

# Code of Student Conduct



Fall 2014

## OUR VALUES

As student you should be aware of the following;

We are accountable

- We act in the best interests of people who use or need the services of nurses.
- We take responsibility for our actions and are open and transparent.

We are fair

- We act with integrity and can be trusted to use our powers responsibly.
- We are consistent in the way we deal with people and show consideration and understanding.

• We are professional

- We are known for our expertise and work to high standards in all we do.
- We look for innovative solutions and learn from our mistakes.

• We are inclusive

- We respect and value everyone for their contribution, celebrate peoples' differences and provide equality of opportunity for all.

It's important that, even as a student, you conduct yourself professionally at all times in order to justify the trust the public places in our professions.

Good character is important as nurses must:

be honest and trustworthy. Good character is based on a person's conduct, behavior and attitude. It also takes account of any convictions and cautions that are not considered to be compatible with professional licensure and that might bring the profession into disrepute. A person's character must be sufficiently good for them to be capable of safe and effective practice without supervision.

Ability to practice means having the skills, knowledge, good health and good character to do your job safely and effectively. Your ability to practice as a student will be assessed from the time you register and all throughout your program and, if there are ever concerns, these will be investigated and addressed by the college.

The following examples are common areas of concern when it comes to ability to practice.

#### Aggressive, violent or threatening behavior

- verbal, physical or mental abuse
- assault
- bullying
- physical violence

#### Cheating or plagiarizing

- cheating in examinations, coursework, clinical assessment or records
- forging a faculty members name or signature on clinical assessments or records
- passing off other people's work as your own or obtaining confidential information such as test banks and answer keys.

#### Criminal conviction or caution

- child abuse or any other abuse
- child pornography
- fraud
- physical violence
- possession of illegal substances
- theft

#### Dishonesty

- fraudulent resumes, application forms or other documents
- misrepresentation of qualifications

#### Drug or alcohol misuse

- alcohol consumption that affects work or school
- dealing, possessing or misusing drugs and/or obtaining medications in a fraudulent manor
- drunk driving

#### Health concerns

- failure to seek medical treatment or other support where there is a risk of harm to other people
- failure to recognize limits and abilities, or lack of insight into health concerns that may put other people at risk

#### Persistent inappropriate attitude or behavior

- failure to accept and follow advice from your college faculty or clinical placement provider
- non-attendance – clinical and academic
- poor application and failure to submit work on time or otherwise
- poor communication skills

#### Unprofessional behavior

- breach of confidentiality
- misuse of the internet and social networking sites, this includes defamation of the college, facilities and/or patients
- failure to keep appropriate professional or sexual boundaries
- persistent rudeness to people, colleagues or others
- unlawful discrimination

#### Criminal offenses

You have a duty to report to the college immediately if:

you have been cautioned, charged or found guilty of a criminal offense at any time before commencing or during your program. Criminal offenses, particularly those involving dishonesty, or the use of drugs or alcohol, are likely to raise questions about your ability to practice.

Suncoast College of Health has four main principles that assist in guiding the student conduct during the program.

1. Make the care of people your first concern, treating them as individuals and respecting their dignity.
2. Work with others to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of those in your care, their families and carers, and the wider community.
3. Provide a high standard of practice and care at all times.

Be open and honest, act with integrity and uphold the reputation of your profession. Treat people as individuals

You should:

- Treat people as individuals and respect their dignity.
- Be polite, kind, caring and compassionate.
- Not discriminate in any way against those for whom you provide care.
- Recognize diversity and respect the cultural differences, values and beliefs of others, including the people you care for and other members of staff.

The guidance Respect a person's confidentiality

You should:

- Respect a person's right to confidentiality.
- Not disclose information to anyone who is not entitled to it.
- Seek advice from your faculty member before disclosing information if you believe someone may be at risk of harm or violating HIPAA.
- Follow the guidelines or policy on confidentiality as set out by your college and clinical placement provider.
- Be aware of and follow the SCH guidelines
- Make anonymous any information included in your coursework or assessments that may directly or indirectly identify people, staff, relatives, caretakers or clinical placement providers.

Ensure you gain consent

You should:

- Make sure people know that you are a student.
- Ensure that you gain their consent before you begin to provide care.
- Respect the right for people to request care to be provided by a licensed professional.

Maintain clear professional boundaries

You should:

- Maintain clear professional boundaries in the relationships you have with others, especially with vulnerable adults and children.
- Refuse any gifts, favors or hospitality that might be interpreted as an attempt to gain preferential treatment.
- Not ask for or accept loans from anyone for whom you provide care or anyone close to them.

Work as part of a team

You should:

- Be aware of the roles and responsibilities of other people involved in providing health and social care.
- Work co-operatively within teams and respect the skills, expertise and contributions from all people involved with your education.
- Treat all colleagues, team members and those with whom you work and learn, fairly and without discrimination.
- Inform a faculty member immediately if you believe that you, a colleague or anyone else may be putting someone at risk of harm.
- Provide a high standard of practice and care at all times
- Recognize and work within your scope of practice

You should:

- Recognize and stay within the limits of your scope of practice both as a student and when you graduate and become licensed.
- Work only under the appropriate supervision and support of a qualified professional and ask for help from your faculty member when you need it.

- Work with your faculty member to monitor the quality of your work and maintain the safety of people for whom you provide care.
- Seek help from an appropriately qualified healthcare professional, as soon as possible, if your performance or judgement is affected by your health.

Ensure your skills and knowledge are up to date

You should:

- Take responsibility for your own learning.
- Follow the policy on attendance as set out by your college and clinical placement provider.
- Follow the policy on submission of coursework and completion of clinical assessments as set out by your college and clinical placement provider.
- Reflect on and respond constructively to feedback you are given.
- Endeavor to provide care based on the best available evidence or best practice.

Keep clear and accurate records

You should:

- Ensure that you follow facility/college policy on the recording, handling and storage of records.
- Be open and honest, act with integrity and uphold the reputation of your profession

Be open and honest

You should:

- Be honest and trustworthy when completing all records and logs of your practice experience.
- Not plagiarize or falsify coursework or clinical assessments.

Act with integrity

You should:

- Demonstrate a personal and professional commitment to equality and diversity.
- Abide by the laws of the state in which you are undertaking your program and inform your college immediately if, during your program, you are arrested or receive a charge from the police.
- Inform your college (written documentation) if you have been cautioned, charged or found guilty of a criminal offense at any time.

- Ensure that you are familiar with and abide by the rules, regulations, policies and procedures of your college and clinical placement provider.
- Abide by Florida laws and the rules, regulation, policies and procedures of the college and clinical placement providers with regard to your use of the internet and social networking sites.

#### Protect people from harm

You should:

- Seek help and advice from a faculty member when there is a need to protect a patient from harm.
- Seek help immediately from a faculty member or an appropriate, qualified, facility staff member (supervisor or charge nurse) if someone for whom you are providing care has suffered harm for any reason.

#### Uphold the reputation of the nursing professions

You should:

- Follow the dress code or uniform policy of your college and clinical placement provider.
- Be aware that your behavior and conduct inside and outside of the college and clinical placement, including your personal life, may impact on your ability to practice and ability to complete your program.
- Uphold the reputation of your chosen profession at all times.

**FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT AS OUTLINED IN THIS DOCUMENT OR SCHOOL CATALOG IS GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM YOUR PROGRAM WITHOUT WARNING OR PRIOR OFFENSES.**