

Professional Behavior

Student nurses represent the California State University, Chico, School of Nursing (SON) and the nursing profession. As such, they are expected to demonstrate professional behavior in both the classroom and all clinical settings. Behaviors that are expected and/or required of a professional registered nurse are emphasized throughout the nursing program.

Student nurses are expected to comply with all policies and procedures outlined in the Student Handbook as well as the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in this policy.

Clinical agencies in which student nurses practice and the healthcare clients with which they come into contact expect the student nurses to conduct themselves with professionalism and integrity and demonstrate ethical comportment consistent with the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses (2015).

Unsafe and/or unprofessional behaviors serious enough to result in dismissal from the SON program include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Malfeasance and/or gross negligence that results in harm to a healthcare client or damages the SON relationship with a clinical facility
- Academic dishonesty and/or plagiarism and/or cheating during an examination
- Verbal threat (assault) of anyone, and especially student colleagues, faculty members, employees of clinical partners, associated healthcare personal, and healthcare clients
- Physical violence (battery) towards anyone, and especially student colleagues, faculty members, employees of clinical partners, and healthcare clients
- Falsifying medical records, either those of oneself or those of others (e.g., healthcare clients)
- Carrying/concealing a weapon on campus or at clinical facility sites
- Use of illicit drugs and/or drug or alcohol inebriation on campus or at clinical facilities during academic and/or clinical activities
- Larceny (i.e., petty and/or grand theft) of the property of student colleagues, faculty members, clinical facilities, and/or the University
- Failure to comply with laws and regulations governing patient privacy and confidentiality
- Practicing invasive skills on other students and/or faculty members, either during skills lab sessions, clinical experiences (including simulation), or other nursing classes, including, but are not limited to:
 - Needle insertion of any kind for any reason (e.g., intramuscular, subcutaneous, or intradermal injection; venipuncture, including IV start), except during vaccination clinics under the supervision of a faculty member and after completing an IM competency
 - Introduction of soft or rigid tubing into body orifices (e.g., urinary catheter, nasogastric tube insertion; naso/oropharyngeal suctioning; Yankauer suctioning, etc.)
 - Cardiac defibrillation, cardioversion, or transcutaneous cardiac pacing
 - Digital or speculum penetration of the vagina or rectum.

Unsafe and/or unprofessional behaviors that may result in academic penalties and/or disciplinary action by faculty members of the SON program include, but are not limited to:

- Inappropriate, rude, offensive, abusive, or denigrating verbal and/or written communication with student colleagues, faculty members, and/or employees of clinical partners, associated healthcare personal, and healthcare clients
- Failure to comply with all SON policies outlined in the Student Handbook, including but not limited to:
 - the Medication Administration Policy
 - the Social Media Policy
 - the Mobile Device Policy
 - the Dress Code
 - the SON Policy on Student Attendance, Participation, Absence & Availability
- Failure to satisfactorily complete any student remediation plan agreed upon by the student, faculty member, and/or the Retention Coordinator
- Failure to comply with, or remediate, any issues recommended by the Student Action Committee

Expected behaviors are identified in the following STUDENT BEHAVIOR CHART along with examples of behaviors that meet and those that do not meet the standard.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR CHART		
EXPECTED BEHAVIOR	ADHERANCE	NONADHERANCE
Punctuality/Attendance	Being present in the classroom or clinical space at the time the educational experience commences	Arriving late to a class or clinical experience and/or leaving early without permission from faculty
Clearance for clinical practice	Complying with and submitting all clinical requirements by the established due date	Failing to comply with and/or submit all clinical requirements by the established due date
Academic Integrity	Completing all course and clinical work and examinations independently and/or with appropriate citation of sources per APA format	Representing someone else's work as one's own, failing to appropriately cite sources, and/or cheating on examinations in any way
Respect for Academic Property	Not attempting to copy, record, and/or reproduce in any format academic materials of any kind	Copying, recording, and/or reproducing academic materials of any kind (e.g., tests,

	(e.g., tests, lectures, assignments) without express permission of the person(s) who created them.	lectures, assignments) without express permission of the person(s) who created them.
Respectful behavior and communication	Actions and communications which are respectful, non-offensive, non-abusive, and non-denigrating of any persons in academic-related settings	Actions and communications which are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, and/or denigrating of any persons in academic-related settings
Safe clinical practice	Practicing invasive skills/procedures only on instructional devices and/or healthcare clients in clinical settings under the supervision of faculty members and/or the professional staff of a clinical partner	Practicing invasive skills/procedures on other students, friends, or family, and/or on healthcare clients while unsupervised by faculty and/or the professional staff of a clinical partner, unless expressly permitted by SON policy