

**LEWIS KATZ SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY  
MD PROGRAM COMPETENCIES**

**INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

Students must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families and health professionals. Students must demonstrate:

1. The ability to interact and communicate respectfully, effectively and empathetically with patients, their families, and the public; across all ages, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds
2. The ability to address sensitive health care issues in an effective, compassionate and non-judgmental manner, including screening for alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, sexual behavior and delivering bad news
3. The ability to communicate scientific and medical knowledge to help educate patients about their health, and health care decisions and ensure adequate understanding
4. The ability to communicate accurate patient information verbally, in writing or electronically to colleagues and healthcare workers
5. The ability to discuss sexual matters with patients, to create a comfortable environment for their patients to discuss sexual and gender issues, and the ability to communicate in an open manner, welcoming all sexual orientations and gender identities

Approved by the Curriculum Committee and the Dean, May 2015