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. A student may not refuse to participate in the care or treatment of a patient based solely on the patient’s diagnosis. The College of Nursing recognizes the right of students to request not to participate in certain aspects of patient care or treatment under certain circumstances. A student may refuse to care for an assigned client for ethical or religious reasons for the following procedures:
1. Abortion
2. Sterilization procedures
3. Withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining treatment, including nutrition and hydration.


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

Request for Religious and/or Ethical Reasons
1. A student who refuses to provide nursing care to a client, will have a conference with the faculty making the assignment. Discussion will include the reasons for refusal and a plan to deal with similar patient assignments in the future. The student will provide a dated written request which includes aspects of the care or treatment of a patient from which the student is requesting to be excused. The Campus Director will review the request and discuss any potential problems with the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and provide disposition of the request in writing to the student. If possible, a comparable assignment to meet course objectives will be given for that clinical day. A note summarizing the refusal and conference, the written request, and administrative written disposition will be placed in the student's academic record.
2. If a nursing student refuses to provide nursing care to an assigned client outside of the above criteria or approved exceptions, the faculty members and Campus Director, in consultation with the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs may remove the student from all clinical settings as per CON Policy C-6.

Reviewed/Approved:

Level I: UAAC (March, 2011)
Level II: Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs (March 2011)