Naturopathic Medical Student Bill of Rights
A Concise Statement of Naturopathic Medical Students’ Rights and Responsibilities*

NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

1. Receive high-quality training in an institution committed to their mentoring and education, which will prepare them to become competent, compassionate and ethical physicians.
2. Have meaningful and significant representation at their individual institutions, as well as in state/provincial, national, and international organizations on matters concerning all aspects of their training, including but not limited to shaping the content of their education.
3. Learn in a safe and humane environment where education is the primary goal, without compromising patient care, and where information about student opinions, beliefs, political ideation, and/or sexual orientation that instructors acquire in the course of their work or otherwise, are to be considered confidential and not released without the knowledge or consent of the student, and should not be used as a basis of evaluation.
4. Full access to amenities needed to complete their medical training required by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME).
5. An adequate testing environment with appropriate accommodations.
6. Take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion.
7. Fair and simple federal student loan repayment systems that alleviate the financial burden of student loan debt.
8. Participate in loan forgiveness programs at both state/provincial and federal levels.
9. Access to and participation in preceptorships and residencies with experienced, licensed physicians who are practicing the full extent of their licensed scope without government, academic, insurance, or industry discrimination.
10. Residency and post-doctorate research opportunities that provide a livable wage and training in accordance with their level of education.
11. Expect a reasonably competitive job market that provides access to monetary income congruent with their level of training.
12. Be informed of their institutions’ policies and procedures pertaining to promotion, graduation and student well-being.
13. Take a leave-of-absence for personal reasons (e.g., gender-neutral child and family leave, illness, career development opportunities, etc.) without fear of retribution, dismissal or retribution.
14. Access confidential, timely and appropriate health care and/or support systems in the event of personal and/or health-related difficulties.

*Adapted from the AMSA Student Bill of Rights.
15. Expect confidential, timely and fair systems for evaluation/feedback regarding academic and clinical performance and to address individual and/or systemic grievances without fear of recrimination, dismissal or retribution.

16. Expect due process at their home institution with fair representation in hearings, mediations and appeals, including but not limited to protection through orderly procedures against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation.

17. Complete their education and training (if in good standing) and to continue their medical education in the event that their home institution ceases to operate.

18. Decline or object to participate in a medical/surgical procedure based on moral, ethical or religious convictions without penalization. Such refusal to participate shall not be based on a patient’s race, age, religion, sex, disability, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and/or sexual orientation.

NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL STUDENTS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO:

1. Learn, integrate, practice and preserve the core principles and philosophies of naturopathic medicine.
2. Commit themselves to the conscientious, respectful and thoughtful service of their patients.
3. Maintain standards of academic performance established by their institution and for each course in which they are enrolled.
4. Conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner.
5. Notify the appropriate body in a timely manner of any problems that adversely affect their training, and to participate in the process of program improvement and development.
6. Advocate for the naturopathic medical profession and holistic healthcare in general.
7. Pursue spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical support for any conditions that might compromise their educational goals or patient care.
8. Embody the medicine that they will provide clinically.

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