

## Policy Title: Professional Behavior

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### Policy

The following guidelines will apply to the educational preparation, experience, knowledge, and ability of the professional nursing student enrolled at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Nursing. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in counseling and may result in failure of the course and/or dismissal from the program.

- A. Professional student nurses are expected to treat all persons with respect and to conduct themselves in a professional manner.
- B. Standards of Student Nursing Practice: These standards for professional student nursing practice shall establish a minimum acceptable level of professional student nursing practice. The professional nursing student shall:
  1. provide, without discrimination, nursing services regardless of the age, disability, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, race, religion, or health problem of the client served.
  2. use a systematic approach to provide individualized, goal-directed nursing care by:
    - a. performing nursing assessments regarding the health status of the client;
    - b. making nursing diagnoses which serve as the basis for the strategy of care;
    - c. developing a plan of care based on assessment and nursing diagnoses;
    - d. implementing nursing care;
    - e. evaluating the client's responses to nursing intervention;
    - f. revising plan of care based on evaluation.
  3. institute the appropriate nursing intervention, which might be required to stabilize a client's condition and/or prevent complications.

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4. clarify any order or treatment regimen that the professional nursing student has reason to believe is inaccurate, Non-efficacious or contraindicated by consulting with the appropriate licensed practitioner.
5. know the rationale for the effects of medications and treatments and shall correctly administer the same.
6. accurately report and document the client's symptoms, responses, and progress in a timely manner.
7. implement measures to promote a safe environment for clients and others.
8. implement measures to prevent exposure to infectious pathogens and communicable conditions.
9. respect the client's right to privacy by protecting confidential information unless obligated or allowed by law to disclose the information.
10. promote and participate in client education and counseling based on health needs.
11. collaborate with the client, members of the health care team, and when appropriate, the client's significant other(s) in the interest of the client's health care.
12. consult with the appropriate licensed practitioner to make referrals to appropriate community agencies and health care resources to provide continuity of care.
13. accept only the nursing assignments that are commensurate with one's own educational preparation, experience and knowledge and ability.
14. obtain instruction and supervision as necessary when implementing nursing procedures and practice.

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15. be responsible for one's own continuing competence in nursing practice and individual professional growth.
- C. Professional Clinical Conduct: The unprofessional conduct rules are intended to protect clients and the public from incompetent, unethical, or illegal conduct. The purpose of these rules is to identify unprofessional or dishonorable behaviors of the professional student nurse, which the faculty of the school believes are likely to deceive, defraud or injure clients or the public. These behaviors include but are not limited to:
1. failing to assess and evaluate a client's status or failing to institute nursing intervention which might be required to stabilize a client's condition or prevent complications;
  2. failing to administer medications or treatments or both in a responsible manner;
  3. failing to accurately or completely report and/or document a client's status including signs, symptoms, or responses and nursing care delivered;
  4. failing to make entries, destroying entries, and/or making false entries in records pertaining to care of clients;
  5. causing or permitting physical, emotional or verbal abuse or injury to the client or the public or failing to report the same to the appropriate licensed practitioner;
  6. disclosing confidential information or knowledge concerning the client except where required or allowed by law;
  7. accepting an assignment when one's physical or emotional condition prevents the safe and effective delivery of care or accepting an assignment that does not take into consideration patient safety or for which one lacks the educational preparation, experience, knowledge or ability;
  8. failing to obtain instruction or supervision when implementing nursing procedures or practices for which one lacks the

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- educational preparation, ability, knowledge and/or experience;
9. leaving a nursing assignment without notifying one's appropriate unit nursing supervisor [and faculty];
  10. failing to follow the policy and procedure for the wastage of medication in the facility where the student is functioning at the time of the incident;
  11. misappropriating, in connection with the practice of nursing, medications, supplies, equipment, or personal items of the client, employer, or any other person or entity or failing to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation;
  12. 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 client in connection with the performance of professional student nursing duties;
  13. providing information that was false, deceptive, or misleading in connection with one's practice as a professional student nurse.

Adapted from The Statutes Regulating the Practice of Professional Nursing, Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas (Rule 217.11. Standards of Professional Nursing Practice, pages 83-85; Rule 217.12 Unprofessional Conduct, pages 85-87).