

Mercer County Community College

Division Health Professions

Nursing Program

Nursing Student Standards of Conduct

Purpose: In order to support an atmosphere of growth and facilitate meaningful learning activities, the faculty has approved these Standards of Conduct which outlines student expectations of behavior. All students must adhere to the MCCC Student Code of Conduct. However, additional Standards of Conduct apply to students in professional programs in which highest standards of honesty, integrity and competence are demanded. This Code does not replace professional judgement and is not all inclusive. It is a framework for understanding and guiding acceptable behaviors. It is expected that every student adheres to these guidelines and maintains professional conduct in all academic and clinical settings.

Procedure:

1. Any action by students indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in professional matters is considered a violation of professional ethics.
2. Respectful and professional language is to be used when interacting with faculty, staff, peers, patients, and others.
3. Civil, polite, reasonable, and respectful behaviors are to be exercised in all professional, academic, and therapeutic relationships. Disagreements should be handled directly with the other party and reported to an appropriate third party if mediation is necessary.
4. Student prohibited behaviors towards any MCCC faculty, MCCC staff, clinical facility staff, or student include but is not limited to:
 - a. Creating or contributing to an unsafe and/or unhealthy learning environment; demonstrating behaviors that interfere with the learning of other students and the conduct of class.
 - b. Malicious, aggravated, injurious, intimidating, or threatening behaviors.
 - c. Demonstrating an injurious, offensive, demeaning, intimidating, threatening, belittling, coercing, disrupting, and/or abusive disposition.

- d. Harassment or any behavior that creates a hostile or intimidating environment in which verbal or physical contact, because of its severity or persistence, is likely to significantly interfere with an individual's work or education. This includes sexual harassment through physical contact, verbalizations, gestures, electronic or non-electronic media, and illustrations/graphics.
 - e. The use of physical force or violence to restrict the freedom of action or movement of another person.
 - f. Physical behavior or verbal expressions that involve an expressed or implied threat to interfere with an individual's personal safety, academic efforts, employment, or participation in college sponsored activities.
 - g. Inflammatory speech intended as a personal insult to the listener and/or abusive language, inherently likely to provoke a violent reaction in the listener.
5. Student prohibited behaviors towards any patient or client include but is not limited to:
 - a. Abusing, neglecting, or abandoning a patient in need of care.
 - b. Discriminating on the basis of diagnosis, race, religious creed, color, national origin, age, disability, gender and/or sexual identity in the rendering of nursing care.
 - c. Engaging in activity that could constitute fraud or forgery, such as falsification of documentation or students misrepresenting themselves to clients or staff.
 - d. Acting in a manner that could or do compromise patient safety; including those that are malicious, careless, or risky.
 - e. Engaging in romantic, sexual, or other non-professional relationships with patients under any circumstances. The giving and receiving of gifts between students and patients is prohibited.
6. Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes, labs, and clinical experiences. Habitual tardiness demonstrates a lack of commitment to the educational process and is grounds for disciplinary procedures.
7. Recording of theory class or other learning activities are at the discretion of the instructor. Students may only use recordings for personal study and may not post recordings to the internet in any fashion.
8. Maintain a neat and professional appearance during all clinical experiences, consistent with program uniform or dress code. Meticulous personal hygiene is essential.
9. Students are expected to adhere to the academic integrity policy. All work is expected to be original or properly attributed.
10. Cheating or disclosing the contents of an examination before, during or after its administration is a violation of academic integrity.

11. Students are expected to be respectful of all school facilities and property. It is the responsibility of everyone to ensure that facilities are well maintained and that property is not abused or stolen.
12. No equipment or supplies may be removed from the college or clinical settings by students without the explicit permission of faculty. Diverting of supplies, equipment, or drugs for personal or unauthorized use is prohibited.
13. A student who realizes that s/he has made a clinical error is obligated to report the situation to their instructor immediately.
14. Students may not perform acts beyond the scope of practice of a student clinician. Students may not assume duties and responsibilities within the practice that the student has not been prepared or trained for.
15. Students may not act as a witness for any consent form. Students may not transact any business for patients.
16. Patient privacy rights are protected by federal law. Materials containing patient identifiers must not be removed from any clinical setting. Any computer generated materials or protected health information must be placed in a secure disposal or shredder box prior to the student leaving the clinical unit. Information about patients and/or their circumstances should not appear on public forums, such as social media sites.
17. While the college respects the free speech rights of students, patient privacy must be the highest priority. Even de-identified information posted in a social media forum may be recognized by patients, their families, or college clinical partners.
18. Students may not take still pictures, videos, or audio recordings of patients or clients. Any pictures taken of students, faculty, and/or clinical staff may not include information identifying the clinical facility, staff, and/or patients, e.g. name badges, facility signs, logos, etc.
19. Student may not engage in non-approved use of cell phone or other electronic device in clinical area. Cell phone and electronic device use during lecture and lab is at the discretion of the instructor.
20. Students are strongly encouraged to consider how their internet presence on social networks, professional networks, public comment sections on web pages, etc. can reflect on their professional careers.
21. Students may use only their own access codes, passwords, login codes, keys, and facility access cards. Students may not access clinical documentation systems of clinical facilities outside the scope of their student nursing responsibilities.
22. Students may not make visits of a personal nature while in Mercer County Community College nursing clinical uniform.

23. Use of chewing gum and tobacco is prohibited at all clinical sites. This includes chewable tobacco products, snuff, and smoking by inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted cigarettes, cigar, pipe or other such device which contains tobacco or other smoke or vapor producing products such as e-cigarettes.
24. Faculty who observe a violation of this code in any fashion should complete a Faculty Concern Form and submit it to the Director of Nursing Education, no later than one week after occurrence.
25. Staff or students who observe a violation of this code in any fashion should contact the Director of Nursing Education immediately.
26. The Director of Nursing Education will review each incident. If substantiated, the incident will result in a written student action plan. This action plan may include additional coursework, written assignments, or other consequences appropriate to the violation.
27. A report of student misconduct with regard to these standards may also initiate a grievance process that could lead to student dismissal from the health professions program. Violations of federal, state and local laws may be applicable and would be reported to law enforcement as appropriate.
28. These standards shall not diminish or remove the applicability of college wide policies on student behavior.

Effective Date: January 17, 2017,

Revised May 2017

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth A. Mizerek', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Elizabeth A. Mizerek, MSN, RN, FN-CSA, CNE, CEN, CPEN
Director of Nursing Education