

Middle Tennessee State University  
School of Nursing  
Social Media Policy

The following social media policy applies to all undergraduate upper-division nursing students in both the traditional BSN, MSN, Post-Master's Certificate tracks, faculty and staff in the School of Nursing.

1. Social Media are defined as, but not limited to, web-based or mobile technologies used for interactive communication.
2. Examples of social media include, but are not limited to the following:
  - a. Collaborative projects (e.g. Wikipedia)
  - b. Blogs and microblogs (e.g. Twitter, Instagram)
  - c. Content communities (e.g. YouTube)
  - d. Social networking sites (e.g. Facebook)
  - e. Virtual game worlds (e.g. World of Warcraft)
  - f. Virtual social worlds (e.g. Second Life)
3. Regardless of how these forms of media are used, employees and students are responsible for the content they post or promote.
4. Content contributed on these platforms is immediately searchable and shareable, regardless of whether that is the intention of the contributor.
5. Once posted online, the content leaves the contributing individual's control forever and may be traced back to the individual in perpetuity.

School of Nursing students, faculty, and staff are prohibited from disclosing through social media the following:

1. Protected Health Information, as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA)- For example, individuals may not disclose patient names or otherwise refer to patients in any way that identifies them individually, including by their initials or by their location (hospital name or unit).
2. Confidential, non-public or proprietary information about:
  - a. Families, clinical facility staff or clinical institutions
  - b. The school, its employees and students
  - c. Copyrighted or intellectual property belonging to the clinical facility
3. Social Media Relationships
  - a. School of Nursing faculty, staff and students are expected to behave in a collegial/collaborative manner at all times.
  - b. Social media relationships, including but not limited to Facebook friends and Instagram followings, are not permitted between faculty/students or staff/students.
  - c. If faculty and staff engage in social media relationships with students currently enrolled in any School of Nursing program, the Director will follow

the University disciplinary protocol.

Accordingly, the use of social media for clinical discussions that include any identifiable information related to patients or School of Nursing-affiliated clinical facilities is prohibited.

Students in violation of this policy may be considered as having violated the MTSU School of Nursing Honor Code. Like faculty and staff who violate this policy, students may face disciplinary action up to and including termination from the program.

*\*Drafted by Student Services Committee, adapted from UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing, November 17, 2015.*

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