

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
POLICY# C-12

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. Nursing care is to be provided without prejudice or discrimination. 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. Refusal to participate in the care of a patient is only appropriate on the grounds of either patient advocacy, moral objection to a specific type of intervention, or significant risk to the health of the student. A student may not refuse to participate in the care or treatment of a patient based solely on the patient's diagnosis or unique attributes.

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 (2015), International Council of Nurses Code of Ethics (2012) and The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice (2008), American Association of Colleges of Nursing. "Nurses are obligated to care for patients in a nondiscriminatory manner, with respect for all individuals. The ANA recognizes there may be limits to the personal risk of harm nurses can be expected to accept as an ethical duty. Harm includes emotional, psychological, physical or spiritual harm" (American Nurses' Association Position Statement on Risk and Responsibility in Providing Nursing Care, 2015). Refusal to participate in the care or treatment of a patient on the grounds of patient advocacy includes situations when the student feels that the treatment is in conflict with the patient's welfare or wishes.

Reviewed/Approved:

Level I: UAAC (March, 2017)

Level II: Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs (March, 2017)