



LOMA LINDA  
UNIVERSITY

School of  
Dentistry

## OPERATING POLICY

**SUBJECT:** USE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE PROFESSIONAL & WORK SETTING

**Definitions:**

**Professional settings:** Settings such as classrooms, laboratories, clinics, or any other workplace or teaching settings where professional communication is expected and necessary.

**Patient-care areas:** Areas in which patients are assessed or evaluated, or in which they receive diagnostic testing, treatment, instruction, or care.

**Patient-care activities:** Direct treatment, including emergency care, and other activities performed to support the treatment of patients.

**Health-care team:** Any person responsible for the assessment, care, and treatment of LLUSD patients.

1. Faculty, staff, and students retain the right to speak in languages of their choice except under the following circumstances when they are expected to speak English:
  - 1.1 In professional (e.g. classroom, laboratory, clinic, or workplace) settings, or any time peers, instructors, or supervisors who speak only English or expect to communicate in English, are present.
  - 1.2 In patient-care areas, during patient-care activities, or any time patients are present, unless otherwise requested by the patient or supervisor.
  - 1.3 When speaking directly to a patient, visitor, instructor, supervisor, other professional, or health-care team, unless otherwise requested by that individual.
  - 1.4 When conversing about patient-care issues in the presence of another individual who has an interest in the care of the patient being discussed, and who either speaks only English or prefers to speak in English.
2. For the purposes of direct communication with non-English speaking or English communication-impaired patients and visitors, patient teaching, or translation for dental professionals shall be done in languages other than English.
3. Persons incapable of speaking, writing and / or understanding English to the degree necessary for the effective performance of responsibilities are not eligible to participate in professional experiences until such skills are developed to a level commensurate with the demands of the setting.
4. Violations of this policy are cause for professional and ethical standards action.