

University of Prince Edward Island	Policy Number: FNDE-002
Policy Title: ACCEPTANCE AND OFFERING OF GIFTS	Pages - 2
Authority: Foods and Nutrition Program	Version Date: January 2026
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1. Purpose

To ensure that interns maintain professional integrity and avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest when interacting with clients/patients, preceptors, instructors, and other individuals involved in the internship program.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all dietetic interns participating in the UPEI Integrated Dietetic Internship Program, and includes interactions with clients/patients, placement preceptors, practicum instructors, evaluators, and any individuals involved in supervision, assessment, or decision-making related to the internship or practicum placement.

3. Responsibility

- **Interns** are responsible for complying with this policy, declining or returning gifts as required, and seeking guidance whenever there is uncertainty regarding a potential conflict of interest.
- **Preceptors and Practicum Supervisors** are responsible for providing guidance to interns, modeling ethical behavior, and assisting interns in addressing any concerns regarding gifts, gratuities, or potential conflicts of interest.
- **Program Administration** is responsible for reviewing policy adherence, providing support and resources for interns and preceptors, and enforcing disciplinary actions if the policy is violated.

4. Policy

In accordance with [Section 3.9 of the College of Dietitians of Prince Edward Island Code of Ethics](#), interns must avoid conflicts of interest, including the real or perceived influence of gifts, favours, or gratuities. Interns must not solicit or accept gifts from current or potential clients/patients at any time. This includes any item, service, or benefit that could reasonably be perceived as influencing professional judgment or decision-making. Modest, customary business courtesies—such as payment for a simple meal in a professional context—or promotional items

of nominal value that are routinely distributed and not targeted specifically to the intern may be acceptable, provided they do not create a real or perceived conflict of interest.

To avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of favoritism, interns must not offer gifts to practicum preceptors, practicum instructors, evaluators, or other individuals involved in assessment, supervision, or decision-making related to the internship program or practicum placement. Non-monetary expressions of appreciation of nominal or symbolic value (e.g., thank-you cards or letters) are acceptable.

5. Procedure

- Interns must not accept gratuities or gifts of money from clients/patients under any circumstances. Any such gift must be declined or returned immediately.
- If a client/patient offers a gift that raises concern or uncertainty, the intern must discuss the situation promptly with their placement preceptor.
- Interns are expected to seek guidance when unsure whether a gift or gesture may constitute a conflict of interest.
- Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with program policies.

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Foods and Nutrition Program team to ensure alignment with the College of Dietitians of Prince Edward Island Code of Ethics, current best practices, and program requirements. Updates will be communicated to all interns and preceptors as needed.