



AVICENNA

Batumi Medical University

Approved

*By Annex No. 10 to the Minutes No. 01-03/01
of the General Meeting of Partners of
LLC "Avicenna – Batumi Medical University"
dated 21 July 2022*

Codified

*By Joint Order of the Rector and the Director of
LLC "Avicenna – Batumi Medical University"
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Annex No. 5*

Avicenna – Batumi Medical University

The Student Code of Ethics

2025

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Record of Amendments

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Article 1. Scope of Regulation

1.1. The Student Code of Ethics (hereinafter referred to as the “Code”) defines the ethical values of students of the higher education institution — LLC “Avicenna – Batumi Medical University” (hereinafter referred to as “Avicenna” or the “University”), regulates the general rules of student conduct within the University and those related to the organization of the educational process, identifies instances of unethical and impermissible conduct, and establishes procedures for the elimination of ethical violations and for responding to such violations. The Code further determines cases of student disciplinary liability, the procedures for the initiation, consideration, and resolution of disciplinary matters, as well as applicable disciplinary sanctions. In addition, it establishes internal mechanisms for the protection and facilitation of the realization of students’ rights and for the appeal of decisions adopted in relation to students.

1.2. The purpose of the Code is to present the University’s values to its students, to establish high ethical standards of conduct, and to create and maintain a healthy educational environment.

1.3. The provisions of the Code derive from and are consistent with the principles set forth in the legislation of Georgia and in the University’s legal acts.

1.4. Compliance with the provisions of the Student Code of Ethics is mandatory for all students of the University. Depending on their content, the provisions of the Code may also apply, inter alia, to students with suspended status.

1.5. For the purposes of this Code, a “student” shall mean any individual who has been admitted to a higher education program of the University in accordance with the legislation of Georgia and the University’s legal acts.

1.6. Any individual enrolled in the University’s residency, postgraduate professional training, or continuing professional development programs shall be subject to the provisions of this Code for the duration of their enrollment in such programs

1.7. The provisions of the Code of Ethics that restrict student conduct are legitimate only insofar as such restrictions are directly related to the proper and uninterrupted conduct of the educational process in accordance with the standards established by the relevant academic program.

1.8. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Code shall result in liability as determined by this Code and the University’s legal acts.

Article 2. Principle of Equality before the Provisions of the Code

2.1. Student disciplinary liability may be imposed solely for violations exhaustively defined by this Code.

2.2. All students of the University are entitled to equally enjoy the rights granted to them under the legislation of Georgia, the University Charter, and other regulatory acts of the University..

2.3. Any discrimination against, or intolerant treatment of, another person is prohibited on any grounds, including but not limited to race, skin color, language, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, belief, worldview, political or other opinion, membership in a political association, disability, citizenship, national or cultural affiliation, ethnic or social origin, descent, family, property or social status, place of residence, health status, lifestyle, place of birth, or any other characteristic.

Article 3. Student Rights

3.1. The rights of a student include the right to:

- a) receive quality education in accordance with the educational program approved by the University;
- b) participate in scientific research within the framework of the educational program;
- c) under equal conditions and in compliance with the rules established by the University, make use of the University's material and technical facilities, library, information, and other resources;
- d) elect and be elected to student self-government bodies on the basis of universal, direct, and equal suffrage by secret ballot, in accordance with established procedures;
- e) serve as a representative of student self-government on the School Council;
- f) establish and/or join a student association in accordance with their interests;
- g) freely express their own opinion and reasonably refuse to share ideas proposed during the educational process;
- h) exercise the right to academic mobility and transfer to another higher education institution starting from the second year of study, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia;
- i) receive scholarships, financial or material assistance, or other benefits from the University, the State, or other sources, in accordance with the rules established by the relevant donor;
- j) choose components of the educational program in compliance with the conditions and prerequisites stipulated by the program;
- k) participate in the development of an individual educational program;
- l) periodically evaluate the performance of academic staff;
- m) exercise other rights granted to them by the legislation of Georgia and the University's legal acts.

3.2. Restrictions on student rights shall be permissible only in the cases provided for by the Law of Georgia on Higher Education and upon the entry into legal force of a final conviction rendered by a court in respect of the student.

Article 4. Student Obligations

4.1. The obligations of a student include the obligation to:

- a) pursue and complete all courses that the student has voluntarily selected and that are mandatory in accordance with the University's higher education program;
- b) comply with the University Charter, regulations, internal rules, and the Student Code of Ethics;
- c) fulfill the requirements of the student contract concluded between the student and the University.

4.2. A student shall be familiar with, share, and strictly comply with the provisions, values, and principles set forth in the University Charter, regulations, legal acts governing the educational process, and this Code of Ethics.

4.3. A student shall respect their own life and health, as well as the life, health, dignity, and personal property and non-property rights of others; shall respect the name, honor, and business reputation of the University; and shall exercise due care in relation to the University's property.

4.4. A student shall respect the right of other students to education and the integrity and inviolability of the educational process.

Article 5. Ethical Values of University Students

5.1. The universal ethical values of University students include:

- a) **Integrity** – the conscientious pursuit of one's educational process in compliance with the requirements of the relevant educational program, through the appropriate use of time, resources, attention, and due diligence;
- b) **Informedness** – possession, understanding, and objective interpretation of information related to student status, rights and obligations, as well as the requirements of the educational program;
- c) **Professionalism** – fulfillment of the requirements established by the relevant educational program.
- d) **Academic Integrity** – which implies objectivity in the assessment and self-assessment of learning outcomes and the prohibition of violating the rules governing the educational process, exerting pressure on evaluators, or otherwise influencing assessment in order to obtain a higher grade;
- e) **Recognition of the Principle of Pluralism of Ideas** – which implies the obligation to respect the reasoned refusal of others to adopt proposed ideas, as well as respect for the right of academic staff to conduct courses within the framework of theories possessing appropriate scientific validity;
- f) **Respect for the Organization** – which implies the prohibition of making positive or negative comparisons of the University, its staff, or its students with those of other higher

education institutions and vice versa, as well as refraining from disseminating false or unverified information that may damage the reputation of the University, its staff, or its students;

g) Observance of Professional Boundaries in Communication – which implies communication with the University’s academic staff and employees in a manner appropriate to the academic environment and prohibits transferring such communication into informal or academically inappropriate formats, including communication outside the University campus and/or beyond the official communication channels of the learning management system, such as via social media or other means;

h) Maintenance of Objectivity – which implies objective acceptance of one’s own assessment results and the exclusion of any influence aimed at obtaining a higher evaluation;

i) Compliance with Universal Principles of Research Integrity – which implies proper recognition of authorship, adherence to citation rules, and the application of appropriate research methodologies, data processing standards, and rules for the presentation of information in one’s research activities;

j) Protection of Patient Rights and Best Interests – which implies strict observance, by individuals interacting with patients within the educational process, of patients’ rights as defined by legislation, including informed consent, acting in accordance with patients’ best interests, ensuring safety, and protecting personal data;

k) Neutrality – which implies refraining from political propaganda, religious proselytism, and imposing one’s individual philosophical beliefs on others;

l) Respect for Universal Human Rights and Freedoms – which implies acting in accordance with values established in a democratic society and recognizing the primacy of universal human rights in one’s activities;

m) Prohibition of Harassment – which implies the inadmissibility of any unwanted conduct toward a student, a University employee, or a third party that aims at or results in the violation of dignity or the creation of an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment;

n) Respect for the Work of Others – which implies the prohibition of obstructing or interfering with the work performed by University employees and presenting the results of other students’ work as one’s own;

o) Principle of Care for the Organization’s Reputation – which implies the obligation to share and act in accordance with the University’s mission, vision, and core values, and to refrain from actions or statements that may cause reputational harm to the University, its staff, or its students;

p) Respect for and Protection of Confidential Information – which implies the prohibition of intentional or negligent disclosure, or creation of a risk of disclosure, of personal data, objects of intellectual property belonging to others, or other confidential information to unauthorized persons;

- q) **Respect for a Safe and Healthy Working Environment** – which implies recognition and observance of established safety and hygiene rules within the University;
- r) **Respect for Academic Appearance and Image** – which implies that a student’s external appearance, attire, manner of communication, and other forms of expression comply with standards appropriate to the academic community;
- s) **Environmental Responsibility** – which implies awareness of environmental issues in one’s activities to the extent possible, optimal use of resources, and efforts to reduce harmful impacts on the environment.

Article 6. Prohibited Student Conduct

- 6.1. Prohibited student conduct shall include any violation of prohibitions established by the University’s internal rules and/or any act defined by this Code that violates the ethical values of students set forth herein, constitutes a breach of the student’s obligations toward the University as provided for by applicable legislation, and, by its nature, requires a response by the University.
- 6.2. Response to prohibited student conduct entails the initiation of the issue of student disciplinary liability, the commencement of disciplinary proceedings, and the implementation of the procedures provided for by this Code and the University’s internal rules.
- 6.3. For the purposes of this Code, the following shall be considered prohibited conduct of a student:
- a) obstruction of the educational process;
 - b) smoking tobacco products and/or electronic cigarettes inside University buildings or outside areas specifically designated for this purpose on University premises;
 - c) bringing into and/or consuming alcoholic beverages inside University buildings or on University premises, except during events organized by the University;
 - d) bringing into, distributing, and/or using narcotic and/or psychotropic substances on University premises without duly issued authorization;
 - e) bringing into, using, or transferring to another person firearms or cold weapons on University premises;
 - f) bringing into, using, distributing, or transferring to another person explosive or flammable objects or substances on University premises;
 - g) organizing or participating in gambling activities on University premises;
 - h) demonstrative use of obscene language;
 - i) verbal abuse of another person;
 - j) violence against another person or infliction of physical harm;
 - k) exerting pressure on, threatening, intimidating, or otherwise morally coercing another person;

- l) discrimination against another person — direct or indirect harassment on the grounds of race, skin color, language, ethnic or social affiliation, nationality, origin, property or social status, place of residence, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, religious, public, political or other association membership, marital status, political or other opinion, or any other characteristic, which aims at or results in the creation of an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment, or in the creation of conditions that directly or indirectly worsen a person’s situation compared to others in similar circumstances;
- m) sexual harassment of another person — any unwanted verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature directed at another person that aims at and/or results in the violation of dignity and creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment;
- n) use of hate speech;
- o) littering of University premises;
- p) damage to University property;
- q) violation of the rules governing the use of University equipment and inventory;
- r) encroachment upon, damage to, destruction of, or any other form of unlawful interference with the property of another student;
- s) unauthorized acquisition, disclosure, or alteration of confidential information and/or information containing personal data;
- t) covert video, photo, or audio recording and/or dissemination thereof without prior consent or authorization, except for public events organized by the University;
- u) requesting, receiving, or offering gifts and/or other benefits from another person for personal purposes and/or in exchange for granting any advantage;
- v) deliberate misleading of another person;
- w) dissemination of false or unverified information about the University, its students, or its employees;
- x) failure to comply with a lawful request of an authorized person.

Article 7. Prohibited Conduct in the Educational Process

7.1. Within the educational process - during the performance of any activity provided for by any component of the academic program - the following shall be considered prohibited conduct of a student::

a) Academic fraud – which implies the performance of academic assignments in violation of the requirements established by the relevant syllabus, including but not limited to:

- a.a) copying from the work of another student;

- a.b) use of unauthorized supporting materials during examinations or assessments, where such use is not permitted by the relevant assessment format;
- a.c) use of unauthorized technical devices during examinations or assessments, where such use is not permitted by the relevant assessment format;
- a.d) preparation of an individual assignment as a group assignment or submission/presentation of an assignment prepared by one person as group work;
- a.e) falsification of research data and/or results or their deliberate misinterpretation.
- b) Plagiarism** – which implies the use, in whole or in part, of another person’s work without proper attribution of the author or source, and/or the submission or presentation of another person’s written work or any part thereof as one’s own;
- c) exerting influence on, altering, or damaging the work of another student;
- d) facilitating or assisting another student in committing academic fraud;
- e) unlawfully obtaining or attempting to obtain information from the University and/or academic staff, including examination materials;
- f) entering into an agreement with another person or attempting to do so for the purpose of obtaining information and/or influencing assessment results;
- g) obtaining, disseminating, or attempting to obtain or disseminate information related to examination materials;
- h) attempting to gain unauthorized access to the electronic learning management system for the purpose of obtaining information or influencing data contained therein;
- i) using or attempting to use another person’s identity during examinations;
- j) obstructing another student’s learning or research activities;
- k) bringing an unauthorized person into lectures or seminars without prior agreement;
- l) falsifying or attempting to falsify personal data or other data protected within the University;
- m) falsifying documents to be submitted to the University;
- n) exerting pressure on a lecturer, examiner, or University employee, either personally or through third parties, for the purpose of influencing assessment outcomes;
- o) Violation of patient rights and best interests** – which implies infringement of patients’ rights as defined by legislation, including informed consent, acting in accordance with the patient’s best interests, ensuring safety, and protecting personal data, and/or failure to comply with instructions of the supervisor of a clinical training course.

Article 8. Response to Violations of the Code of Ethics

8.1. The initiation of a response to a violation of the Code of Ethics may be undertaken by any structural unit of the University, academic staff, or any person whose rights and

lawful interests have been violated as a result of inappropriate conduct by a University student.

8.2. A submission concerning an alleged violation of the Student Code of Ethics shall be submitted to the Rector and registered with the Records Management Office. The identity of the complainant shall be protected from disclosure.

8.3. The submission concerning an alleged violation of the Student Code of Ethics shall be forwarded to the Legal Department for assessment of its compliance with the provisions of this Code.

8.4. Where, as a result of assessing the alleged violation against the provisions of this Code, indications of a breach of the Code of Ethics and/or the University's internal rules are identified, the Legal Department shall submit a memorandum to the Rector proposing the initiation of disciplinary proceedings and the issuance of a Rector's order on the establishment of a Disciplinary/Ethics Commission for the purpose of responding to the violation.

Article 9. Disciplinary (Ethics) Commission

9.1. The Disciplinary (Ethics) Commission shall be established by an order of the Rector of the University for the purpose of examining alleged violations of the ethical values defined by this Code and determining the appropriate measure of disciplinary liability to be imposed on the student found in violation.

9.2. The Disciplinary/Ethics Commission shall consist of at least three (3) members possessing the competence necessary for a comprehensive and impartial assessment of the matter under consideration. One member of the Commission shall be the Student Ombudsman, or, where the Student Ombudsman's participation in the consideration of a specific case is not possible, another student designated by the student self-government.

9.3. Members of the Commission shall be obliged to exclude any conflict of interest in relation both to the student subject to disciplinary proceedings and to the person whose rights were allegedly violated.

9.4. A conflict of interest shall be understood as the existence of familial, social, or economic ties between persons involved in the examination of the case, as well as any other circumstance that may affect, or may reasonably be perceived to affect, the impartiality of a Commission member, whether positively or negatively.

Article 10. Disciplinary Proceedings

10.1. Following the establishment of the Disciplinary/Ethics Commission, the student shall be notified of the initiation of disciplinary proceedings against them. The notification shall describe the substance of the alleged violation, with reference to the specific prohibited conduct defined by this Code, inform the student of their rights during the disciplinary proceedings, and, where applicable, indicate the time scheduled for an oral hearing before the Commission.

- 10.2.** During the conduct of disciplinary proceedings, a student shall have the right to:
- a) receive a reasoned decision in written form regarding the initiation of disciplinary proceedings against them;
 - b) be present during the consideration of the disciplinary matter;
 - c) exercise the right to defense;
 - d) submit to the University any information and evidence in their possession;
 - e) participate in the examination of evidence;
 - f) request that the disciplinary proceedings initiated against them be considered at a public hearing.
- 10.3.** Where the resolution of a matter does not require the holding of an oral hearing, or where the student does not request that the matter be considered at a public hearing, the Disciplinary Commission shall examine the materials contained in the case file and render a decision based on those materials. In such cases, the Commission shall ensure that the position and evidence submitted by the student are duly examined.
- 10.4.** A student shall be entitled to request and receive a reasonable period of time for the preparation of their position, the exercise of the right to defense, and/or the collection of evidence. In such cases, the Commission shall decide to adjourn the consideration of the case and determine the time limit for the submission of the position and/or evidence. Such decision shall be recorded in the minutes of the Commission and communicated to the participants in the disciplinary proceedings.
- 10.5.** Where an oral hearing is scheduled either by decision of the Commission or at the request of the student, all participants in the disciplinary proceedings shall be summoned to the hearing.
- 10.6.** All members of the Commission shall be required to attend the oral hearing. The failure of the student, the injured party, or any other person to appear, where such failure is not due to a valid reason known to the Commission in advance, shall not prevent the hearing from being conducted.
- 10.7.** The oral hearing shall be opened by the Chairperson of the Commission, who shall inform the attendees of the substance of the case, the position submitted by the student, and the evidence contained in the case file, and shall explain to the student their rights and the forms of disciplinary liability.
- 10.8.** Following the statement of the Chairperson of the Commission, the floor may be given, where appropriate, to the injured party or to the initiator of the disciplinary proceedings (the reporting party), who shall present their position and supporting evidence to the Commission. The burden of proof in disciplinary proceedings shall rest with the accusing party.
- 10.9.** The student shall be entitled, either personally or through a representative, to respond to the arguments of the opposing party, challenge the evidence presented, submit their own evidence, and answer questions posed by the members of the Commission.

10.10. The student shall be entitled to acknowledge the fact of a violation of the Code of Ethics. In such case, the student's admission, when supported by relevant evidence, shall constitute grounds for the imposition of a more lenient disciplinary sanction.

10.11. Following the statements of the parties, the Commission shall proceed to the evaluation of the evidence. All disputed issues and evidence shall be assessed in favor of the student.

10.12. The Commission shall be authorized to obtain and request additional information and, with the consent of the party affected by the violation of ethical norms, to hear explanations from other persons (witnesses), where the information contained in the case file is not exhaustive.

10.13. Upon completion of the examination of evidence and following the voting of the Commission members, the Chairperson of the Commission shall announce the decision of the Disciplinary Commission.

10.14. A decision in a disciplinary case initiated against a student—whether to impose a disciplinary sanction or to terminate the disciplinary proceedings—shall be adopted no later than one (1) month from the date of receipt of information regarding the alleged violation. Where the establishment of circumstances of essential significance to the case requires a longer period than that provided by law, the duration of the disciplinary proceedings may be extended, but shall not exceed three (3) months from the date of initiation of the proceedings

Article 11. Decision of the Disciplinary/Ethics Commission

11.1. The Disciplinary/Ethics Commission shall adopt one of the following decisions:

- a) to terminate the disciplinary proceedings;
- b) to impose a disciplinary sanction on the student.

11.2. A decision provided for under subparagraph (a) of the first paragraph of this Article shall be adopted where the evidence contained in the case file does not provide sufficient and conclusive proof that the student has violated the provisions of the Code of Ethics or the University's internal rules.

11.3. A decision provided for under subparagraph (b) of the first paragraph of this Article shall be adopted where the evidence contained in the case file confirms that the student has violated the provisions of the Code of Ethics and where the nature of the violation and the harm resulting therefrom justify the imposition of a disciplinary sanction on the student.

11.4. A decision of the Disciplinary/Ethics Commission on a violation of the rules of conduct established by the Code of Ethics and/or the University's internal rules and on the imposition of a disciplinary sanction shall be adopted unanimously.

11.5. The decision of the Disciplinary Commission shall be submitted to the Rector of the University, who shall issue the relevant legal act.

11.6. The student shall have the right to challenge the decision adopted by the University in respect of them before a court.

Article 12. Interpretations and Recommendations of the Disciplinary/Ethics Commission

12.1. In addition to assessing a specific matter, the Disciplinary Commission shall be authorized to develop interpretations of the ethical obligations defined by the Student Code of Ethics, which comprehensively delineate the boundaries of ethical and unethical conduct in relation to specific ethical values, as well as recommendations illustrating examples of conduct derived from the ethical values established by this Code.

12.2. The interpretations and recommendations of the Ethics Commission may, in a generalized form (without any data identifying the violator, participants, or the injured party) be communicated to other members of the University community. The decision on the disclosure of the Ethics Commission's interpretations and recommendations shall be made by the Rector of the University..

Article 13. Involvement of Other Authorities in the Examination of a Violation

13.1. Where the evidence contained in a case gives rise to reasonable suspicion that a student's conduct may constitute an administrative offense or a criminal offense, the Chairperson of the Disciplinary/Ethics Commission shall apply to the Rector of the University for the initiation of an inquiry in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Article 14. Disciplinary Sanctions

14.1. For violations of the rules of student conduct, the following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed:

- a) Reprimand (valid for a period of 1 month from the date of imposition);
- b) Warning (valid for a period of 3 months from the date of imposition);
- c) Termination of student status.

14.2. A written reprimand or warning shall be imposed taking into account the nature and significance of the violation of the Code of Ethics and the harm caused.

14.3. The disciplinary sanction of reprimand shall be imposed for a minor disciplinary violation and without initiating disciplinary proceedings, provided that the student acknowledges the committed violation in a written statement/explanation submitted before the Commission.

14.4. The imposition of two or more disciplinary sanctions for a single disciplinary violation is prohibited.

14.5. If no new disciplinary sanction is imposed on the student during the validity period of a disciplinary sanction, the student shall be deemed to have no disciplinary record.

14.6. A disciplinary violation shall be considered repeated where, after the imposition of a disciplinary sanction, the student commits a violation of the same nature or a different type. Where a student commits a repeated disciplinary violation while the sanction imposed for the previous violation has not been expunged (i.e., its validity period has not expired), a more severe disciplinary sanction shall be imposed. In the case of a less serious violation, the same or a more lenient sanction may be applied.

14.7. Termination of student status, as the most severe disciplinary measure, shall be applied in cases of a particularly serious violation or recidivism and entails the termination of the individual's student status, after which the student shall no longer be entitled to complete the remaining components of the academic program and shall be required to transfer to another higher education institution.

Article 15. Additional Instruments for Responding to Disciplinary Violations

15.1. In parallel with the disciplinary liability provided for under Article 14 of this Code, the University shall be authorized to apply the following additional instruments for responding to a disciplinary violation:

- a) **Restriction of the right to enjoy University-defined privileges/benefits** (where applicable), including scholarships, the right to participate in exchange programs, and other benefits — for a period ranging from six (6) months to one (1) year;
- b) **Annulment of the assessment of a course component and/or the overall course assessment** — applied in cases of prohibited conduct within the educational process and in accordance with the nature of the violation, which entails the annulment of the assessment of the course component in which the violation occurred or the assignment of a failing grade for the entire course;
- c) **Compensation for damage caused** — which may be applied as an additional measure in cases where the violation has resulted in material damage to the University or to other persons. Compensation for damage shall be effected in accordance with the procedure established by the Civil Code of Georgia.

Article 16. Final Provisions

16.1. In accordance with the University Charter, the initial edition of the Student Code of Ethics was adopted and approved by the General Meeting of the University's Partners and shall enter into force upon approval.

16.2. The approval of the revised edition of the Student Code of Ethics, as well as any amendments and additions thereto, shall be ensured by the Rector of the University..