



Mangosuthu University of Technology

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES POLICY

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of Student Health Services Policy is to ensure that health care services at MUT are accessible to the entire Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) community without unfair discrimination and are offered in accordance with relevant legislations and regulations.

2. RATIONALE

As part of the Southern African society, the MUT community (staff and students) is not immune to the problems that adversely affect the stability of the health care systems in the Southern African region.

The MUT Student Health Services is an in-house health care services provider which essentially offers both occupational health care and comprehensive primary health care to the MUT staff and students. The scope of this function has lately been extended to benefit the entire MUT community. The MUT health care services adheres to standard health care procedures which may range from strict confidentiality, consultation, primary diagnostic methods, to treatment or referral system and/or to monitoring or follow-up methods in the form of rehabilitative treatment or professional counselling. Therefore, there is a need for a policy to guide and control the implementation of these services.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all MUT students and to all MUT University's staff.

4. PRINCIPLES AND FUNCTIONS

- 4.1 The University will, within the limits of its institutional capacity, provide infrastructure that is appropriate to the performance of health care services at MUT;

- 4.2 The University will continuously monitor and evaluate the professional functioning and the effectiveness of the Student Health Services;
- 4.3 The University ensure that it commits the required professional resources for the development, promotion and maintenance of occupational health care and comprehensive primary health care services that will benefit the MUT communities;
- 4.4 The University will ensure the protection and safeguarding of MUT students and employees against occupational risks to their health or safety arising from environmental activities within the University's premises;
- 4.5 The Institution will provide consistent support for the application of both occupational and primary health care services strategies that are designed to align follow-up methods including patient-reassuring, treatment supervision, monitoring and professional counselling with the objective to prevent relapse stages or to ensure rehabilitative treatment to victims of post-diseases or post-injuries;
- 4.6 The Student Health Services will include the following functions:
 - 4.6.1 Providing holistic health care services to groups of students or staff and individual students or staff in an attempt to help them regulate their personal behaviour; and
 - 4.6.2 Providing lay counselling and workshops aimed at developmental issues. The emphasis will be on the reinforcement of the fundamental principles that enrich the comprehensive approach (the educational and the preventive interventions such as awareness campaigns and disease control campaign measures) towards pandemic diseases, including HIV and AIDS.

5. RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

- 5.1 The **Management of the University** will be responsible for providing the Student Health Services with appropriate infrastructure in order to maintain accepted standards and professionalism of health care services;
- 5.2 The **members of the Student Health Services professional staff** will be responsible for implementing this policy and ensure that professional health care standards are maintained;
- 5.3 The **Administrative staff of the Student Health Services** will render support functions;
- 5.4 The **office of the Dean of Students** will ensure that this policy is implemented; and
- 5.5 The **University's Quality Management Directorate** will be responsible for monitoring and assisting the Student Health Services to assure the quality of the services it offers.

6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The staff of the Student Health Services will be responsible for the implementation of the Student Health Services Policy.

7. POLICY CONTEXT

This policy is informed by the following documents:

- 7.1 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No: 108 of 1996);
- 7.2 Employment Equity Act, 1998 (Act No: 55 of 1998);
- 7.3 The Mangosuthu University of Technology Student Counselling Policy;
- 7.4 Medicines and Related Substances Act, 2002 (Act No: 59 of 2002);
- 7.5 Mental Health Care Act, 2002 (Act No: 17 of 2002);
- 7.6 National Health Act, 2003 (Act No: 61 of 2003);
- 7.7 Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No: 33 of 2005); and
- 7.8 Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No: 85 of 1993).

8. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every five years.

N/B: This Policy was approved by MUT Council on: **30/09/2009**