

Indiana State University
College of Health and Human Services
Department of Baccalaureate Nursing

Professional Conduct and Student Expectations Policy

Professional Conduct of Nursing Students

Indiana State University nursing students are expected to demonstrate a high standard of professional conduct in all aspects of their academic work and college life. Professional nursing behavior is guided and shaped by adherence to the American Nurses Association Scope and Standards of Practice and the Code for Ethics

(<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/CodeofEthicsforNurses/Code-of-Ethics.pdf>) and other agencies code of ethics, such as the NSNA Code for Conduct for prelicensure students, (<http://www.nсна.org/Publications/AcademicClinicalConduct.aspx> and http://www.nсна.org/Portals/0/Skins/NSNA/pdf/NSNA_CoC_Academic_Clinical_Interp_Statements.pdf), the National League for Nursing Code of Conduct and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Accreditation Standards (<http://www.acenursing.org/>). The professional behavior of nursing students is thus directed by these standards and guidelines, as well as by clinical agency policies, Federal regulations and laws such as HIPAA and University policy. Professional misconduct may result in a student's dismissal from the nursing program.

Disrespectful or Inappropriate Behavior

As members of the nursing profession, it is imperative that nursing students recognize their responsibility to society and their patients and exhibit behavior representing high standards, polite etiquette, compassion and respect for human dignity in both the classroom and clinical settings. Disrespectful or inappropriate behaviors include, *but are not limited to*: non-preparedness for a class or clinical; failure to notify faculty and preceptors in advance if they are not able to attend clinical for any reason; misuse of lab equipment; refusing a class or clinical assignment; not following the prescribed school or clinical agency policy for dress, smoking, and hygiene standards; use of profanity with patients/ancillary staff; degrading comments or actions; disrespectful verbal or nonverbal communications; unprofessional, disrespectful or inappropriate online posting, including social media or email communications; fraudulent behavior, deception, and/or neglect of patients. Students who engage in disrespectful or inappropriate behavior or communications may be asked to leave or may be removed from class (online Blackboard or face-to-face) or clinical setting, and may be given an unsatisfactory performance or a failing grade for that particular class or clinical day. Students who repeat such behaviors may receive a failing grade for the course or be dismissed from the program.

Dismissal for Non-Academic Reasons-Professional Misconduct

A student who engages in unsafe, unethical or inappropriate conduct in a clinical or non-clinical setting may be dismissed from the nursing program. Students who engage in inappropriate or disruptive behavior with patients, staff members, other students, or faculty will be asked to leave or removed from class or clinical area immediately. This policy includes *but is not limited to* verbally or physically threatening patients, staff, students or faculty, violation of federal or state regulations, being under the influence of alcohol or other mind altering drugs, and/or performing actions outside of the nursing student's scope of practice.

When a faculty member determines that a student may need to be removed from the nursing major because of unsafe, unethical, or grossly inappropriate conduct, the faculty member will inform the Department Chairperson and Executive Director of the problems identified and the rationale for a recommendation to dismiss the student from the Program. The faculty, Department Chairperson and Executive Director will meet with the student. Students dismissed from the program have the right to appeal the dismissal as described in the ISU Student Handbook.

In the event that the student is retained within the program following professional misconduct, the student will have a written misconduct statement placed in his/her student record. The student will be given guidelines to follow concerning remediation and will be dismissed if the guidelines for remediation are not followed or if additional instances of professional misconduct are committed.

This policy serves as written warning to students of the professional misconduct policy. The ISU Nursing Programs reserve the right to impose discipline against a student without additional warnings if circumstances justify such action at the discretion of the ISU Nursing Programs. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to require the ISU Nursing Programs to provide additional warnings to a student prior to any disciplinary action being taken, and the ISU Nursing Programs reserve the right to dismiss a student at any time for violation of School, Agency, or University Policies, professional conduct codes, or federal regulations.

Approved, Department of Baccalaureate Nursing, 10/20/2014