I. Purpose

This document states the policy granting UW SMPH Health Profession Program students the right to request a grievance hearing in the event that the student feels he or she was graded or evaluated unfairly. This document further provides the formal procedures for objective, consistent review and adjudication of such grievances if they cannot be resolved through preliminary informal measures.

II. Definitions

Health Profession Program: Any of the UW SMPH Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Master of Genetic Counselor Studies, Master of Physician Assistant Studies, and Master of Public Health Programs (each, a “Program”).

Grievance: a complaint made by a student alleging that the student received a grade or academic evaluation that was arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory – i.e., unfairly based on race, gender, religion, personal animus, or any other factor(s) other than objective assessment of the student’s academic performance and/or the student’s compliance with his or her Program’s Professional Behavior Code.

Grievance Board: the committee of UW SMPH faculty and staff that provides formal review and adjudication of Grievances when informal resolution measures are unsuccessful.

III. Policy

1. SMPH students have the right to fair and equitable treatment with respect to grading and evaluation, and may dispute a grade that they feel was awarded unfairly.

2. Students are expected to make reasonable efforts to resolve Grievances informally and directly, but if those efforts fail, any student may file a request for a Grievance hearing.
3. The student and Program will follow the SMPH Health Profession Program Grievance Procedure for formal resolution of any Grievance.

4. Information on the Grievance Procedure shall be included in each Health Profession Program’s Student Handbook.

Related Procedures
1. SMPH Health Profession Program Grievance Procedure

References
1. Conflict of Interest in Student Related SMPH Committees

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<th>Academic Affairs</th>
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<td>Revision History/Prior replaced or revised policies</td>
<td>Approved by SMPH Academic Planning Council, May 2017; Replaces Medical Student Handbook sec. 7.4(6) – Resolution of Grade Disputes</td>
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