



STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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Effective Date: 15 December 2024

Review Date: 15 December 2027 (or earlier if required)

Policy Owner: Dean's Office

Responsible Offices: Dean's Office, Registrar, Directorate of Students' Welfare, Academic and program Office, and the Career Guidance office.

Applies to: All enrolled university students

1. Preamble

Africa Health Sciences University (AHSU) is committed to fostering a learning environment that upholds the dignity, safety, and academic freedom of all students. This document outlines the fundamental rights afforded to every student enrolled at AHSU, as well as the responsibilities each student assumes as a member of this academic community.

These provisions are grounded in the values of excellence, integrity, equity, and compassionate service, the cornerstones upon which AHSU was established. All students, faculty, and staff are expected to uphold these standards in the pursuit of transformative health sciences education.

PART I: STUDENT RIGHTS

2. Right to Quality Education

Every student enrolled at AHSU has the right to receive quality education and training consistent with the university's academic standards and mission.

- Access to qualified, competent, and professionally trained academic and clinical instructors.
- Access to up-to-date learning resources, library facilities, simulation laboratories, and digital platforms.
- Transparent communication regarding curriculum requirements, course objectives, and assessment criteria.
- Timely feedback on academic performance and examinations.
- Academic advising and mentorship support throughout the duration of study.

3. Right to a Safe and Inclusive Environment

AHSU is committed to maintaining a campus environment free from harassment, discrimination, and violence.

- Freedom from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, age, or sexual orientation.
- Protection against sexual harassment, bullying, intimidation, or any form of abuse.
- Access to safe and well-maintained physical facilities, including classrooms, laboratories, hostels, and recreational spaces.
- The right to raise safety concerns without fear of retaliation.
- Access to counseling, mental health, and student wellness services.

4. Right to Freedom of Expression and Association

- Freedom to express views, opinions, and academic perspectives within the bounds of respectful discourse.
- The right to form, join, or participate in recognized student associations, clubs, and societies.
- Participation in peaceful assembly and lawful demonstrations on campus.
- Freedom to publish academic and creative works in university-sanctioned forums.
- The right to student representation in university governance structures and committees.

5. Right to Due Process and Fair Treatment

All students are entitled to fair and transparent procedures in matters of academic and disciplinary concern.

- The right to be informed of any charges or allegations against them on time.
- The right to respond to accusations and present evidence in disciplinary proceedings.
- The right to appeal academic or disciplinary decisions through established channels.
- Protection against arbitrary or capricious academic evaluation.
- Access to legal or student representation during formal disciplinary hearings.

6. Right to Privacy and Confidentiality

- Protection of personal data and academic records in accordance with applicable data protection laws.
- Confidential handling of health, financial, and personal information shared with university offices.
- The right to access personal academic records maintained by the university.
- Privacy in student accommodation in accordance with AHSU housing policies.

7. Right to Student Support Services

- Access to financial aid information, scholarships, and bursary opportunities.
- Career guidance, placement support, and professional development programs.
- Disability accommodations and support for students with special needs.
- Access to health and clinical services on campus.
- Support for international students, including visa guidance and orientation programs.

PART II: STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

8. Academic Responsibilities

Students are expected to engage seriously and honestly in all aspects of their academic work.

- Attend all scheduled lectures, clinical rotations, seminars, and practical sessions unless otherwise excused.
- Complete all assignments, coursework, and examinations with integrity and in accordance with prescribed deadlines.
- Maintain academic honesty and refrain from plagiarism, cheating, fabrication of data, or any form of academic misconduct.
- Adhere to professional and ethical standards in all clinical and research activities.
- Take responsibility for monitoring academic progress and seeking assistance when needed.

9. Responsibilities Toward the University Community

- Treat fellow students, faculty, staff, and visitors with dignity, courtesy, and respect at all times.
- Refrain from conduct that disrupts learning, teaching, or university operations.
- Report incidents of misconduct, harassment, or violations of university policy through appropriate channels.
- Contribute positively to the university's culture of diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect.
- Act as responsible ambassadors for AHSU in clinical placements, community programs, and external settings.

10. Responsibilities Toward University Property and Facilities

- Use university facilities, equipment, and resources responsibly and for authorized purposes only.
- Report damage, hazards, or malfunctions in university facilities to the appropriate office promptly.
- Refrain from defacing, vandalizing, or destroying university property.
- Comply with all policies related to laboratory safety, waste management, and infection control.
- Return borrowed materials, equipment, and resources within designated timelines.

11. Compliance with University Rules and Applicable Laws

- Abide by all AHSU policies, regulations, codes of conduct, and any applicable national laws.
- Obtain prior approval for any activities or events organized in the name of the university.
- Comply with policies governing use of social media, digital platforms, and communication tools.
- Refrain from possessing, distributing, or consuming illegal substances on university premises.
- Comply with dress code, identification requirements, and security protocols on campus.

12. Professional and Ethical Conduct

As future health professionals, students at AHSU carry a heightened duty of professional conduct.

- Maintain patient confidentiality and uphold ethical standards in all clinical environments.
- Demonstrate compassion, empathy, and cultural sensitivity in all patient interactions.
- Uphold the principles of evidence-based practice and patient safety at all times.
- Refrain from unauthorized medical procedures or clinical activities beyond their training level.
- Report any situations that may compromise patient safety or professional integrity.

PART III: BREACH OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES

13. Disciplinary Procedures

Violations of student responsibilities may result in disciplinary action. The university is committed to due process and fairness in all disciplinary proceedings.

- Minor infractions may be handled through informal resolution, counseling, or a formal warning.
- Serious violations will be referred to the Student Disciplinary Committee for a formal hearing.
- Possible sanctions include written warnings, suspension, academic penalties, or expulsion.
- All proceedings will be conducted in accordance with AHSU's Student Disciplinary Policy.

14. Appeals Process

A student who has been subject to a disciplinary decision has the right to appeal within fourteen (14) days of receiving written notification of the decision. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Registrar and will be reviewed by the Student Appeals Committee.

PART IV: AMENDMENTS AND REVIEW

This document shall be reviewed at a minimum every three years or earlier if circumstances require. Proposed amendments must be approved by the University Academic Board and the Student Representative Council. Students will be notified of any changes through official communication channels.

15. University approval signatures

Names	Role	Signature	Date
Dr. Belise Uwurukundo	Registrar		December 2, 2024
Dr Edgar Kalimba	Dean of the School of Medicine		December 2, 2024
Dr. Kara Neil	Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic and Research Affairs		December 2, 2024
Dr. Zerihun Abebe	Ag. Vice Chancellor	 	December 10, 2024