



**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**  
WASHINGTON, DC

**Responsible University Official:**  
Associate Dean for Diversity and  
Inclusion

**Responsible Office:** Office of  
Diversity and Inclusion, SMHS

**Most Recent Revision:** 07/23/2015

## **POLICY ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

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### **Policy Statement**

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The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in partnership with the University and the Vice-Provost for Diversity and Inclusion will engage in ongoing, systematic and focused recruitment and retention activities to achieve mission-appropriate diversity outcomes among its students, faculty, and senior administrative staff. The term diversity is used to describe individual differences (e.g. life experiences, learning and working styles, personality types) and group/social differences (e.g. race, socio-economic status, class, gender, sexual orientation, country of origin, ability, intellectual traditions and perspectives, as well as cultural, political, religious, and other affiliations) that can be engaged to achieve excellence and innovation in teaching, learning, research, scholarship, and administrative and support services.

At the School of Medicine and Health Sciences we are particularly focused on those we believe add particular value to our learning environment and have the potential to address healthcare inequities in our community. These groups are defined and periodically reviewed by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and included in the appendix to this document and in our implementation plan.

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences will develop programs and partnerships aimed at broadening diversity among qualified applicants for admission. We will continue to enhance the current holistic review process and include educational training in the area of unconscious bias and stereotyping. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion will monitor these efforts employing outcome metrics.

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences will provide institutional resources including scholarship funds and academic preparation to enhance retention of matriculates. These efforts will undergo periodic review and evaluation to determine effectiveness.

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences will develop faculty and administrative staff recruitment and practices that broaden the search for diverse applicants. We will develop an educational program to heighten the awareness of bias in the recruitment, hiring and promotions process and we will perform periodic assessment of these efforts and their impact. Additionally we will collaborate with the Office of Faculty Affairs to enhance mentorship and promote advancement and retention.

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences Office of Diversity and Inclusion under the direction of the Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion will be primarily responsible for the development, implementation and evaluation of each of these programs and for recommending new methods, based on evaluation data for continuous process improvement.

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### **Reason for Policy/Purpose**

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Disseminate the SMHS policy and practices on diversity and inclusion as related to students, faculty, staff and curriculum content

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### **Who Needs to Know This Policy**

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All students, residents, fellows, faculty, and staff of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences

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### **Contacts**

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Office of Diversity and Inclusion    202-994-4317    [smhsodi@gwu.edu](mailto:smhsodi@gwu.edu)

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### **Who Approved This Policy**

Executive Committee of the SMHS Faculty Assembly July 23, 2015

## Appendix to Policy on Diversity and Inclusion

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The following definitions of diversity apply to our medical students:

- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Women
- Economically disadvantaged

The following definitions of diversity apply to our faculty and senior administrative staff:

- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Women