

SCHOOL OF NURSING POLICY

Policy Name: Student Standards of Conduct

Approval Authority: Faculty of Rutgers School of Nursing

Responsible Executive: Senior Associate Dean for Administration and Student Services

Responsible Office: Department of Student Services Operations

Adopted: 12/09/13

Reviewed: 8/19/15

Revisions: 8/19/2015

1. **Policy Statement:** To ensure a dynamic and respectful learning environment in the School of Nursing community for both undergraduate and graduate students, the faculty have adopted these Standards of Conduct which outlines student expectations. The Rutgers School of Nursing Standards of Student Conduct sets specific expectations for Rutgers School of Nursing student behavior, the process for addressing allegations of student misconduct, and the possible consequences for students who violate the policy.

2. **Who Should Read this Policy:** All members of the Rutgers School of Nursing community

3. **Resources and Related Documents:**

Rutgers University Code of Student Conduct 10.2.11

http://policies.rutgers.edu/sites/policies/files/10.2.11%20-%20current_0.pdf

Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy 10.2.13

<http://policies.rutgers.edu/sites/policies/files/10.2.13%20-%20current.pdf>

Rutgers University Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy 10.2.14

<http://policies.rutgers.edu/sites/policies/files/10.2.14%20-%20current.pdf>

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/>

American Nurses Association, Code of Ethics for Nurses

<http://www.nursingworld.org/codeofethics>

New Jersey Board of Nursing Regulations

<https://www.ncsbn.org/njnursinglaws.pdf>

4. **Policy**

It is expected that every student adheres to these guidelines and maintains professional conduct in all academic and clinical settings. Specific behaviors include but are not limited to:

General

Use of Electronic Devices: Use of electronic devices should not be disruptive to others. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to mobile phones, laptop computers, tablets, laser pointers, Bluetooth devices, and music players.

Substance Abuse: The possession, production, distribution, and/or use of illegal substances is prohibited at Rutgers University and within the nursing profession. The misuse of controlled substances will not be tolerated.

Professional Attire: Students are expected to wear attire that best reflects the image of the School of Nursing and the nursing profession.

Time and Attendance: Students are expected to be on time and to attend all School of Nursing functions: class, clinical, and other agreed upon commitments.

Professional Language/Respectful Communication: It is important to use respectful and professional language when interacting with faculty, staff, peers, patients, and others. Profanity and other disrespectful language will not be tolerated in the professional environment or via electronic communication medium including social media.

Civility in Professional Relationships/Bullying: Civility is to be exercised in all professional, academic, electronic, and therapeutic relationships and communications. Disagreements should be handled directly with the other party and reported to an appropriate third party if mediation is necessary.

Treatment of SON Facilities and Equipment: Students are expected to be respectful of all School of Nursing facilities and property. It is the responsibility of all in the community to ensure that facilities are well-maintained and that property is not abused or stolen.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to adhere to the Rutgers University academic integrity policy. All work is expected to be original or properly attributed. Cheating or sharing of any information appearing on an exam is a violation of the academic integrity policy.

In-Class

Utilization of Electronic Devices: If allowed while in class, electronic devices should only be used for academic purposes.

In-Class Behavior: While in class, students are expected to be respectful of the faculty and fellow students. Distractions caused by private conversations, electronic devices, etc. take away from the learning experience of others.

Clinical Settings

Confidentiality and Patient Privacy: Patient privacy is governed by HIPAA. Information about patients and/or their circumstances should not appear on social media sites.

Substance Abuse: Students are expected to maintain a safe practice environment for patients, colleagues, faculty, and staff. Attending class or clinical under the influence of controlled substances is prohibited.

Professional Attire: When participating in clinical, the School of Nursing uniform should be clean, pressed, and well-maintained. Students are expected to wear the uniform in its entirety unless otherwise directed.

Time and Attendance: Punctuality is essential in the clinical environment. Missing a clinical is not acceptable — Emergencies must be reported to clinical faculty immediately.

Patient Safety: A student who recognizes that s/he has made a clinical error is obligated to report the situation to their instructor immediately and to take necessary measures to ensure subsequent patient safety.

A report of student misconduct or infringement with regard to this Code may initiate a grievance process that could lead to dismissal and, if appropriate, may be reported to the New Jersey State Board on Nursing. Violation of federal, state and local laws may be applicable and as appropriate, would be reported to law enforcement officers. These standards of conduct shall not diminish or remove the applicability of University-wide policies and procedures and, where in conflict, University-wide policies shall control over the standards herein.