



## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

One of the goals of the Nursing program is to assist the student in becoming a safe practitioner of professional nursing. The primary mission of the Texas Board of Nursing is to protect and promote the welfare of the people of Texas by assuring that professional nurses are competent and safe practitioners.

The Nursing Programs' goal is fulfilled by holding the student accountable for safe mature behaviors and by establishing a code of ethics and conduct along with professional standards of behavior which will help the student in meeting the Texas Board's expectation. The following code of conduct has been established to make the student aware of guidelines regarding the department's expectations, which are in keeping with the general rules pertaining to disciplinary process and procedure found in the College Catalog and Nursing Student Handbook.

Infraction of the code of conduct whether it occurs in the classroom or any of the LSCS-sponsored activities including the clinical sites will result in disciplinary action. Discipline can range from written disciplinary action to removal from the program depending on the seriousness of the incident. Students should follow the chain of command: Instructor, Lead Faculty/Program Coordinator, Program Director, Dean, and Vice President. Reasons for disciplinary action may include but are **NOT LIMITED TO:**

**1. Use of alcohol or drugs before or during class or a clinical work shift.**

*Examples are not all inclusive:*

- a. Alcohol on a student's person or detected on her/his breath.
- b. Slurred speech, glassy red eyes.
- c. Difficulty in maintaining his/her balance.
- d. Belligerent, combative, irrational behavior.
- e. Illogical or inappropriate decision-making that could endanger clients or others.
- f. Possessing articles usually associated with drug use.

Refer to *Appendix B* for Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy

**2. Impairment by reason of mental or physical health, alcohol, or other mind altering drugs which could expose clients, the public, students, and faculty unnecessarily to risk of harm.**

*Examples:*

- a. Demonstration of hallucination, delusion or combative behavior.
- b. Physically or verbally attacking or threatening to attack clients, family, or other students or faculty.
- c. Misleading and deceptive comments including slanderous remarks or actions.

**3. Unprofessional or dishonorable conduct which may deceive, defraud, or injure clients, the public, school personnel, other students, and faculty. See LSCS Catalog – Student Conduct**

*Examples may include but are not limited to:*

- a. The possession and/or showing of any kind of knife, firearm, or other instrument that could be used as a weapon or that could frighten others.
- b. Informing the charge nurse or faculty member that a treatment, medicine or procedure has been done when in fact it has been omitted.
- c. Possessing medications including narcotics which need to be credited to the client or returned to the narcotic locker or the pharmacy.
- d. Omitting the administration of medications, treatments or other necessary activities which could endanger the client's life.
- e. Failing to follow instructional directives.
- f. Falsifying of records.
- g. Stealing.

**4. Failure to care adequately for clients or to conform to minimum standards of acceptable practice under the supervision of the faculty or the designee of the facility.**

*Examples may include but are not limited to:*

- a. Failure to follow the plan of care including medications, treatments, and other treatment activities.
- b. Failure to administer medications in a responsible manner.
- c. Failure to follow the physician's prescribed orders which have been held to be prudent by other nursing personnel.
- d. Failure to follow the instructional directives of the faculty member.
- e. Failure to wait for instructor supervision when directed to do so by faculty or student policy.
- f. Disclosing confidential information or knowledge concerning the client except where required by law.
- g. Performing any act which is beyond the scope of her/his approved level of practice.

**5. Aiding another student in deceiving or attempting to deceive the faculty in obtaining an exam, care plan grade, or grade on any required paper.**

*Examples may include but are not limited to:*

- a. Cheating on an exam or allowing another student to copy answers.
- b. Plagiarizing data for any reason.
- c. Submitting late papers and then informing the instructor that the paper was previously submitted.
- d. Using codes, gestures, or any other types of conduct designed to share or obtain answers from another student.
- e. Using any form of communication for the purpose of cheating.
- f. Utilizing advanced technology for sharing of information via text messaging, internet, etc.
- g. Accessing on-line testing material before or after designated time frame.

**6. Damaging or destroying school or hospital property or equipment or removing property or equipment from campus or a clinical site.**

*Examples may include but not limited to:*

- a. Removing limbs, eyes or other body parts from the teaching mannequins or torsos.
- b. Destroying computers, printers, Computer-Assisted Instruction programs, library magazine/journal articles.
- c. Taking Computer-Assisted Instruction programs without permission.

- d. Downloading computer viruses, obscene and/or pornographic material to LSCS computers.
- e. Removing equipment from the lab without permission.

**7. Using profane language or gestures.**

*Examples may include but not limited to:*

- a. Using four letter words, profane or obscene language or obscenities, or words and phrases that are derogatory or demeaning. Using language or engaging in conduct that could be construed as sexual harassment under LSCS policy on sexual harassment.
- b. Demonstrating obscene gesture.
- c. Making derogatory statements regarding a specific cultural or ethnic group.

**8. Being disruptive, habitually late, or absent from class, nursing skills lab, or clinical.**

*Examples may include but not limited to:*

- a. Arguing with an instructor over an assignment, examination, or other academic/clinical issue. The college recognizes the value of class discussion and debate. However, the College will not tolerate students who are knowingly confrontational or who knowingly attempt to embarrass or intimidate, making gestures, slamming down books, or talking loudly when someone else has the attention of the group.
- b. Monopolizing class time to share personal family problems, or medical experience.
- c. Habitually arriving to class late and disrupting instruction that is in progress.
- d. Missing more than allowed hours of clinical /lab time or excessive class absence.
- e. Failing to call the instructor when an absence from clinical/lab occurs.
- f. Having beepers, cell phones, computers, or informational devices which are not on silent mode during clinical, lab or class time. Electronic devices, including earphones or telephones in ears, should not be visible in the clinical area.
- g. Cameras or picture taking with phone cameras are prohibited without Nursing department approval.
- h.. No animals, with the exception of service animals, are allowed on campus or at college sponsored events.

**9. Physically or verbally assaulting others, demonstrating poor coping mechanisms or becoming confrontational during the instructional process.**

*Examples can include:*

- a. Grabbing, hitting or assaulting a student, client, faculty or other persons affiliated with the college or clinical site.
- b. Using menacing, aggressive verbal or physical behavior.
- c. Shouting obscene or abusive words.
- d. Being argumentative and menacing.
- e. Threatening others with physical or personal injury.

**10. Refusing to adhere to the specified dress code and code of conduct.**

*Examples may include but are not limited to:*

- a. Dressing in a garment that is not the designated uniform.
- b. Refusing to follow the guidelines for hair length.
- c. Smoking or chewing gum while in uniform.

- d. Coming to clinical without proper grooming or coming in a dirty or wrinkled uniform.

**11. Demonstrating behaviors that could be categorized as harassment.**

*Examples may include but are not limited to:*

- a. Following or stalking a faculty member around campus or to the faculty member's home or other places. Except in an emergency or under conditions previously approved by the faculty member, the proper method for school discussions is for the student to visit the instructor during office hours or to make an appointment.
- b. Calling faculty/administrators at home without specific permission.
- c. Making repeated phone calls to the faculty member's office, home, or cell phone to challenge grade or assignment.
- d. Making obscene calls to the faculty member's office or home.
- e. Harassing another student or faculty member in violation of the colleges' policy on sexual harassment.