

POLICY NUMBER: III-XX

POLICY TITLE: Student Behaviors at Clinical Sites

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Miami Dade College ASN Student Handbook; Miami Dade College Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook; American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics; Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA); American Hospital Association Patient's Bill of Rights

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 09/2025

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear expectations for professional and ethical student behaviors in clinical and academic environments. The policy promotes alignment with Miami Dade College standards, the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics, and the requirements of affiliating clinical agencies. By outlining appropriate interactions with patients, peers, faculty, and clinical staff, this policy ensures that students uphold patient rights, maintain confidentiality, demonstrate cultural sensitivity, and foster safe, respectful, and effective learning and healthcare environments.

Policy Statement:

Students are expected to consistently demonstrate professional, ethical, and respectful behaviors in all clinical, classroom, and academic environments in accordance with Miami Dade College standards and the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics.

Policy Content: STUDENT AFFECTIVE BEHAVIORS AT CLINICAL SITES

Students are expected to interact with all college or clinical personnel in a positive professional manner.

STUDENT/PATIENT INTERACTIONS

- It is expected that Students will consistently display a professional and positive attitude in all clinical rotations.
- Students will always identify yourself and explain your role to the patient.
- Students will display courteous behavior towards the patient.
- Students will display respect for the patient regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic background, religion, sex, diagnosis or sexual orientation.
- Students will follow the above objectives regardless of the patient's condition.
- It is expected that you will maintain confidentiality of all patient records and information.
- Students will record all information accurately in the patient's chart and correct any errors properly.
- Students will discuss patient information only with other medical personnel involved in the care of the patient when out of the audible range of the patient and the patient's family and in non-public areas.

- Students will preserve patient anonymity when removing information from the chart for program-related projects. Copying the patient's record is strictly forbidden and considered a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- Students will discuss with the patient only information already known to the patient.
- It is expected that Students will display respect for the patient's right to privacy. (All students will be familiar with the American Hospital Association's Patient's Bill of Rights.)
- Students will arrange clothing and bedding to maintain patient modesty (when practical).
- Students will knock on the patient's door before entering the room.
- Students will address the patient using their Surname (Last name) with the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Ms.).
- Students will perform a physical examination of the patient only when indicated and with the assistance of a medical professional of the same sex as the patient, when indicated.
- It is expected that students will demonstrate concern for the protection of the patient from injury during all procedures.
- Students will perform only those procedures approved by the instructor.
- Students will adhere to accepted guidelines when performing any procedure.
- Students will assess the patient's condition and response to therapy.
- Students will ensure the safety and comfort of the patient during and after procedures

STUDENT/STUDENT INTERACTION

- It is expected that students will consistently display a professional and positive attitude in interactions with fellow students.
- Students will complete all assignments alone, without the aid of another student.
- Students will perform cooperatively when working in assigned areas with other students.
- Students will display respect for fellow students regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic background, religion, sex, or sexual orientation.

STUDENT/INSTRUCTOR INTERACTION

- It is expected that students will consistently display a professional and positive attitude when interacting with instructors.
- Students will work to the best of your ability to complete all assignments.
- Students will use established procedures in mediating any differences between yourself and the instructor.
- Students will demonstrate respect for the instructor at all times regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic background, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

- Students will demonstrate appropriate behavior at all times and adapt to instructional input.

STUDENT/CLINICAL PERSONNEL INTERACTIONS

- It is expected that students will consistently display a professional and positive attitude when interacting with the clinical personnel.
- Students will identify themselves by wearing the proper uniform and MDC picture ID.
- Students will display respect for all clinical personnel regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic background, religion, sex or sexual orientation.
- Students will read and practice all rules, regulations, and procedures that are established for the department to which they are assigned.
- It is expected that students will first discuss, with the MDC instructor, any established clinical procedure or any technique observed in the facility, with which you do not agree.
- Students will not discuss or debate any clinical procedure in the presence of a patient and/or family member.
- Students will demonstrate respect for the clinical rotation site by careful and responsible use of the facility and related equipment.

CLINICAL BEHAVIORS

As students are involved in clinical and academic environments, we believe that ethical principles are an essential guide to professional development. Therefore, within these environments we:

- Advocate for the rights of all clients.
- Maintain client confidentiality. (HIPAA)
- Take appropriate action to ensure the safety of clients, self, and others.
- Provide care for the client in a timely, compassionate and professional manner.
- Communicate client care in a truthful, timely, and accurate manner.
- Actively promote the highest level of moral and ethical principles and accept responsibility for our actions.
- Promote excellence in nursing by encouraging lifelong learning and professional development.
- Treat others with respect and promote an environment that respects human rights, values and choice of cultural and spiritual beliefs.
- Collaborate with the academic faculty and clinical staff to ensure the highest quality of client care.
- Refrain from performing any technique or procedure for which the student has not been approved.
- Refrain from any deliberate action or omission of care in the academic or clinical setting that creates an unnecessary risk of injury to the client, self or others.

- Abstain from the use of substances in the academic and clinical setting that impair judgment.
- Strive to achieve and maintain an optimal level of personal health.
- Uphold school policies and regulations related to academic and clinical performance, reserving the right to challenge and critique rules and regulations as per school grievance policy.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

The following professional behaviors are expected of all nurses and nursing students, reflect the values, rules, and practices of nursing. These must be demonstrated throughout each course and throughout the program. Deviations will result in a failing clinical grade, and/or withdrawal from the program. All students are expected to:

- Follow the policies and guidelines of the College, Program, and the affiliating agency.
- Treat others with respect.
- Provide patient care only when the instructor is on the premises.
- Maintain personal appearance according to program policies.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Report promptly to the clinical area and clinical conferences.
- Notify the instructor and unit personnel prior to lateness or absence.
- Attend all clinical sessions.
- Report to instructor and assigned staff member when coming on and leaving the clinical area.
- Prepare for clinical experiences by collecting patient data and researching and developing a preliminary plan of care.
- Cooperate with others on the health care team.
- Report all pertinent information, including abnormal findings, to the clinical instructor and staff member or designated person.
- Participate in pre- and post- conference and share learning experiences with others.
- Accept responsibility for assignment (e.g. complete assignment, complete own work, perform ongoing chart review for changes).
- Seek instructor's guidance before performing new or invasive procedures, administering a medication, or when changes occur in the patient's status.
- Apply knowledge from previous courses.
- Adhere consistently to all over riders.
- Practice nursing using legal/ethical principles that demonstrate cultural sensitivity.

REFERENCES

- Miami Dade College ASN Student Handbook
- Miami Dade College Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook
- MDC Manual of Procedures (MOP) 4025 – Student Code of Conduct
- MDC Manual of Procedures (MOP) 4030 – Student Discipline
- MDC Manual of Procedures (MOP) 4035 – Academic Dishonesty
- American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses
- American Hospital Association Patient's Bill of Rights
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)