Health Sciences Programs Safe Clinical Practice Standard

The purpose of clinical experience is to provide an opportunity for the Health Sciences Programs student to demonstrate competence in the cognitive (knowledge & judgment), psychomotor, and affective skills necessary to practice in their profession. The clinical learning environment is one in which the student is expected to progress in level of competence under the supervision of faculty and clinical professionals.

Students failing to apply safe clinical practice procedures, resulting in the potential for or actual patient harm, injury or death, are subject to disciplinary action. The minimal action to be taken will be a written report and reprimand. The maximum action will be immediate failure and removal/dismissal from the course with no ability to return. The action taken will be dependent on the nature of the incident and potential or real threat to client safety and well-being or risk for the clinical agency as determined by the clinical faculty, Program Director and the Dean of Health Sciences.

Standard of Practice

From entry into the clinical setting through completion the student is expected to practice in a safe and responsible manner regarding him/herself, the patient/client, and the environment. The Health Sciences Programs student, participating as a member of the health care team, is responsible for contributing to the continuity of care and maintenance of client safety and welfare throughout the clinical experience.

Self:
- Prior to entering, the student will have demonstrated the necessary knowledge and/or skill required for participation.
- Prior to entering, the student will have submitted evidence of: negative TB test, current immunizations titers, CPR certification, negative drug test, and cleared criminal background check. Students will be responsible for maintaining current documentation with the Health Sciences office. Should any type of testing and/or certification expire during the course of a practicum/clinical semester, the student will be barred from the clinical rotation, thus prohibiting successful program completion. If expiration is discovered post-semester, student will be subject to disciplinary action which may include program dismissal.
- The student will not enter the clinical or classroom setting when he/she has an impairment or illness that is or may be harmful or infectious to others. Examples fever, unable to control body fluids or contagious disease.
- The Health Sciences student will:
  - Utilize the Professional Standards of Practice as outlined by the appropriate state board or agency.
Follow all rules and regulations as outlined in the student handbook and course information documents relative to their program of study.

Demonstrate honesty in all behaviors and communications.

Arrive on time, sign in and report to the person responsible for the student’s supervision, and sign out on time when leaving. Nursing students may not leave assigned clinical area during assigned time, except during breaks when the student may go to either the cafeteria or the on-campus smoking area. Dental Hygiene students may not leave the assigned clinic session at any time.

Demonstrate behavior indicative of a drug and alcohol free professional.

Display stable mental/emotional and physical health.

Demonstrate responsibility for all personal actions.

Taking appropriate steps to insure personal injury does not occur.

Abstain from all forms of sexual harassment toward fellow students, instructors, clients and agency staff.

Follow the dress code set forth in the student's handbook.

Demonstrate full understanding of confidentiality, including Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations, by not participating anywhere in inappropriate conversations, inappropriate sharing of information, or obtaining information which is/are not pertinent to the student’s current clinical assignment.

Demonstrate correct, accurate, and timely record keeping.

Demonstrate correct, accurate, and timely verbal communication.

Provide safe therapeutic care to clients, utilizing the level of supervision that has been outlined by the student’s immediate clinical faculty.

Abide by the program and college Student Code of Conduct and Expected Student Behaviors, (see chart).

**Care of Clients:**

The student will:

- Demonstrate correct use of all therapeutic processes, insuring physical, mental and emotional safety of the client and their property.
- Demonstrate a nonjudgmental attitude toward clients with regard to race, color, national origin, religion, socioeconomic status, age, disease process (physical and mental) and sexual preference.
- Provide only care which the student has been deemed competent to perform, utilizing the level of supervision appropriate to the circumstance outlined in the clinical guidelines.
- Demonstrate a team approach to client care by communicating in a timely fashion, verbally and/or in writing all clinical information.
- Adhere to all program and facility policies and procedures governing clinical practice and follow directions for the assigned experience.
- Be responsible and accountable for all assigned client care and report to instructor and staff prior to leaving assigned unit/clinic. (failure to do so constitutes abandonment of care and is subject to disciplinary action)
Care of Environment:
The student will:
- Demonstrate respect for the agency through proper use and care of all equipment and property.
- Demonstrate understanding of safety by using safety devices, seeking appropriate assistance, and keeping all potentially injury producing objects out of the client’s access.
- Demonstrate understanding of disease transmission by using standard precautions, proper hand washing, linen care, and isolation techniques.
- Adhere to agency policies and directives.

Failure to Meet the Standard:
The failure of the Health Sciences Program student to meet any part of the above Safe Clinical Practice Standard will cause action to be taken by the clinical instructor, course instructor, Program Director and/or Dean of Health Sciences. The minimal action to be taken will be a written report and remediation. The maximum action will be immediate failure and removal/dismissal from the course with no ability to return. The action taken will be dependent on the nature of the incident and potential or real threat to client safety and well-being or risk for the clinical agency as determined by the clinical faculty and the Dean of Health Sciences.

Procedure for Removal of Student from Clinical Site
If a Health Sciences student demonstrates any inappropriate behavior which may include:
- Appears in the clinical setting demonstrating behaviors consistent with being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Displays unstable mental, physical or emotional behavior.
- Threatens the physical or psychological safety of themselves or others.
- Demonstrates unprofessional behavior verbal or nonverbal that is disruptive to the environment and interferes with the operation of the setting.

The following procedure will be followed:
- The Clinical Instructor will remove the student from the area to discuss the issue with the student.
- The Clinical Instructor will determine the immediate action to be taken, such as the:
  1. student will be allowed to remain in the clinical setting
  2. student will be sent home to remedy the issue and be allowed to return to clinical.
  3. student will be removed from the clinical setting.
- The Clinical Instructor will contact the Program Director. The Dean of Health Sciences will be informed of the incidence within one work day.
- The student will meet with their faculty to receive counseling and either an Occurrence Form or a Student Contract.
- Removal from clinical/class constitutes short term suspension according to college policy and will be reported to administration overseeing student conduct issues for further action before the student may return to class.