

UAMS Academic Affairs Policy - 2.1.1



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Policy: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Division of Academic Affairs
Subject: Use of Social Networking Sites
Number: 2.1.1

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The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences recognizes that social networking websites and applications such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, etc. are important and timely means of communication. Students who use these websites and applications must be aware of the critical importance of privatizing these websites and applications so that only trustworthy “friends” have access to the sites. They must also be aware that posting certain information is illegal. Violation of existing statutes and administrative regulations may expose the offender to criminal and civil liability, and punishment for violations may include fines and imprisonment. Offenders also may be subject to adverse academic actions that range from a letter of reprimand to probation to dismissal from the University.

The following actions are strictly forbidden:

- Students may not report the personal health information of patients. Removal of an individual’s name does not constitute proper de-identification of protected health information. Furthermore, inclusion of data such as age, gender, race, or date of evaluation may still allow the reader to recognize the identity of a specific individual.
- Students may not report private (protected) academic or financial information of another student or trainee. Such information might include, but is not limited to: course grades, narratives, evaluations, examination scores, adverse academic actions, or financial aid information.
- In posting information on social networking sites, students may not present themselves as official representatives or spokespersons for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences or their college, department, or program.

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- Students may not represent themselves as another person. However, students are not prohibited from having an anonymous account or an account with a fictitious identity as long as the student's use of the account does not violate this policy or any other UAMS policy. Students may not utilize websites and/or applications in a manner that interferes with educational or work commitments.

In addition to the absolute prohibitions outlined above, the following types of actions but not limited to these examples, are strongly discouraged as these are considered unprofessional and reflect poorly on the individual, the healthcare profession, program, department, college, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Engaging in these types of behaviors may invoke applicable professionalism policies:

- Display of vulgar language.
- Display of language or photographs that imply disrespect for any individual or group because of age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability.
- Presentations of photographs that may reasonably be interpreted as condoning irresponsible use of alcohol, substance abuse, or sexual misconduct.

The following actions are strongly encouraged:

- Students should use privacy settings to limit unknown or unwanted access to the student's profile or application.
- When listing an email address on a social networking site, students should use a personal email address (not a uams.edu address) as the primary means of identification.

When using these social networking sites, students are strongly encouraged to present themselves in mature, responsible, and professional manners. Discourse should always be civil and respectful. No privatization measure is perfect and undesigned persons may still gain access to the site. Once an item is posted on a networking site, it may not be easily removed. Future employers (e.g., residency or fellowship program directors, representatives of employers) may review these sites when considering potential candidates for employment.