



FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Policy on Removal or Restriction of Students on Clinical Education or Fieldwork Placements

This policy aims to give guidance for early termination of a clinical placement for reasons of:

1. Concern about student performance
2. Concern about issues related to student workload or requirements for participation in the organization.

1. Student performance

If a clinical educator is not satisfied that a student is competent to perform an allotted task or the student does not, or cannot conduct themselves in a safe or professional manner, then the clinical educator may, acting reasonably, do any or all of the following:

- a) restrict access by the student to patients or clients
- b) direct the student to leave the clinical premises
- c) take reasonable steps to ensure the student has complied with any of the above directions.

If the clinical educator decides to take action then they must, if practical to do so, first notify the relevant University Clinical Academic 24 hours in advance of the intention to do so and the reasons why. In every case, the educator must notify the Clinical Academic in writing of any action taken and the reasons why, no later than 48 hours after the action has been taken.

If the University clinical academic disagrees with a clinical educator's decision, then the Clinical Academic may notify the educator of the disagreement and the reasons for it. The educator may agree to reconsider the decision on the basis of the Clinical Academic's decision. However, the University acknowledges that the final decision is the clinical educators.

The student must comply with the Clinical Educator's request and notify the Clinical Academic within 24 hours of their removal or restriction on clinical placement. The Clinical Academic will provide advice to the student regarding support services that are available to them.

Allocation of grades for students who are refused permission to continue clinical education or fieldwork placements

If in the event that a student is removed from a clinical education or fieldwork placement as a result of unprofessional an/or unsafe behaviour the student will normally be awarded a Fail grade for that unit of study, unless there are grounds for special consideration.

Students removed from clinical education or fieldwork placements will be required to submit a written statement of their account of the events that took place on the placement within 7 days of removal or restriction. The University Clinical Academic may also interview the student and the clinical educator to clarify the issues.

2. Issues related to student workload or placement demands

If a student expresses concern about the workload or other demands, the Clinical Academic will, in the first instance, provide advice and support to the student with an aim to negotiate workload. If considered necessary, and with the student's agreement, the clinical academic will contact the clinical educator to discuss and clarify objectives and expectations for the placement.

If the University clinical academic disagrees with a clinical educator's decision about workload, then the Clinical Academic may notify the educator of the disagreement and the reasons for it. The educator may agree to reconsider the decision on the basis of the Clinical Academic's advice. However, the clinical academic will make the final decision as to whether the placement should continue in the interests of student wellbeing.

If the clinical academic decides to take action to cancel a placement, then they must, if practical to do so, first notify the clinical educator, 24 hours in advance of the intention to do so and the reasons why. In every case, the academic must notify the educator in writing of any action taken and the reasons why, no later than 48 hours after the action has been taken.

Allocation of grades for students when clinical education or fieldwork placements are discontinued for reasons other than student performance

The clinical academic will advise the student whether additional placement time is required to fulfill the requirements for the relevant unit of study. Where time and performance requirements have been met, a grade will be allocated. In the case of insufficient placement time, an additional placement will be organized as soon as is practical, considering placement availability and other course requirements.