



Student Code of Conduct

VCMT has a responsibility to follow up and act upon practices which undermine student, staff, and patient safety and security, including cases of alleged student misconduct.

This section lays out VCMT's **Student Code of Conduct** and associated Prohibited Conduct - behaviours expressly prohibited by VCMT - and provides a framework for resolving any misconduct by students.

Lack of awareness does not excuse students from accepting responsibility for their actions. Students are expected to be familiar with and to conduct themselves in accordance with this policy.

SCOPE

The VCMT **Student Code of Conduct** applies to student conduct that takes place within the following environments:

- Classes taking place on VCMT property or off-site on VCMT field trips;
- Outreach activities or any other initiatives that are part of the Massage Therapy Program or course of studies regardless of where they take place;
- Meetings or conferences initiated through or representing VCMT; and
- Activities related to VCMT committees, clubs, councils or associations.

Additionally, VCMT reserves the right to respond to alleged violations of this policy that occur outside the scope outlined above to the degree that the incident:

- Negatively affects one or more VCMT students, faculty or staff
- Occurred through connections or relationships created at VCMT

POLICY STATEMENT

Students have the right to express their views freely so long as those expressions support the rights of others to study and work in a community free from discrimination and harassment. Students are expected to uphold the law, and to maintain the safety and well-being of a VCMT community that includes students, staff, faculty, management and patients. As members of a high-achieving educational community, one that leads to a career in healthcare, students are expected to adopt behaviours in keeping with the educational and professional goals of VCMT, complying with the directions of VCMT's staff and representatives in the fulfilment of their duties. Students are expected to behave responsibly and to avoid engaging in Prohibited Conduct as outlined below.

Upon enrolment, students accept responsibility for regulating their conduct, including:

- Complying with federal, provincial, and municipal laws and regulations;
- Conducting themselves in a manner consistent with the Code of Ethics of the College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC (CCHPBC);
- Complying with all VCMT policies, protocols and procedures;
- Respecting the rights of other members of the campus community, including students, staff, faculty and visitors to VCMT as well as patients of the Mend;
- Demonstrating high levels of personal integrity and professionalism in their college responsibilities;
- Complying with the directions of all VCMT employees in the proper performance of their duties;
- Refraining from making allegations or complaints against other members of VCMT's community that are deemed to be false, frivolous, vexatious or in bad faith;
- Refraining from retaliating against individuals for participating in proceedings under this policy;
- Demonstrating respect for persons and property at all times.

Students against whom another member of the VCMT community files a formal complaint alleging contravention of VCMT's Code of Conduct will be investigated via VCMT's [Investigative Process](#)



and have the right to appeal the decision arising from the Investigative Process via VCMT's [Student Appeals Process](#).

In this section, VCMT Administration refers to VCMT's Senior Administrator or Program Director.

DEFINITIONS OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Prohibited Conduct includes, but is not limited to:

Academic Dishonesty

As detailed in the [Academic Dishonesty Policy](#) (see Appendix 5), Academic Dishonesty, including Cheating and Plagiarism, is prohibited conduct.

Breach of Student Electronic Use Policy

A breach of the [Student Electronic Use Policy](#), including electronic Cheating and Plagiarism, is prohibited conduct.

Harassment

Engaging in conduct that is known or might reasonably be known to be unwelcome/unwanted, offensive, intimidating, hostile, derogatory or inappropriate. Depending on its severity, a single action may constitute harassment. Harassment may be defined, but is not limited to:

Sexual Harassment (See Appendix 6 for full [Sexual Misconduct Policy](#))

Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including unwelcome sexual advances – whether they involve physical touching or not - inappropriate sexual comments or requests, and other verbal, nonverbal, graphic, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Racial/Ethnic/Cultural/Identity Harassment

Demeaning remarks or gestures based on race, ethnic origin, identity or cultural differences, jokes about race, ethnic origin, identity or cultural differences, inappropriate displays of racial stereotypes, racial/ethnic/cultural/identity slurs, and/or unwanted questions or comments of a racial/ethnic/cultural/identity nature.

Character Harassment

Malicious communication that is known to be false, intentionally misleading and/or derogatory about other members of the VCMT community

NOTE

While harassment of any type is contrary to the values and policies of VCMT, the College does recognize that energetic debate not specifically intended to harass may still cause discomfort or concern to others in the community, while falling within the definition of free speech. VCMT will encourage and assist students to resolve such situations through informal means.

Violence, Threats, and Intimidation

Aggressive or intimidating communication or physical behaviour that leads to or threatens bodily and/or emotional harm.

Abusive Communication

Verbal or written abuse of other students, VCMT faculty, employees or patients of the college. This would include unwelcome words or images received or distributed in person or by telephone, letter, electronic mail or any communication medium including social media that intimidates, disparages or causes humiliation, offence or embarrassment to a person.



Compromising the Safety of Others

Creating or contributing to conditions that unnecessarily endanger the health, safety, and/or security of others.

Use of Alcohol or Drugs

Possession, use, or sale of alcohol, narcotics, prescription drugs, or other controlled substances in contravention of applicable laws and/or statutes.

Possession and/or use of alcohol and/or recreational (non-medical) drugs which result in the student participating in a VCMT-related educational activity while impaired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Medical use of a drug which results in the student working with a patient while impaired or under the influence of the drug.

Damage to Property

Creating or contributing, intentionally or unintentionally, to conditions that result in the damage, vandalism, or defacing of property, infrastructure, or intellectual property belonging to VCMT or a member of the VCMT community.

Theft or Removal of Property

Theft or attempted theft of belongings of any member of the VCMT community. This includes removal of VCMT property without consent.

Disruptive Behaviour

Speech, actions, or unreasonable demands for attention that interfere with or obstruct, instruction, learning or treatment of clients.

Providing False Information or Identification

Knowingly submitting false information, academic or personal records, transcripts, letters of reference, documents, and/or identification to a staff member or office of VCMT. This includes submission of complaints under this or any other policy found to be false or malicious.

Failure to Comply

Refusal of or disregard for a reasonable and appropriate direction or request by a VCMT employee, faculty member, law enforcement officer, or civil services professional (e.g., firefighter, etc.). This includes compliance with outcomes and sanctions that are imposed or agreed upon under this policy.

Interference with a Student Conduct Investigation

Actions that disrupt the investigation of student conduct including coercion and/or intimidation of witnesses or decision-makers, provision of false statements or evidence, and retaliation or malicious actions against any persons involved in the incident or process.