

NURSING STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES *

The following has been adapted from the NSNA Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities (2022) to reflect the context of our graduate nursing programs.

1. Under no circumstances should a student be barred from admission to a particular institution on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, marital status, lifestyle, disability, or economic status.
2. The freedom to teach and the freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom: students should exercise their freedom in a responsible manner.
3. Each institution has a duty to develop policies and procedures which provide and safeguard the students' freedom to learn.
4. Students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and engage in a sustained and independent search for truth.
5. Students should be free to take reasoned exception in an informed, professional manner to the data or views offered in any course of study. However, students are accountable for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.
6. Students should have protection through orderly procedures, against prejudicial or capricious academic evaluation. However, students are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled.
7. Information about student views, beliefs, political ideation, legal status, United States citizenship status, sexual orientation, or other personal information which instructors acquire in the course of their work or otherwise, should be considered confidential and not released without the knowledge or consent of the student, and should not be used as a basis of evaluation.
8. The student should have the right to advocate for themselves and other students in the construction, delivery, and evaluation of the curriculum.
9. Institutions should have a clearly written published policy as to the disclosure of private and confidential information, which should be a part of the student's permanent academic record, in compliance with state and federal laws.
10. Students and student organizations should be free to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them, and to express their opinions in an informed and professional manner, both publicly and privately.

11. Students should be allowed to invite and to hear any person of their own choosing within the institution's guidelines, thereby advocating for and encouraging the advancement of their education.
12. The student body should have clearly defined means to participate in the formulation and application of institutional policy affecting academic and student affairs, thereby encouraging leadership, e.g., through a faculty-student council, student membership, or representation on faculty committees.
13. The institution has an obligation to clarify those standards of conduct which it considers essential to its educational mission, community life, and its objectives and philosophy. These may include, but are not limited to, policies on academic dishonesty, plagiarism, punctuality, attendance, and absenteeism.
14. Disciplinary proceedings shall be instituted only for violations of standards of conduct. Standards of conduct should be formulated with student participation, clearly written and published in advance through an available set of institutional regulations. It is the responsibility of the student to know these regulations.
15. The nursing program should have readily available a set of clear, defined grievance procedures.
16. As citizens and members of an academic community, students are exposed to many opportunities and they should be mindful of their corresponding obligations.
17. Students have the right to belong or refuse to belong to or refuse membership in any organization.
18. Students have the right to personal privacy in their individual/personal space to the extent that their wellbeing and property are respected.
19. Adequate safety precautions should be provided by nursing programs and clinical sites to ensure a safe and protected environment emotionally, socially, and physically. For example, adequate street and building lighting, locks, patrols, emergency notifications, and other security measures deemed necessary to ensure a safe and protected environment.
20. Dress code, if present in school, should be established with student input in conjunction with the school administration and faculty. This policy ensures the highest professional standards are maintained, but also taking into consideration points of comfort and practicality for the student.
21. Grading systems should be carefully reviewed initially and periodically with students and faculty for clarification and better student-faculty understanding.

22. Students should have a clear mechanism for input into the evaluation of their nursing education and nursing faculty.
23. The nursing program should track their graduates' success in finding entry-level [or post-graduate employment] as registered nurses and make information available to all who apply and enroll.
24. The nursing program should provide comprehensive, clear, and concise information related to student loans, scholarships, and any other financial aid.
25. The nursing program should facilitate various methods to ensure clinical sites provide an environment that supports the development of diverse, inclusive, and equitable Professional Identity in Nursing. This may be accomplished through the assessment of clinical sites including, but not limited to, ongoing feedback from students, faculty, and facility staff; implementation of methods and plans for improvements based on clinical site evaluations. Clinical sites should be suitable for students to demonstrate attainment of required clinical competencies.

* The NSNA Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities was initially adopted in 1975. The document was updated by the NSNA House of Delegates in San Antonio , Texas (1991); and item #4 was revised by the NSNA House of Delegates in Baltimore , Maryland (2006). The document was most recently updated in April 2022.

These student rights and responsibilities are inspiration in nature and they are not intended, nor shall they be construed to represent a contract between the School of Nursing and students, or a guarantee, promise, or assurance of any of the subject matter set forth therein. To the extent there is any inconsistency between these rights and responsibilities and any of the policies and procedures set forth elsewhere in this Handbook, such policies and procedures will govern.

NSNA (2022). *Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities*. Retrieved on August 1, 2025 from <https://www.dropbox.com/s/a229ong58d5jx4p/Code%20of%20Ethics.pdf?dl=0>