

**UC Riverside, School of Medicine Policies and Procedures**

**Policy Title:** Religious Adjustments

**Policy Number:** 950-07-023

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education, and Executive Associate Dean for Student Affairs
<b>Responsible Office:</b>	Office of Medical Education, Office of Student Affairs
<b>Origination Date:</b>	06/20/2024
<b>Date of Revision:</b>	NA; New Policy
<b>Scope:</b>	School of Medicine Students

**I. Policy Summary**

The purpose of this policy outlines the procedure for reviewing a medical student request for an adjustment in the curriculum for religious beliefs or practices while ensuring educational program objectives and defined learning goals are still achieved.

**II. Policy Text**

Upon review and approval from Office of Student Affairs and Office of Medical Education, course/clerkship directors are to adjust the curriculum with reasonable adjustments so long as it does not inhibit the student in achieving educational objectives and/or causes an undue hardship to implement by OME. The Office of Student Affairs, Office of Medical Education, and the UCR School of Medicine cannot guarantee that an adjustment will be granted, however, it will review and consider all submitted requests.

**III. Responsibilities**

Office of Medical Education  
Office of Student Affairs

**IV. Procedures**

- A. The following procedure must be followed by medical students requesting an accommodation:
  - 1. Timing of request:
    - a. For Pre-Clinical Courses, the student must make the request in writing at least 6 months in advance of the requested date of implementation of adjustment to the Executive Associate Dean for Student Affairs. The request must include suggested reasonable adjustments based on religious beliefs and practices
    - b. For Clerkships, the student must make the request in writing at least 6 months in advance of the requested date of implementation of adjustment to the Executive Associate Dean for Student Affairs. The request must include suggested reasonable adjustments based on religious beliefs and practices.
  - 2. The Medical student must include, submitted with the initial request, a written verification from a religious leader to document the request for the curricular adjustment is reasonable based on religious belief or practices and does not alter the [educational program objectives](#) or learning goals as defined in the syllabus.
  - 3. Upon receipt the Executive Associate Dean for Student affairs will review the request in consultation with OME to determine reasonable curricular adjustments that ensures the student has the opportunity to achieve the educational objectives outlined for the course or clerkship.

4. Executive Associate Dean for Student Affairs will communicate the approved curriculum adjustment to both the appropriate course/clerkship director and coordinator(s) and student that includes the start and end date of the adjustment. EADSA also notifies UCR Dean of Students of the approved religious adjustment (if any).
5. If the student would like to appeal the adjustment decision, they request an appeal to the progress and promotion committee within 5 business days of the adjustment notification. In the event there is an allegation of discrimination against a member of the progress and promotions committee during the appeal, the matter may be appealed to the Dean of the UCR School of Medicine within 5 business days of the progress and promotions committee's decision. If the Dean of the UCR School of Medicine determines an allegation of discrimination is substantiated the Dean of the UCR School of Medicine may return the matter to the progress and promotions committee for reconsideration. After the Dean of the UCR School of Medicine has returned a matter the subsequent decision of the of the progress and promotions committee is final.

**Approvals:**

**MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (06/20/2024)**

DocuSigned by:

*Daniel Teraguchi*

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**DATE**

**DANIEL TERAGUCHI, EDD  
EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE DEAN, STUDENT AFFAIRS,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

Signed by:

*Pablo Joo*

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**DATE**

**PABLO JOO., MD,  
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN, MEDICAL EDUCATION  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

Signed by:

*Paul Hackman*

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**DATE**

**PAUL HACKMAN, J.D., L.L.M.  
CHIEF COMPLIANCE AND PRIVACY OFFICER,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

Signed by:

*Deborah Deas*

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10/7/2024 | 8:43 PM PDT

**DATE**

**DEBORAH DEAS, M.D., M.P.H  
VICE CHANCELLOR, HEALTH SCIENCES  
DEAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**