



Entry to Baccalaureate Nursing Practice and Advanced Nursing Practice Divisions Student Standards of Conduct

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Approval Authority: Faculty of Rutgers School of Nursing	
Responsible Executive: Senior Associate Dean for Administration and Student Affairs	
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1. Policy Statement

To ensure a dynamic and respectful learning environment in the School of Nursing community for both undergraduate and graduate students, faculty have adopted these Standards of Conduct, which outline 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. Reasons for Policy

To provide guidelines on expected norms for the classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings.

3. Who Should Review This Policy

All members of the Rutgers School of Nursing community

4. Resources and Related Documents:

- [Rutgers University Code of Student Conduct](#) 10.2.11
- [Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy](#) 10.2.13
- [Rutgers University Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy for Students](#) 10.2.14
- [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(HIPAA\)](#) of 1996
- [American Nurses Association, Code of Ethics for Nurses](#)
- [New Jersey Board of Nursing Regulations](#)
- Rutgers School of Nursing, [policies](#)

5. The 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.
- **Illegal Substances:** 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.

- **Substance Abuse:** Students are expected to maintain a safe practice environment for patients, colleagues, faculty, and staff. Attending classes or clinicals under the influence is prohibited.
- **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

- **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 be discussed outside of the clinical setting and should not appear on social media sites.
- **Professional Attire**
 - **Baccalaureate Nursing Students Only:** When participating in clinicals, 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 by the clinical site.
 - **Advanced Nursing Practice Students Only:** Students are expected to dress appropriately. Students may wear a laboratory coat over professional attire. However, students should comply with the dress code of the clinical site, when specified. Students should have their Rutgers identification badges at all times. Specific clinical site identification may be worn, when required by the clinical site.
- **Patient Safety:** Students who recognize that they have made a clinical error are 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.