



Rankin SON

Policy on the Responsible Use of Electronics and Social Media

Classification:	Student Policy
Responsible Authority:	Faculty, Nurse Educator
Executive Sponsor:	Associate Director
Approval Authority:	Director, Rankin School of Nursing & Rankin School of Nursing
Date First Approved:	2010-04-16 (date of the original policy)
Date Last Reviewed:	2020-07-22(date last reviewed)
Mandatory Review Date:	2023-07-22- (3 years for existing policies)

PURPOSE

The use of electronic devices and social media are part of the day-to-day functioning of students in the academic setting. Students need to be actively engaged in class and clinical activities to enhance their learning.

The purpose of this policy is support nursing students in the professional use of electronic devices and social media as it relates to both the academic and clinical settings.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Nursing Students

DEFINITIONS

Word/Term	Definition
CNA	Canadian Nurses Association
NSCN	Nova Scotia College of Nursing
SON	Rankin School of Nursing
Social Media	Web based platforms such as, Facebook, twitter, google, Myspace, YouTube, blogs, and other internet based applications and technologies
Learning Setting	Clinical, Classroom, Simulation
PHIA	Personal Health Information Act
Clinical Instructor	

POLICY

Lines can be blurred between what is believed to be private and what is public. What may seem to be benign information can inadvertently breach patient/client confidentiality. Nursing students are held to a high standard of confidentiality in managing client information. The use of social media has implications on professional and organizational credibility and can compromise one's professional standards and PHIA.

PROCEDURE

<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
1. Electronics	
1.1 Electronics (including cell phones) are permitted in the classroom or clinical setting for academic purposes only, unless otherwise directed by Course Professor or Clinical Instructor.	Student
1.2 If students are using electronic devices without Course Professor or Clinical Instructor approval/authorization in either the classroom or clinical setting, they will be asked to turn off their device.	
1.3 If students continue to use electronic devices without Course Professor or Clinical Instructor approval/authorization, they will be asked to leave the classroom or clinical setting.	
1.4 Students will abide by the StFX University and clinical agencies policy on use of electronic devices.	
2. Social Media	
2.1 It is the student's responsibility to familiarize themselves with the online social networking policies from StFX University, the NSCNand the CNA.	
2.2 Students are not permitted to post on social media any information or images related to any aspect in the learning setting – this includes but not limited to information or images about patients/clients, other students, instructors, other health care professionals, and the institutions or organizations you are working in.	
2.3 Discussing specifics about patients and families even without giving their names is considered disclosure of confidential information and thus a breach of professional ethics.	
3. Discipline	
3.1 Students who fail to comply with this policy in clinical will be disciplined according to the Regulation on Students in Clinical Practice Settings.	

- 3.2 Students who fail to comply with this policy in the academic setting will be referred to the Student Life Office and dealt with according to the StFX University Code of Conduct.

RELATED POLICIES

[StFX Policy on Online Social Networking](#)

[StFX Student Conduct and Community Standards](#)

RELATED MATERIALS

Canadian Nurses Association (2017) – Ethics in Practice for Registered Nurses

<https://www.cna-aiic.ca/~media/cna/page-content/pdf-en/code-of-ethics-2017-edition-secure-interactive>

NSCN (2020) – Social Media Practice Guidelines

https://cdn1.nscn.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/Social_Media.pdf