

The University of Oklahoma
Health Sciences Center
College of Medicine

POLICY

Area: Student Affairs

Number: 322

Title: Policy on the Interactions between Vendors and Medical Students

College of Medicine students should maintain ethical relationships with vendors. This policy parallels similar policies developed by OU Physicians and the College of Medicine Graduate Medical Education Committee. This policy applies to all College of Medicine students when they are acting within the course and scope of their role as students and future medical professionals.

For the purposes of this policy a *vendor* refers to any corporation or entity external to the University of Oklahoma which provides or may provide goods or services for administrative or clinical operations. This includes (but is not limited to): pharmaceutical organizations, home health care agencies, hospice organizations, durable medical equipment providers, laboratories, office supply organizations, consultants, etc.

- 1. Access** - To protect patients, patient care areas and work schedules, access by pharmaceutical and vendor representatives to individual medical students should be restricted to non-patient care areas and nonpublic areas and should take place only by appointment or invitation of the supervising physician.
- 2. Educational Programs** - Presentations, educational programs, and training by industry representatives can provide useful scientific information and training to medical students. Medical students may attend such presentations and programs only if they are found to be acceptable by the supervising faculty or appropriate clinic director. This does not include presentations that are mainly intended to market the vendor's drugs, materials, or services. Gifts and meals provided in conjunction with educational programs will not be accepted (except as noted in #7 below).
- 3. Support of Non-OUHSC Medical Education Programs** –Financial assistance from vendors to support medical student attendance at carefully selected educational conferences is permitted only as unrestricted grants to the College of Medicine. Decisions regarding student participation at such programs rests with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs (OKC) or

Associate Dean for Student Services (Tulsa). Financial assistance and/or reimbursements may not be paid by vendor directly to the student.

4. **Gifts** – No gifts shall be accepted from vendors. This includes books, reference manuals, training materials, or promotional objects (such as pens, mugs, or notepads), meals, and recreational activities. Cash or cash equivalents, such as gift certificates, stocks, bonds, or frequent – flyer miles of any amount may not be accepted.
5. **Samples and Other Clinical Items** - Medical students may not accept drug samples or other patient care products from vendors.
6. **Recreational Activities** – Attendance at industry-provided recreational or entertainment activities is prohibited.
7. **Food and Meals** - Meals and snacks provided by or paid directly by a vendor may not be accepted by medical students. Modest meals or snacks provided as part of a formal educational program, such as a CME approved program, may be accepted only if any industry support for the program has been in the form of unrestricted grants. If in doubt students should ask their course director or appropriate faculty supervisor. Vendor-supported meals may not be provided “off-site” or independent of these approved educational activities.
8. **Research** - Industry support for student research activities and other potential sources of conflict-of-interest are governed by existing policies of the University of Oklahoma.