical skills are adequate for safe, unsupervised practice. The Part III examination samples the candidate's clinical skills in evaluating, diagnosing, and treating patients. Examples of the application of knowledge may be measured through photographs, radiographs, and case presentations.

Details on the content, application process, and administration dates can be found on the APMLE website at [www.apmle.com](http://www.apmle.com).

### **LECOM SPM National Board Exam Policy and Requirements**

APMLE Part I is offered the summer following completion of the second year. To qualify for the APMLE Part I, the student must successfully pass all related first and second-year courses in the curriculum. Students who qualify to take the exam are highly encouraged to take the examination the first time the examination is offered. Students must pass APMLE Part I to progress to the fourth year. Students are permitted four attempts to pass the examination. This may not extend beyond a two-year

period, excluding any leaves of absence. The student will be subject to dismissal by the SPM SPG Committee following a fourth failure.

APMLE Part II Written is offered at the end of the fall semester and beginning of the spring semester of the fourth year. To qualify for APMLE Part II Written, the student must successfully pass all related courses in the curriculum. Students who qualify are highly encouraged to take the examination the first time the examination is offered. Due to the timing of APMLE Part II Written, students must take the examination to graduate. This may be subject to change based on the number and dates APMLE Part II Written is administered.

APMLE Part II CSPE is to be offered during the fourth year. Since 2020, the CSPE has been suspended. NBPME continues to investigate reinstatement of the exam or finding an alternative method to assess the objectives of the examination. The administration of the SPM will continue to monitor the situation and provide information to students as communicated by NBPME. Students should also monitor the NBPME website ([www.apmle.com](http://www.apmle.com)) for updates as well.

APMLE Part III is offered in May and December. Due to the timing of the exam, it has no effect on a student's status at the LECOM SPM but is required for state licensure. State board deadlines vary for when APMLE Part III must be passed for licensure approval. Candidates are encouraged to check with the State Board for the state they will be completing residency training. A directory is listed in the APMLE Part III Candidate Bulletin.

### **Remediation for Failure**

Students who are unsuccessful in passing APMLE Part I or Part II are to meet with the administration of the SPM to develop a plan of study in preparation for the next administration of the exam.

### **Examination Results**

Examination results for all examination levels are released by the NBPME to each student. The SPM Dean will also receive a copy of the individual student results. Any request by a student to have their result submitted to an external organization must contact NBPME directly to request transcripts of their examination results sent to that entity.

## **2.4.8. LETTER OF EVALUATION OF THE ACADEMIC DEAN OF THE SCHOOL**

The Academic Dean's Letter of Evaluation for the School of Podiatric Medicine is an evaluation of the overall performance of the student. This letter reflects the observations of and interactions with each student that the Academic Dean has experienced during each student's tenure at LECOM. This letter is based on each student's achievement in the LECOM curriculum and will include the student's current overall GPA. With the reports submitted by the Associate Dean of Preclinical Education and the Associate/Assistant Dean of Clinical Education, this letter is intended to present a holistic evaluation of each student. The Dean's Letter is written by the Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs for Erie students, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for LECOM at Elmira, and by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Bradenton.

The students' request for a Dean's letter is made electronically through the portal beginning in May of the third year.

## **2.4.9. HEALTH AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

All candidates for the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.) degree must meet specified Health and Technical Standards for admission to LECOM. The following standards have been developed in consideration of the expected competencies expected of a candidate for the D.P.M.. degree and entry

into the practice of medicine. The standards represent the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; possess skills in observation, communication, and motor functions; and display mature behavioral and social attributes. Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in some of these areas, but a candidate must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner without a trained intermediary. Following matriculation, the student must continuously be able to meet these health and technical standards throughout enrollment at LECOM. (The use of a trained intermediary implies that the candidate's judgment or senses may have to be mediated by someone else's powers of selection and observation.) LECOM will make reasonable accommodations for otherwise qualified students as required by law.

The Admissions Committee will evaluate each candidate according to the requirements of the Health and Technical Standards through review of records, written statements, and interviews. Each candidate will be provided with a copy of the Health and Technical Standards as part of the admission materials. An accepted candidate will be required to sign a statement acknowledging acceptance and understanding of the Health and Technical Standards.

**A. Observation**

A candidate must be able to observe demonstrations, laboratory sessions, experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to: anatomic, physiologic, pharmacologic and microbiologic demonstrations, the gross anatomy laboratory, and H&P demonstrations. A candidate should be able to observe patients of both sexes accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision, somatic sensation, and smell. A candidate must also be able to assess asymmetry, range of motion, and tissue texture changes. Thus, it is necessary for a candidate to have adequate visual capabilities to carry out these functions and conduct proper evaluation and treatment integration of all patients.

**B. Communication**

A candidate must be able to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate should be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, peers, and faculty. Communication includes not only speech, but also listening, reading, writing, and the use of computers and other devices. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of a health care team.

**C. Motor**

A candidate must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic and manipulative maneuvers. A candidate must be able to do basic laboratory tests (urinalysis, CBC, etc.), carry out diagnostic procedures (proctoscopy, paracentesis, etc.), and read EKG's and X-rays. A candidate must be able to reasonably execute motor movements required to provide general care, osteopathic manipulation, and emergency treatment to patients of both sexes. Examples include cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medication, application of pressure to stop bleeding, opening of obstructed airways, suturing of simple wounds, and obstetrical maneuvers.

A candidate must be able to demonstrate coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch, hearing, and vision. A candidate must be able to actively participate in laboratory sessions, including anatomy, surgery, and history and physical examination. This requires standing for long periods of time, palpation,

auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic skills. In the history and physical course, a candidate must also be able to perform functions, such as male and female genital exams, eye examinations, phlebotomy, scrub technique, and suturing. A candidate must be able to endure physically and emotionally taxing workloads. Osteopathic treatment requires that the candidate be able to maintain upright posture with enough lower extremity and body strength to carry out a wide variety of treatments. A candidate must also be able to effectively respond to patient emergencies and perform physically exerting treatments, such as CPR. A candidate must have the ability to attend classes on a regular basis and meet attendance requirements of all rotation sites.

**D. Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities**

A candidate must be able to evaluate complex situations quickly and discern solutions. A candidate must be able to communicate their thoughts clearly, effectively, and expeditiously, often under significant stress. A candidate must possess the critical skills of measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, synthesis, and problem solving. A candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.

**E. Behavioral, Social, and Professional Conduct**

A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellect, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities in the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and colleagues. A candidate must be able to cope with strenuous workloads and changing environments with flexibility and be able to cope with ambiguity in decision making. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are essential for the successful functioning physician. A candidate must demonstrate an empathic and humanistic approach to colleagues and patients, as well as exhibit compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation.

A candidate must understand the impropriety of and be prepared to abstain from fraternizing or having sexual relationships with patients or their families.

A candidate must be free of psychopathic or sociopathic behaviors which are contrary to professional and ethical standards. Emotional stability of a candidate is required, along with successful completion of the curriculum. If the emotional stability of a candidate becomes a concern to the administration, an evaluation by a mental health professional may be required. Behavior inconsistent with the standards of LECOM will result in denial of admission or expulsion from the institution.

A candidate with a history of illegal drug use, improper use of prescribed medications, or intemperate use of alcohol will typically not be eligible for admission into the program. A candidate who is identified after admission as having such behaviors will be referred and required to participate in the Physicians Health Program/PRN/Elmira NYS provider.

**F. Ethical and Legal**

A candidate must maintain and display ethical and moral behavior commensurate with the role of a physician. A candidate must be intellectually honest, ethical, law abiding, and without felony convictions. A candidate must acknowledge felony offense(s) or misdemeanor offense(s) occurring prior to matriculation and/or while enrolled at LECOM. Such disclosure is required of all charges and convictions, including expunged.

A candidate should have no record of suspensions for academic misconduct or behavior showing



disregard for the law or other individuals. A candidate must acknowledge institutional action(s) occurring prior to matriculation at LECOM. Institutional action(s) include, but are not limited to, Title IX violations.

A candidate must undergo a state or federal criminal background check at the time of matriculation and may be required to undergo additional background checks prior to clinical rotations. Submitting false statements may be grounds for rescinding acceptance.

#### **G. General Health**

A candidate must exhibit and maintain sufficient physical stamina to perform strenuous workloads for long periods. A candidate should be free of chronic debilitating diseases that preclude successful completion of the curriculum. A candidate must be free of active infectious diseases deemed highly contagious in a healthcare setting. Reasonable accommodation(s) will be granted to otherwise qualified students who have a disability.

#### **H. Compliance with Monitoring Program**

A candidate who is subject to the terms of an agreement with or recommendations from the Physicians Health Program (Pennsylvania), the Professional Resource Network (Florida), the New York Committee for Physician Health, or any similar program in another jurisdiction must be in compliance with the terms of that agreement or those recommendations throughout their matriculation at LECOM. No candidate may engage in clinical activities of any type if deemed unsafe to engage in practice by, or if not in good standing with, one of these programs.

#### **Candidates with Disabilities**

LECOM operates in accord with Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and American Disabilities Act (PL 101-336) and recognizes that certain disabilities may be accommodated without compromising the standards required by the College or the integrity of the curriculum. Thus, LECOM will make reasonable accommodation(s) for otherwise qualified candidates as required by law.

Technological compensation may be made for disabilities in some areas, but a candidate for the D.P.M. degree must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner without a trained intermediary. The use of a trained intermediary implies that a candidate's judgment or senses may have to be mediated by someone else's powers of selection and observation. Following matriculation, a candidate must continuously meet the Health and Technical Standards throughout enrollment at LECOM.

Candidates who have questions about or want to request accommodations and/or services should contact [Disability Services](#).

#### **Request for Accommodations**

- A candidate who has not been offered admission to the School of Podiatric Medicine may disclose a disability and request accommodation during the admission process. This is not required unless the candidate wants to request an accommodation for the admission process.
- While medical students can disclose a disability and request an accommodation at any time during their enrollment, students are encouraged to disclose the need for accommodation(s) as soon as possible. Time for documentation review and arrangement of accommodation(s) is necessary and may take up to four to six weeks. Accommodations are not retroactive.
- A candidate who believes they may be eligible for reasonable accommodation(s) are required to contact [Disability Services](#).

## **2.4.10. SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Medical education occurs in a special environment in which all students must participate in order to satisfactorily complete the course of instruction. Classrooms, laboratories, and clinical facilities require physical, chemical, social, and interpersonal environments in which each student must participate in order to accomplish the educational requirements established for each program. Failure to participate in required academic classes will result in consideration for dismissal from LECOM.

It is recognized, however, that circumstances may arise concerning chemical exposures that require the student involved to make an informed decision concerning continued participation in the environment in question. These special cases include students who believe they are allergic or sensitive to certain chemicals used in some of the teaching environments, and the pregnant student.

#### **2.4.10.1. STUDENTS WHO BELIEVE THEY ARE SENSITIVE TO CHEMICALS**

It is recognized that hypersensitivity to chemicals in the teaching environment will be a rare event. However, it is also recognized that students may believe that they are allergic or sensitive to certain chemicals. When students indicate to a professor that they are allergic or sensitive to certain chemicals in the teaching environment, the following actions will be taken:

- A. The student will be directed to the Office of Student Affairs which will inform the student of the following options:
  - The student may wish, at the student's expense, to be medically evaluated. The Office of Student Affairs will assist in identifying a Board-Certified Allergist and may, upon request from the student, assist the student in obtaining an appointment at the earliest possible opportunity.
  - If the student wishes to reduce exposure to the chemicals in question, this may be accomplished by wearing extra clothing and gloves. Students should also consider wearing an appropriate mask.
- B. The student will be given three (3) working days in which to decide on the two options. During this period, if the student decides not to attend the class in question, the absences will not be counted. The student will, however, be held responsible for the material covered and examinations given during the absences. After three (3) working days, if the student has not decided in writing to the Director of Student Affairs, any further absence from courses will be counted against their attendance record, which could result in consideration for dismissal from LECOM.

#### **2.4.10.2. THE PREGNANT STUDENT**

The pregnant student should notify the Office of Student Affairs of her pregnancy so the appropriate deans can be notified. It is recognized that students may become pregnant prior to or during their course of study at LECOM. This poses special problems concerning exposure to chemical agents in the teaching environment because possible effects of many agents on fetal development are unknown. LECOM does not know and cannot determine the potential risk of the teaching environment to the developing fetus. LECOM is not responsible for any developmental damage to a fetus which occurs prior to notification by the student of the pregnancy. If the student wishes to continue in the course in question, she does so of her own volition knowing that the following options exist. If a student advises the professor that she is (or may be) pregnant, the following actions will be taken:

The student will be directed to the Office of Student Affairs for information to enable her to make an informed decision regarding the following options:

- Obtain, at her own expense, appropriate clothing to reduce her exposure to the potentially harmful chemicals or an appropriate filter mask;
- Take a Leave of Absence from school and resume coursework the following year after the birth of the baby;
- Drop the course and, at her own expense, take an approved course at another institution during the subsequent summer session. This option would have to be approved by the SPG Committee as equivalent. The number of courses permitted during the summer session would be extremely limited. This would have to be approved pending review of the student's overall record by the appropriate dean.

#### **2.4.11. VETERANS EDUCATION**

The institution is approved for the training of students eligible for veterans' benefits. The SPM will consider veteran status in making decisions regarding admission. The Office of Financial Aid VA-certified official provides personal support and current information on assistance available to the veteran.

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679 subsection (e), this school adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 G.I. Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from the VA. This school will not:

- Prevent the student's enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty fee to the student;
- Require the student to secure alternative or additional funding;
- Deny the student access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Produce the VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by the first day of class;
- Provide a written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

#### **2.4.12. REGISTRATION**

All students are required to register in person on the registration day specified in the applicable calendar. Failure to register on the specified day without prior permission may be grounds for withdrawal. Tuition, fees, and prior debts are payable in full on or before the start of each semester. In addition, prior to registration, incoming students must make sure the College has received the following documents by the deadline assigned in the student's matriculation packet.

- Final official transcripts from previously attended colleges and/or universities;
- Physical examination form;
- Immunization records as outlined on the physical examination form;
- Criminal background check and drug screen;
- Certification Form for Participation and Health and Technical Standards
- Record Release Form
- Signed matriculation agreement;

LECOM reserves the right to rescind the acceptance or make acceptance contingent on the student entering an alcohol or drug treatment program if: A prospective student has failed to properly disclose a drug or alcohol incident during the admissions process; or

- A prospective student fails the required pre-matriculation drug and alcohol test; or
- A prospective student is involved in a drug or alcohol incident following completion of the application for admission

Attendance at orientation is mandatory for first year students. Matriculation is subject to satisfactory completion of all academic requirements, including completion of the Immunization Status Report and immunity to all diseases as outlined in the report, and payment of tuition, fees and other charges to LECOM. Background checks and drug screen must be completed prior to matriculation.

Second, third-year and fourth-year students must provide proof of student health insurance and documentation updating their immunization and yearly Mantoux PPD record, prior to the start of each academic year.

### **2.4.13. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

#### Laptop Computer

All students are required to have a laptop computer. The computer will be used to obtain course notes, access to ExamSoft testing tools, access the Internet, e-mail and other academic related activities. All incoming students must obtain a laptop prior to the first day of orientation. Students are responsible for all costs associated with ownership of the computer.

Due to the rapid change in computer hardware, LECOM publishes current system requirements on the LECOM website. You can access this page under the IT tab on the Portal. Students should contact the IT department if they have any questions regarding the purchase of a laptop computer.

#### Medical Equipment

All students are required to purchase the Sphygmomanometer (BP cuff and gauge) and the Diagnostic Kits (otoscope and ophthalmoscope) from the Welch-Allyn Instrument Sale in the Fall of the 1st year. The student Cost of Education Budget includes an allowance for this required diagnostic medical equipment for all pathways in all locations. This allowance is the designated funds from which the student may borrow.

### **2.4.14. ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT**

Students are assigned a faculty advisor upon matriculation. If either the student or faculty member does not find the relationship helpful, either is free to seek a change in writing to the appropriate dean or campus director.

The academic advisor-advisee relationship can become one of the most valuable aspects of professional education. It will provide an opportunity to develop sustained individual contact between faculty and

students on both academic and personal levels. The College of Medicine requires each student to meet with his or her faculty advisor at least once a month. A student on probation must meet with his or her faculty advisor at least every two weeks or more frequently as required by the Student Promotion and Graduation Committee (SPG).

## 2.4.15. GRADING AND CREDIT HOURS

The SPM evaluates academic performance through a letter grade (4.0) system. Course grades are determined by the final percentage grade which is then converted to a letter grade. A passing grade, unless otherwise indicated in the course syllabus, is a score of 70%.

Clinical rotations are evaluated on a Pass/Fail grading system as identified in the respective Clinical Training Guides and are determined by the students' performance on the Professionalism Competencies and successful completion of the Clinical Competencies assigned to a clinical rotation for each academic year.

In addition, the following designations are used to report grades by the Registrar as appropriate:

The following letter grades, their equivalents in achievement and grade points per semester hour of credit, are used by the SPM faculty to evaluate student performance in a course. A four-value point will be given indicating:

Letter Grade	Numerical Range	Achievement	Point Value
A	90-100	Excellent	4.0
B	80-89	Good	3.0
C	70-79	Satisfactory	2.0
F	69 or below	Failure	0.0
AU	N/A	Audit	0.0
I	N/A	Incomplete	0.0
Pass/Fail	N/A	Pass/Fail	0.0
W	N/A	Withdrawal	0.0
WP	N/A	Withdrawal/Pass	0.0
WF	N/A	Withdrawal/Fail	0.0

Only in exceptional circumstances and only with the approval of the Student Promotion and Graduation (SPG) Committee can curving/adjustments in overall class grades be made. Bonus/extra credit points will not exceed 5% of the total points of a course or system. Each Course or System Syllabus will contain the grading policies for the course or system. Grades midway between two grade points will be rounded up to the next higher integer.

Once credit hour is awarded for each week of patient clinics in the School of Podiatric Medicine. In addition to time spent in the clinics, students will participate in patient rounds, scrub surgical cases, study or review relevant material related to the care of patients, and complete learning assignments at the request of the preceptor. Students will maintain a Procedure Log for clinical rotations to document the acquisition of clinical skills and attainment of the clinical skills competencies.

Per the U.S. Department of Education, a credit hour is defined as:

“An amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonable approximates not less than:

- 1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of-class student work for approximately 15 weeks for one semester or trimester of credit, or 10 to 12 weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time, or
- 2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution, including laboratory work, internships, practicums, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.”

A cumulative grade point average will be calculated and posted on the transcript.

Class ranking is available upon request from the Office of the Registrar and is based on actual grade percentages earned in each course. Class rank for students of the School is available at the end of the first year, first semester; first year, second semester; second year, first semester; second year, second semester; end of third year and end of fourth year.

#### **2.4.16. TIMING OF AND ATTENDANCE AT EXAMINATIONS**

**Students must be on time for examinations.** Examinations will not be given after the scheduled time or after the first student has completed the examination and left the room. Individual Course Directors will establish rules for tardiness in their syllabi. If a student misses an examination due to an excused absence, the student will be permitted to take a make-up examination whose timing is at the discretion of the Course Director. For excused absences due to illness, a written statement from the attending physician (must be a non-family member) is required before the student will be allowed to take the examination. If the absence is unexcused, the student may be allowed to take an examination. Approval must be obtained from the Chairperson of the SPG Committee and the appropriate dean. The highest grade that can be earned for an examination after an unexcused absence is 70%.

#### **2.4.17. EXAMINATION DECORUM**

All examinations are proctored by faculty and/or administrators. At all times during examinations students are expected to maintain a decorum and demeanor that is consistent with accepted academic and professional standards. Professional dress is required for all examinations unless indicated otherwise. Lack of professional dress may result in dismissal from the exam. The student will then be treated as if they had an unexcused absence.

For ExamSoft exams and other computer-based exams at the Erie Testing Center, #2 pencils will be provided. Students will be provided with pencils and scrap paper for all exams. For ExamSoft exams and other computer-based exams (such as shelf exams), only the computer may be brought into the examination site. All other materials are prohibited unless explicitly and specifically designated by the course director. **The presence of any prohibited material in an examination room or in an area accessible to examinees (i.e. nearby restrooms, hallways, trash cans, etc.) is considered academic dishonesty and will result in a score of zero on the examination and referral for disciplinary action, whether or not cheating on the particular examination actually occurred.**

Prior to entry into the examination room, the student **must** leave all personal items (books, notes, study aids, coats, cell phones, any electronic devices capable of recording or storing information) in the student lockers. Once the examination has started, no talking is allowed, and student questions will not be answered by the proctors (other than those relating to technical issues with ExamSoft). Students who need to use the restrooms must first suspend the computer exam or hand their test papers to the proctor and request permission before leaving the examination room.

Bathroom breaks are not permitted during the first half hour and the last half hour of an exam. No more

than one student will be allowed to leave the examination room at one time, and students may be escorted to the restroom by an exam proctor. After completing an examination, a student must leave the examination room and any area adjacent to it and must do nothing to disturb those students still taking the examination.

Any student who engages in dishonest acts during an examination is subject to immediate dismissal from the examination. In such instances, the student will receive a score of zero for the examination. This would include taking an electronic exam from an offsite location not approved for administration of the exam or furnishing an exam code for an exam to another student. Incidences of dishonesty will be referred to the SPG Committee for investigation.

#### **2.4.17.1. INTERRUPTIONS DURING AN EXAMINATION**

If a fire alarm or other emergency condition occurs during an examination, either paper or computer-based, students will immediately cease taking the examination and evacuate the building. All materials should be turned over and left on the desk.

Proctors will ensure that all students leave the examination rooms in a timely manner. Students may be asked to evacuate to a specific location. Students are to remain in an area where they can hear the all clear announcement.

The examination timing mechanism will be suspended by the proctor. Students may not discuss the examination with any other person or access any type of information related to the examination. The Honor Code will be in effect, and students should monitor themselves and others to ensure compliance.

After the fire alarm or other cause of interruption has ended, students will return to their assigned seat in a timely manner (within 15 minutes) and resume the examination when announced by the proctor to do so. Students returning later than 15 minutes following the “all clear” signal may be excluded from continuing the examination.

Resumption of an interrupted exam will follow the guidelines of the particular exam being administered.

#### **2.4.18. COUNSELING AFTER FAILED EXAMINATIONS**

Any student who fails an examination will be required to contact the professor following notification of the failed examination in order to arrange for academic counseling in the course. Such counseling is mandatory.

#### **2.4.19. MAXIMUM LENGTH OF COMPLETION**

LECOM follows requires that all School of Podiatric Medicine stipulated that the standard for maximum length of completion and requires that all School of Podiatric Medical students to complete all requirements for graduation within the 150% (six (6) years following matriculation) standard timeline to achieve the degree. The following guidelines are provided:

##### **Leave of Absence**

If a student is unable to return within the timeframe necessary to meet the 6-year-rule for graduation, they must receive permission from the Dean to extend their education past six (6) years from the date of original matriculation. LECOM counts all time from date of matriculation toward the six-year time frame. Should a student reach the 6-year time frame, the student will be considered withdrawn from matriculation.

### **Mandatory Leave of Absence**

A student on a mandatory leave of absence must also complete the curriculum within the 150% (six (6) years following matriculation) standard timeline to achieve the degree as required by LECOMCOM requirements for graduation. A student placed on a mandatory leave of absence may be required to take an examination prior to being permitted to return. If the student is unable to return within two years and has received permission from the Dean to continue matriculation, all coursework must be repeated.

### **Withdrawal of a Student**

A student who withdraws and is considered for readmission will be required to complete matriculation within six (6) years of the original matriculation date.

## **2.4.20. REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION**

Students who have satisfactorily completed all academic requirements and who have been recommended by the SPM faculty (as indicated by the successful completion of the faculty-developed curriculum) may be awarded the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.) degree, provided that they are of good moral character and have met the following standards:

1. Maintained a Pass (70%) (C or pass) in each course, have successfully passed all clinical competency exams, have successfully met the attendance policy and have no un-remediated failing grades and no grades of Incomplete (I);
2. Pass Part I of APMLE and take Part II of APMLE National Board Examinations.
3. Are at least 21 years of age;
4. Matriculated at least four academic years, but not more than six academic years in the D.P.M. professional program;
5. Completed all legal and financial requirements of the SPM;
6. Exhibited the ethical, professional, behavioral and personal characteristics necessary for the practice of podiatric medicine;
7. Completed a Clearance Check Form from the Office of the Registrar. This form, which must be returned to Registrar prior to graduation, is placed with the student's permanent record and serves as the student's final clearance from campus;
8. Completed an exit interview with the Office of Student Affairs if the student is a recipient of any form of financial aid;
9. Attend the Commencement at which the degree is to be awarded. Only in unusual circumstances, and with approval of the President, will a degree be awarded in absentia.

A student who completes the curriculum in four consecutive years is required to meet the graduation requirements listed in the catalog of entry and/or any subsequent or additional program requirements. In the event of an extension beyond the four years, the student must meet the requirements for the class with whom the individual graduates and any other requirements specified by the SPG Committee and Dean. Students must complete all requirements for graduation within six years from the date of matriculation for the four-year program of study.

Students who complete the requirements for graduation after June 1 of a calendar year may participate in the commencement ceremony provided their anticipated completion date occurs prior to August 31 of that year. A diploma will not be granted at the graduation ceremony. For students completing the requirements after the graduation date, diplomas shall be dated with the last day of the month and year in which all requirements are met.

Recommendation for receipt of the D.P.M. degree is a discretionary right residing with the faculty and administration, but shall not be withheld arbitrarily. There is no contract, stated or implied, between the



SPM and the student, guaranteeing that a degree will be conferred at any stated time, or at all.

#### **2.4.21. COMMENCEMENT**

Attendance at Commencement is mandatory for all graduating students. Commencement shall be held approximately two weeks following the end of the academic year. Requests for awarding of the degree in absentia, such as in the case of incurring a medical condition where participation in graduation would present a significant health hazard, must be submitted to and approved by the dean of your field of study. Each graduate is required to wear the academic regalia designated by LECOM.

Students who complete the requirements for graduation after the graduation date may participate in the commencement ceremony provided their anticipated completion date occurs prior to December 31 of the year of graduation. A diploma will not be granted at the graduation ceremony. Students who do not complete the requirements for graduation by the December 31 date must participate in the Commencement Ceremony the following year, unless an exception is granted by the Provost. Only in unusual circumstances and with the approval of your dean will the degree be awarded in absentia. For students completing the requirements after the graduation date, diplomas shall be dated with the last day of the month and year in which all requirements are met.

All graduating students shall comport themselves in a thoroughly professional manner throughout the graduation ceremony. Graduates will already be wearing their hood for the roll call and will be handed a diploma cover at one end of the ceremonial stage, then proceed across the stage and down the stairs to be directed to the photo area. Guest hooding is not permitted. There shall be no overtly demonstrative conduct by students as they cross the stage. Any student who fails to honor these standards will be addressed by the Provost and their receipt of the diploma may be delayed.

#### **2.4.22. ONLINE LEARNING REGULATIONS**

##### **Student Location Policy**

In compliance with federal regulations, LECOM is required to obtain each student's current location while enrolled in courses which is not necessarily the same as permanent or legal address. A student's location will be obtained during the matriculation process. Students must report to LECOM any change of location within seven days of a change. Additionally, students must provide their location at the start of each academic term. Students can update this information on the portal at any time.

Students participating in a LECOM education program must be located in a U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands. Moreover, students are required to notify LECOM if there is a change to their location while taking LECOM courses. "Location" is not the same as permanent or legal address. It may not be where they have a lease and most of their belongings. It is where they are located while taking classes.

### 3. FINANCIAL AID

#### Introduction – Purpose of LECOM’s Financial Aid Program

The fundamental purpose of the financial aid program at LECOM is to provide counseling and assistance to accepted students regarding securing funding to meet the costs of education. A student's need for financial assistance does not affect their chances for admission.

Financial assistance is awarded in a nondiscriminatory manner without regard to race, ethnicity, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender/sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, disability, status as a veteran or disabled veteran, citizenship (within the limits of the law), or any other legally protected characteristic.

Financial assistance to meet the cost of education is primarily available from Federal and private loan programs originated or certified by LECOM. LECOM participates in the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan Program), which includes the Federal Direct Subsidized, Unsubsidized, and PLUS Loan Programs. Students applying for federal financial aid are required to complete the FAFSA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) annually online at <https://studentaid.gov>. LECOM uses the information submitted on the FAFSA to determine loan eligibility. LECOM also participates in private educational loan programs. Private education loans are certified in compliance with federal and state regulations.

Additional information may be obtained from the LECOM at Erie Financial Aid at (814) 866-6641 or email [financialaid@lecom.edu](mailto:financialaid@lecom.edu); the LECOM at Bradenton Financial Aid at (941) 756-0690 or email [BradentonFinAid@lecom.edu](mailto:BradentonFinAid@lecom.edu); or the LECOM at Seton Hill Financial Aid at (724) 552-2867; or LECOM at Elmira Financial Aid inquiries can be directed to (607) 442-3500 or by using the financial aid email: [financialaid@lecom.edu](mailto:financialaid@lecom.edu).

#### 3.1. FINANCIAL AID PROCEDURES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Higher Education Opportunity Act requires institutions that participate in the Title IV loan program to develop, publish, administer, and enforce a code of conduct with which the institution’s officers, employees and agents shall comply. In support of this and in an effort to rule out any perceived or actual conflict of interest between LECOM officers, employees, or agents and education loan lenders, LECOM adheres to the following student lending code of conduct:

- LECOM does not participate in any revenue-sharing arrangements with any lender.
- LECOM does not permit any officer, employee, or agent who is employed in LECOM Financial Aid or is otherwise involved in the administration of education loans to accept any gifts of greater than a nominal value from any lender, guarantor, or servicer.
- LECOM does not permit any officer, employee, or agent who is employed in LECOM Financial Aid or is otherwise involved in the administration of education loans to accept any fee, payment, or other financial benefit (including a stock purchase option) from a lender as compensation for any type of consulting arrangement or contract to provide services to a lender or on behalf of a lender relating to education loans.
- LECOM does not permit any officer, employee, or agent who is employed in LECOM Financial Aid or is otherwise involved in the administration of education loans to accept anything of value from a lender, guarantor, or group of lenders and/or guarantors in exchange for service on an advisory board, commission, or other group established by such a lender, guarantor, or group of lenders and/or guarantors. LECOM does allow for the reasonable reimbursement of expenses associated with participation on such boards, commissions, or groups by lenders, guarantors, or groups of lenders and/or guarantors.

- LECOM does not assign a lender to any first-time borrower through financial aid packaging or any other means.
- LECOM recognizes that a borrower has the right to choose any lender from which to borrow to finance their education. LECOM will not refuse to certify or otherwise deny or delay certification of a loan based on the borrower's selection of a lender and/or guarantor.
- LECOM will not request or accept any offer of funds to be used for private education loans to students from any lender in exchange for providing the lender with a specified number or volume of Title IV loans or a preferred lender arrangement for Title IV loans.
- LECOM will not request or accept any assistance with call center or Financial Aid staffing.

## **3.2. APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

All accepted students must complete the LECOM Authorization and Consent Form on the LECOM student portal, *myLECOM*. Students who choose to use federal loans must complete the federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov). LECOM Financial Aid staff use the information on the FAFSA to determine eligibility for loans. Students applying for financial aid are required to complete the FAFSA annually.

If a student chooses to use the Direct Graduate PLUS loan, the PLUS application must be completed annually. Please note that PLUS loan application is not available until after April 1 and requires an acceptable credit score. Students who do not qualify due to their credit score will be notified at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) if a co-signer is needed to secure the loan.

Per federal regulations, to receive federal student aid, a student must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, maintain satisfactory academic progress (Section 3.6) not owe a refund on a federal or state grant, or be in default on a federal student loan. Financial Aid may request other supplemental information as needed to determine eligibility.

### **3.2.1. APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL LOAN FUNDING**

Reapplication for additional financial assistance, including cost of education budget increase requests, and second loan requests will not be processed until 30 days after the start of the academic year. Exceptions to this policy will be made on an individual basis and in compliance with federal and state regulations governing financial aid.

## **3.3. STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TUITION AND FEES PAYMENT**

Loan proceeds are applied to a student's account when LECOM receives disbursement from federal direct lending or private loan sources. If a loan has been approved, but is still in process, or if the loan proceeds are not received by the registration due date, tuition and fee charges will be waived until the loan proceeds are received by LECOM. Tuition and fee charges will not be waived for students who file loan applications after matriculation. Exceptions to this policy will be made on an individual basis.

If a first-time borrower is denied a loan or has difficulty obtaining loans because of credit rating, LECOM will not waive tuition and fee charges while these matters are being resolved. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

## **3.4. TUITION REFUND POLICY**

A student who cancels, withdraws for personal or medical reasons, is suspended, or is dismissed will receive a refund of tuition and fees within 30 days of any of the foregoing in accordance with the following schedule:

- 100% during the first week of the semester;
- 75% during the second week of the semester;
- 50% during the third week of the semester; or
- 25% during the fourth week of the semester.

No refunds will be granted to a student who withdraws or is withdrawn, for any reason, after the fourth week of the semester. A student is financially responsible for any outstanding balance owed upon discontinued enrollment.

Cancellation can be made in person, by electric mail, by Certified Mail or by termination. All monies will be refunded if the school does not accept the applicant or if the student cancels within three (3) business days after signing the enrollment agreement and making initial payment. Cancellation after the third (3rd) Business Day, but before the first class, results in a refund of all monies paid, with the exception of the registration fee (not to exceed \$150.00). Termination Date: In calculating the refund to a student, the last day of actual attendance by the student is used in the calculation unless earlier written notice is received. Refunds will be made within 30 days of termination of students' enrollment or receipt of Cancellation Notice from student.

### **3.4.1. VETERANS BENEFITS REFUND POLICY**

A student receiving veterans benefits and who fails to complete the program, withdraws, or is dismissed for any reason prior to the completion of the program, will be charged for tuition, fees, and other charges on a pro rata basis. Charges for the completed portion of the program shall not exceed the approximate pro rata portion of the total charges for tuition, fees, and other charges for the full length of the program. LECOM complies with the provisions of 6E-1.0032 (6)(i), FAC and other applicable federal and state requirements within the refund policy.

### **3.5. TREATMENT OF TITLE IV FUNDS WHEN A STUDENT VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL**

Federal Title IV regulations specify the amount of Title IV aid a student has earned, if a student withdraws, is dismissed, or stops attending. The Title IV programs covered these regulations include federal direct subsidized, unsubsidized, and PLUS loans.

Financial aid funds are posted to a student's account at the start of each period. The student will earn funds while they complete the academic term. If a student withdraws during the academic term or period of enrollment, the amount of Title IV aid that was earned up to the last day of attendance is determined by a specific formula. The amount of assistance earned is determined on a pro rata basis. For example, if a student completed 30% of the academic term or period of enrollment, the student has earned 30% of the loan funds that were originally scheduled to be disbursed. The institution must return the excess funds equal to the Title IV aid return calculation.

If the student has completed more than 60% of the academic term or period of enrollment, the student has earned all of the Title IV aid that was scheduled to be disbursed for that period.

If a student did not receive all the funds that were earned, the student may be due a post-withdrawal disbursement. If the post-withdrawal disbursement includes loan funds, the institution must receive the student's permission before the funds can be disbursed. To avoid incurring additional debt, a student may choose to decline some or all of the loan funds. With the student's permission, the institution may automatically use all or a portion of the post-withdrawal disbursement for all other institution-related charges.

There may be occasions Title IV funds student that a student was scheduled to receive cannot be

disbursed to the student upon withdrawal because of other eligibility requirements.

If the institution is not required to return all of the excess funds, the student can elect to return the remaining amount. All loan funds must be repaid in accordance with the terms of the promissory note signed by the student when they borrowed the funds.

### **3.6. SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS**

A student receiving scholarships, loans, and/or financial assistance through federal and private resources must remain in good academic standing and make satisfactory academic progress to retain their awards. Good academic standing for the purpose of financial aid is defined as the minimum academic standards required for continued enrollment in the student's program. If the student fails to maintain institutional standards, the student is considered not to be making satisfactory academic progress and will lose financial assistance until the standards are met.

- A student on a leave of absence for any reason is considered not to be making satisfactory academic progress and will not be eligible for federal and private financial assistance, including federal and private education loans.
- Students required to repeat a semester or year, are no longer eligible for federal financial aid and will need to obtain a private educational loan.
- Students who are removed from clinical rotations, including failure of a board examination, are not making satisfactory academic progress and are not eligible to receive subsequent financial aid until they progress to their next semester. If this period of leave extends to more than 180 days, a return of the Title IV return of calculation must be performed.

Satisfactory academic progress is further defined in Section 2.4.2. Additionally, each College/School adheres to specific criteria for maintaining satisfactory academic progress, which are defined in individual College/School policies. Exceptions to this policy will be made on an individual basis and in compliance with federal and state regulations governing financial aid.

### **3.7. LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS**

A student who requests to suspend enrollment for a period of time is considered on a leave of absence. Students must follow the procedure outlined in Section 8.4 and receive approval to be on an approved leave of absence. As part of the application process for a leave of absence, a student receiving financial aid must meet with Financial Aid staff and submit a completed Leave of Absence Form for Financial Aid to determine how the leave of absence will affect their eligibility for financial aid.

While on an approved leave of absence, the following applies with regard to financial aid:

- The student's enrollment status will be reported to the lender(s) as a leave of absence.
- The leave of absence and any additional leaves of absence exceed a total of 180 days in any 12-month period, the Title IV return of calculation must be performed. The 12-month period begins on the first day of the student's official leave of absence.
- Upon return from the leave of absence, any and/or all subsequent financial aid disbursements may be delayed until the student again meets the standards for satisfactory academic progress towards the completion of their degree.
- If the student does not return from the leave of absence, their loan(s) will go into repayment based on the start date of the leave of absence. This could result in the depletion of some, or all, of the grace period of the loan(s).

- If the student is notified by their lender(s) that their loans are in repayment, then the student will need to contact the lender(s) and request a hardship forbearance or economic hardship deferment.

### **3.8. STATE RESIDENCY STATUS FOR FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS**

For purposes of financial aid, state residency status is determined per state law at the time of original application and that status is maintained for all years of attendance at LECOM.

### **3.9. TERMS OF PAYMENT**

A Course and Fee Statement (i.e., billing statement) and Financial Aid awards are posted to the LECOM student portal, *myLECOM*, approximately 30 days prior to the start of each semester. Statements are not mailed and must be viewed through the institutional student portal, *myLECOM*.

The first semester statement includes half of the annual tuition, all fees, and disability and health insurance premiums, if applicable, less any matriculation payments. Statements for dental, pharmacy, and first- and second-year medical and podiatric medical students also include virtual textbook fees. The second semester statement includes the remaining half of the annual tuition, and if applicable, the second semester health insurance premium and any other necessary adjustments.

Student account balances must be paid in full two weeks prior to the start of the term. Students utilizing financial aid must have all steps to financial aid complete before the term starts.

Student tuition and fees may be paid by using Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express credit cards or by check. Any fee associated with the use of the credit card are paid by the student. Any check that is returned by the bank for non-sufficient funds will be assessed a \$25.00 service fee.

#### **3.9.1. LATE PAYMENT FEE**

Tuition and fee charges must be paid by the due dates of each semester. Students who have applied for loans must be sure that pending loans are enough to meet the payment of tuition and fees. If tuition is not paid in full on the due date, or financial aid steps are incomplete, a late fee of \$50 per week will be assessed until such time as all financial obligations are met.

## 4. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICIES

### INTRODUCTION: GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR TECHNOLOGY USAGE

LECOM provides electronic communication devices, equipment, and technology, including, but not limited to, telephones, email systems, voice mailboxes, computer files, internet access, copiers, fax machines, and cellular telephones (collectively referred to as “electronic devices”). At all times, all LECOM-provided electronic devices and all data stored thereon remain LECOM property and LECOM has a legitimate business interest in the proper utilization of such property. Therefore, LECOM reserves the right to monitor, retrieve, or read any data composed, sent, or received on any LECOM-provided electronic device. Anyone using any LECOM-provided electronic device consents to have their use of the device monitored and accessed at any time and at LECOM’s discretion. A user should have no expectation of privacy in any use of LECOM-provided electronic device or systems.

It is a violation of policy for any data composed, sent, or retrieved via a LECOM-provided electronic device to contain content that may be reasonably considered offensive or disruptive. Offensive content includes, but is not limited to, derogatory comments that would offend another on the basis of their sex, age, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or any other protected class.

#### 4.1. EMAIL USAGE

LECOM makes reasonable efforts to maintain the integrity and effective operation of its electronic mail system, but users are advised that the system should, in no way, be regarded as a secure medium for the communication of sensitive or confidential information. Because of the nature and technology of electronic communications, LECOM can assure neither the privacy of an individual’s use of the electronic mail resources nor the confidentiality of messages that are transmitted, received, or stored.

Email is used as an official means of communication within the LECOM community. All LECOM email communications to students are sent to LECOM email accounts. Students may not automatically forward their @lecom.edu account to another email account. LECOM is not responsible for the handling of email by outside vendors (e.g., gmail.com, yahoo.com, aol.com, etc.).

LECOM has the right to send official communications to students via email and the right to expect that such communications be received and read in a timely fashion. All students must use their LECOM accounts when communicating with the institution via email. If a student is dismissed, their LECOM email account will be deactivated immediately.

Unacceptable uses of email include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Using an email account assigned to someone else;
- Giving someone else access to a LECOM email account;
- Sending secure exam codes to another student;
- Sending harassing, obscene, and/or threatening messages;
- Sending unsolicited junk mail including chain letters;
- Sending material that infringes upon the copyright or patent of another person;
- Sending commercial, political, or advertising material;
- Operating a personal business using a LECOM email account;
- Sending mass emails without proper authorization;
- Soliciting on behalf of another organization;

- Automatic forwarding of communications to a LECOM email account to another email account (e.g., gmail.com, yahoo.com, outlook.com, etc.);
- Using email to reveal confidential information about a student or an employee to anyone who has neither a need for nor right the information, including information that is protected by FERPA or HIPAA; and
- Sending or forwarding hate mail, discriminatory remarks, pornographic material, political propaganda, spam, or other email nuisances.

## **4.2. INTERNET USAGE**

Any individual given internet access via LECOM-provided devices is expected to use the internet to enhance the performance of their work and study responsibilities. The internet does not guarantee the privacy and confidentiality of information. Therefore, no one shall place LECOM-provided material (e.g., copyrighted software, internal correspondence, confidential materials, etc.) on any publicly accessible internet site without permission. Sensitive material transferred over the Internet (including FTP and email) may be at risk of detection by a third party. Caution must be exercised when transferring such material in any form. Only computers with up-to-date anti-virus software will be given internet access.

It is against federal law and LECOM policy to violate copyrights or patents of another person on or through the internet. Students, faculty, and staff are prohibited from downloading or using copyrighted material in any way without obtaining written authorization.

LECOM reserves the right to determine whether use of the internet is consistent with acceptable use guidelines. Unacceptable uses of the internet include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any use for illegal purposes;
- Downloading or using copyrighted materials;
- Any use for commercial or for-profit purposes;
- Using software in violation of license and/or software agreements;
- Any use for product advertisement;
- Promotion of personal political beliefs;
- Accessing or processing pornographic material;
- Shopping, stock trading, and other personal business;
- Downloading music files or video files;
- Streaming internet radio and other music services;
- Instant messaging; and
- Distribution of unsolicited material to others or peer-to-peer file sharing.

## **4.3. CELL PHONE USAGE**

Use of cell phones during class is prohibited. Cell phone usage should be kept to a minimum and should never interfere with instruction, work, or class.

Use of personal hotspots in the lecture halls interferes with the LECOM wireless network and is prohibited.

The use of cell phone cameras or video/audio recording devices is prohibited during class. Any usage of photographs, videos, or audio recordings must be with the consent of individuals as delineated in Policy 9.12.1.



## 4.4. PASSWORDS

All students who connect to the LECOM network\resources are responsible for reviewing and adhering to POLICY CS-2002 located on the LECOM Portal, *myLECOM*.

## 4.5. TECHNOLOGY AND PORTAL ACCESS FOR STUDENTS

LECOM provides access to certain technologies for enrolled students these include:

### **Office 365, Email, and One Drive**

Students have access to Office 365, which includes the Office Suite, LECOM email address and One Drive. A copy of the Office 365 products may be downloaded to the student's personal device so that they may access and utilize the products offline.

Upon graduation students will continue to have access to LECOM email, Office 365 application (e.g., Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) and One Drive for 90 days following graduation. At which time access will be deactivated. If a graduate has Office 365 installed on a personal computer, all applications will need to be uninstalled and the software suite will need to be purchased and reinstalled.

### **LECOM Institutional Portal (*myLECOM*)**

LECOM operates a Student Information System (SIS) that is known as the LECOM Institutional Portal, *myLECOM* located at [portal.lecom.edu](http://portal.lecom.edu). *myLECOM* is a centralized student record system that helps the institution manage critical student information and delivery of services to keep students on track. This system allows access to financial aid, academic programs, learning resource center electronic resources, admissions, bookstore, and many more helpful information sites such as LECOM COVID-19 protocols, accreditation updates, research opportunities, and information technology information.

Students are granted access to their *myLECOM* account at the time of matriculation as part of the LECOM Student Identify Verification Policy (Section 6.3). While students are enrolled at LECOM they will have access to *myLECOM* and continue to do so following graduation to ensure access to 1098T forms and records, student access to the LECOM portal shall continue until April 15 of the year following graduation (or to the date of any extended tax deadline).

### **LECOM Learning Management System (Canvas)**

LECOM operates a Learning Management System (LMS) that is known by its brand name, Canvas, located at [lecom.instructure.com](http://lecom.instructure.com). The Canvas LMS is an institutional platform that all LECOM College and Schools use to deliver course content, learning material, and communications to students. This technology is designed to provide consistent communication about coursework and enhance student engagement in online, hybrid and in-person learning. Canvas LMS is a robust digital foundation for all aspects of learning and may be used by faculty to assess student engagement with course content through real-time analytics built into the system.

Students are granted access to their Canvas LMS account at the time of matriculation as part of the LECOM Student Identify Verification Policy (Section 6.3).

## 4.6. SOCIAL NETWORKING

LECOM considers social networking a useful tool for communication and marketing. However, if used improperly, it can result in a variety of adverse consequences, such as disclosure of sensitive or confidential information, copyright violations, and potential damage to the school's reputation. As used in this policy, social networking is defined as communicating with others over the internet for social

purposes, which typically occurs on social media sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, or “blogs”, but can also occur on sites offered by television networks, newspapers, and magazines. The following guidelines apply to the use of social networking via LECOM-owned computers, mobile devices, or other technology, as well as personally owned devices when connected to the LECOM network. The guidelines should also be considered when engaging in social networking on devices that are not linked to the LECOM network.

### **Compliance with Institutional Policies**

- Use of LECOM-issued technology for social networking must be in accordance with all applicable institutional rules.
- Use of the LECOM network for social networking must comply with all institutional policies.
- In some circumstances or events, use of handheld devices may be prohibited.

### **Attribution of Postings**

- Individuals should never attribute social media postings to LECOM or imply that they are endorsed or written by LECOM.
- For faculty, staff, and students if affiliation is listed in a user profile or posting, the profile or posting should include the following disclaimer: “The statements and views expressed in this posting are my own and do not reflect those of my employer or school.”

### **Social Networking Site Terms of Use**

- Anyone participating in a social network for any reason is responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with the site’s terms of use. Any concerns about the terms of use for a site should be reported to the Director of IT.

### **Contact Information**

- Due to confidentiality and privacy concerns, faculty, staff, and students are prohibited from importing or uploading any LECOM contacts to any networking sites where the information may be used beyond name recognition purposes.

### **Content**

- When writing content for posting, individuals are expected to use the same judgment they would use in writing any formal letter. Individuals are expected to post only content that they would be comfortable sharing with colleagues, the LECOM audience, and the general public.
- Individuals are personally responsible for all content they post on social networking sites. Any questions about the propriety of any posting should be referred to and approved by the Provost before posting.
- Online postings may not adversely impact or create problems for LECOM or its audience. Postings should not express personal opinions about other people or about potentially controversial topics, such as politics and religion, or offer referrals, endorsements, or recommendations for or about others.
- Individuals should refrain from posting content that could be characterized as defamation, plagiarism, harassment, advertising, false light, an invasion of privacy, a copyright violation, or infringe on the rights of others.
- Individuals should not post information that would be potentially embarrassing to one’s self or LECOM, or call into question one’s own or LECOM’s reputation, including the dissemination of photographs or other images.

- Individuals should not leak confidential information. Postings should not discuss LECOM business on public postings, unless authorized by the Provost.
- Postings must identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with appropriate citations, links, or permissions.
- Individuals should ensure postings are accurate, truthful, respectful, free of misspellings, and display correct grammar, language, and tone.
- Individuals should obtain approval from LECOM's legal counsel before responding to an inaccurate, accusatory, or negative comment about LECOM, or any matter pertaining to LECOM employees, broadcasts, guests, or legal matters.
- Unless previously authorized by the Provost, individuals may not use the LECOM logo or suggest a post is on behalf of LECOM.
- Individuals may not use the LECOM network or email lists to influence polls, rankings, or web traffic.
- Individuals should show good judgment when "friending" someone within a social network.
- Individuals should promptly remove any content deemed inappropriate or harmful.
- Individuals should refrain from posting any information or conducting any online activity that may violate applicable local, state, or federal laws and regulations.

### **Violations of This Policy**

Due to the importance of this policy, violations will not be tolerated and will be sanctioned. Consequences may include such measures as immediate termination of employment (for faculty and staff) or dismissal from an academic program (for students) or any other action deemed appropriate by LECOM.

## **4.7. COMPUTER REPAIR**

LECOM IT does not perform troubleshooting services on personally owned devices except for the following basic cases:

- Software troubleshooting
- Antivirus software installation
- Basic Wi-Fi and Networking issues

Individuals are required to submit a completed LECOM computer repair form and waiver agreement before any services can be performed.

The LECOM IT Department will not troubleshoot hardware issues or perform hardware repairs on personally owned devices. Individuals will be referred to local computer repair shops for any computer hardware issues.

## **4.8. TECHNOLOGY-RELATED NAME CHANGES**

Name changes for records of students will be processed when notification is received by the Registrar (Section [7.3 Updating Student Records](#)).

The email display name of the user will be changed to the new name and a secondary email account will be added under the new name. The new email address can be set as the primary email account, if desired.

Logon IDs to the LECOM network, portal (*myLECOM*), Canvas, MediaSuite, and wifi will not be changed.

## **4.9. USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS**

All LECOM faculty, staff, and students must respect and comply with the rules and laws on copyrights, such as the provisions of the Title 17 of the U.S. Code. Unauthorized use of or distribution of copyrighted materials, including, but not limited to, peer-to-peer file sharing (i.e., transmitting copyrighted materials, such as music, movies, and compilations, to others for their use) is a violation of federal law that can subject the sender to fines or imprisonment.

For students, unauthorized use of or distribution of copyrighted materials is considered an honor code violation, which can result in expulsion from LECOM, or other LECOM-imposed sanctions for misconduct. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or statutory damages of not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For willful infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 in civil damages per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorney fees. Willful copyright infringement also can result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense.

LECOM provides instructions on obtaining permission for the use of copyrighted materials, which are posted in the LECOM Copyright Guide, which can be found on the Learning Resource Center page on the institutional portal, *myLECOM*.

## **5. LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (LRC)**

### **INTRODUCTION: GENERAL LIBRARY INFORMATION**

The LECOM Learning Resource Center (LRC) is committed to providing students and faculty with access to information for medical, pharmaceutical, dental, podiatric, nursing and other graduate programs directly related to academic study and research. Materials not available within the physical LRC can be requested through Interlibrary Loan at the circulation desk. Library hours may vary by campus, [see LRC webpage](#).

**Note:** No food or beverages are permitted in the LRC at any time. Cellular telephone use is prohibited in the LRC.

### **5.1. CONDUCT FOR THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER**

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) is an area designated for individual study and use of available resources. The abuse of LRC guidelines and procedures will result in termination of LRC privileges and/or disciplinary action.

### **5.2. CIRCULATION**

All matriculated students have the privilege of using the LRC for study and accessing resources from the LRC collection. A valid, current student ID is required to check materials out.

- Books circulate for 28 days. Book loans may be renewed once.
- Board review materials circulate for 14 days.
- Journals do not circulate.
- Reference material may not leave the LRC.
- Special anatomical teaching models circulate based on the preferences of Course Directors.

### **5.3. ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOG**

The LRC online public access catalog of holdings can be searched using author, title, subject or keywords. The catalog is available online as well as in-house; a convenient link can be found on the LRC webpage at *myLECOM*.

### **5.4. FINES AND FEES**

All materials must be returned by the date due. A receipt is provided upon request. Items that are not returned by the date due will be assessed \$1.00 per day unless arrangements for renewal have been made.

The borrower is responsible for all late fees and replacement costs. Fines must be paid when the material is returned. Failure to pay any fine will result in the suspension of LRC borrowing privileges until the account is cleared.

### **5.5. EQUIPMENT, COMPUTER AND PRINTERS**

LRC computers provide access to the internet and to the LRC electronic resources, see 5.9 for complete listing of resources. Network printers and photocopiers are available. The LRC uses Papercut, an account-based printing system. The complete Microsoft Office suite including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc., is also available on LRC computers.

Use of any LRC equipment must adhere to the Technology Usage and Guidelines set forth in Section 4 [Information Technology Policies](#).

## **5.6. RESERVATION COLLECTION**

The Reserve Collection consists of assigned readings related to coursework as well as limited human anatomical models. Items in the reserved collection must be used in the LRC and may not be checked out. Access to the collection items is requested at the circulation desk.

## **5.7. PHOTOCOPIERS**

Photocopiers are available for student use. The machines are located in the LRC copy room. Copies are \$.10 for black and white and \$.20 for color, each in 8 1/2 by 11-inch format. The copiers also offer a scan-to-email feature.

## **5.8. INTERLIBRARY LOANS**

Interlibrary loan service is used for items not available from the LRC collection. Through the use of e-mail, scanning technology and DOCLINE, most routine requests have a turn-around time of three to seven working days. Books and monographs require from three to ten working days. An interlibrary request form should be completed and submitted to an LRC employee to initiate a loan request. This form is to be completed and submitted from the LRC *myLECOM* website.

Although most libraries *loan* photocopies on a reciprocal basis, there are some health science libraries that charge a fee for loans. The requester is responsible for all charges incurred and will be notified if there is a charge for the loan prior to sending the request.

## **5.9. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

Electronic resources for the learning resource center can be found on the *myLECOM*, Learning Resources page. The LRC provides a single search option through OVID, which brings together all resources to which LECOM subscribes. OVID Discovery is a discovery platform developed specifically for health, biomedical, and pharmaceutical electronic libraries. It is a single-search, one-stop shop solution for student and faculty research needs.

The LRC provides access to MEDLINE, the National Library of Medicine's biomedical database for end user searching. The MEDLINE gateway is available through the Learning Resource Center webpage and at LRC computer workstations.

Evidence Based Medicine Reviews is also available via the LRC page. This premier resource in the evidence-based medicine movement combines seven EBM resources in a single fully searchable database.

Access to the full range of the Learning Resource Center's electronic journal collection is provided through a comprehensive list on the LRC's webpage. PubMed is also available with a link-out feature to electronic journals subscribed to by the LRC. Link-Out is a service that allow the user to link directly from PubMed and other NCBI databases to a wide range of information and services which include full-text publications, biological database, consumer health information, research tools and more to which the LECOM LRC currently subscribes.

The LRC subscribes to StatRef, an electronic medical library offering cross searching capability to 26 medical textbooks such as AHFS Drug Information, Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, Concepts in Clinical Pharmacokinetics and Kaplan & Sadock's Synopsis of Psychiatry.

Another resource is EBSCOHost, a collection of databases that allows searching of medical related

literature. There are several searchable databases, these include: Nursing and Allied Health Collection: Basic, Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection, CINAHL with Full Text, MEDLINE with Full Text, Health Business Elite and Education Source all containing access to full text titles that students can search separately or concurrently. The number of full text journals available is approximately 2,700.

Clinically relevant electronic databases include UpToDate and DynaMed. These resources offer “point of care” information and are useful for students doing rotations and working in a clinical setting. They offer current, peer reviewed topic reviews across many specialties.

Pharmacy electronic resources include EMBASE Drugs and Pharmacology (1991-present), International Pharmaceutical Abstracts, IPA (1980-present), Micromedex, Lexi-Comp and Facts and Comparisons. EMBASE is a major biomedical and pharmaceutical database known for its international scope and timely in-depth indexing. International Pharmaceutical Abstracts covers the entire spectrum of drug therapy and pharmaceutical information including CAS Registry numbers and a therapeutic classification for drugs. The Micromedex Healthcare series provides an unsurpassed depth of information on drugs, diseases, toxicology, interactions, identification, and patient information.

Lexi-Comp and Facts and Comparisons are two web-based drug information databases providing content in the following areas: drug information and interactions, laboratory and diagnostic testing, natural products, infectious disease and poisoning and toxicology. Updated daily, these databases are accessible in the LRC and selected ones off site through the LECOM LRC web page. The LRC Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) allows users to search the collection. The OPAC is web based and can be searched on or off campus.

The Learning Resource Center also offers electronic board review materials and interactive anatomy programs.

## **5.10. LIBRARY INSTRUCTION AND LITERATURE SEARCHES**

Personal instruction is available on request. Detailed and complex searches will be analyzed and performed by the professional library staff. Librarian mediated searches are typically finished within 48 hours. Searches are requested using online at the online Document Delivery Request Form on the *myLECOM* LRC website.

## **6. CAMPUS SECURITY AND SAFETY**

### **INTRODUCTION: CAMPUS FACILITIES AND SECURITY**

LECOM desires to create a safe, supportive environment for its students and employees. To this end, LECOM has created several programs to ensure campus safety. LECOM facilities are well maintained, and security is given consistent attention to protect students, staff, and faculty. Generally, LECOM facilities are open from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., Monday through Friday during academic sessions. Saturday, Sunday and holiday facility hours are 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Times may vary by location and during examination periods or special events.

Landscaping and outdoor lighting on campus are designed for security. Sidewalks are designed to provide well-traveled, lit routes from parking areas to buildings. Grounds-keeping personnel trim shrubs from sidewalks and the building entrances to provide a safe, well-lighted route to the buildings. All campus lighting is routinely inspected. Night security personnel are available to escort people to the parking areas. Fire extinguishers and fire hoses connections are placed throughout LECOM for safety. Emergency defibrillators (AEDs) are also placed at key locations for emergency use.

Although LECOM provides campus safety and security, LECOM cannot guarantee each student's and employee's safety. LECOM does not have absolute control over the surrounding area. Each member of the LECOM community must assume responsibility for helping prevent sexual assaults and other crimes through increased awareness, behavior guided by reason, and by taking precautionary steps to avoid situations that lead to the possible occurrence of crime.

The 911 emergency system serves all LECOM areas. LECOM at Seton Hill, Seton Hill University Police patrol the campus. LECOM at Elmira has its own security office and has contracted security guards for the main LECOM building. LECOM students would contact Elmira College Campus Safety only when they are on the Elmira College campus. LECOM at Bradenton has its own security office and security guard for the campus.

### **6.1. LECOM POLICE AND SECURITY**

The LECOM Police and Security Service Unit is responsible for the provision of law enforcement and security for LECOM. Its mission is to provide a safe and secure environment for the students, visitors, faculty, and staff of LECOM. The LECOM Police and Security Service Unit ensures that the community and facilities remain secure through professional, proactive, and quality prevention, suppression, and investigation of criminal activity or unsafe physical, operational, or environmental conditions on the campuses and properties under the control of LECOM. Campus security is provided twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week at LECOM controlled facilities.

At LECOM Erie, the Service Unit includes both sworn Campus Police Officers and Security Officers; LECOM Police and Security patrol Erie facilities. LECOM at Elmira and LECOM Bradenton, the Department consists only of Security Officers. Operational responsibility for security at LECOM at Seton Hill is provided by the Seton Hill University Police Department. Seton Hill University Police are also responsible for patrolling the campus.

LECOM at Erie campus police officers possess full police powers under the law. Campus Police have the power to arrest and exercise all other police powers in the same manner and with the same authority as any police officers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. LECOM at Erie campus police officers may carry firearms and non-lethal weapons while on duty for the protection of the LECOM community; all LECOM Police officers have been appropriately trained and certified. At the Main campus in Erie, Campus Police will be dressed in full uniform. LECOM at Elmira and LECOM Bradenton Security



officers are uniformed.

LECOM Security officers and LECOM contracted security officers are not police officers. They perform the duties of and are empowered by LECOM to enforce policies established by the institution. In addition, they staff the Security Office, monitor the CCTV surveillance system, patrol the campus and assist police officers in the performance of their duties.

### **Security Locations and Phone Numbers**

At all locations, call 9-1-1 to contact local law enforcement, fire, or EMS to report an emergency or crime.

#### **LECOM at Erie, PA**

Campus Police and Security Office  
Located inside the north entrance  
1858 West Grandview Boulevard  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16509  
(814) 866-8415

If an officer is not at the desk, callers may leave a message or call the cell phone of the officer on duty at (814) 434-3927

#### **LECOM at Seton Hill, Greensburg, PA**

Seton Hill University Police Department  
Room 115 Administrative Annex  
One Seton Hill Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
(724) 830-4999 from non-SHU phone  
9-724-830-4999 from LECOM phones  
(724) 830-4998) Police Chief

Dial 4-9-9-9 from Seton Hill University phones

**To contact local law enforcement:**  
**Dial 9-1-1 from a LECOM phone**  
**Dial 9-1-1 from a non-LECOM phone**

#### **LECOM at Bradenton, FL**

Security Office  
College of Medicine and School of Pharmacy Building  
Located inside the southwest entrance  
5000 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard  
Bradenton, Florida 34211  
(941) 782-5908

Security Office  
School of Dental Medicine and School of Health Services Administration Building  
Located inside the south entrance  
4800 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard  
Bradenton, Florida 34211  
(941) 405-1520

#### **LECOM at Elmira in Elmira, NY**

Security Office  
Located within main entrance  
(607) 442-3510  
Cell (607) 857-7550

Elmira College Campus Safety  
710 Park Place (Cory House)  
Elmira, NY 14901  
x1777 from Elmira College phones  
(607) 735-1777 from all other phones

## **6.2. CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

### ***Daily Crime Log***

The LECOM Police and Security maintains a daily log of all criminal incidents that occur on the campuses and satellite facilities pursuant to federal and state statutes. The contents of this log are open to public inspection. Any student or prospective student, faculty or staff member of LECOM wishing to examine the Daily Crime Log may do so. The Log is located in the Campus Police and Security Offices. LECOM at Seton Hill, the Log is located in the office of the Seton Hill University Police Department.

Requests to view the document can be made to any police or security officer on duty in the office during hours when the buildings are open for business.

Identifiable information about victims of the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking shall not be available in any publicly available record-keeping, including the reporting and disclosure of crime statistics.

Another exception to the release of information pertaining to a criminal offense may occur when there is clear and convincing evidence that the release of the information would jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation or the safety of an individual, or cause a suspect to flee or evade detection, or result in the destruction of evidence. The information will, however, become public when damage is no longer likely to occur as the result of its release.

### ***Campus Security Notification System***

LECOM will inform the campus community concerning security matters through the issuance of timely warnings whenever emergency, safety, or security issues arise that pose a threat or can potentially have a significant impact on security for students and employees. Such issues shall include, but not be limited to, criminal activity on or near a LECOM campus, crime prevention warnings and techniques, and changes to security policy or procedure.

The LECOM Security Information Notification System (LSINS) shall include the following media:

- LECOM Video Bulletin Board
- Campus E-Mail System
- Memoranda or fliers distributed to each student or employee
- Information posted to the LECOM Security Service Unit Home Page
- Campus crime prevention or security presentations
- Omnilert

It is incumbent upon every member of the LECOM community to actively participate in the Campus Security Program by frequently checking and reading the information disseminated through the various media comprising the Security Information Notification System. Any campus security program can only be as effective as the cooperation and acceptance of the LECOM community.

### ***Campus Security Alerts - Omnilert***

LECOM utilizes “Omnilert,” a notification system that enables the school to send urgent news to cell phones. The service is available to all current students and employees. After signing up for the service, LECOM can text cell phones with timely information about emergencies, facility closures affecting academic and regular business operation, or critical campus updates. Depending on personal cell phone plans, there may be a nominal fee from a carrier to receive text messages, but there is no charge from the school to use the service.

All incoming LECOM students are automatically enrolled into the Omnilert notification system. Should a student wish to opt out of the notification system a written request must be submitted to security.

LECOM at Seton Hill students are encouraged to register for Seton Hill University’s Omnilert service so that they may be notified of emergencies, campus closures, or other critical situations on the Seton Hill University campus.

LECOM at Elmira students are encouraged to register for Elmira College’s Omnilert service so that they may be notified of emergencies, campus closures, or other critical situations on the Elmira College campus.

### 6.3. STUDENT IDENTITY VERIFICATION POLICY

Verification of student identity is central to the integrity of the educational process at LECOM both for on campus and distance education program at the Institution. Photo-identification/key cards are issues to all on campus students, faculty and staff, utilization of unique username and passwords via a multifactor authentication system for access to LECOM digital systems, and background screenings provide the foundation for student identify verification at the Institution.

#### Student Photo Identification

All on campus accepted students are issued a student I.D. number and an I.D. badge. Proof of identity in the form of a driver's license, passport, military I.D., or state issued-photo I.D. is required before issuance of the badge. LECOM reserves the right to request an additional picture ID if a student's appearance has dramatically changed.

LECOM Security and Police arrange for issuance of photo-identification/key cards (I.D. cards) to new students during orientation. Students are issued a photograph identification card that is also a proximity electronic key/card used for identification and entrance/exit to buildings.

- The ID card must be worn and visible at all times on campus and at all clinical sites.
- The ID card must be scanned each time a student enters or leaves a building or other secured area.
- Students must individually swipe their ID card each time they enter or exit a secured area.
- It is extremely important that each student swipe-out when leaving. If a student fails to swipe-out when leaving, they will not be able to re-enter.

If a student ID card is lost or stolen, the student is required to immediately inform Police and Security. There is a \$25.00 fee to replace a lost or damaged ID card. If a student withdraws, transfers, or is dismissed from LECOM, they must return their student ID card to LECOM Police and Security on the last day in attendance.

#### Information Technology Access

Students granted access to LECOM information technologies are responsible for adherence to all appropriate policies and procedures and commit to the following:

- Prior to matriculation, accepted students are issued a unique username and password linked to them via the I.D. number. After matriculation, the username and password are used to identify the student for all internal College processes and for access to Web services, including course content and online exams.
- Student User Accounts are granted to support the instructional process, facilitate communications in academic endeavors and promote information sharing on projects and class assignments. They are not to be used for any other purpose. Security of assigned username and password are the responsibility of the individual student.

Students are responsible for their own data and accounts and shall not share passwords and account access with any other person. It is the student's responsibility to protect their account from unauthorized use by changing passwords periodically and using passwords that are not easily duplicated. LECOM is not responsible for lost data or work.

#### Background Checks

Matriculating students for all LECOM programs must have their identity verified through a third-party service with whom LECOM has a contract. The background check is an essential component of the matriculation process and must be completed within 30 days of the deposit or receipt of the matriculation packet.

The majority of matriculants at LECOM are working toward careers in healthcare through attainment of licensure credentials. It is imperative that LECOM use this industry best practice standards of background checks and identity verification to ensure the integrity of the educational process and the safety of future patients.

### **6.3.1. DISTANCE EDUCATION STUDENTS – STUDENT IDENTITY VERIFICATION**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that LECOM operates in compliance with the provisions of the United States Federal Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) concerning the verification of student identity in distance education. The HEOA requires that institutions offering distance education or correspondence courses have processes in place to ensure that the student registering for a course is the same student who participates in the course or receives course credit. The Act requires that institutions use one of the following three methods:

- A secure log in and pass code;
- Proctored examinations; and
- New or other technologies and practices that are effective in verifying student identification.

#### **Compliance**

The *myLECOM* system is an Institutional authentication and security measure to ensure that accounts are managed more securely across the institution. All students, faculty, and staff at LECOM are provided with a *myLECOM* username ID for secure access to the Institution's systems, including for distance learning. New students claim their username ID after providing their unique student ID number, date of birth, and through multifactor authentication linked to their email or phone. As part of this set up, the system requires that the student create unique security questions and answers to be used in the event that students need to change or reclaim their password.

Students are responsible for providing their complete identity information in any identification verification process. It is against Institutional policy for a user to give someone their password or to allow others to use their account.

LECOM uses Canvas as its learning management system. The Canvas system integrates with the Institution's authentication services to ensure appropriate and secure access to courses and other Student Information Systems. All users of the Institution's learning management system are responsible for maintaining the security of IDs and passwords, or any other access credentials as required. Attempting to discover another user's password or attempts to gain unauthorized access to another person's files or email is prohibited.

In addition, LECOM provides instructors access to class rosters that include student photos associated with their name and account. Live audio and video of students interacting in the course is also a feature of the learning management system. As technology and personal accountability are not absolute in determining a student's identity, faculty members are encouraged to use these technologies and to design courses that use assignments and evaluations that support academic integrity.

The Institution may charge an additional student technology fee associated with proctoring examinations for distance education students. If a LECOM program has such a fee it is stipulated in the specific

program student handbook in the tuition and fees section and on the financial aid webpage for the program.

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine complies fully with the provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g. This act protects the privacy of a student's information in distance education by requiring, with certain limited exceptions, that the student's consent must be obtained before disclosing any personal identifiable information in the students' education record.

## **6.4. VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND PARKING REGULATIONS**

Each LECOM campus provides free parking for employees, students, and visitors. Campus security staff are responsible for monitoring traffic patterns and ensuring safety across the parking lots. Parking at LECOM campuses is a privilege and parking/driving infractions can result in such privileges being suspended temporarily or permanently.

### **Vehicle Registration**

Except for visitors, a vehicle must have a LECOM-issued parking permit to utilize any LECOM parking lot. The parking permit must be visible and attached to the front windshield of the vehicle. Additionally, swipe cards are required for entry into the parking lots at Seton Hill and Elmira.

### **Parking Regulations**

All vehicles are subject to the following restrictions and regulations:

- No vehicle may be left in a LECOM parking lots overnight.
- Student, faculty, or staff parking in spaces designed for visitors is strictly prohibited.
- Parking in spaces designated for handicapped persons without a handicapped license plate or placard is strictly prohibited. Violators are subject to fines and penalties established by the state.
- Parking, stopping, or standing in fire lanes is strictly prohibited.
- Parking in areas designated as Tow-Away Zones is strictly prohibited and subjects the vehicle to removal from the campus at the owner's expense.

### **Vehicle Searches**

Any vehicle entering or parked on LECOM property is subject to search by institutional authorities and/or law enforcement personnel (pursuant to state or federal law). Such searches may be conducted without a warrant for any reasonable purpose in protecting the health and welfare of LECOM employees, students, and visitors. Search of a vehicle may include all compartments and components thereof, providing that searching the compartment(s) or component(s) could reasonably produce evidence of the violation of institutional policies or law. Once a search begins, the person in control of the vehicle will not be permitted to remove the vehicle from the premises during the reasonable duration of the search.

### **Potential Vehicle Infractions**

The vehicle speed limit for all roadways within a LECOM campus is 10 miles per hour. Traffic citations may be issued for any infraction of the state codes on the roadways of a LECOM campus and/or notification to administration for disposition via disciplinary committees. Possible infractions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Excessive Speed
- Reckless Driving

- Failure to Stop at a Stop Sign
- Failure to Use Turn Signals
- Driving Outside Established Lanes
- Driving Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol
- Texting while driving

## **6.5. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY**

LECOM takes pride in working to provide a safe and secure educational environment. However, individual complacency and inattentiveness concerning personal security can negatively impact the entire community. To ensure optimum levels of security, students and employees must assume responsibility for their own safety, as well as the safety and security of all members of the LECOM community. This responsibility includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Report any safety or security concerns to LECOM at Erie and Bradenton, Security or Police, or the University Police at Seton Hill University, or campus security for LECOM at Elmira.
- Report any suspicious persons or situations on campus to the Campus Security and Police immediately upon discovery.
- Use your issued Card/Key every time you enter or exit a building.
- Report strangers who do not have a badge and “tailgate” you into a building or secured area.
- Strictly obey traffic and parking regulations on campus. This is especially important when driving in congested parking areas and around pedestrian traffic areas.
- Never park, stop, or stand in fire lanes. This could cause a serious delay in the response time for fire fighters in the event of an emergency on campus.
- Keep personal items inside locked lockers.
- Never leave bags or other personal items in hallways during examinations (they should be in cars or lockers).

### **6.5.1. COSTUMES**

In an effort to maintain the highest levels of campus safety and security, no costumes, dress, or masks including mascot uniforms which alter, cloak, or conceal an individual’s identity are permitted on any LECOM property. This includes Halloween attire. This is done to maintain the safe community that we enjoy on the LECOM campuses.

### **6.5.2. CAMPUS CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM**

The following crime prevention programs are provided to the LECOM community:

- All incoming first year students receive a presentation from the LECOM Police and Security during orientation.
- Prior to orientation all in-coming first year students receive an Identification Badge/Card/Key and a Parking Permit.
- All new employees receive an Identification Badge/Card/Key and a Parking Permit.
- LECOM Security, in conjunction with Student Affairs, Administration, and Human Resources and the various student organizations, will provide crime prevention presentations as needed or requested throughout the year.

### **6.5.3. REPORTING CRIME**

Any person who is the victim of a crime, including, but not limited, to domestic violence, dating

violence, sexual assault, or stalking, either on or off campus, is encouraged, but not mandated, to report the incident to the appropriate law enforcement agency. A report of a crime can be made by contacting local law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, or 911. They can also be made in person at the LECOM at Erie and Bradenton Police and Security, Seton Hill University Police Department, or Elmira College Campus Police. Every member of the LECOM community is encouraged to report a crime promptly if the victim wants a report to be made or is unable to make a report. LECOM Police and Security refers or investigates all reports of criminal activity received from any source. Investigations of serious crimes are referred to local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

As required by law, the LECOM Office of Police and Security reports crimes occurring on campus or non-campus buildings or property to the federal and state governments. In accordance with the Clery Act, the LECOM Office of Police and Security is designated as the Campus Security Authority to receive reports of crimes at the Erie (PA) and Bradenton (FL) campuses. The Seton Hill University Police Department is designated as the Campus Security Authority to receive reports of crimes at the LECOM at Seton Hill location in Greensburg (PA). The LECOM Police at Security at LECOM at Elmira is designated as the Campus Security Authority to receive reports of crimes at Elmira College.

Orders of protection, no contact orders, restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by a court should be provided to the LECOM Police and Security Offices or Seton Hill University Police Department, or Elmira College campus security as well as to LECOM administration.

#### **6.5.4. FIRE DRILL POLICY**

When the Fire Alarm sounds, students should react immediately to ensure safety.

- Never ignore or assume the alarm is false or is a test;
- Everyone must evacuate the building by way of the safest and closest exit;
- Never use an elevator to evacuate during a fire alarm activation;
- Once outside the building, move to the area designated for assembly. Fire/Evaluation teams consisting of faculty and staff are present at facilities to offer assistance. If unsure, look for faculty/staff holding identifying banners;
- Do not obstruct access to the building by fire fighters and fire trucks;
- Do not attempt to leave the area. Vehicles/persons will not be permitted to leave the parking areas once the alarm is sounded; and
- Once outside, do not reenter the building until told to do so by Security

#### **Fire Alarm Evacuation Drills**

Fire Alarm Evacuation Drills are scheduled early in the fall semester to acquaint all students with the process of evacuating the building and finding their designated gathering area. Maps are located throughout the building showing the closest evacuation route. Additional drills may occur throughout the year. Evacuation is MANDATORY, all occupants must leave immediately during all fire alarm activations. Students who refuse to leave the building or who are found in the building after evacuation will be subject to disciplinary action. Never assume the alarm is false or is a drill.

#### **6.5.5. STUDENT TELEPHONE EMERGENCY MESSAGE SYSTEM**

Should an emergency arise with a student's family, the family may contact Student Affairs to initiate contact with the student. Students are asked to inform family members/friends that only emergency messages will be relayed to students. The caller must clearly state that an emergency exists. The caller will be asked for their name, telephone number, their relationship to the student, and the nature of the

emergency. Verifiable student information may also be requested.

## **6.6. DRUG, ALCOHOL AND WEAPONS POLICY**

LECOM recognizes that professional education may be a time of great stress for students. Therefore, LECOM wants to enable students and staff to adapt successfully to these stresses without engaging in potentially harmful coping mechanisms such as alcohol or drug abuse. A student, faculty member, or employee who needs help will be assisted promptly to help solve their problem in an effective, compassionate and confidential manner.

The illegal use of controlled substances can seriously injure the health of students or staff, by adversely impairing the performance of their responsibilities; endangering the safety and well-being of LECOM community members; jeopardizing LECOM property or that of its members or visitors; or adversely affecting its educational mission. To provide for the safety of the members of the community and its property, LECOM has set the following minimum standards of conduct for all members of the community and for those seeking admission to LECOM.

### **6.6.1. WEAPONS POLICY**

The use, possession, carrying in any manner, or conveyance of firearms, hand billies, knives, or other dangerous cutting instruments, explosives or any other device that can be deemed to be a weapon(s) on LECOM-owned or controlled property, at LECOM-sponsored or supervised activities, or at Seton Hill University or Elmira College is strictly forbidden. The only exception is for authorized law enforcement officers. Violation of this policy can be considered grounds for immediate discharge from LECOM.

### **6.6.2. DRUG-FREE CAMPUS POLICY**

LECOM is dedicated to the safety, health, and welfare of its students and employees by maintaining a drug-free environment. To promote this goal, students and employees are required to report to LECOM in appropriate mental and physical condition to perform their required educational and work tasks in a satisfactory and safe manner. LECOM complies with provisions of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989. Stated rules of conduct prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students or employees on LECOM property: buildings, grounds, vehicles, rental space, affiliated hospitals, or locations of official LECOM functions. Violations of this policy may result in a disciplinary action and an order to participate in a program of rehabilitation and monitoring, suspension, or dismissal of a student or termination of employment of an employee. Such violations may also have legal consequences.

- Alcoholic beverages may not be served or consumed on any LECOM campus or sponsored activity.
- While on LECOM premises and while conducting business-related activities off LECOM premises, no employee may use, possess, distribute, sell, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- No student or employee shall illegally use or abuse legal drugs.
- No student or employee shall possess, use, manufacture, produce, sell, exchange, or otherwise distribute any drug prohibited by federal or state law at LECOM.
- No student or employee shall possess, consume, furnish, manufacture, sell, exchange, or otherwise distribute any alcoholic beverage except as permitted by federal and state law.
- Students or employee found by application process, security background checks, self-disclosure or other means to have a history of use, possession, transportation or any other interactions with illicit substances and/or alcohol or that otherwise comes to the attention of



law enforcement will be referred to the PHP/SARPh at LECOM at Erie or LECOM at Seton Hill, the Florida PRN or Centerstone for LECOM at Bradenton, and the New York CPH (Committee for Physicians Health for the State of New York) for LECOM at Elmira. A referral will be made to PHP/CPH/SARPh/PRN/Centerstone regardless of legal standing as in cases in which any sentence was fully served prior to enrollment at LECOM or conviction records were expunged. Students will be expected to be monitored throughout their matriculation at LECOM by way of recommendations from PHP/CPH/SARPh/PRN/Centerstone or by student request in cases of substance dependency.

- Any student who is subject to the terms of an agreement with or recommendations from the Physicians Health Program (Pennsylvania), the Professional Resource Network (Florida), the New York Committee for Physician Health, or any similar program in another jurisdiction must be in compliance with the terms of that agreement or those recommendations throughout their matriculation at LECOM. In particular, no student may engage in clinical activities of any type if deemed unsafe to engage in practice by, or if not in good standing with, one of these programs.

To inform all LECOM community members about important provisions of this policy, LECOM has established a drug-free alcohol abuse awareness program. The program provides information on the dangers and effects of substance abuse, resources available at LECOM, and consequences for violations of this policy.

### **6.6.3. SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION PROGRAMMING**

LECOM will offer mandatory educational programs to promote awareness of the dangers of substance abuse and its prevention. Every student must attend/participate in designated programming.

### **6.6.4. MARIJUANA USAGE**

LECOM is committed to maintaining a safe and healthful environment that is free from illegal drug use, including marijuana. Marijuana is illegal under Federal Law and continues to be categorized as a controlled substance under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA.) Even though some states have legalized the use of marijuana for medicinal and recreational purposes, marijuana, marijuana extracts and tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) are illegal for human use under Federal law. LECOM students and employees are not permitted to use marijuana at any time under the provisions of the LECOM drug free policy.

### **6.6.5. SMOKING**

In keeping with LECOM's intent to provide a safe and healthful environment, smoking or the use of smokeless tobacco products (including vaping) is strictly prohibited in all areas of any LECOM property or sponsored activities, including in parking lots. This includes use of such products or smoking in cars parked on LECOM property. This policy applies equally to all employees, students, and visitors. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

## **6.7. SEXUAL ASSAULT AND OTHER SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PREVENTION PROGRAM AND PROCEDURES**

Sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are forms of discrimination on the basis of sex and are violations of Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972. LECOM has a zero-tolerance policy of all such conduct whether perpetrated by employees, students, or campus visitors, whether committed on or off campus. The *LECOM Policy*

*Statement on Title IX Compliance and Affirmation of the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment, Misconduct or Violence*, attached to this handbook as Appendix K, explains the LECOM Title IX policy, definitions, and the procedures to be followed in the event that sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking is alleged, including an investigation and resolution which may result in discipline. See Section 6.8.1 for more about hazing and non-sex-based harassment.

**The procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of one of these violations is in the LECOM Policy Statement on Title IX Compliance and Affirmation of the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment, Misconduct or Violence attached as Appendix K and not in Section 9 Student Conduct of this handbook.**

LECOM provides mandatory educational programs to promote awareness and prevention of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking each year at orientation and other times during the academic year. LECOM will also direct students to community resources such as counseling and victim support services and to law enforcement organizations as needed.

## **CRIME REPORTING**

Any person who is the victim of a crime, including but not limited to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment either on or off campus, is encouraged, but not mandated, to report the incident to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

**If you are in immediate danger and need and want help, contact local law enforcement. Call 911** in an emergency, or one of the following police department phone numbers depending upon your location. If you prefer, the LECOM Police and Security Office and/or Seton Hill University Police Department, can contact local law enforcement for you.

### Erie, Pennsylvania

Erie Police Department  
(814) 870-1125

Millcreek Police Department  
(814) 833-7777

Pennsylvania State Police Department  
(814) 898-1641

LECOM Campus Police and Security Office Located inside the north entrance  
1858 West Grandview Boulevard Erie, Pennsylvania 16509  
(814) 866-8415

If an officer is not at the desk, callers may leave a message or call the cell phone of the officer on duty at (814) 434-3927.

### Bradenton, Florida

Manatee County Sheriff  
(941) 747-3011

Bradenton Police Department  
(941) 932-9300

LECOM Security Office for the College of Medicine & School of Pharmacy Located inside the southwest entrance  
5000 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard Bradenton, Florida 34211  
(941) 782-5908

LECOM Security Office for the School of Dental Medicine  
Located inside the south entrance 4800 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard Bradenton, Florida 34211  
(941) 405-1520

DeFuniak Springs, Florida

Walton County Sheriff  
(850) 892-8111

DeFuniak Springs Police Department  
(850) 892-8513

Security Office for LECOM DeFuniak Springs Dental Offices  
Located inside the main entrance  
101 LECOM Way  
DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435  
(850) 951-0200

Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Greensburg Police Department  
(724) 834-3800

Seton Hill University (SHU) Police Department Room 115 Administrative Annex  
One Seton Hill Drive Greensburg, PA 15601  
Dial 4-9-9-9 from Seton Hill University phones  
Dial (724) 830-4999 from non-SHU and  
non-LECOM phones (Police Chief (724) 830-4998) Dial 9-724-830-4999 from LECOM phones

Pennsylvania State Police  
(724) 832-3288

Elmira, New York

Elmira Police Department  
(607) 735-8600

New York State Police  
(607) 739-8797

Chemung County Sheriff  
(607) 737-2987, ext. 104

LECOM Security Office Located inside the main entrance 250 West Clinton Street  
Elmira, NY 14901  
(607) 442-3510

## **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

If you are the victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual harassment it is recommended that you:

- Preserve any physical evidence that may prove that an incident of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual harassment occurred and/or to obtain a protective order.
- You may need to get an immediate medical examination and treatment.
- The examination will determine if you need treatment for injuries or sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy.
- The examination will also result in the collection of evidence that can be used to identify and convict your attacker.
- You can seek medical attention on your own instead of in conjunction with a report to the police.
- The hospital will treat you and collect the necessary evidence.
- The hospital will notify the police and rape crisis center on your behalf; however, it is your decision to make if you want them involved.
- Even if you do not think that you want to press charges at the time of the medical examination and treatment, it is important to obtain the evidence in case you change your mind at a later date.
- You can seek the services of counselors who specialize in assisting victims and the families of victims of these crimes. These counselors can give advice, assistance, and accompany you through the process. LECOM personnel will assist you in contacting counselor(s) if you request this assistance. Counseling services are listed immediately below.

## CRIME VICTIM COUNSELING SERVICES

### Erie, Pennsylvania Resources

Crime Victim Center of Erie County  
24 hour hotline: (814) 455-9414

Physicians Health Programs (PHP; Pennsylvania)  
(866) 747-2255 or (717) 558-7819

Millcreek Community Hospital  
Main hospital number: (814) 864-4031  
Ask for Behavioral Health

Safe Net Erie (domestic violence)  
24 hour crisis hotline: (814) 454-8161  
Main number: (814) 455-1774

Secundum Artem Reaching Pharmacists with  
help (SARPh) (800) 892-4484 or (610) 583-9884

Stairways Behavioral Health  
(888) 453-5806

Safe Harbor Mental Health  
24 hour Crisis Center: (814) 456-2014  
Outpatient Clinic: (814) 459-9300

### Bradenton, Florida Resources

Centerstone Student Assistance Program  
(941) 782-4379  
Bradenton- Hope Family Services, Inc.  
(941) 747-7790  
Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center - Sarasota  
24 hour hotline: (941) 365-1976

Centerstone Crisis Center  
(941) 782-4600

Rape Crisis Hotline - Bradenton  
(941) 708-6059  
Bayside Center for Behavioral Health Sarasota  
Memorial Hospital

24 hour clinical assessment: (941) 917-7760

Coastal Behavioral Health, Sarasota  
24 hour Crisis Stabilization Unit: (941) 364-9355  
Assessments: (941) 552-1950

Greensburg, Pennsylvania Resources

Rape Crisis Center (Pittsburgh Action against  
Rape) 24 hour helpline: (866) 363-7273  
(412) 431-5665

Center for Victims of Violence and Crime  
24 hour hotline: (866) 644-2882

Westmoreland Mental Health Crisis Intervention  
Hotline 24 hour hotline: (800) 836-6010

Physicians Health Programs (PHP; Pennsylvania)  
(866) 747-2255 or (717) 558-7819

Elmira, New York Resources

Family Services of Chemung County  
(607) 733-5696

Chemung County Crisis Program  
(607) 737-5369

New York State Domestic Violence Hotline  
(800) 942-6906

Sexual Assault Resource Center  
(888) 810-0093

Committee for Physicians Health (New York)  
(518) 436-4723

DeFuniak Springs, Florida Resources

Shelter House, Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Center

Domestic Violence 24 hour hotline: (850) 863-  
4777 or (800) 442-2873

Sexual Assault 24 hour helpline: (850) 226-2027

**UNUM WORK-LIFE BALANCE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The UNUM Work-Life Balance Employee Assistance Program (“EAP”) is available at no charge to LECOM students and employees. Calls are kept confidential within the constraints of the law. The EAP has counselors available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year by calling (800) 854-1446 (English) or (877) 858-2147 (Spanish) or via its website at [www.lifebalance.net](http://www.lifebalance.net); user ID and password: lifebalance. The EAP is available to assist employees with personal or professional problems. Additional information concerning UNUM is available on the LECOM Portal by clicking on the Human Resources tab and then selecting UNUM Documents.

**HIGHMARK BLUES ON CALL**

For students or employees who participate in Highmark Insurance, Highmark has the Blues On Call 24 hour nurse line that members can access for referrals to behavioral health coaching. The number is 1-888- BLUE-428 or 1-888-258-3428.

**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

It may be possible for you to obtain a court order requiring the abuser to stop doing certain acts such as

abusing you, contacting you, or coming near you and may make the abuser do things such as leaving your home. In addition, it may be possible to impose temporary custody of children and temporary child support, if appropriate. In Pennsylvania it is termed a Protection from Abuse (PFA) order. In Florida it is termed an Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence, or a restraining order. New York courts issue Orders of Protection. If such an order is obtained from the local court and properly served on the abuser (by law enforcement and not you) and the abuser then violates the order, the abuser may be arrested by the police. To begin the process to obtain a protective order you can go to the courthouse in the county where you live to complete forms or obtain an attorney to assist you. If you have obtained a protective order that has been properly served on the abuser, kindly provide a copy to the LECOM Police and Security Office (Erie, Pennsylvania; Bradenton, Florida; or Elmira, New York) or to the Seton Hill University Police Department (Greensburg, Pennsylvania).

### **CONFIDENTIALITY IN REPORTING A CRIME**

It is critical for the safety of the entire LECOM community that all incidents are reported immediately so that the LECOM Police and Security Department, the Seton Hill University Police Department, Elmira College Police Department, or local law enforcement can investigate the situation and determine if follow-up actions are required, including LECOM issuing a timely warning or emergency notification. If crimes are never reported, little can be done to help other members of the community from also becoming victims. LECOM community members are encouraged to report crimes promptly and to participate in and support crime prevention efforts. If you are the victim of a crime, including but not limited to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual harassment but do not want to pursue action within a LECOM disciplinary system, please consider filing a voluntary, confidential report.

Depending upon the circumstances of the crime you are reporting, you may be able to file a report while maintaining your confidentiality. The purpose of a confidential report is to comply with your wish to keep your personally identifying information confidential, while taking steps to ensure your safety and the safety of others. A confidential report allows LECOM to compile accurate records on the number and types of incidents occurring on our campuses. Reports filed in this manner are counted and disclosed in the Annual Security Report. In limited circumstances, your confidentiality may not be able to be assured and in that circumstance, you will be informed. Anyone may call to report a crime. Callers may remain anonymous.

Although a criminal investigation and prosecution for the offense is the recommended course of action in cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment, the ultimate decision for such action rests with the victim. An administrative disciplinary process may still be invoked if a LECOM employee or student is the alleged offender even if the alleged victim decides against law enforcement involvement.

**Victims are encouraged to report incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment to the LECOM Institutional Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Coordinator.**

### **LECOM Title IX Institutional Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators**

Institutional Title IX Coordinator

Aaron E. Susmarski, J.D.

Institutional Director of Human Resources

(814) 860-5101

[asusmarski@lecom.edu](mailto:asusmarski@lecom.edu)

LECOM Erie

Dr. Melanie Dunbar, Deputy Coordinator  
Director of Behavioral Health  
(814) 866-8160  
[mdunbar@lecom.edu](mailto:mdunbar@lecom.edu)

LECOM Bradenton

(including DeFuniak Springs)  
Ms. Debra Horne, Deputy Coordinator  
Director of Student Affairs  
(941) 782-5933  
[dhorne@lecom.edu](mailto:dhorne@lecom.edu)

Dr. Nancy Carty, Deputy Coordinator  
Assistant Dean of Preclinical Education  
(814) 866-8418  
[ncarty@lecom.edu](mailto:ncarty@lecom.edu)

Dr. Julie J. Wilkinson, Deputy Coordinator  
Professor of Pharmacy Practice  
(941) 782-5678  
[jwilkinson@lecom.edu](mailto:jwilkinson@lecom.edu)

LECOM at Seton Hill

Dr. Dennis Min, Deputy Coordinator  
Assistant Professor of Gastroenterology  
(724) 552-2892  
[dmin@lecom.edu](mailto:dmin@lecom.edu)

LECOM at Elmira

Dr. Richard Terry, Deputy Coordinator  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs  
(607) 321-3111  
[rterry@lecom.edu](mailto:rterry@lecom.edu)

If the alleged perpetrator is a LECOM employee or student, the procedural process will be as follows:

- Disciplinary action, remedies, and sanctions for the alleged crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking will be determined using the procedures defined in the Policy Statement on Title IX Compliance and Affirmation of the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment, Misconduct or Violence document. This document may be found in the Student, Staff, and Faculty handbooks and on the LECOM website.
- There will be a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation and resolution.
- The standard of evidence in the disciplinary proceedings regarding allegations of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking is preponderance of the evidence. A decision using the standard of evidence of preponderance of the evidence means that it will be determined based on the evidence presented that it is more likely than not that the offense did or did not occur.
- Both accuser and accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during campus disciplinary proceedings.
- Both accuser and accused will be simultaneously informed in writing of the outcome of any campus disciplinary proceeding brought forth alleging sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking as well as appeal procedures. Both shall also be notified of any change prior to the time the results become final and when the results become final.
- If a final determination is made that a LECOM employee or student did perpetrate sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, the offending employee or student is subject to the range of disciplinary sanctions specified in the Policy Statement on Title IX Compliance and Affirmation of the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment, Misconduct or Violence document up to and including termination and/or expulsion. Determinations by a criminal court may separately occur if criminal proceedings are initiated which is separate from LECOM's disciplinary proceedings.

## INTERIM MEASURES

- Following an allegation of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking being asserted to LECOM, supportive measures may be provided by the Title IX Coordinator to a student or employee accuser (Complainant). Supportive measures are explained in the Policy Statement on Title IX Compliance and Affirmation of the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment, Misconduct or Violence document. These are available regardless of whether the accuser chooses to report the crime to campus police or local law enforcement. Alleged perpetrators may also receive supportive measures.
- For LECOM student accusers/Complainants, supportive measures may include changes in a facet of the academic setting.
- For LECOM employee accusers/Complainants, supportive measures may include changes in a facet of their employment.
- Reasonable changes may include, among others, restrictions on contact, course schedule or work schedule alteration, or a leave of absence.
- If applicable, student financial aid guidance is available.
- Counseling may be facilitated. Some counseling options are listed above.

Anyone who believes they have been subjected to sexual misconduct or is aware that such impermissible conduct has occurred is encouraged to report these incidents. Reports of any form of sexual misconduct should be made to any LECOM designated “Responsible Employee” which are the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinators, the Provost, Deans, Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, Program Directors, Directors of Student Affairs, Faculty Advisors, or any other member of the LECOM administration. Such a report begins the LECOM Title IX institutional process.

A report to the appropriate law enforcement agency is encouraged, but not mandated, and begins a criminal process which is a separate matter from the Title IX institutional process. Reporting a sexual assault or related offense to law enforcement as soon as possible is suggested to ensure that fragile evidence is preserved and collected to facilitate a subsequent criminal prosecution.

If you are the victim of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking there are several options for you to follow.

### Consensual Relations Between Students and Faculty/Staff

Romantic or sexual relationships between students and faculty or staff can undermine academic integrity and have serious negative consequences for those involved. Thus, it is the policy of LECOM that such relationships are prohibited. Any faculty or staff member found to be involved in such a relationship is subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. This policy does not apply to faculty/staff who are married to a student prior to the student matriculating at LECOM. However, in such a case a faculty member may never be in a position to grade or otherwise evaluate their spouse.

## 6.8. DANGEROUS PERSON POLICY

LECOM adheres to a zero tolerance for threats or violent acts. Any LECOM student engaging in coursework or participating in clinical rotations or practice experiences shall not threaten to, attempt to, or actually perpetuate violence, abusive physical acts, or abusive emotional acts toward another person that is likely to result in physical or emotional injury or pain or the destruction of property. The prohibited act(s) may be direct or indirect, overt, or covert, serious, or in jest, including those by a third-party communication or on social media. The scope of this policy includes all LECOM programs, buildings, grounds, vehicles, rental spaces, affiliated hospitals, or locations of official LECOM functions.



Examples of dangerous threats may include oral or written statements. The statements may be made using paper, emails, websites, social media, or other medium. Examples of prohibited statements include, but are not limited to, the following: “I will kill you; I hate you; I will hurt you; I’m going to hit you; You will be sorry”. Examples of prohibited and dangerous behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following: brandishing a firearm or other weapon; stalking; harassing; sending threatening notes; exhibiting intimidating body mannerisms; threatening to injure an individual or to damage property; knowingly exposing others to dangerous pathogens; and retaliating against any individual who, in good faith, reports a violation of this or any policy.

Violations of this policy may result in an order for an evaluation by a LECOM approved psychiatrist, psychiatric resident, or psychologist, suspension, or dismissal from LECOM. Any LECOM student who intentionally or knowingly fails to identify or report a dangerous person, as described in this section, is subject to an honor code violation (see Section [9 Student Conduct](#)).

### **6.8.1. HARASSMENT AND HAZING**

It has always been the policy of LECOM that all the students have the right to learn in an environment free from any type of violence or discrimination, including harassment and hazing.

Under no circumstances will LECOM tolerate any form of harassment or hazing. Prohibited harassment behavior includes, but is not limited to: threatening, offensive or intimidating behavior or remarks; demands for sexual favors; or behavior which creates a hostile or intimidating atmosphere, because of someone’s gender, age, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law. Engaging in any of these prohibited forms of conduct will result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from LECOM, against any student who is found, upon investigation, to have engaged in such conduct.

**See Appendix K, the *LECOM Policy Statement on Title IX Compliance and Affirmation of the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment, Misconduct or Violence*, for a discussion of harassment based on sex.**

Hazing is any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher education.

Included is any brutality of a physical nature, such as:

- whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance; or
- any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual

Included is any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as

- sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment;
- any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual; or
- any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.

Any activity included in the definition of hazing upon which the initiation, admission, or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned is presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding. Hazing is a crime. How to report hazing or harassment not based on sex:

- In the case of offending students, the report should be made to the Director of Student Affairs or any member of the administration who may refer the matter to the appropriate dean and/or the SPG/ASP Committee.
- In all other cases regarding faculty or staff personnel, the report should be made to the appropriate dean, the Director of Student Affairs, or any member of the administration.

No student or employee will be retaliated against on the basis of having asserted a good faith complaint pursuant to this policy. Following the investigation, LECOM will take the appropriate measures as soon as possible to redress the harms done. All LECOM supervisory personnel have an affirmative responsibility to report, discourage and eliminate conduct inconsistent with this policy.

### **6.8.2. VIOLENCE AND/OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE POLICY**

There is a zero-tolerance policy for violence or threats of violence directed toward any student or employee at LECOM. Violence or threats of violence are punishable by expulsion and criminal prosecution when and where appropriate.

Violence according to this policy will include physical altercation, overt threats or covert threats of physical violence, intimidation, emotional abuse and violence or threats of violence involving third party communications. All statements, comments, and gestures, including those made on social media, related to violent behavior will be dealt with as a serious violation of this policy.

Any student who intentionally and/or knowingly fails to identify or report a violent or potentially violent situation is subject to an Honor Code violation as described in [Section 9.6 Adjudication of Honor Code Violations](#).

### **6.8.3. HATE CRIMES**

LECOM considers a hate crime as a criminal offense committed against a person or property which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender’s bias. Such bias may be a preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on certain characteristics or toward an individual’s actual or perceived race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, national origin, or gender identity. Incidents may involve physical assault, damage to property, and/or theft. They may also involve bullying, harassment, verbal abuse or insults, and/or offensive graffiti or letters. Any student who engages in any of these prohibited acts is considered a “dangerous person” as further defined in [Section 6.8](#). Hate crimes are also specifically forbidden by the state criminal laws of Pennsylvania, New York, and Florida and Federal applicable laws.

Any person engaging in such conduct will be subject to expulsion or discharge from LECOM. Anyone who witnesses such conduct, regardless of whether they are the target, should report the conduct pursuant to the Reporting a Crime Policy ([Section 6.5.3](#)).

In accordance with the Clery Act, LECOM annually reports any occurrences of hate crimes and makes the data publicly available on the institutional website.

## **6.9. SUICIDE INTERVENTION POLICY**

Any LECOM student who engages in suicidal behaviors and/or verbalizations must be evaluated by a

LECOM approved psychiatrist, psychiatric resident, or psychologist. An individualized assessment will be made as to whether the student can continue with or resume their coursework, clinical rotation, or practice experience as described in Section [8.5 Mandatory Leave of Absence](#).

Any LECOM student, regardless of campus or school, is required to report, take-action or intervene, if safe to do so, when another individual is at potential risk of suicidal behavior. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. The scope of this policy includes any LECOM program, building, grounds, vehicle, rental space, affiliated hospital or location of official LECOM function.

For the purpose of this policy, suicidal behavior includes a direct or veiled statement, attempted act, threat, or gesture in which a person engages or indicates they will engage in life threatening behavior and/or harmful intentions toward themselves.

## 6.10. CAMPUS VISITORS

Only matriculated students, staff, faculty, and invited and escorted guests are permitted in LECOM buildings. LECOM students and employees are required to show their LECOM issued ID badge for entrance to LECOM buildings or other facilities. Prior to allowing access to the building Police & Security may check to ensure they have not been suspended, dismissed, or otherwise prevented from entering.

Non-students are not permitted to attend didactic or laboratory sessions without special permission of the appropriate dean. No visitors are permitted in the anatomy laboratory without special permission of the Course Director of Gross Anatomy. These regulations are strictly observed.

Visitors to LECOM should be aware that they must bring a valid state ID. **All persons entering any LECOM building, or facility are subject to bag and purse checks as well as metal detection screening where equipped.** Any person refusing such search will not be permitted entry. Alcohol, weapons, or any item that the LECOM Department of Police and Security deems dangerous will be confiscated. Illegal items will be turned over to the appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction.

People having business to conduct with LECOM employees will be required to have an appointment. Security must be notified of site visits/guests in advance. If the site visitor/guest does not have a scheduled meeting and an unscheduled meeting is not possible, the guest will be advised to call and make an appointment. The personal office phone number will not be given out, instead the guest will be given the college campus main phone number.

### College Campus Main Phone Numbers

- Erie: (814) 866-6641
- Bradenton: (941) 756-0690
- LECOM at Seton Hill: (724) 552-2880
- LECOM at Elmira: (607) 442-3500

Visitors to LECOM must sign the visitor log at the entrance of the building and wear a visitor badge indicating they are authorized to be on campus. Approval of a special visitor pass may be obtained from one of the following: Director of Security, Director of Student Affairs, a Dean, an Associate Dean, or an Assistant Dean.

### 6.10.1. VISITOR POLICY FOR MINORS

- Without Administrative approval, NO juveniles OR juvenile family members of the Faculty, Students, or Staff will be allowed in Academic Areas of the Campus.
- All juveniles on LECOM premises visiting for recruitment purposes must have permission

from the Provost, Dean, or Vice President's office (depending on campus) and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

- A juvenile is defined as a person under the age of 18.

## **7. REGISTRAR AND EDUCATIONAL RECORDS**

### **INTRODUCTION: INSTITUTIONAL REGISTRAR**

The Registrar is the keeper of the educational record for all students. Among the services provided are release of academic transcripts, confirmation of enrollment, recording and dispersal of student grades, change of name and address, maintenance of additional student directory information, enrollment verification, production of letters of good standing, and release of diplomas. In addition, the Registrar also oversees Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) and physician licensing verification.

### **7.1. TRANSCRIPTS**

An official transcript contains the complete academic record at LECOM. Academic credit transferred from other colleges and/or universities is indicated on the transcript only if the credit is applied toward a LECOM degree. Transfer grades are not included on LECOM transcripts.

The Registrar is the keeper of educational records for all students, which includes oversight of the release of transcripts. Any request for an official transcript must allow a minimum of 10 business days for normal processing and three weeks for processing following the end of a semester. Written authorization of the student is required to release a transcript. A Transcript Request Form must be completed and submitted with a \$10.00 fee for each transcript. Official transcripts are mailed directly to the recipient. Transcripts will not be faxed or emailed. Unofficial transcripts will not be issued.

Official transcripts will not be provided to any student who is delinquent in any financial obligation(s) to LECOM, any of its affiliated hospitals, clinics, and/or delinquent in submitting any required health forms. Official transcripts will not be provided to any student if clinical rotation requirements have not been received by the appropriate clinical education office(s). If LECOM has knowledge that a student or graduate is in default on any federal, state, outside agency, institutional loan, or service obligation, LECOM will withhold all official transcripts, letters of recommendation, and evaluations for internships, residencies, employment, staff privileges, specialty certification, and licensure.

### **7.2. GRADE REPORTS**

Grades are sent out to students by U.S. Mail within 30 days of the end of the semester. Enrolled students will receive a grade report after grades have been posted at the conclusion of each semester. Grade report forms cannot be faxed or emailed.

### **7.3. UPDATING STUDENT RECORDS**

LECOM requires legal proof of any change to the identifying student information contained in an official student record, including financial aid documents, payroll records, billing records, medical records, federal immigration documents, tax forms, student loan documents, and direct deposit files.

#### **Name Change**

To request a name change in any official student record, a student must complete a Name/Gender Designation Change Request Form, present legal documentation, and submit the required fee (\$500). The student must present the original legal document or a certified (i.e., notarized) copy with the original notary seal to the Registrar. Faxed copies of documents will not be accepted. Original documents will be copied for the official record and returned to the student. Documentation that constitutes proof of a legal name change is as follows:

- Court Order: Original court order signed by the presiding judge and bearing the county filing stamp;
- Marriage Certificate: Original or copy with original notarized seal of marriage license with county or parish filing stamp;
- Divorce Decree: Original or copy with original notarized seal of divorce decree that includes a specific decree granting restoration of the maiden or other name, signed by the judge and bearing the county filing stamp; and
- Certificate of Naturalization: Original or copy with original notarized seal.

and

- Two government-issued documents reflecting the new name (e.g., original or notarized copy of passport, driver's license, or birth certificate, etc., and social security card).

Requests for name changes for degree candidates must be submitted to the Registrar no later than three weeks after the graduation application deadline. Students requesting name changes after this date are not guaranteed that the change will be reflected in the commencement program. No request to change a name in LECOM records will be honored after graduation has occurred. If a name is changed near to graduation, a diploma will not be released to the student until official documentation of the name change has been received.

### **Gender Change**

To request a change in gender in any official student record, a student must complete a Name/Gender Designation Change Request Form, present legal documentation, and submit the required fee (\$500). Documentation that constitutes proof for a request to change a gender in the record must be a government-issued document, such as an original or notarized copy of passport, driver's license, or birth certificate, that reflects the new gender designation.

### **Address Change**

Each student is responsible for ensuring a correct mailing address is on file. To request a change in address, a student completes a Change of Address Form and submits the form to the Registrar. The Change of Address Form may be submitted in person, by mail, by fax, or by an email originating from the student's LECOM account only and sent to the Registrar. Address changes may also be made online at *myLECOM* - Bursar page.

### **Important note for those who are applying for financial aid:**

The applicant's name on the FAFSA must match the name associated with the applicant's Social Security number. After obtaining a legal name change, student will need to file Form SS-5 with the Social Security Administration to change the name on the Social Security card to obtain financial aid.

### **Important note for international students:**

International students' names must appear on college records exactly as they appear on the passport issued by the home country. The U.S. entry visa may not be used as documentation for a name change.

### **Important note for degree candidates before graduation:**

Requests for name changes for degree candidates must be submitted to the Registrar no later than three weeks after the graduation application deadline. Students requesting name changes after this date are not guaranteed that the change will be reflected in the commencement program.

**Government Issued Document** (original or notarized copy of passport, driver's license, birth certificate etc.) reflecting the new gender designation.

### **7.3.1. STUDENT RACIAL/ETHNIC SELF-DESCRIPTION**

Statistics on diversity in the student body, including information on gender, recipients of federal grants and self-identified members of racial or ethnic groups are available through Student Affairs.

Student eligibility for certain LECOM and federally sponsored scholarships and loan programs is based upon the students' economic status, racial and ethnic self-description. The purpose of these programs is to support LECOM's commitment to diversity in its student body and its goal to contribute to the improvement of racial/ethnic under-representation among health professionals.

### **7.4. CLASS RANK FOR DOCTORS PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM**

Class rank may be obtained from the Registrar by request. A request for class rank must be made in writing.

Class rank is based solely on percentage grades attained in the coursework and clinical rotations and has nothing to do with grade point averages. Class rank for a graduating student is based on the grades up to and including the final rotation of the academic year.

To be ranked, a student must have credits equivalent to their classmates at the end of the semester. A student will not be ranked in the following instances:

- A student who repeats a year or switches pathways or campus locations;
- A student with a grade or grades of Incomplete at the end of the semester; and
- A student who is off schedule in clinical rotations (unless they are caught up with the rest of the students in the class by the end of the semester).

Unranked students may contact the Registrar upon completion of all requirements for graduation to determine the quartile in which they will be ranked.

### **7.5. ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMAS**

Each graduate will receive a diploma immediately following commencement provided all requirements and clinical rotations have been completed. A student who is off schedule will have their diploma ordered once all requirements are completed.

The official date on the diploma will be the last day of the month in which all graduation requirements are completed. Unless other arrangements are made, late graduates' diplomas will be mailed to the address on file with the Office of the Registrar.

Diplomas or reproductions of diplomas will not be issued or transmitted in any manner prior to the commencement ceremony. Replacement of a lost, damaged, or destroyed diploma may be requested through the Registrar and secured upon payment of \$100.00 per diploma.

### **7.6. FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records. The law applies to all institutions that receive funds under applicable programs of the US Department of Education. All LECOM students are annually notified of their FERPA rights via the Academic Catalog and Student Handbook.

FERPA provides students with certain rights regarding their educational records. FERPA also gives

parents certain rights with respect to their minor-aged child's education records, which are transferred to the student when they reach the age of 18 or attends an institution beyond the high school level. Any student to whom the rights have been transferred are considered eligible students. All LECOM students are eligible students.

Under FERPA, the rights of eligible students are as follows:

- An eligible student has the right to inspect and review their educational record within 45 days of any request. An institution is not required to provide copies of the educational record unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is not possible for the eligible student to review the educational record onsite. An institution may charge a fee for copies. No charge will be made for retrieving or searching for educational records.
- An eligible student has the right to request that an institution correct an educational record that the student believes to be inaccurate or misleading. If the institution chooses not to amend the record, the eligible student has the right to a formal hearing. If, after the hearing, the institution still chooses not to amend the educational record, the eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth their view about the contested information.
- Generally, an institution must have written permission from the eligible student in order to release any information contained within an educational record. However, FERPA allows institutions to disclose educational records, without consent, to certain parties and/or under certain conditions, which are as follows:
  - To institutional officials with legitimate educational interest;
  - To other institutions to which a student seeks or intends to enroll;
  - To specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - To appropriate parties in connection with the financial aid of a student;
  - To organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of educational agencies or institutions for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, and improving instruction;
  - To accrediting organizations;
  - To specified officials necessary to comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
  - To appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
  - To state and local authorities within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific state law.

### **7.6.1. DEFINITION OF EDUCATIONAL RECORDS**

LECOM defines educational records as records, files, documents, or other materials that contain information directly related to a student and which are maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution. LECOM maintains the following specific types of educational records:

- Personal data identifying each enrolled student, including full legal name, address, race, date and place of birth, marital status, name of spouse, and name of parent or guardian;
- Description of student academic status, including completed grade level, grades, standardized test scores, and clinical evaluation of competency and achievement;



- Scores on professional examination boards;
- Records of extracurricular activities;
- Health data;
- Systematically-gathered academic, clinical, and counseling ratings and observations; and
- Reports of disciplinary and criminal proceedings provided the reports contain only factual-information and not subjective information.

The following are not considered educational records under FERPA:

- Records of instructional, supervisory, and administrative personnel and educational personnel ancillary thereto, which are in the sole possession of the maker thereof and which are not accessible or revealed to any other person except a substitute. A substitute means an individual who performs on a temporary basis the duties of the personnel who makes the record and does not refer to an individual who permanently succeeds the maker of the record in his or her position.
- An employment record of a student whose employment is not contingent on the fact that they are a student, provided the record is used only in relation to the student's employment.
- Personal health records of a student, which are used only in connection with the provision of treatment of the student, and not disclosed to anyone other than the individual(s) providing treatment (provided that the records can be viewed by a physician or other appropriate professional of the student's choice).
- Law enforcement records that are maintained apart from educational records solely for law enforcement purposes, except when disclosed to law enforcement officials of the same jurisdiction.
- Alumni records that contain information about a student after they are no longer in attendance at LECOM and such records do not relate to the person as a student.

### **7.6.2. PROCEDURE TO INSPECT EDUCATIONAL RECORDS**

A student may inspect and review their educational record upon written request to Student Affairs. The written request must precisely identify the record the student wishes to inspect. Student Affairs will make arrangements for access to the record as promptly as possible and notify the student of the time and place where the record may be inspected. Access must be given within 45 days or less from the receipt of the request.

When a record contains information about more than one student, the requesting student may inspect and review only that part of the record that relates to the student making the request.

If a student is unclear as to the meaning of any educational record, they may request an interpretation of the contents of the record from Student Affairs.

### **7.6.3. RIGHT OF LECOM TO REFUSE ACCESS**

LECOM reserves the right to refuse a student's request to inspect and review the following records:

- Letters and statements of recommendation for which the student waived his or her right to

access, including, but not limited to, Medical Student Performance Evaluations (formerly referred to as Dean's Letters);

- Records connected with an application to attend LECOM, as such were obtained prior to the student attending LECOM; or
- Any records which are excluded from the FERPA definition of educational records.

#### **7.6.4. RECORD OF REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE**

LECOM maintains a record of all requests for and/or disclosure of information from a student's educational record. The record of each request indicates the name of the party making the request, any additional party to whom the record may be disclosed, and the legitimate interest the party had in requesting or obtaining the information.

LECOM requires that any party to whom it allows access to any educational record(s) maintain the record(s) in strict confidence and use the record(s) only for reasons authorized by FERPA.

Educational records shall not be disseminated via email unless absolutely necessary. When necessary, encryption shall be used, and the sender shall be instructed to carefully check the recipients, contents, and attachments of the email prior to transmission. The transmission of key personal identifiers, such as social security numbers, driver identification numbers, and birthdates will be avoided.

#### **7.6.5. DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

LECOM may disclose personally identifiable information from the educational record of a student who is attending the institution if that information is considered directory information. Directory information includes the student name, address (permanent and present), telephone number, date and place of birth, undergraduate/graduate institution(s) attended, class level, marital status, home state, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, most recent photograph, and other similar information. This information may be published unless a student files an objection with Student Affairs. A student may refuse the release of directory information by serving written notice to that effect to the Registrar within 30 days after the commencement of any academic year.

LECOM reserves the right to disclose directory information from the educational record of an individual who is no longer in attendance at LECOM without requiring any specific procedure.

#### **7.6.6. CORRECTION OF EDUCATIONAL RECORDS**

A student has the right to ask to have an educational record corrected that they believe to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their privacy rights. The procedure for correcting an educational record is as follows:

- The student must submit a request in writing to amend an educational record to Student Affairs. In doing so, the student must identify the part of the educational record they want to be changed and specify why they believe that the record is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their privacy rights.
- LECOM may comply with the request or may decide not to comply. If LECOM does not comply, the institution will notify the student of the decision and will advise them of the right to challenge the information believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their privacy rights.
- Upon request, LECOM will arrange for a hearing and notify the student, reasonably in advance,

of the date, place, and time of the hearing. The hearing will be conducted by a hearing officer who shall be a disinterested party appointed by the Director of Student Affairs. The hearing officer may be a LECOM official. At the hearing, the student shall be afforded a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues raised in the original request to amend the educational record. The student may be assisted or represented by one or more individuals, including an attorney.

- The hearing officer will prepare a written decision based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing. The decision will include a summary of the evidence presented and the reasons for the decision.
- If the hearing officer decides that the challenged information is not inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's privacy right, the hearing officer will notify the student of the right to place a statement in the record commenting on the challenged information and/or a statement setting forth reasons for disagreeing with the decision.

### **7.6.7. FERPA BREACH**

Any individual who handles any element of an educational record of a LECOM student shall take all possible means to maintain the confidentiality of the record. Violations of FERPA, including, but not limited to, a breach, may be subject to progressive discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

FERPA-protected information shall not be kept on any LECOM computer. All protected information must be stored in the portal or in a secured user folder located on the LECOM server.

In the event of any improper disclosure or breach of the confidentiality of any FERPA-protected material, LECOM shall adhere to the following procedure:

1. Verify that a breach of FERPA-protected information has occurred;
2. Identify as precisely as possible what information was involved and the nature of the breach;
3. If possible, stop further disclosure of information (e.g., cease a transmission, recall emails, etc.);
4. Upon verification of a breach, notify Director of Information Technology, Registrar, Dean of the College/School involved, and Provost;
5. Document all that is known about the breach;
6. Assemble an incident response team (by the responsible Dean in consultation with the Provost);
7. Notify data owners (individuals whose data has been breached), if they are not already aware of the breach;
8. Provide notice to all affected students at the direction of the Dean. Notice should be from the Dean with the approval of the Provost;
9. Preserve all evidence relating to the breach.
10. Initiate and conduct a full investigation;
11. If criminal actions are involved in the breach, notify security and local law enforcement with the approval of the Provost;
12. Determine how to mitigate any damage done and identify strategies to prevent a reoccurrence

of the breach;

13. Assemble the responsible officials of each College/School (by the Provost) and thoroughly review what happened; and
14. Implement necessary institution-wide safeguards.

#### **7.6.8. PLACEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT**

Information on the placement in employment and the types of employment secured by graduates of LECOM are available upon request through the Planning, Institutional Assessment and Accreditation Service Unit and Student Affairs. LECOM does not guarantee employment upon successful completion of graduation and residency requirements.

## 8. STUDENT AFFAIRS

### INTRODUCTION: STUDENT AFFAIRS

The mission of LECOM Student Affairs is to provide advising, counseling and support services to help students adjust to all aspects of their education at LECOM. In addition, Student Affairs plays a leadership role in developing experiences, policies and programs to provide learning and leadership opportunities in concert with the educational mission of LECOM.

#### 8.1. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Because professional education may be highly stressful as well as rewarding, guidance and referral services are available through the Student Affairs and the Directors of Behavioral Health.

Services to assess students' needs, including the need for referrals to the Director of Behavioral Health or to mental health providers in the community, are available 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in Student Affairs. Additional hours may be arranged by appointment. Students may also contact the Director of Behavioral Health directly through email, phone, or the *myLECOM* portal.

Students have the opportunity to explore adjustment issues, find ways of gaining greater self-awareness, and develop better decision-making, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills with the LECOM Director of Behavioral Health, a licensed psychologist, serving as a consultant. Students are also encouraged to consult with the Campus Directors of Behavioral Health if they are experiencing anxiety, relationship problems, loneliness, depression, alcohol and/or substance abuse, and personal matters (i.e., in-depth issues), as well as for test anxiety, general academic stress, and concerns related to school adjustment.

It is important to note that when students consult with the Directors of Behavioral Health, as well as all other LECOM employees, they are not acting as the student's individual physician, psychologist, counselor, or therapist. As such there should be no expectation of confidentiality or privacy as information received from a student may be shared with members of the administration or other faculty members on a need-to-know basis.

LECOM has access to the services of various off-campus licensed professionals to refer students to for short or long-term counseling or treatment. The Directors of Behavioral Health may make referrals for counseling or treatment as needed to external professionals in the community which may be confidential.

Students consulting with external licensed professionals may be asked to sign an Authorization for Release/Receipt of Information forms allowing for communication and sharing of appropriate information between such specialists and LECOM. Giving this permission is voluntary but advisable, as it is intended to allow the Directors of Behavioral Health to monitor services, and thereby facilitating academic progress and treatment compliance through coordination of supports. Providing the authorization for the release/receipt of information is mandatory in situations involving violation of LECOM policies such as drug and alcohol use or abuse or anti-harassment policies. It is also mandatory when students are referred to independent qualified examiners/evaluators for alcohol and drug screens, to Physicians' Health Programs (PHP), Committee for Physicians Health (CPH) for the State of New York, the Florida PRN service or other state entities as necessary. Payment for an initial visit to an independent qualified examiner/evaluator may be made by LECOM, upon special consideration, when referrals are either highly advised or required by LECOM policy.

Documentation of consultation services with the Directors of Behavioral Health are generally kept confidential and are stored in secure files and separate from a student's permanent academic record.

Certain matters, such as grades, are kept confidential. However, as appropriate, general communications with faculty members, even on topics of a personal nature, may be shared with other faculty members or members of the administration.

All LECOM campuses participate in an Institutional Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) which reviews incidents of behavior of individuals who pose a potential risk to the student, employees and/or the institution. Any student whose conduct violates LECOM policies in a material way may be reviewed by the BIT. BIT has the authority to enforce LECOM policies and to apply specific consequences to students (up to expulsion) or require referral for medical, psychological, or psychiatric treatment as a requirement for continued matriculation.

\*\*\*\* Authorization for the release/receipt of information related to such evaluations and treatment is required to obtain the written documentation necessary to assure compliance and progress of the student in treatment, as well as to assure the safety and wellbeing of all of LECOM. Permission for reciprocal release of information between LECOM and other specialists will likely also be required.

**LECOM reserves the right to require a student submit a drug and alcohol screen at any time.**

**On-campus Support:**

Students on each campus have access to licensed psychologists, Drs. Melanie Dunbar and Diane McKay, who serve as LECOM's Directors of Behavioral Health. As Directors of Behavioral Health, Drs. Dunbar and McKay offer consultation, support, and referral Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm for students who are not in crisis.

**Contacting On-Campus Support**

Melanie Dunbar, Ph.D.  
Director of Behavioral Health  
LECOM: Erie, Seton Hill and Elmira  
1858 West Grandview Boulevard  
Erie, PA 16509  
Office A4-358  
(814)866-8160  
[mdunbar@lecom.edu](mailto:mdunbar@lecom.edu)

Diane A. McKay, Psy.D.  
Director of Behavioral Health  
LECOM: Bradenton  
5000 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard  
Bradenton, FL 34211  
Office 283  
(941) 782-5752  
[dmckay@lecom.edu](mailto:dmckay@lecom.edu)

***Note on confidentiality of student information:** Information disclosed to Drs. Dunbar and McKay is not disclosed to others \*\*\* without the student's consent within the legal and ethical limitations related to safety of the student and others. Drs. Dunbar and McKay adhere to the ethical code of the American Counseling Association.*

**Emergency and 24/7 Support:**

Students who are experiencing a mental health emergency are encouraged to go to their nearest emergency room or to call 911.

Also, now available at 988 is the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, where compassionate, accessible care and support is available for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

LECOM also makes the following confidential resources for behavioral healthcare services available to all students on a 24/7 basis:

1. LECOM offers a confidential mental health assistance program through "Student Protection Plus," which can be reached 24 hours a day/(7) seven days a week online at

<https://www.studentprotectionplus.com/>, or by phone at 888-777-9980

2. All students have access to assistance 24/7 through LECOM's emergency protocols. To facilitate access to emergency resources, each campus has identified responders for immediate intervention who are available 24/7 by cell phone. Students can contact Police/Security on any campus 24/7 for assistance and facilitation of connection to the appropriate responder.

### **External Community Resources:**

#### **Erie, Pennsylvania**

Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 24-hour hotline	(814) 455-9414
Millcreek Community Hospital, ask for Behavioral Health	(814) 864-4031
Physicians Health Programs (PHP; PA)	(866) 747-2255 or (717) 558-7819
Safe Harbor	
Behavioral Health, 24-hour Crisis Center	(814) 456-2014
Outpatient Clinic	(814) 459-9300
Safe Net Erie (domestic violence), 24-hour crisis hotline	(814) 454-8161
Safe Net Erie (domestic violence), main number	(814) 455-1774
Saint Vincent Behavioral Health	(814) 452-5555 or (888) 950-9090
Stairways Behavioral Health	(888) 453-5806

#### **Bradenton, Florida**

Bayside Center for Behavioral Health	
Sarasota Memorial Hospital, 24-hour clinical assessment	(941) 917-7760
Bradenton- Hope Family Services, Inc. (domestic violence)	(941) 747-7790
Centerstone Crisis Center	(941) 782-4600
Coastal Behavioral Health, Sarasota	
24-hour crisis Stabilization Unit	(941) 364-9355
Assessment	(941) 552-1950
Physicians Health Programs (PHP, PA)	(866) 747-2255 or (717) 558-7819
Rape Crisis Hotline, Bradenton	(941) 708-6059
Safe Place & Rape Crisis Center, Sarasota, 24-hour hotline	(941) 365-1976

#### **Greensburg, Pennsylvania**

Center for Victims of Violence and Crime, 24-hour hotline	(866) 644-2882
Physicians Health Programs (PHP, PA)	(866) 747-2255 or (717) 558-7819
Rape Crisis Center (Pittsburgh Action against Rape)	(412) 431-5665
24-hour helpline	(866) 363-7273
Seton Hill University Counseling Center	(724) 838-4295
Westmoreland Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline	
24-hour hotline	(800) 836-6010

#### **Elmira, New York**

Family Services of Chemung County	607) 737-5369
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	(800) 273-8255
New York State Domestic Violence Hotline	(800) 942-6906
Sexual Assault Resource Center	(888) 810-0093
Veterans Crisis Line	(800) 273-8255 and press 1

### **8.1.1. PROTOCOL FOR MANAGING STUDENTS IN DISTRESS**

LECOM utilizes an Emergency Paging Response System to provide immediate response in the event of an emergency involving any individual on campus. For students who are in distress:

1. Student Affairs, faculty and staff will ensure that students know to seek immediate assistance if feeling any distress or medical issue during class time.
2. Students feeling a need for medication during class may either take it in the class or excuse themselves for a brief period to take the medicine.
3. Where medication is not involved, and a student feels any type of medical distress, the student may excuse themselves to make use of a rest room or request aid.
4. If students excuse themselves, they should return to class if possible or alert Student Affairs and/or Security if they feel a need to leave. Security will activate the Emergency Response Paging System.
5. Such students should not attempt to drive themselves if there is any doubt of their ability to do so. Likewise, Student Affairs and/or Security should advise the student to wait and arrange for transportation if the student seems impaired.
6. Where a student expresses a need for aid to an instructor, Student Affairs and/or Security should be immediately contacted by the instructor.
7. Student Affairs and/or Security will make any reasonable accommodation for a student. If the situation calls for immediate medical treatment, 911 will be called. Security may also arrange for transport for the student to their residence or to a medical facility if the situation does not call for an emergency response.
8. Where appropriate, Security or Student Affairs will call the student's emergency contact.
9. In every case, when in doubt, LECOM personnel should err on the side of the greatest possible accommodation for the student. If the situation includes behavioral/emotional problems and/or distress the Director of Behavioral Health will be consulted and assist with intervention.
10. The student will not be allowed back in school without designated (e.g., psychiatric/psychological) medical/clinical professional clearance through written documentation and/or may have to comply with specific security measures.

### **8.2. STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES**

LECOM provides general health care services for its students enrolled in the Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield Community Blue Student Insurance Plan. It is mandatory for all students to have healthcare coverage through LECOM's student policy, unless covered by their parent's or spouse's employer's health insurance, TriCare (military), or Medicaid issued by the state where the student will be attending classes (see Section [8.8.2 Mandatory Student Health Insurance Policy](#)).



In Erie, LECOM, through its partners at Millcreek Community Hospital and Medical Associates of Erie, provides general health care services for students with no co-pay using the Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield Community Blue student insurance coverage. If a student's family physician is not in the area or not available, students requiring more immediate attention may opt to visit the Family Practice of Dr. Mark Baker on the Erie campus at 2000 West Grandview Blvd. or the Plaza 38 Medical Center located at 2010 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Street near the Erie campus.

For students without a personal physician in the area, LECOM at Seton Hill has entered into an agreement with the Allegheny Health Network to provide "Student Health Services". These services include:

**Forbes Family Medicine-PCMH**  
2550 Mosside Boulevard, Suite 500,  
Monroeville, PA.  
412-457-1100

**Forbes Family Medicine – Murrysville**  
4262 Old William Penn Highway, Suite 109  
Murrysville, PA 15668  
Phone (412) 325-5810

**AHN Hempfield Primary Care**  
6321 Route 30, 2nd Floor  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
Phone (724) 671-1750

These practices will accept as new patients any LECOM at Seton Hill student who desires to obtain care. Any LECOM at Seton Hill student who has an urgent or acute matter may contact one of these practices to be seen within twenty-four hours (or referred to emergency care, if appropriate). In addition, after-hours, and weekend calls from LECOM at Seton Hill students will be accepted and handled on the same basis as are calls from established patients of these practices.

For students without a personal physician in the area, LECOM at Elmira has entered into an agreement with Arnot*Health* to provide "Student Health Services" in numerous accessible locations Elmira. They include:

**Arnot Ogden Medical Center**  
600 Roe Avenue  
Elmira, NY 14905  
607-737-4100

**AMS IMAST Internal Medicine**  
200 Madison Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Elmira, NY 14901  
607-734-1581

**AMS Eastside Primary Care**  
200 Madison Avenue, #2B  
Elmira, NY 14901  
607-732-1310

**AMS OB/GYN (Women's Health Center)**  
600 Fitch Street, #102  
Elmira, NY 14095  
607-734-6544

Any LECOM at Elmira student who has an urgent or acute matter can seek care at any of the following locations:

**Arnot Ogden Medical Center**  
600 Roe Avenue  
Elmira, NY 14905  
607-737-4194

**AMS – Horseheads Walk-In Care**  
100 John Roemmelt Drive  
Horseheads, NY 14845  
607-737-4499

**St Joseph's Hospital**  
555 St Joseph's Boulevard  
Elmira, NY 14901  
607-337-7806

For students without a personal physician in the area, LECOM at Bradenton has entered into an agreement with PrimeCare of Manatee or Urgent Care Walk-in Clinics in the immediate area to provide "Student Health Services". They include:

<b>PrimeCare of Manatee or Urgent Care Walk-In Clinics</b> (a Division of MAX Health)	<u>Location</u>
Stephen Coppa, D.O LECOM Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine	6110 53 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue East Bradenton, Florida 34203 941-755-4242 A minimal co-pay will apply.

Student health is a priority at LECOM, students must be healthy in order to be successful in the curriculum and to give their best to each patient. Students requiring diagnostic and preventative health services are advised to try to seek those appointments outside of the normal curriculum if at all possible. It is recognized that therapeutic health services are often unpredictable and interruptions in the curriculum are unavoidable in these circumstances. Whether students are seeking a diagnostic, preventative or therapeutic health service, if it is during a scheduled class period or an exam, you must follow the procedures to request an excused absence as outlined in 9.3 of the student handbook.

In the case of emergencies, LECOM understands that this is not always possible. In those cases where prior excused absences are not possible, we ask that you inform the proper personnel as soon as you are able. If you are missing an examination or required laboratory, please also provide documentation regarding the nature of the emergency and the steps taken as soon as you can provide them to appropriate personnel as outlined in 9.3. Medical appointments planned in advance that require an absence from class require the student to fill out a "Student Request Form For Excused Absence" in advance of the planned absence.

When experiencing a medical emergency, students are advised to call 911 immediately. LECOM provides a list of providers in Appendix A for emergency services. If you feel you or a fellow student are having a medical emergency or any other emergency, call 911 immediately.

### **8.3. DISABILITY SERVICES**

#### **8.3.1. REQUESTING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS DUE TO A DISABILITY**

Students requesting special accommodations for examinations, laboratory procedures, or other activities must submit a [\*Request for Special Accommodation Due to a Disability Form\*](#) and required supporting documentation to the Director of Student Affairs at the Erie or Bradenton campus or to the Assistant Dean of Problem Based Learning for LECOM at Seton Hill and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for LECOM at Elmira. The completed form and required documentation must be submitted thirty (30) days prior to the start of the semester to permit sufficient time for the review and approval process to be completed prior to the start of the semester. Requests submitted at other times may take up to thirty (30) days to be processed upon the receipt of the completed request form and all required documentation.

Documentation of the assessment by a licensed/certified professional who is not a family member must be submitted in support of the completed [\*Request for Special Accommodation Due to a\*](#)

Disability Form using the Physician's/Clinician's Disability Accommodation Verification Form. An appropriately qualified licensed/certified professional with expertise and sufficient knowledge in the area of the asserted disability must provide a current assessment of the student's disability. Documentation which shows that the same, or similar, accommodation was granted at a previously attended undergraduate or graduate institution may be submitted along with the completed Request for Special Accommodation Due to a Disability Form. See the Request for Special Accommodation Due to a Disability – Guidelines for Documentation for more information about required documentation.

The Request for Special Accommodation Due to a Disability Form, Physician's/Clinician's Disability Accommodation Verification Form, and Request for Special Accommodation Due to a Disability – Guidelines for Documentation are available on the LECOM portal and may be obtained from Student Affairs.

All requests for special accommodations are reviewed by the Directors of Student Affairs in LECOM at Erie and Bradenton, Assistant Dean for Problem-Based Learning for LECOM at Seton Hill, or the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at LECOM at Elmira in consultation with the appropriate dean. Strict confidentiality is maintained in the review of each request. The student is responsible for any costs related to any additional evaluation or testing required in support of the request for special accommodation. The student will receive written notification of LECOM's decision regarding the request for special accommodation. If a request for special accommodation is granted by LECOM, a letter of agreement stating the nature and extent of the accommodation will be prepared for signature by the student and appropriate LECOM representative for inclusion in the student's permanent record.

### **8.3.2. LECOM ACCOMMODATIONS FOR TESTING AND LICENSING EXAMINATIONS**

It must be noted that LECOM is only able to provide special accommodation for examinations that are under the institution's control. In particular, the licensure examinations for osteopathic physicians, pharmacists, podiatrists, and dentists, parts of which are required in some programs for advancement within and graduation from LECOM, are administered by the national licensure boards listed below. Any requests for special accommodation on licensure examinations must be made directly to the appropriate board. LECOM's approval of a request for special accommodation does not guarantee a similar response from the licensure board.

The Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX) is administered by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME).

The North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) is administered by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NAPB).

The National Board Dental Examinations (NBDE) are administered by the ADA's Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCND).

The American Podiatric Licensing Examinations (APMLE) are administered by the National board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME).

### **8.3.3. CONTACT FOR DISABILITY SERVICES BY LECOM CAMPUS**

LECOM at Erie  
Kevin Thomas, DO, MS  
1858 W. Grandview Boulevard  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16509  
(814) 866-8117  
[kthomas@lecom.edu](mailto:kthomas@lecom.edu)

LECOM at Bradenton  
Debra Horne, Director of Student Affairs  
5000 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard  
Bradenton Florida 34211  
(941) 782-5933  
[dhorne@lecom.edu](mailto:dhorne@lecom.edu)

LECOM at Seton Hill  
Kevin Thomas, DO, MS  
1858 W. Grandview Boulevard  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16509  
(814) 866-8117  
[kthomas@lecom.edu](mailto:kthomas@lecom.edu)

LECOM at Elmira  
Angela Wood, Student Affairs Coordinator  
1 LECOM Place  
Elmira, NY 14901  
(607) 442-3560  
[awood@lecom.edu](mailto:awood@lecom.edu)

#### **8.3.4. DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED**

LECOM prohibits and does not engage in discrimination on the basis of disability. LECOM is committed to ensuring that qualified students with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate in LECOM's educational programs and activities.

It is LECOM's intention to provide appropriate, reasonable accommodations for students who voluntarily disclose and provide professional documentation of a disability in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), including changes made by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. LECOM will take all reasonable steps to accommodate qualified students and applicants with disabilities as defined by applicable law.

#### **8.4. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Leave of Absence refers and is limited to students who, while in good academic standing need to temporarily suspend their LECOM program of study, due to reasons beyond their control, such as illness, military service, financial exigency, or pressing personal reasons justifying an interruption of the degree program. No academic activities may be conducted during a Leave of Absence and this leave may not be used to avoid payment of tuition. Students may be given a leave of absence for other reasons (e.g., medical leave) as noted elsewhere in this Academic Catalog and following LECOM's policies. Students who have had federal financial aid may be subject to additional restrictions and should check with the Financial Aid.

##### **Process for Requesting Leave of Absence**

A student requesting a Leave of Absence for any reason must go through the following procedure:

- Student must meet with their advisor and/or appropriate Associate/Assistant Dean, Director or Pathway director to discuss the LOA.
- The student must complete a *Request for a Leave of Absence Form* (Appendix E) Part B of the Request for Leave of Absence Form requires the student to receive financial aid counseling by the LECOM Office of Financial Aid and complete a *Leave of Absence Form for Financial Aid* (Appendix F).
- The completed *Request for Leave of Absence Form* (Appendix E), completed *Leave of Absence Form for Financial Aid* (Appendix F), letter explaining the reason for the request, and documentation appropriate to the reason (for example, a letter which includes a diagnosis from the attending physician for a medical reason) are all to be provided to the appropriate Associate/Assistant Dean.
- Requests for a medical Leave of Absence must be accompanied by letter from the treating physician that includes a diagnosis supporting the request. The treating physician's clearance is also required to return from a medical leave of absence. The physician submitting the

diagnosis and clearance cannot be a family member.

- The request will be reviewed followed by an official letter from the Dean sent to the student indicating whether or not the leave of absence has been approved. If the leave of absence is approved the letter will include the frequency of required interim contact by the student with LECOM during the absence and will designate the LECOM official the student is to contact.
- If the leave of absence is approved by the Dean, copies of the *Request for Leave of Absence Form* and the official letter from the Dean will be provided to the Director of Student Affairs, the Office of Financial Aid, the SPG Committee of the student's program and the Bursar.
- When a student returns from a Leave of Absence, tuition for the semester or term of return will be charged on a prorated basis.

If the leave is approved, tuition charged will be in accordance with LECOM's refund policy. During the leave, the student will be required to contact a designated LECOM representative at intervals specified in the approval letter. Any request for an extension of a student's leave of absence must be made in writing to the Assistant/Associate Dean at least 30 days in advance of the end of the current leave, and must be approved, by the appropriate Dean.

Once the appropriate parties are notified of the approved leave of absence, access to the LECOM student portal is deactivated. The student's email account will remain active, but the student will not be included in the email grouping for their respective class.

#### **Health Insurance During Leave of Absence:**

During a Leave of Absence, a student must maintain some type of health insurance. For a medical Leave of Absence, the student may remain enrolled in the LECOM Student Health Plan for up to six months. An additional six months coverage is allowable with LECOM approval. The student shall pay all required premiums directly to the local provider at Hub International.

#### **Return from Leave of Absence**

Students who are on an approved Leave of Absence for sixty (60) days or more, must meet with the Associate/Assistant Dean, the Director of Student Affairs, and the appropriate Dean (or if the Dean designates, the Dean's representative) two weeks prior to being reinstated in their program of study.

Students may be required to provide documentation of ability to return to the program depending on the circumstances of their leave of absence. Students on medical leaves of absence are required to provide a medical release from their treating physician prior to their return to class. To return to school, students must provide an up-to-date immunization record, a current background check, and evidence of ability to pay if so directed by the Director of Student Affairs. A student returning from a LOA shall be responsible for tuition and fees for the return semester.

A student may be required to take an examination to determine the retention of material prior to being permitted to return. The student may then be required to review certain topics and be tested to ensure the student is able to progress with their class.

Grades earned by a student are good for two (2) years. If a student is on a leave of absence for greater than two (2) years, all coursework prior to the leave of absence must be repeated.

A student who is in the first semester of the first year is not eligible for a Leave of Absence. The student must withdraw. A student will not receive a leave of absence in order to avoid course failures.

Students should be aware of the following potential implications of a leave of absence:

- The anticipated graduation date may be changed to reflect the time of completion of graduation requirements.
- If a student cannot complete the graduation requirements by July 1 of the year they intend to graduate, eligibility to participate in the match will not be granted.
- The reason for the leave of absence will be included in the Medical School Performance Evaluation (MSPE)

## 8.5. MANDATORY LEAVE OF ABSENCE

LECOM offers a robust program of services and accommodations to ensure qualified students with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate in LECOM's programs and activities.

In situations where a student is unable or unwilling to carry out substantial self-care obligations, where current medical knowledge and/or the best available objective evidence indicates that a student poses a significant risk to the health or safety of others, or where a student poses an actual risk to their own safety not based on mere speculation, stereotypes, or generalizations about individuals with disabilities, and the student does not want to take a leave voluntarily, the Dean of the student's particular College or School has the authority to place the student on a mandatory leave of absence. Before placing a student with a disability on a mandatory leave of absence, LECOM will do an individualized assessment to determine if there are reasonable accommodations that would permit the student to continue to participate in the educational program without taking a leave of absence. Such decision may be appealed in writing to the President within seven business days of notification.

A student on a mandatory leave of absence may request reinstatement when the circumstances that resulted in the leave no longer exist or have moderated in severity such that the student no longer poses a significant risk to the health or safety of others or an actual risk to their own safety. The request shall provide evidence of the change in circumstances. Reinstatement may be granted by the same official who imposed the mandatory leave. If a request is denied on grounds of health or safety, the decision may be appealed in writing to the President, within seven (7) business days of notification of denial.

## 8.6. WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Attendance at LECOM is a privilege granted in consideration of specified levels of performance and of maintaining the established standards of scholarship and personal and professional conduct.

***LECOM reserves the right to require withdrawal at any time it deems necessary to safeguard its standards of scholarship, conduct, and orderly operation.***

A student wishing to voluntarily withdraw from further study at LECOM for any reason during or at the end of the academic year should go through the following procedures:

- A. The student is encouraged to consult with his or her faculty advisor and/or the appropriate Associate/Assistant Dean. If still wishing to withdraw, obtain a withdrawal form from the advisor or from the Student Affairs.
- B. The student should submit the completed withdrawal form to the Office of Student Affairs at his or her location (see Appendix G – Student Change of Status Form).
- C. If the withdrawal occurs during the first 50% of the designated length of a course, the student will receive a "W" for that course. If withdrawal occurs during the last 50% of the designated length of a course, the student will receive a "WP" or "WF", depending upon the determination by the instructor of the course as to whether the student was passing or failing at the time of last date of attendance.

D. No withdrawals will be permitted during the final two weeks of a semester or term.

Once a student has withdrawn and, if eligible, has received a full or partial refund of tuition and fees and/or financial aid, the student is not eligible for a medical leave of absence.

Once the appropriate departments are notified, the access to the LECOM Student Portal is deactivated and the student account is deleted.

A student who has withdrawn from LECOM and wishes to be reconsidered for admission must reapply and go through the entire application process.

## **8.7. ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

All faculty at LECOM are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject.

LECOM recognizes that its faculty members are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations.

As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, they should be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

### **Guidelines**

The right to academic freedom is essential for enabling faculty members to carry out their functions successfully. The following rights are known collectively as academic freedom:

1. Faculty members have the freedom in the classroom to teach and present material in a fashion that is generally considered appropriate.
2. Faculty members have the right to select methods and topics of research, subject to the review and approval of the appropriate dean, and if applicable, the Institutional Review Board (“IRB”).
3. Faculty members have the right to assign reasonable academic tasks to students, but faculty members must give students full credit for their work.
4. Faculty members have the right to make public research findings and other products of scholarship but have the concomitant responsibility to strive for scholarly objectivity, truth and to respect the privacy and dignity of any research subjects. They must also comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

## **8.8. HEALTH RECORDS POLICY**

### **8.8.1. HEALTH RECORDS FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS**

Prior to matriculation, first year students must submit health and immunization records to the Student Affairs. All students must be current on immunizations prior to the beginning of courses. Health forms and instructions for submitting forms are mailed as part of the matriculation packet to all students after their acceptance into LECOM. Each student must submit the following documentation:

- An **Immunization Status Report** must be completed and signed by a physician. This report

must indicate that the student has immunity to the following diseases and documentation of a student's immunity must be attached to the report: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, chicken pox, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and hepatitis B. Students must also have current results of a 2-Step Mantoux PPD or QuantiFERON-TB Gold Test (QFT-G). If found to be necessary, a student will be required to receive an additional dose of a MMR vaccine.

- A **Health History** must be completed by the student.
- A **Physical Exam** must be completed and signed by a physician. This must be completed within one (1) year of matriculation.
- A **Records Release** form must be signed by the student authorizing the physician to release the student's health records to LECOM. This form also authorizes LECOM to release a student's records to hospitals where the students are in training.
- An **Emergency Data** form allows the student to designate a person to contact in case of an emergency. It also asks the student to name any known allergies or pre-existing health-related conditions.
- A signed **Matriculation Agreement** wherein the student agrees to submit the above-mentioned items as well as additional tuition, residency and background check requirements. The Matriculation Agreement must be submitted no later than first day of Orientation.

The **Two-Step PPD or QuantiFERON-TB Gold Test (QFT-G)** is required for students working in hospitals, pharmacies or clinics. Both tests show whether or not an individual has been exposed to tuberculosis. It is the student's responsibility to get an initial two-step PPD or QFT-G and provide documentation of the results to Student Affairs prior to matriculation. If the result of either test is positive, the student must have a diagnostic evaluation and those results must also be sent to the Student Affairs. The status of the student is evaluated, and appropriate action will be determined and communicated to the student. A PPD or QFT-G test is required for all subsequent years.

For students on rotations, an annual flu shot is required. In addition, some pharmacies, hospitals and clinics may require additional documentation of vaccines or tests which are not required by the school. *In such cases, it is the student's responsibility to satisfy the health requirements of the hospital where they are training.*

### **8.8.2. MANDATORY STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY**

**Participation in the LECOM Student Health Plan available through Highmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield Community Blue is mandatory for all LECOM students. Students must maintain the Highmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield health insurance throughout the program of study.** All students are required to purchase this plan, with the following exceptions:

- Students covered as a dependent by a parental health insurance plan.
- Students covered as a dependent by a spouse's employer health insurance plan.

Waiver consideration may be granted on a case-by-case basis for students in the military who are enrolled in TriCare, and students with dependent children who are covered by Medicaid. *Individual insurance plans (other than the LECOM Student Health Plan) are prohibited.*

Students who have been granted a waiver for any reason, must update the waiver information on the LECOM Portal twice a year, June 1 and December 1 and provide a current Proof of Coverage letter from their insurer.



Current student health insurance waiver information must include:

- Name, address and customer service number of the insurer;
- Name of policy holder, and their relationship to student; and
- Policy and group number and effective date of coverage.

***Beginning with the Class of 2021 and for every COM class to follow, all students in the College of Medicine going out on rotations must be enrolled in the LECOM Student Health Plan.***

***Misrepresentation of coverage will be deemed an honor code violation.***

## **8.9. LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS**

All LECOM students live in privately-owned, off-campus housing. Student Affairs at each location may have available information on rental properties or rental agencies. However, please note that any information made available to a student does not represent an endorsement of any kind. It is the student's responsibility to identify housing within a reasonable distance of the campus and to research and inspect a listing to determine its suitability. *Students should read leases before signing them.*

LECOM staff and students are prepared to assist new students in becoming more familiar with local neighborhoods and to help them evaluate accessibility to shopping and recreation areas. LECOM disclaims any warranty or guarantee as to the price, quality, or safety of off-campus housing.

Students are expected to maintain living accommodations near campus (less than 30 mins travel) to increase academic success by limiting the time lost to travel and to be close in instances when academic schedules undergo unforeseen updates or changes.

### **Student Telephone Emergency Message System**

Should an emergency arise with a student's family, the family may contact Student Affairs to initiate contact with the student. Students are asked to inform family members/friends that only emergency messages will be relayed to students. The caller must clearly state that an emergency exists. The caller will be asked for their name, telephone number, their relationship to the student, and the nature of the emergency. Verifiable student information may also be requested.

## **8.10. BOOKSTORE**

The LECOM Bookstore for all campuses is online only. Any textbooks not on VitalSource are available for purchase through the online website. The bookstore stocks LECOM logo apparel & gifts, supplies, and instruments relevant to course work. Only credit cards (MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex) can be used for online purchase. LECOM bookstore also offers free pick up at the LECOM at Erie.

## **8.11. CREDIT CARD MARKETING POLICY**

LECOM prohibits credit card institutions, banks, or any other financial or lending institutions from soliciting students on campus and does not permit them access to campus mail and/or electronic addresses to establish credit card accounts without prior authorization.

## **8.12. STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **8.12.1. GRADE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Students must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average, have no course failures, may not be on probation for any reason, may not be repeating an academic year and must be passing all currently

enrolled courses to:

- Serve as an officer in SGA;
- Serve as an officer of a LECOM club or organization;
- Serve on a LECOM committee; or
- Attend any off-campus conference/meeting.

Students wishing to attend off campus meetings or conferences must submit requests for approval (Appendix D) (normally *at least* thirty days in advance of the travel date, circumstances permitting); be approved in advance; and be excused from any classes that will be missed. Travel arrangements can only be made by the student *after* receiving the approval to travel. To receive housing, food, or transportation support from LECOM, students must be willing to assist in LECOM activities, if any, at the event. All rules relating to student conduct are in force when students attend any such meetings or conferences. No travel requests will be granted where a student is failing a course. No international travel will be permitted.

### **8.12.2. LECOM STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

The Student Government is the official voice for all students. The clubs/organizations are open to all students and welcome proposals and participation from the entire student body. The responsibilities of Student Government include collecting and expressing student opinion, dispensing funds for student activities, acting as a liaison for the student body, promoting osteopathic medicine, supporting club and class activities and working to improve the quality of life for all students at LECOM. Student Affairs serves as the liaison between the administration and Student Government.

The SGA provides additional information at its website - <https://www.lecomsga.org/>. It is the organization's responsibility to maintain and update that site.

### **8.12.3. LECOM CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

College or school specific clubs are listed in the Student Handbooks for each campus program and campus location (Appendix Q).

### **8.12.4. COLLEGE COMMITTEES**

LECOM encourages student representations on committees. Specifically, student representation is provided on the LECOM Safety Committee, Curriculum Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and Accreditation Self-Study Committee. Students may recommend a list of candidates from their class to serve on committees with final approval from the appropriate dean. Students must be in good academic standing in order to serve on committees or participate in club or organization activities.

### **8.12.5. RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The first step in obtaining recognition for a new student organization is the submission of a petition to the Student Government Association (SGA). The petition must include the goals of the organization, the proposed charter, the name of the faculty advisor, a list of club officers and a list of charter members. The petition to form a new club or organization must be signed by the prospective officers and the faculty advisor of the new organization.

Once the petition has been approved by the SGA, it must be submitted to the Director of Student Affairs for administrative review, who will forward the petition to the Provost for final approval. The approved status of an organization is valid for one year, renewable on an annual basis with submission of the

Annual Student Club Registration Form and the Faculty Advisor Form.

Administrative approval is important because only officially approved organizations and groups can use LECOM facilities, be listed in LECOM publications and be eligible for institutional support.

Membership in a LECOM organization may include an application, GPA minimum, essay, service hours and/or dues. Hazing within any organization is strictly prohibited.

#### **8.12.6. STUDENT ORGANIZATION STATIONERY AND USE OF COLLEGE LOGOS**

Student clubs or organizations requesting the use of the LECOM logo, seal or facsimile thereof for correspondence or other purposes must have approval from the Director of Student Affairs and the Director of Communication and Marketing. The request to use the College/School logo or seal, or facsimile must be submitted in a proposal, be signed by the faculty advisor, and be submitted **in writing** to the Director of Student Affairs and the Director of Communications and Marketing.

#### **8.12.7. STUDENT SPONSORED EVENTS**

Any event conducted by a student club or organization recognized by LECOM is considered a student-sponsored event. Events of this nature require the approval of the Office of Student Affairs and requests must be submitted in writing to the Office of Student Affairs. Requests should include a statement of purpose and the facilities required for the event. Event scheduling forms requiring the use of institutional facilities are available through the Office of Student Affairs. All off-campus events sponsored by a LECOM club or organization are subject to the same approval process and must receive approval prior to the event or activity and prior to contacting any off-campus facility or organization to schedule or host the event. ***Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at any LECOM sponsored student club or organization on or off-campus event or activity.*** No student organization may promote any gambling activities. Raffles may be conducted with permission. The faculty advisor for the participated student organization or the advisor's designee must be present for each student sponsored event.

#### **8.12.8. LECOM VIDEO BULLETIN BOARD**

Students or student organizations at Erie wishing to post an announcement or notice on the LECOM Video Bulletin Board must first receive approval from the Learning Resource Center. LECOM reserves the absolute right to reject or edit any submitted announcement or notice intended for posting on the Video Bulletin Board.

#### **8.12.9. STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN LECOM SPONSORED RESEARCH**

LECOM students who wish to participate in research must adhere to the following institutional guidelines regarding such activity.

Any student wishing to participate in research must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be passing all courses.
2. Must have successfully completed the first semester of their program.
3. Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
4. Must not be on probation for academic, conduct, or professionalism reasons.
5. Must be on schedule to take board examinations.

In addition, students wishing to participate in research must:

1. Have a faculty mentor for the project.

2. Submit a project title and description, signed by the faculty mentor, to the Director of Research for that school.
3. Have completed all relevant CITI training modules.
4. Satisfactorily complete all relevant safety training.
5. Submit and receive approval from relevant regulatory committees (IACUC, IRB).

Students wishing to complete a research elective rotation in their third or fourth year must:

1. Have a faculty mentor for the project.
2. Submit a project title and description, signed by the faculty mentor, to (a) the Director of Research for that school and (b) the Clinical Education office.
3. Receive approval by the Clinical Education office prior to beginning the rotation.
4. Complete an end-of-rotation summary of their project and findings.
5. Meet all other rotation requirements according to the Clinical Education office.

## 9. STUDENT CONDUCT

### INTRODUCTION: CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline consists of the Student Honor Code and the Standards of Academic and Social Conduct contained in this section. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is **not** a contract and serves only as guidance for the fulfillment of fundamentally fair process procedures. The Board of Trustees and its designees have the authority and may modify or change the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline at any time. **Each student is expected to be knowledgeable about all published policies, rules, and regulations of LECOM.** LECOM will hold each student responsible for compliance with these and all other policies, rules and regulations. The student is responsible for reviewing any published materials that update the items in this Code. **Additionally, students are also expected to comply with all federal, state, and local laws.** Students may be sanctioned for conduct off-campus, which is likely to have an adverse effect on LECOM or the educational process.

To the extent applicable, students are also subject to and will be expected to observe the provisions of the Code of Ethics of the American Osteopathic Association. (see Appendix I)

**Note that the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking is in the *LECOM Policy Statement on Title IX Compliance and Affirmation of the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment, Misconduct or Violence* attached as Appendix K and not in Section 9 Student Conduct of this handbook.**

### 9.1. PURPOSE OF THE STUDENT CODE

LECOM's primary concern is the student. LECOM attempts to provide all students with an environment that is conducive to academic endeavor, social growth, and individual self-discipline. Enrolled students at LECOM are bound by the rules, regulations and guidelines governing student behavior. The student is responsible for being aware of this information. In addition, all students are expected to obey all federal, state, and local laws and are expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws. Any student who violates any provision of those laws is subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, notwithstanding any action taken by civil authorities on account of the violation.

### 9.2. STUDENT HONOR CODE

In keeping with the obligations of integrity, honesty, responsibility, and personal honor, which are integral to professional practice. LECOM, the LECOM Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students promulgate this Honor Code to uphold these important values.

No student at LECOM shall participate by any means in actions of dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, stealing, or lying to any College official, as described in the "Code of Student Conduct and Discipline." All students subject to this code have an obligation to report suspected violations. All reports of suspected violations must be made in writing to the Chairperson of the SPG/ASP Committee within seven (7) working days of the alleged offense. Any student who has knowledge (other than unsubstantiated rumor) or is a witness to any violation or possible violation, and who knowingly fails to report such is also in violation of this Honor Code and is subject to disciplinary sanctions. Any student found to report another student intentionally and maliciously for the mere purpose of harassment will be subject to disciplinary sanctions as set forth herein. Faculty and staff who witness violations of the Honor Code shall also report them in writing or electronically to the appropriate dean and/or the Chairperson of the SPG/ASP Committee within seven (7) working days.

All students must respect and follow the rules on copyrights. Unauthorized use of or distribution of copyrighted materials, including, but not limited to peer-to-peer file sharing is a violation of federal law that can subject students to fines or imprisonment and would be considered an honor code violation, which can result in expulsion, etc.

### 9.3. ATTENDANCE, TARDINESS AND ABSENCES

As professionals, students are expected to adhere to the attendance policy with diligence. As such, attendance is required at all scheduled instructional periods and will be taken regularly. Absence from instructional periods for any reason does not relieve the student from the responsibility for the material covered during the periods. Unexcused absences will be viewed as violations of the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline and may result in disciplinary action by the SPG/ASP Committee including, but not limited to, loss of remedial privileges, removal from any leadership position with any student club, organization or student government office, and possible notation in the Dean's Letter. In extreme cases, absenteeism or tardiness may result in dismissal.

#### Attendance

- Attendance will be checked daily at random times and possibly multiple times per day.
- Students **must be in their assigned seats**.
- Any assigned seat change request must be requested through the Office of Preclinical Education or appropriate Asst/Associate Dean. If a seat change request involves exchanging assigned seats with another student, both students must request the seat change.
- Absence is defined as a student who is not present at an instructional period when attendance is taken. If the student had a preapproved excuse for not being present, they are recorded as an excused absence, if they had no preapproval they are recorded as unexcused absence for that instructional period and for that day.

Excused absences may be granted by the appropriate dean. If a student misses a class, they are still responsible for the material missed. It should be noted that making up certain academic sessions is not permitted. Simulation and laboratory courses such as OMM and H & P Clinical Examination may have special requirements for attendance, tardiness, and absences. Students in rotations must abide by their respective Clinical Handbooks.

In order for an absence to be considered excused for medical reasons, notice must be received by LECOM prior to the missed class or activity, and a note must be submitted from a local physician or other practitioner in a physician's practice upon the student's return to class. The note will not be accepted if the signee is a relative of the student. The note must be sent directly from the physician's office by fax or secure business email. Notes electronically submitted by students are not acceptable. Students in third- and fourth-year rotations must abide by the additional requirements contained in the LECOM Clinical Clerkship Handbook.

Students may receive excused absences to attend LECOM-related activities or national meetings of student clubs and organizations. No absences will be excused without approval from the Chairperson of the SPG/ASP Committee, the pathway director and the appropriate dean. Any request for an excused absence must be submitted using the Student Request for Excused Absence Form, to the Chairperson of the SPG/ASP Committee at least 30 days prior to the anticipated absence. The form can be found under the Student tab on the LECOM Portal.

Students must also obtain an **"Excused Absence Student Request Form"** for a planned absence. This form must be filled out by the student and signed by the pathway director and appropriate dean. Students should do this in-person and have it completed prior to the anticipated absence. Students must

be in good standing with a grade point average of 3.0 GPA in order to be granted an excused absence from school-related activities or to attend organizational meetings or any other extra-curricular activity. **The Student Affairs Office may be asked to verify the grade point average.**

Students must complete the excused absence request form for illness, doctor appointments, conferences, emergencies, funerals, etc. and it must be approved by the Office of Preclinical Education or appropriate Asst/Associate Dean.

If the excused absence is planned in advance, the form should be received by the Office of Preclinical Education or appropriate Asst/Associate Dean Education 30 days in advance (conferences, weddings, established medical appointments, etc.). If the excused absence is emergent (illness, emergencies, funerals, unplanned medical appointments) the student must notify the Office of Preclinical Education or appropriate Asst/Associate Dean the day the issue arises.

If this absence is due to unplanned illness or emergency that necessitates missing an instructional period, quiz, or exam the notification of the illness/absence **MUST** be received by the Office of Preclinical Education or appropriate Asst/Associate Dean by email or phone message prior to the start of the instructional period, quiz, or exam for it to be eligible for consideration of an excused absence.

No travel arrangements may be made without completing a Travel Request Form (Appendix D) and receiving approval. Absences may be excused for:

- Medical necessity: illness of the student or member of the immediate family. For an absence to be considered excused for medical reasons, a note must be submitted from the examining physician upon the student's return to class stating the specific reason for the absence, with a diagnosis and treatment plan included. *NOTE: Absences prior to seeing the physician will not be excused.*
- Death in family: death of immediate family member, significant other or close relative. Documentation may be required.
- Special circumstances/other: circumstances outside of the above situations (vehicle accidents, etc.).
- Attendance at certain LECOM-related activities such as conferences.

In cases of unplanned absence or lateness, the student must notify the appropriate administrative assistant as soon as possible prior to the missed class/activity. In addition, if the student misses an exam, it is the student's responsibility to notify the appropriate administrative assistant via phone and email when it is first noted that an absence will be necessary. This notification must be prior to the start of the instructional period or quiz/exam for it to be eligible for consideration of an excused absence.

The Student Excused Absence Form can also be used for unplanned absences to be considered excused. This form must be filled out by the student and signed by the pathway director and appropriate dean. Students should do this in person and are responsible for obtaining any make-up materials within three (3) school days.

### **Promptness is another trait that a professional health care practitioner must display**

Additionally, tardiness in class both disturbs the professor and the entire student body and is thus markedly inconsiderate and rude. Repeated violations will be considered improper professional behavior and will be referred to the Asst/Assoc Dean of Preclinical Education and may result in disciplinary action and notation in the Dean's Letter of Evaluation.

## Missed Time

Students with a pattern of absences (excused or unexcused) will be referred to the Asst/Assoc Dean of Preclinical Education for counseling. Students missing >20% of a course's instructional period/quiz/exam days due to excused/unexcused absences may receive an incomplete for the course and will need to take part in the make-up course during the scheduled remediation periods to receive their final grade (whatever they originally earned).

## Consequences of Absence

1. Students will be notified of unexcused absences as they occur, and their total accumulated number will be shown in that notification.
2. Students with **3** unexcused absences will receive a letter of admonition and meet with the Assistant/Associate Dean of Preclinical Education. Admonition may include restrictions on participation in clubs, research, or extracurricular activities.
3. Students with **4** unexcused absences will be placed on Conduct Probation (outlined in the Student Handbook).
4. Students with **5+** unexcused absences will be referred to SPG/ASP for disciplinary action.
5. Unexcused absence totals will not reset between preclinical years (repeating a year would reset the student to the total at the beginning of their repeated year).

### 9.3.1. LECOM PHYSICAL HEALTH POLICY INCLUDING COVID-19

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) views the safety and well-being of its students, faculty, and staff as its No. 1 priority. Due to the nature of the educational environment at the institution students are in close proximity with peers, faculty, staff, and patients in the clinical setting. It is imperative to be aware of one's individual health status. If you are feeling ill, running a temperature, etc. stay home and follow your campus' call protocol. If an illness is severe, lasts longer than anticipated, or impairs our ability to effectively do selfcare, one should consult their primary care physician, or a local urgent care center. Therefore, it is imperative that students monitor their health status to ensure that they do not inadvertently transmit pathogens to others within their learning environments.

Students exhibiting symptoms, such as:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Sneezing
- Body aches or a mild headache

are encouraged to stay home and contact their preclinical or clinical dean, preceptor, director of medical education/clerkship director, or other LECOM point of contact to inform them of their current health status. If a student is out for greater than 48hrs (2 days), a return to school excuse from the attending physician is required. Students are further directed to review [Section 9.3 Attendance, Tardiness and Absences](#) for further discussion on the topic of absences, tardiness, and associated policies.

Students, staff, and faculty are to use standard infection control measures to help prevent the spread of illness and keep the LECOM Community safe and healthy.



Simple actions such as:

1. Washing your hands with soap and water frequently.
2. Avoid touching ones face.
3. Using hand sanitizer.
4. Sneezing into a tissue and disposing of properly-- or at a minimum, a sleeve.
5. Sanitizing your workspace/eating area before and after use.

Items to consider before returning to campus:

1. Are you feeling better? (have symptoms decreased or resolved?)
  - a. Cough has resolved, decreased to marginal and nonproductive.
  - b. Body aches/sweats have resolved.
  - c. Retained foods/fluids for a whole 24 hrs without the use of medications.
2. Afebrile for 24hrs without the use of antipyretics.
3. Feel capable of putting in a whole academic day.

LECOM continues to maintain best practices for the overall health and safety of all faculty, staff, and students on LECOM campuses and clinical training sites. The LECOM Health Operations Center (HOC) closely monitors and evaluates infectious disease situations including the COVID-19/influenza pandemics and environmental factors that can impact our community health like wildfire smoke etc. LECOM follows and implements guidelines related to these events to include transmission, length of threat/impact, and considers options based on federal, state, and local government guidelines, including, but not limited to, World Health Organization (“WHO”), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) guidelines and Departments of Health and Environmental Resources.

LECOM has protocols in place and has taken a series of precautions to mitigate the community spread of respiratory pathogens such as COVID-19 to best protect its campuses in Erie, Greensburg, Bradenton, and Elmira.

### **9.3.2. CANCELLATION OF CLASS**

In the event of inclement weather, tune in to local radio stations for the announcement of school closings. No clinical duties will be canceled because of the weather; only didactic and laboratory classes may be canceled. LECOM at Seton Hill is closed whenever the Seton Hill University campus is closed for inclement weather.

Students at all locations should use the Omnilert Campus System to check on possible closures. LECOM Erie and LECOM Bradenton utilize the LECOM Omnilert Campus system, local media, and school email to notify students of events of inclement weather and campus closure. LECOM at Seton Hill students utilize the Seton Hill University Omnilert Campus system or check local media for the status of classes. LECOM at Elmira uses the Omnilert system in conjunction with Elmira College’s system in case of a campus emergency or the closure of campus amenities.

The delivery of learning may change to an online curriculum due to a pandemic, weather related event or similar act beyond the scope of either the student or the institution.

## **9.4. DRESS CODE POLICY**

Students must maintain a neat-and-clean appearance befitting a student who is attending professional school. Professional attire must be maintained whenever the student is on LECOM grounds including in or adjacent to leased property at LECOM at Seton Hill, LECOM at Elmira on a clinical experience, or on rotation.

Students must be professionally dressed for all examinations, classes, laboratory classes or workshops. Student changing areas and lockers are provided to change into appropriate dress for OMM labs, H & P labs, and gross anatomy labs (except at LECOM at Seton Hill and LECOM at Elmira). Students do not have to maintain professional attire after 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or on weekends, except when notified by the college administration to be professionally attired.

All students must have at least one short, white consultation jacket. Student ID badges must be prominently displayed, and the badges must be worn at all times.

A clean and well-cared-for appearance should be maintained. Men must wear dress trousers, shoes, dress shirt and necktie. Men's hair must be above the collar. Beards and moustaches must be neat and must be kept trimmed at all times. Man-buns and other extreme styles or colors are not permitted. Excessive body piercings (more than one per ear), ear gauges, and all other visible body piercings are not acceptable. Sandals and open-toe footwear are prohibited. All other shoes must be worn with socks.

Women are required to wear appropriate dresses of reasonable length (no more than four inches above the knee) or slacks (to the ankle) with appropriate blouses. Leggings are not permitted unless worn with a dress. Clothing is inappropriate when it is sleeveless, strapless, backless or revealing. Hairstyles should be clean and neat, avoiding extreme length, styles or colors. Revealing or tight, form fitting clothing is unacceptable. Excessive body piercings (more than one per ear), ear gauges, and all other visible body piercings are not acceptable. Capri pants, yoga pants, shorts of any length, jeans, T-shirts, and sandals are not permitted. Students are required to wear shoes with stockings or socks.

Hats, caps or sunglasses may not be worn during classes or examinations. Any student wearing a hat, cap or sunglasses will be asked to remove it. **At all times, wearing unapproved masks or costumes is forbidden.**

Students inappropriately dressed or groomed may be requested to leave the campus and not return until appropriately attired. Any class missed during that time will be considered an unexcused absence. Questionable or disputed cases of dress or grooming shall be presented to the Student Affairs, whose decision will be final. Repeated violations will be considered improper professional behavior and may result in disciplinary action.

LECOM will follow guidelines set by the CDC and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during any health emergencies and/or global pandemics. The wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks, may be required at LECOM facilities and functions. LECOM may require PPE for students based on local health emergencies and health emergencies within the student population.

## **9.5. THE STUDENT PROMOTION AND GRADUATION (SPG) COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC STANDING AND PROFESSIONALISM (ASP) COMMITTEE**

The Student Promotion and Graduation Committees (SPG) and Academic Standing and Professionalism (ASP – School of Pharmacy) are responsible for reviewing the academic achievement and advancement of students within their designated College or School. The composition and functions of the committee are as follows:

### **Student Promotion and Graduation Committee**

#### **A. Composition of the Committees**

- The College of Medicine/Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences SPG Committee is comprised of academic deans, other administrators, and elected basic science and clinical faculty members.

- The School of Pharmacy the ASP Committee is comprised of the Director of Academic Standing and Promotion, Pathway Dean/Director, the Dean of the School of Pharmacy, Directors of Experiential Education, and elected full-time Pharmaceutical Science and Pharmacy Practice faculty members. The students enrolled in the Distance Education Pathway will be considered by the ASP committee of the Erie campus. Meetings may be conducted live, by video conference, or by phone conference. Recording of meetings is not permitted.
- The School of Dental Medicine SPG Committee is comprised of the Assistant Deans and appointed full-time dental pre-clinical and clinical faculty members, and legal counsel, as necessary.
- The School of Health Services Administration SPG Committee is comprised of the program directors, one of whom acts as chairperson, and one additional faculty member from each program.
- The School of Podiatric Medicine SPG Committee is comprised of the Associate/Assistant Dean and appointed full-time pre-clinical and clinical faculty members, and legal counsel as necessary.

B. Frequency of Meetings:

- The College of Medicine/Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences SPG Committee meets twice monthly at all locations to review the academic achievements and performance of all students. The names and grades of students in academic difficulty are made available to the SPG Committee by the course director, systems coordinator and/or pathway directors. Student conduct and discipline may also be reviewed. These meetings are in addition to meetings that may be held at each campus to discuss students who are “off schedule” for any reason.
- The School of Pharmacy meets each semester, the ASP Committee shall periodically review the academic achievements and performance of all students. The names and grades of students in academic difficulty shall be made available to the ASP Committee by Course Coordinators with additional input from the Associate Dean/Pathway Director.
- The School of Dental Medicine meets semester, the Committee shall periodically review the academic achievements and performance of all students. The names and grades of students in academic difficulty shall be made available to the Committee by Course Directors with additional input from the Assistant/Associates and Vice Deans.
- The School of Health Services Administration SPG Committee meets on a quarterly and as-needed basis to review the academic achievements and performance of all students. The names and grades of students in academic difficulty are made available to the SPG committee by the course directors.
- The School of Podiatric Medicine Committee shall periodically review the academic achievements and performance of all students. The names and grades of students in academic difficulty shall be made available to the Committee by Course Coordinators.

C. The SPG/ASP has the authority to call any student before it who has shown academic or behavioral problems. Students are submitted to the Committee for consideration from:

- Any of the academic Deans;

- Director of Student Affairs; or
- Faculty members.

D. Students may be referred to the Committee for:

- Honor code violations including any allegations of cheating or academic dishonesty;
- Non-honor code violations including issues of professionalism, failure to meet financial obligations to the College or behavioral issues either on campus or during clinical rotations; or
- Failure to progress academically or academic failure.

E. Student names are submitted to the Chairman of the SPG/ASP and placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting. If the matter is urgent, a special meeting of the Committee is called. Prior to the meeting, the Committee is provided with any written records, academic records, advisor input, attendance records, etc. prior to meeting with the student. These records will be treated with full confidentiality.

F. Students meet with the Committee and are informed of the reason for their appearance. They are given an opportunity to address the Committee and allowed to submit any supporting documentation. The Committee members are given an opportunity to question the student.

G. After students have left the meeting and the Committee has considered the written records in front of it, the members confer and then vote on recommendations to be submitted to the appropriate dean.

H. The Chairman of the Committee prepares and submits the Committee's recommendations to the Dean, who may accept, reject or modify the recommendations.

I. The student will be notified by the appropriate dean or Chair of SPG committee.

This procedure is distinct from that for appeal hearings set forth in Section 9.8 F Appeals to the Dean's decision may be taken to the President within seven days of notification of a decision by the Dean. Students in the Master of Medical Science, Post Baccalaureate Program, Pharmacy Enrichment Program or RN to Pharm.D. Bridge program may not take appeals to the President.

## 9.6. ADJUDICATION OF HONOR CODE VIOLATIONS

In matters involving the allegations of student Honor Code violations, the SPG/ASP Committee will be the Committee of review. The Committee will review each report as an independent case and, where applicable, will utilize the "Code of Student Conduct and Discipline" as its guideline in deliberations.

The Committee has the authority to formulate sanctions for any substantial findings of Honor Code violations. In all affairs the Committee shall proceed as expeditiously and thoroughly as possible. When a violation is reported, students, faculty, and staff with potential information concerning the alleged violation may be called before the Committee to give oral or written statements regarding their knowledge pertinent to the investigation. The student who has been accused of an Honor Code violation and a representative (non-attorney) from the institution who is involved in the matter have the right to appear before the Committee.

Upon concluding its investigation, the Committee shall make a finding as to whether a violation has occurred, or whether the investigation is inconclusive. If it is decided that a violation has occurred, a sanction shall be formulated. Examples of possible sanctions are described below in Section 9.7.1. At that time, the student against whom the sanction has been made will be so informed, in writing, as to the

findings and sanctions, as well as the established procedural process. If the student disagrees with the decision of the Committee, they will retain rights through the subsequent procedures as described herein and in Section [9.8.1 Enrollment Status During Appeal](#).

The student, or any involved faculty or staff member who does not agree with the finding and/or sanction of the Committee, may have the decision reviewed. The desire to appeal must be made in writing to the appropriate dean within three (3) working days of the Committee's decision.

Should the student and the other party agree to the findings and sanction(s) formulated by the Committee, then the sanction shall be final and implemented accordingly, and rights are thereby waived. The decision must be signed by the student and the administration. Appeals may be taken from the decision of the appropriate dean to the President within seven (7) working days of the notification of the dean's decision. The decision of the President shall be final. The President will only hear arguments and evidence presented below.

The standard of proof to be used for all alleged violations of the Student Code (Honor Code and Non-Honor Code) is preponderance of the evidence. **If it is found that it is more likely than not that the student violated the Code, a finding of an infraction will be made.**

All Committee members shall keep any matter brought before them in absolute confidence. Individuals with official access to this confidential information are limited to the Committee members and individuals with official reasons to have knowledge of the case. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the individual against whom an allegation is made shall have access to his or her records. Anyone found to have violated this confidentiality provision shall be subject to discipline through established disciplinary procedures.

To the extent possible, the identity of individuals who report violations or make statements to the Committee will be protected and kept confidential. This confidentiality applies to students, faculty and staff alike. These individuals must realize, however, that they may have to appear before another member of the LECOM Administration if the matter is not resolved at the Committee level.

### **9.6.1. FUNCTIONING OF THE STUDENT CODE**

Infractions of the student code for which students are subject to discipline are normally categorized depending on whether they are Honor Code offenses. Student Honor Code infractions consist of actions of dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, stealing, or lying to any College official. Examples of these types of infractions are listed in Examples of Honor Code Infractions. Non-Honor Code infractions represent actions of misconduct which do not result in or contribute to violations of the Honor Code infractions. Examples of these types of infractions are provided.

### **9.6.2. EXAMPLES OF HONOR CODE INFRACTIONS**

A. Cheating on academic work, for example:

- Copying, giving the appearance of copying, or attempting to copy, from another student's test or other academic work;
- Using, during a test, material not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Collaborating, without authority, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work offered for credit;
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting, in whole or in part, the contents of an un-administered test;

- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take a test;
  - Obtaining an un-administered test or information about an un-administered test;
  - Obtaining an administered secure examination, which has been designated for viewing only;
  - Failure to abide by the rules of administration of all external examinations including but not limited to, subject examinations or NBOME examinations;
  - Misrepresentations in connection with the taking of standardized examinations or on other material matters; or
  - Using another person's password or identity in any LECOM related matters
  - Obtaining a non-administered test or information or security code for a test for purposes of accessing the exam from an unapproved location.
- B. Plagiarism or the appropriation of an author's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit or for publication;
- C. Forgery, alteration, destruction, or misuse of LECOM documents, medical records, prescriptions, or physician's excuses;
- D. Dishonesty concerning academic and non-academic issues, such as dishonesty regarding insurance coverage or otherwise knowingly furnishing false information to a LECOM official;
- E. Attempted or actual theft of property of LECOM or of a member of the LECOM community or of a campus visitor;
- F. Tampering with the election of any LECOM recognized student organization;
- G. Theft, unauthorized access or other abuse of computer/IT systems;
- H. Unauthorized possession, duplication or use of keys to any LECOM premises, or unauthorized entry, or use of LECOM premises;
- I. Any violation of HIPAA, including placing HIPAA protected information on personal electronic devices or transmitting such information to home e-mail addresses;
- J. Failing to report any alcohol or drug related arrest or citation; or any other arrests/ citations for violation of federal, state or local laws (not including minor traffic offences) within five business days of the occurrence;
- K. Being enrolled in a school other than LECOM;
- L. Failure to abide by the conditions of a signed contract with PHP, CPH or PRN, or any other sanctions/requirements imposed by the SPG/ASP; or
- M. Conspiring, planning, or attempting to achieve any of the above acts.

### **9.6.3. EXAMPLES OF NON-HONOR CODE INFRACTIONS**

- A. Nonprofessional behavior during class, laboratory, clinical rotation, online learning environment, etc., including, but not limited to the following:
- Non sex-based harassment and hazing;
  - Inappropriate dress or appearance;
  - Not appearing for patient appointments;

- Being intoxicated;
  - Illegal use, possession or sale of any quantity, whether usable or not, of any narcotic drug or controlled substance or being under the influence of any said narcotic, drug or controlled substance;
  - Violation of any course director's class rules;
  - Wearing head phone or earphones in class; or
  - Use of profane or threatening language.
- B. Violation of LECOM policies or regulations, which have been published and are readily available to the students.
- C. Fighting, horseplay, pranks or other forms of disorderly conduct on LECOM-owned or controlled property and at LECOM-sponsored or supervised functions.
- D. Obstruction, interruption or disruption of teaching whether in the classroom, laboratories, or in clinics on- and off-campus or in designated outside teaching institutions and research facilities, as well as obstruction or disruption of administration, disciplinary procedures, or other LECOM activities, including public service functions or other authorized activities on or off LECOM premises.
- E. Use, possession, or carrying in any manner or conveyance of firearms, hand billies, dirk knives, or other dangerous cutting instruments, explosives or any other weapons on LECOM-owned or controlled property, at LECOM-sponsored or supervised activities, at Seton Hill University, or at Elmira College.
- F. Illegal use, possession, sale, manufacture, distribution or effective control of chemical precursors, controlled substances, controlled substance analogues, dangerous or illegal drugs; misuse, possession or effective control with intent to misuse a legal drug or other substance which when not used in accordance with legal intent could cause harm to the user; possession of drug or being a party to any of the above, whether on or off campus; or any violation of federal, state or local laws relating to drugs or alcohol. The student found in violation of this section shall receive a minimum sanction of suspension for one semester; in addition to the remainder of the semester in which the violation was discovered. Additional or more severe sanctions may be assigned based upon the specific facts of the case.
- G. Use, possession or distribution of alcoholic beverages except as expressly permitted by law and LECOM regulations, or public intoxication.
- H. Conduct which is disorderly, obscene, or indecent; breach of peace; or aiding, abetting or procuring another to breach the peace on LECOM premises or at functions sponsored by, or participated in by LECOM.
- I. An act constituting a violation of federal, state, civil, or criminal laws or city ordinances.
- J. Misconduct relating to official obligations between the student and LECOM or its officials, including but not limited to the following:
- Issuance of a check without sufficient funds;
  - Failure to fulfill financial obligations to LECOM;
  - Failure to fulfill other legally binding obligation(s) to LECOM; or
  - Failure to comply with the sanction(s) imposed under the Student Code of Conduct or sanctions otherwise imposed by LECOM.

- K. Conduct which adversely affects the LECOM Community.
- L. Conduct unbecoming of a professional student.
- M. Conspiring, planning, or attempting to achieve any of the above acts.

## 9.7. PENALTIES

### Interim Disciplinary Action

The Office of Student Affairs, a member of LECOM administration, or the Office of the Dean/Associate/Assistant Dean may take immediate interim disciplinary action. Such action may include deactivation of a student's ID badge with restricted access to LECOM facilities. It may also include suspension, pending a hearing against a student for violation of a rule or regulation of LECOM, when in LECOM's judgment the continuing presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process. In such cases, the Office of Student Affairs, the appropriate dean or the chair of SPG/ASP, will, if possible, meet with the student prior to suspension, discuss the reasons for the interim suspension and allow the student to explain their reasons for not being dismissed or suspended pending a full hearing if such a hearing is requested by the student. In all cases referred to the Office of Student Affairs, whether interim action is taken, the student will meet, when possible, with the Office of Student Affairs and discuss the case.

### 9.7.1. BEHAVIORAL PENALTIES

After a student is charged with an infraction, the matter will be taken up by the SPG/ASP Committee. The SPG/ASP Committee may impose one or more of the following behavioral penalties upon individuals, groups or organizations. Penalties for violation of institutional policies or rules and regulations may be administered regardless of whether the actions of the student are also civil or criminal violations. Whenever disciplinary actions lead to the student leaving LECOM, grades will be assigned in accordance with the LECOM grading policy.

- A. **Admonition:** This consists of a verbal or written warning. Admonitions will not become a part of the student's longitudinal record and may not be reviewed or appealed by the student. Admonitions and all of the following penalties may contain a directive that the student be evaluated or submit to treatment for any perceived psychological issues.
- B. Ineligibility for election and/or removal from student office or organizational office for specified period-of-time.
- C. Withholding of official transcript, barring re-admission to LECOM, and/or preventing a student from enrolling for a specified period-of-time.
- D. Restitution, whether monetary or by specific duties, or reimbursement for damages to or misappropriation of LECOM, student, staff, or faculty property.
- E. **Academic Sanctions:** Writing a paper; reduction of grade on an examination, assignment, or course; being assigned additional clinic or laboratory activities or coursework; repeating of an exam, coursework, or even an entire course, academic year or semester; or other appropriate penalties.
- F. **Conduct Probation:** A penalty levied for a specific time, the duration of which will be determined by the seriousness of the circumstances. It carries with it a warning that any further violation of LECOM regulations will result in more serious disciplinary action. Conduct probation will be removed from the student's longitudinal record in the Office of Student Affairs.
- G. **Disciplinary Probation:** A penalty for a definite period determined by the circumstances of the case. This is the most severe penalty under which a student may remain at LECOM.



Disciplinary probation may result in a warning that further violations may be cause for disciplinary suspension or expulsion. A record of the disciplinary probation remains a part of the student's longitudinal record in the Office of Student Affairs.

- H. **Suspension:** This penalty may be imposed for continued and/or flagrant violation of the disciplinary probation terms, or it may be imposed directly in first offense cases that warrant such action. In the case of suspension, the student will be barred from all campus and non-campus activities.
- I. **Withdrawal:** Withdrawal is administrative removal of a student from a class or from LECOM and may be imposed in instances of unmet financial obligation to LECOM; for reasons of health; or pending the outcome of competent medical evaluation. The withdrawn student may also be barred from re-enrollment until such time as specific conditions have been met.
- J. **Expulsion:** Expulsion is permanent severance from LECOM.
- K. **Revocation of Degree:** The revocation of degree may occur for discovered misconduct of prior students. Allegations of misconduct, which may result in a revocation of a granted degree, will be considered by the Provost.

Violations of the LECOM Honor Code and other rules and regulations, or instances of aberrant behavior may subject a student to review by the Behavioral Intervention Team. BIT has the authority to refer a student for assessment or evaluation, for anger management or other type of treatment, disciplinary procedures or, in extreme cases, to law enforcement.

Students who are arrested or cited for alcohol or drug related offenses, such as DUI, will be suspended pending a psychological/psychiatric evaluation and drug/alcohol testing and must be cleared by a treating healthcare professional to return to class. Failure to report such arrests/citations to school officials will result in disciplinary action by SPG/ASP.

## 9.8. STUDENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

### A. Authority for Initiation of Disciplinary Action

Under the direction of the President, the Dean the College/School, the Associate/Assistant Deans, the Directors of Student Affairs, Pathway Directors, Course/System/ Directors, and/or other staff members, or certain committees to whom this responsibility has been delegated, have the authority to administer disciplinary procedures.

Disciplinary action may originate from Student Affairs, the appropriate dean, or a faculty member as an initial matter. Exceptions would be those cases which by their nature, or because of state statute, require initial action by another individual, department or committee, such as:

- **Code violations:** Honor Code and Non-Honor Code violations shall first be considered by the SPG/ASP Committee in accordance with the procedures stated in the Academic Catalog and Student Handbook. Should either party appeal the decision of the SPG/ASP Committee, the appeal should follow the established procedures stated herein.
- **Financial Matters:** In matters involving a violation of a financial obligation to LECOM, including issuance of a check without sufficient funds, the department in which the funds are owed may assign penalties such as late fees, service charges, fines, loss of money-related privileges, blocked from re-enrollment, etc. If the student believes the penalties to have been applied prejudicially or in an arbitrary or capricious manner, or where the penalties are the result of an alleged error on the part of LECOM, the student may have the matter reviewed by the appropriate department, then the procedures set out in this code are to be followed.

Upon failure of the student to meet financial obligations within time limits set by the state statutes, the appropriate department may recommend the student's withdrawal from LECOM. Financial withdrawal is not a disciplinary measure but may require nullification of the institution/student relationship in the event of unpaid financial obligations. The student's withdrawal will be processed by the appropriate dean after LECOM has complied with the state statutory requirements for notification. After the debt has been paid and all administrative procedures have been met, the student may request, within a set time, reinstatement or re-enrollment.

## **B. Disciplinary Procedures for an Initial Hearing**

The following disciplinary procedures will be used for initial hearings with the Office of Student Affairs, the appropriate dean or faculty member (the hearing officer):

- When a report alleging misconduct is received, the student may be summoned by the hearing officer. Failure to report after two notices may result in immediate referral to SPG/ASP.
- After preliminary investigation of alleged misconduct by the hearing officer, the student will be read the charges, and the procedures will be explained. The student will be given copies of the Code of Student Conduct, and disciplinary procedures and the charges. The student may also be informed of the names of any witnesses and a summary of their testimony. The student will be given an opportunity to present their case.
- The hearing officer shall then determine if disciplinary action is necessary and, if so, shall recommend appropriate misconduct penalties including admonition, or a period of conduct probation, to the appropriate Dean or to SPG/ASP. The hearing officer may also choose to refer the matter to the SPG/ASP Committee. The student may not appeal the sanction admonition. With any greater sanction, the student can either accept the recommended penalties, or request that the matter be reviewed by the SPG/ASP Committee. If the student accepts the recommended penalty, it becomes final. The student must sign a statement indicating understanding of the penalty and shall automatically waive all further rights to procedure for disciplinary review. If the student chooses to have the matter heard by the SPG/ASP, the hearing officer shall forward all materials to the SPG/ASP chairperson.

## **C. Procedure for Review by the SPG Committee**

When any initial hearing is referred to SPG/ASP, either at the request of the student or the hearing officer, the SPG/ASP chairperson has the authority to vary time limits for any request for review by the Committee when it is in the best interest of the student or LECOM to do so.

If the student seeks review, the student must, within three (3) working days from the date on which they were notified that disciplinary action was recommended against them, complete and submit to the chairperson of the SPG/ASP Committee a written request for a review specifically setting forth the following:

- Student name, address, and telephone number;
- Description, date(s) and place(s) of alleged act(s);
- Date discipline was recommended;
- The recommended disciplinary penalty;
- Date of the initial hearing;
- Circumstances which merit review; and
- Signature and date.

#### **D. Authority of the SPG/ASP Committees**

1. The Committee will have authority to summon witnesses. Refusal to obey the summons may subject the student to disciplinary action.
2. The Committee will have the authority to review disciplinary matters, which have been properly brought before the Committee. Upon completion of its hearing, the Committee will have the authority to issue, modify, reject or uphold the disciplinary penalties, if appropriate.
3. All members of the Committee will be cautioned to respect the confidentiality of the Committee's entire function and instructed not to discuss the case with anyone other than authorized persons.
4. An Institutional Representative may be named by the Provost to present the case for LECOM.

#### **E. Duties of the Chair of the Committee shall include:**

1. As soon as practical after the receipt of a request for hearing, request the complainant or the member of administration directly involved in the matter to submit a written statement of his or her position;
2. Thereafter, the Committee Chair shall notify all committee members of the referral and distribute the statement of the Institutional Representative's position (if any) and any other relevant documents;
3. Thereafter, arrange a meeting of the Committee, Institutional Representative and student. The meeting shall be arranged as soon as practical. The student will normally have three (3) working days' notice prior to the meeting. Such notices shall include a brief explanation of the procedure. The above procedures shall be implemented on a timely basis but may be modified by the Chair if it is in the best interest of the student or LECOM to do so;
4. Summon witnesses if the Chair determines it is necessary or if requested by the student and/or the Institutional Representative and indicate when such witnesses are to be available;
5. Preside over the hearing before the Committee and assure compliance with appropriate procedures to assure due process. Hearing procedures may be modified by the Chair or the Dean if in their judgment such deviation is necessary to effect justice; and
6. Send a written statement to the student and the appropriate dean within a reasonable time - normally five (5) working days after the completion of the hearing - stating any decision or recommendation of the Committee and disciplinary penalties, if any.

#### **F. Procedure for Further Appeals**

**Appeals to a Dean** -- Within three (3) working days after the decision has been received, either or both parties may give notice of appeal to the appropriate dean. The decision will be reviewed upon the basis of the written transcript/minutes of the hearing and/or documents filed and produced at the hearing and/or any witnesses the dean wishes to call. The dean may request both parties to submit oral or written arguments to support their positions. In order for the appeal to be considered, all the necessary documentation to be filed by the appealing party, including written arguments when appropriate must be filed with the dean within seven (7) working days after notice of appeal is given. The dean may approve, reject, or modify the decision in question or may require that the original hearing be re-opened for the presentation of additional evidence and reconsideration of the decision.

**Appeals to the President** -- Either or both parties may then give written notice of appeal to the President within seven (7) working days after the decision has been rendered by the dean and received by the party seeking appeal. The President shall make a determination solely on the

record as it exists and/or, at the President's sole discretion, individuals may be summoned to give oral or written statements. The President may approve, reject or modify the decision of the dean or may send the case back to the Committee for further consideration. All decisions by the President concerning the matters of student disciplinary appeal are final.

### **9.8.1. ENROLLMENT STATUS DURING APPEAL**

Any student dismissed from LECOM, who has filed an official appeal of this decision with the Office of the President will be permitted to remain in classes and/or clinical clerkship rotations during the period of appeal until or unless one or more of the following circumstances is determined by the Dean of the College/School to exist:

- The appeal has not been made according to officially recognized procedures for appealing a dismissal decision;
- The presence of the student in classes or clinical rotation constitutes a disruptive influence to the educational process or to patient care activities; or
- The presence of the student is potentially harmful to faculty, staff, other students or patients or would affect adversely the delivery of patient care.

Academic work including examinations or other evaluations will not be scored or graded during any period of enrollment while under appeal of a dismissal action. The Office of the Registrar will hold all grade reports and transcripts during the appeal process pending resolution of the appeal.

### **9.9. PROCEDURE FOR STUDENT GRIEVANCE/APPEAL**

A student seeking to resolve any problem or complaint, other than a sanction for academic or non-academic misconduct, as provided for by the Honor Code and/or Student Code of Conduct and Discipline, should first seek solution through the following administrative channels, entering at the appropriate level and proceeding in the order stated: Director of Student Affairs, Course Instructor or Preceptor or Course Coordinator or Systems Coordinator or DME, Associate/Assistant Deans, and the SPG Committee. The student seeking to resolve a problem or complaint must initiate such action in writing within seven (7) working days from the occurrence of the matter in question. Review of a student problem or complaint at each of the applicable administrative steps will be carried out as expediently as possible. In general, an appeal at a given administrative step should take no more than seven (7) working days.

If a party to the dispute is not satisfied with the decision given, an appeal to the next administrative step may be made. Continuation of the appeal must be made, in writing, within three (3) working days of the decision given. In like manner, the appeal may continue to the Dean of Academic Affairs. The decision made by the Dean of Academic Affairs is final. They shall notify the student of their decision in writing. It is expected that documentation will be kept at each step of the appeals process to ensure that appropriate procedures have been followed.

### **9.10. PROTOCOL FOR INPUT ON MATTERS OF STUDENT CONCERN**

LECOM defines a complaint as a written, signed, and dated letter which is related to tuition and fee policies, accreditation standards, incidents of discrimination, and Institutional policies / procedures of or applicable to a LECOM college or school or to the LECOM organization.

A written, signed, and dated complaint must contain the following information so that a full, fair and unbiased investigation may be completed in a timely manner:

- Complaining party's name, address and telephone number;

- Name of the LECOM college, school, program, department, or individual about which you are complaining;
- Short description of what your complaint concerns;
- When the event/incident occurred;
- How and why you believe LECOM acted improperly or incorrectly; and
- Any other information you feel is helpful in addressing your complaint.

In addition, attach any document(s) relating to the complaint. If the submission is electronic kindly send as attached files.

**Please be advised that anonymous complaints are not reviewed or retained on file.**

A record of complaints regarding a specific college or school, including students' complaints received or made available, is kept for consideration on file at the General Counsel's office for 7 years. Records of complaints are considered during scheduled evaluations, or a special evaluation, as the case may require from time to time. Said procedures will grant all parties the ability to receive a fair and equitable result in a timely and efficient manner.

**Procedure when a complaint is received:**

- A. To receive formal consideration, all complaints must be signed, dated and submitted in writing. The complaint should describe the reasonable efforts that were made to resolve the complaint informally or alternatively should describe why such efforts would be unavailing.
- B. Following receipt, complaints are transmitted within five (5) working days to the Provost, for consideration.
- C. Following consultation by the Provost with relevant individuals, as needed, the Provost will determine whether the complaint relates to tuition and fee policies, accreditation standards, discrimination, or Institutional policies. Upon receipt of a complaint regarding accreditation standards a letter with the accreditors address will be sent to the complainant, reminding them of their ability to write directly to the accrediting agency.
  - If the complaint does not relate to tuition and fee policies, accreditation standards, discrimination or to established Institutional policies, the person initiating the complaint shall be notified accordingly within twenty (20) working days following receipt of the complaint by LECOM and the matter shall be closed.
  - If the complaint does relate to the tuition and fee policies, accreditation standards, discrimination, or to established Institutional policies, the Provost shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint within twenty (20) working days and share with the complaining party a description of the process and policies which pertain to handling such complaints, as detailed below.
  - The Provost shall notify the Dean of the complaint's program, or other responsible administrator, as applicable, of the substance of the complaint and shall request a preliminary investigation and report on the findings within thirty (30) days of the Provost's request.

- The Provost may request further information or material relative to the complaint from the complaining party, the Institution, or other relevant sources.
  - Requests for confidentiality shall be respected to the extent that identifying information is not necessary for the resolution of the complaint.
- D. On receipt of the responses referenced above, the Provost shall consider the complaint and all relevant information obtained in the course of investigation and shall formulate an appropriate action according to the following guidelines:
- If the complaint is determined to be unsubstantiated or unrelated to the tuition and fee policies, established accreditation standards, discrimination, or Institutional policies, the complaining party and the officials of the program in question will be so notified within ten (10) days of the completion of the investigation.
  - If the investigation reveals the program may not be or may not have been in substantial compliance with the tuition and fee policies, accreditation standards, discrimination, or established Institutional policies, one of two approaches shall be taken:
  - The program may submit a report and documentation within thirty (30) days following the investigation demonstrating the manner the substantiated complaint has been corrected. Should the Provost be satisfied with the response, the program and the party filing the complaint should be notified of the Provost's satisfaction with the resolution of the matter.
  - Should the Provost deem the program's response to the complaint inadequate and lacking in evidence of the program's continuing substantial compliance with the Standards, adherence to accreditation policies, nondiscrimination policies, and/or Institutional policies, the Provost may request additional documentation that appropriately satisfies the compliance of the program with the Standards or adherence to accreditation policies, nondiscrimination policies and/or Institutional policies. The program and the party filing the complaint should be notified when the program has satisfactorily resolved the matter.

## **9.11.LEGAL LIMITATIONS ON PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, PHARMACY, DENTISTRY, AND/OR PODIATRIC MEDICINE**

It is a violation of law and contrary to the policy of LECOM for an unlicensed person to attempt to engage in the professional practice of health care. Students are cautioned to engage in the clinical activities with patients only (1) during assigned clinical educational activities at LECOM-affiliated sites or approved elective rotation sites, and (2) during LECOM – approved health fairs, and the like, with appropriate supervision.

Students who engage in unofficial voluntary clinical experiences outside of the curriculum (i.e., like those offered by some hospitals to students between the first and second years school or missions trips) are cautioned that LECOM's liability insurance does not cover those activities.

## **9.12.LECOM FACILITIES POLICIES**

### **9.12.1. PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOTAPING, AND AUDIO RECORDING**

Photography, videography, and audio recording is strictly prohibited on all LECOM properties without

permission of the institution and consent of all involved subjects (i.e., the individuals being recorded or photographed). All individuals in a photograph, videotape, or recording must sign the LECOM Consent to Photograph, Videography, and Audio Recording Form (Appendix C) and provide the form to the photographer or videographer prior to taping or recording. The Office of Communications and Marketing handles requests and approvals related to permission for photography and videography, as well as maintains the records of signed consent.

In order to maintain the quality and consistency of the image of LECOM, the following guidelines must be followed for all photography, videography, and audiotaped activities:

- Photographs and videos taken by LECOM staff or by professionals hired by LECOM must be done in accordance with the professional standards of LECOM, including the LECOM dress code (Section 9.4).
- Photographs, videos, and audio recordings should project a positive portrayal of students, faculty, administrators, and others.
- Before appearing in photographs or videos, subjects should be asked to remove visible name badges, lanyards or identifying information. As necessary, subjects should also be requested to adjust clothing and undergarments to avoid visual distraction.
- Photographs and videos from social events may not show administrators, faculty, staff, students, or others eating, smoking, or holding or consuming alcoholic beverages.
- For photographs, if individuals are engaged in activities involving movement, all activity should be paused for the photo opportunity and individuals should be positioned so that faces are visible in the photograph.
- For photographs, all subjects should be positioned in front of a neutral or attractive background and distracting background objects, such as plants, signs, lamps, etc., should be removed or adjusted.
- Photographs should be taken approximately six to 10 feet away from the subject with the zoom set between 50-105 mm.

LECOM Communications and Marketing offers consultative guidance for photography shoots, video projects, and archived images. Communications and Marketing also serves as a resource for recommendations of photographers and videographers for media-related projects and special events.

Non-LECOM photographers and videographers may retain ownership and copyright of their images and may grant usage rights to LECOM.

### **9.12.2. RECORDING OF LECTURES**

Any recording of lectures or verbatim or near-verbatim transcribing of lectures is strictly at the discretion of the respective faculty, including both regular and visiting faculty. Prior approval of the faculty must be granted, and the privilege may be withdrawn at any time. In no way, are faculty expected by or pressured from the LECOM administration to be recorded or transcribed.

Recorded lectures provided by LECOM are for the sole use of students and may not be shared with others, posted to online sources/sites, or distributed/reproduced in any manner. Whether recorded by LECOM or by a student (upon approval by faculty), the recording of a lecture or content contained therein be used for any purpose other than for a student's education at LECOM.

### **9.12.3. FOOD AND BEVERAGE DIRECTIVES**

**Food and beverages, including chewing gum, are not permitted in lecture halls, laboratories, classrooms, break-out rooms, study rooms, or the Learning Resources Centers at any time.**

Any student found with food or drinks in a prohibited area will be identified, asked to remove the offending item and referred to SPG/ASP committee for a professionalism violation.

The student lounge areas and outdoor areas may be used for eating and drinking. Appropriate trash receptacles are located throughout all campuses.

### **9.12.4. RECYCLING**

LECOM supports environmental awareness by encouraging recycling and waste management in its business practices and operating procedures. This support includes a commitment to the purchase, use, and disposal of products and materials in a manner that will best utilize natural resources and minimize any negative impact on the earth's environment.

The simple act of placing a piece of paper, can, or bottle in a recycling container is the first step in reducing demand on the earth's limited resources. Success of this program depends on all of us actively participating. All are encouraged to make a commitment to recycle and be a part of this solution.

LECOM encourages reducing and, when possible, eliminating the use of disposable products. Source reduction decreases the consumption of valuable resources. By recycling, LECOM is helping to solve trash disposal and control problems as well as following local regulations. If you have any questions or new ideas and suggestions for the recycling program, contact the Safety Committee.

### **9.12.5. LOCKER ASSIGNMENT POLICY**

Lockers are assigned to all first year and second-year medical, pharmacy, and dental students. Locker assignments will be made at the beginning of each academic year. All lockers must be cleaned out by the last day of classes for each academic year. Student lockers are not available for use during the summer months. If a student withdraws, transfers, or is dismissed from LECOM, they must clean out their locker and notify Police and Security by the last day of attendance.

At no time does LECOM relinquish control of lockers or any other part of the school building or property. School officials reserve the right to and will randomly search all school property at any time without specific cause. These searches may be done without student/employee consent. These searches may encompass any and all items stored in lockers or in any other area of school property. In addition, school officials have the right to search student and employee automobiles on school property.

Searches may include, but are not limited to, utilization of a certified police drug detection dog, metal detection devices, or any other device deemed useful in protecting the health and welfare of the school population /employee's and visitors. Any contraband found will be seized.

## **9.13. STUDENT DEATH**

**When the student's death occurs on campus:**

1. The individual first responding to the scene should contact Security immediately. Security officers will respond appropriately and take the lead role at the scene.
2. Security will notify the Director of Security who will notify the Provost, President, and Director of Student Affairs.
3. The Director of Student Affairs, in consultation with the Provost, will notify the appropriate deans, Director of Behavioral Health, and Director of Communications.



4. As directed by the Provost, the Director of Student Affairs will notify next of kin.
5. The Director of Behavioral Health will convene a meeting of the B.I.T. Committee to review the incident and appropriate steps to be taken.
6. The Director of Communications will prepare an announcement after family permission, to the campus community and any news media inquiries.
7. The Director of Student Affairs will request a copy of the death certificate and provide that to the Registrar, and will notify Financial Aid, IT and the Bursar to deactivate all accounts.
8. The Director of Behavioral Health will make available appropriate grief counseling services to students, staff, faculty and friends.

**When the student's death occurs off campus:**

1. Any person who becomes aware of the death of a matriculating student should contact the Security Office Immediately.
2. The Security Office will communicate with appropriate law enforcement and medical personnel to verify the student's death and gather essential information.
3. Steps 2 through 8 above are implemented.

**Financial Aid procedure**

1. If a deceased student was the recipient of federal loans, the loans are discharged upon the student's death.
2. It is necessary for the family to provide a death certificate to the student loan servicer.
3. In the case of private loans, the family is advised to contact the lender.

**Posthumous Degrees**

A posthumous degree may be awarded at the request of or with approval of the family of the deceased if the student, at time of death, was:

1. In good academic standing
2. Enrolled in final semester of study
3. Verified to have passed all necessary Board exams
4. Current on all financial obligations

## 10. APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A - EMERGENCY NUMBERS

#### *In Emergencies Dial 9-1-1*

##### ***LECOM and Campus Police Non-Emergencies***

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###### **LECOM Police and Security at the Erie Campus**

(814) 866-8415

###### **LECOM at Seton Hill/Seton Hill Campus Police**

Office: (724) 830-4999

###### **LECOM at Elmira Security**

Office: (607) 442-3510; Cell: 607-857-7550

###### **LECOM Security Bradenton Campus, College of Medicine and School of Pharmacy**

(941) 782-5908

###### **LECOM Security Bradenton Campus, School of Dental Medicine**

(941) 405-1520

###### **Elmira College Campus Safety**

Office: (607) 735-1777

##### ***Community Police Non-Emergencies***

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###### **Erie, PA**

Erie, Pennsylvania Police (Non-Emergency)  
(814) 870-1125

Millcreek, Pennsylvania Police (Non-Emergency)  
(814) 833-7777

Pennsylvania State Police  
(814) 898-1641

###### **Greensburg, PA**

Greensburg Police Department  
(724) 834-3800

###### **Elmira, NY**

Elmira College Campus Safety  
Dial x1777 from Elmira College phones  
Dial (607) 735-1777 from non-Elmira College phones

Elmira Police Department  
(607) 735-8600

Chemung County Sheriff  
(607) 737-2987, ext. 104

###### **Bradenton, FL**

Manatee County Sheriff's Office (Non-Emergency)  
(941) 747-3011

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office  
(941) 316-1201 (non-emergency number)

Florida Highway Patrol  
(941) 741-4800

###### **DeFuniak Springs, Florida**

Walton County Sheriff  
(850) 892-8111

DeFuniak Springs Police Department  
(850) 892-8513

###### **State Police**

Pennsylvania State Police  
(724) 832-3288

New York State Police (Horseheads Barracks)  
607-739-8797

## ***Crime Victim and Other Counseling Services***

---

### **Erie, PA Resources**

Crime Victim Center of Erie County  
24 hour hotline: (814) 455-9414

Safe Harbor Mental Health  
24 hour Crisis Center: (814) 456-2014  
Outpatient Clinic: (814) 459-9300

Safe Net Erie (domestic violence)  
24 hour crisis hotline: (814) 454-8161

Millcreek Community Hospital  
(814) 868-4031 (Ask for Behavioral Health)

Stairways Behavioral Health  
(888) 453-5806

Physicians Health Program (PHP  
Pennsylvania)  
(866) 747-2255 or (717) 558-7819

### **Greensburg, PA Resources**

Rape Crisis Center  
(Pittsburgh Action against Rape)  
24-hour helpline: (866) 363-7273  
(412) 431-5665

Westmoreland Mental Health Crisis  
Intervention Hotline  
24-hour hotline: (800) 836-6010

Center for Victims of Violence and Crime  
24-hour hotline: (866) 644-2882

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
(800) 273-8255

### **Bradenton, FL Resources**

Bradenton - Hope Family Services, Inc.  
(941) 747-7790

Rape Crisis Hotline - Bradenton  
(941) 708-6059

Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center - Sarasota  
24-hour hotline: (941) 365-1976

Centerstone Crisis Center  
(941) 782-4600

Bayside Center for Behavioral Health  
Sarasota Memorial Hospital  
24-hour clinical assessment: (941) 917-7760

Coastal Behavioral Health, Sarasota  
24-hour Crisis Stabilization Unit: (941) 364-9355  
Assessments: (941) 552-1950

### **Elmira, NY Resources**

Family Services of Chemung County  
(607) 737-5369

Crisis Line (24/7 availability)  
607-442-6900

New York State Domestic Violence Hotline  
(800) 942-6906

Sexual Assault Resource Center  
(888) 810-0093

Veterans Crisis Line  
(800) 273-8255 and press

## APPENDIX B - SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY

### Introduction

Social networking is becoming increasingly popular in businesses and with the general public and is a useful tool for the communications and marketing department. While social networking can be useful, if improperly used, it can result in a variety of adverse consequences, such as disclosure of sensitive or confidential information, copyright violations, and potential damage to the school's reputation.

### Definition of Social Networking

As used in this policy, "social networking" means communicating with others over the Internet for social purposes. Typically, this interaction occurs on sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, or blogs, but can also occur on "media sites" that are offered by television networks, newspapers, and magazines.

### Application of Policy

This policy applies to all types of social networking activity (a) using the College's computers, mobile devices, or other technology, and (b) using personal devices when linked to the LECOM's systems. Nevertheless, when engaged in social networking on personal devices that are not linked to the College's systems, students, faculty, and staff should use this policy as a guide. Use of LECOM's IT systems for social networking must comply with LECOM's IT policy. Use of the handheld devices may be prohibited in some circumstances. In all cases, LECOM-issued technology must be used in accordance with all applicable rules.

### Use of LECOM's Time

Faculty and staff employees who have been approved to manage blogs or participate in social networking sites on LECOM's IT systems for work-related reasons should confirm approval of the site(s) by the Provost. Those faculty and staff members may access the approved site(s) as necessary for the performance of their duties. Personal use of the College's IT systems to access social networking sites is permitted, but should be limited, not interfere with or impact normal business operations, comply with all College policies, not compromise the security or reputation of LECOM, not burden the College with unreasonable incremental costs, and comply with all other provisions of this policy.

### Social Networking Site Terms of Use

Anyone participating in a social network for any reason is responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with the site's terms of use. Any concerns about the terms of use for a site should be reported to the IT Director.

### Contact Information

Many networking sites permit users to search for or import contact information from the user's contact list. Due to confidentiality and privacy concerns, users are prohibited from importing or uploading any of LECOM's contacts to any networking sites where the information may be used beyond name recognition software purposes.

### Content of Posting

Some social networking sites may provide an appropriate forum to keep current on matters of interest, to make professional connections, and to locate links to other pertinent sources. Users must be careful, however, that their online postings do not adversely impact or create problems for LECOM or its audience. *Users are personally responsible for all content they post on social networking sites.*

*Remember* that it is difficult to delete content once posted to a site, so be cautious when writing any posting. If a user has a question about the propriety of any posting, they should consult the Provost.

**Users must follow these guidelines for all postings:**

1. Post only content that you would be comfortable with your colleagues, LECOM's audience, and the general public reading, hearing, or seeing.
2. Do not post anything that would potentially embarrass you or LECOM, or call into question your or LECOM's reputation, including photographs or other images.
3. Do not discuss LECOM's business, unless the Provost authorizes you to do so.
4. Do not leak confidential information.
5. Be careful to identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with appropriate citations, links, or permissions.
6. Obtain approval from LECOM's legal counsel before responding to an inaccurate, accusatory, or negative comment about LECOM's employees, students, its broadcasts, its guests, or an inquiry about any other legal matter.
7. Unless previously authorized by the Provost, do not use LECOM's logo or suggest you are writing on behalf of LECOM.
8. Don't use LECOM's network or email lists to influence polls, rankings, or web traffic.
9. Show good judgment when "friending" someone within a social network.
10. Monitor your site regularly and promptly remove any inappropriate content.
11. Obey the law. Refrain from posting any information or conducting any online activity that may violate applicable local, state, or federal laws and regulations.

**Violations of This Policy**

Due to the importance of this policy, LECOM cannot tolerate violations. All students and LECOM personnel, including managers and staff, are subject to sanctions for violations of this policy.

Consequences may include such measures as immediate termination of employment, or any other action deemed appropriate by LECOM under the circumstances.

**APPENDIX C - CONSENT TO PHOTOGRAPH**



**Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine**  
**Consent to Photograph**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I permit the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, aka LECOM, to use photographs and/or video taken of me. I understand that these photographs and/or video will be used for the promotion of LECOM. I release LECOM from all liability for the taking and use of the photographs and/or video.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parent must sign for consent for minor under age 18.

## APPENDIX D - STUDENT SIGNATURE PAGE FOR TRAVEL REQUESTS

### Student Signature Page for Travel Requests

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have submitted this completed informational sheet to my Dean, \_\_\_\_\_, Program Director and System Coordinator (if applicable) on \_\_\_\_\_, and to my SGA President, \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_ for submission to Administration, and have retained a copy for my files.

I understand that I must meet the specified 60-day deadline for submission of the request form in order to be considered for housing. I also understand that housing is a privilege and is not always provided for students traveling to conferences.

I understand that males and females will be housed separately; No exceptions unless married.

I understand that specific rooming assignment requests will not be honored.

I understand that once housing arrangements are made, no room changing will be permitted.

I understand that if I am unhappy with my rooming assignment, I am free to make my own hotel reservation, at my expense.

**I understand that if I am NOT requesting travel accommodations, I am still responsible for notifying administration 60 days in advance of my intentions to attend said meeting and completing an excused absence form.**

**I understand that, should any problem(s) arise during the conference, I will contact the Director of Student Affairs or the specific Associate/Assistant Dean of my program, for assistance.**

Signed,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### **Please Print:**

Name

Contact Phone Number: (    )

## APPENDIX E - REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FORM

### LECOM REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FORM

#### **Part A, to be completed by student** (please print)

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

LECOM Program \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning Date of Leave Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Date of Return \_\_\_\_\_

#### Reason Leave Requested (check one):

\_\_\_\_\_ Medical Leave

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Leave (i.e. family member health issue, death, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Personal Leave (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

A leave of absence will not be approved for the purpose of avoiding the consequences of academic failure. A letter must be attached to this form explaining the reason for the request. Additionally, documentation appropriate to the reason must also be attached (for example, for a medical reason a letter, including a diagnosis, from the attending physician). Failure to provide the documentation will result in the denial of the request.

#### **Part B, to be completed by LECOM Financial Aid Department**

Student has received the required pre-leave of absence financial aid counseling and a Leave of Absence Form for Financial Aid has been completed.

Financial Aid Counselor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Part C, Student Certification and Signature**

I certify that I have read and understand the information on this form. It has been explained and I understand the effects that taking a leave of absence will have on my financial aid. Furthermore, I certify that the reason for the requested leave of absence is because of the reason indicated on this form and that all of the information on this form and the accompanying documentation is true and correct.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Part D, to be completed by the appropriate Dean** (provide this completed Request for Leave of Absence form, the completed Leave of Absence Form for Financial Aid, letter explaining the reason for the request, and documentation to the appropriate Dean after Parts A, B, and C have been completed)

The request for leave of absence has been reviewed and has been

\_\_\_\_\_ Denied

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved to begin on \_\_\_\_\_ and end no later than \_\_\_\_\_

Dean's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## APPENDIX F - LEAVE OF ABSENCE FORM FOR FINANCIAL AID

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE FORM for FINANCIAL AID

**This form is for financial aid purposes only and does not represent an approved leave of absence for academic purposes. The purpose of this form is to certify that you are aware of the financial aid implications of a leave of absence.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that the following applies if I am on a Leave of Absence from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) for the dates listed below:

1. While I am on an approved leave of absence, my enrollment status will be reported to my lenders as Leave of Absence.
2. If I am notified by my lender(s) that my loans are in repayment, I will need to contact my lender(s) and request a **hardship forbearance or economic hardship deferment**.
3. While I am on an approved leave of absence, I am not eligible for any additional federal student financial aid and private education loans.
4. Upon my return from leave of absence, any subsequent financial aid disbursements may be delayed until I again meet the standards for satisfactory academic progress towards the completion of my degree.
5. If I do not return from the leave of absence, my loans will go into repayment based on the start date of the leave of absence. This could result in the depletion of some or all of my grace period of my student loan(s).
6. The leave of absence and any additional leaves of absence must not exceed a total of 180 days in any 12-month period pursuant to federal regulations.

Beginning Date of Leave of Absence: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Date of Return: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for request for Leave of Absence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature Date

Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX G - STUDENT CHANGE OF STATUS FORM

**Student ID#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **First Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **MI** \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Forwarding Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE OF CHANGE *(Check One)*

____ Withdrawal	____ Dismissal-no appeal	____ Remediation
____ Suspension <180days	____ Dismissal with appeal	____ Off Schedule
____ Suspension ≥180days	____ M/TS/R	
____ Change of Program/Location	____ Dismissal to repeat the current year	
____ Leave Of Absence (LOA) - Personal	Months Starting: _____	Ending _____
____ Leave of Absence - Medical	Months Starting: _____	Ending _____

### PROGRAM OF STUDY: *(Check One)*

____ College of Medicine	____ MS Biomedical Sciences
____ School of Pharmacy	____ MS Medical Education
____ School of Dental Medicine	____ MSN Clinical Nurse Leader
____ School of Podiatric Medicine	____ MS of BioMedical Ethics
____ Master of Health Services Admin.	____ MS of Medical Sciences (MMS)
____ MS in Public Health	____ Doctor of Health Care Admin.
____ Pharmacy PB/RN-PharmD	____ Ph.D. in Anatomy Education
____ Ph.D. in Microbiology	____ Ph.D in Medical Education
____ Ph.D in Pharmacy Education	____ Other: _____

**LOCATION:** *(Check One)* \_\_\_\_ Erie \_\_\_\_ Bradenton \_\_\_\_ LECOM at Seton Hill \_\_\_\_ LECOM at Elmira

**PATHWAY:** (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Last Date of Attendance:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reason for Change:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pathway Director/Dean Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**College/School Dean Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPEALS RECORD** (*if change result of adjudication*)

**NOTES:**

Student Did Not Appeal ☐

Appeal to Dean      Date Appeal submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

                                 Date of Decision: \_\_\_\_\_

                                 Date student notified of appeal decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Appeal to President      Date Appeal submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

                                 Date of Decision: \_\_\_\_\_

                                 Date student notified of appeal decision: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

\*\*\*\*\*

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE FOR ROUTING/ NOTIFICATION**

	<b>Distribution List</b>		<b>Date of Notification</b>
Admissions Office	Appropriate Admissions Coordinator:		
Advisor	Appropriate Academic Advisor:		
Behavioral Health	Melanie Dunbar	<a href="mailto:mdunbar@lecom.edu">mdunbar@lecom.edu</a>	
Bookstore	Naz Krol	<a href="mailto:nirani@lecom.edu">nirani@lecom.edu</a>	
Bursar	Amy Majczyk	<a href="mailto:amajczyk@lecom.edu">amajczyk@lecom.edu</a>	
Disability Insurance	Beverly Chan	<a href="mailto:blamourchan@covalagroup.com">blamourchan@covalagroup.com</a>	
Financial Aid	Financial Aid Office	<a href="mailto:financialaid@lecom.edu">financialaid@lecom.edu</a>	
Health Insurance	HUB	<a href="mailto:studenthealth@hubinternational.com">studenthealth@hubinternational.com</a>	
IT	Jesi Bartlett	<a href="mailto:jbartlett@lecom.edu">jbartlett@lecom.edu</a>	
Learning Resource Center	Dan Welch	<a href="mailto:dwelch@lecom.edu">dwelch@lecom.edu</a>	
Registrar	Jeremy Sivillo	<a href="mailto:jsivillo@lecom.edu">jsivillo@lecom.edu</a>	
Security	Kevin Goode Harry Whipple	<a href="mailto:kgoode@lecom.edu">kgoode@lecom.edu</a> <a href="mailto:hwhipple@lecom.edu">hwhipple@lecom.edu</a>	
DPOTS	Regan Shabloski	<a href="mailto:rshabloski@lecom.edu">rshabloski@lecom.edu</a>	

Notes:

## APPENDIX H – NAME OR GENDER DESIGNATION CHANGE REQUEST FORM

**Instructions:** Please fill out this form in its entirety and submit along with it the required documentation to the Office of the Registrar. If you are unable to bring original documents to the Office of the Registrar to be viewed, you must submit copies with original notary seals. Faxed copies are not accepted. International students' names must appear on college records exactly as they appear on the passport issued by the student's home county.

For those who are in the process of obtaining financial aid, the applicant's name on the FAFSA **must match** the name associated with the applicant's Social Security number. After obtaining a legal name change, the student will need to file Form SS-5 with the Social Security Administration to change the name on their Social Security card if they wish to obtain financial aid.

**Name Change:** Are you requesting to change your legal name on your official academic records with required documentation attached including diploma)? (Please circle Yes *or* No)

Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Former Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Middle Name

New Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Middle Name

In order to change your legal name in your official academic record, the Office of the Registrar requests the following documentation:

- ☐ **Government Issued Document** (Original or notarized copy of passport, driver's license, birth certificate etc.) reflecting new name.
- ☐ **Licensing Body Approval Document** (Original or notarized copy of Licensing Bureau or other appropriate entity in the state where you practice reflecting the name change) (If Applicable)

As well as ONE of the documents listed below:

- ☐ **Court order:** Original court order signed by the presiding judge and bearing the county filing stamp.
- ☐ **Marriage Certificate:** Original or copy with original notarized seal, of marriage license with county or parish filing stamp.
- ☐ **Divorce Decree:** Original or copy with original notarized seal of divorce decree that includes a specific decree granting restoration of the maiden or other name, signed by the judge and bearing the co. filing stamp.
- ☐ **Certificate of Naturalization:** Original or copy with original notarized seal.

**Gender Designation:** Are you requesting to change your gender designation on your official academic records with required documentation attached? (Please circle Yes *or* No)

In order to change your gender designation please provide:

- ☐ **Government Issued Document** (original or notarized copy of passport, driver's license, birth certificate etc.) reflecting the new gender designation.
- ☐

**Fee:** Please mail a \$500.00 cashiers or certified check made payable to LECOM

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX I - AMERICAN PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

### PREAMBLE

All podiatric physicians have the responsibility of aspiring to the highest possible standards of conduct and ethical behavior, assuring that the best care is provided for the individual and groups whom they serve. As members of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), podiatric physicians accept and take seriously the common values and principles established within this Code of Ethics.

### MEDICAL ETHICS (ME)

**ME1. Professional Judgement:** The podiatric physician has the obligation to facilitate patient care, placing the welfare and rights of the patient above all other considerations.

**ME2. Informed Consent:** The doctrine of informed consent is premised upon the right of the patient to exercise control over their body by deciding whether or not to undergo a proposed treatment regimen.

**ME3 Confidentiality:** The podiatric physician and their staff must maintain strict confidentiality as to the condition and treatment of patients.

**ME4. Patient Respect/Advocacy:** Respect for the patient and advocating for the welfare of the patient should be the primary concern of the podiatric physician.

**ME5. Professionalism:** The podiatric physician should, at all times, act in a professional manner before patients, colleagues, and the general public. This conduct should extend to the podiatric physician's public and private lives as well.

**ME6. Physician Health Responsibilities:** The podiatric physician has the obligation to act upon the recognition of impairment(s) and/or health risk in themselves and in the health of other health care providers.

**ME7. Research Ethics:** Research conducted by podiatric physicians must be scientifically based with data, results, and outcomes reported in an accurate and truthful manner.

The APMA Code of Ethics also includes principles associated with Business and Association Ethics. The complete APMA Code of Ethics document, including Interpretive Guidelines, can be viewed by following this link, [APMA - American Podiatric Medical Association](#).

## APPENDIX J - AOA CODE OF ETHICS

LECOM Board of Trustees endorses the AOA Code of Ethics

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Code of Ethics is a document that applies to all physicians who practice osteopathically throughout the continuum of their careers, from enrollment in osteopathic medical college/school through post graduate training and the practice of osteopathic medicine. It embodies principles that serve as a guide to the prudent physician. It seeks to transcend the economic, political, and religious biases, when dealing with patients, fellow physicians, and society. It is flexible in nature in order to permit the AOA to consider all circumstances, both anticipated and unanticipated. The physician/patient relationship and the professionalism of the physician are the basis for this document.

The AOA has formulated this Code to guide its member physicians in their professional lives. The standards presented are designed to address the osteopathic and allopathic physician's ethical and professional responsibilities to patients, to society, to the AOA, to others involved in health care and to self.

Further, the AOA has adopted the position that physicians should play a major role in the development and instruction of medical ethics.

**Section 1.** The physician shall keep in confidence whatever they may learn about a patient in the discharge of professional duties. Information shall be divulged by the physician when required by law or when authorized by the patient.

**Section 2.** The physician shall give a candid account of the patient's condition to the patient or to those responsible for the patient's care.

**Section 3.** A physician-patient relationship must be founded on mutual trust, cooperation, and respect. The patient, therefore, must have complete freedom to choose their physician. The physician must have complete freedom to choose patients whom they will serve. However, the physician should not refuse to accept patients for reasons of discrimination, including, but not limited to, the patient's race, creed, color, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. In emergencies, a physician should make their services available.

**Section 4.** A physician is never justified in abandoning a patient. The physician shall give due notice to a patient or to those responsible for the patient's care when they withdraw from the case so that another physician may be engaged.

**Section 5.** A physician should make a reasonable effort to partner with patients to promote their health and shall practice in accordance with the body of systematized and scientific knowledge related to the healing arts. A physician shall maintain competence in such systematized and scientific knowledge through study and clinical applications.

**Section 6.** The osteopathic medical profession has an obligation to society to maintain its high standards and, therefore, to continuously regulate itself. A substantial part of such regulation is

due to the efforts and influence of the recognized local, state and national associations representing the osteopathic medical profession. A physician should maintain membership in and actively support such associations and abide by their rules and regulations.

**Section 7.** Under the law a physician may advertise, but no physician shall advertise or solicit patients directly or indirectly through the use of matters or activities which are false or misleading.

**Section 8.** A physician shall not hold forth or indicate possession of any degree recognized as the basis for licensure to practice the healing arts unless they are actually licensed on the basis of that degree in the state or other jurisdiction in which they practice. A physician shall designate their osteopathic or allopathic credentials in all professional uses of their name. Indications of specialty practice, membership in professional societies, and related matters shall be governed by rules promulgated by the American Osteopathic Association.

**Section 9.** A physician should not hesitate to seek consultation whenever they believe it is in the best interest of the patient.

**Section 10.** In any dispute between or among physicians involving ethical or organizational matters, the matter in controversy should first be referred to the appropriate arbitrating bodies of the profession.

**Section 11.** In any dispute between or among physicians regarding the diagnosis and treatment of a patient, the attending physician has the responsibility for final decisions, consistent with any applicable hospital rules or regulations.

**Section 12.** Any fee charged by a physician shall compensate the physician for services actually rendered. There shall be no division of professional fees for referrals of patients.

**Section 13.** A physician shall respect the law. When necessary a physician shall attempt to help to formulate the law by all proper means in order to improve patient care and public health.

**Section 14.** In addition to adhering to the foregoing ethical standards, a physician shall recognize a responsibility to participate in community activities and services.

**Section 15.** It is considered sexual misconduct for a physician to have sexual contact with any patient with whom a physician-patient relationship currently exists.

**Section 16.** Sexual harassment by a physician is considered unethical. Sexual harassment is defined as physical or verbal intimation of a sexual nature involving a colleague or subordinate in the workplace or academic setting, when such conduct creates an unreasonable, intimidating, hostile or offensive workplace or academic setting.

**Section 17.** From time to time, industry may provide some AOA members with gifts as an inducement to use their products or services. Members who use these products and services as a result of these gifts, rather than simply for the betterment of their patients and the improvement



of the care rendered in their practices, shall be considered to have acted in an unethical manner.

**SECTION 18.** A physician shall not intentionally misrepresent themselves or their research work in any way.

**SECTION 19.** When participating in research, a physician shall follow the current laws, regulations and standards of the United States or, if the research is conducted outside the United States, the laws, regulations and standards applicable to research in the nation where the research is conducted. This standard shall apply for physician involvement in research at any level and degree of responsibility, including, but not limited to, research, design, funding, participation either as examining and/or treating provider, supervision of other staff in their research, analysis of data and publication of results in any form for any purpose.

## **APPENDIX K - POLICY STATEMENT ON TITLE IX COMPLIANCE AND AFFIRMATION OF THE PROHIBITION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT, MISCONDUCT OR VIOLENCE**

### **LAKE ERIE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE Policy Statement on Title IX Compliance And Affirmation of the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment, Misconduct or Violence**

#### **I. SUMMARY**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq., and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities operated by recipients of Federal financial assistance. Additionally, state law prohibits such conduct.

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) forbids discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex and any form of sexual misconduct in all of its education programs and activities, as well as its employment practices. Likewise LECOM forbids retaliation against anyone who seeks to avail themselves of their rights under Title IX and state law or participates in a related investigation.

The term “sexual misconduct” is a broad term used to refer to all the prohibited sexual violence and sexual harassment behaviors under this policy. As used in this policy, sexual misconduct may also encompass criminal conduct under state and/or federal law. Additionally, sexual misconduct under this policy may result in civil and/or administrative legal consequences.

**Disclaimer:** This policy contains certain provisions, including, but not limited to, the New York Students’ Bill of Rights and Pennsylvania and New York Alcohol and Drug Use Amnesty that are applicable only to students enrolled in programs or residing in certain states. In the interest of completeness and clarity, we combine all of these policies here.

#### **II. DEFINITIONS**

##### **Actual knowledge:**

Notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator, a Deputy Title IX Coordinator, or any official who has the authority to institute corrective measures. Actual notice is not imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice.

##### **Advisor:**

The parties may select an advisor of their choice who may be, but isn’t required to be, an attorney. The advisor may provide support to a party. In a hearing, cross-examination must be done by an advisor, and not by a party. For a hearing, if a party does not have an advisor present, LECOM must provide one without fee to the party. The advisor provided by LECOM to conduct cross-examination at a hearing (if the party does not have an advisor of choice) does not have to be an attorney even if the other party has hired an attorney as their advisor of choice. Advisors

conducting cross-examination that are not professionals (attorneys or experienced advocates) must at least be adults capable of understanding the purpose and scope of cross-examination. The parties' advisors do not have to be of equal competency.

Any opportunity provided by LECOM to have an advisor of choice present during any phase of the Title IX process must be given to both parties. LECOM may limit the extent that an advisor may participate in the proceedings, but the restrictions must apply equally to both parties. The choice of advisor will not be limited with the exception of decorum issues explained in the *Hearings* section below.

**Complainant:**

An individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

**Consent:**

- Consent to any sexual act or prior consensual sexual activity between or with any party does not necessarily constitute consent to any other sexual act.
- Consent is required regardless of whether the person initiating the act is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
- Consent may be initially given but withdrawn at any time.
- Consent cannot be given when a person is incapacitated, which occurs when an individual lacks the ability to knowingly choose to participate in sexual activity. Incapacitation may be caused by the lack of consciousness or being asleep, being involuntarily restrained, or if an individual otherwise cannot consent. Depending on the degree of intoxication, someone who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicants may be incapacitated and therefore unable to consent.
- Consent cannot be given when it is the result of any coercion, intimidation, force, or threat of harm.
- When consent is withdrawn or can no longer be given, sexual activity must stop.

**Dating Violence:**

Violence committed by a person

- who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
- where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
  - The length of the relationship
  - The type of relationship
  - The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship

**Domestic Violence:**

The term “domestic violence” includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by

- a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; or
- a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; or
- a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; or
- a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim; or

- any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under applicable domestic or family violence laws.

**Education Program or Activity:**

Includes locations, events, or circumstances over which LECOM exercised substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurred, and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by LECOM. Factors to consider include whether LECOM funded, promoted, or sponsored the event or circumstance where the alleged harassment occurred.

Program or activity includes LECOM's computer and internet networks, digital platforms, and computer hardware or software owned or operated by or used in LECOM operations.

**Incapacitation:**

Incapacitation is a condition that prevents a person from having the capacity to give consent. It may be due to the use of drugs or alcohol, when a person is asleep or unconscious, or because of an intellectual or other disability.

**Intimidation:**

Intimidation means to make fearful or to put into fear. Generally, proof of actual fear is not required in order to establish intimidation. It may be inferred from conduct, words, or circumstances reasonably calculated to produce fear.

**Parties:**

This term refers to the Complainant and the Respondent collectively.

**Remedies:**

Where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the Respondent following a grievance process, remedies may be provided to the Complainant. Remedies are designed to restore or preserve equal access to LECOM's education program or activity. Remedies provided may include the same individualized services given as "supportive measures" (see definition below), however remedies need not be non-disciplinary or non-punitive and need not avoid burdening the Respondent.

**Reporter:**

A person reporting alleged conduct prohibited by this policy. The Reporter may be the Complainant or any other person.

**Respondent:**

An individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

**Sexual Assault:**

Any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. It includes both non-consensual sexual contact and intercourse.

**Sexual Exploitation:**

Taking sexual advantage of another person or violating the sexual privacy of another when consent is not present. This includes, but is not limited to, the following actions (including when they are done via electronic means, methods or devices):

- Sexual voyeurism or permitting others to witness or observe the sexual or intimate activity of another person without that person's consent;
- Indecent exposure or inducing others to expose themselves when consent is not present;
- Recording or distributing information, images or recordings of any person engaged in sexual or intimate activity in a private space without that person's consent.
- Prostituting another individual;
- Knowingly exposing another individual to a sexually transmitted disease or virus without that individual's knowledge; and
- Inducing incapacitation for the purpose of making another person vulnerable to non-consensual sexual activity.

**Sexual Harassment:**

Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- (1) A LECOM employee conditioning the provision of a LECOM aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to LECOM's education program or activity; or
- (3) "Sexual assault," "dating violence," "domestic violence," or "stalking."

**Stalking:**

Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to

- fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or
- suffer substantial emotional distress.

A course of conduct is when a person engages in two or more acts that include, but are not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveys, threatens, or communicates to or about a person in a prohibited way, or interferes with a person's property.

Stalking includes the concept of cyberstalking, in which electronic media such as the Internet, social networks, blogs, cell phones, texts, or other similar devices or forms of contact are used to pursue, harass, or to make unwelcome contact with another person in an unsolicited fashion.

**Supportive Measures:**

Non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized service offered as appropriate and reasonably available without fee to the Complainant or Respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint is filed. Supportive measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the

other party. The measures are designed to protect the safety of all parties or the educational environment or to deter sexual harassment. They may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures.

**Witness:**

A person who has knowledge related to specific aspects of a case and may have reported such aspects to the institution.

### **III. POLICY**

#### **A. Title IX, VAWA and Nondiscrimination Statement**

LECOM prohibits any form of discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, race, color, age, religion, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, marital or family status, medical condition, genetic information, veteran status, or disability in any decision regarding admissions, employment, or participation in a LECOM program or activity in accordance with the letter and spirit of federal, state, and local non-discrimination and equal opportunity laws, such as Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, The Age Discrimination in Employment Act, The Americans with Disabilities Act and ADA Amendments Act, The Equal Pay Act, any applicable local nondiscrimination ordinance and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

LECOM also complies with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crimes Statistics Act, as amended by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Title IX prohibits retaliation for asserting or otherwise participating in claims of sex discrimination. VAWA imposes additional duties on universities and colleges to investigate and respond to reports of sexual assault, stalking, and dating or domestic violence, and to publish policies and procedures related to the way these reports are handled. LECOM has designated the Title IX Coordinator, with assistance of the Deputy Title IX Coordinators, to coordinate LECOM's compliance with Title IX and VAWA and to respond to reports of violations. LECOM has directed the Title IX Coordinator to coordinate LECOM's compliance with the Clery reporting related VAWA requirements. LECOM will promptly and equitably respond to all reports of sexual misconduct in order to eliminate the misconduct, prevent its recurrence, and redress its effects on any individual or the community.

#### **B. Scope of Policy**

This policy applies to conduct prohibited by Title IX and its related regulations. There is no time limit for reporting allegations of sexual misconduct, however, LECOM strongly encourages the prompt reporting of sexual misconduct to allow LECOM to respond promptly and effectively. If the reported Respondent is not a member of the LECOM community or is no longer associated with LECOM at the time of the report or at the time a resolution process is initiated, LECOM may be unable to conduct an investigation or take disciplinary action.

Please see the *Reporting Sexual Misconduct* section below to make a report of misconduct, discrimination and/or harassment, or to file a complaint.

### **C. Statement on Privacy and Confidentiality**

LECOM will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, any Complainant, any individual reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any Respondent, and any witness except as permitted by the FERPA statute or otherwise required by law or to carry out the conduct of any Title IX investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding.

LECOM is committed to protecting the privacy of all individuals involved in a report of sexual misconduct. Every effort will be made to protect the privacy interests of all individuals involved. Privacy, confidentiality and privilege have distinct meanings under this policy.

Privacy generally means that information related to a report of sexual misconduct will only be shared with a limited circle of individuals, including individuals who “need to know” in order to assist in the review, investigation, or resolution of the report or to deliver resources or support services. While not bound by confidentiality or privilege, these individuals will be discreet and respect the privacy of all individuals involved in the process. All participants in an investigation of sexual misconduct, including advisors and witnesses, will be informed that privacy helps enhance the integrity of the investigation and protect the privacy interests of the parties and will be asked to keep any information learned in an investigation meeting or hearing confidential, to the extent consistent with applicable law.

Certain individuals are designated as having confidentiality. For reports made to employees designated with having confidentiality, LECOM will respect the reporting party’s expectations of privacy to the extent permissible by law while still ensuring compliance with other reporting obligations. For example, complaints involving minors are subject to mandatory reporting requirements.

Individuals designated as having confidentiality are required to report the nature, date, time and general location of an incident to the Title IX Coordinator. Confidential resources will not share other information with the Title IX Coordinator or any other employee of LECOM without the express permission of the disclosing party. Confidential resources can provide information about LECOM and off-campus resources, support services and other options. As noted above, because of the confidential nature of these resources, disclosing information to or seeking advice from a confidential resource does not constitute a report or complaint to LECOM and will not result in a response or intervention by LECOM. A person consulting with a confidential resource may later decide to make a report to LECOM and/or law enforcement.

Communication with certain individuals may be privileged by operation of law and reports made to these individuals will not be shared with the LECOM Title IX Coordinator or law enforcement except in very limited situations, such as when failure to disclose the information would result in imminent danger to the individual or to others or as otherwise required by law. There are no LECOM employees, including the Directors of Behavioral Health, who provide officially sanctioned confidential counseling at LECOM.

LECOM will generally respect a Complainant's choice whether to report an incident to local law enforcement or initiate LECOM's sexual misconduct resolution process, unless LECOM determines that there is an overriding interest with respect to the safety or welfare of the LECOM community. Where a report involves suspected abuse of a child (an individual under the age of 18 at the time of the incident(s) as reported), all LECOM employees and volunteers are required to notify LECOM police and the appropriate state authority (in Pennsylvania - ChildLine of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services; in Florida - the Abuse Hotline of the Florida Department of Children and Families; in New York - Keeping Children Safe of the Administration for Children's Services). All other members of the LECOM community are strongly encouraged to report suspected child abuse to law enforcement and the appropriate state authority.

When a Complainant desires to initiate a grievance process started with the signing of a formal complaint, the Complainant cannot remain anonymous or prevent the Complainant's identity from being disclosed to the Respondent.

All LECOM proceedings are conducted in compliance with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Clery Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), state and local law, and LECOM policy. No information will be released from such proceedings, except as required or permitted by law and LECOM policy.

LECOM may share non-identifying information about reports received in aggregate form, including data about outcomes and sanctions.

#### **D. Prohibited Conduct**

LECOM prohibits the following forms of conduct:

- Sexual assault including sexual penetration without consent, sexual contact without consent and statutory sexual assault
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual exploitation
- Intimate-partner violence, including dating violence and domestic violence
- Stalking
- Retaliation

This prohibited conduct can affect all genders, gender identities and sexual orientations. Some of these prohibited forms of conduct may also be crimes under state or federal law.

#### **E. Alcohol and Drug Use Amnesty**

The health and safety of every student at LECOM is of utmost importance. LECOM recognizes that students who have been drinking and/or using drugs (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary) at the time that violence, including but not limited to domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault occurs may be hesitant to report such incidents due to fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. LECOM strongly encourages students to report domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to institution officials. A bystander acting in good faith or a reporting individual acting in good faith that discloses any incident of



domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to LECOM officials or law enforcement will not be subject to disciplinary action under LECOM's code of conduct for violations of alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the commission of the domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault.

LECOM may request the individual attend an approved alcohol or drug education program and without assessing any charges for such program. This amnesty provision also applies to student groups making a report of sexual misconduct. Amnesty does not preclude or prevent action by police or other legal authorities pursuant to relevant state or federal criminal statutes. Referral to PHP/CPH/SARPh/PRN/Centerstone may be made. Such a referral is not a disciplinary action but rather is a referral for the health of the referred individual and to ensure that they are safely able to practice their profession following graduation.

#### **F. Prohibition of False Accusations**

Deliberately false and/or malicious accusations of sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or other conduct prohibited by this policy, as opposed to complaints which, even if erroneous, are made in good faith, are serious and will subject the perpetrator of those accusations to appropriate disciplinary action. Good faith means that a report is made based on fact or reasonable beliefs and not solely on personal animus against the person accused.

#### **G. General Considerations about the Title IX Grievance Process**

- Complainants and Respondents must be treated equally.
- The Respondent will be presumed to be not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.
- Remedies must be designed to restore or preserve equal access to LECOM's education program or activity.
- The remedies may include the same individualized "supportive measures," but remedies need not be non-disciplinary or non-punitive and need not avoid burdening the Respondent.
- There must be an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.
- Credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or Witness.
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or other designated person to facilitate an informal resolution process may not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or specifically to individual Complainants or Respondents.

### **IV. REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

#### **A. Reporting Options**

Any individual, including a third party, may make a report concerning sexual misconduct. Complainants and third parties are encouraged to report sexual misconduct as soon as possible to allow LECOM to respond promptly and effectively.

A person who has experienced sexual misconduct under this policy, or a person who witnesses sexual misconduct under this policy, has the right to simultaneously file a complaint with LECOM

and to pursue a criminal complaint with law enforcement. Victims and witnesses of sexual misconduct have the right to be assisted by LECOM in notifying law enforcement authorities of sexual misconduct or they can decline to notify such authorities. LECOM may, however, have a statutory reporting obligation when it becomes aware of certain factual allegations. Parties may also have options to file civil actions in court or with administrative agencies.

LECOM has designated the Title IX Coordinator to oversee complaints of sexual misconduct at LECOM. An individual who has experienced sexual misconduct has the right to choose whether to report the incident to LECOM's Title IX Coordinator/designee or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator. These officials are trained to work with individuals who report sexual misconduct and have knowledge about resources and services, both on and off campus, including the availability of supportive measures.

### **LECOM Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators**

#### **Institutional Title IX Coordinator**

Aaron E. Susmarski, J.D.  
Institutional Director of Human Resources  
(814) 860-5101  
[asusmarski@lecom.edu](mailto:asusmarski@lecom.edu)

#### **LECOM Erie**

Dr. Melanie Dunbar, Deputy Coordinator  
Director of Behavioral Health  
(814) 866-8160  
[mdunbar@lecom.edu](mailto:mdunbar@lecom.edu)

Dr. Nancy Carty, Deputy Coordinator  
Assistant Dean of Preclinical Education  
(814) 866-8418  
[ncarty@lecom.edu](mailto:ncarty@lecom.edu)

#### **LECOM Bradenton (including DeFuniak Springs)**

Ms. Debra Horne, Deputy Coordinator  
Director of Student Affairs  
(941) 782-5933  
[dhorne@lecom.edu](mailto:dhorne@lecom.edu)

Dr. Julie J. Wilkinson, Deputy Coordinator  
Professor of Pharmacy Practice  
(941) 782-5678  
[jwilkinson@lecom.edu](mailto:jwilkinson@lecom.edu)

#### **LECOM at Seton Hill**

Dr. Dennis Min, Deputy Coordinator  
Assistant Professor of Gastroenterology

(724) 552-2892  
[dmin@lecom.edu](mailto:dmin@lecom.edu)

LECOM at Elmira  
Dr. Richard Terry, Deputy Coordinator  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs  
[\(607\) 321-3111](tel:(607)321-3111)  
[rterry@lecom.edu](mailto:rterry@lecom.edu)

Please Note: The Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators are not confidential sources of support. While they will address your complaint with sensitivity and will keep your information as private as possible, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. See the list below of outside services which may provide confidential counseling.

Please Also Note: Making a report is different from filing a complaint. A report is defined as notification of an incident of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator/designee. A report may be accompanied by a request for (1) supportive or interim measures; (2) no further action; and/or (3) the filing of a formal complaint. See *Process After Report of Sexual Misconduct* section below for subsequent steps.

### **B. Electronic and Anonymous Reporting**

You may also file a complaint about sexual misconduct using the appropriate links below. While anonymous complaints are accepted, LECOM's ability to address misconduct reported anonymously is significantly limited.

Individuals may use this link on the LECOM portal to electronically file a report of sexual misconduct with LECOM by clicking here: <https://appweb.stopitsolutions.com/login>

Please use the following Access Code to login: **ONELECOM**

An immediate auto-response email with information about resources and options will be sent in response to reports filed electronically.

### **C. Criminal Reporting Options**

LECOM police are employees of LECOM and obligated to promptly report incidents of sexual misconduct that also constitute criminal conduct of which they become aware during the scope of their employment to the Title IX Coordinator, regardless of whether the individual who is making the report chooses to pursue criminal charges.

A Complainant may seek resolution through LECOM's Title IX process. A Complainant may also seek to initiate a criminal complaint, independent of or parallel with any resolution process of LECOM. LECOM's policy, definitions, and burden of proof may differ from state criminal law. Neither law enforcement's decision whether to prosecute, nor the outcome of any criminal prosecution, is determinative of whether sexual misconduct has occurred under this policy. In cases where there is a simultaneous law enforcement investigation, there may be circumstances when LECOM may need to temporarily delay its investigation while law enforcement gathers evidence.

However, LECOM will generally proceed with its investigation and resolution of a complaint even during the time of a pending law enforcement investigation.

#### Local Law Enforcement

At all LECOM locations, call 9-1-1 to contact local law enforcement, fire, or EMS to report an emergency or crime. Call 9-9-1-1 from a LECOM or Seton Hill University phone.

#### Erie, Pennsylvania

Erie Police Department  
(814) 870-1125

Millcreek Police Department  
(814) 833-7777

Pennsylvania State Police Department  
(814) 898-1641

#### LECOM Campus Police and Security Office

Located inside the north entrance  
1858 West Grandview Boulevard  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16509

(814) 866-8415

If an officer is not at the desk, callers may leave a message or call the cell phone of the officer on duty at (814) 434-3927.

#### Bradenton, Florida

Manatee County Sheriff  
(941) 747-3011

Bradenton Police Department  
(941) 932-9300

#### LECOM Security Office for College of Medicine & School of Pharmacy Building

Located inside the southwest entrance  
5000 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard  
Bradenton, Florida 34211  
(941) 782-5908

#### LECOM Security Office for School of Dental Medicine Building

Located inside the south entrance  
4800 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard  
Bradenton, Florida 34211  
(941) 405-1520

#### DeFuniak Springs, Florida

Walton County Sheriff

(850) 892-8111

DeFuniak Springs Police Department  
(850) 892-8513

Security Office for LECOM DeFuniak Springs Dental Offices  
Located inside the main entrance  
101 LECOM Way  
DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435  
(850) 951-0200

LECOM at Seton Hill in Greensburg, Pennsylvania  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania Police Department  
(724) 834-3800

Pennsylvania State Police  
(724) 832-3288

Seton Hill University (SHU) Police Department  
Room 115 Administrative Annex  
One Seton Hill Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
(724) 830-4999

LECOM at Elmira in Elmira, New York  
Elmira Police Department  
(607) 735-8600

Chemung County Sheriff  
(607) 737-2987, ext. 104

New York State Police  
(607) 739-8797

LECOM Security Office  
Located inside the main entrance  
250 West Clinton Street  
Elmira, NY 14901  
(607) 442-3510

#### **D. External Reporting Options**

A person may also file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights regarding an alleged violation of Title IX by visiting <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html> or calling 1-800-421-3481 or emailing [OCR.Philadelphia@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Philadelphia@ed.gov).

A person may also file a complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission by calling 717-787-9780 for the Harrisburg Regional Office; 412-565-5395 for the Pittsburgh Regional Office; or 215-560-2496 for the Philadelphia Regional Office or visiting <https://www.phrc.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

Employees may also file a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regarding an alleged violation of Title VII by calling 1-800-669-4000 or visiting <https://www.eeoc.gov/employees/howtofile.cfm>.

### **E. Assessment and Timely Warnings**

The Title IX Coordinator or designee, in consultation with a Title IX assessment team and others (as necessary), will conduct an initial assessment of the conduct, the reporting party's desired course of action, and the necessity for any interim measures or services to protect the safety of the Complainant or the community. The goal is to eliminate any hostile environment. If a report of misconduct discloses a serious or immediate threat to the campus community, LECOM will issue a timely notification to the community to protect the health or safety of the community. The timely notification will not include any identifying information about the Complainant.

## **V. PROCESS AFTER REPORT OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

### **A. Title IX Outreach**

Upon receipt of a report of sexual misconduct, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide resources and support information by contacting the potential Complainant and offering an initial meeting between the reporting party and the Title IX Coordinator or designee. The initial meeting is optional and the reporting party may decline. The purpose of the initial meeting is for the Title IX Coordinator or designee to gain a basic understanding of the nature and circumstances of the report and provide information about resources, supportive measures, and resolution options to the reporting party.

### **B. Interim and Supportive Measures**

The Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the Complainant to discuss supportive measures and how they are available with or without the filing of a formal complaint, consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, and explain to the Complainant the process for filing a formal complaint. The Respondent and other affected parties may also be provided supportive measures. These measures may be to protect, assist, and/or to forestall retaliation. LECOM may also take interim measures to protect the LECOM community at large. See the definition of "supportive measures" in the *Definitions* section.

LECOM's primary goal is to ensure that the parties and the LECOM community are safe. Regardless of whether a Complainant chooses to pursue disciplinary action, LECOM will take interim measures to protect those involved and ensure that all safety, emotional, and physical well-being concerns are met.

Reasonable interim measures to protect the safety of the parties will be determined on a case-by-case basis. In making the determination, LECOM will consider, at a minimum, the parties' expressed need, the severity or pervasiveness of the allegations, the continuing effects, the likelihood that the parties will come into contact with each other through daily activities, and

whether any legal steps have been taken to protect either party.

**Student Supportive Measures:**

Some examples of supportive measures LECOM may provide to students include modifying class schedules, workplace schedules, and/or extracurricular activities; assisting in obtaining counseling and academic support services; student financial aid guidance; offering extra time to complete a course if possible; providing escort services on campus from the campus police; and initiating a no contact order. Also see the *Emergency Removal of the Respondent* section.

**Staff Supportive Measures:**

Some examples of supportive measures LECOM may provide to a staff member include modifying work schedule, workplace department or location, or supervisor; assisting in obtaining counseling services; providing escort services on campus and increasing security around the employee; initiating a no-contact order; and issuing a *persona non grata* order to prevent a person from coming on campus.

**Faculty Supportive Measures:**

Some examples of supportive measures LECOM may provide to a faculty member include modifying teaching schedule, workplace schedule, extracurricular schedule, or supervisor; assisting in obtaining counseling services; providing escort services on campus and increasing security around the faculty member; initiating a no-contact order; and issuing a *persona non grata* order to prevent a person from coming on campus.

**C. Formal Complaint**

A formal complaint is a document filed by a Complainant alleging sexual harassment against a Respondent and requesting that LECOM investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, by electronic mail, or using an available online reporting system. A formal complaint filed by a Complainant must have the Complainant's physical or digital signature or otherwise indicate that the Complainant is the person filing the formal complaint.

There is no specific form required to file a formal complaint. Moreover, there is no requirement that the formal complaint include a detailed statement of facts or the name of the Respondent if that is not known.

In addition to a Complainant, there are circumstances when the Title IX Coordinator may sign a formal complaint. Other third parties cannot. A Title IX Coordinator may sign a formal complaint in the absence of one signed by a Complainant in order to protect the educational community. In deciding whether to sign a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator may consider a variety of factors, including a pattern of alleged misconduct by a particular Respondent; allegations of the use of violence and/or the use of weapons; or similar factors. The Title IX Coordinator may sign a formal complaint only after the Title IX Coordinator has contacted the Complainant (the person alleged to have been victimized by sexual harassment) to discuss the availability of supportive measures, considered the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, and explained to the Complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

When the Title IX Coordinator decides to sign a formal complaint that originated with an anonymous complaint, the written notice of the allegations must be sent to both parties and include the identity of the parties, if known.

The signing of a formal complaint by the Title IX Coordinator does not place the Title IX Coordinator in a position adverse to the Respondent. When the Title IX Coordinator initiates an investigation based on allegations of which the Title IX Coordinator has been made aware, the Title IX Coordinator is not prevented from being free from bias or conflict of interest with respect to any party.

An investigation and grievance process cannot proceed pursuant to this Title IX policy in the absence of a signed formal complaint. If the Complainant's identity is unknown, the grievance process may proceed if the Title IX Coordinator determines it is necessary to sign a formal complaint. In that case, the written notice of the allegations would not include the Complainant's identity as it is unknown.

A Complainant's formal complaint must be investigated even if the Complainant does not know the Respondent's identity because an investigation may reveal the Respondent's identity. Once a Respondent's identity is known, LECOM will send written notice to both parties.

Formal complaints against more than one Respondent or by more than one Complainant may be consolidated if they arise out of the same facts or circumstances. In that instance, there may be a combined grievance process. A consolidation of formal complaints may include counter-complaints by one party against the other party.

#### **D. Emergency Removal of the Respondent**

LECOM is permitted to remove a Respondent from its education program or activity on an emergency basis if LECOM undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis and determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal. In that instance, LECOM will provide the Respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

#### **E. Dismissal After Filing of a Formal Complaint**

The Title IX grievance process described in this policy applies only to alleged sexual harassment that occurred in a LECOM education program or activity against a person in the United States. The terms "sexual harassment" and "education program or activity" are defined above in the *Definitions* section.

Formal Title IX complaints must be dismissed if the alleged conduct:

- was not "sexual harassment" as defined; or
- did not occur in a LECOM education program or activity as defined; or
- was not perpetuated against a person in the United States (i.e. in another country and not in the United States)

Formal Title IX complaints may be dismissed (or it may be decided that the Title IX process



continue) if at any time during the investigation or hearing:

- A Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein
- The Respondent is no longer enrolled at or employed by LECOM
- Specific circumstances prevent LECOM from gathering enough evidence to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or the allegations therein

Upon a dismissal of a formal complaint, written notice of the dismissal and reasons therefor will be sent to the parties simultaneously. In the event that LECOM dismisses the Title IX formal complaint, LECOM may proceed using the non-Title IX code of conduct violation process.

#### **F. Notice After Filing of a Formal Complaint**

When a formal complaint is received (whether signed by the Complainant or the Title IX Coordinator), written notice must be sent to the known parties that includes:

- Notice of the grievance process including any informal resolution process
- Notice of the allegations of potential sexual harassment including sufficient details, if known at the time (identities of the parties involved in the incident; conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment; date and location of the alleged incident(s))
- A statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process
- A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney
- A statement that the parties may inspect and review the evidence as permitted by this policy and law after the investigation
- A statement that knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX grievance process violates LECOM's code of conduct.

Known parties will be provided notice of additional allegations being investigated not included in the initial notice.

### **VI. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT GRIEVANCE AND RESOLUTION PROCESS**

#### **A. Informal Resolution**

Only after a formal complaint has been filed, the parties may decide to participate in an informal resolution process, however such participation may not be required. LECOM may facilitate an informal resolution process at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility. Informal resolution processes do not involve a full investigation and adjudication and may encompass a broad range of conflict resolution strategies, including, but not limited to, arbitration, mediation, or restorative justice.

At any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party may withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint. The parties must provide voluntary written consent for an informal resolution process to proceed. In that event, the parties must be provided written notice disclosing the allegations and the requirements of the informal resolution process. No informal resolution process is available regarding allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

## **B. Participant Roles**

The roles of complainant, respondent, parties, witness, and advisor are defined above in the *Definitions* section. All participants have the responsibility to be truthful with the information they share at all stages of the process. Any individual who knowingly or intentionally provides false information in any stage of the process may be subject to discipline. This provision does not apply to a good faith report that is not substantiated or proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

The decision-maker(s) cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator(s). The Title IX Coordinator may serve as the investigator.

## **C. Conflict of Interest**

Parties have the opportunity to raise the issue to the Title IX Coordinator of a potential conflict of interest within two (2) days of being advised of the identity of the investigator(s) or decision-maker(s) and others on the resolution team, including appeals. No investigator, decision-maker, or others on the resolution team, including appeals, will make findings or determinations in a case in which they have a conflict of interest. The Title IX Coordinator or designee will determine whether a conflict of interest exists.

## **D. Burden of Proof**

The burden of proof refers to who has the responsibility of showing a violation has occurred. It is always the responsibility of LECOM to satisfy the burden of proof. The Respondent does not have the burden to prove that a violation did not occur. Respondents may decide not to share their side of the story or may decide not to participate in an investigation or hearing. This does not shift the burden of proof away from LECOM and does not indicate responsibility. Additionally, there will not be an adverse inference against a Respondent for the Respondent's refusal to participate in an investigation or hearing, nor will Respondent's refusal to participate result in increased sanctions if the Respondent is found responsible for the accusations.

## **E. Standard of Proof**

LECOM uses the preponderance of the evidence standard in investigations and adjudications of complaints alleging sexual misconduct and any related violations. This means that it is determined whether it is more likely than not that a violation of the policy occurred.

## **F. Timeline for Resolution**

LECOM will resolve all cases in a reasonably prompt manner with the goal of conducting grievance processes fairly in a way that reaches reliable outcomes. The timeline may vary based on the circumstances of the case, including breaks in the academic calendar, availability of the parties and witnesses, scope of the investigation, need for interim actions, and unforeseen or exigent circumstances. The parties will be periodically updated on the status of their case.

Reasonable delays may be made for good cause. Good cause for short-term delays includes, but is not limited to, absence of the parties and/or witnesses due to reasonable causes, concurrent law enforcement activity, transportation needs for parties and/or witnesses, technology issues to troubleshoot to facilitate a live hearing, the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities, and the need to provide an advisor for a hearing.

While LECOM will attempt to accommodate the schedules of parties and witnesses throughout the grievance process in order to provide parties with a meaningful opportunity to exercise their rights under this policy, a grievance process can proceed to conclusion even in the absence of a party or witness.

### **G. Retaliation Prohibited**

LECOM does not tolerate retaliation and will pursue actions against those who take retaliatory measures against reporters, witnesses, or parties. Neither LECOM nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a Title IX investigation, proceeding, or hearing.

Retaliation includes intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment if the purpose is to interfere with any right or privilege secured by Title IX.

Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the Title IX grievance procedures for sex discrimination. An individual may be charged with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a Title IX grievance proceeding, however a determination regarding responsibility is not sufficient alone to conclude that a party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

### **H. Investigation Process of a Formal Complaint**

If it is appropriate and the parties choose and complete an informal resolution process there may be no formal investigation. If necessary, a full investigation will be promptly engaged. Such investigations will include interviews with the Complainant, Respondent, and relevant witnesses. In conducting the investigation, the manager of the investigation/resolution process may be assisted by other individuals, including special consultants engaged for the particular investigation. A thorough review of pertinent physical and documentary evidence will also occur. The evidence may include photographs, videos, electronic messages (including emails and text messages), social media postings, and any other relevant resources. The parties should be most scrupulous in preserving all evidence.

The parties are not granted the right to depose parties or witnesses, nor to invoke a court system's subpoena powers to compel parties or witnesses to appear at hearings.

#### **About the investigation process:**

- A Complainant is not required to participate in the Title IX process or to provide any information to the Title IX Coordinator.
- LECOM may not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity or assisting in that capacity and were made and maintained in connection with the provision

of treatment to the party unless the party provides voluntary written consent to do so for a grievance process.

- Both parties must be given an equal opportunity to present fact and expert witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.
- Neither party should be restricted in the ability to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.
- Both parties must have the same opportunities, if any, to have others present during any meeting or grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney.
- LECOM may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the parties' advisors may participate in the proceedings; such restrictions shall apply equally to both parties.
- Both parties must be given written notice of all hearings, investigative interviews, or other meetings at which they are invited or expected to attend with sufficient time to prepare. Notice must include the date, time, location, participants, and purpose.
- Both parties must be provided with an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained in the investigation of the allegations raised in a formal complaint, including evidence LECOM does not intend to rely on in reaching a determination regarding responsibility. Such evidence includes inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. It includes evidence obtained from a party or other source.
- Non-participating Complainants must also be given the opportunity to inspect, review, and respond to the evidence.
- Prior to completion of the investigative report, both parties must be sent (including their advisor, if any), the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy and given at least ten days to submit a written response. The investigator must consider such written responses prior to completion of the investigative report. This evidence must be available at any hearing so that it may be referred to or used for cross-examination.
- LECOM may impose on the parties and each party's advisor restrictions or require a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) not to disseminate any of the evidence subject to inspection and review or use such evidence for any purpose unrelated to the Title IX grievance process, as long as doing so does not violate Title IX regulations or other applicable laws.

### **About the investigation report:**

After the investigation and the parties have been given an opportunity to submit a response to the evidence they were able to inspect and review, the investigator will create an investigative report that summarizes the relevant evidence. The report must be sent at least ten days prior to a hearing or other time of determination regarding responsibility to each party and each party's advisor, if any. The report must be sent in an electronic format or a hard copy for their review and written response.

All evidence summarized in the investigative report must be relevant. Evidence is relevant if it is probative of any material fact concerning the allegations, with exceptions. The investigator may redact from the investigative report information that is not relevant and also information protected by a legally recognized privilege, or treatment records for which there is no written consent to use. The investigative report may include facts and interview statements.

The investigator may include recommended findings or conclusions in the investigative report, however the decision-maker is under an independent obligation to objectively evaluate relevant evidence and cannot simply defer to the recommendations made by the investigator in the investigative report.

A single investigative report may be made in the context of a grievance process that involves multiple Complainants, multiple Respondents, or both.

## **I. Hearings**

Formal complaints not dismissed or resolved by informal resolution will proceed to a live hearing. Elements of the live hearing follow.

- Hearings are held live, however at the request of either party, the live hearing may occur with the parties located in separate rooms with technology enabling the decision maker(s) and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness answering questions.
- Parties' advisors may represent parties during the entire live hearing.
- Parties must inform LECOM at least seven (7) days prior to a hearing whether the party intends to bring an advisor of choice to the hearing. If the party does not intend to bring an advisor of choice, LECOM will appoint an advisor for that party for the hearing.
- If a party appears at a hearing without an advisor and LECOM did not have the seven day advance notice to appoint an advisor for the party, the hearing will stop and may be rescheduled if necessary to permit LECOM to assign an advisor to that party to conduct cross-examination.
- Parties and advisors must participate respectfully and non-abusively during a hearing; this includes not yelling at the other party or others in the hearing. If a party's advisor refuses to act in a respectful and non-abusive manner, LECOM may require the party to use a different advisor.
- LECOM may permit the parties' advisors to make brief opening or closing statements.
- LECOM may make an opening or closing statement.
- LECOM may present evidence to the decision-maker which may be used by the decision-maker in reaching a determination regarding responsibility.
- The decision-maker has the right and responsibility to ask questions and elicit information from parties and witnesses on the decision-maker's own initiative to aid the decision-maker in obtaining relevant evidence both inculpatory and exculpatory, and the parties also have an equal right to present evidence in front of the decision-maker so the decision-maker has the benefit of perceiving each party's unique perspective about the evidence.
- At the live hearing, the decision-maker(s) must permit each party's advisor to ask the other party and any witnesses relevant and follow-up questions, including to challenge credibility. Cross-examination must be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the party's advisor, but never by a party personally.
- Only relevant cross-examination and other questions may be asked of a party or witness. Before a question is answered by a party or witness, the decision-maker(s) must first determine whether the question is relevant and explain decisions to exclude a question as not relevant.

- In determining what evidence is relevant, a layperson's determination that a question is not relevant is made by applying logic and common sense, but not against a backdrop of legal expertise.
- At a hearing, a decision-maker may find that a question is irrelevant because it is not probative of any material fact concerning the allegations.
- Where evidence is duplicative of other evidence, the decision-maker may deem the evidence not relevant.
- Information that is not relevant includes information protected by a legally recognized privilege and any party's medical, psychological, and similar records unless the party has given voluntary written consent.
- Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant unless such evidence is offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the alleged conduct or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.
- Relevant evidence will not be excluded solely because such relevant evidence may be unduly prejudicial, concern prior bad acts, or constitute character evidence.
- Written questions may not be submitted for the purpose of ascertaining relevance prior to or during a hearing.
- The advisors may discuss the relevance determination with the decision-maker during the hearing, however there will be no challenging the relevance determination after receiving the decision-maker's explanation during the hearing.
- Parties and witnesses may not waive a question.
- The decision-maker(s) cannot draw an inference about responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's absence from the live hearing or refusal to answer cross-examination or other questions.
- Where a grievance process is initiated because the Title IX Coordinator, and not the Complainant, signed the formal complaint, the Complainant who did not wish to initiate a grievance process remains under no obligation to then participate in the grievance process.
- LECOM will create an audio or audiovisual recording or transcript of any live hearing and make it available to the parties for inspection and review. LECOM is not obligated to send the parties a copy of the recording or transcript.
- The decision-maker(s) must issue a written determination regarding responsibility using the standard of evidence adopted, preponderance of the evidence.
  - The decision-maker must objectively evaluate all relevant evidence, both inculpatory and exculpatory, and independently reach a determination regarding responsibility without giving deference to the investigative report.
  - Admissible, relevant evidence must be evaluated for weight or credibility by the decision-maker.
  - Credibility determinations are not based solely on observing demeanor, but also are based on other factors (e.g., specific details, inherent plausibility, internal consistency, corroborative evidence).
  - The degree to which any inaccuracy, inconsistency, or implausibility in a narrative provided by a party or witness should affect a determination regarding responsibility

is a matter to be decided by the decision-maker after having the opportunity to ask questions of parties and witnesses and observing how parties and witnesses answer the questions posed by the other party.

#### **Possible remedies and disciplinary sanctions:**

Upon a finding that the Respondent was responsible for the alleged actions constituting prohibited activities under this policy, the potential penalties range from remedies similar to supportive measures to probation, suspension, and dismissal from LECOM.

#### **J. Decision-Maker's Written Determination**

The written determination must include:

- Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment
- A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination. Include notifications to the parties, interviews with the parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held.
- Findings of fact supporting the determination. The decision-maker must lay out the evidentiary basis for conclusions reached in the case.
  - There is no requirement that the written determination address evaluation of contradictory facts, exculpatory evidence, “all evidence” presented at a hearing, or how credibility assessments were reached.
- Conclusions regarding the application of LECOM's code of conduct to the facts
- A statement with the determination regarding responsibility for each allegation and the rationale for each such determination
- Disciplinary sanctions to be imposed on the Respondent
- Whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to LECOM's education program or activity will be provided to the Complainant, however the nature of the remedies provided to the Complainant should not appear in the written determination. Remedies which do not directly affect the Respondent must not be disclosed to the Respondent. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.
- Procedures and permissible bases for the Complainant and Respondent to appeal

The written determination must be provided to the parties simultaneously. The determination regarding responsibility is final either on the date that the written determination of the result of an appeal is provided to the parties, if an appeal is filed, or on the date when an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

If it is determined that a violation of the Title IX policy did not occur, but the reported behavior would violate a different LECOM policy such as the student code of conduct, the case may be referred for resolution as appropriate.

#### **K. Right to Appeal**

Both parties may appeal from a determination regarding responsibility and from a dismissal of a

formal complaint or any allegations therein on these bases:

- Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made that could affect the outcome of the matter
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant or Respondent that affected the outcome of the matter

The other party will be notified in writing when a party files an appeal and will be provided the appeal document. The other party may file a written statement in response to the appeal within seven (7) business days of the date the appealing party's appeal was provided.

An appeal must be filed with the Title IX Coordinator within seven (7) business days of the date of the decision-maker's written determination. The appeal must include an explanation of the basis of the appeal. The Title IX Coordinator will forward the appeal, the decision-maker's written determination, and all other materials from the investigation and hearing to the President of LECOM for a final decision.

The President will review the materials provided using a preponderance of the evidence standard and will issue in a reasonably timely manner an Appeal Outcome Letter detailing the final decision and the rationale for the result, which may affirm, reverse or modify the determination of the decision-maker. The decision of the President is final. The written appeal decision will be simultaneously provided to both parties.

## **VII. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Reports and complaints have different meanings. An individual has a right to make a report of sexual misconduct to LECOM, which may be accompanied by request for supportive measures. An individual also has a right to make a complaint of sexual misconduct, which is a request to initiate LECOM's informal resolution process or a formal disciplinary process, which includes an investigation and may proceed to a formal hearing.
- B. Prior to the conclusion of a sexual misconduct investigation, the reporting party may request to withdraw the complaint by contacting the Title IX Coordinator or designee in writing. They will determine whether to close the case or conclude the investigation without the Complainant's continued participation.
- C. An individual also has the right to report sexual misconduct to law enforcement, separate and apart from any report or complaint made to LECOM.
- D. At the time a report is made, the reporting party does not have to decide whether to file a complaint or make a report of sexual misconduct to law enforcement.
- E. An affected party has the right to request supportive measures from LECOM, which may include interim contact restrictions.
- F. The reporting party has the right to seek medical treatment to address physical and mental health and to preserve evidence.
- G. A report may become a formal complaint, either initiated by the Complainant or the Title IX Coordinator. To file a formal complaint, please contact the Title IX Coordinator/designee.

## **VIII. CRIME VICTIM AND OTHER COUNSELING SERVICES**



Erie, Pennsylvania Resources

Crime Victim Center of Erie County

24 hour hotline: (814) 455-9414

Safe Harbor Mental Health

24 hour Crisis Center: (814) 456-2014

Outpatient Clinic: (814) 459-9300

Safe Net Erie (domestic violence)

24 hour crisis hotline: (814) 454-8161

Main number: (814) 455-1774

Millcreek Community Hospital

Main hospital number: (814) 864-4031, ask for Behavioral Health

Stairways Behavioral Health

(888) 453-5806

Physicians Health Programs (PHP; Pennsylvania)

(866) 747-2255 or (717) 558-7819

Secundum Artem Reaching Pharmacists with help (SARPh)

(800) 892-4484

Bradenton, Florida Resources

Centerstone Student Assistance Program

(941) 782-4379

Centerstone Crisis Center

(941) 782-4600

Bradenton- Hope Family Services, Inc.

(941) 755-6805

Rape Crisis Hotline - Bradenton

(941) 708-6059

Sarasota- Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center

24 hour hotline: (941) 365-1976

Bayside Center for Behavioral Health

Sarasota Memorial Hospital

24 hour clinical assessment: (941) 917-7760

Coastal Behavioral Health, Sarasota

24 hour Crisis Stabilization Unit: (941) 364-9355  
Assessments: (941) 552-1950

DeFuniak Springs, Florida Resources

Shelter House, Domestic and Sexual Violence Center  
Domestic Violence 24 hour hotline: (850) 863-4777 or (800) 442-2873  
Sexual Assault 24 hour helpline: (850) 226-2027

Greensburg, Pennsylvania Resources

Blackburn Center (Greensburg, PA)  
24 hour hotline: (888) 832-2272  
(724) 837-9540

Westmoreland Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline (Westmoreland County, PA)  
24 hour hotline: (800) 836-6010

Rape Crisis Center (Pittsburgh Action against Rape) (Pittsburgh, PA)  
24 hour helpline: (866) 363-7273  
(412) 431-5665

Center for Victims of Violence and Crime (Pittsburgh, PA)  
24 hour hotline: (866) 644-2882

Physicians Health Programs (PHP; Pennsylvania)  
(866) 747-2255 or (717) 558-7819

Elmira, New York Resources

Family Services of Chemung County  
(607) 733-5696

Chemung County Crisis Program  
(607) 737-5369

New York State Domestic Violence Hotline  
(800) 942-6906

Sexual Assault Resource Center  
(888) 810-0093

Committee for Physicians Health (New York)  
(518) 436-4723

**New York Students' Bill of Rights \*\***

All students have the right to:

1. Make a report to local law enforcement and/or state police;
2. Have disclosures of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault treated seriously;
3. Make a decision about whether or not to disclose a crime or violation and participate in the judicial or conduct process and/or criminal justice process free from pressure by the institution;
4. Participate in a process that is fair, impartial, and provides adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard;
5. Be treated with dignity and to receive from the institution courteous, fair, and respectful health care and counseling services, where available;
6. Be free from any suggestion that the reporting individual is at fault when these crimes and violations are committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such crimes or violations;
7. Describe the incident to as few institution representatives as practicable and not be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident;
8. Be protected from retaliation by the institution, any student, the accused and/or the Respondent, and/or their friends, family and acquaintances within the jurisdiction of the institution;
9. Access to at least one level of appeal of a determination;
10. Be accompanied by an advisor of choice who may assist and advise a reporting individual, accused, or Respondent throughout the judicial or conduct process including during all meetings and hearings related to such process; and
11. Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigative, criminal justice, or judicial or conduct process of the institution.

\*\* Applicable to students enrolled at LECOM at Elmira.

7/2023

## APPENDIX L - LECOM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The LECOM Board of Trustees has legal control, final decision-making and financial authority over all campuses: LECOM (Erie), LECOM Bradenton, LECOM at Elmira and LECOM at Seton Hill.

Mr. Gerald Alonge

Ms. Mary L. Eckert

John M. Ferretti, D.O.

Silvia M. Ferretti, D.O.

Mr. Steven G. Inman, C.P.A.

Suzanne Kelley, D.O., M.P.A.

Joan L. Moore, D.O.

James Lin, D.O.

Ms. Marlene D. Mosco, (*Chair*)

Mr. Richard P. Olinger

Ms. Nancy Peaden

Mr. Dennis M. Styn

Mr. Thomas J. Wedzik

## **APPENDIX M - LECOM ERIE: SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE**

### **Administration, Faculty and Staff**

**John M. Ferretti, D.O.**  
President/CEO

**Silvia M. Ferretti, D.O.**  
Provost, Senior Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs

**Steven G. Inman, C.P.A., C.G.M.A.**  
Vice President of Fiscal Affairs/CFO

**Richard E. Ferretti, Esq.**  
General Counsel, Corporate Compliance Officer and Director of Risk Management

**Julie K. Freeman, Esq.**  
Assistant General Counsel

**Regan Shabloski, D.O.**  
Assistant Dean of Plans, Operations, Training and Safety

**Melanie J. Dunbar, Ph.D., L.P.C.**  
Director of Behavioral Health

**Helen R. McKenzie**  
Executive Assistant to the President/CEO

**Judith A. Zboyovski**  
Administrative Assistant to the Provost, Senior Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs

**Alison Lenze**  
Administrative Assistant to the Office of the Provost

**Kathleen Spinazzola**  
Administrative Assistant to the Office of the Provost

**Tiffany Zinn**  
Social Media Manager

### **EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

**Mathew J. Bateman, Ph.D., D.H.Ed.**  
Assistant Provost of Institutional Effectiveness

**Margo Wolfe, Ph.D.**

Grants and Compliance Coordinator

**Theresa Hunter-Pettersen, M.D., M.P.A., M.S.**

Institutional Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Irving (Irv) Freeman, Ph.D., J.D.**

Director of Institutional Review Board (IRB)

**Walter J. Hu**

Assistant to the Assistant Provost of Institutional Effectiveness

**Deborah Lee-Sanko, MHSA**

Executive Director, LECOM Consortium for Academic Excellence (LCAE)

**Laurie Mahoney**

Administrative Assistant, LECOM Consortium for Academic Excellence (LCAE)

**SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE ADMINISTRATION**

**Jason Lee, DPM, FACFAS, D.ABPM, MS Med**

Dean, LECOM School of Podiatric Medicine

**Megan Causgrove**

Administrative Assistant to the Dean  
School of Podiatric Medicine

**OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Kevin Thomas, D.O., M.S.**

Assistant Dean of Institutional Enrollment  
Management and Clinical Education

**David Fried, Ph.D.**

Director of Admissions (Emeritus)

**Colleen Pamula**

College Receptionist

**Office of Financial Aid**

**Shari Gould, M.A.**

Institutional Director of Financial Aid

**Rosaline “Sally” Fike**

Financial Aid Counselor

**Veronica Walers, C.W.S.**

Financial Aid Counselor

**Karla Ball**  
Financial Aid Counselor

**Erin Barone**  
Financial Aid Counselor

### **Office of Admissions**

**Dustin Cassell**  
Director of Pre-professional Program  
Admissions

**Vacant**  
Director of Professional Programs  
Admissions

**Nathan DiTonto**  
Admissions Representative

**Chelsea Kelly**  
Admissions Representative

**DeeAnna Hedges**  
Admissions Representative

**Andrea Beers**  
Admissions Representative

**Suzanne Harkness**  
Assistant Director, Admissions

**Shelby Kratz**  
Admissions Representative

### **Office of the Registrar**

**Jeremy J. Sivillo**  
Institutional Registrar

**Maricely Reyes-Cruz**  
Assistant Registrar

### **LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER**

**Daniel A. Welch, M.L.S.**  
Institutional Director,  
LECOM Learning Resource Centers

**Andrew R. Krol, M.L.I.S**  
Assistant Director,  
LECOM Learning Resource Center

**Andrew Koval M.S.L.S.**  
Health Science Librarian - LECOM at Seton  
Hill

**Theresa Bliss, M.L.I.S.**  
Health Science Librarian – LECOM at  
Elmira

**Susan Mason, M.L.I.S**  
Health Science Librarian – LECOM Bradenton  
College of Medicine and School of Pharmacy

**Steve Dimoulas, M.L.I.S. – A.H.I.P.**  
Health Sciences Librarian – LECOM  
School of Dental Medicine

### **PURCHASING**

**Nazneen I. Krol, B.S.**  
Institutional Director of Purchasing

**Marcie Head**  
Purchasing Assistant

**Cindy Ingaldi**  
Purchasing and Bookstore Assistant

### **MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**Gordon Hemingway**  
Institutional Director of Information  
Technology

**Mark Badaracco**  
Information Systems Manger

**Jesi Bartlett**  
Student Information Systems Coordinator

**Joshua Bogden**  
Network Operations Coordinator

**Kyle Price**  
Network Administrator

**Christopher Desser**  
Clinical Network and Digital Signage  
Technician (MAE)

**Jonathan Nielson**  
Enterprise Services Manager

**Russell D. Bidwell**  
Audio Visual Team Lead

**Cameron Lang**  
AV/IT Technician

**Michelle Melendez**  
AV/IT Technician

**Brandon Gerst**  
AV/IT Technician

**James Hanlon**  
IT Services Manager

**Tim McDonald**  
IT Service Manager

**Justin Jarrett**  
Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)  
Institutional Director of Network Operations

**Andre Torres**  
Senior Software and Database Developer

**Andrew Fulton**  
Student Information System Technician

**Will McKee**  
Network Operations Coordinator

**Harrison DeVore**  
Cybersecurity Compliance Technician

**Collin Potter**  
Enterprise Services Technician

**Andrew R. Jack**  
AV/IT Technician

**Alex Borisov**  
AV/IT Technician

**Brandon Crane**  
AV/IT Technician

**Branden Darly**  
Dental Support Service Manager

**Mark Venzin, M.B.A.**  
IT Service Manager/Facility Coordinator

## **FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING**



**Steven G. Inman, CPA, CGMA**  
Vice President of Fiscal Affairs/CFO

**Brenda Learn, MBA**  
Financial Analyst Director

**Susan K. Williard**  
Accounting Supervisor

**Amy Majczyk**  
Bursar

**Jennifer M. Cass**  
Payroll Specialist / Staff Accountant

**Breanne Flanagan**  
Student Billing Assistant

**Justin R. Barns**  
Accounts Payable Specialist

**Beth Sivak**  
Grant Accountant

**Mary Ann Hess**  
Business Office Assistant/Accounts Payable

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**

**Matthew Bresee**  
Vice President of Marketing,  
Communications, and Organizational Culture

**MSGR. David A. Rubino Ph.D.**  
Vice President of External Affairs

**Isabella Rinehart**  
Graphic Designer

**Christopher Nick**  
Communications Specialist

**Rebecca DeSimone, Esquire**  
Chief Writer/Editor-in-Chief

### **BUILDING OPERATIONS**

**Brian J. King**  
Director of Building Operations

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Aaron E. Susmarski, J.D.**  
Institutional Director of Human Resources

**Kathleen J. States, MSHRD, SHRM-CP**  
Associate Director of Human Resources

**Wendy L. Grafius**  
Talent Management Specialist

**Allison Wakley, M.S.Ed.**  
Human Resource Generalist and  
Recruitment Specialist

**Christopher Workman, SHRM-CP**  
Human Resource Generalist

**Robert Wood, SPHR**  
Human Resource and Payroll Coordinator

**Wendy Young, MSOL**  
Human Resource Assistant

### **CAMPUS POLICE and SECURITY**

**Kevin E. Goode**  
Institutional Director of Police and Security

**Richard Shopene**  
Deputy Director

**Jamie Smith**  
Operations/Logistics

**Harry E. Whipple, III**  
Operations/Logistics

### **FOOD SERVICES**

**Dupree DeBoe**  
Food Service Manager

### **SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE FACUTLY**

**Michael W. Hankins, D.P.M.**, *Clinical Assistant Professor of Podiatric Medicine*; B.S. Christina Brothers University; D.P.M., Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine

**Kristen Heard, D.P.M.**, *Clinical Assistant Professor of Podiatric Medicine*; D.P.M., Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine

### **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE FACULTY**

**John Balmer, D.O.**, *Clinical Associate Professor of OPP*; B.S.N., Indiana University of PA; D.O., University of New England

**Micalyn D. Baney, D.O.**, *Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine*; B.S., Elizabethtown College; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**David Beaton, D.O.**, *Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, Obstetrics/Gynecology*; B.S., Allegheny College; D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

**David Bodosky, D.O.**, *Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine/OPP*; B.A., Accounting, Thiel College; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Sarah E. Breon, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.)**, *Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine*; B.S., Biology, Oberlin College; M.S., Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Terry Buckwalter, D.O.**, *Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery/Anesthesiology*; B.S., Allegheny College; D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Sean T. Carroll, D.O., M.S. (Med.Ed.),** *Assistant Professor of Surgery/Otolaryngology;* B.A., Gannon University; D.O., Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University

**Seth H. Carter, D.O., M.S.M.Ed.;** *Clinical Associate Professor of Geriatrics;* B.S., Microbiology, Brigham Young University; M.S. Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Nancy L. Carty, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Dean of Preclinical Education, PBL Erie/Seton Hill/Elmira;; Associate Professor of Microbiology; Director of Masters of Medical Science Program;* B.S., Biology, Bloomsburg University; M.S., Biology, Shippensburg University; Ph.D., Medical Microbiology, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

**Melodie Chudlinski, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of OMM;* M.Sc. in Healthcare Administration, LECOM, D.O., LECOM

**Jennifer Coughlin, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine and Director of H&P;* B.A., Biology, Washington and Jefferson, Washington, PA, D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Erie, PA

**John Czarnecki, M.D., M.P.H., MPA,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine;* B.S., Biology, The Pennsylvania State University; M.S., Environmental Science, Gannon University; M.D., Jagiellonian University

**Carmine D. D'Amico, D.O., F.A.C.C.,** *Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine and Cardiology; Course Director of the Cardiovascular System; ACLS Course Director;* B.A., Biology, Washington and Jefferson College; D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Michael DiGiorno, D.O.,** *Clinical Professor, Regional Dean;* M.S., Fordham University; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Bertalan Dudas M.D., Ph.D., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Professor of Anatomy; Assistant Dean of Research and Scholarship; Course Director of Histology; Director of Neuroendocrine Organization Laboratory;* M.S., Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; Ph.D., M.D., University of Szeged, Hungary

**David Duriancik, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Professor of Biochemistry;* Ph.D., Biochemical Human Nutrition, Michigan State University; B.Sc., Molecular Biology/Biotechnology, Clarion University of Pennsylvania

**Erik O. Esper, D.O.,** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine/OPP;* Gannon University; D.O., University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences Des Moines

**Jeffrey J. Esper, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.), M.H.S.A.,** *Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine/Neurology; Clinical Science Coordinator, Neurosensory System; Division of Neurology Program Director, UPMC Hamot-Millcreek Community Hospital Neurology Residency;* Gannon University; D.O., College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, University of Osteopathic

Medicine and Health Sciences Des Moines; M.S. (Med. Ed.), M.H.S.A., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Stephany F. Esper, D.O.,** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine/OPP; Assistant Director of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine; Gannon University; D.O., University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences*

**Karl J. Falk, D.O.,** *Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine/OMM; B.A., Mathematics, B.S.N. Nursing, Villa Maria Academy; D.O., University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences Des Moines*

**Kevin Falk, D.O., M.S. (Med.Ed),** *Clinical Assistant Professor of OMM; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine*

**Anthony Jon Ferretti, D.O.,** *Clinical Professor of Surgery/Orthopedics; B.S., Biology, Gannon University; D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine*

**John M. Ferretti, D.O., F.A.C.O.I.,** *Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine; President/CEO of LECOM; B.S., Gannon University; M.S., D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine; Residency, Hospital at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine; Board Certification in Internal Medicine (AOBIM); Certification of Competence in Geriatrics (AOBIM); Fellow, American College of Osteopathic Internists*

**Richard E. Ferretti, Esq.,** *Instructor of Medical Jurisprudence, Director of Risk Management; General Counsel; B.A., University of Pittsburgh; J.D., Duquesne University; M.B.A., The Behrend College of Pennsylvania State University*

**Silvia M. Ferretti, D.O.,** *Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine/Physical and Rehabilitative Medicine; Provost; Senior Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs; Gannon University; D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine; Residency, Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Board Certification, American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, AOA Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Family Practice (ACOFP), Geriatric Medicine*

**Vincent S. Fierro, Jr., D.O.,** *Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine/Gastroenterology; System Coordinator, Digestive System; B.S., University of Delaware; D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine*

**Christopher Fonner, Ph.D.,** *Associate Professor of Physiology; B.S., Biology, Gannon University, Ph.D., Duquesne University*

**Edward Griffin Jr., M.D.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery/Orthopedics; M.D., SUNY Downstate College of Medicine*

**Douglas Grisier, D.O.,** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine; B.S., Gannon University; D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine*

**Danielle Hansen, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.);** *Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine; B.A., Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University; M.S., Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine*

**Jan Hendryx, D.O.,** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine/OMM; Course Director of Osteopathic Principles and Practice; B.S., Pre-Medicine, The Pennsylvania State University; M.S., Biology, St. Bonaventure; D.O., Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine; Medical Acupuncture for Physicians, American Academy of Medical Acupuncture*

**Colleen Cole Jeffrey, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Professor of Physiology; Endocrine System Course Coordinator; M.S., Biology, University of Notre Dame; Ph.D., Physiology, University of Florida*

**John J. Kalata, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine; Director of Medical Education, Millcreek Community Hospital; B.S. Notre Dame; M.S., Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine*

**M. Fahim Kadir, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, B. Pharm. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, M. Pharm., University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Ph.D., Pharmacology, University of Cambridge, UK*

**Jonathan K. Kalmey, Ph.D.,** *Associate Dean of Preclinical Education, Professor of Anatomy; B.S., Biology, Shippensburg University; M.A., Biological Anthropology, University of South Carolina; Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences, Kent State University/NEOUCOM*

**Christopher C. Keller, Ph.D., C.P.H.,** *Director of Curriculum and Student Achievement; Professor of Microbiology; Director of Doctoral Program in Microbiology Education Course Director of Microbiology/Immunology, Public Health Laboratory of Human Pathogens; B.S., Biology, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford; Ph.D., Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh*

**Randy J. Kulesza, Jr., Ph.D.,** *Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Director of Doctoral Program in Anatomy Education, Professor of Anatomy & Physiology; Course Director Embryology, Human Gross Anatomy; Basic Science Coordinator of Basic and Clinical Neuroscience, Director of the Auditory Research Center; B.S., Biology, Gannon University; Ph.D., Anatomy, West Virginia University*

**Leah Labranche, Ph.D., M.S.,** *Assistant Professor of Anatomy, Assistant Director of Directed Study Pathway; Director of Bridging the Gaps; B.Sc., University of Guelph; M.Sc., Clinical Anatomy, Western University*

**Patrick Leary, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.) F.A.O.A.S.M.** *Clinical Professor of Sports Medicine; Director of Sports Medicine; B.S., University of Notre Dame; M.S., Medical Education, Lake*

Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Kansas City University of Medicine and Bioscience College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Jack Lee, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Professor of Physiology, Director of Lecture Discussion Pathway; Course Director of Integumentary System; Course; Director of Physiology; Digestive System Coordinator;* B.S. University of Buffalo; Ph.D., Physiology and Biophysics, Stony Brook University

**James Lin, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine/Geriatrics Palliative Care; Course Director of Geriatric System;* B.S., New York University; M.S., Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Sarah McCarthy, Ph.D.,** *Associate Professor of Anatomy/Physiology; Director of Directed Study Pathway. Co-Director of Primary Care Scholars Pathway; Director of the Convergence Course;* B.S., Applied Forensic Science, Mercyhurst College; Ph.D., Anatomy, Penn State Hershey College of Medicine

**Eric J. Milie, D.O., M.S. (Med Ed.);** *Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine;* B.S., Sports Medicine, Mercyhurst College; M.S., Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., FACOFP,** *Regional Dean; Clinical Professor of Family Medicine; Chair, Department of Primary Care Education; Co-Director of Primary Care Scholars Pathway;* B.S., Mathematics, Allegheny College; D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine; Board Certification in Family Medicine (AOBFP), Young Adult and Adolescent Medicine (AOBFP); HIV/AIDS Specialist (AAHIVM); Fellow, American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

**Gary L. Peterson, Jr., D.O., M.S., Med. Ed.;** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine;* B.S., Gannon University; M.S., Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Andrej Podlutsky, Ph.D.,** *Associate Professor of Biochemistry;* M.Sc., Kharkov State University, Ph.D., Institute Theoretical and Experimental Biophysics, Puschino, Moscow Region, Russia

**Mohammed S. Razzaque, Ph.D., MBBS,** *Professor of Pathology;* MBBS, Medicine, Chittagong University College of Medicine (Bangladesh); Ph.D., Pathology, Nagasaki University School of Medicine (Japan)

**Armando Ricci, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine/OMM;* B.S., Chemistry, Gannon University; M.S., Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine; M.S., Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Beth Ann Ricci, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine/OMM*; B.S., Chemistry, Westminster College; M.S., Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine; M.S., Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Brian Risavi, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine*; B.S. Chemistry, Grove City College; M.S., Science & Medical Education, LECOM; DDS, University of Pittsburgh, D.O., Des Moines University

**Charles Rohrbach, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine*, M.S. Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Matthew Roll, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Professor of Biochemistry*; B.Sc., Chemistry, Edinboro University, M.Sc., Molecular and Cellular Biology, SUNY at Buffalo, Ph.D. Philosophy, Cancer Biology Concentration, Wake Forest University, NC.

**Regan P. Shabloski, D.O.,** Assistant Dean of Plans, Operations, Training and Safety; *Clinical Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine*; B.A., M.S., Mansfield University of Pennsylvania; D.O., Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Diana Speelman, Ph.D.,** *Associate Professor—Biochemistry, Director of College of Medicine Research*; B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Maryland; Ph.D., Philosophy, Medical Biochemistry, University of Maryland

**Lisa Stevens, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery/Pathology; Course Director of Pathology and Respiratory Systems*; B.S., Biology, Ohio Northern University; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Mark Strazisar, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine/Psychiatry*; B.S. Gannon College; M.S. Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Mark A. Terrell, Ed.D.,** *Assistant Dean of Medical Education/Institutional Director for Faculty Development & Inter-professional Education, Professor of Anatomy & Biostatistics, Director of Masters in Science of Medical Education, Co-Director of Ph.D. Program in Anatomy Education, Director of Educational Research*; B.S., Education, State University of New York-College of Fredonia; M.S., Geology, Ball State University; M.A., Educational and Cognitive Psychology, Ball State University; Ed.D., Biology, Ball State University

**Richard Terry, D.O., M.B.A., FAAFP, FACOFP,** *Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, LECOM at Elmira*; B.A., Psychology, Alfred University; M.B.A., University of Massachusetts Amherst; D.O. New York College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Noelle Thielman, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology*; B.S. Edinboro University, Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

**Joshua Tuck, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery and Orthopedics;* B.S. Notre Dame College;; D.O. University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine; M.S. Medical Education, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Frank Tursi, D.O.,** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine/Geriatric Medicine;* B.S., Biology, Widener College; D.O., Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Steven Wolfe, D.O., M.P.H.,** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine, Regional Dean;* B.S. Chemistry, University of Pittsburgh;; D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; M.P.H., University of Pittsburgh

### **LECOM MAE PHYSICIANS**

**Rodolfo Arreola, M.D.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery*

**Bryant Bojewski, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine*

**Mark Baker, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine*

**Micalyn Baney, D.O.,** *Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine*

**David Beaton, D.O.,** *Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, Obstetrics/Gynecology*

**Amy Beckman, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine*

**David Bodosky, D.O.,** *Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine*

**Sarah Breon, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine*

**Christopher Buzas, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology*

**Seth Carter, D.O.,** *Clinical Associate Professor of Geriatrics*

**Lori Dulabon, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Urology*

**Karl J. Falk, D.O.,** *Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine/OMM*

**Kevin Falk, D.O., M.S. (Med.Ed),** *Clinical Assistant Professor of OMM*

**Anthony Jon Ferretti, D.O.,** *Clinical Professor of Surgery/Orthopedics*

**John M. Ferretti, D. O., F.A.C.O.I.,** *Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine*

**David Figueroa, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry*



**Douglas Fronzaglia, D.O., M.S. (Med.Ed),** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine*

**Edward Griffin, M.D.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery*

**Douglas Grisier, D.O.,** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine*

**Michael Hauk, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiology*

**Danielle Hansen, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine*

**John Kalata, D.O.,** *Professor of Family Medicine*

**Jay Kiessling, M.D.,** *Clinical Instructor of Surgery*

**James Lin, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine/Geriatrics; Course Director of Geriatric System*

**Ryan Lynch, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine*

**Meghan McCarthy, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry*

**Fernando Melaragno, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed),** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine*

**Eric J. Milie, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine*

**Gary L. Peterson, Jr., D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine*

**Christopher Rial, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine/Sports Medicine/Integrated Care*

**Armando Ricci, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine/OMM*

**Beth Ann Ricci, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine/OMM*

**Gary Ritten, M.D.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery and OB/GYN*

**Chip Rohrbach, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine*

**Prianka Sinha, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry*

**David Snow, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry*

**Lisa Stevens, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Pathology*

**Shawn Storm, D.O.,** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery/Orthopedics*

**Joshua A. Tuck, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery/Orthopedics*

**Frank Tursi, D.O.,** *Clinical Professor of Family Medicine/Geriatric Medicine*

**Brian Viviano, D.O., M.S. (Med. Ed.),** *Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine/Gastroenterology*

**William Wismer, D.O.,** *Adjunct Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine/Gastroenterology*

**Stefanie L. Young, C.N.M., M.S.N.,** *Instructor of OB/Gyn*