| University of Prince Edward Island | Policy Number: 0008 |
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| Policy Title: Professional Conduct | Pages: 3 |
| Authority: Faculty of Nursing | Creation Date: May 2006 |
| References: UPEI Student Code of Conduct Policy (2021-1); Faculty of Nursing Professional Practice Review Policy (#0016), Clinical Evaluation Process Policy (#0009) | Version Date: February 2025 |
| | Review Date: February 2030 |

1. **Purpose**

To promote professional conduct by students enrolled in the Faculty of Nursing programs. Although satisfactory academic performance is a prerequisite to advancement, it is not the sole criterion when considering a student's progression or graduation.

The Faculty of Nursing is responsible to ensure graduates from the Baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs will be eligible for professional licensure and meet standards of practice such as described in the relevant documents:

- i. College of Registered Nurses and Midwives of Prince Edward Island (CRNMPEI) <u>Standards for Nursing Practice</u> (CRNPEI, 2018)
- ii. *Entry-Level Competencies* (CRNPEI, 2019a)
- iii. Standards for Nursing Practice Nurse Practitioners (CRNPEI, 2019b)
- iv. Entry-Level Competencies for Nurse Practitioners (CRNMPEI, 2023)
- v. Practice Directive: Transition to Practice (CRNMPEI, 2024)

All students must adhere to the <u>University of Prince Edward Island Student Code of Conduct</u> (UPEI, 2021), <u>Code of Ethical Conduct for Registered Nurses</u> (CRNMPEI, 2024), and CRNMPEI Standards for Nursing Practice (CRNPEI 2018; CRNPEI, 2019b). Unprofessional conduct will result in a formal review process.

2. Scope

All students enrolled in the baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs.

3. **Responsibility**

Faculty of Nursing

4. **Policy**

Nursing students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner in all clinical, laboratory, classroom and non-classroom settings, as guided by the CRNMPEI Standards for Nursing Practice for Registered Nurses (CRNPEI, 2018) and Nurse Practitioners (CRNPEI, 2019b), CNA Code of Ethics, and UPEI Student Code of Conduct and Academic Calendar, including specific Faculty of Nursing regulations for the <u>https://calendar.upei.ca/future/chapter/nursing/</u>undergraduate (UPEI, 2024a) and <u>https://calendar.upei.ca/future/chapter/program-regulations-graduate-studies/#chapter-</u> <u>131-section-6</u> graduate (UPEI, 2024b) programs. Faculty will support students to understand expectations for professional conduct, including specific clinical agency guidelines, policies and protocols. Students are expected to demonstrate responsibility and accountability for their actions as members of a professional discipline. Unprofessional conduct includes but is not limited to inappropriate or unprofessional communication and behavior, misrepresentation of facts, and breaches in confidence. Unprofessional conduct could result in unsatisfactory clinical evaluation, a professional practice review, or, at the Deans discretion, removal from a clinical placement, course failure, or dismissal from the program (cross reference Clinical Evaluation Process Policy and Professional Practice Review Policy).

Students are partners in maintaining positive relationships with clinical agencies as Faculty of Nursing representatives. Students whose conduct places the Faculty of Nursing clinical placement in jeopardy will be immediately removed from that experience. Faculty, Clinical Nursing Instructors (CNIs) and clinical agency partners have the right to ask a student to leave a clinical placement for unprofessional conduct including violations of agency or university policy.

The professional conduct of students will be monitored in all environments. Reports of unprofessional conduct can arise from different sources (e.g., Faculty, CNIs, clinical agency partners, other students) and the Faculty of Nursing will investigate these reports as per policy.

Students may appeal disciplinary decisions following the formal appeal process as outlined in the relevant policies listed below.

The Faculty of Nursing will follow an internal appeal process for professional misconduct as guided by the following policies (Clinical Evaluation Process Policy #0009 [Nursing Internal Student Appeal of Clinical Failure Process], Professional Practice Review Policy #0016, UPEI Student Code of Conduct #2021-2).

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed in February 2030 and every 5 years thereafter or whenever deemed necessary.

6. References

College of Registered Nurses of Prince Edward Island. (2018). Standards for Nursing Practice – Registered Nurses. *Professional Practice: Standards*. <u>https://crnpei.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Standards-for-Nursing-Practice-Registered-Nurses-2019.pdf</u>. Retrieved July 15, 2024.

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