
Policy Governing Student Behaviors and Actions

Purpose

Like all institutions of higher learning, Boise State University exists to advance knowledge, to promote inquiry and discovery, to develop students as responsible citizens, and to enhance the greater society. Reasoned discourse and respectful debate are means to resolve differences and to reach common understanding. Boise State University strives to provide a culture of civility where its members feel safe to express themselves free from discrimination, harassment, threats, and intimidation. (See Boise State Student Code of Conduct) <http://www2.boisestate.edu/studentconduct/studentinformation.htm>

The faculty in the Department of Nursing have a professional and ethical responsibility to assist students to learn the skills necessary to become a professional nurse and to provide a safe teaching and learning environment for students, faculty, and to patients who receive nursing care from students. Faculty also respect that students are learning, however students are expected to have adequate knowledge, skills, and judgment to practice safely in clinical situations. Student behaviors and/or performance should never present a danger (or reasonable assumption of danger) to a person/client/patient or jeopardize the license of a faculty or nurse working with the student.

Description

The student behaviors included in this policy fall into 4 main categories including 1) imminent danger to self or others, 2) unsafe practice/unethical behavior, 3) code of conduct violations, and 4) at-risk student behaviors.

Process for imminent danger to self or others

If a student poses an imminent danger to self or others (act or direct threat of violence), notify Campus Police immediately at 426-1453 or call 911. Examples of imminent danger include but are not limited to, verbal or physical threats to self or others, repeated obscenities, or unreasonable interference with the learning environment.

Process for unsafe practice/unethical behavior

Student behaviors and/or performance must be safe, ethical, and must not present a danger (or reasonable assumption of danger) to a person/client/patient or jeopardize the license of a faculty or nurse working with the student. Safe practice is judged by standards and codes such as the ANA Standards of Nursing Practice, the Idaho Nurse Practice Act, and ANA Code of ethics. Students are expected to behave responsibly and they do not have the right to engage in behaviors that may harm and endanger other people, including patients/clients.

1. If a student demonstrates unsafe/unethical practice, the faculty member making the allegation will meet with the student to discuss the situation generally within 3 working days of the occurrence of the incident. Faculty must notify that appropriate Associate

Chair of the incident. Based on the severity of the incident, the faculty member making the allegation in consultation with the Associate Chair/Chair, and with permission from the Associate Dean/Dean may choose to remove the student from class or clinical for up to 2 days while the incident is investigated.

2. A meeting to discuss the incident is held. The faculty member making the allegation may choose to invite the Associate Chair and students may choose to invite their faculty advisor/mentor and/or another support person to attend the meeting. However, the faculty advisor/mentor and support person may not participate without the approval of the faculty member making the allegation. A representative from the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities (OSRR) will be invited to attend to act as a neutral participant. A discussion of the behavior will occur among all parties. Students will be provided with ample opportunity to provide an explanation for the behavior exhibited. Notes on the meeting will be taken and a copy will be distributed to all parties with a copy placed in the student file.

3. A recommendation/decision by the faculty (with consultation from academic leadership and OSRR personnel) will be made generally within 2 working days of the meeting. The student will be notified of the decision in writing via e-mail and a formal letter will be mailed to the student's residence.

For unsafe/unethical behavior, decisions/recommendations may include one or more of the following:

- Decision of no sanctions. Dismissal of the situation with a report being maintained in the student file until the student graduates from the nursing program.
- Decision to develop a learning contract with the student.
- Decision to refer the student to OSRR for further assessment
- Recommendation for dismissal of the student from the nursing program. The Nursing department's dismissal policy will be followed which includes an impartial hearing for the student and faculty member making the behavioral allegation. See Department of Nursing policy: Dismissal F-VI-200.

Process for code of conduct violation

Behaviors violating the Student Code of Conduct affect the welfare and safety of students, faculty, and other members of the campus community. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to consumption of alcohol and illegal drugs, behaviors that have the potential of harm to self and others, or behaviors deemed to be disruptive to the campus environment.

1. If a student violates the University Code of Conduct, the faculty member making the allegation will meet with the student to discuss the situation generally within 3 working days of the occurrence of the incident. Faculty must notify that appropriate Associate Chair of the incident. Based on the severity of the incident, the faculty member making the allegation in consultation with the Associate Chair/Chair and with permission from the Associate Dean/Dean may choose to remove the student from class or clinical for up

to 2 days while the incident is investigated. Removal of the student for longer than 2 class periods required approval of the Dean of the College (See University Policy 4204-D).

2. A meeting to discuss the incident is held. The faculty member making the allegation may choose to invite the Associate Chair and students may choose to invite their faculty advisor/mentor and/or another support person to attend the meeting. However, the faculty advisor/mentor and support person may not participate without the approval of the faculty member making the allegation. A representative from the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities (OSRR) will be invited to attend to act as a neutral participant. A discussion of the behavior will occur among all parties. Students will be provided with ample opportunity to provide an explanation for the behavior exhibited. Notes on the meeting will be taken and a copy will be distributed to all parties with a copy placed in the student file.

3. A recommendation/decision by the faculty (with consultation from academic leadership and OSRR personnel) will be made generally within 2 working days of the meeting. The student will be notified of the decision in writing via e-mail and a formal letter will be mailed to the student's residence.

For a code of conduct violation, decisions/recommendations may include:

- Decision of no sanctions. Dismissal of the situation with a report being maintained in the student file until the student graduates from the nursing program.
- Decision to develop a behavioral contract for the student.
- Decision to file a code of conduct report which may result in the University taking action such as:
 - Recommendation/referral to an outside agency for further assessment (done in consultation with other campus officials). If the faculty member making the allegation believes there are extenuating circumstances surrounding the event, the faculty will work with the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities to determine whether a referral to an outside agency is indicated.
 - Removal of the student from class or the University.

Process for at-risk students

At times, students demonstrate behaviors that do not fit cleanly under the above categories (unsafe practice and/or code of conduct violations), yet the behaviors suggest that the student may be at-risk. These behaviors include but are not limited to excessive absenteeism or absences without notice, a pattern of tardiness, late assignments with elaborate excuses for not meeting deadlines, deteriorating productivity, pervasive poor concentration, or difficulty making decisions, and forgetfulness. If faculty observes these types of behaviors in students, they need to be addressed immediately. Faculty is encouraged to meet with the student to discuss a course of action for student success.

1. If a student demonstrates at-risk behaviors, the faculty will contact the appropriate Associate Chair and the Office of student Rights and Responsibilities for consultation.

The faculty having a concern for the student will hold a meeting with the student as described above to discuss the situation generally within 3 working days of the occurrence of the concern.

2. A recommendation/decision by the faculty (with consultation from academic leadership and OSRR personnel) will be made generally within 2 working days of the meeting. The student will be notified of the decision in writing via e-mail and a formal letter will be mailed to the student's residence.

For at-risk student behavior, decisions/recommendations may include:

- Decision of no sanctions. Dismissal of the situation with a report being maintained in the student file until the student graduates from the nursing program.
- Decision to develop a learning contract for the student.
- Referral to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for follow-up and further evaluation.

Note: If the student is a nurse apprentice and is dismissed from the program, the State Board of Nursing will be notified. If the student is a licensed nurse and drugs or alcohol is involved in the incident, the State Board of Nursing will be notified by the appropriate Associate Chair.

Related Forms/Policies

Student Conduct in Classroom and Clinical Settings (S-III-100)

Forms as follows

Approved: Aug. 2007

Team: Admission & Progression

CHS: 307

BSU: 4200-D, 4201-D, 4202-D, 4203-D

Search Terms: Mental illness, chemical abuse, chemical dependency, unsafe behaviors

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