

STANDARD FOR USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

In the current climate of instant communication and computer/internet technology, students must be mindful of appropriate conduct when using laptop computers, communication devices (such as cellular telephones with or without use of a blue-tooth, text-messaging devices), and audio or video recording devices.

Use of electronic devices is always at the discretion of the individual instructor. Individual instructors retain the right to permit or restrict the use of electronic devices during specific classroom or clinical lab sessions as announced in the class, syllabus and/or online web-enhanced system. The use of electronic devices is acceptable during classroom, clinical skills lab sessions and within the healthcare facilities during clinical experiences when used according to standards that protect individual and patient rights.

Electronic Devices – Classroom and Clinical Skills Lab Sessions

The following standards apply to the use of electronic devices during classroom and clinical skills lab sessions. These standards are intended to protect the learning environment and the individual rights of students and instructors.

- **Personal cellular phones** must be turned off during classroom sessions. Students are expected to discuss appropriate times for phone calls with their families and friends letting them know that during class or clinical skills lab time the caller will need to leave a message and the student can address the issue during classroom breaks.
- **Text-messaging** during classroom and clinical skills lab sessions is not permitted. Communications must be done during classroom breaks.
- **Mobile Device/Wearable Technology** that has apps or wireless service/internet access, such as smart watches, is prohibited during testing.
- **Laptop computers** may be permitted for the purpose of taking notes during a classroom session. However, surfing the Web or working on projects or papers is not permitted during the classroom session. (See course syllabi for individual specific class restrictions)
- **Audio-Video recording devices** are permitted during classroom and clinical skills lab sessions under the following conditions:
 - All recording devices must be on the desk/table surface in full visibility of the instructor at all times during use.
 - Recording devices must be turned off during classroom breaks.
 - Recording devices must be turned off at the request of the instructor during class discussions when the instructor or a student shares a patient-based or personal story that could be perceived as relating to HIPAA or FERPA issues.
 - The instructor reserves the right to restrict the use of recording devices during specific classroom or clinical lab sessions.
 - All recordings are for the personal use of the student. They may not be copied or downloaded. They may not be used in public areas or shared with students outside of class.
 - Recordings must not be posted on any online site – website, blog, social networking page, etc.

- All recordings must be deleted after the content testing.
- Recording devices are not permitted in the instructor's offices or during office hours unless expressly permitted by the instructor for a specific purpose.

Students who violate the standards for the use of electronic devices during classroom and clinical skills lab sessions will lose the privilege of using these devices and may be dismissed from class and given an absence or may be placed on remediation by the instructors.

Electronic Devices – Healthcare Facilities Clinical Experiences

The use of personal cellular phones or other wireless communication devices is permitted within healthcare facilities and patient care areas but must be used with discretion and a heightened awareness with regard to confidentiality and HIPAA protections. The following standards apply to the use of electronic devices during clinical experiences at affiliated healthcare facilities.

- **Personal cellular phones** or any transmission devices that record or take photographs must be turned off in the clinical setting. (This could be a HIPAA violation.) Students are expected to discuss appropriate times for phone calls with their families and friends letting them know that during clinical time the caller will need to leave a message and the student can address the issue during breaks.
- **Wireless communication devices**, cell phones or resource materials downloaded to a wireless device, may only be used at facility approved designated areas (such as nursing stations). Personal electronic devices may only be used on patient care units with facility and instructor approval.
- It is imperative that at all times students using electronic devices are aware of what is being said in an open setting and who may overhear a conversation (patients, families and staff). There must be no words or actions that could be perceived as a compromise or violation of patient confidentiality (HIPAA).
- Electronic devices used for **research purposes** may only be used in non-patient care areas.
- Under no circumstances may **photographs** of patients or patient care settings be taken within health care facilities without prior authorization by appropriate healthcare facility personnel in accordance with facility policy.

At a minimum, students who violate the standards for the use of electronic devices during clinical experiences in the healthcare facilities will lose the privilege of using these devices and will be placed on remediation by the instructors.

In addition, students who violate the standards for the use of electronic devices during clinical experiences in the healthcare facilities and within patient care areas expose themselves to HIPAA violation claims which could result in legal actions and immediate dismissal from the health sciences program.

A Health Science Program student who is involved in any incident or clinical situation that puts the patient, student, clinical affiliate, faculty or college at risk is subject to dismissal from the nursing program.

(See [Dismissal Policy](#)).