BSN Academic Regulation | Standard

Professional Conduct

The School of Nursing (SoN) and its members are charged with the professional responsibility to ensure that every nursing graduate has the requisite skills, abilities and competencies and are able to meet the professional practice standards to be eligible for professional licensure as Registered Nurses in the province of British Columbia. Further, the SoN expects that students behave in a responsible and accountable manner regardless of whether they are in the practice setting within the community or on UBC property. Professional nursing behavior is guided and shaped by adherence to the British Columbia College of Nurses & Midwives (BCCNM) Nursing Practice Standards and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) Code of Ethics. Failure to adhere to these standards may result in an Unprofessional Conduct Report being completed and placed in the student's academic record. This report may contribute to and inform the evaluation of a nursing practice domain in a Practice Appraisal Form (PAF). However, an unsatisfactory rating in the Professional Responsibility domain does not require an unprofessional conduct report to be completed. The professional behavior of nursing students is thus directed by these standards as well as University policy. A student may be required to withdraw from the school because of unprofessional conduct.

Students enrolled in the nursing program and all teachers employed by the SoN are expected to conduct themselves professionally in all classroom and practice experiences at all times.

Teachers are expected to assist students with the interpretation of specific practice agency guidelines (i.e. Professional Appearance) and apply it to their professional conduct. Students are expected to demonstrate responsibility and accountability for their actions as members of the profession & discipline of nursing.

Unprofessional conduct (i.e. disrespect, rudeness, misrepresentation of fact, etc.) is unacceptable in both practice and classroom components of the learning experience. Behaviors considered as misconduct, as well as defined consequences of misconduct are described in the UBC Okanagan Academic Calendar. Please refer to the Unprofessional Conduct Procedure on handling instances of unprofessional conduct.

It is expected of all students to be prepared for and attentive to all learning experiences. In the context of professional conduct, unexplained absences are not tolerated. If a student takes issue with the relevance or necessity for any scheduled learning activities, students are invited to exercise their right to express the concerns to the Assistant Director.

Practice Experiences

Practice experiences (including lab/SIM experiences) are a critical component of nursing education, and our practice partners contribute to student education and teacher support oftentimes in difficult circumstances. Any member of the SoN (students or teachers) whose conduct places the SoN in jeopardy of losing a practice placement site will be immediately removed from the practice experience. Students may be asked to remove themselves from the practice setting by the host agency or practice teacher at any time unprofessional conduct is witnessed or made aware of. This includes breaches of professional appearance and any behavior that could be considered as disrespectful, irresponsible or unsafe. The SoN supports our practice partners and host agencies when a decision is required regarding professional conduct.

Classroom Experiences

Classroom learning experiences are also an essential element in the preparatory education to professional nursing practice. A student who conducts themself in a manner that is disruptive to educational activities within the classroom setting will be asked to leave. UBC

recognizes the right of the SoN to establish consequences for unprofessional conduct in the context of learning experiences, which may include involuntary withdrawal from the Nursing program.

Student and/or Academic Misconduct

Issues of student misconduct will, in the first instance, be dealt with at the School level, and be guided by the University's Student Conduct and Discipline policy. The following assumptions and actions will guide the SoN responses to issues of student misconduct:

- UBC's resources for Academic Integrity are available for students: https://academicintegrity.ubc.ca/
- Misconduct will be dealt with as quickly and effectively as possible by teachers immediately involved
- Every effort will be made to maintain open lines of communication between involved teacher(s) and student(s).
- Confidentiality will be respected and maintained. Discussion of student misconduct within the School or University will be on a 'need to know' basis.
- Teachers immediately involved will document the alleged misconduct incident, including a statement of the problem/concern, teacher, and where possible, the student views of the incident along with immediate action and/or plan. The involved student(s) may also subjectively document the incident. Ongoing advisement/action will be documented by the teacher(s) and a copy of all documentation will be maintained in the students' academic file.
- All allegations of misconduct will be brought to the SoN Assistant Director for discussion and advisement.
- Issues of misconduct for which a natural consequence (i.e. failed paper or course) may be appropriate will be decided by the Assistant Director in consultation with the Associate Dean Teaching and Learning. The aforementioned follows consultation with the teacher and involved student. A copy of the written decision will be sent to the student, a copy will be retained in the students' academic file, and one copy will be sent to the Office of the Dean.
- All issues of academic misconduct will be forwarded by the SoN Assistant Director to the Office of the Dean, who will review the case and submit recommendations to the Presidents' Advisory Committee on Student Discipline.
- In the event of a natural consequence (i.e. a zero grade for a paper), the student is entitled to appeal the decision and can reach out to the Assistant Director for guidance. Additionally, students can refer to the Senate Appeals on Academic Standing
- In the event of an academic penalty (i.e. suspension or expulsion from the Institution), the student is entitled to appeal the decision as per the Senate Appeals on Academic Discipline

Although satisfactory academic performance is a requisite to advancement, it is not the sole criterion in the consideration of the suitability of a student for promotion or graduation. The SoN reserves the right to require a student to withdraw from the program if they are considered to be unsuited to proceed with the profession or practice of nursing. Please refer to Withdrawal for Unsatisfactory Conduct as stipulated in the UBC Okanagan Academic Calendar.