STUDENT PERSONAL CONDUCT POLICY

The Yale School of Nursing (YSN) is an academic and professional community committed to the education of students and socialization of professionals for a variety of clinical and scholarly roles. The mission of YSN is better health for all people. This mission requires that all members of the YSN community contribute to creating a work and learning environment that maintains the highest standards of academic integrity, values honesty and free expression, and respects individual differences and viewpoints. All members of the community are expected to abide by the regulations of the University as well as to obey local, state, and federal laws. YSN students are expected to adhere to the following principles:

**Academic integrity** It is expected that students' work represents their own efforts. Behaviors such as cheating on exams or other forms of tests, the falsification or fabrication of data, and plagiarism are prohibited. Students witnessing cheating are expected to contact the appropriate faculty member.

**Personal integrity** It is expected that students honestly represent their credentials, abilities, and situation. Behaviors such as altering transcripts or work history or misrepresenting one's financial situation in order to obtain financial aid are prohibited. Students are expected to use professional judgment in their use of social media and assent to the federal regulations on health information privacy and security (HIPAA).

**Professional integrity** As adult learners, students are expected to share responsibility with faculty for their learning. This includes completing assignments in a timely fashion, coming to class and clinical sessions prepared, being actively engaged in classroom discussions, and assuming responsibility for assessing and addressing their learning needs. It is also expected that students conduct themselves in clinical settings in a way that is consistent with the goal of providing optimal patient care. Students’ interactions with clients and other professionals in these settings should respect differences, maintain confidentiality according to federal and state privacy standards, avoid stereotyping, and reflect nursing's ultimate commitment to caring. Abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics, or chemicals, is considered improper professional conduct under the laws of the State of Connecticut Nurse Practice Act.

**Respect for person** It is expected that students will respect individual differences and diversity of ideas. Students are expected to welcome and engage in civil discussion of conflicting viewpoints. Students are expected to demonstrate courtesy and respect for their classmates and professors in the classroom by adhering to general classroom decorum; this includes punctuality, refraining from cell phone use, respecting rules of the classroom as established by faculty, and communicating with faculty and students in a polite manner. Respectful communication includes both face-to-face and written interactions.

**Respect for property** It is all students’ responsibility to contribute to maintaining the physical environment of YSN and the University. Misuse of materials or University facilities, theft, or damaging property are prohibited. The unauthorized use of University services, equipment, or facilities is also prohibited. The possession or use on or around campus of explosives, incendiary materials, or weapons (including guns, ammunition, air rifles, paintball and pellet guns, Tasers, and knives) is absolutely prohibited.

**Sexual misconduct** Inappropriate sexual behavior is prohibited. Informal or formal complaints of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment and sexual assault, may be brought to a Title IX coordinator or to the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct (see [https://uwc.yale.edu](https://uwc.yale.edu)). Students may contact the YSN Title IX coordinator or any other Yale University Title IX coordinator. A formal complaint of sexual misconduct must be pursued in accordance with the procedures of the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct. See Resources on Sexual Misconduct in the chapter Yale University Resources and Services.

Violations of the above principles will be referred to the YSN Committee on Discipline, and students who have violated the above principles will be subject to one or more of the following actions: counseling, reprimand, probation, suspension, dismissal, fine, restriction, or referral for prosecution. This policy allows for the consideration of infractions on a case-by-case basis. Final actions will depend on the seriousness of the infraction and the circumstances surrounding the case.

Students must sign a form attesting that they have read and will abide by this policy while enrolled at YSN.