

## **School of Medicine Student-Advisor Conflict Resolution Framework**

If a conflict arises between the graduate student and the advisor, both parties will first strive to resolve the issue informally between themselves while adhering to other provisions of this compact such as being respectful, honest, calm and constructive.

If the parties fail to resolve the issue to their mutual satisfaction, the issue should be discussed with any of the following to explore a resolution: a) the graduate advisory committee; b) the graduate program director; c) the chair of the department that is home to the advisor and/or program. If the graduate advisory committee, graduate program director or department chair have a conflict of interest or cannot resolve the issue, then (i) the student should report the concern via the School of Medicine Graduate Education website and/or (ii) the advisor should discuss the issue with the Associate Dean for Graduate Education in the School of Medicine or their designee.

In the event that the graduate student and/or advisor decide that the conflict cannot be resolved and the conflict makes it impossible for the student and advisor to work together as a productive team, the student may need to identify a new dissertation advisor. The advisor, program director, department chair, and/or Associate Dean for Graduate Education (or designee) will assist the graduate student using all available resources. The responsibility to secure a major advisor remains with the student, however, and securing an advisor remains a key requirement for making satisfactory academic progress per VCU Graduate School and School of Medicine policies.

Approved by SOM Graduate Programs Committee: 2024.07