



## **SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

**DOCTOR OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL CANNABINOID THERAPEUTICS  
MASTERS IN HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL ETHICS  
MASTERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **ACADEMIC CATALOG AND STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2026-2027**



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## SHSA MASTER'S PROGRAMS ACADEMIC CALENDARS

Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA) – 24 months

Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE) – 24 months

Masters in Public Health (MPH) – 24 months

Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) – 24 months

### U25 Cohort Graduating Class of 2027: Start June 2025

May 18, 2025	Last day for applications
May 26, 2025	Memorial Day (no classes)
May 30, 2025	Last day of enrollment cycle
May 31, 2025	First semester begins (Virtual Orientation)
July 4, 2025	Independence Day
September 1, 2025	Labor Day (no classes)
November 27-28, 2025	Thanksgiving (no classes)
December 25, 2025	Holiday Break (no classes)
December 27, 2025	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester
January 1, 2026	New Year's Day (no classes)
January 4, 2026	Second Semester Begins
January 19, 2026	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
May 25, 2026	Memorial Day (no classes)
May 30, 2026	End of Second Semester
June 21, 2026	Third Semester Begins
July 3, 2026	Independence Day
September 7, 2026	Labor Day (no classes)
November 26-27, 2026	Thanksgiving (no classes)
December 5, 2026	End of Third Semester
December 7, 2026–January 2, 2027	Holiday Break
January 1, 2027	New Year's Day
January 3, 2027	Fourth Semester begins
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
May 29, 2027	End of fourth semester
May 30, 2027	ERIE Commencement Class of 2027
June 6, 2027	BRADENTON Commencement Class of 2027

## SHSA MASTER'S PROGRAMS ACADEMIC CALENDARS

Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA) – 24 months

Masters in Public Health (MPH) – 24 months

### SHSA U26 Cohort

#### Graduating Class of 2028: Start June 2026

May 29, 2026	Last day for applications and enrollment
May 31, 2026	First semester begins (Virtual Orientation)
July 3, 2026	Independence Day (celebrated)
September 7, 2026	Labor Day (no classes)
November 26-27, 2026	Thanksgiving (no classes)
December 19, 2026	End of 1st Semester
December 25, 2026	Holiday Break (no classes)
January 1, 2027	New Year's Day (no classes)
January 3, 2027	Second Semester Begins
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
May 29, 2027	End of Second Semester
May 31, 2027	Memorial Day (no classes)
June 20, 2027	Third Semester Begins
July 5, 2027	Independence Day (celebrated)
September 6, 2027	Labor Day (no classes)
November 25-26, 2027	Thanksgiving
December 4, 2027	End of Third Semester
December 24, 2027	Holiday Break (no classes)
December 31, 2027	New Year's Day (celebrated)
January 2, 2028	Fourth Semester begins
January 17, 2028	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
May 27, 2028	End of fourth semester
May 28, 2028	ERIE Commencement Class of 2028
June 4, 2028	BRADENTON Commencement Class of 2028

## **SHSA MASTER'S PROGRAMS ACADEMIC CALENDARS**

Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE)-12 months

### **MSBE J27 Cohort**

#### **Graduating Class of 2028: Start January 2027**

December 18, 2026	Last Day for Applications
January 3, 2027	First Semester Begins
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
May 29, 2027	End of First Semester
May 31, 2027	Memorial Day (no classes)
June 6, 2027	Second Semester Begins
July 5, 2027	Independence Day (celebrated)
September 6, 2027	Labor Day (no classes)
November 25-26, 2027	Thanksgiving
December 18, 2027	End of Second Semester
May 28, 2028	ERIE Commencement Class of 2028
June 4, 2028	BRADENTON Commencement Class of 2028

## **SHSA MASTER'S PROGRAMS ACADEMIC CALENDARS**

Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT)- 18 months

### **MS MCT J27 Cohort**

#### **Graduating Class of 2028: Start January 2027**

December 18, 2026	Last day for applications and enrollment
January 3, 2027	First Semester Begins
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
May 29, 2027	End of First Semester
May 31, 2027	Memorial Day (no classes)
June 6, 2027	Second Semester Begins
July 5, 2027	Independence Day (celebrated)
September 6, 2027	Labor Day (no classes)
November 25-26, 2027	Thanksgiving
December 18, 2027	End of Second Semester
December 24, 2027	Holiday Break (no classes)
December 31, 2027	New Year's Day (celebrated)
January 2, 2028	Third Semester begins
January 17, 2028	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
May 20, 2028	End of Third Semester
May 28, 2028	ERIE Commencement Class of 2028
June 4, 2028	BRADENTON Commencement Class of 2028

## **DHA ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

### **Doctor of Healthcare Administration**

#### **Graduating Class of 2027: Start July 2024 – Cohort Designation DHA U24**

#### **DHA U24 Academic Year 1**

##### **2024-2025 O1 Semester**

July 15, 2024	Last day for applications
July 15, 2024	Last day of enrollment cycle
July 20, 2024	First semester begins section A
July 20, 2024	Virtual Residency Session 1-Orientation
August 17, 2024	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 1
September 2, 2024	Labor Day (no classes)
September 14, 2024	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 2
September 28, 2024	First semester section A ends
October 6, 2024	First semester section B begins
October 12, 2024	Virtual Residency Session 2
November 16, 2024	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 3
November 28-29, 2024	Thanksgiving (no classes 26th)
December 14, 2024	First semester section B ends
December 14, 2024	End of first semester

#### **DHA U24 Academic Year 1**

##### **2024-2025 O2 Semester**

January 11, 2025	Second semester begins
January 11, 2025	Second semester section A begins
January 11, 2025	Virtual Residency Session 3
January 20, 2025	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
February 15, 2025	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 4
March 22, 2025	Second semester section A ends
March 23, 2025	Second semester section B begins
March 29, 2025	Virtual Residency Session 4
April 5, 2025	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 5
May 10, 2025	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 6
May 26, 2025	Memorial Day (no classes)
May 31, 2025	Second semester section B ends
May 31, 2025	Second semester ends

**Doctor of Healthcare Administration**  
**Graduating Class of 2027: Start July 2024 – Cohort Designation DHA U24**

**DHA U24 Academic Year 2**  
**2025-2026 O1 Semester**

July 19, 2025	First semester begins
July 19, 2025	First semester section A begins
July 19, 2025	Virtual Residency Session 5
August 16, 2025	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 7
September 1, 2025	Labor Day (no classes)
September 13, 2025	Virtual Synchronous Sessions Conf. 8
September 27, 2025	First semester section A ends
October 5, 2025	First semester section B begins
October 18, 2025	Virtual Residency Session 6
November 15, 2025	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 9
November 27-28, 2025	Thanksgiving (no classes 25th)
December 13, 2025	First semester section B ends
December 13, 2025	First semester ends

**DHA U24 Academic Year 2**  
**2025-2026 O2 Semester**

January 10, 2026	Second Semester begins
January 10, 2026	Semester section A begins
January 10, 2026	Virtual Residency Session 7
January 19, 2026	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
February 14, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 10
March 21, 2026	Second semester section A ends
March 22, 2026	Second semester section B begins
March 28, 2026	Virtual Residency Session 8
April 25, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 11
May 9, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 12
May 25, 2026	Memorial Day (no classes)
May 30, 2026	Second semester section B ends
May 30, 2026	Second semester ends

**Doctor of Healthcare Administration**  
**Graduating Class of 2027: Start July 2024 – New Cohort Designation DHA U24**  
**DHA U24 Academic Year 3**  
**2026-2027 01 Semester**

July 18, 2026	First semester begins
July 18, 2026	First semester section A begins
July 18, 2026	Virtual Residency Session 9
August 15, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 13
September 7, 2026	Labor Day (no classes)
September 12, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 14
September 26, 2026	First semester section A ends
October 4, 2026	First semester section B begins
October 17, 2026	Virtual Residency Session 10
November 14, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 15
November 26-27, 2026	Thanksgiving (no classes 24th)
December 12, 2026	First semester section B ends
December 12, 2026	First semester ends

**DHA U24 Academic Year 3**  
**2026-2027 02 Semester**

January 9, 2027	Second semester begins
January 9, 2027	Second semester section A begins
January 9, 2027	Virtual Residency Session 11- BRADENTON
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
February 13, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 16
March 13, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 17
March 20, 2027	Second semester section A ends
March 21, 2027	Second semester section B begins
April 3, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 18
May 31, 2027	Memorial Day (no classes)
April 10-May 20, 2027	Session 12- Dissertation Defense
May 29, 2027	Second semester section B ends
May 29, 2027	Second semester ends
May 30, 2027	Commencement class Erie 2027
June 6, 2027	Commencement class Bradenton 2027

**Doctor of Healthcare Administration  
Graduating Class of 2028: Start July 2025**

**DHA U25 Academic Year 1  
O1 Semester**

July 6, 2025	Last day for applications
July 13, 2025	Last day of enrollment cycle
July 19, 2025	First semester begins section A
July 19, 2025	Virtual Residency Session 1-Orientation
August 16, 2025	Virtual Synchronous Session 2
September 1, 2025	Labor Day (no classes)
September 13, 2025	Virtual Synchronous Session 3
September 27, 2025	First semester section A ends
October 5, 2025	First semester section B begins
October 11, 2025	Virtual Residency Session 4
November 8, 2025	Virtual Synchronous Session 5
November 27-28, 2025	Thanksgiving
December 6, 2025	Virtual Synchronous Session 6
December 13, 2025	First semester section B ends
December 13, 2025	End of first semester

**Doctor of Healthcare Administration  
DHA U25 Academic Year 1 O2  
Semester**

January 10, 2026	Second semester begins
January 10, 2026	Second semester section A begins
January 10, 2026	Virtual Residency Session 7
January 19, 2026	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
February 7, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session 8
March 7, 2026	Virtual Residency Session 9
March 21, 2026	Second semester section A ends
March 22, 2026	Second semester section B begins
March 28, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session 10
April 25, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session 11
May 23, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session 12
May 30, 2026	Second semester section B ends
May 30, 2026	Second semester ends

**Doctor of Healthcare Administration**  
**Graduating Class of 2028: Start July 2025 – Cohort Designation DHA U25**

**DHA U25 Academic Year 2**  
**2026-2027 O1 Semester**

July 18, 2026	First semester begins
July 18, 2026	First semester section A begins
July 25, 2026	Virtual Residency Session 13
August 22, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session 14
September 7, 2026	Labor Day (no classes)
September 19, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Sessions 15
September 26, 2026	First semester section A ends
October 4, 2026	First semester section B begins
October 10, 2026	Virtual Residency Session 16
November 7, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session 17
November 26-27, 2026	Thanksgiving
December 5, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session 18
December 12, 2026	First semester section B ends
December 12, 2026	First semester ends

**Doctor of Healthcare Administration**  
**DHA U25 Academic Year 2**  
**2026-2027 O2 Semester**

January 10, 2027	Second Semester begins
January 10, 2027	Semester section A begins
January 16, 2027	Virtual Residency Session 19
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
February 13, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session 20
March 6, 2027	Virtual Residency Session 21
March 20, 2027	Second semester section A ends
March 21, 2027	Second semester section B begins
March 27, 2027	Virtual Residency Session 22
April 24, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session 23
May 22, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session 24
May 29, 2027	Second semester section B ends
May 29, 2027	Second semester ends

**Doctor of Healthcare Administration**  
**Graduating Class of 2028: Start July 2025 – Cohort Designation DHA U25**

**DHA U25 Academic Year 3**  
**2027-2028 01 Semester**

July 18, 2027	First semester begins
July 18, 2027	First semester section A begins
July 22, 2027	Virtual Residency Session 25
August 19, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session 26
September 6, 2027	Labor Day (no classes)
September 16, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session 27
September 25, 2027	First semester section A ends
October 3, 2027	First semester section B begins
October 14, 2027	Virtual Residency Session 28
November 11, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session 29
November 25-26, 2027	Thanksgiving (no classes)
December 9, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session 30
December 11, 2027	First semester section B ends
December 11, 2027	First semester ends

**DHA U25 Academic Year 3**  
**2027-2028 02 Semester**

January 9, 2028	Second semester begins
January 9, 2028	Second semester section A begins
January 13, 2028	Virtual Residency Session 31
January 17, 2028	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
February 10, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session 32
March 9, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session 33
March 18, 2028	Second semester section A ends
March 19, 2028	Second semester section B begins
March 30, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session 34
May 29, 2028	Memorial Day (no classes)
April 8, 2028	Dissertation Defense 1
April 22, 2028	Dissertation Defense 2
April 29, 2028	Dissertation Defense 3
May 27, 2028	Second semester section B ends
May 27, 2028	Second semester ends
May 28, 2028	Commencement class Erie 2028
June 4, 2028	Commencement class Bradenton 2028

**Doctor of Healthcare Administration**  
**Graduating Class of 2029: Start July 2026**  
**DHA U26 Academic Year 1**  
**2026-2027 O1 Semester**

July 1, 2026	Last day for applications
July 3, 2026	Independence Day (no classes)
July 14, 2026	Last day of enrollment cycle
July 18, 2026	First semester begins section A
July 18, 2026	Virtual Orientation BRADENTON
August 12, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 2
September 7, 2026	Labor Day (no classes)
September 9, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 3
September 26, 2026	First semester section A ends
October 4, 2026	First semester section B begins
October 7, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 4
November 4, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 5
November 26-27, 2026	Thanksgiving
December 2, 2026	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 6
December 12, 2026	First semester section B ends
December 12, 2026	End of first semester
December 25, 2026	Holiday Break (no classes)
January 1, 2027	New Year's Day

**DHA U26 Academic Year 1**  
**2026-2027 O2 Semester**

January 10, 2027	Second semester begins section A begins
January 13, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 7
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
February 10, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 8
March 20, 2027	Second semester section A ends
March 10, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 9
March 21, 2027	Second semester section B begins
April 7, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 10
May 29, 2027	Second semester section B ends
May 29, 2027	Second semester ends

**Doctor of Healthcare Administration**  
**Graduating Class of 2029: Start July 2026**

**DHA U26 Academic Year 2**  
**2027-2028 O1 Semester**

July 18, 2027	First semester begins section A begins
July 20, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 12
September 6, 2027	Labor Day (no classes)
August 17, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Sessions Conf. 13
September 14, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Sessions Conf. 14
September 25, 2027	First semester section A ends
October 3, 2027	First semester section B begins
October 12, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 15
November 9, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 16
November 25-26, 2027	Thanksgiving Break
December 7, 2027	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 17
December 11, 2027	First semester section B ends
December 11, 2027	First semester ends

**DHA U26 Academic Year 2**  
**2027-2028 O2 Semester**

January 9, 2028	Second Semester begins section A begins
January 11, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 18
January 17, 2028	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
February 9, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 19
March 7, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 20
March 18, 2028	Second semester section A ends
March 19, 2028	Second semester section B begins
April 4, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 21
May 2, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 22
May 27, 2028	Second semester section B ends
May 27, 2028	Second semester ends

**Doctor of Healthcare Administration**  
**Graduating Class of 2029: Start July 2026**  
**DHA U26 Academic Year 3**  
**2028-2029 01 Semester**

July 16, 2028	First semester begins section A begins
July 20, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 23
August 17, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 24
September 4, 2028	Labor Day (no classes)
September 14, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 25
September 23, 2028	First semester section A ends
October 1, 2028	First semester section B begins
October 12, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 26
November 9, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 27
November 23-24, 2028	Thanksgiving
December 7, 2028	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 28
December 9, 2028	First semester section B ends
December 9, 2028	First semester ends

**DHA U26 Academic Year 3**  
**2028-2029 02 Semester**

January 7, 2029	Second semester begins section A begins
January 11, 2029	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 29
January 15, 2029	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
February 8, 2029	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 30
March 8, 2029	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 31
March 17, 2029	Second semester section A ends
March 18, 2029	Second semester section B begins
April 5, 2029	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 32
May 3, 2029	Virtual Synchronous Session Conf. 33
May 26, 2029	Second semester section B ends
May 26, 2029	Second semester ends
May 27, 2029	Commencement class Erie 2029
June 3, 2029	Commencement class Bradenton 2029

## 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 School of Health Services Administration (SHSA), leading to the degrees Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA), Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE), Masters in Public Health (MPH), Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) and Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA) programs hereafter referred to as (Programs). 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 College of Osteopathic Medicine, 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](#).

To the extent applicable, students are subject to and will be expected to observe the provisions of the Code of Ethics of the American Osteopathic 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, perseverance, 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 the 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 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.

In 2015 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.

As part of the LECOM commitment to wellness for this growing age group, LECOM also purchased Parkside Senior Living Communities consisting of three independent living and personal care apartment complexes, located in Erie, Northeast, and Millcreek, then added two additional long-term care facilities in 2016, LECOM at Village Square and LECOM Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Since then, LECOM has added four more senior living communities in Northwestern PA: Parkside at Corry (2020), Parkside at Glenwood (2022), Parkside at Elmwood, and LECOM at Elmwood Gardens (2023).

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 Public Health (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.

Late in 2022, LECOM Health purchased Independence Court, an Erie-based assisted living facility, adding to its already vast nexus of healthcare living options. The Parkside at Glenwood offers enhanced personal care and a memory care unit.

Also in 2022, and in keeping with the commitment that has defined its cutting-edge success, LECOM opened a School of Podiatric Medicine (SPM), and accepted students for the fall semester of 2023. The School is now thriving as an yet another established LECOM offering.

The LECOM-SPM is the eleventh podiatric medical school in the United States. The four-year program, established at the LECOM main campus in Erie, offers unique curricular collaboration with the LECOM College of Osteopathic Medicine and extensive clinical learning within its regional academic health system to meet the need for podiatric doctors throughout the United States.

LECOM began the year 2024 with an upgraded and expanded School of Dental Medicine Simulation (SIM) Lab at the Bradenton, Florida campus. The \$2.5 million investment into the project accommodates increasing class size at the dental school and equips scholars with the latest in educational technology.

January of 2024 also saw LECOM Health Corry Memorial Hospital becoming accredited for an Internal Medicine Residency Program – a first in the United States for a Critical Access Hospital. In keeping with the LECOM mission to create programs of excellence in education, clinical care, research, and community service, the new Residency Program improves access to care for the rural population as future physicians train in the delivery of healthcare at the highest level.

In 2024, LECOM graduated its first class of medical doctors from its New York State campus, LECOM at Elmira. This inaugural graduation marks another step forward as LECOM advances the expansive network of highly trained medical professionals throughout the nation.

Ever cognizant of rural needs, LECOM opened the Rural Health Clinic of Wattsburg, located in Greene Township, Pennsylvania, in August of 2024. The Clinic physicians treat patients of all ages, and they provide a range of healthcare services, including Primary Care. The Wattsburg practice is the fourth rural health clinic in the LECOM Health nexus. The others are located in Corry and Union City,

Pennsylvania, and Clymer, New York. Each facility is designed to improve access to Primary Care services in non-urbanized areas.

In October of 2024, the new Ambulatory Surgery Center (LECOM ASC) was opened in Millcreek Township, Pennsylvania. With the creation of this new Center, and with other third-decade plan initiatives, LECOM is increasing the reach and reputation of its medical and academic enterprise. A 23,000 square-foot facility supporting a full range of innovative care, the Center engages multidisciplinary specialists, bringing together cutting-edge medicine and compassionate care to treat the whole patient.

In mid-November of 2024, a LECOM Health ribbon-cutting ceremony launched the first Specialty Hospice Unit in Erie County - at the LECOM Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. An entire wing of the Center has been renovated for the Specialty Hospice Unit.

In early February of 2025, LECOM Health unveiled LECOM Medical Center and Behavioral Health Pavilion as the new name of its flagship hospital during a special ceremony that took place in the Atrium at LECOM. Formerly known as Millcreek Community Hospital, LECOM Medical Center and Behavioral Health Pavilion features a new 34,000-square-foot expansion across two stories including a new emergency room, an intensive care unit, 20 medical surgical beds, and a state-of-the-art cardiovascular laboratory. The facility also includes emergency patient rooms dedicated solely to behavioral health.

Rounding out an array of milestones, LECOM was proud to celebrate its receipt of a successful 10-year AOA-COCA accreditation renewal for its medical school. This noteworthy triumph recognizes the LECOM dedication to academic excellence, to innovative teaching, and to an enduring commitment to shaping the future of healthcare.

Now, in its 33rd 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, dentistry, and podiatric medicine. 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 healthcare.

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, color, religion, gender or sex to include sexual orientation, gender identification, and gender expression, pregnancy, 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. LECOM CAMPUSES AND FACILITIES**

### Erie, Pennsylvania

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

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

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

LECOM Bayfront Building  
1 LECOM Place  
Erie, PA 16505

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

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

Elmira, New York  
LECOM Elmira Building  
1 LECOM Place  
Elmira, NY 14901

Jacksonville, Florida  
LECOM at Jacksonville University  
5415 Dolphin Point Boulevard  
Jacksonville, Florida 32211

Bradenton, Florida - Branch Campus  
College of Medicine and  
School of Pharmacy Building  
5000 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.  
Bradenton, FL 34211

School of Dental Medicine and School of  
Health Services Administration Building  
4800 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.  
Bradenton, FL 34211

### **1.5.1. The John M. & Silvia Ferretti Medical Fitness & Wellness Center**

LECOM, in partnership with the LECOM Medical Center, launched a project that integrates healthcare services and fitness programs into one comprehensive center. The LECOM John M. and Silvia Ferretti Medical Fitness and Wellness Center combines a state-of-the-art fitness center with the clinical offices of Medical Associates of Erie, offering the Erie community a place to pursue disease prevention and receive medical treatment.

The first two floors of the three-story building house the spa-quality fitness center, featuring 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 is dedicated to the clinical offices providing services in internal medicine, integrative medicine, geriatrics, orthopedic surgery, and obstetrics/gynecology. This union of a comprehensive fitness center and medical offices underscores osteopathic medicine's commitment to preventive and holistic healthcare. The LECOM John M. and Silvia Ferretti Medical Fitness and Wellness Center opened in March 2009, and all matriculating students are eligible for membership.

For students at the Bradenton campus, fitness facilities are available at the adjacent YMCA. Students at LECOM at Seton Hill can utilize the fitness center and athletic facilities at Seton Hill University, LECOM at Elmira students have access to the facilities at Elmira College and LECOM at Jacksonville University students will have access to the facilities of Jacksonville University.

## **1.6. 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 Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.)  
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. M.C.T.)  
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  
Post Associate Certificate – R.N. to Pharm.D. Bridge

## **1.7. 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 of the United States (COMLEX-USA) Level 1, Level 2-CE, and Level 2-PE (suspended indefinitely); and LECOM graduates are eligible to sit for the COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination. All components of COMLEX-USA 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 and II; and LECOM graduates are eligible to sit for the

APMLE Level III examination. All components of the 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 a podiatric physician in the state where a license will be sought should be obtained from that state's licensing board.

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

### **1.8.1. 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 Osteopathic Medicine Accreditation**

LECOM College of Osteopathic 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 was initially granted "candidacy status" on October 24, 2022. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the SPM was granted "Preaccreditation" status. The Council is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

11400 Rockville Pike; Suite 220

Rockville, MD 20852

(301) 581-9220

### **Masters of Health Services Administration**

The LECOM School of Health Services Administration's (SHSA) Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA) program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME). CAHME is the only organization recognized to grant accreditation to individual academic programs offering a professional master's degree in healthcare management education by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

PO Box 911

Spring House, PA 19477

301-298-1820

[info@cahme.org](mailto:info@cahme.org)

### **1.8.2. 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.

Division of Higher Education, Access, and Equity

Pennsylvania Department of Education

607 South Drive, 3rd Floor

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Phone: 717-783-6786

[RA-HigherEducation@pa.gov](mailto:RA-HigherEducation@pa.gov)

#### **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 and LECOM at Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL 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](#):

[Directory of participating SARA institutions](#)

Students may review the institution's final accreditation and licensing documents upon request.

Requests should be made to Student Affairs.

### 1.8.3. 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:

Division of Higher Education, Access, and Equity

Pennsylvania Department of Education

607 South Drive, 3rd Floor

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Phone: 717-783-6786

[RA-HigherEducation@pa.gov](mailto:RA-HigherEducation@pa.gov)

(for submission of form or questions)

Or see the following link for the [process and form](#).

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](#):

[SARA complaint process](#)

[Directory of participating SARA institutions](#)

[Pennsylvania SARA information](#)

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, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, or Dean of the School of Podiatric 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 \(msche.org\)](http://www.msche.org/Complaints-and-Third-Party-Comments-Middle-States-Commission-on-Higher-Education)

**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). COCA [Accreditation Complaint Policy](#) and [Complaint Form](#)

**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 the [Commission on Dental Accreditation site](#).

**School of Podiatric Medicine** may also contact Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) directly by contacting the CPME at 11400 Rockville Pike, Suite 220, Rockville, MD 20852 and by email at [CPMEstaff@cpme.org](mailto:CPMEstaff@cpme.org) Additional information on filing complaints can be found at the [Council on Podiatric Medical Education site](#).

**Masters of Health Services Administration (MHSA)** may also contact the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) at PO Box 911, Spring House, PA 19477, and by email at [info@cahme.org](mailto:info@cahme.org) or by visiting their website at <https://cahme.org/contactinformation/>

## 1.9. DISCLAIMER

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) reserves the right to make changes to course offerings, curricula, academic policies, tuition and fee schedules, and other rules and regulations affecting students. These changes may be made to correct errors, omissions, inconsistencies, or to comply with requirements from regulatory, accrediting, or other governing bodies. The date of effectiveness and interpretation of these rules, regulations, and policies are at the sole discretion of LECOM. These changes will apply to current students as well as those who enroll in the future. LECOM disclaims any responsibility for misrepresentations of its requirements or provisions that may arise due to errors in the preparation of the Academic Catalog.

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

### **1.10. WRITTEN AGREEMENTS**

Students in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Pharmacy, School of Podiatric Medicine, and School of Dental Medicine will complete a significant portion of their education through clinical rotations away from LECOM. LECOM has agreements with various clinical preceptors and sites, which are available for review. The number of these agreements is substantial and may vary each year. The terms of these agreements do not impose additional costs on LECOM students. However, students may incur additional costs related to travel and living expenses during rotations. These expenses can vary widely, depending on the location of the rotation and the individual circumstances of the students.

## **2. ACADEMIC PROGRAM – SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

### **2.1. MISSION VISION AND VALUES OF THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

#### **School of Health Services Administration Mission**

The mission of the LECOM School of Health Services Administration (SHSA) is to develop and deliver high quality masters and doctoral degree programs that prepare clinicians and graduate students for executive healthcare administration roles. Honoring osteopathic principles, educational excellence is maintained through an outcome-focused, case-based curriculum with experiential discovery and action research taught through a flexible on-line learning platform. Graduates are transformed into formally trained public and private healthcare industry leaders who can effectively adapt to rapidly changing requirements and provide exceptional strategic, operational, and ethical support to hospitals, clinical practices, and other healthcare organizations.

#### **School of Health Services Administration Vision**

The LECOM School of Health Services Administration aspires to create and deliver a top U.S. graduate program in executive healthcare administration. The school envisions a lifelong relationship with alumni to advise, foster, and contribute to the dynamic evolution and success of their careers.

#### **School of Health Services Administration Values**

The LECOM SHSA and program adheres to the following overarching LECOM values:

- 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 and truthfulness and 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 for the whole.
- 7. Respect for Different Perspectives**  
reverence for and dignified treatment of each individual.
- 8. Diversity**  
distinction with identity.

## 9. Proactive Organization

persistence, tenacity and leadership to achieve a vision and strategic goals.

## 2.2. ADMISSIONS

### 2.2.1. Graduate Programs of the School of Health Services Administration

Including: Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA), Masters in Public Health (MPH), Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE), and Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT)

#### Applicants shall meet these minimum requirements:

- A. Applicants will have completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university by the time of enrollment or be currently enrolled in the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM), School of Pharmacy (SOP), School of Podiatric Medicine (SPM), or School of Dental Medicine (SDM). Applicants currently enrolled in a LECOM program will utilize their LECOM transcripts for admission to an SHSA program. Applicants who are not currently enrolled in a concurrent LECOM program must submit official transcripts from all undergraduate programs for admission into an SHSA program.
- B. Applicants not currently enrolled in LECOM COM, SPM, SOP or SDM must submit two letters of recommendation from academic or professional associates familiar with the applicant's work and/or academic credentials.
  - Applicants enrolled in LECOM's COM, SOP, SPM or SDM may enroll in a SHSA program. However, students may only be enrolled in two SHSA LECOM programs concurrently. To apply, students should have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 and a letter of recommendation from the student's Pre-clinical Dean.
- C. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- D. Foreign trained applicants interested in enrolling in a SHSA program must have passed the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) with a minimum (150 in verbal reasoning, 150 in quantitative reasoning) and 3 in analytical writing.
- E. If English is not the applicant's native language, the applicant must successfully pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum of B (20 points in reading session, 20 points in speaking session, 20 points in listening session and 20 points in writing session).
- F. Successful candidates will typically reflect an overall GPA of 3.0 or above in their college degree transcripts.
- G. Applicants must provide a current copy of one of the following official government-issued photo ID to verify their identity: State issued driver's license, US passport or US military ID.

- H. Applicants must complete an interview (either in person or via video conference) with the program director and be recommended for admission into the program by the LECOM School of Health Services Administration Admissions Committee and Dean.

### **2.2.2. Doctoral Program of the School of Health Services Administration**

Including: Doctor of Healthcare Administration

**Applicants shall meet these minimum requirements:**

- A. Applicants will have completed a master's degree from an accredited college or university by the time of enrollment or hold a doctorate professional degree in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, podiatry, nursing, speech pathology, or related discipline and level.
- B. Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation from professional associates familiar with the applicant's work and/or academic credentials.
- C. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- D. Applicants may be required to pass the GMAT Analytical Writing Assessment, Integrated Reasoning, Verbal, and Quantitative with a minimum score of 561 on a scale of 200-800. The GMAT requirement may be waived under certain conditions by the Dean of the LECOM School of Health Services Administration if any of the following special conditions are met:
  - 1. The applicant has posted an acceptable score for either the GMAT or GRE within five (5) years of the start of the applied to DHA program.
  - 2. The applicant is a graduate of any of the LECOM School of Health Services Administration master's degree programs.
  - 3. The applicant can validate significant (minimum of five years) of healthcare industry administrative and leadership experience during the interview process.
  - 4. At the discretion of the SHSA Dean
- E. Foreign trained applicants interested in enrolling in the DHA program must have passed the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) with a minimum of B (150 in verbal reasoning, 150 in quantitative reasoning) and 3 in analytical writing.
- F. If English is not the applicant's native language, the applicant must successfully pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum of B (20 points in reading session, 20 points in speaking session, 20 points in listening session and 20 points in writing session).
- G. Successful candidates will typically reflect an overall GPA of 3.0 or above reflected on their college degree transcripts, of which official copies of each must be provided.
- H. Applicants must provide a current copy of one of the following official government issued photo ID to verify their identity: State issued driver's license, US passport or US military ID.

- I. Applicants must complete an interview (either in person or via video conference) with DHA program director and be recommended for admission into the program by the LECOM School of Health Services Administration Admissions Committee and Dean.

### **2.2.3. SHSA Masters and Doctoral Application Procedure**

Individuals interested in admission to any of the programs of the School of Health Services Administration can request additional information and access to the secure LECOM application system utilizing the following link:

[School of Health Services Administration Program Application](#)

Once all application materials have been received by the SHSA student affairs representative including all official transcripts, letters of recommendation and government issued ID, the SHSA admissions committee will be notified that the candidate is ready to be reviewed.

1. Prospective students create an online account using the LECOM admissions portal.
2. Applicants submit an application online for their program of interest, along with all supporting documents required.
3. When the application and supporting documents are completed, the program director contacts the students and schedules an admissions interview.
4. Applicants meeting the standards for admissions consideration are presented to the Admissions Committee.
5. The Admissions Committee reviews the application, and a decision is made and submitted to the Office of Student Affairs.
6. Applicants are notified via email. Those offered admission are provided information for matriculation.

Individuals interested in applying to SHSA programs are strongly encouraged to apply at least 10 weeks prior to the start of classes but no later than May 15 of prior to the start of the SHSA program.

### **2.2.4. Admissions Information**

For further information about the LECOM SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION Programs, please call (941) 782 – 5900 for the Office of Admissions at LECOM Bradenton. 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. Should LECOM learn that a prospective student has failed a drug or alcohol test subsequent to accepting the student or if the student is involved in a drug or alcohol related incident subsequent to acceptance, LECOM reserves the right to rescind the acceptance or to condition acceptance on the student's entrance into an alcohol or drug treatment program.

### **2.2.5. Transfer Policy for the School of Health Services Administration**

Credits for prior learning and transfer credits for matriculation into the MHSA, MSBE, MPH, MS MCT and DHA programs are not awarded. The transferring of credits earned in a LECOM graduate program are at the discretion of the accepting institution. LECOM does not hold responsibility for the transferability of credits earned.

## 2.3. PROGRAMS OF THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

### 2.3.1. Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA)

#### Introduction and Mission Statement

##### **MHSA Mission**

The mission of the LECOM Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA) program is to prepare executive healthcare administrators through educational excellence in a focused, case-based curriculum with experiential discovery and action research delivered through a flexible on-line learning platform. Graduates can effectively adapt to rapidly changing health care systems and deliver effective interprofessional strategic leadership throughout the healthcare continuum.

##### **MHSA Vision Statement**

The LECOM Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA) program aspires to be recognized as a top U.S. graduate program in executive healthcare administration. The reputation of the program will be recognized as graduates will demonstrate exceptional skills and leadership abilities in hospitals, clinical practices, and nursing care facilities. The program envisions a lifelong relationship with alumni to advise, foster, and contribute to the dynamic evolution and success of their careers.

##### **MHSA Values**

In accomplishing our Mission and Vision, the LECOM MHSA program will promote and adhere to the following Values:

- Adhere to excellence by setting the highest standards for our students, faculty and our curriculum.
- Remain current by continuing to evolve our methods and approaches.
- Promoting honesty, transparency, and ethical behavior in all we do.
- Support diversity, equality, and inclusion by creating a sense of belonging and value in everyone.
- Foster mutual respect, teamwork, and dignity for all, by all.

##### **MHSA Program-Level Learning Domains and Competencies**

The MHSA program aims to develop graduates that demonstrate knowledge and skills across five domains of learning. The five domains of learning flow directly from the program mission and are made measurable via program-level learning competencies that are mapped across the curriculum.

##### **Domain 1 – Communication and Interpersonal Effectiveness**

**Focus:** Communication, collaboration, conflict resolution, stakeholder engagement, relationship-building.

##### **Competencies:**

- **Competency 1.1 (Communication Skills):** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to articulate effective skills of verbal communication and presentation tailored to the requirements of individual stakeholders.
- **Competency 1.2 (Teamwork & Collaboration):** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to engage in positive relationships with individuals and teams and participate effectively as both a team leader and member.
- **Competency 1.3 (Inclusive Organizational Culture):** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to communicate and sustain an inclusive organizational culture that inspires collaboration and

innovation.

### **Domain 2 – Critical Thinking, Analysis, and Problem-Solving**

**Focus:** Analytical reasoning, problem-solving, evidence-based decision-making, evaluating alternative solutions under uncertainty.

**Competencies:**

- **Competency 2.1** (Problem Analysis & Solutions): Graduates will demonstrate the ability to analyze real or potential problems for the purpose of developing and evaluating innovative solutions in healthcare settings.
- **Competency 2.2** (Data Analytics): Graduates will demonstrate the ability to use qualitative methods, predictive analytics, and market data to determine patterns and trends that impact decision-making.
- **Competency 2.3** (Market-Driven Business Plans): Graduates will demonstrate the ability to formulate market-driven business plans that accomplish objectives relating to the accomplishment of the organization’s mission, vision, and values.
- **Competency 2.4** (Risk Mitigation): Graduates will demonstrate the ability to mitigate issues of risk in healthcare organizations through ongoing evaluation of quality, compliance, and efficiency.

### **Domain 3 – Leadership**

**Focus:** Lead teams, create vision, manage change, strategic thinking, decision-making, financial stewardship.

**Competencies:**

- **Competency 3.1** (Organizational Behavior & Management): Graduates will be able to use critical thinking skills to formulate processes and procedures that incorporate sound principles of organizational behavior and management.
- **Competency 3.2** (Change Leadership): Graduates will be able to manage change leadership through creating a shared vision and then responding to periods of external uncertainty and evolution to bring about needed adaptive strategies which will ensure organizational growth and survival.
- **Competency 3.3** (Financial Stewardship): Graduates will demonstrate the ability to utilize financial and budgeting techniques for effective stewardship of healthcare resources.
- **Competency 3.4** (Policy Compliance & Quality Improvement): Graduates will be able to understand and respond to healthcare policies relating to regulatory compliance and the need for continuous quality improvement of patient safety and the quality of care.

### **Domain 4 – Professionalism**

**Focus:** Ethics, integrity, transparency, cultural competence, lifelong learning, professional conduct.

**Competencies:**

- **Competency 4.1** (Ethics & Professional Conduct): Graduates will demonstrate the ability to align personal and organizational conduct with ethical, legal, and professional standards.

### **Domain 5 – Knowledge of Healthcare Environment / Foundational Knowledge**

**Focus:** Understanding healthcare system structure, population health, policy, collaboration across sectors, and environmental factors affecting health.

**Competencies:**

- **Competency 5.1** (Population Health): Graduates will gain an understanding of population health initiatives to address the effects of social determinants, the environment, and individual

behaviors on community health status levels.

- **Competency 5.2** (Healthcare System Structure & Issues): Graduates will gain an understanding of the structure, history and current emerging issues in the U.S. healthcare system, including the organization, delivery, and regulation of healthcare organizations at the Federal, state and local levels.
- **Competency 5.3** (Policy Development & Implementation): Graduates will gain an understanding of national and local health policy development and implementation, especially as it relates to healthcare operational and compliance issues.
- **Competency 5.4** (Cross-Sector Collaboration): Graduates will learn the importance of the need for continuous collaboration between multiple healthcare private, not-for-profit, and governmental entities in order to accomplish local healthcare improvement activities.

### 2.3.1.1. Tuition and Fees

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

#### Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA) 24 Month Program Covering 4 Semesters 2026-2027 COST OF EDUCATION

	<b>Year 1 (1st &amp; 2nd semesters)</b>	<b>Year 2 (3rd &amp; 4th semesters)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Tuition**</b>	\$12,820	\$14,700	<b>\$27,520</b>
<b>Technology Fee</b>	\$500	\$500	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Books</b>	\$353	\$353	<b>\$706</b>
<b>Internet and Other</b>	\$960	\$960	<b>\$1,920</b>
<b>Ave. Loan Fees</b>	\$1,146	\$1,129	<b>\$2,275</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,779</b>	<b>\$17,642</b>	<b>\$33,421</b>

Total Estimated Cost of the June Cohort MHSA Program Matriculation: **\$33,421**

#### Matriculation Fee\*

Payment credited to the tuition fee upon matriculation \$150.00

#### Tuition

See refund policies in Section [3.4 Tuition Refund Policy for Students Who are Self-pay](#).

For students who are not currently enrolled in another program (at LECOM or another institution), room, board, transportation, and other miscellaneous expenses may be added to your cost of education budget. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information and a possible cost of education adjustment.

Students will need to provide documentation of the purchase of a computer to be included in the cost of education budget.

The Cost of Education is subject to change without notice. Financial aid is available only for the months the student is enrolled, so please plan accordingly.

The Cost of Education represents average costs and may not always meet the student's full financial

responsibilities. Total loan amounts borrowed, and scholarships awarded from all sources cannot exceed the Cost of Education.

### **Health Insurance** – Optional for non-concurrent LECOM students

Cost for LECOM health insurance for a single student \$4,524 per /year and is subject to change.

\*The matriculation fee will be waived for currently enrolled LECOM students applying to the program.

\*\*Current LECOM students and alumni are eligible to apply for a LECOM tuition scholarship. Fees are not included in any scholarships awarded. Students must apply to the MHSA program prior to enrollment deadline to qualify.

\*\*Current LECOM employees and affiliate organizations may apply for a tuition discount. Fees are not included in any discounts applied.

All LECOM student scholarships and discounts are subject to change without notification.

LECOM dual enrolled students may only receive one LECOM Scholarship so if the MHSA scholarship is accepted, any core program scholarships are no longer effective.

### **ADDITIONAL FEES**

<b>Late Payment Fee (per week)</b>	\$50
<b>Breakage Fee</b>	Cost of Replacement
Loss or damage to college property and equipment is charged to the student(s) responsible.	
<b>Transcript Fee</b>	\$20
<b>Student Identification/Key Card – Replacement</b>	\$25
<b>Remediation Course Fee</b>	\$500
<b>Application Fee</b>	\$50
Non-refundable	

Non-refundable fees are limited to \$150.00 per student per year in Florida.

### **2.3.1.2. Curriculum**

The MHSA curriculum consists of 50 credits. There are ten core courses (30.0 credits) required for all students. Each student also completes three electives. Students must participate in experiential discovery through our executive interview and analysis courses (6.0 credits). Students complete either a Master's Thesis Project (5.0 credits) or Capstone Experience (5.0 credits) as a Program Final Course and must pass the final comprehensive examination (non-credit assignment) with a 70% or greater for all ten test sections.

### **Course Numbering**

As a Masters level program, all courses are designated as upper-division-level courses requiring advanced

**Core Courses** academic preparation.

### Course Sequence and Credit Hours for the Masters in Health Service Administration (MHSA)

Abbr.	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
<b>Masters in Health Service Administration (MHSA) Summer/Fall Year 1</b>			
HSA	5020	Professional and Communication Skills Development	3.0
HSA	5000	Healthcare Organizations and Administration	3.0
HSA	5050	Legal and Ethical Issues in Business and Clinical Decision Making	3.0
HSA	5030	Research Methodology and Application	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0
<b>Masters in Health Service Administration (MHSA) Winter/Spring Year 1</b>			
HIA	5220	Financial Analysis and Risk Management	3.0
HSA	5010	Population Health and Status Assessment	3.0
HSA	5090	Economic Analysis and Application in Decision Making	3.0
Total Semester Hours			9.0
<b>Masters in Health Service Administration (MHSA) Summer/Fall Year 2</b>			
HSA	5040	Health Policy	3.0
HSA	5065	Information Systems and Quality Assurance	3.0
HSA	5080	Governance, Leadership and Strategic Planning	3.0
HSA	5430	Executive Interviews and Analysis I	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0
<b>Masters in Health Service Administration (MHSA) Winter/Spring Year 2</b>			
HSA	5431	Executive Interviews and Analysis II	3.0
HSA	5410/20	MHSA Thesis or Capstone Experience	5.0
	Elective I	HIA 5200	3.0
	Elective II	HIA 5210 or HIA 5230 or MPH 5300	3.0
	Elective III	HIA 5240 or HIA 5250	3.0
HSA	5500	Comprehensive Final Exam (Pass/Fail)	0.0
Total Semester Hours			17.0
<b>Masters in Health Service Administration (MHSA) Winter/Spring Year 2</b>			
HIA	5200	Human Resources Management	3.0
HIA	5210	Healthcare Marketing	3.0
HIA	5250	Healthcare Management Operations	3.0
HIA	5230	Long-Term Care Administration I	3.0
HIA	5240	Long-Term Care Administration II	3.0
MPH	5300	Disaster Preparedness	3.0
Total Program Hours			50.0

#### 2.3.1.3. Course Descriptions

##### **HSA-5020: Professional and Communication Skills Development Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: None

This course develops core professional communication competencies for health services administrators, including effective writing, presentations, public speaking, and the use of contemporary communication technologies. Students practice building professional relationships and engaging in collaborative team activities that strengthen shared problem solving and interpersonal effectiveness. Emphasis is placed on

communication approaches that support respectful, inclusive, and trust based organizational cultures.

**HSA-5000: Healthcare Organizations and Administration Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: None

This course introduces the structure, functions, and operational dynamics of healthcare organizations, emphasizing foundational concepts in organizational behavior and management. Students examine how organizational design, governance, and leadership practices influence performance and decision making. The course also explores the structure and regulatory environment of the U.S. healthcare system to build understanding of system-level issues and emerging challenges.

**HSA-5050: Legal & Ethical Issues in Business and Clinical Decision-Making Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: None

This course examines the legal foundations that shape healthcare operations, including contracts, torts, regulatory requirements, and compliance obligations. Students analyze ethical principles and professional standards that guide clinical and administrative decision making-making in diverse healthcare settings. Emphasis is placed on aligning organizational conduct with ethical, legal, and professional expectations while supporting quality, safety, and responsible governance.

**HSA-5030: Research Methodology and Application Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: None

This course develops the analytical skills needed to evaluate problems, interpret data, and generate evidence-based solutions in healthcare environments. Students apply qualitative methods, predictive analytics, and market data to identify trends that inform decision-making. Emphasis is placed on designing research strategies, conducting evaluations, and communicating findings that support problem analysis and solution development.

**HIA-5220: Financial Analysis and Risk Management Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: None

This course builds financial stewardship skills through the analysis of financial statements, budgeting techniques, cost allocation, and capital planning. Students evaluate financial risks and apply tools that support compliance, efficiency, and organizational sustainability. Emphasis is placed on using financial data to guide decision-making and mitigate operational and strategic risks in healthcare organizations.

**HSA-5010: Population Health and Status Assessment Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: None

This course explores the social, environmental, and behavioral determinants that influence population health and community health status. Students examine public health systems, financing structures, and policy frameworks that shape population-level outcomes. Emphasis is placed on assessing community health needs and understanding how healthcare system structures and emerging issues affect population health initiatives.

**HSA-5090: Economic Analysis and Application in Decision Making Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: None

This course applies economic principles to healthcare decision-making, including budgeting, cost analysis, labor evaluation, and resource allocation. Students assess market conditions, financial incentives, and production considerations that influence organizational strategy. Emphasis is placed on using economic tools to support financial stewardship and the development of market-responsive business plans.

**HSA-5040: Health Policy Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation** Credits: 3.0

Pre-requisite: None

This course examines the development, implementation, and evaluation of health policy at federal, state, and local levels. Students analyze how policy shapes healthcare delivery, quality, financing, and regulatory compliance. Emphasis is placed on understanding policy processes and applying policy analysis skills to operational and organizational decision-making.

**HSA-5065: Information Systems and Quality Assurance** Credits: 3.0

Pre-requisite: None

This course explores the role of information systems in supporting quality assessment, performance improvement, and regulatory compliance in healthcare organizations. Students examine data systems, accreditation requirements, and quality frameworks that guide organizational evaluation. Emphasis is placed on using information systems to enhance patient safety, operational efficiency, and continuous quality improvement.

**HSA-5080: Governance, Leadership and Strategic Planning** Credits: 3.0

Pre-requisite: None

This course examines governance structures, leadership theories, and strategic planning processes in healthcare organizations. Students explore how leaders create vision, guide organizational change, and build inclusive cultures that support collaboration and innovation. Emphasis is placed on developing adaptive strategies, managing high-performance teams, and aligning organizational decisions with mission and accountability expectations.

**Elective Courses**

**HIA-5200: Human Resources Management** Credits: 3.0

Pre-requisite: 10 core courses

This course introduces the principles of human resources management, including recruitment, selection, training, performance evaluation, and compensation. Students examine organizational behavior concepts that influence workforce engagement and team performance. Emphasis is placed on communication, collaboration, and inclusive practices that support effective leadership and organizational culture.

**HIA-5210: Healthcare Marketing** Credits: 3.0

Pre-requisite: 10 core courses

This course examines how marketing principles are applied within the unique regulatory, ethical,

and organizational context of healthcare. The course introduces students to the structure of marketing for healthcare systems including providers, payers, and pharmaceutical firms. Core topics covered include market analysis, consumer and patient behavior, segmentation and targeting, branding, pricing, and the development of value propositions for healthcare services and products. Emphasis is placed on understanding the patient as both a consumer and a recipient of care.

**MPH-5300: Disaster Preparedness** Credits: 3.0

Pre-requisite: 10 core courses

This course examines the delivery of healthcare services across prevention, wellness, chronic disease management, and emergency preparedness. Students explore population health strategies, social determinants of health, and cross-sector collaboration needed to improve community health outcomes. Emphasis is placed on ethical practice, policy compliance, and understanding system-level factors that influence service delivery.

**HIA-5230: Long-Term Care Administration I** Credits: 3.0

Pre-requisite: 10 core courses

This course provides an overview of long-term care as a key component of the healthcare delivery system, including client populations, services, and regulatory environments. Students examine system structures, policy considerations, and ethical issues that influence long-term care operations. Emphasis is placed on understanding healthcare system issues, population needs, and cross-sector collaboration in long-term care settings.

**HIA-5240: Long-Term Care Administration II** Credits: 3.0

Pre-requisite: 10 core courses

This course builds on foundational long-term care concepts by examining operational management, quality improvement, and risk mitigation strategies in long-term care organizations. Students analyze regulatory requirements, financial considerations, and system-level challenges affecting long-term care delivery. Emphasis is placed on applying problem-solving, risk management, and organizational analysis skills to real-world LTC scenarios.

**HIA-5250: Healthcare Management Operations** Credits: 3.0

Pre-requisite: 10 core courses

This course develops operational management skills for healthcare administrators, including workflow design, labor management, supply chain processes, and performance improvement. Students apply analytical methods to evaluate operational efficiency and financial sustainability. Emphasis is placed on problem analysis, data-driven decision-making, and financial stewardship within diverse healthcare provider settings.

**HSA-5410: MHSA Thesis** Credits: 5.0

Pre-requisites: 10 core courses

This course guides students through the development of a graduate-level thesis that applies research methods to a significant healthcare management issue. Students analyze complex organizational or system-level problems and develop evidence-based solutions using adaptive strategies and change leadership principles. Emphasis is placed on producing a scholarly, professionally presented project that demonstrates mastery of research, analysis, and leadership competencies.

**HSA-5420: Capstone Experience** Credits: 5.0

Prerequisites: 10 core courses

This integrative course applies leadership, strategic planning, and organizational analysis skills to real-world administrative challenges. Students synthesize knowledge across functional areas to develop solutions that address emerging issues in healthcare organizations. Emphasis is placed on communication, collaboration, and cross-sector engagement to support effective decision-making and strategic execution.

**HSA-5430 & 5431: Executive Interviews & Analysis I & II** Credits 3.0 for each course (6 credits total)

Pre-requisites: HSA 5030

HSA-5430 (Executive Interviews & Analysis I): This course provides structured field engagement through interviews with healthcare executives to analyze organizational structure, system issues, and leadership practices. Students assess ethical considerations, inclusive culture, and policy environments influencing executive decision-making. Emphasis is placed on synthesizing findings into a professional analysis that demonstrates understanding of healthcare system issues and ethical practice.

HSA-5431 (Executive Interviews & Analysis II): This course advances executive interview analysis by focusing on financial stewardship, market-driven planning, and collaborative leadership strategies. Students evaluate organizational challenges, team dynamics, and strategic opportunities identified through executive insights. Emphasis is placed on developing actionable recommendations grounded in financial analysis, teamwork, and market-responsive planning.

## 2.3.2. Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE)

### Introduction and Mission Statement

The MSBE curriculum is comprised of 36 credits delivered in 13 courses. The MSBE program teaches students about the ethical, social and legal issues arising in medicine and the life sciences. Students completing the program are equipped with the knowledge and skills to apply the ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice to real-world medical scenarios and research.

### MSBE Mission

The mission of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine's Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE) program is to strive to move learners beyond knowledge acquisition and skills development to behavioral changes that result in the delivery of excellent patient-centered care focused on shared-decision making and patient choices. The program will be flexible and responsive to students' needs, new challenges, and the evolving demands of healthcare education by readily developing and adding new curricular pieces and features to enhance current offerings as appropriate. The MSBE program will utilize innovative technology and a case-based curriculum with experiential discovery and action research delivered through a flexible on-line learning platform approach to keep students engaged and advancing in their program and careers.

### **MSBE Vision**

Modern health care requires that professionals have both the theoretical foundation of relevant ethics/compliance knowledge and its critical application to enhance care delivery in general and to improve patient satisfaction. Today's health professionals are also expected to adequately develop and hone their interprofessional skills. The ability to work collaboratively and cooperatively in daily care delivery and management is critical not only for the sake of the integrity of their professions, but also for the benefit of their patients, and it supports the holistic approach of the Osteopathic philosophy. Our learning environment provides the opportunity to practice the holistic approach of caring for the whole person, mind, body & spirit

### **MSBE Goals**

Completion of this program will develop graduates' ability to analyze, mediate, and resolve ethical dilemmas using key ethical concepts, frameworks, and arguments in their fields of specialization, enabling them to contribute to policy discussion and development in a wide range of professional, institutional, and industry settings. Whether students are preparing for, or continuing, a career in health care, science, law, chaplaincy/church ministry, education, advocacy, or management, the MS in Biomedical Ethics will provide the ethical understanding required to confidently approach their respective disciplines informed with the appropriate knowledge, skills, and mindset.

#### **Goal 1 - Master Ethical Content**

- A. Apply ethical principles in patient-centered care situations
- B. Understand and facilitate an ethics consult
- C. Lead an ethically sound strategic initiative aimed at patient safety
- D. Identify and process ethical dilemmas

#### **Goal 2 – Develop Interprofessional Strategic Leadership Skills**

- A. Demonstrate cultural competency in providing health care to diverse patient populations
- B. Show competency in effective communication within the diverse interprofessional team
- C. Respond and resolve conflict between patients and families, peers and colleagues
- D. Formulate a strategic plan for the development of an ethics committee and consultation plan

#### **Goal 3 - Further the Mission of a Holistic Approach to the Education and Practice of Healthcare Ethics**

- A. Recognize and accept the patient as a unique whole person--mind, body, and spirit
- B. Recognize and support the unique and changing healthcare needs of individual patients across the lifespan
- C. Design an interprofessional approach to effective collaboration with colleagues that enhances each professional's efforts and benefits patients
- D. Use frameworks to resolve ethical dilemmas to enhance the delivery of patient centered care

### **MSBE Competencies**

The Core Competencies for Health Care Ethics are defined by the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. The competencies represent those skills necessary within the ethics team to support ethics consultants, educational programs that help prepare individuals, teams or committees, and those competencies required to conduct “ethics” policy reviews.

- A. Core Competency Topics Knowledge
  - 1. Ethical Theory

2. Modes of Moral Reasoning
  3. Bioethical Issues and Concepts
  4. Policies and Health Systems Information
  5. Clinical and Other Consensus Guidelines Regarding Common Ethical Problems
  6. Codes of Ethics
- B. Learning Objectives
1. Assessment and analysis
    - a. Identify and articulate value uncertainty or conflict
    - b. Gather relevant information; note beliefs, values, and assumptions
    - c. Apply relevant ethical knowledge and concepts
  2. Process Skills
    - a. Triage consult requests; establish expectations; introductions
    - b. Convene and facilitate meetings
    - c. Recognize underlying system issues
  3. Interpersonal Skills
    - a. Listen, clarify, and respond
    - b. Communicate respect, understanding, and empathy
    - c. Elicit moral views
    - d. Enable effective communications
  4. Attributes
    - a. Tolerance, patience, compassion
    - b. Honesty, forthrightness, and self-knowledge
    - c. Courage
    - d. Prudence and humility
    - e. Leadership
    - f. Integrity

### 2.3.2.1. Tuition and Fees

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

**12 Month Program Covering 2 Semesters  
Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE)  
2026-2027 Cost of Education (starting Jan 2027)**

	<b>Year 1 Jan-May (1<sup>st</sup> Semester)</b>	<b>Year 1 June-Dec (2<sup>nd</sup> Semesters)</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Tuition **</b>	\$10,650	\$10,650	<b>\$ 21,300</b>
<b>Technology Fee</b>	\$500	\$500	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Books</b>	\$168	\$168	<b>\$336</b>
<b>Internet and Other</b>	\$960	\$960	<b>\$1,920</b>
<b>Ave. Loan Fees</b>	\$999	\$1,022	<b>\$2,021</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,268</b>	<b>\$13,300</b>	<b>\$26,568</b>

Total Estimated Cost of the MSBE Program Matriculation: **\$26,568**

**Matriculation Fee\***

Payment credited to the tuition fee upon matriculation \$150.00

For students who are not currently enrolled in another program (at LECOM or another institution), room, board, transportation, and other miscellaneous expenses may be added to your cost of education budget. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information and a possible cost of education adjustment.

Students will need to provide documentation of the purchase of a computer to be included in the cost of education budget.

The Cost of Education is subject to change without notice. Financial aid is available only for the months the student is enrolled, so please plan accordingly.

The Cost of Education represents average costs and may not always meet the student's full financial responsibilities. Total loan amounts borrowed, and scholarships awarded from all sources cannot exceed the Cost of Education.

**Health Insurance** – Optional for non-concurrent LECOM students

Cost for LECOM health insurance for a single student \$4,524 per /year and is subject to change.

\*The matriculation fee will be waived for currently enrolled LECOM students applying to the program.

\*\*Current LECOM students and alumni are eligible to apply for a LECOM tuition scholarship. Fees are not included in any scholarships awarded. Students must apply to the MHSA program prior to enrollment deadline to qualify.

\*\*Current LECOM employees and affiliate organizations may apply for a tuition discount. Fees are not included in any discounts applied.

All LECOM student scholarships and discounts are subject to change without notification.

LECOM dual enrolled students may only receive one LECOM Scholarship so if the MSBE scholarship is accepted, any core program scholarships are no longer effective.

**ADDITIONAL FEES**

<b>Late Payment Fee (per week)</b>	\$50
<b>Breakage Fee</b> Loss or damage to college property and equipment is charged to the student(s) responsible.	Cost of Replacement
<b>Transcript Fee</b>	\$20
<b>Student Identification/Key Card – Replacement</b>	\$25
<b>Remediation Course Fee</b>	\$500
<b>Application Fee</b> Non-refundable fees are limited to \$150.00 per student per year in Florida.	\$50

### 2.3.2.2. Curriculum

The MSBE curriculum offers a maximum of 36 credits comprised of 12 courses. Students must complete a minimum of 36 credits to graduate and be awarded the Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics degree.

#### Course Numbering U25 MSBE Class of 2027 (24 months)

As a master's level program, all courses are designated as upper-division-level courses requiring advanced academic preparation.

#### Course Sequence and Credit Hours for the Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE)

24-month Program

Abbr.	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
<b>Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE) Summer/Fall Year 1</b>			
MBE	1010	History & Scope of Bioethics	3.0
MBE	1020	Compliance: Patient Right & Safety	3.0
MBE	1030	Clinical Ethics	3.0
MBE	2020	Building Cultural Competence	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0
<b>Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE) Winter/Spring Year 1</b>			
MBE	1040	Clinical Ethics II	3.0
MBE	2010	Conflict Resolution, Mediation, and Communications	3.0
MBE	2040	Research Ethics	3.0
Total Semester Hours			9.0
<b>Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE) Summer/Fall Year 2</b>			
MBE	2040	Organizational Ethics	3.0
MBE	2030	Executive Ethics Interviews and Analysis I	1.0
MBE	3001	Executive Ethics Interviews and Analysis II	2.0
Total Semester Hours			6.0
<b>Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE) Winter/Spring Year 2</b>			
MBE	3010	Public Health Ethics	3.0
MBE	3020	Clinician as the Problem	3.0
MBE	5500	Final Comprehensive Exam (Pass/Fail)	0.0
MBE	3100	Capstone	3.0
Total Semester Hours			9.0
Total Program Hours			36.0

## 12-Month Program

Abbr.	Number	Course Title (J27 Class of 2028, 2 months)	Credit Hours
<b>Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE) Spring Year 1 Jan 2027</b>			
MBE	1010	History & Scope of Bioethics	3.0
MBE	1020	Compliance: Patient Right & Safety	3.0
MBE	1030	Clinical Ethics I	3.0
MBE	1040	Clinical Ethics II	3.0
MBE	2040	Research Ethics	3.0
Total Semester Hours			15.0
<b>Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE) Fall Year 1 June 2027</b>			
MBE	2020	Building Cultural Competence	3.0
MBE	2010	Conflict Resolution, Mediation, and Communications	3.0
MBE	3000 & 3001	Executive Ethics Interviews and Analysis I & II	3.0
MBE	2030	Organizational Ethics	3.0
MBE	3010	Public Health Ethics	3.0
MBE	3020	Clinician as the Problem	3.0
MBE	5500	Final Comprehensive Exam (Pass/Fail)	0.0
MBE	3100	Capstone	3.0
Total Semester Hours			21.0
Total Program Hours			36.0

**2.3.2.3. Course Descriptions****MBE 1010: History and Scope of Bioethics Credits: 3.0**

This course provides a foundational introduction to healthcare ethics. The course presents and analyzes basic concepts and dominant methods in healthcare ethics from historical, systematic, and religious perspectives. Starting from a historical examination of the major moral traditions (Hippocratic tradition, sanctity/quality of life, the Enlightenment, and beyond, to the present) as well as the philosophical debate on the goals of health care, and specific ethical problems in care. Practical ethical theories and principles are discussed such as Principles and Virtue Ethics.

**MBE 1020: Compliance: Patient Rights and Safety Credits: 3.0**

This course will instruct students on some of the strictly regulated issues associated with healthcare ethics including patient rights/safety laws and compliance issues. Topics will include HIPAA, Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 (PSQIA), Privacy Rule (Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information), compliance and institutional rules & procedures. Students will explore the concept of informed consent and what that really means to the formulation of ethical clinical and research practices, as well as to providing daily care that preserves the practitioner's integrity and honors patients. Students will also hear discussions on the laws involving privacy and confidentiality and formulate a better understanding of what a culture of patient safety requires from different stakeholder perspectives--practitioners, patients, and the organization, and why that is especially relevant to ethics.

**MBE 1030: Clinical Ethics I** Credits: 3.0

This course focuses on end-of-life issues and the inherent ethical dilemmas. It will allow students to explore their own attitudes while becoming familiar with applying ethical principles to end-of-life and other areas of care. It will include the philosophical debate on the goals of health care, the concepts of suffering, futility, and compassion. Specific ethical concerns in end-of-life care will be analyzed: withholding and withdrawing treatment; artificial nutrition and hydration; palliative care; euthanasia; and assisted death.

**MBE 2020: Building Cultural Competence** Credits: 3.0

This course focuses on end-of-life issues and the inherent ethical dilemmas. It will allow students to explore their own attitudes while becoming familiar with applying ethical principles to end-of-life and other areas of care. It will include the philosophical debate on the goals of health care, the concepts of suffering, futility, and compassion. Specific ethical concerns in end-of-life care will be analyzed: withholding and withdrawing treatment; artificial nutrition and hydration; palliative care; euthanasia; and assisted death.

**MBE 1040: Clinical Ethics II** Credits: 3.0

The course will allow students to become familiar with ethical issues and their inherent ethical dilemmas especially related to the beginning of life. It will include the philosophical debate on the goals of health care and supporting ethical concepts. Beginning of life issues will include abortion, contraception, fetal diagnosis, and reproductive medicine. The end of the course will begin the discussion of organ donation.

**MBE 2010: Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Communications** Credits: 3.0

This course emphasizes the development of effective communication, mediation, and conflict-resolution skills to prepare professionals in the medical and healthcare fields for the practice of shared decision-making. Students engage in foundational concepts related to personality traits, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal communication, as well as strategies for managing and resolving conflict in clinical and organizational settings. The curriculum also incorporates training in culturally sensitive communication, the cultivation of trust, and the demonstration of empathy within healthcare interactions and team dynamics.

**MBE 2040: Research Ethics** Credits: 3.0

This course offers an introduction to key beliefs, practices, and cultural norms across selected religions, cultures, and subgroups, with a focus on how these perspectives may influence the provision of care. Students will explore foundational concepts, examine real-world applications, and develop practical strategies for navigating cultural considerations in clinical settings.

Understanding these factors is essential because cultural mores, folkways, and religious practices can significantly shape patients' attitudes, priorities, and decision-making around health and healthcare. By learning to identify relevant ethical issues, cultural or religious norms, authoritative guidance within communities, and any applicable legal considerations, students will strengthen their ability to provide respectful, patient-centered care and maintain strong professional-patient relationships.

**MBE 2030: Organizational Ethics** Credits: 3.0

The course examines the role of organizational ethics in health care. Business ethics and corporate ethics (with accompanying topics of risk management, compliance, and quality improvement) are included within the description of organizational ethics. Analyses focus on the integration of clinical, professional, and organizational ethics in health care that foster patient safety and the delivery of patient-centered care. Relevant standards in the field will be considered, such as the Joint Commission or DNV GL's accreditation standards for hospitals, and theoretical issues, relevant principles, and practical concerns will be discussed.

**MBE 3000 & 3001: Executive Ethics Interviews and Analysis I & II Credits: 3.0**

In this semester-long experiential learning course, students will select a current topic in biomedical ethics that aligns with their academic and professional interests. Through a scaffolded two-part structure, the course integrates foundational research methodology, meaningful community engagement, and applied knowledge demonstration. The sequence is intentionally designed to build toward the Capstone Thesis course, equipping students with the analytical skills and ethical insight necessary to develop focused research concentration addressing a significant ethical concern in the biomedical field.

**MBE 3010: Public Health Ethics Credits: 3.0**

The ethical dimensions of health concepts, health promotion, prevention, epidemiology, immunization, screenings, and health policies are examined. The course presents the public health perspective, the general principles and issues of public health ethics, and how these may sometimes seem to contrast with traditional medical ethics. Commonly accepted existing practices that are being challenged, like childhood vaccinations, and other public health initiatives that may seem to impinge on individual rights will be discussed.

**MBE 3020: Clinician as the Problem Credits: 3.0**

Uncovering, examining, and understanding how to set aside personal biases are not only important steps in becoming an effective bioethicist, but they also are necessary skills for any clinical worker faced with providing genuine patient-centered care. This course encourages both self-reflection and interaction as it challenges students through the presentation of dilemmas specifically related to common personal biases and the opportunity to work through them.

**MBE 3100: Capstone Experience Credits: 3.0**

Prerequisite: Completion of all courses except MBE 3001: Executive Ethics Interviews & Analysis II

The School of Health Services Administration at LECOM requires all Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE) students to complete an Integrated Learning Experience (ILE), known as the Capstone Project. The Capstone Project represents the student's culminating academic experience, in which the MSBE student synthesizes, integrates, and applies the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the program. All research and completed assignments associated with the Capstone Project are conducted and submitted online. The Capstone Project must demonstrate mastery of both foundational and concentration competencies.

As a signature requirement of the program, students are expected to present their completed research at LECOM Research Day, held each spring. This presentation takes the form of a recorded poster presentation and a brief overview of the student's research, allowing students to showcase their work and

contribute to the broader scholarly community at LECOM — all completed remotely in keeping with the fully online nature of the program.

**MBE-5500: Comprehensive Final Exam (Pass/Fail)** requires 70% in all core courses

### 2.3.3. Masters in Public Health (MPH)

#### Introduction and Mission Statement

The LECOM Masters in Public Health (MPH) program comprises fourteen core courses and a culminating capstone experience designed to integrate and apply students' learning in real-world contexts. The program prepares graduates to serve as skilled public health professionals capable of addressing population-level health challenges through evidence-based, culturally responsive, and innovative approaches.

Rooted in the foundational disciplines of biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy and management, environmental and occupational health, and the social and behavioral sciences, the curriculum emphasizes both analytical rigor and practical application. Students further refine their competencies through advanced coursework that explores contemporary public health issues, emerging global health trends, and the structural and social determinants that shape health outcomes.

In addition to developing strong methodological and leadership skills, students gain experience in interdisciplinary collaboration, program planning and evaluation, and the translation of research into practice. By the completion of the program, graduates are equipped to contribute meaningfully to public health systems in the United States and internationally, and to advance health equity across diverse communities.

#### MPH Mission

The mission of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine's (LECOM) Masters in Public Health (MPH) is to improve the health, health care, and well-being of individuals, families, and communities with a geographic focus on North America by applying the philosophy of osteopathic medicine which seeks to treat the whole person, mind, body and spirit. The program will be flexible and responsive to students' needs, new challenges, and the evolving demands of healthcare education by readily developing and adding new curricular pieces and features to enhance current offerings as appropriate. The program will utilize innovative technology and a case-based curriculum with experiential discovery and action research delivered through a flexible on-line learning platform approach to keep students engaged and on track.

#### Vision

The vision of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine's Masters in Public Health is to improve the public health of the United States through the impact of our graduates.

#### Values

Diversity	Health Equality-Social Justice
Service	Equitable Partnerships
Innovation	Stewardship of Resources
Excellence	Person Centered Practice

#### MPH Goals

The primary goal of the MPH program is to educate students to become prepared public health professionals and leaders.

Graduates of the LECOM Masters in Public Health will be able to:

1. Assess the health needs of a community.
2. Identify social determinants of health.
3. Plan and manage programs to promote health.
4. Design programs that integrate social and behavioral components of health promotion.
5. Assess population needs, assets, and capacities to effect community health.
6. Influence public health policy.
7. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration, and guiding group decision making.
8. Apply Osteopathic Principles and Practice to the practice of a public health professional.

### **Objectives of the Program**

The LECOM Masters in Public Health program ensures that all graduates are grounded in foundational public health knowledge. Grounding in foundational public health knowledge is measured by the students' achievement of the learning objectives listed below, or higher-level versions of the same objectives.

### **Profession & Science of Public Health**

1. Explain public health history, philosophy and values.
2. Identify the core foundations of public health and the [10 Essential Services](#).
3. Explain the role of quantitative and qualitative methods and sciences in describing and assessing a population's health.
4. List major causes and trends of morbidity and mortality in the US or other relevant communities.
5. Discuss the science of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention in population health, including health promotion, screening, and education.
6. Explain the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge.

### **Factors Related to Human Health**

7. Explain effects of environmental factors on a population's health.
8. Explain biological and genetic factors that affect a population's health.
9. Explain behavioral and psychological factors that affect a population's health.
10. Explain the social, political and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities.
11. Explain how globalization affects global burdens of disease.
12. Explain an ecological perspective on the connections among human health, animal health and ecosystem health (e.g., One Health).

### **MPH Competencies**

- I. The MPH competencies are informed by the traditional public health core knowledge areas: biostatistics, epidemiology, social and behavioral sciences, health services administration, and environmental health sciences. These competencies also encompass current and emerging public health trends. **Evidence-**

#### **based Approaches to Public Health**

1. Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice.
2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context.
3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate.
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice.

## **II. Public Health & Health Care Systems**

5. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings.
6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels.

## **III. Planning & Management to Promote Health**

7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health.
8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs.
9. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention.
10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management.
11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs.

## **IV. Policy in Public Health**

12. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence.
13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes.
14. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations.
15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity.

## **V. Leadership**

16. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making.
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges.

## **VI. Communication**

18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors.
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation.
20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content.

## **VII. Interprofessional Practice**

21. Perform effectively on interprofessional teams.

## **VIII. Systems Thinking**

22. Apply systems thinking tools to public health issues.

### **2.3.3.1. Tuition and Fees**

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

**Masters in Public Health (MPH)  
24 Month Program Covering 4 Semesters  
2026-2027 COST OF EDUCATION**

	<b>Year 1 (1st &amp; 2nd semesters)</b>	<b>Year 2 (3rd and 4th semesters)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Tuition**</b>	\$12,495	\$12,495	<b>\$24,990</b>
<b>Technology Fee</b>	\$500	\$500	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Books</b>	\$262	\$262	<b>\$524</b>
<b>Internet and Other</b>	\$960	\$960	<b>\$1,920</b>
<b>Ave. Loan Fees</b>	\$1,162	\$1,162	<b>\$2,324</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,379</b>	<b>\$15,379</b>	<b>\$30,758</b>

Total Estimated Cost of the June Cohort MPH Program Matriculation: **\$30,758**

**Matriculation Fee\***

Payment credited to the tuition fee upon matriculation \$150.00

**Tuition**

See refund policies in Section [3.4 Tuition Refund Policy for Students Who are Self-pay](#).

For students who are not currently enrolled in another program (at LECOM or another institution), room, board, transportation, and other miscellaneous expenses may be added to your cost of education budget. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information and a possible cost of education adjustment.

Students will need to provide documentation of the purchase of a computer to be included in the cost of education budget.

The Cost of Education is subject to change without notice. Financial aid is available only for the months the student is enrolled, so please plan accordingly.

The Cost of Education represents average costs and may not always meet the student's full financial responsibilities. Total loan amounts borrowed, and scholarships awarded from all sources cannot exceed the Cost of Education.

**Health Insurance** – Optional for non-concurrent LECOM students

Cost for LECOM health insurance for a single student \$4,524 per /year and is subject to change.

\*The matriculation fee will be waived for currently enrolled LECOM students applying to the program.

\*\*Current LECOM students and alumni are eligible to apply for a LECOM tuition scholarship. Fees are not included in any scholarships awarded. Students must apply to the MPH program prior to enrollment deadline to qualify.

\*\*Current LECOM employees and affiliate organizations may apply for a tuition discount. Fees are not included in any discounts applied.

All LECOM student scholarships and discounts are subject to change without notification.

LECOM dual enrolled students may only receive one LECOM Scholarship so if the MPH scholarship is accepted, any core program scholarships are no longer effective.

**ADDITIONAL FEES**

<b>Late Payment Fee (per week)</b>	\$50
<b>Breakage Fee</b> Loss or damage to college property and equipment is charged to the student(s) responsible.	Cost of Replacement
<b>Transcript Fee</b>	\$20
<b>Student Identification/Key Card – Replacement</b>	\$25
<b>Remediation Course Fee</b>	\$500
<b>Application Fee</b> Non-refundable	\$50

Non-refundable fees are limited to \$150.00 per student per year in Florida.

**2.3.3.2. Curriculum**

The MPH curriculum consists of 45 credits. Students complete the Capstone Experience (3 credits) as a Program Final Course.

**Course Numbering**

As a master’s level program, all courses are designated as upper-division-level courses requiring advanced academic preparation.

**Course Sequence and Credit Hours for the Masters in Public Health (MPH)**

<b>Abbr.</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>Masters in Public Health (MPH) Summer/Fall Year 1</b>			
MPH	5000	Introduction to Public Health	3.0
MPH	5020	Epidemiology	3.0
MPH	5030	Environmental Health	3.0
MPH	5010	Biostatistics	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0
<b>Masters in Public Health (MPH) Winter/Spring Year 1</b>			
MPH	5040	Social and Behavioral Health Sciences	3.0
MPH	5050	Health Services Administration	3.0
MPH	5060	Cultural Competence and Social Justice	3.0
Total Semester Hours			9.0
<b>Masters in Public Health (MPH) Summer/Fall Year 2</b>			
MPH	5110	Health Education and Promotion	3.0
MPH	5130	Strategic Advocacy for Change	3.0
MPH	5080	Community and Global Health	3.0
MPH	5090	Program Planning and Evaluation	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0
<b>Masters in Public Health (MPH) Winter/Spring Year 2</b>			

Abbr.	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
MPH	5100	Healthcare Policy	3.0
MPH	5120	Health Communication	3.0
MPH	5070	Leadership and Professionalism	3.0
MPH	5500	Comprehensive Final Exam (Pass/Fail)	0.0
MPH	5140	MPH Capstone I	3.0
		Total Semester Hours	12.0
		Total Program Hours	45.0

### 2.3.3.3. Course Descriptions

#### **MPH-5000: Introduction to Public Health** Credits: 3.0

This course introduces the history, philosophies, and values of public health. Students will learn the core functions of public health and the “Ten Essential Services” that are defined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Instruction will be provided to guide students to recognize stakeholders and create connections to promote public health outcomes. The importance of advocating for political, social, or economic policies and programs to support diverse populations will also be introduced.

#### **MPH-5020: Epidemiology** Credits: 3.0

This course introduces the basic principles and methods of epidemiology as applied to domestic public health problems. The focus of this course is on epidemiologic measures and study designs. Topics include disease transmission, morbidity and mortality, surveillance, screening, descriptive and analytic study designs, bias, measures of association, causation, and ethical and professional issues in epidemiology. The application of epidemiology for the evaluation of health services and screening programs and the influence of epidemiology on domestic public policy will be presented.

#### **MPH-5030: Environmental Health** Credits: 3.0

This course examines health issues, the scientific understanding of causes, and possible future approaches to control of the major domestic health problems in both urban and rural settings. Topics include how the body reacts to environmental pollutants; physical, chemical, and biological agents of environmental contamination; vectors for dissemination (air, water, soil); solid and hazardous waste; susceptible populations; biomarkers and risk analysis; the scientific basis for policy decisions; and emerging environmental health problems.

#### **MPH-5010: Biostatistics** Credits: 3.0

This course introduces the basic principles of biostatistics and provides the opportunity for students to apply these principles to describe and analyze public health data. Topics include descriptive statistics, probability distributions, point and interval estimation of population parameters, and hypothesis testing. A variety of one and two-sample parametric and non-parametric tests for continuous and categorical data are also covered, as is simple ANOVA for three or more samples. Students will analyze data using SPSS software, interpret results and present findings in a variety of formats.

#### **MPH-5040: Social and Behavioral Health Sciences** Credits: 3.0

Social, cultural, and behavioral dynamics and processes infuse health research and public health practice. Identifying, understanding, integrating and translating these dynamics into public health action to reduce health disparities, to improve the design and impact of interventions and programs, and to engage marginalized and isolated communities, form a critical foundation for working effectively in public health. Topics include the role of cultural and social dynamics and health-related behaviors on differential risk and protection, health disparities by social categories, and a variety of theories of health behavior to connect social, cultural, and community dynamics with domestic public health improvement.

**MPH-5050: Health Services Administration Credits: 3.0**

This course is an introductory core course providing an overview of the structure and functions of the U.S. Health Care System. The course will provide students with the foundational knowledge of the health care delivery systems, organizational theory, and the conceptual basis of managerial and executive leadership roles in health care facilities. Emphasis will be placed on theory and application of evidence based best business practices to develop competent leaders who can navigate the interface between Public Health and U.S. Health Care System. Topics covered include: the health system; strategic planning; organizational structure; analysis of organizational performance; motivation, leadership, management, and communication; and interprofessional collaboration.

**MPH-5060: Cultural Competence and Social Justice Credits: 3.0**

Students will learn and discuss structural bias, social inequities, and racism in regard to barriers to health equity at organizational, community, and societal levels. The course will develop awareness of cultural values and practices for application in the design and implementation of public health policies and programs. Analysis of quantitative and qualitative data will be used to assess population needs related to health. Students will apply their understanding of the social, political, and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health equity for application to public health decision making. Concepts of cultural competence related to communication skills and the ability to participate in interprofessional teams will be explored.

**MPH-5110: Health Education and Promotion Credits: 3.0**

This course will empower students to design a population-based policy, program, project, or intervention. Using quantitative and qualitative data collection and data analysis, students will understand program design and evaluation of the results of the program. The science of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention will be used to determine the most appropriate intervention. Application of communication skills for implementation of programs to promote improved health will be necessary. Systems thinking will be addressed along with the application of health education to person-centered healthcare with an interprofessional team approach.

**MPH-5080: Community and Global Health Credits: 3.0**

Evaluation frameworks, needs assessments, and logic models will be studied with a particular emphasis on evaluating community-based programs. Performance evaluation as well as formative, process, impact, and outcome evaluation purposes and techniques will be compared. Theoretical and pragmatic approaches to the design and implementation of evaluation protocols will be explored, along with the role of both quantitative and qualitative methods. Topics include the global burden of disease and

mortality in multiple dimensions (e.g., geography, socioeconomic class, race, and gender), the social, political, and economic determinants of health disparities, factors that impact global health systems, analysis of health care delivery systems, and influential health system analysis.

**MPH-5090: Program Planning and Evaluation Credits: 3.0**

Students will utilize skills attained from previous courses, such as qualitative and quantitative methods, to analyze major causes and trends with the U.S. and other communities to use as the basis for program planning. They will be able to discuss and identify cultural values, structural bias, social inequalities and racism that have created the health challenges within various communities. They will also be able to explain how different types of programs advance public health knowledge and develop skills to evaluate these programs through standard methods. Students will design their own population-based program, taking into account the audience and their cultural values and practices.

**MPH-5100: Healthcare Policy Credits: 3.0**

The aim of this e course is to provide students with the understanding of policymaking and legal process that form the basic structure of the individual and public healthcare systems in the United States. The course will explore fundamental problems and contemporary issues in the U.S. health policy, and review factors that affect future health policy initiatives. Special attention will be given to the status of health reform and the interaction of the healthcare system with local, states and federal political systems in healthcare spending and delivery. Impact of policymaking on access to healthcare and healthcare programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, and the relationship between the public and private sectors on health policy will be evaluated.

**MPH-5120: Health Communication Credits: 3.0**

This course focuses on applying organizational communication theories and concepts to understand others better and to control one's own communication in organizations. Theoretical overview of organization communication including communication flow, networks, organizational relationships, groups, conflict, and language will be presented. Special topics including teams in organizations, diversity, organizational politics, leadership, and change will be presented. Issues such as terrorism, public health crises, and corporate malfeasance have increased the importance of crisis communication. Enhancing effective crisis communication skills; promoting the understanding of the counter-intuitive nature of crisis communication; utilizing crisis communication theory and perspectives to argue for effectiveness and ineffectiveness in crisis communication; and assisting interactions between students, researchers, and policy makers on effective crisis communication will also be presented.

**MPH-5130: Strategic Advocacy for Change Credits: 3.0**

This professional coursework explores the multiple roles that health advocates assume as they create productive change on behalf of patients, families, and communities. Advocacy is crucial to public health, working toward policy change and improved implementation of existing policies and eliminating barriers to health triggered by environmental destruction, poverty, and illiteracy. Students will explore concepts, models, and practices of health advocacy, and appraise strategies used by health advocates and consumers to leverage more power in making decisions, defining issues, designing programs, and developing policies. Students will also be responsible for conducting three (3) executive interviews of leaders in the field of public health.

### **MPH-5070: Leadership and Professionalism Credits: 3.0**

This course will engage students in discussion and application of principles related to leadership, governance, and management. Activities will promote skills related to creating vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration, and guiding decision making. Students will learn concepts and skills related to negotiation, mediation, budget, and resource management. The ability to use evidence to guide decision making and collaborate with interprofessional teams will be emphasized.

### **MPH-5140: Masters in Public Health Capstone Credits: 3.0**

The School of Health Services Administration at LECOM requires all Master of Public Health (MPH) students to complete an Integrated Learning Experience (ILE), known as the Capstone Project. The Capstone Project represents the student's culminating academic experience, in which the MPH student synthesizes, integrates, and applies the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the program. All research and completed assignments associated with the Capstone Project are conducted and submitted online. The Capstone Project must demonstrate mastery of both foundational and concentration competencies.

As a signature requirement of the program, students are expected to present their completed research at LECOM Research Day, held each spring. This presentation takes the form of a recorded poster presentation and a brief overview of the student's research, allowing students to showcase their work and contribute to the broader scholarly community at LECOM — all completed remotely in keeping with the fully online nature of the program.

## **2.3.4. Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT)**

### **Introduction and Mission Statement**

The LECOM Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) program is comprised of eleven core courses, a Capstone course, and one symposium. Students completing the MS MCT program will be prepared as public health professionals to actively and effectively contribute to population-based, culturally appropriate, and innovative approaches concerning medical cannabinoid therapeutics as an emerging public health issue. The MS MCT curriculum builds upon the foundational competencies of biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy and management, environmental and occupational health, and social and behavioral sciences. Additionally, students further focus their skills by completing course work in advanced topics that will strengthen their overall understanding of public health, healthcare economics, ethics and compliance within the United States and the world.

### **MS MCT Mission**

The mission of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine's (LECOM) Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) is to seek and understand potential improvements to health, health care, and well-being of individuals, families, and communities by applying the philosophy of osteopathic medicine which seeks to treat the whole person, mind, body and spirit. The program supports an advanced informed understanding of medical cannabinoid therapeutics throughout the healthcare industry with a focus on pharmacy, medicine and health services administration.

### **Vision**

The vision of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine's Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) is to improve the public health of the United States through the impact of our graduates.

## Values

Diversity	Health Equality-Social Justice
Service	Equitable Partnerships
Innovation	Stewardship of Resources
Excellence	Person Centered Practice

***At no time will LECOM students, faculty and staff come into contact with cannabis or its derivatives. This master's program is theory based and has no lab component. All federal, state and local laws will be followed at all times.***

## MS MCT Goals

The primary goal of the MS MCT program is to educate students to become prepared public health professionals ready to actively and effectively contribute to population-based, culturally appropriate, and innovative approaches concerning current and emerging public health issues surrounding medical cannabinoid therapeutics.

Graduates of the LECOM MS MCT will be able to:

1. Assess the health needs of a community.
2. Identify social determinants of health.
3. Plan and manage new innovative programs to promote health.
4. Design programs that integrate social and behavioral components of health promotion.
5. Assess population needs, assets, and capacities to effect community health.
6. Influence public health policy to align with whole person care.
7. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration, and guiding group decision making.
8. Apply Osteopathic Principles and Practice to positively impact public health.

## Objectives of the Program

The LECOM MS MCT program ensures that all graduates are grounded in foundational knowledge of medical cannabinoid science.. Produce graduates in the field of medical cannabinoid therapeutics with the ability to work with or obtain employment within the medical cannabis industry or provide health care professionals the ability to expand their knowledge and career opportunities.

## Measurable Objectives

1. After completion of the program, students will have the ability to apply knowledge of basic and clinical sciences for, administration, and monitoring of patients.
2. Apply knowledge of basic science and drug development to assure safe manufacture and design of cannabis products as well as research and development of new products.
3. Identify, analyze, and advocate for emerging ethical issues related to patients receiving medical cannabis and its impact on their overall health.
4. Apply knowledge of medical cannabis laws and regulations to engage in health-policy decision making processes related to medical cannabis.
5. Identify areas for future research related to science, health effects, and policy of medical cannabis, and describe the challenges associated with such research.
6. Understand key aspects of the “business of healthcare” vertically integrated structure surrounding this multi-billion-dollar emerging industry and workforce requirements.

## MS MCT Competencies

LECOM will become one of the early leaders and innovators world-wide in master's level education

focused on Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics and whole person wellness. Our interprofessional structure, including medicine, pharmacy and health services administration provides LECOM the key expertise needed to become the gold standard for this emerging industry.

The goals of the program will be fulfilled by the curriculum with a focus on the listed competencies.

1. Scientific knowledge of medical cannabis

- MCT 5010** Cannabinoid Pharmacology & Classification
- MCT 5070** Quantitative Analysis of Cannabinoids

2. Clinical dosing decisions related to cannabis therapy

- MCT 5030** Therapeutic Effects & Dispensary Patient Education
- MCT 5040** Cannabinoid Dosing Strategies
- MCT 5050** Evidence Based Therapeutics & Health System Integration
- MCT 5080** Cannabinoid Therapeutic Design, and Efficacy

3. Medical Ethics and Advocacy in the Cannabis industry

- MCT 5060** Cannabinoid Public Health, Transparency and Safety Issues

4. Laws and regulations related to Medical Cannabis

- MCT 5090** Cannabis Government Regulations and Policies

5. Research related to medical cannabinoid therapeutics

- MCT 6000** Research Design and Methods
- MCT 6020** Capstone Course
- MCT 6030** Executive Interviews and Analysis Symposium

6. Political policy and economic impacts of medical cannabis within and surrounding the healthcare industry

- MCT 5000** Introduction to the History of Cannabis
- MCT 5020** Cannabinoid Economics & Vertical Business Integration

### 2.3.4.1. Tuition and Fees

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

**Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT)  
18 Month Program Covering 3 Semesters  
2026-2027 COST OF EDUCATION (starting January 2027)**

	<b>Year 1 (1<sup>st</sup> semester)</b>	<b>Year 2 ( 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> semesters)</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Tuition**</b>	\$8,330	\$16,660	<b>\$24,990</b>
<b>Technology Fee</b>	\$500	\$500	<b>\$1,000</b>

<b>Books</b>	\$87	\$87	<b>\$174</b>
<b>Internet and Others</b>	\$960	\$960	<b>\$1,920</b>
<b>Ave. Loan Fees</b>	\$1,173	\$1,173	<b>\$2,346</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,050</b>	<b>\$19,320</b>	<b>\$30,370</b>

Total Estimated Cost of the January Cohort MS MCT Program Matriculation: **\$30,370**

### **Matriculation Fee\***

Payment credited to the tuition fee upon matriculation \$150.00

### **Tuition**

See refund policies in Section [3.4 Tuition Refund Policy for Students Who are Self-pay](#).

For students who are not currently enrolled in another program (at LECOM or another institution), room, board, transportation, and other miscellaneous expenses may be added to your cost of education budget. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information and a possible cost of education adjustment.

Students will need to provide documentation of the purchase of a computer to be included in the cost of education budget.

The Cost of Education is subject to change without notice. Financial aid is available only for the months the student is enrolled, so please plan accordingly.

The Cost of Education represents average costs and may not always meet the student's full financial responsibilities. Total loan amounts borrowed, and scholarships awarded from all sources cannot exceed the Cost of Education.

### **Health Insurance – Optional for non-concurrent LECOM students**

Cost for LECOM health insurance for a single student \$4,524 per year and is subject to change.

\*The matriculation fee will be waived for currently enrolled LECOM students applying to the program.

\*\*Current LECOM students and alumni are eligible to apply for a LECOM tuition scholarship. Fees are not included in any scholarships awarded. Students must apply to the MS MCT program prior to enrollment deadline to qualify.

\*\*Current LECOM employees and affiliate organizations may apply for a tuition discount. Fees are not included in any discounts applied.

All LECOM student scholarships and discounts are subject to change without notification.

LECOM dual enrolled students may only receive one LECOM Scholarship so if the MS MCT scholarship is accepted, any core program scholarships are no longer effective.

### **ADDITIONAL FEES**

**Late Payment Fee (per week)** \$50

**Breakage Fee** Cost of Replacement  
Loss or damage to college property and equipment is charged to the student(s) responsible.

**Transcript Fee** \$20

<b>Student Identification/Key Card – Replacement</b>	\$25
<b>Remediation Course Fee</b>	\$500
<b>Application Fee</b> Non-refundable	\$50

Non-refundable fees are limited to \$150.00 per student per year in Florida.

### 2.3.4.2. Curriculum

#### Course Sequence and Credit Hours for the Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) U25 Class of 2027 (24 months)

Abbr.	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
<b>Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) Summer/Fall Year 1</b>			
MCT	5000	Introduction to the History of Cannabis	3.0
MCT	5070	Quantitative Analysis of Cannabinoids	3.0
MCT	5010	Cannabinoid Pharmacology & Classification	3.0
MCT	5040	Cannabinoid Dosing Strategies	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0
<b>Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) Winter/Spring Year 1</b>			
MCT	5030	Therapeutic Effects & Dispensary Patient Education	3.0
MCT	5020	Cannabinoid Economics & Vertical Business Integration	3.0
MCT	5090	Cannabis Government Regulations and Policies	3.0
Total Semester Hours			9.0
<b>Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) Summer/Fall Year 2</b>			
MCT	5050	Evidence Based Therapeutics & Health System Integration	3.0
MCT	5060	Cannabinoid, Public Health, Transparency and Safety Issues	3.0
MCT	5080	Cannabinoid Therapeutic Design and Efficacy	3.0
Total Semester Hours			9.0
<b>Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) Winter/Spring Year 2</b>			
MCT	6000	Research Design and Methods	3.0
MCT	6020	Capstone Course	6.0
MCT	6030	Executive Interviews and Analysis Symposium	6.0
MCT	6040	Comprehensive Final Examination	0.0
Total Semester Hours			15.0
Total Program Hours			45.0

### Course Sequence and Credit Hours for the Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) J27 Class of 2028 (18 months)

Abbr.	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
<b>Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) Winter/Spring</b>			
MCT	5000	Introduction to the History of Cannabis	3.0
MCT	5070	Quantitative Analysis of Cannabinoids	3.0
MCT	5010	Cannabinoid Pharmacology & Classification	3.0
MCT	5040	Cannabinoid Dosing Strategies	3.0
		Total Semester Hours	12.0
<b>Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) Summer/Fall</b>			
MCT	5030	Therapeutic Effects & Dispensary Patient Education	3.0
MCT	5020	Cannabinoid Economics & Vertical Business Integration	3.0
MCT	5090	Cannabis Government Regulations and Policies	3.0
MCT	5080	Cannabinoid Therapeutics Design and Efficacy	3.0
MCT	6030	Executive Interviews & Analysis	3.0
		Total Semester Hours	15.0
<b>Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) Spring/Summer</b>			
MCT	6000	Research Design and Methods	3.0
MCT	5060	Cannabinoid, Public Health, Transparency and Safety Issues	3.0
MCT	6030	Executive Interviews & Analysis	3.0
MCT	6020	Capstone (LECOM Research Day April 22, 2028)	6.0
MCT	5050	Evidence Based Therapeutics & Health System Integration	3.0
MCT	6040	Comprehensive Final Exam	0.0
		Total Semester Hours	18.0
		Total Program Hours	45.0

#### 2.3.4.3. Course Descriptions

**MCT 5000** Introduction to the History of Cannabis 3.0 credit hours

An overview of the Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics industry including the historical, pharmacology and economic evolution. Core industry resources will be reviewed as a benchmark for development.

**MCT 5070** Quantitative Analysis of Cannabinoids 3.0 credit hours

This course will focus on the structuring research and statistical analysis techniques as an overview specifically pertaining to the cannabis industry.

**MCT 5010** Cannabinoid Pharmacology & Classification 3.0 credit hours

This course introduces students to all factors that impact drug action as it enters the body. The aspects of pharmacology and pharmacodynamics of medical cannabis. The course will introduce the concepts of pharmacokinetics and bioavailability of cannabis products. Students will learn the classification system for cannabinoids and their components. The course will also go into detail regarding the various cannabis-derived products such as oils, flavonoids, terpenoids, etc.

**MCT 5040** Cannabinoid Dosing Strategies 3.0 credit hours

In this course, students will evaluate available research evidence and published case studies related to dosing strategies and formulations of cannabis products based on specific disease states or conditions. Treatment strategies will be explored with the consideration side effects, drug interactions, and precautions related to specific cannabis formulations.

**MCT 5030** Therapeutic Affects & Dispensary Patient Education 3.0 credit hours

This course provides an overview of patient care skills including communication, ethics, and cultural competence. It introduces the student to the research evidence and expected therapeutic effects related to cannabis products and the importance of patient education throughout the therapeutic process. Considerations regarding special population risks and benefits are also discussed.

**MCT 5020** Cannabinoid Economics & Vertical Integration 3.0 credit hours

The first half of this course introduces students to the understanding the macro and microeconomic factors surrounding the emerging medical cannabinoid therapeutics industry. The course maps the business elements of the MCT industry and how they are related through contractual relationships and vertical integration.

**MCT 5090** Cannabis Government Regulations and Policies 3.0 credit hours

This course will review government regulations and policies at the federal, state, and local levels surrounding the Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutic industry. Focus will be placed on current legislative initiatives that affect the medical dispensary legalization, taxation, reporting and access to financial capital systems for development and expansion.

**MCT 5050** Evidence Based Therapeutics & Health System Integration 3.0 credit hours

This course will engage students in the therapeutics of cannabis and explain various roles in treatment of disease states and conditions. Students will gain the ability to find and interpret cannabis studies and apply them to patients. In this course students will demonstrate clinical decision making while considering dosing strategies, formulations, and the impact of the addition of cannabis to a patient's current treatment list. The course will include the integration of compliant information sharing among the patient's healthcare providers and systems.

**MCT 5060** Cannabinoid Public Health, Transparency, Ethics and Safety Issues 3.0 credit hours

This course will discuss the effects of Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics on community mental, physical and emotional health and wellness. Student's will establish direct communication with their local substance abuse coalition(s) seeking to understand and support abuse prevention strategies and maintain public safety.

**MCT 5080** Cannabinoid Therapeutic Design and Efficacy 3.0 credit hours

This course reviews the chemical characteristics of cannabis and ties them to their pharmacological action. The course also covers the various formulations of the methods for drug design. The course will

also explore the methods by which plant constituents are extracted, purified, and concentrated into cannabis products.

**MCT 6000** Research Design and Methods 3.0 credit hours

This course will provide fundamental instruction on conducting qualitative, quantitative and mixed discipline academic research needed for Thesis and Capstone course projects. Research methods selection criteria to properly match research goals with design. Students will be introduced to core social science theories to support their research. Statistical analysis will be introduced along with use of supporting applications.

**MCT 6020** Capstone Project 6.0 credit hours

Student will prepare a capstone research project for presentation at the LECOM Bradenton Interprofessional Research Day even in April just prior to their graduation. All projects will include LECOM Institutional Review Board (IRB) review, approval or waiver, CITI training and faculty oversight. Project may not involve any student or faculty contact with any cannabis product or derivative. No bench research will be conducted.

**MCT 6030** Executive Interviews and Analysis Symposium 6.0 credit hours

Students will be placed into teams and conduct executive interview and analysis related to the MCT industry. The teams will establish a set of core research questions which they will use in the interview process. Analysis on data collected will lead to creation of a SWOT Analysis Report (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Treats) and include recommended organizational tactics for leadership consideration.

**MCT 6040** Comprehensive Final Exam Pass/Fail exam covering all core courses.  
Must achieve 70% or greater to Pass.

### 2.3.5. Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA)

#### Introduction and Mission Statement

##### D.H.A. Mission

The mission of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine's (LECOM) Doctor of Healthcare Administration (D.H.A.) program is to prepare innovative, senior level professionals to apply next generation technologies, processes and systems to confidently lead U.S. healthcare industries and academic institutions in the implementation of the philosophy of osteopathic medicine that treats the whole person; mind, body and spirit.

##### D.H.A. Vision and Values

**Vision:** The vision of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine's Doctor of Healthcare Administration program is to improve the overall health and wellness of the United States through the development of effective and innovative terminal degree graduates prepared to lead our healthcare industry organizations and solve the complex problems facing America.

**Values:** Excellence in Healthcare Industry Innovation, Technology and Systems Application; Conduct of Disciplined, Ethical Research in both Healthcare Industry and Academic Settings; Honoring Community Service and Partnerships; Ensuring the Highest Quality, Whole Person Healthcare Delivery

Possible.

## **D.H.A. Goals and learning Objectives**

### **Goals of the Program**

The primary goal of the D.H.A. program is to educate students to become prepared healthcare professionals and college faculty members that can effectively apply and teach next generation healthcare industry technology, processes and systems to create innovative approaches to solve current and emerging complex healthcare issues facing our U.S. population.

### **Graduates of the LECOM Doctor of Healthcare Administration will be able to:**

1. Assess the health needs of communities and populations.
1. Identify social determinants of health.
2. Plan and manage programs to promote health utilizing advanced healthcare industry systems and technology.
3. Design, conduct and publish effective research that integrates social and behavioral components of health promotion, assess population needs, assets, and capacities to effect community health, influence public health policy.
4. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration, and guiding group decision making.
5. Apply Osteopathic Principles and Practice to the practice of a public health professional.

### **Objectives of the D.H.A Program**

The LECOM Doctor of Healthcare Administration program objectives seeks to ensure that all graduates acquire knowledge, skills of next generation healthcare industry technology and systems. This forward-looking healthcare knowledge will then provide solid grounding for graduates to deliver effective, confident and competent healthcare industry leadership in multiple settings.

### **The Profession & Science of Healthcare**

1. Explain the history of the U.S. healthcare industry, philosophy and values.
2. Identify the core elements of U.S. healthcare systems surrounding Quality, Cost and Access.
3. Demonstrate quantitative and qualitative research methods abilities to describe and assess a population's health and wellness.
4. Identify the major causes and trends of morbidity and mortality in the US or other relevant communities and how advance systems and technologies can positively impact.
5. Discuss the science of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention in population health, including health promotion, screening, and education.
6. Explain the critical importance of verifiable and reproducible data gathering methods and analysis techniques in advancing the U.S. healthcare system knowledge and enhancements.

### **Factors Related to Human Health and Wellness Homeostasis**

1. Explain effects of environmental factors on a population's sustained health and wellness.
2. Explain biological and genetic factors that affect a population's health and how advanced data gather and analysis can impact.
3. Explain behavioral and psychological factors that affect a population's health including the impact of drug addiction on the U.S. population.
4. Explain the social, political and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities.
5. Explain how globalization affects global burdens of disease on U.S. populations.

6. Explain an ecological perspective on the connections among human health, animal health and ecosystem health (e.g., One Health). Elements needed to create a wellness homeostasis in the U.S.
7. Become a confident, willing and able health industry next generation leader.

### **D.H.A. Competencies**

The competencies of the D.H.A. program center around the Six Domains of Health Care Quality as established by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This framework is utilized by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The framework will be augmented with the application of next generation technologies and systems to improve overall quality of healthcare delivery in various settings.

### **Framework:**

**Safe:** Avoiding harm to patients from the care that is intended to help them.

- Quality Measurement Resources

**Effective:** Providing services based on scientific knowledge to all who could benefit and refraining from providing services to those not likely to benefit (avoiding underuse and misuse, respectively).

- Types of Measures You Can Report

**Patient-centered:** Providing care that is respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs, and values and ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions.

- Selecting the Right Measures for Your Report

**Timely:** Reducing waits and sometimes harmful delays for both those who receive and those who give care.

- Measures of Quality for Different Healthcare Settings

**Efficient:** Avoiding waste, including waste of equipment, supplies, ideas, and energy.

- Understanding Data Sources

**Equitable:** Providing care that does not vary in quality because of personal characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, geographic location, and socioeconomic status.

### **Harnessing Data:** Environmental Scans to Ensure Equitable Healthcare Delivery

The framework domains are consumer focused related to the meaning and relevance of quality healthcare measures. Studies have shown that providing consumers with a framework for understanding quality helps them value a broader range of quality indicators. When measures are properly grouped, healthcare consumers can more clearly see the meaning of the measures and better understand how they relate to their own concerns surrounding their personal healthcare.

### References Cited:

Institute of Medicine (IOM). *Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st*

*Century*. Washington, D.C: National Academy Press; 2001. Institute of Medicine (IOM).

*Performance Measurement: Accelerating Improvement*. Washington, D.C: National Academy Press; 2005. Hibbard JH, Pawlson LG.

*Why Not Give Consumers a Framework for Understanding Quality?* Joint Commission Journal on Quality Improvement 2004 June. 30(6); 347-351.

## **II. Planning & Management to Promote Effective Healthcare Delivery Systems**

1. Use next generation healthcare industry technology and systems to assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health.
2. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs.
3. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention.
4. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management.
5. Select methods to evaluate public health programs.

## **III. Policy in Healthcare**

1. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process in the world of artificial intelligence, machine learning and virtual medicine including the roles of ethics and evidence.
2. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing health outcomes.
3. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that harness the power of next generation technologies to improve healthcare delivery in diverse populations.
4. Evaluate policies for their impact on community health and health equity.

## **IV. Leadership**

1. Apply principles of effective leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making for a new generation of healthcare industry leaders.
2. Apply effective negotiation, collaboration and mediation skills to solve organizational or community challenges.

## **V. Communication**

1. Select communication strategies best suited for different audiences and sectors based upon access to technologies.
2. Effectively communicate audience-appropriate health content, both in writing and through oral presentation.
3. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating healthcare industry content.
4. Describe the impacts of Virtual Medicine on Cost, Quality and Access to healthcare.
5. Creating value through collaboration.

## **VI. Interprofessional Practice**

1. Perform effectively with interprofessional teams bridging the gap between academia, healthcare industry and information systems technologies.
2. Understand the expanded roles of healthcare providers to meet the needs of an aging nation.

3. Align healthcare industry resources to maximize outcomes.
4. Create value through partnering.

## VII. Systems Thinking

1. Apply a “systems thinking” approach to solving complex healthcare industry issues.
2. Demonstrate models for information sharing to improve quality of care while protecting confidentiality.
3. Understand impacts of Cyber security on healthcare systems.
4. Understand impacts of the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) healthcare system structure on U.S. wellness.

### 2.3.5.1. Tuition and Fees

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

#### 36 Month Program Covering 3 Years

#### Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA)

#### 2026-2027 COST OF EDUCATION

	Year 1 (1st & 2nd semesters)	Year 2 (3rd & 4th semesters)	Year 3 (5th & 6th semesters)	Totals
<b>Tuition</b>	\$20,300	\$20,300	\$20,300	\$60,900
<b>Technology Fee</b>	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1,500
<b>Books</b>	\$219	\$219	\$219	\$657
<b>Internet and Other</b>	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$2,880
<b>Loan Fees</b>	\$1,526	\$1,518	\$1,518	\$4,562
<b>Total</b>	\$23,505	\$23,497	\$23,497	

Total Cost of the D.H.A. Program Matriculation:

**\$70,499**

#### Matriculation Fee\*

Payment credited to the tuition fee upon matriculation \$150.00

#### Tuition

See refund policies in Section [3.4 Tuition Refund Policy for Students Who are Self-pay](#).

For students who are not currently enrolled in another program (at LECOM or another institution), room, board, transportation, and other miscellaneous expenses may be added to your cost of education budget. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information and a possible cost of education adjustment.

Students will need to provide documentation of the purchase of a Windows-enabled personal computer to be included in the cost of education budget.

The Cost of Education is subject to change without notice. Financial aid is available only for the months the student is enrolled, so please plan accordingly.

The Cost of Education represents average costs and may not always meet the student’s full financial responsibilities. Total loan amounts borrowed, and scholarships awarded from all sources cannot exceed the Cost of Education.

### **Health Insurance** – Optional for non-concurrent LECOM students

Cost for LECOM health insurance for a single student \$4,524 per /year and is subject to change.

\*The matriculation fee will be waived for currently enrolled LECOM students applying to the program.

\*\*Current LECOM students and alumni are eligible to apply for a LECOM tuition scholarship. Fees are not included in any scholarships awarded. Students must apply to the DHA program prior to enrollment deadline to qualify.

\*\*Current LECOM employees and affiliate organizations may apply for a tuition discount. Fees are not included in any discounts applied.

All LECOM student scholarships and discounts are subject to change without notification.

LECOM dual enrolled students may only receive one LECOM Scholarship so if the DHA scholarship is accepted, any core program scholarships are no longer effective.

### **ADDITIONAL FEES**

<b>Late Payment Fee (per week)</b>	\$50
<b>Breakage Fee</b> Loss or damage to college property and equipment is charged to the student(s) responsible.	Cost of Replacement
<b>Transcript Fee</b>	\$20
<b>Student Identification/Key Card – Replacement</b>	\$25
<b>Remediation Course Fee</b>	\$500
<b>Application Fee</b> Non-refundable	\$50

Non-refundable fees are limited to \$150.00 per student per year in Florida.

### **2.3.5.2. Curriculum**

The D.H.A. curriculum consists of 72 total semester credit hours. This includes 12 credit hours of dissertation course work requiring formal defense. The Doctor of Healthcare Administration degree is intended to qualify healthcare industry professionals as faculty members, preparing them to perform research and teach “the business of healthcare” at the college level and/or equip senior healthcare executives for advanced healthcare industry career opportunities. D.H.A. graduates will have the next

generation understanding of artificial intelligence, machine learning, conduct rigorous research and analysis with the objective of applying the findings to real-world decision-making throughout the healthcare industry and effectively interfacing with local, state and federal governments related to healthcare issues. The program provides intellectual growth as students work closely with faculty in seminars, through research projects and other assignments that develop their research skills and ability to clearly communicate their findings to a broad audience of both practitioners and researchers. It also offers students the opportunity to develop a portfolio of skills that, when combined with industry experience, uniquely qualifies them to serve in practitioner faculty positions.

The D.H.A. degree program is delivered through a distance learning format. The LECOM Doctor of Healthcare Administration degree is a three-year 72 credit hour program. The cohort will also participate in thirty-one (31), evening or weekend synchronous video conference sessions. Students move through the program together as a cohort, taking the same classes, which can vary from cohort to cohort as the program evolves to continue to meet current healthcare industry requirements. The first two years of the program are predominantly core learning courses and research skills development. The final year is focused on the candidate's dissertation requirements and final course work. The program offers substantive coverage of a broad variety of qualitative and quantitative research techniques by allowing students the flexibility to focus more deeply on personal areas of interest during their dissertation. The D.H.A. program requires 72 credit hours beyond the master's degree. Students are expected to take all classes listed in illustrated sequence in three major categories: Next Generation Healthcare Operations & Inspirational Leadership (27 credit hours), Healthcare Doctoral Research (27), and Healthcare Innovation (18). Candidates will work with their assigned committee advisors throughout the program. Doctoral candidate's dissertation requires a publicly noticed oral defense to the student's dissertation faculty committee that is open to the community.

### Course Numbering

As a doctorate level program, all courses are designated as upper-division-level courses requiring advanced academic preparation.

### Course Sequence and Credit Hours for the Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA)

Abbr.	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
<b>Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA) Summer/Fall Year 1</b>			
DHA	6010	Next Generation Doctoral Studies	3.0
DHA	6020	HC Research Methods – New Tools	3.0
DHA	6030	HC Quantitative Analysis	3.0
DHA	6040	HC Artificial Intelligence	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0
<b>Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA) Winter/Spring Year 1</b>			
DHA	6050	HC Leadership & Communication	3.0
DHA	6060	HC Mind, Body, Spirit-Whole Person Care	3.0
DHA	6070	HC Qualitative Analysis	3.0
DHA	6080	Effective Writing & Publication	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0
<b>Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA) Summer/Fall Year 2</b>			
DHA	7010	Outcomes Focused Healthcare Strategy	3.0
DHA	7020	HC Case Study Design & Delivery	3.0
DHA	7030	HC Ethics & Sustainability	3.0
DHA	7040	Virtual Medicine	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0

Abbr.	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
<b>Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA) Winter/Spring Year 2</b>			
DHA	7050	Effective Negotiations & Partnering	3.0
DHA	7060	HC Leveraging Machine Learning	3.0
DHA	7080	Communities as Living Laboratories	3.0
DHA	7070	HC Economics & Finance	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0
<b>Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA) Summer/Fall Year 3</b>			
DHA	8010	Dissertation I – Qualifying Exam	3.0
DHA	8020	U.S. E-Healthcare System	3.0
DHA	8030	Dissertation II – Draft I	3.0
DHA	8040	Climate & Culture of Wellness	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0
<b>Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA) Winter/Spring Year 3</b>			
DHA	8050	Dissertation III – Draft II	3.0
DHA	8060	HC Organizational Compliance	3.0
DHA	8070	Effective College Educators	3.0
DHA	8080	Dissertation IV – Final Paper & Defense	3.0
Total Semester Hours			12.0
Total Program Hours			72.0

### 2.3.5.3. Course Descriptions

#### **DHA 6010 Next Generation Doctoral Studies Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: None

This course introduces students to the overall structure and delivery of the LECOM D.H.A. program. Students will learn how best to maximize their learning experience by properly harnessing all program resources, collaborations and strategic opportunities. Creates a clear understanding of this program's doctoral education's focus on the importance of conducting defensible healthcare industry research that incorporates innovation and forward thinking. Students will learn "how to learn" throughout the program, with a common goal of applying acquired knowledge and skills in both industry and academia. Setting student expectations while always keeping the joy of discovery as a foundational element. Next generation systems and technologies will be introduced as a common thread throughout the program

#### **DHA 6020 HC Research Methods – New Tools Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: None

This course introduces how the basic principles of biostatistics provides the opportunity for students to apply these principles to easily describe, analyze and visualize complex healthcare industry big data sets. Topics include descriptive statistics, probability distributions, point and interval estimation of population parameters, and hypothesis testing. A variety of one and two-sample parametric and non-parametric tests for continuous and categorical data are also covered, as is simple ANOVA for three or more samples. Students will analyze data using SPSS software, interpret results and present findings in a variety of formats.

#### **DHA 6030 HC Quantitative Analysis Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 6010 & 6020

This course introduces how artificial intelligence (AI) systems can be deployed in various healthcare settings to more efficiently gather data and provide industry professionals real-time analysis. This data can be gathered from various environmental, clinical, governmental and financial sources to create the potential for prospective decision making in healthcare delivery systems. The ability to sift through large amounts of data can help hospital administrators optimize performance and improve the use of existing resources, generating time and cost savings. Hospitals, healthcare systems, and medical groups can improve data driven practice management and performance monitoring of institutional operations, finance and research programs by effectively applying these tools.

**DHA 6040 HC Artificial Intelligence Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 6010 & 6020

This course examines how the growth of computational power utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) has led to a massive increase in the amount and granularity of stored digital medical and healthcare data. The ability of technology to quickly analyze large volumes of this data and create meaningful – and actionable – insights will have profound effects on how healthcare is delivered, received and impacts overall administration. Providers are able to more easily classify subpopulations and tailor medical treatment to individual characteristics, as well as analyze and draw inferences from vast amounts of data points from a multitude of data sets including both population, family, and patient extensive histories, laboratory results and genetic information. How enhanced power to determine which treatments will work best for specific patients, as well as gain an enhanced understanding of the underlying mechanisms by which different diseases occur, improving quality of patient care, enabling cost-effectiveness, reducing readmissions and mortality rates – all as part of routine medical care.

**DHA 6050 HC Leadership & Communications Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 6030 & 6040

Next generation healthcare leaders will be expected to communicate in a clear, multi-dimensional fashion. They must deliver compelling, relevant, meaningful, and immersive information exchange. Understanding the evolution of how healthcare communication is conducted and accomplished is the cornerstone of establishing true continuing relationships essential to sustained success. New artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities can empower leaders to better focus their communications on more high-value tasks and increase the opportunity for valued one-on-one interactions between providers and patients. Understanding the fundamentals of effective communications prepares healthcare leaders to open new and existing channels to enhance wellness outcomes.

**DHA 6060 HC Mind, Body, Spirit-Whole Person Care Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 6030 & 6040

The course explores Osteopathic Medicine which is designed to work in partnership with patients to help them achieve a high level of wellness by focusing on health education, injury prevention, and disease prevention. It espouses therapeutic techniques that emphasize prevention treating the patient “as a whole”, just not “a collection of symptoms”. The reality is that there are insufficient resources to fully deliver such service to our society. Further the amount and depth of information needed on individual patients; the number of patients; the amount of knowledge on disease, wellness, and courses of action to address both; and the increasing complexity of the inter-relationships and interactions among all these truly exceed the ability of humans and their current systems to accomplish the holistic wellness goal. Artificial intelligence (AI) is now offering an opportunity to achieve this goal for all patients. Technology’s

predictive abilities promise new applications that will one day transform health systems. AI can enable providers to focus on the human issues of wellness delivery (both medical and affiliated fields of service delivery and their economic business delivery) and be superior generalists backed up by Artificial Intelligence as specialist assistants, Machine Learning (ML) as personalized long-term care monitors and coaches, and Robotics as the master craftsmen of procedures and reoccurring care. Rather than replacing human clinical judgement, these technologies should augment the clinical acumen to scales not seen today, providing a hybrid, the human and the machine together, that is more powerful than either alone.

**DHA 6070 HC Qualitative Analysis Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 6050 & 5060

The student will learn how the daily administrative activities of healthcare providers can be improved. Delays of weeks, months or even years are too often incurred in executing a number of everyday tasks, including adjudicating claims, scheduling appointments, hiring new employees, procuring services, conducting investigations and approving investments. The resulting costs are both financial and reputational, as their inability to deliver core services in a timely manner directly impacts their ability to execute the mission. However, for those people whom they serve, the stakes are even higher, as delays can have livelihood, peace of mind, or even life and death consequences. Advanced systems and technologies, machine learning and artificial intelligence are ideally suited to resolve these types of situations. They can automate low-value, repetitive tasks, executing them more efficiently and accurately than humans, freeing individuals to play higher-level roles requiring greater empathy, cognitive analysis and more strategic thinking about healthcare and wellness delivery. They can also improve the speed and quality of decision making, allowing for better navigation of increasingly complex and massive amounts of data; allowing administrators to more consistently arrive at the best possible outcome for all stakeholders.

**DHA 6080 Effective Writing & Publication Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 6050 & 5060

This course will focus affective writing for academia, industry and the general population. It will explore various outlets and the potential speed of dissemination. The ability of the healthcare industry leader to effectively communicate through narrative is essential. Regardless of how the pros are distributed in our multi-media networks, it must be impactful, precise and concise in order to influence. In a time when “fake news” dominates the headlines, being viewed as a credible source of information both inside and outside of our organization is foundational to success.

**DHA 7010 Outcome Focused Healthcare Strategy Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 6070 & 6080

This course explores the use of advanced systems technologies that allow providers to create a digital patient which is a lifelong, integrated, personalized model of a patient that is updated with each measurement, scan or exam, and that includes behavioral and genetic data as well. A digital patient is more than just a static digital record. It integrates and analyzes every bit of information over time – like a smart assistant that accompanies patients and their caregivers along the patient’s life journey. At some point these could include patient-specific digital models of human organs, such as the heart, to support with diagnosis, treatment planning and guidance. The digital patient paradigm has the potential to make healthcare more precise, personalized, and preventative, by equipping caregivers with the right insights at the right time. Each person becomes their own “case”, who’s insights and outcomes can influence the health and well-being of not only themselves, but also future generations to follow.

**DHA 7020 HC Case Study Design & Delivery Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 6070 & 6080

Students will learn the case study research design method, which has been utilized for decades as a both a learning tool and for complex problem solving. It is an excellent tool for investigating and evaluating trends throughout the healthcare industry including administration. This method of study is especially useful for testing widely accepted theoretical models by applying them in real world situations. Students will write and submit a formal case for publication.

**DHA 7030 HC Ethics & Sustainability Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 7010 & 7020

The aim of this course is to provide students with understanding ethical issues surrounding policymaking and legal process that form the basic structure of the individual and public healthcare systems in the United States. The course will explore fundamental challenges and contemporary issues in U.S. health policy, and review factors that affect future health policy initiatives. Special attention will be given to the status of health reform and the interaction of the healthcare system with local, state and federal political systems in healthcare spending and delivery. Impact of policymaking on access to healthcare and healthcare programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, and the relationship between the public and private sectors on health policy will be evaluated. Patient privacy issues will also be explored.

**DHA 7040 Virtual Medicine Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 7010 & 7020

Medicine is evolving to an expanded format for healthcare diagnosis and delivery of services. Patients coming to a central location is giving way to telemedicine and high-tech communications devices and systems. Patients and providers are connected to regional hospitals, labs, and diagnostic centers where a greater range of expertise is available 24/7. This course will explore the design and impacts of virtual medicine on the Quality, Access and Cost of healthcare delivery.

**DHA 7050 Effective Negotiations & Partnering Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 7030 & 7040

This course focuses on applying organizational communication theories and concepts to understand others better to increase negotiation effectiveness and partnering opportunities. Theoretical overview of organizational communication including communication flow, networks, organizational relationships, groups, conflict, and language will be presented. Special topics including teams in organizations, diversity, organizational politics, leadership, and change will be presented. Issues such as terrorism, public health crises, and corporate malfeasance have increased the importance of crisis communication. Enhancing effective crisis communication skills; promoting the understanding of the counter-intuitive nature of crisis communication; utilizing crisis communication theory and perspectives to argue for effectiveness and ineffectiveness in crisis communication; and assisting interactions between students, researchers, and policy makers on effective crisis communication will also be presented.

**DHA 7060 Leveraging HC Machine Learning Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 7030 & 7040

This course will learn how Machine Learning (ML) algorithms can impact Access, Quality and Cost of healthcare administration decision making. As the amount of and sources of data increase exponentially in healthcare and other industry, how to capture and harness that information becomes the challenge. ML offers the potential for 24/7 real-time data collection and processing to create predictive models that both providers and administrators can rely upon to maximize wellness outcomes.

**DHA 7070 HC Economics & Finance Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 7050 & 7060

Today, AI's predictive analytics allows for the automation of evidence gathering and the production of complex data reports, saving time and improving overall healthcare delivery services. This course will focus on how a clear understanding of healthcare key economic indicators can help mitigate risk and advance an organization's strategic initiatives. Students will learn how healthcare administrators can maximize finite resources, create fiscally responsible financial forecasts and develop accurate accounting reports that all stakeholders can understand.

**DHA 7080 Communities as Living Laboratories Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 7050 & 7060

This experiential coursework explores the multiple research roles local communities can fill to create productive change on behalf of individual patients, families and communities. Students will learn how data can be shared and correlated to improve wellness. Understanding the role of advocacy is crucial to public health and facilitates policy change and eliminating barriers to health triggered by environmental destruction, poverty, and illiteracy. Students will explore concepts, models, and practices of health advocacy, and appraise strategies used by health advocates and consumers to leverage more power in making decisions, defining issues, designing programs, and developing policies. Students will also be responsible for conducting three (3) executive interviews with various healthcare leaders in their community which will be used to design a community-wide living laboratory research project for the betterment of all.

**DHA 8010 Dissertation I-Qualifying Exam Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 7070 & 7080

The Dissertation I course is the first formal course in a four (4) course series. It is a comprehensive review of skills and competencies that the student would be expected to demonstrate at a level of proficiency or expertise. This course provides students the opportunity to integrate all previous D.H.A. learning experiences and apply to healthcare industry "real world" original research dissertation project. Students will benefit from live presentations with Q&A sessions and from working in interprofessional groups. One-on-one mentoring with course instructors and mentors will take place throughout the dissertation process. Students will formally present their dissertation topic which they wish to defend in their final semester. Each presentation must include topic introduction with thesis statement, research relevance, and research methods being utilized detailing expected data being gathered and statistical analysis. Passing of the qualifying exam is required for the student to move into a formal doctoral degree candidate designation by the program.

**DHA 8020 U.S. Healthcare System Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 7070 & 7080

Students will learn about the details of U.S. healthcare system, which can be difficult to understand even

for those who have worked in and around it for decades. Students will learn through case review and discussion how numerous entities including providers, healthcare organizations, and governmental health services are blended to create a functional healthcare system. The evolving vertical and horizontal integration of healthcare organizations will be explored and horizontal integration of organizations will be discussed. Exploring how future roles of new healthcare industry players such as Amazon and Single Payer Systems may impact the wellness of future generations. As with previous courses, we will focus our studies on Quality, Access, and Cost in the U.S. healthcare delivery system.

**DHA 8030 Dissertation II-Draft I Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 8010 & 8020

The Dissertation II course is the second formal course in a four (4) course series. Students will benefit from live presentations with Q&A sessions and from working in interprofessional groups. One-on-one mentoring with course instructors and mentors will take place throughout the dissertation process. Students will formally present their second required draft sections of their dissertation paper which they will defend in their final semester. Each presentation must pass this requirement for the student to move to the third dissertation course.

**DHA 8040 Climate & Culture of Wellness Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 8010 & 8020

This course explores “wellness” as an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life. How group cultures and climates impact illness and achieving a state of homeostasis physically, mentally, socially and spiritual. Wellness is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Effective leadership techniques will be learned on how to create positive corporate climates.

**DHA 8050 Dissertation III-Draft II Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 8030 & 8040

The Dissertation III course is the third formal course in a four (4) course series. Students will benefit from live presentations with Q&A sessions and from working in interprofessional groups. One-on-one mentoring with course instructors and mentors will take place throughout the dissertation process. Students will formally present their third required draft sections of their dissertation paper which they will defend in their final semester. Each presentation must pass this requirement for the student to move to the fourth dissertation course.

**DHA 8060 HC Organizational Compliance Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 8030 & 8040

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) U.S. Department of Health & Human Services has developed a series of voluntary compliance program guidance documents directed at various segments of the health care industry, such as hospitals, nursing homes, third-party billers, and durable medical equipment suppliers, to encourage the development and use of internal controls to monitor adherence to applicable statutes, regulations, and program requirements. This course will explore these standards and organize in a fashion that harnesses advanced software monitoring solutions to provide real-time dashboard informatics to healthcare administrators.

**DHA 8070 Effective College Educators Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 8050 & 8060

In addition to more traditional careers in healthcare management, terminally trained graduates may advance their career in other areas including college and university education. Healthcare industry experts can translate their professional administrative experience achieved from pharmaceutical companies, health insurance companies, management consulting, hospitals, revenue cycle institutions, long-term care facilities, professional societies and state and Federal agencies into the classroom. Today's students seek instruction from those who have real-world experience. This course will help prepare industry professionals to make the transition either part-time or full-time into higher education opportunities where their formal education and mentoring skills will make a powerful combination.

**DHA 8080 Dissertation IV-Final Paper & Defense Credits: 3.0**

Pre-requisite: DHA 8050 & 8060

The Dissertation IV course is the final formal course in a four (4) course series. Students will benefit from live presentations with Q&A sessions and from working in interprofessional groups. One-on-one mentoring with course instructors and mentors will take place throughout the dissertation process. Students will formally present their final written dissertation paper and defend in a publicly-noticed event. The dissertation committee must vote to pass the student's defense performance for the doctoral degree to be conferred.

## **2.4. ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

### **2.4.1. Policy and Procedure for Final Grade Appeals**

#### **2.4.1.1. Cause for Final Grade Appeals**

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 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 clearly did not apply the same standards they 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 professor had no apparently discernible rationale for arriving at the grade given.
3. Assignment of a grade that has resulted from human error: *i.e.*, the professor 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

B. The following reasons do not constitute "good cause" for the purposes of appealing a grade:

1. Disagreement with the course or systems requirements established by the professor;
2. Disagreement with the grading standards established by the professor;
3. Disagreement with the judgment of the Professor in applying his/her grading standards so long as they have 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;

Or,

4. 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.

C. Students repeating any academic year are ineligible for grade appeals.

### **2.4.1.2. Procedure for Final Grade Appeals**

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

A student wishing to appeal a final grade shall confer with the faculty member or preceptor who assigned the grade and also inform the Program Director in writing or electronically.

1. The student-faculty member conference shall take place within ten (10) working 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 Dean or another member of the institution 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 electronically or in writing (with a copy to the Program Director) within five (5) working days after the conference has occurred.
5. The Program Director 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 electronically or in writing within a reasonable time period, typically ten (10) working days, of the Directors' decision.

#### **Step 2: Appeal to the Dean of The LECOM School of Health Services Administration**

1. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Program Director, they may file an appeal to the Dean.

2. This appeal must be submitted in writing or electronically, and shall contain the student's reasons for appealing the grade.
3. The appeal should be made within 10 (ten) working days after the student receives the written notification from the Program Director.

#### Step 3: Appeal to the President

1. If the Dean rules against the student, the decision may be appealed to the President within 10 working days after the student receives notification of the decision. The decision of the President in the matter shall be final.
2. If a student's grade appeal is sustained by either the Director or the Dean, the affected faculty member may make an appeal.

### 2.4.2. Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

#### Minimum Competency

A student is considered to be making satisfactory academic performance progress if they demonstrate required course competencies and learning objectivities; however, students can have no more than 12 credits of "C" grades on their final transcripts to progress to graduation. Any grades reflected below a 70% competency level (C), or courses with a "C" beyond the 12-credit maximum, must be successfully remediated prior to the student advancing to the next academic semester. Exceptions to this policy may be made on an individual basis.

#### Incompletes

Any incomplete must also be resolved and removed from the record prior to progression to the next semester. Exceptions to this policy may 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). Students will be evaluated for satisfactory academic progress at the end of each semester.

#### Coursework Submissions

Coursework submitted more than two weeks after the required deadline will receive 0% for that assignment unless an extension for submission has been approved by the course director.

#### Financial Aid Warning

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, or rotations are passed. See Section 3.14, Remediation. See Section 6.7, Satisfactory Academic Progress Standard for Financial Aid Recipients.

#### Program Length Maximum

MHSA, MSBE, MPH, MS MCT students must complete the program requirements within (4) years of original matriculation. DHA students must complete the program requirements within six (6) years of original matriculation. If a student is unable to meet the maximum time frame allotted, they will be dismissed.

### 2.4.3. Promotion

Promotion is defined as progression from one academic semester to the next.

- A. The SPG committee will recommend students to the Dean for promotion.
- B. A student will not be recommended for progression to the next academic semester with any outstanding grades of (I) or (F).
- C. 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 Academic Catalog and Student Handbook to be eligible for promotion.
- D. A student will be promoted only if all academic, behavioral, legal and financial requirements of LECOM are satisfied.

### 2.4.4. Academic Probation

- A. Academic probation is defined as a period of time during which a student’s academic progress will be closely monitored by the SPG Committee, the Director and the Dean.

Students will be placed on probation after failure of a course, unsatisfactory academic performance such as honor code violations or for other cause as stated in this document, such as seriously deficient ethical, professional, personal or illegal conduct.

Members of the faculty or administration may report, in writing to the SPG Committee, any student whose professional or personal conduct is deemed unsatisfactory. Professional and personal conduct includes, but is not limited to: lack of attendance, timely submission of coursework, cooperation with instructors, appropriate attitude toward and interactions with peers and associates, attendance of regularly scheduled meetings with faculty advisors and personal appearance appropriate to the circumstances.

- B. Terms of Probation: Any student placed on probation will remain so until graduation.
- C. When a student is placed on probation, the Director will notify the student in writing of the reasons for probation. A copy of this letter will be distributed to the Dean and the student’s faculty advisor. A copy of this letter will be placed in the student’s permanent file if the probation is labeled “Disciplinary”. If the probation is “Conduct”, it will be removed from the student file at graduation. (*See* section 9.3.2)
- D. A student on probation may not serve as an officer of an official club or organization and shall not engage in time consuming extracurricular activities.
- E. A student on probation must meet either in person or *via* telecommunications with their faculty advisor at least every two weeks.
- F. Academic probation should be regarded as a serious matter and is official notice to the student that the quality of the student’s performance must improve in order to remain eligible to continue matriculation. Any student who fails to improve his/her performance in the areas

identified by the SPG Committee may continue on probation, be asked to withdraw or be dismissed from LECOM.

## 2.4.5. Remediation

### 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 him or her.

If a student receives a failing grade, that student will be reviewed by the SPG Committee and procedures for remediation will be recommended by the Committee. The timing of remediation will be determined by the Director and the Dean. All remediation must be completed prior to taking the comprehensive final examination.

### 2.4.5.1. Procedures of the Program

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

1. The SPG Committee will consider all failure (F) grades for courses, systems, modules or rotations.
  - A. All failures will require remediation.
  - B. Educational objectives in remediation are the same as the educational objectives used for the regular curriculum.
  - C. Students who fail to reach and maintain appropriate academic achievement are identified as "at risk". They will be placed under the supervision of the Program Director. Students receiving a final score between 65 and 69% will take a course specific, comprehensive examination as remediation.
    1. Students taking a remedial examination must score 70% or greater in order to pass. There will be no appeals of the remediation grade. However, the highest grade a student may earn through remediation is 70% and is the grade that will be recorded in the transcript.
    2. A remedial examination fee will be assessed to all individuals taking a remedial exam. The fee must be paid to the Office of Student Affairs prior to the student taking the remedial exam.
    3. 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. (See below).
  - D. Students scoring below 65% in a course will be required to complete a tutorial course and take a remedial examination(s). The tutorial may include, but is not limited to, the following:
    1. Special projects or studies in the deficient area(s) or
    2. Participation in a directed or self-study course.

### 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), in a remediated course.
- B. Receiving two failures in one semester.
- C. Unsatisfactory professional and personal behavior, including but not limited to the following:
  1. Attendance;
  2. Cooperation with instructors;
  3. Interaction with fellow students, staff or faculty;
  4. Approach to and interactions with others during an executive interview;
  5. Personal appearance not in compliance with the LECOM dress code; or
  6. 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 two business days of the occurrence.
- D. Failure to demonstrate continued academic and professional growth and achievement.
- E. Conviction of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude.

This list is not exclusive. The academic record of any student who has been dismissed will be a part of the data reviewed if the student applies for re-admission. If the student seeks re-admission, the student must go through the admissions process.

### 2.4.7. Veteran's Education

LECOM is an approved institution for the training of students eligible for veterans' benefits. LECOM will consider veteran status in a positive fashion 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), LECOM 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.

LECOM 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, 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.

### **2.4.8. Registration**

All students are required to register on the registration day specified in the applicable calendar. Failure to register on the specified day may be grounds for dismissal. 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 confirm that the school has received the following documents:

1. Final official transcripts from previously attended colleges and/or universities
2. Physical examination form
3. Emergency data form
4. Safety report form
5. Criminal background check (current LECOM students have already undergone the background check and are not required to repeat the clearance)
6. Signed matriculation agreement.
7. All required immunizations

#### **2.4.8.1. Student Orientation/Online Training**

Students will begin matriculation with a one-day online session. During this session, students participate in registration and orientation, train on the use of Canvas technology for online course delivery, obtain information on IT support, and begin coursework. Students will present valid identification to be assigned unique usernames and passwords. This allows for delivery and distribution of materials and provides confirmation of the student's ability to access online curriculum, participate in submission of coursework and assessment tools and effectively seek IT support. The Program utilizes textbooks that are available online and in e-book formats. Additional online resources are utilized as recommended readings. Attendance of virtual orientation and in-person commence week activity components are mandatory.

#### **2.4.8.2. Cohorts**

SHSA cohort enrollment begins in June for all masters programs and July for DHA program. SHSA cohorts have been designed for professionals who seek a professional degree while continuing to work full-time as well as students currently enrolled in other professional programs, such as LECOM's COM, SOP, SPM and SDM programs.

Each didactic course is approximately 8 to 16 weeks in duration with students completing one course at a time sequentially. Masters curriculum is completed in 24 months divided into 4 semesters and the doctoral curriculum is completed in 36 months divided into 6 semesters. Some courses may last the duration of the semester such as Capstone or Executive Interviews.

#### **2.4.8.3. Curriculum Delivery**

Curriculum in programs of the SHSA are delivered through online instruction. Individual courses will use different teaching methodologies driven by adult learning principles such as Power Point presentations, podcasts, assigned readings from textbooks and other recommended sources, forum discussions, teamwork activities, live virtual synchronous classes and discussions, etc., as designed by the course director.

Student work for assignments and examinations outside of in-person sessions will be submitted via the Coursework tab located within the course on the LECOM Canvas portal. Access to online course material and submissions is protected by unique username and passwords that were assigned during orientation with submission of valid identification. Course directors and instructors will utilize the Dashboard button to examine and evaluate student work and assessments. Assessments may include written assignments, presentations, quizzes, and written and/or oral examinations.

#### **2.4.8.4. Curriculum Progression**

Following the initial orientation session, students continue their studies through distanced education course modules of 8 to 16 weeks in duration. A final virtual synchronous session at the end of the didactic curriculum allows for the presentation of the Masters capstone or thesis projects and Doctoral dissertation defense and final didactic instruction.

See specific program curriculum sections for course sequence, titles, numbers and descriptions.

#### **2.4.8.5. Course Evaluation**

After the completion of each course module, the students will be asked to submit an end-of-course assessment to evaluate the content and delivery of the course and the effectiveness of the faculty. The program director will review these evaluations with the course director. Both evaluations will be used to improve the quality of the program and teaching. Faculty members will also be surveyed as to their evaluation of the effectiveness of the program in support of their course. Results will be used to improve the quality of the program.

#### **2.4.9. Credit Hours**

SHSA courses are awarded Semester Credit Hours as each unit consists of Distance learning sessions with a minimum of fifteen hours of instruction during the semester, plus a reasonable period of time outside of instruction which requires the student to devote to preparation for learning experiences, such as preparation for instruction, study of course material, or completion of educational projects as occurred during the in-person sessions. Distance education learning experience is delivered through the LECOM learning management system, Canvas.

Students will complete a minimum of 15 contact hours of academic content and study per credit hour.

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 reasonably 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, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.”

#### **2.4.10. Grading**

Educational opportunities are designated as courses or clinical experiences/internships. Grading components for each course are specifically defined in the syllabus. Bonus/extra credit points will not exceed 5% of the total points of a course. At the end of each course or internship, a final letter grade for

each student will be submitted to the registrar with percentages translated into letter grades based on a four-point value as follows:

A	Excellent	90 – 100 percent	4.0
B	Good	80 – 89 percent	3.0
C	Satisfactory	70 – 79 percent	2.0
F	Failure	69 percent or below	0.0
I	Incomplete		I
W	Withdrawal before 50% completion of a course		0.0
WP	Withdrawal after 50% completion, passing		0.0
WF	Withdrawal after 50% completion, Failing		0.0

All course assignments and activities are mandatory and failure to participate will be factored into the final grade as designed by the course director and defined in individual course syllabi.

Cumulative grade point averages (GPA) are calculated and posted on transcripts.

#### 2.4.11. Timely Response to Student Questions and Concerns

Course directors and instructors will respond to student questions and concerns optimally within 24 hours, but no longer than 48 hours. This response can be made to the student via telephonic, email, or other communication method.

#### 2.4.12. The Comprehensive Examination

**In order to graduate, LECOM SHSA masters students must successfully pass a final comprehensive examination.** If a student misses the comprehensive or other examination due to an excused absence, the student will be permitted to take a make-up examination whose timing will be at the discretion of the Program Director. For excused absences due to illness, a written statement from the attending physician 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 as soon as possible within a maximum of 72 hours with approval from the Director. The highest grade that can be earned for an unexcused absence is 70%. The Honor Code applies to all examinations and students are strictly prohibited from any collaboration during examinations. Other rules on examinations may be established by Course Directors.

#### 2.4.13. Counseling After Failed Examinations

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

#### 2.4.14. Requirements for Graduation

Students who have satisfactorily completed all academic requirements and who have been recommended by SPG for graduation (as indicated by the successful completion of the faculty-developed curriculum) may be awarded the Masters in Health Services Administration, Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences degree, Masters of Public Health, Master of Science Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics and Doctor of Healthcare Administration, provided that they are of good moral character and have met the following standards:

- A. Completed all required courses;

- B. Maintained at least a 70% final grade in each course and executive interviews as well as on the thesis/capstone and comprehensive examination;
- C. For MHSA, MSBE, MPH, MS MCT and DHA have no more than three (3) program courses with a final grade of C;
- D. Remediated any failed courses;
- E. Completed any incomplete (I) courses;
- F. Completed all legal and financial requirements;
- G. Exhibited the ethical, professional, behavioral and personal characteristics necessary for practice in healthcare administration;
- H. Completed the Graduation Application Form on the Student Home Card of the LECOM Experience ([experience.elluciancloud.com/lecom](http://experience.elluciancloud.com/lecom)). This form, which must be completed prior to graduation, is placed with the student's permanent electronic record and serves as the students' final clearance from campus;
- I. Completed an exit interview with the Office of Student Affairs if the student is a recipient of any form of financial aid;
- J. Attended the Commencement at which the degree is to be awarded. Only in unusual circumstances, and with approval of the Dean, will a degree be awarded *in absentia*; and
- K. Matriculated within a timeframe of not more than three academic years for master's students and not more than four years 6 months for DHA students.

In the event of an extension beyond the projected graduation date is needed to complete any requirement, 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.

### **2.4.15. Commencement**

Attendance at Commencement is mandatory for all graduating students. Commencement shall be held following the end of the academic year. 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 August 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 August 31 date must participate in the Commencement Ceremony the following year. Only in unusual circumstances and with the approval of the President 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. Students will be handed a diploma cover at one end of the ceremonial stage and

then proceed across the stage. 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 his/her receipt of the diploma may be delayed.

#### **2.4.15.1. Degrees Awarded**

Students who successfully complete the M.H.S.A. curriculum will be awarded the Masters in Health Services Administration degree.

Students who successfully complete the M.S.B.E. curriculum will be awarded the Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics degree.

Students who successfully complete the M.P.H. curriculum will be awarded the Masters in Public Health degree.

Students who successfully complete the M.S. MCT curriculum will be awarded the Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics degree.

Students who successfully complete the D.H.A. curriculum will be awarded the Doctor of Healthcare Administration degree.

#### **2.4.16. 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.

#### **2.4.17. 2.4.17. Program Duration**

LECOM MHSA & MPH students must complete the program requirements within three years (3 years) of original matriculation. LECOM MSBE must complete the program requirements within two years (2 years) of original matriculation. LECOM MS MCT must complete the program requirements within two and a half years (2.5 years) of original matriculation. LECOM DHA students must complete the program requirements within four years & 6 months (4.5 years) of original matriculation. Students unable to meet the maximum time frame allotted may be dismissed at the discretion of the Dean.

## 3. FINANCIAL AID

### INTRODUCTION – PURPOSE OF LECOM’S FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

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

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. LECOM participates in the Direct Loan Program, funded by the Department of Education which includes the following types of loans: Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, and Direct Consolidation Loans. Students applying for federal financial aid are required to complete the FAFSA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) annually at [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). A student must complete a FAFSA to have loan eligibility determined by LECOM. 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 Office of Financial aid by sending an email to [financialaid@lecom.edu](mailto:financialaid@lecom.edu) or by calling (814) 866-8433.

#### 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 student portal, LECOM Experience. This will become available once the student's FAFSA is pulled into LECOM student information system. Students who choose to use federal aid must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov). The Office of Financial Aid uses the FAFSA to determine eligibility for federal loans. Students applying for financial aid are required to complete the FAFSA annually.

Students applying for financial aid are required to complete the documents below.

Financial Aid Checklist		
Document Name	Who Needs to Complete	Where to Complete
FAFSA	Incoming & Current Students	Studentaid.gov
Entrance Counseling	Incoming Students Only	
Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note (MPN)	Incoming Students Current Students (as needed)	
* Grad PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN)	Current Students (as needed)	
* Grad PLUS Application	Current Students	
Private Loan Funding	Incoming Students	ELMSelect

To view your requirements, log into the Banner Student Self-Service Center/Financial Aid/Home Tab

- With the implementation of the One Big Beautiful Bill starting July 1, 2026, the Direct PLUS Loan program will be phased out to new borrowers (a student borrowing loans for a new program at a new school). Only students who are enrolled in the same program at the same school who have borrowed any federal loan prior to July 1, 2026, will be eligible to receive the Grad PLUS loan under the legacy provisions.
- **Accepted Incoming Students (Starting with the Class of 2030)**  
Incoming students who need to borrow additional funds beyond the annual loan limit cap for professional students (\$50,000) are able to apply for a private educational loan for the remaining cost of their education.

To view a list of private lenders we have certified loans from in the past, select your campus (Jacksonville students will need to use the LECOM Elmira hyperlink) and your program of study.

ELMSelect Private Lending Resources	
Campus Location	Loans Programs Offered
<a href="#">LECOM Erie</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Graduate Students (masters)</li> <li>✓ Healthcare Professional Students</li> <li>✓ Osteopathic Medicine</li> </ul>
<a href="#">LECOM Bradenton</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Graduate Students (masters)</li> <li>✓ Health Professional</li> <li>✓ Medical/Dental</li> </ul>
<a href="#">LECOM at Seton Hill</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Osteopathic Medicine</li> </ul>
<a href="#">LECOM at Elmira</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Osteopathic Medicine</li> </ul>

Please note, private loan applications are based on credit approval. Some students may be required to seek a credit worthy endorser to co-sign their loan.

- **Currently Enrolled Students (who meet the criteria above) \***

If a student chooses to use the Direct PLUS Loan, the application must be completed annually. The Direct PLUS Loan application is available April 1<sup>st</sup> and requires a credit check. To qualify for a Direct PLUS Loan, students must not have an adverse credit history. If the credit check shows that the student has an adverse credit history, the Office of Federal Student Aid will explain how the student may still be able to qualify for a Direct PLUS Loan by seeking a credit worthy endorser (co-singer) or by submitting an appeal.

- **Legacy Provision**

If a borrower has a Federal Direct Loan made before July 1, 2026, while enrolled in a credentialed program, the borrower can continue to borrow under current loan limits for 3 academic years or the remainder of their expected time to credential, whichever is less.

### 3.2.1. General Guidelines for Aid Eligibility

Per federal regulations, basic eligibility requirements for Federal Student Aid includes:

- have received a high school diploma or recognized equivalent as defined by state/federal law;
- demonstrate financial need for need-based federal student aid programs;
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security Number (SSN);
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program;
- maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) (Section 3.6);
- provide consent and approval to have federal tax information transferred directly into the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form;
- sign the certification statement on the FAFSA form stating you are not in default on a federal student loan, owe money on a federal student grant, and you'll only use federal student aid for educational purposes; and
- show they are qualified to obtain a college education.

The Office of Financial Aid may request other supplemental information, as needed, to determine aid eligibility.

### **3.2.2. Additional Aid Requests due to Special Circumstances**

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine Office of Financial Aid, in accordance with federal regulations, establishes a standard budget for all aid recipients based on expected tuition and other campus fees, average housing costs, average book and supply expenses, and average transportation costs. Students exhibiting special circumstances may request a Professional Judgment (PJ) starting after all initial disbursements have been made. When a special circumstance occurs, it is possible to re-evaluate a student's aid eligibility to adjust the components (i.e., housing, food, transportation, etc.) of a student's Cost of Education (COE) budget. Adjustments submitted for consideration must be documented and reasonable as they pertain to the COE and are on a case-by-case basis. To be considered for a professional judgment, a student must have already borrowed up to the Cost of Education budget for 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 PAYMENT OF TUITION AND FEES**

LECOM disburses the payment of federal student aid funds to a student's account once loan funds are received (Federal Student Aid or private loan sources). If an accepted financial aid award is still being processed or funds have not been received by the registration due date, any associated late fees will be waived until LECOM receives the loan proceeds. Award offers and self-payments should be accepted or received two weeks prior to the start of the term. Late 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 FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE SELF-PAY**

A self-pay 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;
- 25% during the fourth week of the semester;
- 10% after the 4th week until 20% of the semester has elapsed, if it has not already.

Once 20 percent or more of the semester has elapsed, no refund shall be granted to any student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn for any reason. 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 an earlier written notice is received. Refunds will be made within 30 days of termination of students' enrollment or receipt of Cancellation Notice from the student.

### 3.4.1. The Borrowers Rights to Cancel All or Part of a Loan

Within certain timeframes, a student may notify the school that they want to cancel all or part of their loan. Students may ask the school to cancel all or part of their financial aid within 30 days of the term. We will process your cancellation request; however, if the request is made outside the applicable timeframe, we are not required to do so.

Students do not have to pay interest or the loan fee on the part of their loan that is cancelled or returned within the timeframes described above. The Department of Education will adjust the student's loan amount to eliminate any interest and loan fee that applies to the amount of the loan that is cancelled or returned.

### 3.4.2. 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.

While students can borrow both financial aid and utilize their VA benefits, the aid received cannot exceed the Cost of Education for the academic year. Students who accept financial aid first will have their term charges paid from their financial aid disbursements. When VA benefits are received, the aid used to borrow these funds is returned on the student's behalf.

The following federal formula is used to calculate aid eligibility for those wishing to utilize both financial aid and VA benefits.

<b>Application of Veterans Benefits to LECOM Education</b>	
<b>Formula:</b> Cost of Education – Other Financial Assistance = Aid Eligibility	
<b>Example:</b>	
Cost of Education	\$64,768.00
VA Benefits (minus)	\$28,938.04 (minus)
Aid Eligibility	\$35,829.96

## 3.5. RETURN OF TITLE IV FUNDS WHEN A STUDENT WITHDRAWS

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 by these regulations include federal direct subsidized, unsubsidized, and graduate PLUS loans.

Financial aid funds are disbursed to student accounts at the start of each term. Students earn funds for the time they attend classes or are actively participating in rotations. If a student withdraws during the term, a Return to Title IV Funds (R2T4) calculation is performed to determine the amount of aid the student has earned for the period of enrollment (the start of the term to the student's last date of attendance).

*For example, a student who completed 30% of the term, earned 30% of their disbursed aid. The institution must return any unearned aid (i.e., 70%). A student who completed more than 60% of the term, has earned all Title IV aid for the period of enrollment. Students on rotations who have completed 50% of their rotations within the term have also earned all Title IV aid.*

If a student did not receive all the funds that could be 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 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 where Title IV funds 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 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 master promissory note signed by the student when they borrowed the funds.

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

A student receiving scholarships and/or loans through federal and/or private resources must remain in good academic standing and make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to retain their awards. To make SAP a student must meet all their educational requirements and not exceed the pace of completion towards their degree or certificate. If a student fails to maintain institutional standards, the student is considered not to be making SAP 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 SAP and will not be eligible for federal and private educational loans.
- Students required to repeat a term or academic year are no longer eligible for federal loans and will need to obtain a private educational loan for the term(s) they are repeating coursework.
- Students removed from clinical rotations, including failure of a board examination, are not making SAP and are not eligible for subsequent financial aid until they progress to their next semester.

Additionally, each LECOM College/School adheres to specific criteria for maintaining SAP, 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 Leave of Absence (LOA) for financial aid is a temporary interruption in a student's program of study. LOA refers to a specific period of time during a program when a student is not in attendance. LOAs do not include institutionally scheduled breaks. Students must follow the procedure outlined in Section 8.4. When a school grants a student a LOA, their enrollment status is reported as an approved leave of absence. If a student does not return within 180 days, the school must report the student as withdrawn. As part of the application process for a LOA, a student must meet with a Financial Aid Administrator to complete exit counseling to determine how the LOA will affect their aid eligibility.

While on an approved leave of absence, the following applies regarding financial aid:

- If granted an LOA, a student’s enrollment status will be reported as an “approved leave of absence” to the National Student Loan Database System (NSLDS).
- Students who graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment status, have a six-month grace period before they begin making payments on their student loans. No payments are required during the grace period. Taking a LOA could result in the depletion of some or all of their grace period on their student loan(s).
  - \* If the grace period expires, the student will be notified by their servicer(s) that their loan(s) have gone into repayment. Repayment dates are based on the start date of the LOA.
  - \* Students planning on returning who have received a repayment notification must contact their loan servicer to request a hardship forbearance OR economic hardship deferment.
- While on LOA, a student will not be assessed any additional institutional charges and is not eligible for any additional Title IV aid or private educational loan funding.
- Students who do not resume attendance at the institution at or before the end of the LOA and/or whose approved LOA, together with any additional LOAs, exceed a total of 180 days in a 12-month period will be treated as a withdrawal in accordance with federal regulations.
- Students who return from a LOA will not be able to receive any subsequent financial aid disbursements until they meet the standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and progress towards the completion of their degree.

### **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**

Students can view their Account Summary (i.e., billing statement) and Financial Aid award offers on [Student Self-Service](#) approximately 30 days prior to the start of each semester. Statements are not mailed and must be viewed online. Matriculation payments will be credited to their accounts in the fall term of the students first year.

Fall term charges include:

- half of the annual tuition
- half of the annual health insurance premium (if applicable)
- all fees (which are frontloaded every academic year),
- virtual textbooks (dependent upon program and year in school), and
- disability insurance premium.

Spring term charges include:

- second half of the annual tuition,
- half of the annual health insurance premium (if applicable),
- 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 requirements for financial aid met and accepted their award offer prior to the

term starts.

Charges may be paid online, through [Student Self-Service](#) /Student Accounts/Account Summary page, by using Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express credit cards. Service fees associated with the use of the credit card are paid by the student. Students may also opt to pay by personal check or money order. 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 term. 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. Late fees will be waived on a case-by-case basis for late admittance students.

## 3.10. INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LECOM STUDENTS

LECOM supports its students through a scholarship program with funds raised by the institution through activities such as the annual scholarship auctions, scholarship fundraisers, raffles, charity events, sale of goods, and donations from private businesses and individuals are provided to students to offset cost of tuition. Financial aid provides all prequalified Medical, Pharmacy, and Dental LECOM students with access to institutional scholarship forms during the fall term. All completed forms that are submitted by students who meet all prerequisites prior to the deadline are considered for distribution of scholarship monies.

*Students may receive only one institutional scholarship per academic year. While students are encouraged to apply for all scholarships for which they meet the eligibility criteria, those selected for more than one award will receive the scholarship of the highest value.*

**Institutional scholarships** are awarded in two categories: academic merit and exceptional need. Academic merit scholarships, such as the LECOM Academic and Affiliated Sports Scholarships, are based on academic excellence and support of the LECOM community. Successful candidates who receive funds based on academic merit must demonstrate that they are excelling in their program of study and that they will continue to strive for academic excellence in the coming years of their education. Additionally, they must demonstrate, through their volunteer community service, that they are dedicated to supporting the LECOM community. Community service opportunities are bountiful both within the institution and through student club organizations which engage in sponsoring community service projects each semester. Students who have a demonstrable record of community service and academic excellence will be strongly considered for these scholarship awards.

**Exceptional need scholarships** are available to LECOM students who provide evidence that they are unable to continue their education at the institution based on insufficient funds. These need-based scholarships are determined on a one-on-one basis through consultation with a Director of Financial Aid, Dean of the student's program, the Executive Director of Enrollment Services, and Information Systems, and the Provost. Should any student within the institution face such financial hardships they should reach out to a Financial Aid Administrator, program director, or Dean to initiate the process of consideration for these scholarships.

Students who are enrolled in more than one LECOM program (i.e., dual enrollment) may be eligible to receive a **tuition-waiver scholarship**. LECOM students who apply, qualify, and are accepted into any secondary LECOM master's degree program may receive up to a 50% tuition waiver for that secondary program.

To remain eligible for institutional scholarships, students must be in good academic and professional standing. Students are not eligible if they have disciplinary or professionalism issues, receive a full-tuition scholarship, are required to repeat one or more terms, are classified as decelerated or delayed, or are remediating coursework.

## 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, 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 system.

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/ethnicity, color, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or any other protected class.

### 4.1. TECHNOLOGY AND PORTAL ACCESS FOR STUDENTS

LECOM provides access to educational technologies for enrolled students, these include:

#### **Office 365, Email, and Box**

Students at LECOM have access to Office 365, encompassing the full Office Suite and a LECOM email address. Even after graduation, alumni will retain access to LECOM email, Office 365, and web-based applications like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. However, if LECOM Office 365 accounts remain inactive for three years or more post-graduation, they will be deactivated.

Additionally, students are provided with a BOX.com storage account, offering a substantial 1TB storage capacity for storing Office 365 files. Upon graduation, students will have a grace period of 60 days to clear out their BOX.com account. After this period, they will transition to a free 10GB BOX.com account. This transition ensures efficient management of student data and resources following their time at LECOM.

#### **LECOM Institutional Portal (Experience)**

LECOM operates a Student Information System (SIS) that is known as the LECOM Institutional Portal, Experience. Experience is a centralized student record system that helps the institution manage critical student information and delivery of services. This system allows access to financial aid, academic programs, learning resource center electronic resources, bookstore, and many more helpful information sites such as accreditation updates, research opportunities, and information technology information.

Students are granted access to their Experience 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 Experience and continue to do so following graduation to ensure access to 1098T forms and records. 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).

## 4.2. EMAIL USAGE

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.

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.

Students may not automatically forward their @[school].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.).

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;
- Using email to reveal confidential information about a student, employee, or patient to anyone who has neither a need for, nor right to 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.

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.

## 4.3. 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 privacy and confidentiality of information. Therefore, no one shall place LECOM-provided material (e.g., course materials, copyright 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.

#### **4.4. PASSWORDS**

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

#### **4.5. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HELP DESK**

LECOM IT employs a dedicated helpdesk system designed to address any technical concerns encountered by students during their academic tenure. To facilitate the resolution process, please submit a helpdesk request regarding all issues to:

Email: [issupport@lecom.edu](mailto:issupport@lecom.edu)

Upon submission of a helpdesk ticket, a member of LECOM IT will respond within one business day. All subsequent communications pertaining to the reported issue will be conducted exclusively through email correspondence generated by the helpdesk system.

#### **4.6. 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 service can be performed.

LECOM IT 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.

## **4.7. 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 institution'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, X (formerly known as 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 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 oneself 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 dismissal from an academic program or any other action deemed appropriate by LECOM.

## **4.8. 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.

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, Experience.

#### **4.9. 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, Experience, Canvas, MediaSuite, and Wi-Fi will not be changed.

## 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 medicine, nursing, and other graduate programs directly related to academic study and research. Materials not available within the physical LRC may be requested through Interlibrary Loan at the circulation desk. Library hours may vary by campus, [see LRC webpage](#).

### 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.

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

### 5.2. LRC STUDY SPACES

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) offers a range of study spaces designed to support diverse student needs, including individual study carrels for quiet, focused work; open areas with tables and chairs for flexible individual study; and comfortable seating options for relaxed reading or review. In addition, at some campuses the LRC provides dedicated group study rooms equipped with tables, chairs, and whiteboards, allowing students to collaborate without disrupting others. Together, these study environments create a supportive and functional setting that enhances student learning and academic success.

### 5.3. 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.

### 5.4. ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOG

The LRC online public access catalog of holdings may be searched using author, title, subject, or keywords. The catalog is available online as well as in-house; a convenient link is available on the LRC webpage on the LECOM portal, Experience.

### 5.5. FINES AND FEES

All materials must be returned by the date due. 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 or at a later date. Failure to pay any fine or fee will result in the suspension of LRC borrowing privileges until the account is cleared. A receipt for fines and fees paid to the LRC is provided upon request.

## **5.6. EQUIPMENT, COMPUTERS 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 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](#).

## **5.7. RESERVE COLLECTION**

The Reserve Collection consists of anatomic models, reference materials, and media. Items in the reserve collection must be used in the LRC and may not be checked out. Access to the collection items is requested at the circulation desk.

## **5.8. 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. Photo copiers only print in an 8 1/2 by 11-inch format. The copiers also offer a free scan-to-email feature.

## **PRINTING**

Printing in the LRC is managed by a program called Papercut. All incoming students are assigned a print account. Black and white printing is 10 cents per page; color prints are 20 cents. Each account is assigned 5 free pages to begin with. Instructions on how to use the Papercut account are available on the LRC web page and copies are also available at the LRC circulation desk. Payment for copies is cash only. Please manage your accounts carefully as refunds are not given at the end of your student tenure.

## **5.9. 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 website on the LECOM portal, Experience.

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.

## **5.10. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

Access to all digital resources for the Learning Resource Center may be gained through a secure login on the LECOM portal, Experience. Navigation to the LRC page the LECOM portal, Experience, provides users with the ability to use the OVID Discovery single-search, a one-stop shop solution for

student and faculty research needs. OVID Discovery is a platform developed specifically for health, biomedical, and pharmaceutical electronic libraries which bring together all resources subscribed to by the LRC.

Selected databases accessible to all authorized users through the LECOM Learning Resource Center include:

1. **MEDLINE** - through Ovid - The LECOM LRC offers access to Medline, the National Library of Medicine's premier biomedical bibliographic database, through the Ovid interface. Users are able to formulate their own search strategies and retrieve citations and abstracts. The Ovid Core Biomedical Collection I, II, III, & IV provides access to 84 full-text medical journals which may be searched and printed.
2. **PubMed LinkOut** - LinkOut is a service that allows you to link directly from PubMed and other NCBI databases that are available free of charge from the National Library of Medicine to the LECOM Learning Resource Center's complement of full text journal literature.
3. **UpToDate** - is an online medical reference designed to answer questions at the point of care. It contains 8,000+ topic reviews in 13 specialties, plus drug information and interactions. The content is authored by a faculty of esteemed physicians and is peer-reviewed. Updates are published three (3) times a year.
4. **DynaMed** - is a clinical reference database created by a physician for professionals for use at the "point of care." With clinically organized summaries for nearly 2,000 topics, DynaMed is an evidence-based reference shown to answer most clinical questions during practice. DynaMed is updated daily and monitors the content of over 500 medical journals and systematic evidence review databases.
5. **StatRef** - is an electronic medical library that enables users to cross search 25 medical textbooks such as ACS Medicine, Danforth's Obstetrics and Gynecology, Essentials of Musculoskeletal Care and the Merck Manual of Diagnosis & Therapy. Anatomy resources such as interactive mapping, 3-D displays and tutorials are also available through the StatRef platform.
6. **Lexi-Comp** - is a web-based drug information database providing content in the following areas: Drug information and identification, natural products, poisoning and toxicology, laboratory and diagnostic tests and infectious diseases. The database allows the user to query a database of 3,000 images of drugs by form, shape, color, and markings. A drug interaction analysis program is also available.
7. **Ebsco Host** - is a collection of databases that allow searching of medical related literature. There are several searchable databases, all containing access to full-text titles that students may search separately or concurrently. Some of the databases include Nursing and Allied Health Collection, Psychology and Behavioral Science Collection, Health Business Full Text, CINAHL, MEDLINE with Full Text and several more.
8. **EMBASE & IPA** - through Ovid - The EMBASE Drugs and Pharmacology and International Pharmaceutical Abstracts (IPA) databases are also accessible through Ovid. EMBASE indexes literature from 1991 to present and is known for its international scope and timely in depth indexing. IPA indexing is from 1980 to present. Abstracts cover the entire spectrum of drug

therapy and pharmaceutical information, including CAS Registry numbers and a therapeutic classification for drugs.

9. **Facts and Comparisons** – eAnswers (Drug Information) - Facts & Comparisons eAnswers is a tool that assists students and clinicians with key drug and clinical information to support everyday tasks. Updated daily, Facts & Comparisons eAnswers access over 6,000 comparative drug tables, screen for allergy interactions, check for potential drug interactions, review comparative efficacy data, identify drugs carried in by patients, generate a list of drugs for a disease or symptom, review formulary options, find REMS summaries, quickly reach Patient Assistance Program information and much more.
  
10. **Evidence Based Medicine Reviews** - through Ovid - A resource in the evidence-based medicine movement that combines EBM resources in a single fully-searchable database. A description of several of them is as follows:
  - a. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* - Consists of experts in over 40 clinical specialties who authoritatively review hundreds of studies in their areas. These reviews allow clinicians to get answers to their most commonly asked questions based on analysis of the available medical literature.
  - b. *Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness* - Access to selected systematic reviews on the effectiveness of clinical interventions and policies.
  - c. *ACP Journal Club* - Reviews of journal articles
  - d. *Definitive Controlled Trials* - Contains over 300,000 bibliographic references to controlled trials in health care.
  
11. **Board Review Series - Health Library/Clinical Clerkship Series** - The Health Library includes e-books covering the core disciplines of gross anatomy, physiology, embryology, behavioral science, cell biology, neuroanatomy, microbiology, immunology, biochemistry, molecular biology, pharmacology, and pathology. Nearly 5,000 multiple-choice review questions with answers and explanations. Comprehensive online self-assessments that allow students to track their performance. The Clinical Clerkship series covers the core clerkship rotations and is ideal for clerkship students, faculty, and directors and coordinators. Features include more than 30 textbooks from Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, over 150 cases, broken down by rotation along with more than 4,700 multiple-choice Q&A.

### **Additional Resources**

1. **WEB OPAC** - The LECOM Online Public Access Catalog contains all library holdings from the Erie, Bradenton, Elmira, and Seton Hill campuses. Its search engine allows patrons to browse the collection or perform advanced searches using title, author, subject, and/or keywords.
2. **Electronic Books** are utilized in the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) Erie, Seton Hill, and Elmira locations, the School of Pharmacy (SOP), the School of Podiatric Medicine, and the School of Dental Medicine (SDM). The COM uses VitalSource, an e-book aggregator that provides electronic access to the textbooks required for Medical students. The software interface used to deliver the content is dense and multi-layered allowing the students to highlight and share information between users, print excerpts and employ a search function, locating specific information fast and easily. VitalSource allows content on 5 separate devices such as a desktop, laptop, tablet, and smartphone. Content may be accessed anywhere using the web interface or it

may be downloaded and stored on personal devices for use anytime, anywhere.

3. **Journal Holdings** – There are two links for journals on the LECOM LRC webpage.

One is for the entire print journal collection housed in the LRC. The other is the link to the entirety of the journal holdings through our Full Text Finder program. Journals titles may be searched and are also grouped by their subject. Once a journal is located, a link to the journal content is provided. Faculty at all locations are solicited annually via e-mail by the LRC administration for feedback regarding additions or deletions to the journal collection.

## **5.11. LIBRARY INSTRUCTION**

Personal instruction is available on request for all students. If a student wishes to have individualized instruction, they may visit with a librarian at the circulation desk to set a time for the instruction session. Students may also use the “Ask a Librarian” link featured on the Discovery page at the LRC LECOM portal, Experience.

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

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

LECOM strives to create a safe, supportive environment for its students and employees. To this end, LECOM has systems and procedures in place to facilitate campus safety. LECOM facilities are well maintained, and security is given consistent attention to assist in the safety of - 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. Security personnel are available, if requested, both day and night at most LECOM campus facilities to escort students, staff, and faculty to their vehicles. Fire extinguishers and fire hose connections are placed throughout LECOM for safety. Emergency defibrillators (AEDs) and medical supplies 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.

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

The LECOM Police and Security Service Unit is responsible for the provision of law enforcement and/or security for LECOM in Erie, PA and Bradenton, FL. Its mission is to provide a safe and secure environment for the students, visitors, faculty, and staff of LECOM. The 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 LECOM campuses and properties under the control of LECOM. Campus security is provided twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week at most LECOM controlled facilities.

At LECOM Erie, the Service Unit includes both sworn Campus Police Officers and unsworn Security Officers; LECOM Police and Security patrol Erie facilities. 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 who have been appropriately trained and certified may carry firearms and non-lethal weapons while on duty for the protection of the LECOM community. The K-9 unit at LECOM Erie not only supports campus safety operations but also serves as a significant regional asset, offering assistance to local partners as needed. At the Main campus in Erie, Campus Police will be dressed in full uniform and may be wearing body cameras while performing their duty.

LECOM Security Officers and contracted security officers are not police officers, and do not have the authority to make arrests. They are authorized by LECOM to enforce policies established by the institution. In addition, they staff the security offices, monitor the surveillance camera system, patrol the campus, and assist police officers in their duties when applicable. LECOM Security Officers and LECOM Police Officers wear similar uniforms. Contracted security officers wear the uniform of their employer. Approved security officers who are trained and certified may carry firearms and/or less lethal

weapons on duty.

At LECOM Bradenton, the Department consists of security officers who patrol the campus twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. LECOM Bradenton Security consists of both LECOM Security Officers and contracted security officers.

Security is provided at LECOM DeFuniak Springs by contracted security, however due to the limited hours of operations, coverage is not provided twenty-four hours per day. The DeFuniak Springs campus is located within the jurisdiction of the DeFuniak Springs Police Department, who patrol the campus regularly.

LECOM at Seton Hill is located within the Seton Hill University Campus, and security is provided by Seton Hill University Police. Seton Hill University Police are responsible for patrolling the Seton Hill University campus twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

Security is provided at LECOM at Elmira twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week by contracted security. Elmira Police Department also conducts regular patrols on LECOM property. Security on Elmira College Campus is also provided twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week by Elmira College's Office of Campus Safety. Elmira College Campus Safety is not responsible for LECOM property.

Security is provided at LECOM at Jacksonville University twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week by contracted security. Jacksonville Police Department also conducts regular patrols on LECOM property. Security on Jacksonville University Campus is also provided twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week by Jacksonville University's Department of Campus Safety and Security. Jacksonville University Campus Safety is not responsible for LECOM property.

#### 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.

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

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

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

##### **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

##### **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

**LECOM at Jacksonville University**

Security Office  
Located within Main Entrance  
(904) 820 - 8223

Jacksonville University Campus Security  
Howard Administration Building  
2800 University Blvd N.  
Jacksonville, FL 32211  
(904) 256 – 7585  
[campus.security@ju.edu](mailto:campus.security@ju.edu)

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

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

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

LECOM Police and Security maintains a daily log of all criminal incidents that occur on LECOM property 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 in Erie, Elmira, Bradenton, and Jacksonville. At LECOM at Seton Hill, the Log is located in the office of the Seton Hill University Police Department. Requests to view the document may 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 emergencies, 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:

- Omnilert Campus Alert system (this is the primary means of communicating alerts)

- PA/Overhead systems
- LECOM Video Bulletin Board
- LECOM E-Mail System
- Social Media postings
- Memoranda or fliers distributed to each student or employee
- Information posted to the LECOM Portal and/or Campus Security page

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

### ***PA/Overhead Systems***

LECOM has established a standardized set of codes, which are classified by color, to clearly inform the campus community of the type of security event that may occur on the campus. These codes are distributed to incoming students during orientation along with the emergency contact information for the campus. The following codes are used when broadcasting over the buildings PA/overhead system:

LECOM Code by Color	
Blue	Life Threatening
Yellow	Non-Life Threatening
Red	Fire
White	Workplace Violence
Orange	Active Shooter
Purple	Hazardous Material
Green	Bomb Threat
Gray	Severe Weather
Black	Earthquake

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

LECOM utilizes Omnilert, an emergency and alert notification system that enables the institution to send notifications via text message and email. The service is available to all current students and employees. LECOM can text and email subscribers with timely information about emergencies, class cancellations, or critical campus reminders. For employees, registering with the system is necessary to receive the notifications. All incoming students are automatically signed up for the Omnilert System. If students do not wish to receive emergency and alert notifications, they must “opt-out” by requesting, in writing, to be removed from the system. 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.

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

LECOM at Jacksonville University students are encouraged to register for Jacksonville University Alert Emergency Notification system so that they may be notified of emergencies, campus closures, or other critical situations on the Jacksonville University campus. The following link is provided for students to register for the JU Alert system: <https://www.ju.edu/emergency/notifications/index.php>

### 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 programs at the Institution. Photo-identification/key cards are issues to all on campus students, faculty, and staff, along with 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 accepted students on campus 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.

- The ID card must always be worn and be visible while on campus and at all clinical sites.
- The ID card must be scanned each time a student enters or leaves a building or other secure areas. If a student fails to scan out when leaving, they will not be able to reenter.

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 LECOM 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 sharing information 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, using passwords that are not easily duplicated, and for adhering to the LECOM password policy. LECOM is not responsible for lost data or work.

#### Background Checks

Matriculating students for all LECOM programs must have their identity verified though 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 though attainment of licensure credentials. It is imperative that LECOM use the industry best practice standard 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**

All students, faculty, and staff at LECOM are provided with a LECOM username ID for secure access to the Institutions 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 they 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 (LMS). The Canvas system integrates with the Institutions' 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 student's 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 campuses.

### Parking Regulations

All vehicles are subject to the following restrictions and regulations:

- No vehicle may be left in the LECOM parking lot overnight.
- Parking in spaces designed for visitors is strictly prohibited.
- Parking in spaces designated for handicapped people 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.

LECOM reserves the right to restrict parking access for individuals who violate the institution's parking regulations.

### 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. LECOM reserves the right to restrict access to parking and driving on LECOM property for individuals who violate the institution's policies related to the stated infractions. 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
- Intentionally injuring wildlife with a vehicle

## **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, or suspicious persons or situations to campus security and/or local police. “If you see something, say something.”
- 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 (they should be secured in cars or lockers).

### **6.5.1. Campus Crime Prevention Program**

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

- All incoming students attend several presentations (in person or virtually) during the New Student Orientation introducing LECOM policies and procedures, safety information, evacuation plans, crime prevention, crime reporting, and related topics.
- In accordance with New York state law, all LECOM at Elmira students attend an “Enough is Enough” training seminar.
- Prior to orientation all in-coming first year students 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 provide crime prevention presentations as needed or requested throughout the year.

### **6.5.2. 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 Security offices at Erie and Bradenton, Seton Hill University Police Department, the LECOM at Elmira Security Office, Elmira College Campus Security or Jacksonville University Campus Security. 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 Police and Security reports crimes occurring on campus or non-campus buildings or property to the federal and state governments. In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, the LECOM Police and Security are 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. Security at LECOM at Elmira is designated as the Campus Security Authority to receive reports of crimes at Elmira campus. The LECOM Security at LECOM at Jacksonville University is designated as the Campus Security Authority to receive reports of crimes at Jacksonville University.

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, Seton Hill University Police Department, Elmira College, or Jacksonville University campus security as well as to LECOM administration.

### **6.5.3. 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/Evacuation teams consisting of faculty and staff are present at the 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.

### **6.5.4. 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.

### **6.5.5. Costumes**

In an effort to maintain the highest levels of campus safety and security, no costumes or masks including mascot uniforms which alter, cloak, or conceal an individual's identity are permitted on any LECOM

property. This includes Halloween attire. Medical face masks worn during a health emergency or pandemic are an exception. This is done to maintain the safe community that we enjoy on the LECOM campuses.

## **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. 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 student or 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 found by school application process, security background check, self-disclosure, or other means to have a history of use, possession, transportation, or any other interactions with illicit substances, alcohol, abuse of legal drugs, or that otherwise comes to the attention of law enforcement will be referred to the PHP (Pennsylvania Physicians' Health Program) at LECOM Erie or LECOM at Seton Hill; to the PRN (Professionals Resource Network) at LECOM Bradenton or LECOM at Jacksonville University; or to CHP (Committee for Physician Health) at LECOM at Elmira, possibly for an evaluation. A referral will be made regardless of legal standing, including in cases in which any sentence was fully served, or conviction records were expunged prior to enrollment at LECOM. Students will be expected

to be monitored throughout their matriculation at LECOM as recommended by PHP/PRN/CHP 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. 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.

### **6.6.2. 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.

### **6.6.3. Marijuana Usage**

LECOM is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy 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.

### **6.6.4. Smoking**

In keeping with LECOM's intent to provide a safe and healthy 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 the use of such products 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.

### **6.6.5. 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, or Jacksonville University 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.

## **6.7. TITLE IX PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX**

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. Sex-based harassment is a form of discrimination on the basis of sex and encompasses quid pro quo harassment, hostile environment harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Additionally, state law prohibits such conduct.

All of these are defined in the LECOM Title IX Policy. **The LECOM Title IX Policy is found in Appendix K in this handbook.**

LECOM does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX, including in admission and employment. 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. LECOM has a zero-tolerance policy of all such conduct whether perpetrated by employees, students, or campus visitors committed on or off campus.

**The procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of one of these violations is in the Title IX Policy and not in Section 9 Student Conduct of this handbook.**

LECOM provides mandatory educational programs to promote awareness and prevention of sex-based harassment, 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, and stalking, 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.**

If you prefer, the LECOM Police and Security Department and/or Seton Hill University Police Department (at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania campus), can contact local law enforcement for you. See the LECOM Title IX Policy for a list of law enforcement with contact information by LECOM campus. This list includes the LECOM Police and Security Department by campus.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

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

- Preserve any physical evidence that may be needed to prove that an incident of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking 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. See the LECOM Title IX Policy for a list of crime victim and other counseling services by LECOM campus. In addition to those, LECOM offers the following programs:

#### CURALINC WORK-LIFE BALANCE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CuraLinc Employee Assistance Programs (“EAP”) are available at no charge to LECOM students and employees. The LECOM Student EAP is called StudentLinc while the LECOM Health Employee EAP is called SupportLinc. Calls are kept confidential within the constraints of the law. The CuraLinc EAP offers unlimited telephonic access to counselors to provide support with personal or professional problems 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Additional information concerning CuraLinc is available on the LECOM Portal by clicking on the Human Resources tab and then selecting CuraLinc Documents.

- StudentLinc for LECOM Students: (888) 236-4519 or via its website at [www.mystudentlinc.com](http://www.mystudentlinc.com); group code: lecomstudent
- SupportLinc for LECOM Employees: (888) 236-6709 or via its website at [www.supportlinc.com](http://www.supportlinc.com); group code: lecomhealth
- 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 or visit [www.highmarkbcbs.com](http://www.highmarkbcbs.com)

#### **PROTECTIVE ORDER**

It may be possible for you to obtain a court order requiring an 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 of crime are reported immediately so that the LECOM Police and Security Department, the Seton Hill University Police Department, Elmira Security, or local law enforcement can investigate. LECOM personnel will determine if follow-up actions are required, including LECOM issuing a timely warning or emergency notification. If crimes are not 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, or stalking, but do not want to pursue a Title IX action within LECOM, please consider filing a voluntary report to law enforcement, including the LECOM Police and Security Department.

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 Clery 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, or stalking, the ultimate decision for such action rests with the victim. A Title IX 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 discrimination on the basis of sex, including sex-based harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, to the LECOM Institutional Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Coordinator. See the LECOM Title IX Policy for details of reporting, including how to contact the Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators. Included are, among other things:

- a description of prohibited conduct
- definitions
- how to report sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment (sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are types of sex-based harassment)
- contact information for the Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators and law enforcement
- the process after alleged sex discrimination is reported (including supportive measures)
- the complaint resolution and grievance process
- appeal information

## **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. 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, and 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, *Title IX Policy*, 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 based on 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 harm 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 [9.7 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 people based on certain characteristics or toward an individual's actual or perceived race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, national origin, or gender identity/expression. 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 applicable Federal 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 [6.5.2](#)).

In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, LECOM annually reports any occurrences of hate crimes and hazing incidents 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 people 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
- LECOM at Jacksonville University: (904) 820-8223

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 or Dean (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 the 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 works with the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), San Francisco Match, ResidencyCAS, Visiting Student Learning Opportunities (VSLO), National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), and other residency matching services as well as physician licensing verification.

#### 7.1. TRANSCRIPTS

The Registrar is the keeper of educational records for all students, which includes oversight and release of transcripts. Any request for an official transcript must be completed through [Parchment](https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/73994100/institution) and requires a \$20.00 processing fee per transcript. (<https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/73994100/institution>)

Normal processing of transcript requests is completed within two to three business days and three weeks following the end of an academic semester. Unofficial transcripts will not be issued. 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 in LECOM transcripts.

Official transcripts will not be provided to any student who is delinquent in submitting any required health forms or if clinical rotation requirements have not been received by the appropriate clinical education office(s).

Additionally, official transcripts, letters of recommendation, and evaluations may be withheld for students who are delinquent in financial obligations to LECOM, its affiliates, or who are in default on federal, state, or institutional loans. However, in compliance with 34 CFR 668.14(b)(32), LECOM will provide the official transcript for any payment period in which the student received Title IV federal financial aid and has paid all institutional charges for that period.

#### 7.2. GRADE REPORTS

Grade reports are accessible to students through the Student Self-Service application.

#### 7.3. UPDATING STUDENT RECORDS

LECOM requires legal proof of any change to 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 and/or Gender Change Prior to Graduation**

To request a name and/or gender change in any official student record while the student is matriculated at LECOM, a student must complete a Name/Gender Designation Change Request Form, Appendix H, and present legal documentation of the name and/or gender change.

### **Name and/or Gender Change After Graduation**

A request to change a name and/or gender in LECOM records, including the printing of a new diploma with the name change, will be honored after graduation has occurred only if the proper name and/or gender change form has been completed a Name/Gender Designation Change Request Form, Appendix H. The graduate must present documentation that constitutes proof of a legal name and/or gender change and a payment of a \$100 fee for each diploma that is being ordered. If a name and/or gender is changed near to graduation, a diploma will not be released to the student until official documentation of the name and/or gender change has been received.

### **Legal Documentation of Name and/or Gender Change**

The student or graduate 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:

One of the following:

- 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, birth certificate, etc., and social security card).

Requests for name changes for degree candidates must be submitted to the Registrar no later than six weeks before the graduation ceremony takes place. Students requesting name changes after this date are not guaranteed that the change will be reflected in the commencement program.

### **Address Change**

Each student is responsible for ensuring that a correct mailing address is on file with LECOM. Mailing Address changes may be made online through General Self Service under the Personal Information tab. One's permanent address cannot be modified.

### **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, the 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.

**Government Issued Document** original or notarized copy of passport, driver's license, birth certificate

etc. reflecting the new name or 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.

## **7.4. CLASS RANK FOR DOCTORS PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS**

Class rank may be obtained from the Registrar by written request made from the LECOM email account. Normal processing is within two to three business days and three weeks for processing following the end of a semester. Class rank for students of the College 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.

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 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 U.S. 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 attend 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 their 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 their 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;

- Documentation submitted directly to LECOM cannot be reissued to the student/graduate or another party; 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. Storing of documentation that includes the above information 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's 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 change 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 permanently stored on any LECOM computer. All protected information must be stored in the Student Information System, BOX, or in a secured user folder located on a 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 Institutional Planning, 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 Student Affairs is to provide recruitment and admissions support for all LECOM programs. It is to develop and maintain policies and procedures in support of LECOM's students, faculty, and administration in concert with the educational mission of the institution. In addition, Student Affairs provides advising, financial aid counseling, and support services to help students adjust to all aspects of their education at LECOM.

### 8.1. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

LECOM provides confidential resources for behavioral healthcare services to students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through Student Protection Plus program. The "Student Protection Plus," can be accessed through any of the following ways:

1. Online: [mystudentlinc.com](http://mystudentlinc.com) - code: lecomstudent
2. Mobile App: eConnect Mobile App (links to app stores at the [mystudentlinc.com](http://mystudentlinc.com))
3. Hotline: 24/7/365 by phone at 888-236-4519 to speak directly with licensed clinicians. This number is a dedicated line specifically for LECOM students.

**Every call into Student Linc is answered directly by one of CuraLink's Care Advocates, all of whom possess the following characteristics:**

- Masters or Doctorate degree in a mental health discipline from an accredited university;
- Professional license(s) that is current, in good standing and issued by the state of practice independently;
- Average of eleven (11) years of post-graduate experience providing mental health for student assistance (SAP/EAP) services;

After initial consultation students have unlimited telephonic access to StudentLinc's licensed mental health counselors. Students can use StudentLinc to address the following concerns:

- Drug Abuse from Prescription Medication and Recreational Drugs
- Alcohol-Related Problems
- Transition and/or Adjustment Issues
- Stress Related to Coursework
- Cultural Diversity Issues
- Eating Disorders and/or Body Image Concerns
- Suicidal or Homicidal Ideations

In addition to the telephonic resources the web and mobile platforms contain a variety of resources that help students address emotional fitness and wellbeing, they include:

- Interactive Toolkits: self-service training systems for resiliency, mindfulness, sleep fitness, mental health first aid and meditation.
- Flash Courses: 43 short educational modules with post-module certificate

- Search Engines: Dependent care, financial consultation, education, pet care, legal services, etc.
- Interior Pages: Thousands of audio and video lessons, articles, tip sheets, resource links, and self-assessments.
- Savings Center: Discount shopping program to make everyday life a little more affordable.
- Wellbeing Place Blog: Fresh resources with a positive impact on student health and wellbeing.
- Additional Resources: Free will and Power of Attorney, Anti-Stigma Hub, Resources

### **Mental Health Emergencies**

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.

Students are encouraged to reach out to community resources that they believe might be of assistance to them.

### **Off-Campus Community Resource**

#### **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) 755-6805
Centerstone Crisis Center	(941) 782-4600
Coastal Behavioral Health, Sarasota	
24-hour crisis Stabilization Unit	(941) 364-9355
Assessment	(941) 552-1950
Professional Resource Network (PRN)	(800)888-8776
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
Rachael Patten, LMSW	(607) 873-6691
Clinical Associates of the Southern Tier	(607) 936-1771

**Jacksonville, FL**

In case of a mental health crisis call	988
Wekiva Springs Behavioral Health	(904) 296-3533
Physician Health Programs (PHP, FL)	(800) 888-8776
Professional Resource Network (PRN, PA)	(866) 747-2255 or (717) 558-7819
Gateway Community Services: Addiction Treatment Center	(904) 387-4661
Rape Crisis Center: Women's Center of Jacksonville	(904) 722-3000 ext. 217
Hubbard House: Domestic Violence	(904) 354-3114 (Voice) (904) 210-3698 (Text)

**On-Campus Resources**

Students on each campus have access to licensed psychologists who serve as LECOM's Directors of Behavioral Health. Directors of Behavioral Health offer consultation, support, and referral Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm for students who are not in crisis. The LECOM Directors of Behavioral Health function to assist students in accessing the services of various off-campus licensed professionals and to refer students to for short or long-term counseling or treatment. The Directors may make referrals for counseling or treatment as needed to external professionals in the community, which may be confidential.

Students can explore adjustment issues, find ways of gaining greater self-awareness, and develop better decision-making, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills with the LECOM Directors of Behavioral Health, psychologists, and serve as consultants. 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.

**Contacting On-Campus Support**

Thomas M. Laton, D.O. Director of Behavioral Health Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry LECOM: Erie, Elmira, and Seton Hill 1858 West Grandview Boulevard Erie, PA 16509 Office B2-214 (814) 860-5126 <a href="mailto:tlaton@lecom.edu">tlaton@lecom.edu</a>	Marvin Hendon, Ph.D. Director of Behavioral Health LECOM: Bradenton 5000 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard Bradenton, FL 34211 Office 283 (941) 782-5913 <a href="mailto:mhendon@lecom.edu">mhendon@lecom.edu</a>
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***Note on confidentiality of student information:** Information disclosed to the Directors of Behavioral Health is not disclosed to others \*\*\* without the student's consent within the legal and ethical limitations related to safety of the student and others. Behavioral Health Directors adhere to the ethical code of the American Psychological Association.*

In addition to the Directors of Behavioral Health, 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.

### **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 they feel any distress or medical issues 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 about their ability to do so. Likewise, Student Affairs and/or Security should advise the student to wait and arrange

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.

### **8.1.2. LECOM Behavioral Intervention Team**

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.

**LECOM reserves the right to require a student to submit a drug and alcohol screen at any time.** 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. 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 LECOM. Permission for reciprocal release of information between LECOM and other specialists will likely also be required.

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 support.

## 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](#)).

LECOM Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) is with Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield which offers students the option of a Virtual Medical Appointment 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Please use the provided link to learn more about [Highmark Virtual Medicine](#) and how to make an appointment.

### LECOM Erie

For students without a personal physician in the area, LECOM Erie's clinical partners at Millcreek Community Hospital and Medical Associates of Erie, provides general health care services for students with no co-pay using the LECOM Student Health Insurance Program. Suggested nearby locations where services are provided include:

#### West Grandview Primary Care

Mark Baker, DO  
2000 West Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA  
(814) 868 -1088

#### Plaza 38 Medical Center

2010 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erie, PA  
(814) 868-5481

#### LECOM Medical Center

5515 Peach Street  
Erie, PA 16509  
(814) 464-4031

#### Corry Memorial Hospital

965 Shamrock Lane  
Corry, PA 16407  
(814) 664-4641

### LECOM at Seton Hill

For students without a personal physician in the area, LECOM at Seton Hill has an agreement with the Allegheny Health Network, where they will accept the LECOM Student Health Insurance program. Suggested nearby locations where services are provided 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

### LECOM at Elmira

For students without a personal physician in the area, LECOM at Elmira has an agreement with *ArnotHealth*, where they will accept the LECOM Student Health Insurance program. Suggested nearby locations where services are provided include:

#### Arnot Ogden Medical Center

600 Roe Avenue  
Elmira, NY 14905

#### AMS IMAST Internal Medicine

200 Madison Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Elmira, NY 14901

607-737-4100

**AMS Eastside Primary Care**

200 Madison Avenue, #2B  
 Elmira, NY 14901  
 607-732-1310

607-734-1581

**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

**LECOM Bradenton**

For students without a personal physician in the area, LECOM at Bradenton has an agreement with PrimeCare of Manatee or Urgent Care Walk-in Clinics, where they will accept the LECOM Student Health Insurance program. Suggested locations where services are provided include:

**PrimeCare of Manatee or Urgent Care Walk-In Clinics** (a Division of MAX Health)  
 Stephen Coppa, D.O  
 LECOM Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

Location  
 6110 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East  
 Bradenton, Florida 34203  
 941-755-4242  
 A minimal co-pay will apply.

**LECOM at Jacksonville University**

For students without a personal physician in the area, LECOM at Jacksonville University has entered into an agreement with Baptist Health where they will accept the LECOM Student Health Insurance program. Suggested locations where services are provided include:

**Baptist Primary Care - Arlington**

7001 Merrill Road, Suite 10  
 Jacksonville, FL 32277  
 Phone: (904) 744-5244

**Baptist Primary Care - Regency**

9090 Regency Square Blvd. North  
 Jacksonville, FL 32211  
 Phone: (904) 724-5576

**The Family Practice of Dr. Terry Hashey**

9191 R G Skinner Pkwy #603  
 Jacksonville, FL 32256  
 Phone: (904) 538-0950

**The Family Practice of Dr. Daniel Donofrio**

130 Health Park Blvd  
 St. Augustine, FL 32086  
 Phone: (904) 826-3469

**Emed Multispecialty with Dr. Renee Pulido**

2624 Atlantic Blvd  
 Jacksonville, FL 32207  
 Phone: (904) 513-3240

**The Family Practice of Dr. Paula Salas**

3 Shircliff Way #330  
 Jacksonville, FL 32204  
 Phone: (904) 384-7370

Any LECOM at Jacksonville University student who has an urgent or acute matter can seek care at any of the following locations::

[Baptist Jacksonville Downtown](#)

1350 13th Avenue South  
Jacksonville FL, 32250  
Phone: [904.202.2000](tel:904.202.2000)

[Baptist Beaches](#)

1350 13th Avenue South  
Jacksonville FL, 32250  
Phone: [904.627.2900](tel:904.627.2900)

[Baptist & Wolfson Town Center](#)

4085 Town Center Parkway  
Jacksonville FL, 32246  
Phone: [904.202.6800](tel:904.202.6800)

Student health is a priority at LECOM, students must be healthy 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 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 Section [9.3 Attendance, Tardiness and Absences](#).

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 accommodation are reviewed by the designated members of Student Affairs in LECOM at Erie and Bradenton, Assistant Dean for Problem-Based Learning for LECOM at Seton Hill, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at LECOM at Elmira or LECOM at Jacksonville University 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 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 accommodation for 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 (JCNDE).
- 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 Erie  
 Mark Badaracco, Executive Director of  
 Enrollment Services and Information Systems  
 1858 W. Grandview Boulevard  
 Erie, Pennsylvania 16509  
 (814) 461-7159  
[mbadaracco@lecom.edu](mailto:mbadaracco@lecom.edu)

LECOM Erie  
 Thomas Camillo, Director of Student Affairs  
 1858 W. Grandview Boulevard  
 Erie, Pennsylvania 16509  
 (814) 860-5141  
[tcamillo@lecom.edu](mailto:tcamillo@lecom.edu)

LECOM at Seton Hill  
Judy Cross, Student Affairs Representative  
20 Seton Hill Drive  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601  
(724) 552-2869  
[jcross@lecom.edu](mailto:jcross@lecom.edu) [mailto:](#)

LECOM at Elmira  
Angela Wood, Student Affairs Coordinator  
1 LECOM Place  
Elmira, New York 14901  
(607) 442-3560  
[awood@lecom.edu](mailto:awood@lecom.edu)

LECOM at Jacksonville University  
Debra Horne, MS Ed.  
Executive Director of Student Affairs  
5000 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard  
Bradenton Florida 34211  
(941) 782-5933  
[dhorne@lecom.edu](mailto:dhorne@lecom.edu)

LECOM Bradenton  
Debra Horne, MS Ed.  
Executive Director of Student Affairs  
5000 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard  
Bradenton Florida 34211  
(941) 782-5933  
[dhorne@lecom.edu](mailto:dhorne@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 to 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 Financial Aid.

### Process for Requesting Leave of Absence

A student requesting a Leave of Absence for any reason must go through the following procedure:

- The 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 a 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 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 charges 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 of coverage is allowable with LECOM approval. The student shall pay all required premiums directly to the local provider at Hub International.

#### **As Related to the Leave of Absence Policy:**

Students may be granted a leave of absence (LOA) from studies for a variety of reasons (medical, personal, family, etc.). The type of LOA designates if the student may remain on the Student Health Plan or if their coverage is terminated.

- Medical Leave of Absence (MLOA) – Students taking a MLOA are required to maintain current insurance coverage for the remainder of the billing period in which they are granted MLOA (or up to 6 months). Students on the Student Health Plan can request an extension for an additional 6 months of coverage, with approval from Student Affairs. Premium must be paid in full prior to the start of the coverage extension.
- Required Academic Leave of Absence – Students who are mandated by LECOM to remediate failing test scores are required to remain on the health insurance at their own expense, during their leave.
- Any other Leave of Absence (LOA) – Students on any other leave of absence are responsible for their own insurance coverage. Coverage with the Student Health Plan will terminate at the end of

the month their LOA is granted. Students can request to remain on the policy through the end of the current billing cycle, which has already been paid.

### **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 a medical leave 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) or any other Deans letters requested.

## **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 decisions may be appealed in writing to the President, within seven (7) 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 their faculty advisor and/or the appropriate Associate/Assistant Dean. If still wishing to withdraw, obtain a withdrawal form from the advisor or from Student Affairs.
- B. The student should submit the completed withdrawal form to the Office of Student Affairs at their 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, 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 full application process.

### **Health Insurance as Related to Withdrawn or Dismissed:**

Students may be terminated from the Student Health Plan for the following reasons:

- Withdrawal from Program – Students who withdraw from their program of study are terminated from the Student Health Plan at the end of the month, following their last day attending. \*
- Dismissal – Students who are dismissed from studies are terminated from the Student Health Plan at the end of the month, following their last day of attendance. \* Students are typically able to appeal a dismissal and may be granted the ability to return to studies the following fall. In some cases, LECOM will approve a student to remain on the Student Health Plan, provided the student pays any due premium directly to the Administrator. Also, some students may be allowed to ‘Audit’ the Post Baccalaureate or Master’s in Medical Science classes to be eligible to return to classes the following fall. Those students are permitted to remain on the Student Health Plan during the auditing period; provided premiums are paid directly to the Administrator.

\*Students may request to remain on the Student Health Plan until the end of the current billing cycle,

which has already been paid.

## 8.7. HEALTH RECORDS POLICY

### 8.7.1. Health Records for First Year Students

Prior to matriculation, first year students must submit health and immunization records to Student Affairs. All students must be current on immunizations prior to the beginning of courses. Health forms and instructions for submitting forms are provided to all students after their acceptance into LECOM via the LECOM Admissions Portal. Each student must submit the following documentation:

- A **History Summary Form** signed by a health care provider documenting the following 5 childhood immunizations must be submitted via the LECOM Admissions Portal: DTaP, Polio, Hepatitis B, Varicella, and MMR. If a student cannot provide documentation of 5 childhood DTaP immunizations, they are required to complete the Tdap series.
- Students must provide a **Lab Report** signed by a health care provider that indicates immunity to the following diseases chicken pox, measles, mumps, rubella, and hepatitis B.
- 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 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.*
- 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 at the time of deposit.

### 8.7.2. Mandatory Student Health Insurance Policy

**Participation in the LECOM Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) 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.
- ***All students going out on rotations must be enrolled in the LECOM Student Health 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 Insurance Plan (SHIP)] are prohibited. Misrepresentation of coverage will be deemed an honor code violation.***

Students who have been granted a waiver for any reason must update the waiver information on HUB's Student Health Insurance Program 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 policyholder, and their relationship the student; and
- Policy and group number and effective date of coverage.

## **8.8. 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.

## **8.9. LOCKER ASSIGNMENT POLICY**

Lockers are assigned to all first- and second-year medical, pharmacy, dental, and podiatric medicine 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 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.

## **8.10. 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

## **8.11. 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 Erie campus.

## **8.12. 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.

## **8.13. STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **8.13.1. 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 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.

### **8.13.2. 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 opinions, 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.

### 8.13.3. LECOM Clubs and Organizations

College or school specific clubs are listed in the Student Handbooks for each campus program and campus location (Appendix S - LECOM Clubs and Organizations).

### 8.13.4. 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 to serve on committees or participate in club or organization activities.

### 8.13.5. 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 Dean of the College or School 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.

### 8.13.6. 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. The electronic event request form is found at <https://lecomsga.org>.

### 8.13.7. 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 electronically via the event request form that is found at <https://lecomsga.org> 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 participating student organization or the advisor's designee must be present for each student sponsored event.

### **8.13.8. LECOM Video Bulletin Board**

Students or student organizations wishing to post an announcement or notice on the LECOM Video Bulletin Board must first receive written approval. LECOM reserves the absolute right to reject or edit any submitted announcement or notice intended for posting on the Video Bulletin Board.

### **8.13.9. 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.
6. Must inform the program Director of Research about any resulting publication and/or scholarly presentation (oral and poster).

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.
6. A student is required to provide detailed information of any scholarly activity, including a publication and/or presentation (oral or poster), based on LECOM-sponsored research to campus Director of Research.

## 9. STUDENT CONDUCT

### INTRODUCTION: CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

The Code of Student Conduct and Professionalism consists of the Student Honor Code and Professional Conduct (Section 9.2). The Code of Student Conduct and Professionalism 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 Professionalism 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 Ethical Standards set forth by the professional associations such as the Code of Ethics of the American Osteopathic Association, the American Dental Association, the American Podiatric Medical Association, and the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists.

**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 *Title IX Policy* 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 a learning 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.

#### 9.2. STUDENT HONOR CODE AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

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 Professionalism." 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 purpose of harassment will be subject to disciplinary sanctions as set forth herein. Faculty and staff who identify violations of the Honor Code shall also report them in writing 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 Professionalism 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.

#### **In Person Attendance on Campus**

- 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 appropriate Assistant /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 an unexcused absence for that instructional period and for that day.

#### **Attendance In On-Line Course**

Students enrolled in on-line courses are expected to attend each scheduled virtual synchronous meeting of their registered courses as this experience demonstrates attendance, enhances academic success, and is required. Those students attending should have their video cameras on and be dressed in professional attire. They should be in a place free of disruptions and distraction of during virtual learning interactions. Instructors may include class participation as one component of student evaluation and grading. As a result, lack of attendance may influence a student's ability to do well where presence and participation is highly valued by the instructor. Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to understand and adhere to all policies relating to attendance and consequences for non-attendance listed in their instructor's course syllabus.

Attendance in an online course is further defined as an active post and/or timely submission of deliverables within the course including discussions, written assignments, case studies, and tests. This standard will be used to determine all attendance issues, including but not limited to reports of non-attendance, reports of last date of attendance, and final grade of F in the course, due to lack of attendance.

#### **Excused Absences for Planned Activities**

##### Medical Reasons

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 or from an out-of-state physician. 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 on rotation or in the clinical setting must abide by the additional requirements contained in the College or School Clinical Manual.

### Non-Medical Reasons

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 appropriate Assistant/Associate Dean. Any request for an excused absence must be submitted using the Student Request for Excused Absence Form, to the Assistant/Associate Dean at least 30 days prior to the anticipated absence. The form can be found under the Student section on the [LECOM Experience](http://experience.elluciancloud.com/lecom) ([experience.elluciancloud.com/lecom](http://experience.elluciancloud.com/lecom)).

Students must complete the excused absence request form for illness, doctor appointments, conferences, emergencies, funerals, etc. and it must be approved by the appropriate Assistant/Associate Dean.

Students must also obtain Student Request for Excused Absence Form for a planned absence. This form must be filled out by the student and signed by the pathway director and/or appropriate Assistant/Associate 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 extracurricular activity. **The Student Affairs Office may be asked to verify the grade point average.**

If the excused absence is planned in advance, the form should be received by the appropriate Assistant/Associate Dean 30 days in advance (conferences, weddings, established medical appointments, etc.). Notification of approval or denial of the excused absence request will be provided to the student within ten (10) business days. If the excused absence is emergent (illness, emergencies, funerals, unplanned medical appointments) the student must notify the appropriate Assistant/Associate Dean, and Pathway Director the day the issue arises.

### **Excused Absence for Unplanned Reasons**

If this absence is due to an unplanned illness or emergency that necessitates missing an instructional period, quiz, or exam the notification of the illness/absence **MUST** be received by the appropriate Assistant/Associate Dean's office by email or phone message prior to the start of the instructional period, quiz, or exam for it to be eligible for consideration as 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 Request for 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.

### **Missed Class Time**

If a student misses a class, they are still responsible for the missed material. It should be noted that making up certain academic sessions is not permitted. Simulation and laboratory courses such as OMM, H & P, and Clinical Examination may have special requirements for attendance, tardiness, and absences. Students on rotations or clinical settings must abide by the College or School's Clinical Manual.

Students with a pattern of absenteeism (excused or unexcused) will be referred to the Assistant/Associate Dean 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).

### **Geographic Location Requirement**

Students must be physically located within the United States or its territories in order to matriculate in one of LECOM's programs. This also includes restrictions on access to LECOM's computer systems, which are only available within the geographic boundaries of the United States and its territories.

- **Monitoring and Compliance:** The institution actively monitors access to its systems and flags any attempts to access LECOM data from outside the allowed geographic region. If such an attempt is detected, the administration is notified.
- **Accountability for Misrepresentation:** If a student misrepresents their location either before or during their enrollment, the student will be referred to the appropriate committee (SPG or ASP) for further review.

### **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 Assistant/Associate Dean and may result in disciplinary action and notation in the Dean's Letter of Evaluation.

### **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. Admonition may include restrictions on participation in clubs, research, or extracurricular activities.
3. Students with **4** unexcused absences will be placed on Conduct Probation (Section [9.8.1 Behavioral Penalties](#))
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. Cell Phone Usage

Personal 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 Section 9.13.1.

### 9.3.2. 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 a top 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 your ability to effectively engage in self-care, you should consult your primary care physician, or a local urgent care center. It is imperative that students monitor their health status to ensure that they do not inadvertently transmit pathogens to others within their learning environment.

Students exhibiting symptoms, such as:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Sneezing
- Body aches or a mild headache

are encouraged to stay home and contact their Assistant/Associate 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 48 hours (2 days), a return to school excuse from the attending physician is required. Students are further directed to review Section 9.3 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 one's face.
3. Using hand sanitizer.
4. Sneezing into a tissue and disposing of properly-- or at a minimum, a sleeve.
5. Sanitizing 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 24 hrs. 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 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. 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 all LECOM campuses.

### **9.3.3. Cancellation of Class**

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 is closed whenever the Seton Hill University campus is closed for inclement weather. 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.

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.

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 or School administration to be professionally attired. Students participating in activities within the simulation laboratory, anatomy laboratory, or other similar instructional settings must be appropriately attired for laboratory duties, including the use of closed-toed shoes, regardless of the date or time of the activity.

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 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. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools presents both exciting opportunities and important considerations for academic integrity and learning. This policy outlines expectations for students regarding the use of AI in their academic work.

### 1. Academic Integrity and Originality:

- **Responsibility for Work:** Students are ultimately responsible for the originality and intellectual integrity of all submitted work. AI tools can be used as aids, but the final output must represent the student's own understanding, analysis, and critical thought.
- **Plagiarism:** Submitting work generated by AI as one's own without proper acknowledgment is considered plagiarism. This includes, but is not limited to, text, images, or other media generated by AI.
- **Citation:** When AI tools are used to generate or assist in the creation of content, proper citation is required. Consult your instructor or relevant style guide for specific citation guidelines. If no specific guidelines are provided, a general statement acknowledging the use of AI tools (e.g., "AI tools were used to brainstorm ideas" or "Grammar and style were refined using an AI writing assistant") should be included.

### 2. Permissible and Non-Permissible Uses:

- **Instructor Discretion:** The permissible use of AI tools will vary by course and assignment. **Students must consult with their instructors for specific guidance on whether and how AI tools may be used for any given assignment.** Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor, the use of AI tools for generating substantive content (e.g., essays, research papers, solutions to problems) is prohibited.
- **Potential Permissible Uses (with instructor permission):**
  - Brainstorming ideas
  - Summarizing long texts (for personal understanding)
  - Grammar and spell checking
  - Creating non-substantive elements (e.g., generating image ideas for a presentation background, but not the core content)
- **Non-Permissible Uses:**
  - Generating answers to exams or quizzes.
  - Submitting AI-generated content as original work without significant modification, critical analysis, and proper attribution.
  - Using AI to circumvent learning objectives or develop skills
  - Students should never input instructors' materials into generative AI tools.

### 3. Data Privacy and Security:

- Students should exercise caution when inputting sensitive or confidential information into AI tools, as the privacy and security of such data cannot always be guaranteed.

### 4. Consequences of Misuse:

- Violation of this AI policy will be treated as a breach of academic integrity and will be subject to the same disciplinary actions as other forms of academic misconduct, as outlined in [Section 9.2 Student Honor Code and Professional Conduct](#).

**Students are encouraged to engage with their instructors in discussions about the appropriate and ethical use of AI tools in their studies.**

## 9.6. THE STUDENT PROMOTION AND GRADUATION (SPG) COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC STANDING AND PROFESSIONALISM (ASP) COMMITTEE

The Student Promotion and Graduation (SPG) and Academic Standing and Professionalism (ASP – School of Pharmacy) Committees 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 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 Academic Deans 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 a month 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 ASP Committee meets each semester, wherein 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 ASP Committee by Course Coordinators with additional input from the Associate Dean/Pathway Director.
- The School of Dental Medicine SPG Committee meets each semester, wherein 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 SPG Committee shall meet at least monthly (during the academic year) and may meet more frequently as the need arises. 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 allegations of cheating or academic dishonesty;
  - Non-honor code violations including issues of professionalism, failure to meet financial obligations to the College or School, or behavioral issues either on campus or during clinical experiences; or
  - Failure to progress academically or academic failure.
- E. Student names are submitted to the Chairperson 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 are 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 Chairperson 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 is distinct from that for appeal hearings set forth in Section 9.9 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.

## 9.7. 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 Professionalism" 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 that is 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 9.8.1. At that time, the student against whom the sanction has been made will be 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 9.9.1 [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 (FERPA), the individual against whom an allegation is made shall have access to their 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.

### 9.7.1. 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.

### 9.7.2. 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.
  - Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) during examinations, quizzes, or other forms of assessment, including standardized assessments unless expressly permitted by course policies.
- 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 Committee; or
- M. Conspiring, planning, or attempting to achieve any of the above acts.

### **9.7.3. 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 headphones 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, pepper spray, stun guns, or any other weapons on LECOM owned or controlled property, at LECOM-sponsored or supervised activities, at Seton Hill University, at Elmira College, or at Jacksonville University.
- 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 a 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.

## 9.8. 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 Student Affairs, whether interim action is taken, the student will meet, when possible, with the Office of Student Affairs and discuss the case.

### 9.8.1. 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 the following penalties may contain a directive that the student be evaluated or submit to treatment for any perceived psychological issues.
- B. Disciplinary actions consisting of the following categories (C, D, E, and F) will include:
  - Ineligibility for election and/or removal from student office or organizational office for specified period-of-time.
  - Withholding of official transcript, barring re-admission to LECOM, and/or preventing a student from enrolling for a specified period of time.
  - Restitution, whether monetary or by specific duties, or reimbursement for damages to or misappropriation of LECOM, student, staff, or faculty property.
- C. **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.
- D. **Conduct Probation:** A penalty levied for a specific time, the duration of which will be determined by the seriousness of the circumstances. Conduct probation will be imposed with 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.

- E. **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.
- F. **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.
- G. **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.
- H. **Expulsion:** Expulsion is permanent severance from LECOM.
- I. **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 types 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.

## 9.9. 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, being 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 the 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, 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 their 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 ensure 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. 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 decide 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.

### **9.9.1. 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.

## **9.10. 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 Professionalism, should first seek a 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 expeditiously 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.

## **9.11. 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.

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.

LECOM recognizes the seriousness of filing a complaint with the institution; therefore, in such cases, all documents concerning the complaint will be maintained in a confidential file in the Provost's office unless official action is required by the institution. Confidential information is information received during the complaint that is not otherwise public and/or is not authorized to be made public. This process is designed to promote public confidence and to uphold integrity.

**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 accreditor's 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 complainant'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.

## **9.12. LEGAL LIMITATIONS ON THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, PHARMACY, DENTISTRY, AND 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 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-year school or missions' trips) are cautioned that LECOM's liability insurance does not cover those activities.

### **9.13. ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

All faculty at LECOM are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject but 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.

### **9.14. LECOM FACILITIES POLICIES**

#### **9.14.1. Photography, Videotaping, and Audio Recording**

Photography, videography, and audio recording are 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 maintaining the records of signed consent.

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.

### 9.14.2. 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 including AI programs, 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 may not be used for any purpose other than for a student's education at LECOM.

### 9.14.3. 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.

### 9.14.4. 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 for 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 helps 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.

## 10. APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A - EMERGENCY NUMBERS

#### *In Emergencies Dial 9-1-1*

#### *LECOM and Campus Police Non-Emergencies*

<b>LECOM Police and Security at the Erie Campus</b> (814) 866-8415	<b>LECOM Security Bradenton Campus, College of Medicine, School of Health Services Administration and School of Pharmacy</b> (941) 782-5908
<b>LECOM at Seton Hill/Seton Hill Campus Police</b> Office: (724) 830-4999	<b>LECOM Security Bradenton Campus, School of Dental Medicine</b> (941) 405-1520
<b>LECOM at Elmira Security</b> Office: (607) 442-3510; Cell: 607-857-7550	<b>Elmira College Campus Safety</b> Office: (607) 735-1777

#### *Community Police Non-Emergencies*

<b><u>Erie, PA</u></b> Erie, Pennsylvania Police (Non-Emergency) (814) 870-1125  Millcreek, Pennsylvania Police (Non-Emergency) (814) 833-7777  Pennsylvania State Police (814) 898-1641	<b><u>Bradenton, FL</u></b> 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
<b><u>Greensburg, PA</u></b> Greensburg Police Department (724) 834-3800	<b><u>DeFuniak Springs, Florida</u></b> Walton County Sheriff (850) 892-8111  DeFuniak Springs Police Department (850) 892-8513
<b><u>Elmira, NY</u></b> 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	<b><u>State Police</u></b> 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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: \_\_\_\_\_





\*\*\*\*\*

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE RETURN TO THE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE FOR ROUTING/ NOTIFICATION

	Distribution List		Date of Notification
Admissions Office	Appropriate Admissions Coordinator:		
Advisor	Appropriate Academic Advisor:		
Behavioral Health	Richard Hahn, Psy.D.	<a href="mailto:rhahn@lecom.edu">rhahn@lecom.edu</a>	
	Marvin Hendon, Ph.D.	<a href="mailto:mhendon@lecom.edu">mhendon@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	Angela Llanos	<a href="mailto:allanos@lecom.edu">allanos@lecom.edu</a>	
Security	Kevin Goode	<a href="mailto:kgoode@lecom.edu">kgoode@lecom.edu</a>	
	Harry Whipple	<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 - THE OSTEOPATHIC OATH

I hereby affirm my loyalty to the profession I am about to enter.

I will be mindful always of my great responsibility to preserve the health and the life of my patients, to retain their confidence and respect both as a physician and a friend who will guard their secrets with scrupulous honor and fidelity, to perform faithfully my professional duties, to employ only those recognized methods of treatment consistent with good judgment and with my skill and ability, keeping in mind always nature's laws and the body's capacity for recovery.

I will be ever vigilant in aiding in the general welfare of the community, sustaining its laws and institutions, not engaging in those practices, which will in any way bring shame or discredit upon myself or my profession. I will give no drugs for deadly purposes to any person, though it be asked of me.

I will endeavor to work in accord with my colleagues in a spirit of progressive cooperation, and never by word or by act cast implications upon them or their rightful practices.

I will look with respect and esteem upon all those who have taught me my art. To my college I will be loyal and strive always for its best interests and for the interests of the students who will come after me. I will be alert to further the application of basic biologic truths to the healing arts and to develop the principles of Osteopathic Medicine, which were first enunciated by Andrew Taylor Still.

In the presence of this gathering, I bind myself to my oath.

## 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 - TITLE IX POLICY AND AFFIRMATION OF THE PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX**

### **LAKE ERIE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**

#### **Title IX Policy and Affirmation of the Prohibition of Discrimination on the Basis of Sex**

##### **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, provide that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any academic, extracurricular, research, occupation training, or other education program or activity operated by a recipient of Federal financial assistance. Additionally, state law prohibits such conduct.

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX, including in admission and employment. 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.

Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Sex-based harassment is a form of discrimination on the basis of sex and encompasses quid pro quo harassment, hostile environment harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, all of which are defined below. Some discrimination on the basis of sex may encompass criminal conduct under state and/or federal law and may result in civil and/or administrative legal consequences. Discrimination “on the basis of sex” does not require that the conduct be sexual in nature. This policy covers discrimination on the basis of sex occurring in or impacting a LECOM education program or activity. Conduct that is discrimination on the basis of sex that is subject to LECOM’s disciplinary authority is covered by this policy.

##### **Included below, among other things:**

- **a description of prohibited conduct**
- **definitions**
- **how to report sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment**
- **contact information for the Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators**
- **the process after alleged sex discrimination is reported**
- **the complaint resolution and grievance process**
- **appeal information**

**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. 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 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, and the Equal Pay 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 proceedings regarding 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 and related VAWA requirements. LECOM will promptly and equitably respond to all reports of sex discrimination in order to eliminate the conduct, prevent its recurrence, and redress its effects on any individual or the LECOM 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 sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, however, LECOM strongly encourages the prompt reporting 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 Discrimination on the Basis of Sex* section below to make a report of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment.

### **C. Prohibited Conduct**

LECOM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. The following are forms of prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex:

- Discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity
- Sex-based harassment which encompasses quid pro quo harassment, hostile environment harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking

Some of these prohibited forms of conduct may also be crimes under state or federal law.

**D. Statement on Privacy and Confidentiality**

LECOM will take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of parties and witnesses. Privacy generally means that information related to a report of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, will only be shared with a limited circle of individuals, including individuals who “need to know” 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 sex discrimination, including the parties’ advisors, if any, and witnesses, will be informed that privacy helps enhance the integrity of the investigation and protects the privacy interests of the parties and will be asked to keep any information learned in an investigation or grievance process confidential, to the extent consistent with applicable law.

Certain individuals may be designated as having confidentiality by LECOM or by law. For reports made to employees designated as confidential employees, LECOM would 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. There are no LECOM-designated confidential employees.

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, therefore communications with them are not privileged. Communication with faculty advisors is also not privileged.

LECOM will generally respect a Complainant’s choice whether to report an incident to local law enforcement or initiate LECOM’s Title IX resolution process, unless LECOM determines that there is an overriding interest with respect to the safety or welfare of individuals or 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 reports alleged sex discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Coordinator, 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.

### **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 who 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 evaluation and/or education program. This amnesty provision also applies to student groups making a report of sex-based harassment. 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 sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, prohibited by this policy, as opposed to complaints which, even if erroneous, are made in good faith, are serious and will subject the person making those accusations to appropriate disciplinary action. Good faith means that a report is made based on fact or reasonable belief and not solely on personal dislike of the person accused.

### **G. General Considerations about the Title IX Grievance Process**

- The major stages of the grievance process are evaluation and potential dismissal; investigation; determination; and appeal.
- 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" implemented after the report of alleged sex discrimination, but unlike supportive measures, 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.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

#### **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. 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 to which an advisor may participate, but the restrictions must apply equally to both parties. The choice of advisor will not be limited with the exception of decorum issues. A party's advisor must act in a respectful and non-abusive manner.

#### **Complainant:**

A student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or a person other than a student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX and was participating or attempting to participate in LECOM's education program or activity at the time of the alleged sex discrimination.

#### **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 initially may be 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. See definition of incapacity below.
- 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 alleged sex discrimination 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 sex discrimination 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.

**Incapacity:**

Incapacity 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. Incapacity 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.

**Intimidation:**

Intimidation means to make fearful or to put in 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.

**Party:**

A Complainant or Respondent.

**Parties:**

This term refers to the Complainant and the Respondent collectively.

**Pregnancy or related conditions:**

Pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation; medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation; or recovery from pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, or related medical conditions.

**Relevant:**

Relevant means related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation pursuant to this policy. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision-maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

**Remedies:**

Remedies are measures provided, as appropriate, to a Complainant or any other person LECOM identifies as having had their equal access to a LECOM education program or activity limited or denied by sex discrimination. These measures are provided to restore or preserve that person's access to the LECOM education program or activity after LECOM determines that sex discrimination occurred.

**Respondent:**

A person who is alleged to have violated LECOM's prohibition on sex discrimination. When a sex discrimination complaint alleges that a LECOM policy or practice discriminates on the basis of sex, LECOM is not considered a Respondent.

**Retaliation:**

Retaliation means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by LECOM, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by LECOM to provide aid, benefit, or service under LECOM's education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, was interviewed, provided evidence, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation or grievance process, including an informal resolution process.

**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.

**Sex-based harassment:**

Sex-based harassment prohibited by this policy is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment or other harassment on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity that is:

- (1) Quid pro harassment. An employee, agent, or other person authorized by LECOM to provide an aid, benefit, or service under LECOM's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct

or

- (2) Hostile environment harassment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from LECOM's education program or activity (i.e. creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has

been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

- (a) the degree to which the conduct affected the Complainant's ability to access LECOM's education program or activity
- (b) the type, frequency, and duration of the conduct
- (c) the parties' ages, roles within the LECOM education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct
- (d) the location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred
- (e) other sex-based harassment in the LECOM education program or activity

or

- (3) "Sexual assault," "dating violence," "domestic violence," or "stalking" as defined in this section. The specific offenses of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking need not satisfy the elements of severity or pervasiveness or subjective and objective offensiveness in order to constitute sex-based harassment.

**Stalking:**

Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to

- fear for their 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 can occur in person or using technology. The duration, frequency, and intensity of the conduct should be considered. Stalking tactics can include, but are not limited to, watching, following, using tracking devices, monitoring online activity, unwanted contact, property invasion or damage, hacking accounts, threats, violence, sabotage, and attacks. In the context of stalking, whether a reasonable person in the Complainant's position would fear for their safety or suffer emotional distress is considered.

**Student**

Student means a person who has gained admission.

**Supportive Measures:**

Individualized measures offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, without unreasonably burdening a Complainant or Respondent, not for punitive or disciplinary reasons, and without fee or charge to the Complainant or Respondent to (1) restore or preserve that party's access to LECOM's education program or activity, including measures that are designed to protect the safety of the parties or LECOM's educational environment; or (2) provide support during LECOM's informal resolution process, if any, investigation, and grievance procedures. 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 alleged discrimination on the basis of sex, including sex-based harassment.

**IV. REPORTING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX**

**A. Making a Complaint; Who May Make a Complaint**

A “complaint” is an oral or written request to LECOM that objectively can be understood as a request for LECOM to investigate and make a determination about alleged sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment.

The following people have a right to make a complaint of sex discrimination, including complaints of sex-based harassment, requesting that LECOM investigate and make a determination about alleged sex discrimination under Title IX:

- A “Complainant” which includes a student or employee of LECOM who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or a person other than a student or employee of LECOM who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX at a time when that individual was participating or attempting to participate in LECOM’s education program or activity;
- A parent, guardian, or other authorized legal representative with the legal right to act on behalf of a Complainant (for instance with a minor Complainant); or
- LECOM’s Title IX Coordinator

A Title IX Coordinator may proceed without the Complainant participating if the alleged conduct presents an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of the Complainant or other person(s) or prevents LECOM from ensuring equal access based on sex to its education program or activity.

LECOM may consolidate complaints of sex discrimination against more than one Respondent, or by more than one Complainant against one or more Respondents, or by one party against another party, when the allegations of sex discrimination arise out of the same facts or circumstances. When more than one Complainant or more than one Respondent is involved, references in this policy to a party, Complainant, or Respondent include the plural, as applicable.

**B. Reporting Options**

An individual may make a report concerning discrimination on the basis of sex and such reports are encouraged to be made as soon as possible to allow LECOM to respond promptly and effectively.

A person who has experienced discrimination on the basis of sex prohibited under this policy, or a person who witnesses discrimination on the basis of sex, may simultaneously notify LECOM and

pursue a criminal complaint with law enforcement. Victims and witnesses have the right to be assisted by LECOM in notifying law enforcement authorities of sex-based harassment, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, 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.

### **1. LECOM Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators**

LECOM has designated the Title IX Coordinator to oversee complaints of discrimination on the basis of sex at LECOM. An individual who has experienced discrimination on the basis of sex 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 discrimination on the basis of sex and have knowledge about resources and services, both on and off campus, including the availability of supportive measures.

#### 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 (Erie, Pennsylvania)

Dr. Nancy Carty, Deputy Coordinator  
Assistant Dean of Preclinical Education  
(814) 866-8418  
[ncarty@lecom.edu](mailto:ncarty@lecom.edu)

#### LECOM Bradenton (Bradenton, Florida; includes DeFuniak Springs, Florida)

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 (Greensburg, Pennsylvania)

Dr. Dennis Min, Deputy Coordinator  
Assistant Professor of Gastroenterology  
(724) 552-2892  
[dmin@lecom.edu](mailto:dmin@lecom.edu)

#### LECOM at Elmira (Elmira, New York)

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 some outside services that may provide confidential counseling.

## **2. Electronic and Anonymous Reporting via STOPit Solutions**

A report about discrimination on the basis of sex, including sex-based harassment, may be made using the link below. While anonymous reports are accepted, LECOM's ability to address the matter reported anonymously is significantly limited.

Individuals may use this link to electronically make a report of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, with LECOM:

<https://appweb.stopitsolutions.com/login>

Please use the following Access Code to login: ONELECOM

An immediate auto-response email will be sent in response to reports made electronically.

## **3. Criminal Reporting Options**

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 LECOM resolution process. 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 sex-based harassment 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.

LECOM police and security are employees of LECOM and are obligated to promptly report incidents of sex-based harassment 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.

### 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

#### **4. 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>.

## **V. PROCESS AFTER REPORT OF SEX DISCRIMINATION**

### **A. Title IX Outreach**

Upon receipt of a report of an alleged violation of the Title IX policy, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide resources and support information by contacting the potential Complainant and offering an initial meeting between the Complainant and the Title IX Coordinator or designee. The initial meeting is optional and the Complainant 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 Complainant.

### **B. 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 alleged, 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 LECOM community. The goal is to eliminate any unsafe or hostile environment. If a report of a violation of the Title IX policy discloses a serious or immediate threat to the LECOM community, LECOM will issue a timely notification to the LECOM community to protect its health or safety. The timely notification will not include any identifying information about the Complainant.

### **C. Interim and Supportive Measures**

The Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the Complainant to discuss potential supportive measures, consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, and explain to the Complainant the investigation and grievance process. 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 the grievance process, 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.

**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 imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of a Complainant or any students, employees, or other persons arising from the allegations of sex discrimination 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 the Filing of a Complaint**

LECOM may dismiss a complaint of sex discrimination if:

- LECOM is unable to identify the Respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;
- The Respondent is not participating in LECOM's education program or activity and is not employed by LECOM;
- The Complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all of the allegations in the complaint (if the Complainant is a student, withdrawal must be in writing), the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a complaint, and LECOM determines that without the Complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX even if proven; or
- LECOM determines the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX.

Before dismissing the complaint, LECOM will make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the Complainant.

Upon dismissal, LECOM will promptly notify the Complainant of the basis for the dismissal. If the dismissal occurs after the Respondent has been notified of the allegations, then LECOM will also notify the Respondent of the dismissal and the basis for the dismissal promptly following notification to the Complainant, or simultaneously if notification is in writing. LECOM will notify the Complainant that a dismissal may be appealed and will provide the Complainant with an opportunity to appeal the dismissal of a complaint. If the dismissal occurs after the Respondent has been notified of the allegations, then LECOM will also notify

the Respondent that the dismissal may be appealed. Dismissals may be appealed on the following bases:

- Procedural irregularity that would change the outcome;
- New evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the dismissal was made; and
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decisionmaker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant or Respondent that would change the outcome.

See *Right to Appeal* section below.

#### **F. Notice After Receiving a Complaint and a Determination is Made to Proceed**

After a complaint is received and there is not a decision to dismiss the complaint, written notice must be sent to the known parties that includes:

- Notice of the grievance process
- Notice of the allegations of potential sex discrimination including sufficient details, if known at the time (identities of the parties involved in the incident; conduct allegedly constituting sex discrimination; 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 informal resolution or 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 are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate description of this evidence as determined. It is LECOM's decision whether to allow the parties to access this evidence or receive an accurate description of the evidence.
- 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. DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX COMPLAINT RESOLUTION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

### **A. Informal Resolution**

After a complaint has been made and has not been dismissed, 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 decision-making process and may encompass a broad range of conflict resolution strategies, including, but not limited to, arbitration, mediation, or restorative justice. LECOM will not offer informal resolution to resolve a complaint when such a process would conflict with Federal, State, or local law.

At any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party may withdraw from the informal

resolution process and resume the investigation and decision-making grievance process with respect to the complaint. After the parties have agreed to a resolution at the conclusion of an informal resolution process, the parties are precluded from initiating or resuming investigation and decision-making grievance procedures arising from the same allegations.

### **B. Participant Roles**

The roles of Complainant, Respondent, 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 decisionmaker may be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or investigator. The facilitator for an informal resolution process must not be the same person as the investigator or the decisionmaker in LECOM's grievance procedures.

### **C. Conflict of Interest**

LECOM requires that any Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decisionmaker not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or an individual Complainant or Respondent. 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 a grievance process. 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 a grievance process, 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 decision-making process of complaints alleging sex discrimination in violation of Title IX and any related violations. This means that it is determined whether it is more likely than not that a violation 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, and the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.

While LECOM will attempt to accommodate the schedules of parties and witnesses throughout the grievance process 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, provided evidence, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a Title IX investigation or grievance process.

Retaliation includes intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination including sex-based harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances if the purpose is to interfere with any right or privilege secured by Title IX.

Complaints alleging retaliation may be made 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 investigation or grievance process, 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 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 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 to be questioned as part of the Title IX process.

**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.
- The investigator and decision-maker may be the same person and may be the Title IX Coordinator.
- LECOM will provide for adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints.
- There will be no live hearing.
- The burden is on LECOM, not on the parties, to conduct an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether sex discrimination occurred.
- Both parties must be given an equal opportunity to present fact and expert witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible. LECOM has discretion as to whether the parties may present expert witnesses.
- LECOM will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant and what evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance.
- LECOM will provide to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all meetings or proceedings with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.
- The following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence, are impermissible (*i.e.*, will not be accessed or considered, except by LECOM to determine whether one of the exceptions listed below applies; will not be disclosed; and will not otherwise be used), regardless of whether they are relevant:
  - Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by Federal or State law or evidence provided to a confidential employee, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality;
  - A party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless LECOM obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures; and
  - Evidence that relates to the Complainant's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct, unless evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual conduct is offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the alleged conduct or is evidence about specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual conduct with the Respondent that is offered to prove consent to the alleged sex-based harassment. The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the Complainant

and Respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the Complainant's consent to the alleged sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

- Both parties must have the same opportunities, if any, to have others present during any meeting or part of the grievance process, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting 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 process; such restrictions shall apply equally to both parties.
- Reasonable extension of timeframes will be made on a case-by-case basis for good cause with written notice to the parties that includes the reason for the delay.
- LECOM will provide each party and the party's advisor, if any, with an equal opportunity to access either the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate summary of the evidence in an investigative report, at LECOM's discretion. LECOM will provide a reasonable opportunity to respond to the evidence or the investigative report.
- LECOM will take reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' and their advisors' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the sex discrimination grievance procedures.
- Questioning of the parties and witnesses may be in the following manner:
  - LECOM will provide a process that enables the investigator or decisionmaker to individually question parties and witnesses to adequately assess a party's or witness's credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant to evaluating one or more allegations of sex discrimination. A party and the party's advisor, if any, and witnesses do not have a right to attend the individual meetings when other parties or witnesses are being questioned.
  - LECOM's process for proposing and asking relevant and not otherwise impermissible questions and follow-up questions of parties and witnesses, including questions challenging credibility, will:
    - Allow the investigator or decisionmaker to ask questions during individual meetings with a party or witness;
    - Allow each party to propose questions that the party wants to be asked of any party or witness; and
    - Provide each party with an audio or audiovisual recording or transcript with enough time for the party to have a reasonable opportunity to propose follow-up questions. It is LECOM's choice whether to provide an audio or audiovisual recording or a transcript.

### **I. Written Determination:**

Following an investigation in the event that an informal process did not occur and successfully conclude, the decision-maker must prepare a written determination as to whether sex discrimination occurred. The written determination must be provided to the parties

simultaneously. The written determination will include:

- A description of the alleged sex discrimination
- Information about the policies and procedures that LECOM used to evaluate the allegations
- The decisionmaker's evaluation of the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence
- A decision as to whether sex discrimination did or did not occur and whether the Respondent is responsible
- Any disciplinary sanctions LECOM will impose on the Respondent in the event of a finding of responsibility. The potential penalties range from remedies similar to supportive measures to probation, suspension, and dismissal from LECOM.
- Any remedies other than the imposition of disciplinary sanctions imposed on the Respondent that will be provided to the Complainant, and, to the extent appropriate, other students identified to be experiencing/have experienced the effects of the sex discrimination.
- The procedures for the Complainant and Respondent to appeal

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.

### **J. Right to Appeal**

Both parties may appeal from a dismissal of a complaint or a determination regarding responsibility 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 dismissal or responsibility 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 document 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 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 dismissal or responsibility. The decision of the President is final. The written appeal decision will be simultaneously provided to both parties in the event that the Respondent has been notified of the complaint. Notification to the Respondent may not have been made in the event of a dismissal of the complaint.

### **VII. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. An individual has a right to make a report of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, to LECOM, which may be accompanied by request for supportive measures.
- B. Prior to the conclusion of a sex discrimination investigation and grievance process, the reporting party may request to withdraw the complaint by contacting the Title IX Coordinator or designee. If the reporting party is a student, the withdrawal must be in writing. The Title IX Coordinator or designee will determine whether to continue the investigation or grievance process without the Complainant's continued participation.
- C. An individual also has the right to report sexual-based harassment to law enforcement, separate and apart from any report made to LECOM.
- D. At the time a report is made to LECOM, the reporting party does not have to decide whether to make a report 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.

### **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

## **IX. 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 LECOM students engaged in a LECOM education program or activity in New York.

8/2024

## 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.

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.

Mr. John F. Malady

Joan L. Moore, D.O.

James Lin, D.O.

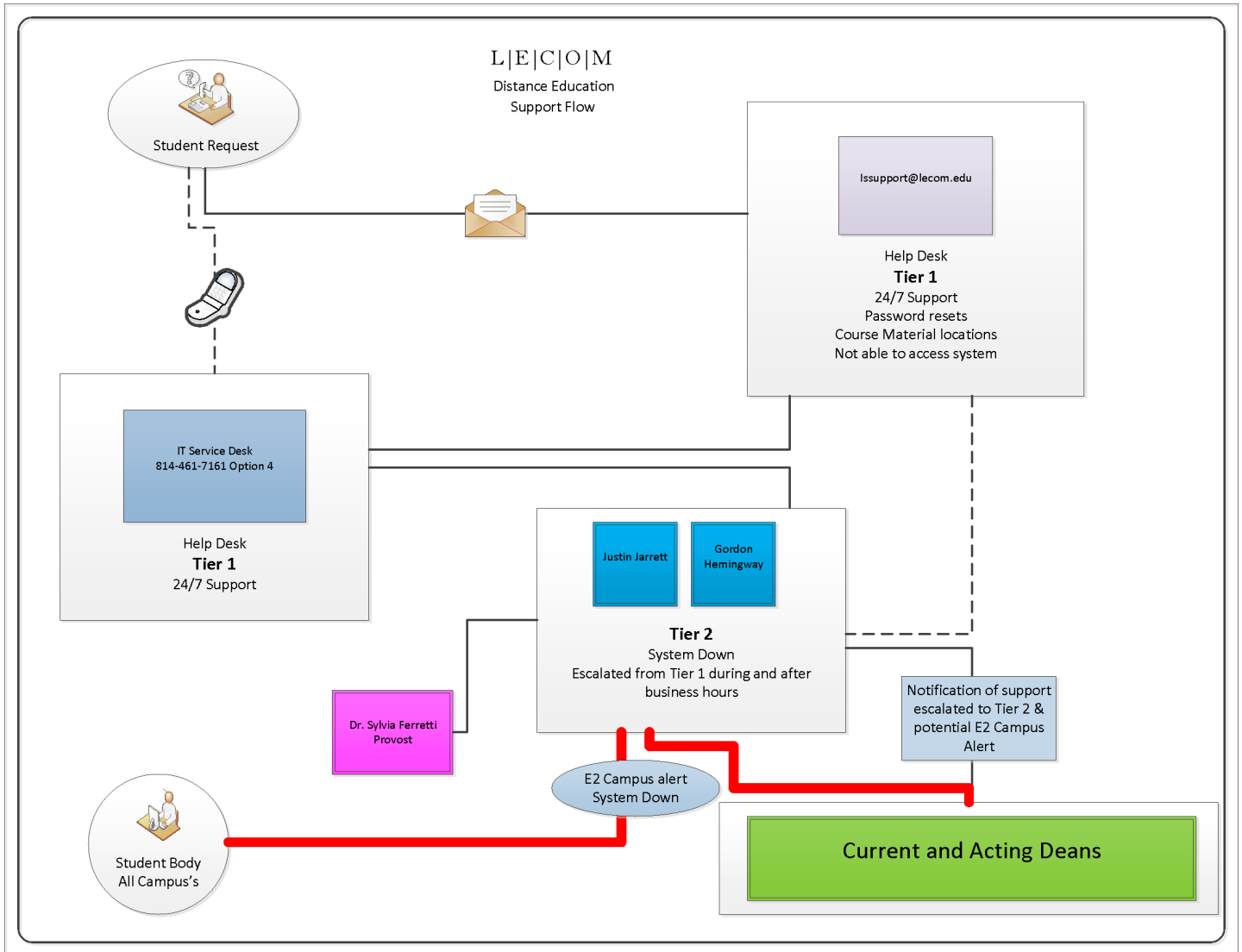
Ms. Marlene D. Mosco, (*Chair*)

Ms. Nancy Peaden

Mr. Dennis M. Styn

Mr. Thomas J. Wedzik

## APPENDIX M - DISTANCE EDUCATION SUPPORT FLOW



## APPENDIX N - CAMPUS BUILDINGS PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS

### **LECOM Erie located in Erie, Pennsylvania**

The Erie Campus formed from an original single campus building (Grandview) that, over time, has expanded to include instructional spaces, research facilities, and shared community resources across the surrounding community that now comprise a robust main campus. Narrative summaries of the facilities that comprise the Erie Campus are provided below.

#### LECOM Main Campus Building

**1858 West Grandview Blvd, Erie, Pennsylvania** – A 170,000 sq ft facility that primarily serves the College of Medicine (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) and the School of Pharmacy (4<sup>th</sup> floor). The space includes small group learning rooms, small animal facilities, and labs designed for microbiology, compounding, gross anatomy, physical exam/osteopathic manipulative medicine, and research. Grandview also houses the Learning Resource Centers (LRC) with periodical, reference book, small group meeting rooms, study carols and reading areas. The facility further contains conference rooms, multipurpose meeting spaces and four lecture halls (two 269-seat; two 156-seat) with integrated lecture technology that connect to all other campuses and affiliates.

Grandview houses the institutional administrative offices located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, including the Office of the President and Office of the Provost. Additionally, 15 faculty offices are located on the east side of the building and 16 faculty offices are located on the west side of the building. The building also has a cafeteria, has a seating capacity of 260 people and additional seating in the Vora Lounge up to 120 people. On the first floor are student affairs offices including registrar, financial aid, admission, and recruiting. At the main entrance to the building are campus police and security office. All spaces are well maintained and offer wi-fi access throughout the entire building.

#### LECOM West Building

**2000 West Grandview Blvd, Erie, Pennsylvania** – Neighboring the Main building, LECOM West is the hub for interprofessional education. The facility houses one of the School of Dental Medicine's (SDM) community clinical practice site, classrooms for the Masters in Medical Science (MMS) program, interprofessional biomedical research space, and the SPM. LECOM West also houses 26,000 sq ft of interprofessional biomedical research space that serves faculty and students across all LECOM programs. Renovated in 2017, the space serves individuals engaged in biomedical (bench top) research.

School of Podiatric Medicine (SPM) dedicated space boasts two lecture halls, a skills laboratory, faculty offices, conference rooms, small group learning rooms, and the SPM administrative suite. Office space is provided for members of the SPM, including the Dean, Assistant Deans, and faculty. The SPM has access to two lecture halls (84 and 78 seats) with the full complement of audio and visual systems for lecture presentations.

School of Dental Medicine (SDM) community clinical practice site for fourth year dental students has the same design and layout of the SDM clinical at the Bradenton campus. Each group practice has ten operatories, multipurpose room that contains wet labs, sterilization stations, and meeting space. In addition to the three group practices there are spaces for patient

waiting areas, lecture hall (60 seats), additional wet labs, faculty offices, physician office, learning resources center, café, and dental stock room.

The LECOM West building continues to be updated through planned renovations and will continue to evolve to meet the needs of LECOMs education community.

#### LECOM Education Center (LEC)

2951 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie Pennsylvania - In July 2021, LECOM purchased the former Porreco Campus from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. The newly named LECOM Education Center (LEC) sits on the 28-acre property on West 38th Street, about seven miles outside of Erie. Redevelopment of the newly acquired campus location is ongoing; however, the current facilities house small group study rooms, large rooms for student meetings and gatherings and the medical simulation center.

#### LECOM Bayfront Building

**1 LECOM Place, Erie, Pennsylvania** – Approximately 10 miles from Grandview and LECOM West, Bayfront is a 53-acre property overlooking Lake Erie. Bayfront contains 75,574 sq ft of learning space in a four-story building. The building has a 110-seat classroom, eight small group learning rooms, a student lounge, and study areas. Bayfront also houses the IT Data Center, which contains the institutional server and data storage infrastructure.

#### LECOM at Seton Hill located in Greensburg, Pennsylvania

**Lynch Hall, 20 Seton Hill Drive, Greensburg, PA** – Integrated with the campus of Seton Hill University, the Greensburg Campus is also a satellite extension of the Erie Campus. The campus is comprised of three buildings. Lynch Hall provides a 216-seat lecture hall, 12 small group learning rooms, and faculty offices. Reeves Hall houses labs for physical exams and osteopathic manipulative medicine courses. The Reeves Memorial Library offers a wealth of learning resources, as well as provides food services, common areas, and athletic/recreational facilities. Students attending classes on the Greensburg Campus may utilize the resources of Seton Hill University, which include exercise facilities, on-campus dining, library and study spaces, and other amenities.

#### LECOM at Elmira located in Elmira, NY

**1 LECOM Pace, Elmira, New York** – Located adjacent to Elmira College, the additional campus location is a single building with 44,174 sq ft of space. The building houses the Learning Resource Center, 14 Faculty offices, 4 additional Office Spaces, an Office of Financial Aid, an Office of Student Affairs, and Office of Admissions. The building also provides small group learning rooms including 14 Problem Based Learning rooms, two lecture halls (150-seat each), labs for physical exams and osteopathic manipulative medicine courses, and a research space. Students attending classes on the Elmira Campus may utilize the resources of Elmira College, which include exercise facilities, on-campus dining, library and study spaces, and other amenities.

#### LECOM at Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, Florida

**5415 Dolphin Point Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida** – LECOM will build a new, three-floor (approx. 77k sq ft) facility on the northern part of the Jacksonville University campus. The

facility will cater specifically to the program's needs and be adjacent to the Brooks Rehabilitation College of Healthcare Sciences. Facilities include a lobby with security, two lecture halls (170-seat capacity each), 20 problem-based learning rooms, a clinical skills lab, multipurpose laboratory space, research laboratory, and various classrooms. There will be office space designed for student affairs, information technology, and several large conference rooms for use by the administration, faculty and students. Key rooms will have advanced technology, including multimedia projection systems, Smart Boards, and tracking cameras. 34 Faculty and 4 administrative offices, the Learning Resource Center, and a student lounge. Faculty offices will include private spaces and multiple conference rooms. The Learning Resource Center will provide study and electronic resources, while multipurpose spaces will cater to virtual reality and large group meetings.

### **LECOM Bradenton located in Bradenton, Florida**

Located on 39 acres in the Lakewood Ranch, FL community, the Bradenton Campus consists of two buildings that serve the College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Pharmacy, School of Dental Medicine, and School of Health Services Administration.

#### LECOM College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Pharmacy Building

**5000 Lakewood Ranch Blvd, Bradenton, Florida** – The College of Medicine/School of Pharmacy/School of Health Services Administration Building provides 109,000 sq ft of space that houses two lecture halls (210-seat each) and 24 small group rooms. The space also houses administrative and faculty offices, along with the Office of Financial Aid, Office of Student Affairs, Office of the Registrar, and Office of Admissions. The College of Medicine/School of Pharmacy Building includes 3,183 sq ft of space dedicated to research facilities, a Learning Resource Center, a gross anatomy lab, a physical exam skills lab, and a patient encounter suite for simulating patient experiences.

#### LECOM School of Dental Medicine Building

**4800 Lakewood Ranch Blvd, Bradenton, Florida** – The School of Dental Medicine provides 130,000 sq ft of space that houses state-of-the-art dental equipment and related learning resources. Approximately half of the building is used to teach dental medicine within 21 small group classrooms, a Learning Resource Center, two auditoriums (300-seat and 200-seat), a simulation lab, two complete wet labs, two dispensaries, conference rooms, changing rooms, a cafeteria, and administrative offices. The other half of the building is an educational patient clinic that provides dental care to Bradenton residents. The patient clinic contains 115 separate dental operatories, 11 wet labs, 11 sterilization centers, 23 digital x-ray machines, and 11 individual patient care coordinator stations.

## APPENDIX O - SCHEDULES FOR SHSA PROGRAMS

DHA	COURSES	Distance Ed	Distance Ed	Credits	
3/23/2026					
<b>DH-U26-7 July 2026 Doctor of Healthcare Administration (D.H.A.)</b>					
LECOM School of Health Services Administration					
<b>YEAR 1 - CLASS OF 2029</b>					
<b>PGM Year 1</b>	<b>Calendar Year 2026</b>	<b>10 weeks</b>	<b>10 weeks</b>		
Sem 1 A	DH 6010 Next Generation Doctoral Studies	July 19 - September 26, 2026		3	
Sem 1 A	DH 6020 HC Research Methods- New Tools	July 19 - September 26, 2026		3	
Sem 1 B	DH 6030 Quantitative Analysis	October 4 - December 12, 2026			3
Sem 1 B	DH 6040 HC Artificial Intelligence	October 4 - December 12, 2026			3
				<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Virtual</b>	<b>TEAMS Video Conferencing Wednesday 6:30-8:30 pm</b>			<b>Weeks</b>	<b>21</b>
V1	July 18, 2026 - ORIENTATION and FIRST SESSION				
V2	August 12, 2026				
V3	September 9, 2026				
V4	October 7, 2026				
V5	November 4, 2026				
V6	December 2, 2026				
		<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>		
<b>PGM Year 1</b>	<b>Calendar Year 2027</b>	<b>10 weeks</b>	<b>10 weeks</b>		
Sem 2 A	DH 6050 HC Leadership and Communications	January 10 - March 20, 2027		3	
Sem 2 A	DH 6060 HC Mind, Body, Spirit-Whole Person Care	January 10 - March 20, 2027		3	
Sem 2 B	DH 6070 Qualitative Analysis	March 21-May 29, 2027			3
Sem 2 B	DH 6080 Effective Writing and Publication	March 21-May 29, 2027			3
				<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Virtual</b>	<b>TEAMS Video Conferencing Wednesday 6:30-8:30 pm</b>			<b>Weeks</b>	<b>21</b>
V7	January 13, 2027				
V8	February 10, 2027				
V9	March 10, 2027				
V10	April 7, 2027				
V11	May 5, 2027				

DHA	Academic Year 2026-2027	
	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Semester 1	7/19/2026	12/12/2026
Semester 2	1/10/2027	5/29/2027

DH-U26-7		July 2026 Doctor of Healthcare Administration (D.H.A.)		LECOM School of Health Services Administration		3/23/2026
<b>YEAR 2 - Class of 2029</b>						
DHA	COURSES	A	B			
PGM Year 2	<b>Calendar Year 2027</b>	Distance Ed 10 weeks	Distance Ed 10 weeks			Credits
Sem 3 A	DH 7010 Outcome Focused Strategies	July 18 - September 25, 2027				3
Sem 3 A	DH 7020 HC Case Study Design & Delivery	July 18 - September 25, 2027				3
Sem 3 B	DH 7030 HC Ethics & Sustainability		October 3 - December 11, 2027			3
Sem 3 B	DH 7040 Virtual Medicine		October 3 - December 11, 2027			3
						<b>Total Credits 12</b>
Virtual	TEAMS Video Conferencing Tuesday 6:30-8:30 pm					<b>Weeks 21</b>
V12	July 20, 2027					
V13	August 17, 2027					
V14	September 14, 2027					
V15	October 12, 2027					
V16	November 9, 2027					
V17	December 7, 2027					
DHA	COURSES	A	B			
PGM Year 2	<b>Calendar Year 2028</b>	Distance Ed 10 weeks	Distance Ed 10 weeks			Credits
Sem 4 A	DH 7050 Effective Negotiations & Partnering	January 9 - March 18, 2028				3
Sem 4 A	DH 7060 HC Leveraging HC Machine Learning	January 9 - March 18, 2028				3
Sem 4 B	DH 7070 Communities as Living Laboratories		March 19 - May 27, 2028			3
Sem 4 B	DH 7080 HC Economics & Finance		March 19 - May 27, 2028			3
						<b>Total Credits 12</b>
Virtual	TEAMS Video Conferencing Tuesday 6:30-8:30 pm					<b>Weeks 21</b>
V18	January 11, 2028					
V19	February 8, 2028					
V20	March 7, 2028					
V21	April 4, 2028					
V22	May 2, 2028					

DHA Academic Year 2027-2028		
	Start	End
Semester 1	7/18/2027	12/11/2027
Semester 2	1/9/2028	5/27/2028

DH-U26-7		July 2026 Doctor of Healthcare Administration (D.H.A.)		LECOM School of Health Services Administration		3/23/2026
<b>Doctor of Healthcare Administration</b>						
<b>YEAR 3 - Class of 2029</b>						
DHA	COURSES	A	B			
PGM Year 3	<b>Calendar Year 2028</b>	Distance Ed 10 weeks	Distance Ed 10 weeks			Credits
Sem 5 A	DH 8010 Dissertation I- Qualifying Exam	July 16 - September 23, 2028				3
Sem 5 A	DH 8020 US Ehealthcare Systems	July 16 - September 23, 2028				3
Sem 5 B	DH 8030 Dissertation II- Draft 1		October 1 - December 9, 2028			3
Sem 5 B	DH 8040 Climate and Culture of Wellness		October 1 - December 9, 2028			3
						<b>Total Credits 12</b>
Virtual	TEAMS Video Conferencing Thursday 6 pm - 8 pm					<b>Weeks 21</b>
V23	July 20, 2028					
V24	August 17, 2028					
V25	September 14, 2028					
V26	October 12, 2028					
V27	November 9, 2028					
V28	December 7, 2028					
DHA	COURSES	A	B			
PGM Year 3	<b>Calendar Year 2029</b>	Distance Ed 10 weeks	Distance Ed 10 weeks			Credits
Sem 6 A	DH 8050 Dissertation III- Draft 2	January 7 - March 17, 2029				3
Sem 6 A	DH 8060 Healthcare Organizational Compliance	January 7 - March 17, 2029				3
Sem 6 B	DH 8070 Effective College Educators		March 18 - May 26, 2029			3
Sem 6 B	DH 8080 Dissertation IV- Final Paper & Defense		March 18 - May 26, 2029			3
						<b>Total Credits 12</b>
Virtual	TEAMS Video Conferencing Thursday 6 pm - 8 pm					<b>Weeks 21</b>
V29	January 11, 2029					
V30	February 8, 2029					
V31	March 8, 2029					
V32	April 5, 2029					
V33	May 3, 2029					
V34	TBD					

DHA Academic Year 2028-2029		
	Start	End
Semester 1	7/16/2028	12/9/2028
Semester 2	1/7/2029	5/26/2029

Commencement	Sunday, May 27, 2029	ERIE, PA
Commencement	Sunday, June 3, 2029	BRADENTON, FL

**MCT-J27-6-18mths**

**JANUARY 2027 COHORT**

**CLASS OF 2028**

**MS MCT - MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL CANNABINOID THERAPEUTICS**

START-SUN    ENDS-SAT

Course	Start	End	Credits
Semester I (2728 01) Starts January 3, 2027			
Orientation			6
MCT-5000 Introduction to History of Cannabis	6-Jan-27	Jan 3-Feb 13, 2027	3
MCT-5070 Quantitative Analysis of Cannabinoids		Feb 14-Mar 20, 2027	3
MCT-5010 Cannabinoid Pharmacology & Classification		Mar 21-Apr 24, 2027	3
MCT-5040 Cannabinoid Dosing Strategies		Apr 25-May 29, 2027	3
Semester I (2728 01) Ends May 29, 2027			<b>Total Credits 12</b>
Semester II (2728 02) Starts June 6, 2027			
MCT-5030 Therapeutic Effects & Dispensary Patient Education	Jun 6-Jul 17, 2027		3
MCT-5020 Cannabinoid Economics & Vertical Integration		Jul 18-Aug 28, 2027	3
MCT-5090 Cannabinoid Government Regulations and Policies		Aug 29-Oct 9, 2027	3
MCT-5080 Cannabinoid Therapeutics Design and Efficacy		Oct 10-Nov 20, 2027	3
MCT-6030 Executive Interviews & Analysis		Sept 12-Dec 18, 2027	3
Semester II (2728 02) Ends December 18, 2027			<b>Total Credits 15</b>
Semester III (2728 02) Starts January 2, 2028			
MCT-6000 Research Design and Methods	Jan 2-Feb 12, 2028		3
MCT-5060 Cannabinoid Public Health, Transparency & Safety Issues		Feb 13-Mar 25, 2028	3
MCT-6030 Executive Interviews & Analysis		Feb 13-May 6, 2028	3
MCT-6020 Capstone (LECOM Research Day April 22, 2028)		Feb 13-May 6, 2028	6
MCT-5050 Evidence Based Therapeutics & Health System Integration		March 26-May 6, 2028	3
MCT-6040 Comprehensive Final Exam		May 7-May 20, 2028	0
Semester III (2728 02) Ends May 20, 2028			<b>Total Credits 18</b>
Subject to change			<b>Total PGM Credit Hrs 45</b>

GRADUATION-Erie	PA, May 28, 2028
GRADUATION-Bradenton	FL, June 4, 2028

# MHSA-U26-22

# JUNE 2026 COHORT

# CLASS OF 2028

## MHSA- MASTERS IN HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

### START-SUN ENDS-SAT

Course	Start	End	Duration	Credits
<b>Semester I (2627 01) Starts May 31, 2026</b> <span style="float: right;">8 weeks</span>				
HSA-5020 Professional & Communication Skills D	May 31	Jul 25, 2026	8 weeks	3
HSA-5000 Healthcare Organization & Administration	Jul 19	Sep 12, 2026	8 weeks	3
HSA-5050-Legal Issues in Business & Clinical Decision Making	Sep 6	Oct 31, 2026	8 weeks	3
HSA-5030 Research Methodology & Application	Oct 25	Dec 19, 2026	8 weeks	3
				<b>Semester I (2627 01) Ends December 19, 2026</b> Credits <b>12</b>
<b>Semester II (2627 02) Starts January 3, 2027</b> <span style="float: right;">8 weeks</span>				
HIA-5220 Financial Analysis & Risk Management	Jan 3	Feb 27, 2027	8 weeks	3
HSA-5010 Population Health & Status Assessment	Feb 14	Apr 10, 2027	8 weeks	3
HSA-5090-Economic Analysis & Application in Decision Making	Apr 4	May 29, 2027	8 weeks	3
				<b>Semester II (2627 02) Ends May 29, 2027</b> Credits <b>9</b>
<b>Semester III (2728 01) Starts June 20, 2027</b> <span style="float: right;">8 weeks</span>				
HSA-5040 Health Policy Form, Implemt, & Eval.	Jun 20	Aug 14, 2027	8 weeks	3
HSA-5065 Information System & Quality Systems	Aug 15	Oct 9, 2027	8 weeks	3
HSA-5080 Governance, Leadership & Strategic Planning	Oct 10	Dec 4, 2027	8 weeks	3
HSA-5430 Executive Interviews & Analysis I	Aug 15	Dec 4, 2027	16 weeks	3
				<b>Semester III (2728 02) Ends December 4, 2027</b> Credits <b>12</b>
<b>Semester IV (2728 02) Starts January 2, 2028</b> <span style="float: right;">20 weeks</span>				
HSA-5431 Executive Interviews & Analysis I	Jan 2	May 20, 2028	20 weeks	3
HSA-5410 Thesis OR HSA 5420 Capstone	Jan 2	May 20, 2028	8 weeks	5
Elect I - HIA 5200-Human Resources Management	Jan 2	Feb 26, 2028	8 weeks	3
Elect II-HIA 5210 Marketing or HIA 5230 Long-Trm Car I or MPH 5300-Health Ser	Feb 20	Apr 15, 2028	8 weeks	3
Elect III-HIA-5240-Long-Term Care II or HIA 5250-Health Care Management Operations	Apr 2	May 27, 2028	8 weeks	3
HSA-5500-Comprehensive Final Exam	Feb 6	Mar 25, 2028	8 weeks	0
				<b>Semester IV (2728 02) Ends May 27, 2028</b> Credits <b>17</b>
				<b>Total Credits</b> <b>50</b>
<b>Graduation-ERIE</b>				<b>Sunday, May 28, 2028</b>
<b>Graduation-BRADENTON</b>				<b>Sunday, June 4, 2028</b>

3/23/2026

## MPH-U26-8 JUNE 2026 COHORT CLASS OF 2028

### MPH - MASTERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

**START-SUN ENDS-SAT**

Course	Start	Ends	Duration	Credits
<b>Semester I (2627 01) Starts May 31, 2026</b>				
MPH 5000 Introduction to Public Health	May 31	Jul 25, 2026	8 weeks	3
MPH 5020 Epidemiology	Jul 19	Sep 12, 2026	8 weeks	3
MPH 5030 Environmental Health	Sep 6	Oct 31, 2026	8 weeks	3
MPH 5010 Biostatistics	Oct 25	Dec 19, 2026	8 weeks	3
Semester I (2627 01) Ends December 19, 2026				<b>Credits</b>
<b>Semester II (2627 02) Starts January 3, 2027</b>				
MPH 5040 Social and Behavioral Health	Jan 3	Feb 27, 2027	8 weeks	3
MPH 5050 Health Services Administration	Feb 14	Apr 10, 2027	8 weeks	3
MPH 5060 Cultural Competence/Social Justice	Apr 4	May 29, 2027	8 weeks	3
Semester II (2627 02) Ends May 29, 2027				<b>Credits</b>
<b>Semester III (2728 01) Starts June 20, 2027</b>				
MPH 5110 Health Education and Promotion	Jun 20	Aug 14, 2027	8 weeks	3
MPH 5080 Community and Global Health	Aug 15	Oct 9, 2027	8 weeks	3
MPH 5090 Program Planning and Evaluation	Oct 10	Dec 4, 2027	16 weeks	3
MPH 5130 Strategic Advocacy for Change	Aug 15	Dec 4, 2027	16 weeks	3
Semester III (2728 01) Ends December 4, 2027				<b>Credits</b>
<b>Semester IV (2728 02) Starts January 2, 2028</b>				
MPH 5100 Healthcare Policy	Jan 2	Feb 26, 2028	8 weeks	3
MPH 5120 Health Communication	Feb 20	Apr 15, 2028	8 weeks	3
MPH 5070 Leadership and Professionalism	Apr 9	Jun 3, 2028	20 weeks	3
MPH 5140 Capstone	Jan 2, 2028	May 21, 2028	20 weeks	3
MPH 5500 Comprehensive Final Exam	April 23	May 7, 2028	0	0
Semester IV (2728 02) Ends May 27, 2028				<b>Credits</b>
				<b>Total Credits</b>
				<b>45</b>
<b>Graduation-ERIE</b>				<b>Sunday, May 28, 2028</b>
<b>Graduation-BRADENTON</b>				<b>Sunday, June 4, 2028</b>

5/7/2026

## MSBE-J27-9-1 YEAR January 2027 Cohort CLASS OF 2028

### MSBE - MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

**START-SUN ENDS-SAT**

Course	Start	Ends	Duration	Credits
<b>Semester I (2627 02) Starts January 3, 2027</b>				
MBE 1010 History and Scope of Bioethics	Jan.3	Feb 13, 2027	6 wks	3
MBE 1020 Compliance: Patients rights and Safety	Feb 14	March 20, 2027	5 wks	3
MBE 1030 Clinical Ethics 1	March 21	Apr 24, 2027	5 wks	3
MBE 1040 Clinical Ethics 2	April 25	May 29, 2027	6 wks	3
MBE 2040 Research Ethics	Feb 14	May 1, 2027	12 wks	3
Semester I (2627 01) Ends May 29, 2027				<b>Credits</b>
<b>Semester II (2728 01) Starts June 6, 2027</b>				
MBE 2020 Building Cultural Competence	June 06	July 17, 2027	6 wks	3
MBE 2010 Conflict Resolution, Mediation & Communication	July 18	August 21, 2027	5 wks	3
MBE 3000 & MBE 3001 Executive Interviews and Analysis 1 & 2	July 18	Oct 9, 2027	12 wks	3
MBE 2030 Organizational Ethics	Aug. 22	Sept. 25, 2027	5 wks	3
MBE 3010 Public Health Ethics	Sept. 26	Nov. 06, 2027	6 wks	3
MBE 3020 Clinician as the Problem	Nov. 07	Dec. 18, 2027	6 wks	3
MBE 3100 Capstone Experience	Sept. 26	Dec. 18, 2027	12 wks	3
MBE 5500 Comprehensive Final Exam	Dec 05	Dec 11, 2027	0	0
Semester II (2728 01) Ends December 18, 2027				<b>Credits</b>
				<b>Total Credits</b>
				<b>36</b>
<b>Graduation-ERIE</b>				<b>Sunday, May 28, 2028</b>
<b>Graduation-BRADENTON</b>				<b>Sunday, June 04, 2028</b>

## **APPENDIX P - LECOM BRADENTON: SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

### **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.**

CFO / Vice President of Finance

**Richard E. Ferretti, Esq.**

General Counsel, Corporate Compliance Officer and Director of Risk Management

**Julie K. Freeman, Esq.**

Assistant General Counsel

**Timothy S. Novak, DBA**

Dean, LECOM School of Health Services Administration

**Debra Horne**

Director of Student Affairs

**Dan Welch, M.L.S.**

Institutional Director of the Learning Resource Center/IT

**Aaron E. Susmarski, J.D.**

Institutional Director of Human Resources

Institutional Title IX Coordinator

**Helen R. McKenzie**

Executive Assistant to the President/CEO

**Kathleen Spinazzola**

Administrative Assistant to the Office of the Provost

### **EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

**Mathew J. Bateman, Ph.D., D.H.Ed.**

Assistant Provost of Institutional Effectiveness

**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)

**OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Debra A. Horne**

Director of Student Affairs

**Katlyn Jackson**

Admissions Representative

**Christine Kramer**

Admissions Representative

**Cynthia Galang**

Admissions Representative

**Betty Brucee**

Receptionist /Admissions Representative

**Office of Financial Aid**

**Erin Barone**

Interim Director of Financial

**Kyle Armstrong**

Assistant Director of Financial Aid

**Carlos Rivera**

Assistant Director of Financial Aid

**Clarice Denney**

Financial Aid Counselor

**Lauren Caso**

Financial Aid Counselor

**Luke Wess**

Financial Aid Counselor

**Office of the Registrar**

**Thomas Camillo**

Registrar

**Angela Llanos**

Registrar

## **PURCHASING**

**Nazneen I. Krol, B.S.**  
Institutional Director of Purchasing

**Marcie Head**  
Assistant Director of Purchasing

**Cindy Ingaldi**  
Purchasing and Bookstore Assistant

## **MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**Justin Jarrett**  
Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)  
Institutional Director of Network Operations

**Mark Badaracco**  
Information Systems Manger

**Jesi Bartlett**  
Student Information Systems Coordinator

**Andre Torres**  
Senior Software and Database Developer

**Andrew Fulton**  
Student Information System Technician

**Joshua Bogden**  
Network Operations Coordinator

**Will McKee**  
Network Operations Coordinator

**Kyle Price**  
Network Administrator

**Harrison DeVore**  
Cybersecurity Compliance Technician

**Christopher Desser**  
Clinical Network and Digital Signage  
Technician (MAE)

**Jonathan Nielson**  
Enterprise Services Manager

**Collin Potter**  
Enterprise Services Technician

**Russell D. Bidwell**  
Audio Visual Team Lead

**Andrew R. Jack**  
AV/IT Technician

**Cameron Lang**  
AV/IT Technician

**Alex Borisov**  
AV/IT Technician

**Michelle Melendez**  
AV/IT Technician

**Brandon Crane**  
AV/IT Technician

**Brandon Gerst**  
AV/IT Technician

**James Hanlon**

**Branden Darly**

IT Services Manager

**Tim McDonald**  
IT Service Manager

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

**Susan K. Williard**  
Accounting Supervisor

**Jennifer M. Cass**  
Payroll Specialist / Staff Accountant

**Justin R. Barns**  
Accounts Payable Specialist

**Mary Ann Hess**  
Business Office Assistant/Accounts Payable

**Brenda Learn, MBA**  
Financial Analyst Director

**Amy Majczyk**  
Bursar

**Breanne Flanagan**  
Student Billing Assistant

**Beth Sivak**  
Grant Accountant

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**

**MSGR. David A. Rubino Ph.D.**  
Vice President of External Affairs

**Rebecca DeSimone, Esquire**  
Chief Writer/Editor-in-Chief

**Adam Ladaika**  
Institutional Director of Communications and Marketing

**Christopher Nick**  
Communications Specialist

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Aaron E. Susmarski, J.D.**  
Institutional Director of Human Resources

**Wendy L. Grafius**  
Talent Management Specialist

**Christopher Workman, SHRM-CP**  
Human Resource Generalist

**Wendy Young, MSOL**

**Kathleen J. States, MSHRD, SHRM-CP**  
Associate Director of Human Resources

**Allison Wakley, M.S.Ed.**  
Human Resource Generalist and Recruitment Specialist

**Robert Wood, SPHR**  
Human Resource and Payroll Coordinator

Human Resource Assistant

### **Management and Support Staff**

**Joseph Tolomeo**  
Operations Supervisor

**Michael Arrigo**  
Food Services Manager

**Delbert Briley**  
Skilled Maintenance

**Jeffrey Shores**  
Skilled Maintenance

**Chad Carrier**  
Director of Security – LECOM Florida

**Jack Hines, JR.**  
Director of Security

**Leothus C. Jackson, Jr.**  
Lead Security Officer

### **MHSA, MSBE, MPH, MS MCT AND DHA ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Leadership and Integrity**

The Program Directors are under the leadership of and directly report to the Dean of the LECOM SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION or the Dean's Designee. The Dean reports to the Provost, Senior Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs who reports to the President/CEO of LECOM. These lines of command assure that the MHSA, MSBE, MPH, MS MCT and DHA programs will be under the direct supervision of top administrators of LECOM to secure the quality and integrity of the program. The Program Directors will be evaluated by the Dean and the Provost.

The Administration of the Program will ensure that the students and faculties operate within the policy of academic standards approved by LECOM and will ensure that the facilities, equipment, and supplies freedom and are sufficient to support Program quality and achieve its mission, goals and objectives.

#### **Relationships with other Academic Units**

The Directors and the Dean collaborate with the Deans of the Medical College, Schools of Pharmacy, Podiatry, Graduate Studies and Dental Medicine, and any other program to ensure that the MHSA, MSBE, MPH, MS MCT and DHA programs respond to the curricular, research and managerial needs of students concurrently enrolled in these programs. Faculty members from those professional programs may participate as adjunct faculty in the MHSA, MSBE, MPH, MS MCT and DHA programs.

#### **Dean**

**Timothy S. Novak, D.B.A., M.S.A.**  
Dean, LECOM School of Health Services Administration

Associate Professor, Health Services Management  
Instructor of Health Care Management, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

### **Program Directors & Staff**

#### **Bonnie Brown, Ph.D., M.Ed.**

Director, Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE)  
Director, Masters in Public Health (MPH)  
Associate Professor of Health Services Management

#### **Donald Henderson, DHA, M.A., FACHE**

Director, Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA)  
Assistant Professor of Health Services Management

#### **Sabrina Fayaz, M.S.**

Director, Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT)  
Assistant Professor of Health Services Management

#### **Natalie D. Novak, D.H.A., M.S.B.E.**

Director, Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA)  
Assistant Professor of Health Services Management

#### **Diana Hohman**

Administrative Assistant and Presentation Specialist  
LECOM School of Health Services Administration

### **LECOM School of Health Services Administration Faculty**

The LECOM SHSA recruits and chooses faculty according to the degrees, knowledge and experience that assures qualification to deliver course curriculum. Course directors are required to prepare the content of each course to fulfill Program competency requirements and have teaching, assessment, advising, research, and community service responsibilities.

The Administration of the Program will provide time and support for faculty training, faculty research and faculty community service. Student evaluations of the faculty, as well as the evaluation by the Program's administration will be taken into consideration for academic retention and promotion.

### **School of Health Services Administration Faculty Listing**

#### **Paige Alitz, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

Ph.D., in Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida, Tampa Florida  
M.P.H., in Epidemiology, University of South Florida, Tampa Florida  
B.A., in International Studies; Global Health, University of Iowa

#### **Pamela Coudreit Arroyo, M.S.**

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