MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING

POLICY # B-4

TITLE: STUDENT REFUSAL OF A CLINICAL ASSIGNMENT

POLICY: A student is expected to provide nursing care to any assigned client for whom the student has been taught the content and skills to provide safe care. If a student refuses to care for such an assigned client, the following procedure will be used.

RATIONALE: The primary aim of the College of Nursing is the education of persons for professional nursing practice. Students must know and follow established guidelines for professional practice consistent with the American Nurses' Association Code of Ethics, International Council of Nurses Code of Ethics and the American Association of College of Nursing document the Essentials of College and University of Education for Professional Nursing.

It is expected that in the course of clinical teaching, negotiations about assignments to meet course objectives will typically occur when there are special circumstances such as pregnancy, student health problems, etc. The following procedure will be used in situations which are exceptions to the above when an adequately prepared student refuses to provide nursing care to an assigned client.

PROCEDURE: The following procedure applies to refusals over the entire program, not just in a single clinical course.

1.a) The first time a student refuses to provide nursing care to a client, she/he will have a conference with the teacher making the assignment. Discussion will include the reasons for refusal and a plan to deal with similar patient assignments in the future. The discussion will include current clinical information and support to the student if such, depending on the situation, might dispel fears or problems that the student has about the assignment. The discussion will include information about Codes of Ethics, the AACN Essentials Document and the role of the professional nursing student.

b) If possible, a comparable assignment to meet course objectives will be given for that clinical day.

c) A note summarizing the refusal and conference will be placed in the student's academic record by course instructor. The Campus Director will be informed of the refusal.

2. The second time in the program that such a refusal occurs, the student will:

a) Have a conference with the faculty member.

b) Be sent home with a clinical absence for the day and
c) Be asked to schedule a conference with the Campus Director and the teacher making the assignment. The discussion will include information as above (1.a). For those unable to resolve the reasons for refusal, reevaluation of career objectives should be a part of the discussion.

d) A note summarizing the refusal and conference will be placed in the student's academic record.

3. The third time in the program that a nursing student refuses to provide nursing care to an assigned client, the faculty members and Campus Director, in consultation with the Assistant Dean, may remove the student from all clinical settings as per CON Policy C-6.