

University of Prince Edward Island	Policy Number: 0008
Policy Title: Professional Conduct	Pages - 2
Authority: Faculty of Nursing	Creation Date: May 2006
References: see p. 2	Version Date: March 2017
	Review Date: March, 2022

1. **Purpose**

To promote professional conduct by students enrolled in the Faculty of Nursing. Although satisfactory academic performance is a prerequisite to advancement, it is not the sole criterion when considering a student's suitability for promotion or graduation. All students must adhere to the Canadian Nurses' Association (CNA) Code of Ethics (2017), and to the Standards of Practice of the Association of Registered Nurses of Prince Edward Island (2016). Students at the Faculty of Nursing are required to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner in all program-related situations. The professional and ethical behaviour of nursing students is thus directed by these standards and guidelines, as well as by University of Prince Edward Island Code of Conduct for Students (2015). The Faculty of Nursing reserves the right to fail a student from the program if he/she is considered to be unsuited to proceed with the study or practice of nursing.

2. **Scope**

All students enrolled in the baccalaureate nursing program.

3. **Responsibility**

Faculty of Nursing

4. **Policy**

Nursing students are expected to behave in a professional and ethical manner in both the clinical and classroom settings. Students are expected to demonstrate responsibility and accountability for their actions as members of a professional discipline. Unprofessional conduct such as: disrespect, rudeness, misrepresentation of fact, and unsatisfactory clinical evaluation could result from suspension, or dismissal from the program.

Classroom and laboratory learning experiences are essential elements in education preparatory to professional nursing practice. Students are expected to be prepared for and attentive to all learning experiences. Unexplained absences from the clinical and laboratory settings are considered to be unprofessional conduct. Students who disrupt educational activities in classroom or laboratory settings will be asked to leave.

Clinical learning experiences are an important component of nursing education, and clinical partners contribute a great deal to students and faculty. Students whose conduct places the Faculty of Nursing clinical placement in jeopardy will be immediately removed from that experience. At any time, faculty, clinical nursing instructors or clinical agency partners have the right to ask a student to leave a clinical placement for unprofessional conduct, including violations of dress code or behaviour that is considered disrespectful, irresponsible or unsafe.

Professional misconduct will be documented on the student's file and may result in dismissal from the nursing program. Students dismissed from the nursing program for unsafe, unethical, and unprofessional conduct or performance may initiate the appeal process according to the Academic Appeals as outlined in the UPEI Calendar.

5. **Review** - This policy will be reviewed in March, 2022 and every 5 years thereafter, or whenever deemed necessary.

References

Association of Registered Nurses of Prince Edward Island (2011). *Standards for nursing practice*. Retrieved from:

<http://www.arnpei.ca/images/pdf/Standards%20for%20Nursing%20Practice2011.pdf>

Canadian Nurses Association. (2017). *Code of ethics for registered nurses*. Ottawa.

University of Prince Edward Island (2015). *Code of conduct for Students*. Retrieved from:

<http://www.upei.ca/policy/files/policy/Code%20of%20Conduct%20for%20Students.pdf>