

POLICY NUMBER: III-XXIV

POLICY TITLE: Social Media

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Miami Dade College Manual of Procedures; Florida Statutes §456.057 (Confidentiality of Patient Records); Florida Nurse Practice Act §464.018 (Grounds for Disciplinary Action); Florida Statute §1004.097 (Free Expression and Student Recording in Classrooms); Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA); Miami Dade College ASN Student Handbook; U.S. Department of Education Title IX and Title IV compliance.

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 08/2025

III-II Social Media Policy

Policy Statement:

Students in the Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) program are held to the highest standards of professionalism, both in and out of the classroom. The use of social media must align with nursing ethics, federal privacy protections, and Florida statutes governing confidentiality, professional conduct, and classroom recording. Any misuse of social media may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

General Guidelines:

- Students may not post, share, or discuss any patient information, clinical experiences, or identifiable details from healthcare facilities in accordance with HIPAA and Florida Statute §456.057, which protects the confidentiality of patient records.
- Students must represent Miami Dade College, the School of Nursing, and the nursing profession in a professional manner. Posts that are discriminatory, harassing, defamatory, or violate the MDC Student Code of Conduct are strictly prohibited.
- When in nursing uniform, students are considered official representatives of Miami Dade College's School of Nursing, regardless of location or class status. Any behavior or content posted on social media while in uniform will be held to the highest standards of professionalism and accountability.
- Under Florida Statute §1004.097, students may record classroom lectures for personal educational use, for use in a legal proceeding, or for reporting a complaint to college administration. However, students are prohibited from publishing, posting, or distributing classroom recordings on any social media or public platform without express written consent from the instructor and Miami Dade College. Unauthorized posting is a violation of both state law and MDC policy and may result in disciplinary action.
- Faculty and staff are prohibited from requesting access to students' private social media accounts; however, professional conduct extends to both public and private online spaces

Procedure:

Notification of Violation:

If a faculty member or administrator becomes aware of potential social media misuse, the incident must be documented and reported through the appropriate MDC disciplinary channels. Students will be notified of the concern and given the opportunity to respond.

Documentation of Violation:

All reported violations must be documented in compliance with MDC's Manual of Procedures IV-20 (Student Records). Documentation must include the nature of the social media activity, evidence collected, and relevant context.

Violations and Consequences:

- Posting any patient-related information, even without direct identifiers, may constitute a breach of confidentiality under HIPAA and Florida Statute §456.057 and will result in immediate disciplinary review.
- Unauthorized posting of classroom recordings, in violation of Florida Statute §1004.097, will result in disciplinary action and possible legal consequences.
- Unprofessional online behavior, including harassment, discrimination, or conduct that violates Florida Nurse Practice Act §464.018, may result in sanctions up to dismissal.
- Any unprofessional behavior or inappropriate content shared while in MDC nursing uniform will be treated as a direct representation of the School of Nursing and subject to heightened disciplinary review.
- Repeated violations of this policy will be referred to the MDC Student Disciplinary Committee for formal action.

Professional Standards:

Students are encouraged to use social media responsibly for academic and professional networking. Acceptable use includes:

- Participation in professional nursing forums or study groups.
- Sharing educational content that does not violate patient confidentiality or MDC policy.
- Using social platforms to promote evidence-based nursing practice and community health awareness.

References:

- Miami Dade College Manual of Procedures, IV-20 (Student Records)
- Miami Dade College ASN Student Handbook
- Florida Statute §456.057 (Confidentiality of Patient Records)
- Florida Nurse Practice Act §464.018 (Grounds for Disciplinary Action)
- Florida Statute §1004.097 (Free Expression and Student Recording in Classrooms)
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- Title IV, U.S. Department of Education (Student Financial Assistance)