

**Policy S-1.20**  
**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**  
**COLLEGE OF NURSING**

**TITLE:** **STUDENT SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY**

**POLICY:** The College of Nursing will specify specific requirements, student responsibilities and recommended guidelines regarding social networking Web sites.

**RATIONALE:** The College of Nursing recognizes that social networking websites and applications including, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, are an important and timely means of communication. However, students who use these Web sites and applications must be aware of the critical importance of privatizing these Web sites and applications so that only trustworthy “friends” have access to the sites. They must also be aware that posting certain information is illegal. Violation of existing statutes and administrative regulations may expose the offender to criminal and civil liability, and the punishment for violations may include fines and imprisonment. Offenders also may be subject to adverse academic actions that range from a letter of reprimand to dismissal from school.

**PROCEDURE:**

**General Premises:**

1. When using these social networking sites, students are strongly encouraged to present themselves in a mature, responsible, and professional manner. Discourse should always be civil and respectful.
2. Students should be aware that no privatization measure is perfect and that undesignated persons may still gain access to a student’s networking site. A site such as YouTube, of course, is completely open to the public. Moreover, once an item is posted on a network site, it may not be easily removed.
3. Future employers or other colleges often review these network sites when considering potential candidates for employment or admission. Students will certainly want these individuals to have a positive opinion of them.

**The following are in violation of University of Florida and Health Science Center policy:**

1. Students may not report the personal health information of other individuals, be they friends, relatives, or actual patients. Removal of an individual’s name does not constitute proper de-identification of protected health information. Inclusion of data such as age, gender, race, or date of evaluation may still allow the reader to recognize the identity of a specific individual.
2. Students may not report private (protected) academic information of another student. Such information might include, but is not limited to:
  - a. course grades
  - b. narrative evaluations
  - c. examination scores
  - d. adverse academic actions

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3. In posting information on social networking sites, students may not present themselves as an official representative or spokesperson for the University of Florida College of Nursing.

**College of Nursing Guidelines:**

1. Students may not represent themselves as another person.
2. Students may not utilize Web sites and/or applications in a manner that interferes with their academic/clinical responsibilities.
3. The College strongly suggests use of privacy settings to limit unknown or unwanted access to students' profile or application.
4. If students choose to list an email address on a social networking site, they should use a personal email address (not their ufl.edu address) as their primary means of identification.
5. The following actions are strongly discouraged:
  - a. Display of vulgar language.
  - b. Display of language or photographs that imply disrespect for any individual or group because of age, race, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.
  - c. Presentation of photographs that may reasonably be interpreted as condoning irresponsible use of alcohol, substance abuse, or sexual promiscuity.

Review or Approval Authority	Responsible Party	Initial Approval / Review	Most Recent Approval / Review Of Changes	Editorial Changes	Policy A-01 Review
<b>Review</b>	<b>Leadership Council</b>	<b>6/10</b>	6/14		6/14
Approval	Administrative Council	5/10	6/14		6/14
Approval	Dean	6/10	6/14		6/14

**\*Bold indicates committee with A-01 Review responsibility**