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# Appendix B: National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.<sup>®</sup> Code of Ethics

## Part I: Code of Professional Conduct

The Code of Professional Conduct provides a high standard of behavior (guided by ideals and values) that is expected of students who participate in NSNA activities. The document introduces students to the principles of professional and personal conduct and prepares them to become involved in professional societies and associations. The Code of Ethics (when both parts are completed), taken in concert with the NSNA Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for Students of Nursing, provides comprehensive guidelines that set the tone for professional development.

### **As a member of the National Student Nurses' Association, I pledge to:**

- Maintain the highest standard of personal and professional conduct
- Actively promote and encourage the highest level of ethics within nursing education, the profession of nursing, and the student nurses' association.
- Uphold all Bylaws and regulations relating to the student nurses' association at the chapter, state and national levels, reserving the right to criticize rules and laws constructively, but respecting the rules and laws as long as they prevail.
- Strive for excellence in all aspects of decision-making and management at all levels of the student nurses' association.
- Use only legal and ethical principles in all association decisions and activities.
- Ensure the proper use of all association funds.
- Serve all members of the student nurses' association impartially, provide no special privilege to any individual member, and accept no personal compensation from another member or non-member.
- Maintain the confidentiality of privileged information entrusted or known to me by virtue of an elected or appointed position in the association.
- Refuse to engage in, or condone, discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, marital status, lifestyle, disability, or economic status.
- Refrain from any form of cheating or dishonesty, and take action to report dishonorable practices to proper authorities using established channels.
- Always communicate internal and external association statements in a truthful and accurate manner by ensuring that there is integrity in the data and information used by the student nurses association.
- Cooperate in every reasonable and proper way with association volunteers and staff, and work with them in the advocacy of student rights and responsibilities and the advancement of the profession of nursing.
- Use every opportunity to improve faculty understanding of the role of the student nurses association.
- Use every opportunity to raise awareness of the student nurses' association's mission, purpose, and goals at the school chapter level.
- Promote and encourage entering nursing students to join and become active in NSNA.
- Promote and encourage graduating seniors to continue their involvement by joining professional nurses' associations upon licensure as registered nurses.

*Adopted by the 1999 House of Delegates, Pittsburgh, PA, at the 47th Annual NSNA Convention.*

*References: American Society of Association Executives and the National Society for Fundraising Executives*

## Professional Conduct Policy

NSNA elected and appointed officials and candidates should be aware of the very public nature of their role during their candidacy and term of office. As NSNA representatives, you are expected to carefully consider how your interactions with the public will impact the NSNA, even when you are not at an NSNA function. Your actions as an NSNA representative are expected to be that of a reasonable and prudent student leader. As a representative to the organization you must hold yourself to a higher standard. (NSNA Board of Directors, November 2007)

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# National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.<sup>®</sup>

## Code of Ethics

### Part II: Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct

Students of nursing have a responsibility to society in learning the academic theory and clinical skills needed to provide nursing care. The clinical setting presents unique challenges and responsibilities while caring for human beings in a variety of health care environments.

*The Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct* is based on an understanding that to practice nursing as a student is an agreement to uphold the trust society has placed in us. The statements of the Code provide guidance for the nursing student in the personal development of an ethical foundation and need not be limited strictly to the academic or clinical environment but can assist in the holistic development of the person.

**As students are involved in the clinical and academic environments we believe that ethical principles are a necessary guide to professional development. Therefore within these environments we:**

- Advocate for the rights of all clients.
- Maintain client confidentiality.
- Take appropriate action to ensure the safety of clients, self, and others.
- Provide care for the client in a timely, compassionate and professional manner.
- Communicate client care in a truthful, timely and accurate manner.
- Actively promote the highest level of moral and ethical principles and accept responsibility for our actions.
- Promote excellence in nursing by encouraging lifelong learning and professional development.
- Treat others with respect and promote an environment that respects human rights, values and choice of cultural and spiritual beliefs.
- Collaborate in every reasonable manner with the academic faculty and clinical staff to ensure the highest quality of client care.
- Use every opportunity to improve faculty and clinical staff understanding of the learning needs of nursing students.
- Encourage faculty, clinical staff, and peers to mentor nursing students.
- Refrain from performing any technique or procedure for which the student has not been adequately trained.
- Refrain from any deliberate action or omission of care in the academic or clinical setting that creates unnecessary risk of injury to the client, self, or others.
- Assist the staff nurse or preceptor in ensuring that there is full disclosure and that proper authorizations are obtained from clients regarding any form of treatment or research.
- Abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages or any substances in the academic and clinical setting that impair judgment.
- Strive to achieve and maintain an optimal level of personal health.
- Support access to treatment and rehabilitation for students who are experiencing impairments related to substance abuse and mental or physical health issues.
- Uphold school policies and regulations related to academic and clinical performance, reserving the right to challenge and critique rules and regulations as per school grievance policy.

*Adopted by the NSNA House of Delegates, Nashville, TN, on April 6, 2001*