

POLICY TITLE: MSN PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

Policy

Professional behavior guidelines are intended to protect patients and the public from incompetent, unethical or illegal conduct. The purpose of the guidelines is to identify unprofessional or dishonorable behaviors of the professional MSN nursing student, which the faculty of the School of Nursing believes are likely to deceive, defraud or injure patients or the public. The following guidelines will apply to the educational preparation, experience, knowledge, and conduct of the professional MSN nursing student enrolled at the University of Houston Victoria School of Nursing. Failure to adhere to any component of this policy will result in academic counseling, review by the MSN Committee, and possible failure of the course and/or dismissal from the MSN program.

Professional student nurses are expected to treat all persons including faculty, fellow students, staff, nursing personnel, patients, and other healthcare professionals with respect and to conduct themselves in a professional manner. These behaviors include but are not limited to:

1. Providing safe, caring advanced practice nursing services without discrimination related to age, disability, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, race, religion or health problem of the patient/population served
2. Respecting an individual's right to privacy by protecting confidential information unless obligated or allowed by law to disclose the information
3. Responsibility for one's own continuing competence in nursing practice and individual professional growth
4. Maintaining professional boundaries of the nurse-patient relationship
5. Making assignments to others that take into consideration patient safety and that are commensurate with the educational preparation, experience, knowledge, and physical and emotional ability of the person to whom the assignments are made

Behaviors that are not acceptable in professional student nurses include but are not limited to:

1. Offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving or agreeing to receive, directly or indirectly, any fee or other consideration to or from a third party for the referral of a patient in connection with the performance of professional advanced practice nursing student duties
2. Providing information that is false, deceptive, or misleading in connection with one's practice as a professional advanced practice nursing student
3. Leaving a nursing assignment without notifying one's appropriate unit supervisor and faculty
4. Failing to make entries, destroying entries, and/or making false entries in records pertaining to care of patients
5. Misappropriating medications, supplies, equipment, or personal items of the patient, employer, or any other person or entity, or failing to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation
6. Carelessly failing, repeatedly failing, or exhibiting an inability to perform advanced practice nursing in conformity with the standards of minimum acceptable level of nursing practice
7. Carelessly or repeatedly failing to conform to generally accepted nursing standards in applicable practice settings

8. Demonstrating actual or potential inability to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, use of alcohol, drugs, chemicals or any other mood altering substances or as a result of any mental or physical condition
9. Threatening or violent behavior toward faculty, fellow students, staff, nursing personnel, patients, and other healthcare professionals.

Adapted from the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners Rule 217.11 and Rule 217.12

MSN POLICY

Approved by Faculty, 8/22/12
Approved by Dean Kathryn Tart:



Date: October 2, 2012