BSN Professional Conduct Policy

Purpose

Professional conduct is required of all students in the School of Nursing. Students are in a program that ensures that graduates can meet the professional nursing practice standards and have the entrance to practice competencies, to be eligible for professional licensure as Registered Nurses in the province of British Columbia. As future members of a profession, current students are required to act professionally.

The conduct or behaviour of nursing students and professional nurses is guided and shaped by adherence to the following:

- College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC) Standards of Practice (2013)
- Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses (CAN, 2008)

Student nurses are also held to the standards set out in the Student Conduct and Discipline Section in the UBC Calendar.

The standards are intended to clarify the parameters of professional relationships whenever the student is present as a nursing student. Students must at all times adhere to the Code of Ethics of the CNA and act in conformity with the CRNBC Professional Standards. Unprofessional conduct is an act or omission that is in breach of these accepted ethical and professional standards of conduct. Unprofessional conduct will result in a disciplinary process.

Scope of application

This policy applies to nursing students in all environments whenever the student is present as a nursing student

Policy

Students in the School of Nursing will conduct themselves in a professional manner, as guided by the CRNBC Standards of Practice and the CNA Code of Ethics at all times. Students must demonstrate responsibility and accountability for their actions as members of a professional discipline.

Faculty will help students interpret expectations for professional conduct, specific clinical agency guidelines and policy and communication protocols, and apply them in their conduct.

The professional conduct of nursing students will be monitored at all times by faculty, clinical staff and students. Unprofessional conduct is unacceptable in clinical, lab and classroom
components of the learning experience. Reports and concerns about unprofessional conduct can arise from many different sources (e.g. client, agency staff, and other students) and the faculty is responsible for investigating and following up with a concern.

In the event of unprofessional conduct by a student, the behavior will be discussed with the student and documented. If the unprofessional conduct is deemed to be of a serious nature and/or there are repeated incidents of unprofessional conduct, an internal review process will be initiated in the School of Nursing. A serious violation of professional conduct may result in the student being asked to leave the course or the nursing program.
Appendix A

Examples of Behaviours/Indicators for Professional Conduct

Competency # 16: Professional Behaviour and Self-Awareness
(UBC School of Nursing Practice ePortfolio)

Knowledge

- Is consistently prepared for learning in all learning environments (classroom, lab, clinical and group projects)
- Uses professional language and a professional approach in oral and written communication.

Skill

- Takes initiative to be familiar with school policy and procedure and performs skills within student scope of practice
- Gives and receives feedback to/from peers, other health care team members and faculty in a constructive manner.

Attitude

- Participates in a group in a manner that is supportive of learning needs for self and for the group
- Respectfully communicates with peers, faculty members and agency staff
- Respectfully communicates with patients, their families and visitors

Judgement

- Recognizes limitations of own practice and seeks assistance with own learning needs as necessary. (i.e. from RN or Instructor, or completes extra lab time)
- Acts as an ambassador for the profession and the School of Nursing when interacting with the health care team and members of the public.