	Universidad Central del Caribe	Policy #	UCC-SA-200-14-2025R1
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		Contact:	Dr. José L. Oliver-Sostre
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	Policy for the Provision of Health Care Services to Students	Last Reviewed/Update:	June 2025
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		Approval by:	Dr. Waleska Crespo

The Universidad Central del Caribe (UCC) is fully aligned with the standard that health professionals who provide medical, psychiatric, or psychological services to students must have no involvement in the academic assessment or promotion of those same students.

This institutional policy is designed to safeguard the integrity of both the therapeutic relationship and the academic evaluation process by preventing dual-role conflicts and ensuring that care is delivered in an environment of trust, privacy, and professional boundaries. In doing so, UCC affirms its commitment to ethical practice, student well-being, and impartial academic assessment.

Conflict of Interest and Dual Relationships

Faculty members and resident physicians who have direct responsibility for assessing student performance are prohibited from evaluating students to whom they have provided health or counseling services. This policy is grounded in ethical and professional standards that recognize the risks of dual relationships:

- A student-patient may feel discouraged from disclosing sensitive information (e.g., substance use, mental health concerns) if the healthcare provider is also responsible for academic grading or promotion decisions.
- Faculty or resident evaluators, despite good intentions, may have their assessments inadvertently influenced positively or negatively by knowledge of the student through a therapeutic relationship.

In cases of pre-existing physician–student relationships, the provider must proactively inform the student of the potential dual-role conflict and commit to recusing themselves from any academic assessment or evaluation of that student.

Exceptions in Emergent Situations

In emergency circumstances or when no appropriate referral is immediately available, students may receive care from faculty or residents. Even under these conditions, the provider must explain the nature of the dual relationship to the student and confirm that they will abstain from participating in any academic assessment or decision-making involving the student.

Role of the Office of the Licensed Professional Counselor

The Office of the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) serves as the primary student support unit responsible for managing and facilitating student access to mental health and medical services. As a rule, the Office does not refer students to any provider affiliated with UCC faculty who is involved in student assessment, academic progress decisions, or promotion processes.

Should a student specifically request a referral to a provider who may hold a faculty position with evaluative authority, the LPC will ensure that:

- The student is fully informed of the potential conflict of interest,
- The decision is made voluntarily, and
- Proper documentation is maintained reflecting the students' informed consent.

Communication and Access to Services

Students are informed about available medical and counseling services through multiple structured and ongoing methods:

- Orientation Activities: During matriculation, all incoming students receive detailed information about available medical and counseling services, both on campus and in affiliated nearby facilities. This information is coordinated and disseminated by the Dean of Students and the counseling services staff.
- Insurance Provider Directory: Students enrolled in the university-sponsored health insurance plan are provided with a directory of approved healthcare providers and a summary of coverage benefits for reference.
- Active Referral Process: The Dean of Students, in collaboration with the Licensed Professional Counselors, coordinates individualized referrals to external healthcare providers as needed.

Commitment to Student Well-being and Professional Ethics

These procedures are designed to ensure that all students have unobstructed and confidential access to medical and mental health services while upholding the highest standards of professional integrity and ethical boundaries. The UCC remains committed to providing a safe, supportive, and unbiased environment for its students, one in which their well-being and academic success are prioritized without compromise.

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Date:	August 9, 2011
Approved Date:	August 9, 2011
Reviewed by:	Dr. Jose Luis Oliver-Sostre Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs

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Dr. José L. Oliver-Sostre
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7/10/2025
Date

Approved by:

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7/11/2025
Date

Universidad Central del Caribe
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