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		Approved Date:	05/09/2024
		Effective Date:	09/11/2020
		Review Date:	2027

POLICY TITLE: GRADUATE STUDENT PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

Policy

Professional behavior guidelines are intended to ensure safe, ethical, respectful, professional conduct by Graduate nursing students. The following guidelines along with the student handbook will apply to the educational preparation, experience, knowledge, and conduct of the professional graduate nursing student enrolled at the University of Houston Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing. Failure to adhere to any component of this policy or the student handbook will result in academic counseling with faculty lead, program director and/or Associate Dean, resulting possible failure of the course and/or dismissal from the Graduate program.

Professional student nurses are expected to treat all persons including faculty, fellow students, staff, nursing personnel, patients, families, and other healthcare professionals with respect and to conduct themselves in a professional manner. These behaviors include but are not limited to:

1. Providing safe, caring, advanced nursing care and services without discrimination related to age, disability, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, race, religion or health problem of the patient/population served.
2. Respecting an individual's right to privacy by protecting confidential information unless obligated or allowed by law to disclose the information.
3. Responsibility for one's own continuing competence in nursing practice and individual professional growth.
4. Maintaining professional boundaries of the nurse-patient relationship.
5. Delegating assignments to others that take into consideration patient safety and that are commensurate with the educational preparation, experience, knowledge, and physical and emotional ability of the person to whom the assignments are made.

Unacceptable behaviors in graduate student nurses includes but are not limited to:

1. Offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving or agreeing to receive, directly or indirectly, any fee or other consideration to or from a third party for the referral of a patient in connection with the performance of professional advanced practice nursing student duties.
2. Providing information that is false, deceptive, or misleading in connection with one's practice as a professional advanced practice nursing student and/or nursing practice.
3. Leaving an advanced nursing student assignment without notifying one's appropriate unit supervisor and faculty.
4. Failing to make entries, destroying entries, and/or making false entries in records in either the patient medical record or in Nursing Practitioner Student Tracking System (NPST). This includes failing to accurately record clinical or practice hours in NPST.
5. Misappropriating medications, supplies, equipment, or personal items of the patient, employer, or any other person or entity, or failing to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation.

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6. Carelessly failing, repeatedly failing, or exhibiting an inability to perform advanced nursing care in conformity with the standards of minimum acceptable level of nursing practice.
7. Carelessly or repeatedly failing to conform to generally accepted nursing standards in applicable practice settings.
8. Demonstrating actual or potential inability to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, use of alcohol, drugs, chemicals, or any other mood-altering substances or as a result of any mental or physical condition.
9. Incivility, threatening or violent behavior toward faculty, fellow students, staff, nursing personnel, patients, families, and other healthcare professionals.
10. Failure to communicate any disciplinary action on a student's state license and/or compact by the Texas Board of Nursing within 72 hours.

Adapted from Texas Board of Nursing [RULE 217.11](#) Standards of Nursing Practice and [RULE 217.12](#) Unprofessional Conduct.

Approved by Gessner College of Nursing Faculty: 04/30/2024

Approved by Dean Kathryn Tart: 05/09/2024