UTHealth The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston | Cizik School of Nursing

Policy Number: U4400

Professional Behavior

Subject: Professional Behavior

Scope: All Faculty, Staff, and Students of the Undergraduate Department

Responsible Office:
Baccalaureate Council

Effective Date: 11/2000

Date Reviewed/Revised: 5/2023

Next Scheduled Review Date: TBD

Responsible Executive: Dean, Cizik School of Nursing

I. POLICY AND GENERAL STATEMENT

A. The professional nursing student shall:

1. Treat all persons with respect and 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 assessment regarding the health status of the client.
    b. Making nursing diagnosis, which serves 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 response to nursing intervention.
    f. Revising the plan of care based on the evaluation.

3. Institute the appropriate nursing intervention, which might be required to stabilize a client's condition and/or prevent complications.
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 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 nursing educational preparation in the BSN program, experience, knowledge, and ability.
14. Obtain instruction and supervision as necessary when implementing nursing procedures and practice.
15. Be responsible for one's ow continuing competence in nursing practice and individual growth.
16. Be prompt to all classes and clinical assignments (lab and clinical settings) and dressed in proper student attire.

B. Failure to behave in a professional manner will result in counseling and may result in the student failing the course and/or dismissal from the program. 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 the care of clients.
5. Causing or permitting physical, emotional, or verbal abuse or injury to the client 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 account 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 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 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.

C. Social Media

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Professional behavior refers to behavior in all learning environments (i.e. classroom, lab, clinical settings), as well as all communication with colleagues, faculty, and staff.
B. Social Media is defined as a group of internet-based applications through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, as well as other content, including, but not limited to, blogs, discussion boards, video or audio podcasts, mobile applications, file sharing sites, online professional/social networks, and reviews. This does not include official university websites[1].

III. PROCEDURE

A. The instructor will inform the student in writing that they have performed unprofessionally in the learning environment and is in danger of failing the course.
B. The second unprofessional incident will result in the instructor informing the student in writing that they have the course, why ehy failed, and that the student will receive a grade of "F." The student will not be able to withdraw without penalty as a result of this action.
C. Violation of safe clinical practice or unprofessional behavior maybe be grounds for immediate removal of the student from the clinical setting and failure of the course.
D. The instructor will inform the student in writing that they may not return to the learning environment.
E. Documentation of this action will be placed in the student's file in the Office of Student Affairs.

IV. CONTACTS

Contact	Telephone	Email/Web Address
Chair of Undergraduate Department		

V. EXHIBITS

- U4840
- U4860
- HOOP 59 Prohibition of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct https://www.uth.edu/hoop/policy.htm?id=1447966

- HOOP 219 Use of Social Media https://www.uth.edu/hoop/policy.htm?id=91780f16-961e-4990-be50-8ac8aface6c7

- HOOP 186 Student Conduct and Discipline https://www.uth.edu/hoop/policy.htm?id=1448220

    - HOOP 186 Appendix A Unacceptable Student Conduct
    - HOOP 186 Appendix B Student Disciplinary Hearing Process

[1] HOOP 219

- UT Systems Board of Regent's Rule 50101 Student Conduct and Discipline https://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/rules/50101-student-conduct-and-discipline#:~:text=In%20the%20event%20of%20nonpayment,student%20otherwise%20would%20be%20entitled.

- Texas Administrative Code; Title 22; Part 11; Chapter 213; Rule 213.27 Good Professional Character https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=11&ch=213&rl=27

- Texas Board of Nursing Position Statement 15.29: Professional Boundaries, including use of social media by Nurses https://www.bon.texas.gov/practice_bon_position_statements_content.asp.html#15.29