



EDGEWOOD UNIVERSITY

Appendix A

Code of Professional Conduct

Introduction

Edgewood University's Henry Predolin College of Health Science, School of Nursing offers a variety of nursing degrees from the Bachelor's of Science in Nursing to the Doctorate of Nursing Practice. Each degree/degree concentration are professional programs that expect the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct. The School of Nursing (SoN) Code of Professional Conduct is based on the American Nurses' Association (ANA) Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice (2021) and ANA Code of Ethics (2015), and is an integral part of student development and professional performance. The SoN believes that professional behavior is an integral part of each student's nursing education and adheres to the Code of Professional Conduct throughout all educational endeavors, activities, and events sponsored by the SoN. Our duty is to maintain an environment supportive of personal growth, as well as to ensure safe, effective quality health care to the public. Students are not simply seeking a Nursing degree but to join a profession with a very specific and rigorous set of ethical and professional responsibilities.

Henry Predolin College of Health Sciences, School of Nursing Standards of Conduct

NURSES ARE ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS

As a professional nurse, it is our obligation and duty to adhere to the Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice (4th Edition) (American Nurses Association [ANA], 2021), and the Nursing Code of Ethics (ANA, 2015).

American Nurses' Association Scope and Standards of Practice

Standards of Practice: The Standards of Practice describe a competent level of nursing practice demonstrated by the critical thinking model known as the nursing process. Accordingly, the nursing process encompasses significant actions taken by registered nurses and forms the foundation of the nurse's decision-making.

Standard 1. Assessment: The registered nurse collects pertinent data and information relative to the healthcare consumer's health or the situation.

Standard 2. Diagnosis: The registered nurse analyzes the assessment data to determine the actual or potential diagnoses, problems or issues.

Standard 3. Outcomes Identification: The registered nurse identifies expected outcomes for a plan individualized to the healthcare consumer or the situation.

Standard 4. Planning: The registered nurse develops a collaborative plan encompassing strategy to achieve expected outcomes.

Standard 5. Implementation: The nurse implements the identified plan.

- **Standard 5A. Coordination of Care:** The registered nurse coordinates care delivery
- **Standard 5B. Health Teaching and Health Promotion:** The registered nurse employs strategies to teach and promote health and wellness.

Standard 6. Evaluation: The registered nurse evaluates progress toward attainment of goals and outcomes.

Standards of Professional Performance:

The Standards of Professional Performance describe a competent level of behavior in the professional role, including activities related to ethics, culturally congruent practice, communication, collaboration, leadership, education, evidence-based practice and research, quality of practice, professional practice evaluation, resource utilization, and environmental health. All registered nurses are expected to engage in professional role activities, including leadership, appropriate to their education and position. Registered nurses are accountable for their professional actions to themselves, their healthcare consumers, their peers, and ultimately to society.

Standard 7. Ethics

The registered nurse integrates ethics in all practices of nursing.

Standard 8. Advocacy

The registered nurse demonstrates advocacy in all roles and settings.

Standard 9. Respectful and Equitable Practice

The registered nurse practices with cultural humility and inclusiveness.

Standard 10. Communication

The registered nurse communicates effectively in all areas of professional practice.

Standard 11. Collaboration

The registered nurse collaborates with the healthcare consumer and other key stakeholders.

Standard 12. Leadership

The registered nurse leads within the profession and practice setting.

Standard 13. Education

The registered nurse seeks knowledge and competence that reflects current nursing practice and promotes futuristic thinking.

Standard 14. Scholarly Inquiry

The registered nurse integrates scholarship, evidence, and research finding into practice.

Standard 15. Quality of Practice

The registered nurse contributes to quality nursing practice.

Standard 16. Professional Practice Evaluation

The registered nurse evaluates one's own and others' nursing practice.

Standard 17. Resource Stewardship

The registered nurse utilizes appropriate resources to plan, provide, and sustain evidence-based nursing services that are safe, effective, financially responsible, and used judiciously.

Standard 18. Environmental Health

The registered nurse practices in a manner that advances environmental safety and health.

Source: ANA. (2021). *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (4th ed.) (p. 89-107). Silver Spring, MD: ANA.

American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses

Provision 1. The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

Provision 2. The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.

Provision 3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.

Provision 4. The nurse has authority, accountability and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to provide optimal patient care.

Provision 5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth.

Provision 6. The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.

Provision 7. The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.

Provision 8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.

Provision 9. The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.

American Nurses' Association Standards of Professional Nurse Practice and Standards of Professional Performance

As a professional nurse, it is our obligation and duty to adhere to the Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice (3rd edition) (American Nurses Association [ANA], 2015), and the Nursing Code of Ethics (ANA, 2015).

Academic Accountability and Responsibility

In addition to professional accountability and responsibility, students must also assume the same standards of accountability and responsibility for their education. Part of educational responsibility and accountability addresses preparation for participation in academic advising.

Advising

NURSING students are required to meet with their academic advisor every semester. It is the student's responsibility to schedule and keep this appointment. During this time, students and faculty members will discuss the advisee's academic plan, academic progress, and plans for graduation as well as answer any questions related to future employment, internships, graduate school or preparing for the state board exam (NCLEX). It is the student's responsibility to come prepared for their advising appointment. Adequate preparation includes having a course plan developed prior to the appointment, knowing how many credits remain prior to graduation, and, if necessary, prior calculation of GPA.

As a student progresses in the nursing program, additional preparation for advising will include discussion of ATI results.

NURSES DEMONSTRATE PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR, RESPECT, CIVILITY

Students will fulfill professional nursing roles including client advocate, direct care provider, and educator. Students will treat peers, faculty, members of the healthcare team, and clients with respect and compassion. Clients and their families come from different cultural backgrounds and hold different values. Students will respect these differences providing professional, empathetic and holistic health care for all.

Each student is expected to display behaviors that represent Edgewood University's Dominican values (TRUTH, JUSTICE, COMPASSION, COMMUNITY, PARTNERSHIP) as well as the values and beliefs of SoN. In order to exhibit the quality and caliber of professionalism deemed appropriate for the Edgewood University student nurse, it is expected that the student will display the professional behaviors addressed in this code.

Clinical and Classroom Expectations

Students enrolled in the nursing major are expected to attend all classes, laboratories and clinical experiences in order to fulfill credit requirements for each course. In the event of an absence from clinical, students will be required to complete additional learning experiences as determined by the clinical instructor. **No on-site clinical make-up experiences will be offered.** Students cannot attend a different clinical section to make up an absence from clinical. There are no excused or unexcused absences from clinical and completing additional learning experiences as required by the clinical instructor does not remove the absence from clinical evaluations.

Students are not to miss clinical, lab, simulation, or theory class to meet the needs of another course (nursing or non-nursing). Likewise, students are not to miss clinical, lab, simulation, or theory class to meet other obligations (e.g., job interviews and/or orientation for employment, elective/non-urgent appointments). Please note that the Edgewood University Calendar is posted for the entire academic year before the start of fall semester. Therefore:

- Students are expected to plan outside activities during university breaks. Students should not schedule vacations at any other time during the academic semester.
- Travel arrangements for a scheduled break should not include any day in which a class, lab or clinical is scheduled.
- Students will not be excused from class, lab or clinical, or exams/quizzes prior to or immediately after a scheduled break or for any other vacation during the academic semester.

Additional attendance policies and expectations may be listed in individual course syllabi.

Participation at the Center for Healthcare Education and Simulation (CHES) and other activities related to being a student at Edgewood University including Student Nurses Association events, travel experiences, and participation in other off campus experiences related to the SoN are treated as clinical activities in terms of professional behavior expectations. The student will display a caring and compassionate attitude

when providing care for any patient, including simulation activities. Students must maintain confidentiality and privacy according to all HIPPA and health care policies and regulations.

Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared for **all clinical, lab, simulation, and theory class activities**. Preparation in the nursing student context entails readiness to administer safe and appropriate nursing care. Students unprepared to safely administer safe and appropriate care due to poor preparation may be denied to participate in clinical and/or sent home and reprimanded according to SoN policy. Any student reporting to clinical or lab under the influence of any substance, whether prescribed or illicit, that may interfere with the cognitive and/or physical ability to render safe patient care will be sent home and reprimanded according to SoN policy.

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in both the clinical and classroom settings. This professional behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Attending all class, lab, and clinical activities.
- Taking exams as scheduled (including ATI tests).
- Arriving on time and leaving class/clinical as scheduled.
- Adhering to the SoN clinical dress code for all clinical activities.
- Accepting responsibility and accountability for one's own actions. Responsibility and accountability in the nursing student context include completing assignments on time and clinical preparation as required by the clinical rotation. Failure to complete assignments and/or clinical preparation on time can result in a course failure.
- Giving prior notification in writing, voice mail, email, or per faculty course guidelines, to the faculty when he/she is unable to meet commitments. Students are to check with course faculty as to the method of communication required for concerns or questions regarding attendance. The faculty acknowledges that life emergencies do exist and will work with the student in these situations as they arise.

NOTE: True life emergencies do NOT include:

1. Scheduling work or vacation during class/lab or clinical, or exam times (including ATI testing).
 2. Missing class in order to work; this is not an excused absence.
 3. Non-emergent doctor or dental appointments.
 4. Fatigue associated with personal choices such as work, extra-curricular activities, or social activities.
 5. Planning "special" events that interfere with class, clinical time, or exam times (e.g., wedding/vacation).
- Interacting with others (peers, faculty, and patients/clients) in a respectful, sensitive and nonjudgmental manner.
 - In the clinical setting, professional behavior must be maintained at all times including your time during patient preparation, breaks, lunch, and any other time you are at the clinical agency.
 - Respect others' space and quiet time.
 - Addressing faculty in a respectful manner by use of appropriate titles: Dean, Professor, Mr. /Mrs., and last name. Do not assume a first-name basis is acceptable until you obtain permission from the faculty member.
 - Use of professional language (no profanity and/or inappropriate gestures).
 - Approved Cell Phone Use: Cell phone use is prohibited in all nursing courses unless otherwise specifically approved by course faculty.
 - Appropriate Cell Phone Use: If cell phone use is permitted by course faculty, it may only be used as directed.
 - Constructive verbal and non-verbal behavior.
 - Care for others in an empathetic manner.
 - Honest, open, therapeutic communication.
 - Confidentiality of all patient information.
 - Teamwork and helping behavior for peers.
 - Professional and personal courtesy, honor, ethics, and integrity.
 - Maintaining professional boundaries.
 - Respecting all individuals' differences (i.e., culture, ethnicity, religion, work experience, gender, age, sexual orientation, etc.).
 - Refrain from personal conversations and comments during lectures and other class presentations.
 - Avoid using laptops for purposes other than educational or class activities as directed by course faculty.
 - Wait until it is declared appropriate by the professor to gather things for breaks and at the end of class.
 - Avoid leaving the room in the middle of a lecture or exam.
 - Attending final clinical evaluations as scheduled and submitting the necessary paperwork prior to the final evaluation.

Examples of serious violations that are subject to immediate dismissal from the PROGRAM include, but are not limited to:

- Illegally removing healthcare agency or patient property from the premises.
- Destruction to any healthcare agency or patient property.
- Falsifying or fabricating clinical experiences.
- Calling in sick for clinical under false pretenses.
- Documenting nursing care that was not performed. Please note, documentation in advance of nursing performance or falsifying any documentation is illegal.

Bullying or Lateral Acts of Violence

Bullying or other lateral acts of violence will not be tolerated by the SoN. Bullying is the demeaning, and downgrading of an individual through vicious words and cruel acts that undermine confidence and self-esteem. Bullying can involve both psychological and physical actions that can include, but are not limited to, social media, written, and verbal material that results in psychological or physical harm. Any student engaging in this type of behavior may be dismissed from the nursing program.

No-Gift Policy

On occasion, students may want to recognize or thank a faculty member for their work throughout the semester. This practice more commonly occurs in the clinical setting. Even though gifts are intended as a gesture of thankfulness, they can create uncomfortable feelings among students who may not support the effort or who cannot contribute financially. As such, SoN faculty members support a **no-gift** policy for all instructors. If students want to offer a card of thanks, that would be appropriate.

Use of Social Media

People gain information, education, news, etc., through electronic media and print media. Social media is distinct from industrial or traditional media, such as newspapers, television, and film. Social media is relatively inexpensive and accessible to enable anyone to publish or access information, compared to industrial media, which generally require significant resources to publish information.

Use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, phone texts, blogs, etc.) is strictly prohibited in all capacities related to your SoN experience. Posting pictures, comments, or discussions addressing any classroom and/or clinical experiences on any of these sites could result in dismissal from the program. If you discover you have been “tagged” on a Facebook site, notify the individual responsible for the posting to remove the posting immediately. Follow-up on this request with documentation from the individual who posted the comment/picture that it has been removed.

It is a common misconception that content that has been deleted from a site is no longer accessible. Any and all content posted on any social media site can be accessed if so desired.

“Nurses have been disciplined by boards, fired by employers, and criminally charged by authorities for the inappropriate or unprofessional use of social media”. (www.ncsbn.org)

Edgewood University faculty may require a student to use social media as part of the course curriculum. This use of social media is at the discretion of the faculty and will be the only exception to the use of social media at Edgewood University during clinical or classroom settings.

Use of Cell Phones and Laptop Computers in Class

Behaviors such as talking in class, surfing the internet, and use of cell phones (including text messaging during class), are distracting, disruptive, and disrespectful to individuals conducting class and your fellow classmates. These unprofessional behaviors will not be tolerated. Out of respect for your colleagues and instructors, **CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND STORED DURING CLASS MEETINGS.** In the case of a life crisis or for individuals who must be “on call” or “accessible for a text message” on a specific date, please inform the instructor before class begins that you need to keep your cell phone switched on and nearby.

Laptops are allowed in class. Students using laptops must plan to sit in the back row to decrease distractions for other students. If this privilege is abused (i.e. using your laptop for purposes that are not class related) it will be removed at the discretion of the professor.

NURSES MAINTAIN ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Edgewood University Academic Honesty Policy states:

“As members of a scholarly community dedicated to healthy intellectual development, students and faculty at Edgewood University are expected to share the responsibility for maintaining high standards of honesty and integrity in their academic work. Each student should reflect this sense of responsibility toward the community by submitting work that is a product of his or her own effort in a particular course unless the instructor has directed otherwise. In order to clarify and emphasize its standards for academic honesty, the University has adopted this policy”.

The following are examples of violations of standards for academic honesty and are subject to academic **sanctions**:

- Cheating on exams
- Submitting collaborative work as one’s own
- Falsifying records, achievements, field or laboratory data or other course work

- Stealing examinations or other course materials; submitting work previously submitted in another course or the same course if repeating, unless specifically approved by the present instructor
- Posting exam questions or other course materials on the internet without the instructor's permission.
- Falsifying documents or signing an instructor's or administrator/s name to a document or form
- Plagiarism
- Aiding another student in any of the above actions.

Plagiarism, which is defined as the deliberate use of another's ideas or words as if they were one's own, can take many forms, from the egregious to the mild. Instances most commonly seen in written work by students in order from most to least serious are:

- Borrowing, buying or stealing a paper from elsewhere, lending or selling a paper for another's use as his or her own, using printed material written by someone else as one's own.
- Getting so much help on a paper from someone else, including a college tutor, that the student writer can no longer legitimately claim authorship.
- Intentionally using source material improperly; e.g., neither citing nor using quotation marks on borrowed material; supplying an in-text citation but failing to enclose quoted material within quotation marks; leaving paraphrased material too close to the original version; failing to append a works-cited page when sources have been used.
- Unintentional misuse of borrowed sources through ignorance or carelessness.

Plagiarism---nurses or other authors do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due (*American Psychological Association Ethics Code Standard 8.11*)

Self- Plagiarism---nurses and other authors do not present their own previously published work as new scholarly work. An author may cite their own previous work, but they cannot submit that work as new material (*American Psychological Association, 2019*).

- Example: A student submits a paper to CNURS 305 and then with a few minor edit changes submits the paper for another class or resubmits the paper, with minor edits, if repeating a course.
- Example: A student submits a paper, from another class, in which he/she has augmented previous learning but fails to cite the original work.

Plagiarism and self-plagiarism are unprofessional, unethical, and are considered violations of the academic honesty code of the University and the School of Nursing. Participating in any act of plagiarism and/or self-plagiarism directly violates the Nursing Code of Ethics.

NURSES MAINTAIN A PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE

Students are expected to maintain a professional appearance for both functional and aesthetic reasons. Students engaged in nursing clinical experiences are expected to comply with the SoN dress code requirements. The dress code may vary with selected clinical field trips or conferences; faculty will inform students of appropriate professional attire. Each student is responsible for purchasing the required uniform and Edgewood University nametag PRIOR TO beginning clinical and are responsible for all uniform costs. Faculty may suspend a student from the clinical setting for non-compliance with the Henry Predolin College of Health Sciences, School of Nursing dress code (this will be counted as an absence).

SANCTIONS FOR NOT ADHERING TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING CODE OF CONDUCT

A student may be dismissed from the SoN for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to meet the academic standards.
- Behavior which is contrary to the ethical code of the nursing profession. This behavior includes any violations against current HIPPA regulations.
- Three early alerts issued during a clinical rotation will result in failing the clinical rotation. Any failure in a nursing course results in dismissal from the nursing program.

Students whose behavior does not comply with the Code of Professional Conduct presented in this document will receive sanctions which may include, but are not limited to, the following: A lower or failed grade, reprimand, campus or community service, restitution, suspension or dismissal from the clinical/classroom or nursing program. The Dean of the College of Health Sciences may define further sanctions not listed in this document.

- **REPRIMAND**- official warning in writing that continuation or repetition of wrongful conduct may result in further disciplinary action (e.g. early alert notice, documentation in clinical evaluation).
- **DISCIPLINARY PROBATION**- may be imposed for any misconduct, failure to follow the Code of Professional Conduct, or any other

violations that do not warrant suspension from the nursing program, but require further consequences. Disciplinary probation is imposed for a designated period of time determined by the College of Health Sciences Dean. This probationary status includes the probability of further penalties if the student commits additional acts of misconduct or fails to comply in any probation contract details.

- *CAMPUS AND/OR COMMUNITY SERVICE*- requirement that services will be offered for a specified period to an appropriate nonprofit community agency and/or to the campus community.
- *RESTITUTION*- reimbursement for damage to or loss of property which occurred as a result of the misconduct.
- *SUSPENSION*- exclusion from classes, enrollment, and other privileges in the SoN.
- *EXPULSION*- permanent termination of admission and enrollment status in the SoN.

Disciplinary actions, to include expulsion and suspension, shall be included in the student's permanent academic record.

PROCEDURE FOR PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION

An allegation of professional misconduct may be made by other students, faculty, staff, clients/patients, visitors, or any member of an agency that has a verbal or written agreement to provide learning experiences for students.

The allegation of misconduct should be submitted in written form to the faculty member in whose class or clinical setting the misconduct occurred and the SoN Dean. Information about the misconduct should include:

- *Date, time, location, and description of the incident.*
- *Names of all parties involved and witnesses.*
- *Supporting facts and justification for the complaint.*
- *Brief description of efforts to resolve the complaint.*
- *Date and signature of the person(s) making the allegation of misconduct.*

Students should first discuss any conduct allegations with the faculty member responsible for the clinical or classroom setting in which the infraction occurred. A faculty member who witnesses or observes a student will discuss the situation with the SoN Dean or designated faculty as directed by the Dean. The College of Health Sciences Dean has the right to impose sanctions as deemed appropriate and may involve faculty members as needed. The Dean may also refer the student to the Appeal Process as described in the NURSING Student Handbook.

Students who violate any part of the Code of Professional Conduct a second time will be dismissed from the SoN.

If a student is in violation of the Code of Conduct as described in the University Student Handbook, it is the student's responsibility to notify the College of Health Sciences Dean immediately upon being contacted of their violation by the Dean of Student's Office.



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STUDENT AGREEMENT

I understand the Henry Predolin College of Health Sciences, School of Nursing at Edgewood University Code of Professional Conduct is consistent with the ethical obligations of nursing, and pledge to uphold the Code of Professional Conduct by abstaining from dishonesty, deceit, fraud, or other unprofessional behaviors as described in the Code.

I understand that my adherence to the Code of Professional Conduct is a required and appropriate requisite for enrollment and participation in this nursing program.

I accept responsibility and accountability for my professional behavior and conduct within all aspects of clinical and classroom instructional opportunities.

I understand that if I witness unprofessional conduct or behavior that I am ethically and morally obligated to report this information to appropriate faculty.

I understand that failure to comply with the Code of Professional Conduct as noted in the document may result in sanctions and possible expulsion from the School of Nursing.

I have read and understand all aspects of the student handbook including but not limited to academic integrity, professional expectations, assumptions of risk, photo/video release forms, and eligibility for licensure.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature

Date

Witness Signature (anyone 18 or older)

Date