

RSHS Student-Generated Code of Conduct

Of their own initiative, in April of 2009 representatives of the RSHS student body requested to work collaboratively with the faculty to produce a student-generated code of conduct. The outcome of their work appears below and is an unambiguous statement of the expectations they hold for all RSHS students who will earn a degree from Duquesne University.

Preamble:

We, the students of the John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Science (RSHS), have created the RSHS Student Code of Conduct (Code) and are committed, as future professionals, to uphold these professional standards. This document is designed to serve as an addendum to the Duquesne University Student Code of Conduct and the RSHS Student Handbook and does not replace or supersede the requirements of those documents. The Code also reflects the professional codes of conduct of our respective disciplines by describing student behaviors that are congruent with these codes.

The RSHS Code of Conduct has been created by RSHS students out of respect for our faculty, colleagues, and, most importantly, in deference to our current and future patients/clients. We are devoted to preparing ourselves to serve our patients/clients with unbiased respect, professionalism, and competence. As students of RSHS, we will demonstrate these high standards of behavior that will allow us to truly embody the mission of Duquesne University.

- 1) The student must take ownership to acquire all of the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure a high level of competence that will allow him/her to provide the best care/service possible when working with clients/patients in the future.
- 2) All student work must be his/her own work. Work that is submitted by a student must be either the student's original work or be the appropriately referenced work of another.
- 3) The student must take responsibility, at all times, for not only his/her ethical behaviors and conduct, but also for the ethical behaviors and conduct of his/her peers.
- 4) The development of the student as a professional requires individual effort and the assurance that he/she acquires the necessary knowledge and skills required of autonomous practice. Assistance provided by a student to his/her peer(s) should not deprive that peer student(s) of gaining or experiencing this essential professional learning and/or evaluation.
- 5) The ability to work and engage collegially with other professionals is essential and requires the professional to assume his/her fair portion of the required work. When working with others, the student must demonstrate respect, collegiality, and assume that portion of the work necessary to maximize the student's learning experience and promote an equal experience for all members of the group.
- 6) All course work and all required experiences are integral to the development of the student as a professional; therefore, the student must value and regard all course work and all experiences equally and with the expectation of the same high standards making all experiences as rich and realistic as possible.
- 7) The student must approach both knowledge and skill examinations as tools that are designed to validate actual learning and qualification to practice. Any activity that corrupts that valid assessment of student knowledge or skills will not be tolerated.
- 8) The student must become critically introspective about his/her knowledge and skills, applying only those skills that are known, appropriately and within the student's limitations, while simultaneously seeking to actively improve both knowledge and skills.
- 9) All types of patient/client interaction must be treated in a professional manner with consideration for and maintaining strict professional and confidential practices, respect for the patient/client, and unbiased quality care.
- 10) The student must know, understand, and abide by the professional code of ethics of his/her professional discipline and the Code of Conduct of Duquesne University.

RSHS Code of Conduct Guidelines

Introduction

The goal of these guidelines is to provide students with examples of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors as they relate to the spirit of each of the ten Code of Conduct Standards. These examples are by no means designed to be an exhaustive list of compliance with or violation of the professional code of conduct we have written.

1) The student must take ownership to acquire all of the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure a high level of competence that will allow him/her to provide the best care/service possible when working with clients/patients in the future.

DO:

- Work hard to master the material in each course keeping in mind its future relevance to the safety of your future patients/clients.
- Recognize that grades are indicators of mastery and understanding, and it is this mastery that should be the focus of your efforts, rather than the grade you achieve. Comprehension of the material is essential for your future career.

DON'T:

- Let the concern of attaining a specific grade compromise you or your peer's academic integrity.
- Wait until it is too late to seek help.
- Use sample test questions the professor gives you as a means by which to select some and ignore other material for which the professor is holding you comprehensively responsible.

2) All student work must be his/her own work. Work that is submitted by a student must be either the student's original work or be the appropriately referenced work of another.

DO:

- Cite ALL of your sources appropriately in any assignment or paper.
- Gain clarification from the course faculty member in regard to the guidelines for use of the Writing Center or writing tutors.

DON'T:

- Plagiarize anyone else's work or ideas whether it is from an official published source or another student in any assignment or paper.
- Have anyone else write your paper for you or edit it beyond punctuation and compliance with rules of English.
- Use part or all of someone else's old paper or assignment and turn it in as your own.
- Write or sign your name on any work that it is not your own. Your name on something means it is your own.

3) The student must take responsibility, at all times, for his/her ethical behaviors and conduct, and also for the ethical behaviors and conduct of his/her peers.

DO:

- Report to the appropriate University official any violations of the RSHS Code that you observe.
- Maintain honesty about your knowledge if questioned by faculty about others' behaviors that violate any RSHS codes.

DON'T:

- Knowingly lie for a classmate to protect them being held accountable for their violations of the RSHS code.
- Fabricate any information that would positively or negatively affect someone being held accountable for a violation of the RSHS code.

4) The development of the student as a professional requires individual effort and the assurance that he/she acquires the necessary knowledge and skills required of autonomous practice. Assistance provided by a student to his/her peer(s) should not deprive that peer student(s) of gaining or experiencing this essential professional learning and/or evaluation.

DO:

- Help others and seek others' help including teachers and fellow students to understand and master material for the purpose of taking ownership of your own knowledge.

DON'T:

- Just give the answers to a fellow student so they can complete an assignment.
- Just take the answers from a fellow student so you can complete an assignment.
- Copy anyone else's assignment.

5) The ability to work and engage collegially with other professionals is essential and requires the professional to assume his/her fair portion of the required work. When working with others, the student must demonstrate respect, collegiality, and assume his/her fair share of the responsibility for the work.

DO:

- Take responsibility to complete your share of the work in a timely manner.
- Alert the professor if someone in your group fails to do their part, or will not let others participate in helping with the assignment.
- Listen to other group member's suggestions and concerns.

DON'T:

- Wait until the last minute to do your share of the work.
- Do the whole group assignment by yourself.

6) All course work and all required experiences are integral to the development of the student as a professional; therefore, the student must value and regard all course work and all experiences equally and with the expectation of the same high standards making all experiences as rich and realistic as possible.

DO:

- Uphold the same professional code of conduct in ALL classes, not just those pertaining to your major.
- Consider all classes a necessary component of your learning.

DON'T:

- Underestimate the importance of ALL classes and therefore become apathetic towards professional codes of conduct.

7) The student must approach knowledge and skill examinations as tools that are designed to validate actual learning and qualification to practice. Any activity(ies) that corrupt(s) that valid assessment of student knowledge or skills will not be tolerated.

DO:

- Study with others, seek tutoring, and attend faculty office hours to work to understand and master material

DON'T:

- Look at another student's testing booklet or answer sheet during an examination.
- Talk to other students during the examination.
- Look or listen to any documents other than that allowed by the professor during an examination. The prohibited list includes but is not limited to: cheat sheets, course notes, writing on body parts, writing on clothing, and any type of earpiece.
- Leave the room at any time during an examination to access any material to help you finish the examination. This includes but is not limited to: hand written notes, printed notes, blackboard notes, websites, or books.
- Provide to other students or use yourself any copies of previous examinations that the instructor has not directly provided to you for preparation of an exam. This includes but is not limited to: a summary of the questions and/or a summary of the answers to a previous exam, a concentrated review made from a previous exam, or an actual copy of the original exam.

8) The student must become critically introspective about his/her knowledge and skills, applying only those skills that are known, appropriately and within the student's limitations, while simultaneously seeking to actively improve both knowledge and skills.

DO:

- Practice all clinical skills in appropriate settings such as under supervision of qualified staff.
- Ask professors when you are unsure of what you can practice outside of school.
- Seek to find out limits consistent with professional accreditation and licensure standards of the profession.

DON'T:

- Provide professionally-oriented advice to people outside of clinical sites/labs or without supervision of an instructor.
- Utilize professional practice on non-clients/patients or outside pretense of a Duquesne student in a learning environment.

9) All types of patient/client interaction must be treated in a professional manner with consideration for and maintaining strict professional and confidential practices, respect for the patient/client, and unbiased quality care.

DO:

- Abide by HIPAA, always practicing patient confidentiality.
- Remind others that patient confidentiality is important. Report any breaches of patient confidentiality.
- Treat each patient/client with respect and deliver unbiased quality care.

DON'T:

- Ignore confidentiality standards for patients that come in for learning activities.

10) The student must know, understand, and abide by the professional code of ethics of his/her professional discipline and the Code of Conduct of Duquesne University.