

Student Frequently Asked Questions

Faculty and Student Vendor Relations Conflict of Interest Policy

Does this policy apply to all students on the UMass Worcester campus?

Yes. It applies to all students in the School of Medicine, Graduate School of Nursing and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

What is a vendor?

A vendor is a company or person offering a good or service for sale. The definition includes, but is not limited to, pharmaceutical companies, device manufacturers and supply companies.

How does the policy define a gift?

A gift is anything of value that is given without something of equivalent fair market value given in return.

Are students allowed to accept gifts from vendors?

Students in the Graduate School of Nursing and the School of Medicine may not accept gifts from vendors. Students in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences will, like their faculty, adhere to the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Laws, which is available online.

Can students accept vendor contributions for educational purposes?

Students should refer all vendor offers to contribute supplies, equipment or other goods/services of material value to support an educational activity through the appropriate medical school department or school representative. Students are not responsible for negotiating, securing or otherwise designating the allocation of these items of services.

May students invite industrial, commercial or vendor groups to the UMass Worcester campus?

This may only be done after obtaining prior approval from the student's respective Dean or the Dean's designee, who must make a recommendation for approval to the Provost for final review and approval.

May students participate in a Speaker Bureau?

Speaker bureaus are speaking events at which individuals, usually holding an academic appointment, are paid to give presentations based largely or entirely on material provided by a pharmaceutical or medical device company. Students in the Graduate School of Nursing and the School of Medicine are prohibited from participating in Speaker Bureaus.

Who can I contact if I have questions about this policy?

Students can contact their appropriate Dean as follows: Dr. Mai-Lan Rogoff in the School of Medicine; Dr. Janet Hale in the Graduate School of Nursing; and Dr. May Ellen Lane in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Is the full policy available for me to read?

Yes. It is located in the UMass Intranet under Policies and Procedures in Volume IV, Faculty Affairs. It is Policy 04.01.03 titled Faculty and Student Vendor Relations Conflict of Interest Policy.