

## RANGOS SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES (RSHS) SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Online communication through social media and networking has become a form of daily communication. The RSHS is committed to upholding professional and ethical behavior expectations with this and all forms of communication. These guidelines are intended to protect the privacy and confidentiality of patients/clients, fellow students, faculty and staff, clinical educators and Duquesne University affiliated facilities.

Students are responsible and accountable for what they post or discuss via social media. The content of postings, messaging, chats etc. should always be respectful. **Disclosure of any information about your clinical experience is strictly forbidden.** Students must comply with all HIPAA standards and violation of such may result in legal action against the student, automatic failure of a class or clinical rotation, and possibly dismissal from the program. Postings must not include any references to: patients, their conditions, treatment, characteristics, etc.; clinical sites or clinical instructors (no criticism about a site or instructor); associated personnel at a clinical rotation (including other students); or, any information about what is happening during a clinical experience.

Do not ask your supervisor to “friend” you while on a clinical rotation. This puts your supervisor and you in a potentially awkward and inappropriate situation.

Social networking examples include but are not limited to:

- Social networking sites such as Facebook or MySpace
- Video and Photo sharing websites such as YouTube, Snapfish, Flickr, Instagram
- Micro blogging sites such as Twitter, Tumblr, FriendFeed
- Messaging or chatting via any social networking medium
- Weblogs and online forums or discussion boards
- Any other websites or online software applications that allow individual users to post or publish content via the internet.

Compliance with the RSHS Social Media Policy is expected at all times. The RSHS has zero tolerance for any violation of this policy. Any violation is considered unprofessional and will result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program. These guidelines are not stagnant and may change as new social networking tools emerge. The RSHS reserves the right to alter or amend the terms and conditions of this policy at any time.