

Student Professionalism and Ethics Association in Dentistry

Student Organization Constitution

The Ohio State University College of Dentistry

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The official name of this organization shall be the **Student Professionalism and Ethics Association in Dentistry**.

This organization may also use its acronym, **SPEA**, in all publicity materials and correspondence.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

The Student Professionalism and Ethics Association in Dentistry (SPEA) is a national, student-driven association established to promote and support students' lifelong commitment to ethical practices. SPEA seeks to benefit patients and the community, while enhancing the dental profession through high ethical standards.

The objectives of SPEA are to:

- Act as a collaborative community for students, faculty, and staff to strengthen personal and professional ethical values.
- Bring awareness to ethical dilemmas within the dental profession.
- Provide a resource for ethics education and decision making.
- Foster a non-punitive, open-forum environment for ethics communication. ● Advocate for changes within the Ohio State University College of Dentistry and the dental profession that align with ethical standards.

ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

Student Professionalism and Ethics Association agrees that it will not engage in sexual misconduct nor any harassment or discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status or any other basis in accordance with the Student Organization Registration Guidelines.

Section B. Hazing

Student Professionalism and Ethics Association agrees to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for hazing, in compliance with Ohio State University and Collin's Law. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing. Hazing includes any activity, regardless of consent, that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm or humiliation to any individual as part of membership or affiliation with the student organization. If found responsible for hazing, members and/or the organization may face disciplinary actions.

Section C. Bylaws

Student Professionalism and Ethics Association retains the right to maintain separate bylaws to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal laws, The Ohio State University's regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Student Organization Registration Guidelines. Organizations may make amendments and changes to the bylaws without consulting the Ohio Union & Student Activities department, and changes to bylaws do not require approval. All elements of organizational bylaws shall be consistent with the organization's currently approved constitution on file and CSA constitution requirements.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership Eligibility

Membership is open to all regularly enrolled predoctoral, dental hygiene, graduate students, and advanced education residents and fellows at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry.

Section B. Member Selection

Membership includes Executive Officers and any student who attends SPEA-hosted events and demonstrates support for SPEA's mission. Students can become members by joining our GroupMe chat. This way, they will stay informed of upcoming events and meetings. Membership is voluntary. Members are free to leave at anytime without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

Section C. Membership Timeline

Students may join the club during the first two weeks of the fall semester, and the first two weeks of the spring semester.

Section D. Member Removal

Members may be removed for:

- Failure to support SPEA's mission.
- Sanctions for an ethics violation.

Process:

- Written or electronic notice will be given at least one week before the vote.
- A two-thirds majority of the Executive Board is required to remove a member.

ARTICLE V. ADVISOR

Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities

The Advisor provides guidance to the Executive Board, serves as a resource on university policy, and is kept informed of organizational activities. Advisors may not vote, hold office, or unduly influence decisions of the student organization.

Section B. Advisor Term

The Advisor serves a one-year renewable term, selected annually by the Executive Board.

Section C. Advisor Selection

The advisor will be selected by the President of the club. Once the President selects the advisor, the advisor must be voted into the role by a margin of $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote.

Section D. Advisor Replacement

If the Advisor cannot continue in the role, the President will select a new advisor. The advisor must then be voted into the role by a margin of $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

Section A. Officer Positions

The Executive Board consists of:

- President (Primary Leader): Manage room reservations, coordination of lunch and learn

items, and leading all club meetings. Will also maintain communication with the club advisor on club activities.

- Vice President (Secondary Leader): responsibilities include assisting the President with managing room reservations, coordinating lunch and learn items, and filling in for the President at meetings if needed. The Vice President will also assist the President Elect in fundraising for the SPEA National Annual Session.
- Past President: assists the current President with managing the club and assists in perfecting the club constitution for the following academic year. Will provide support to the president as they navigate the Student Organization Management System.
- President-Elect: learning from the President to eventually lead the club and coordinating with the treasurer to secure fundraising for executive board attendance at the SPEA National Annual Session. Will fill in for the Vice President if they are unable to attend a meeting.
- Treasurer: Maintain financial records, report on the financial transactions of the club to the executive board, and author an annual budget. Will assist in researching and implementing club fundraisers.
- Community Outreach Officer: Manage the association's externally facing activities including fundraising for the chapter, service opportunities, collaboration with other student organizations, and any other form of community outreach.
- Secretary: responsibilities include taking, recording, and filing meeting minutes and event attendance. They will also manage all communication efforts to the student body membership of SPEA as well as maintain social media accounts.

Section B. Officer Eligibility

- All officers must be enrolled Ohio State University students with no history of ethics sanctions.
- The position of President-Elect is limited to second-year dental students.
- The President role is automatically filled by the outgoing President-Elect.
- The Past President role is automatically filled by the outgoing President.

Section C. Officer Selection Process

- Applications are submitted prior to elections.
- Elections are held electronically in June via email ballot.
- A simple majority vote is required. Runoff elections will occur if needed.
- Terms of office run from July 1 through June 30.

Section D. Officer Removal

Officers may be removed for:

- Failure to perform duties.
- Violation of membership requirements.
- Sanctions for an ethics violation.

Process:

- Written/electronic notice will be provided one week before the vote.
- A two-thirds majority of the Executive Board is required for removal.

Vacancies:

- If the President's office becomes vacant, the Vice President assumes the role, and the Board appoints a new Vice President.
- For all other positions, the Board appoints a replacement.

ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION

Section A. Dissolution Requirements

The organization may dissolve by a two-thirds vote of its voting members or as required by The Ohio State University.

Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts

Upon dissolution, all debts will be settled. Any remaining assets will be donated to a nonprofit organization approved by the Executive Board, consistent with SPEA's mission.

ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section A. Amendment Process

Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Executive Board. Amendments require a two-thirds vote of the voting membership to pass.