

# **Nursing Students: Code of Ethics**

## **School of Nursing**

### **University of Texas at Arlington**

The University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing upholds the highest ethical standards. Ethical decision making is of the utmost importance in the profession of nursing and to that end, all students (licensed or not) are expected to maintain the high standards of ethical conduct necessary to ensure accountability for their learning and optimal care of their clients.

As a client-centered practice, the profession of nursing is obligated to develop nursing students into individuals capable of providing culturally competent care based within mutually respectful interactions. Nursing is one of the most respected and trusted professions in society. Students are expected to provide client privacy, confidentiality, and safety, while accepting individual accountability. These ethically centered behaviors preserve the respect and trust of the public. Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with high ethical standards consistent with the American Nurses' Association Code of Ethics. (<http://nursingworld.org/ethics/ecode.htm>)

According to the National Student Nurses Association, "students of nursing have a responsibility to society in learning the academic theory and clinical skills needed to provide nursing care. The clinical setting presents unique challenges and responsibilities while caring for human beings in a variety of health care environments. The code of Academic and Clinical conduct is based on an understanding that to practice nursing as a student is an agreement to uphold the trust with which society has placed in us. The statements of the code provided guidance for the nursing student in the personal development of an ethical foundation and need not to be limited strictly to the academic or clinical environment but can assist in the holistic development of a person."([http://www.nsna.org/pubs/pdf/code\\_of\\_ac.pdf](http://www.nsna.org/pubs/pdf/code_of_ac.pdf) )

Honesty and integrity are expected of all students and are foundational to trust in the learning environment. Dishonesty undermines nursing education and professional development, leading to demoralization of the spirit of learning among students and faculty. Developing the ability to make moral and ethical judgments is a lifelong process. Ethical violation of conduct may result in disciplinary action either by the Texas State Board of Nursing, and/or University of Texas at Arlington. ([http://www3.uta.edu/policy/HOP/HOP2\\_2.htm](http://www3.uta.edu/policy/HOP/HOP2_2.htm) ; <http://www.bne.state.tx.us/>)

Students at the University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing are developing their ability to practice the art and science of professional nursing, respecting all individuals and incorporating the following overarching principles of ethics:

1. Beneficence – the doing of good
2. Nonmaleficence - the duty to do no harm
3. Justice – fair, equitable, and appropriate care
4. Autonomy –freedom to make own choices
5. Veracity- truth telling
6. Fidelity –faithfulness and keeping one's promises

Working within their chosen profession, nursing students should strive to do no harm and promote good while encompassing principles of justice, veracity and fidelity, recognizing individuals' freedom to make their own decisions.