

Faculty of Health Professions

Dalhousie University

Policy Regarding Student Disclosure of Health Information

This policy is consistent with the Dalhousie University Policy on Accessibility for Students with Disabilities (November, 1994) and is further to Section 5 which states: "In accordance with the provisions in the Human Rights Act, the University may also define essential requirements for professional performance for students in programmes, where these are appropriate, and this policy is not intended to replace or supersede these requirements". This clause gives us the opportunity to develop a policy specific to students in the Faculty of Health Professions for both academic and fieldwork sites.

Rationale

The intent of this policy is to strike a balance between the responsibility of the learning sites to ensure safety and reduce risk, and the privilege of students to learn. The Faculty of Health Professions at Dalhousie University recommends that the students registered in this Faculty who have health concerns that have the potential to compromise client, student, and/or agency personnel safety follow the policy stated below. Such preventive action may promote the health and safety of all and may minimize risks for student learning. Taking this proactive stance promotes responsible personal health management and positive professional role development in student learners.

This policy is intended to apply to health concerns that may occur outside the usual day-to-day health concerns of students. Academic and fieldwork sites will endeavour to use any health information received to the advantage of the student by ensuring, subject to financial and resource constraints, that the site and the individuals likely to be affected are better prepared and that there is no delay in the student's academic and/or fieldwork progress. Accommodations will be made, where feasible, to promote and optimal student learning environment.

Policy

Students registered in this Faculty are encouraged to inform both the School/College and the fieldwork learning sites if they have a health concern that has the potential to compromise client, student, and/or agency personnel safety and/or has the potential for limiting their ability to learn and perform their role as learner.

For the purposes of this policy, the term health concern refers to any cognitive, affective, and/or physical health problem, injury, or condition that may place the student and/or others at risk and/or inhibit the student's learning ability and performance.

Guidelines for Disclosure

The student has the right to decide if disclosure of health information is appropriate. The method, timing and extent of the disclosure is at the student's discretion (for consultation options, see Appendix). Early disclosure of the following information regarding the health concern may be helpful to the students in the academic and/or fieldwork sites.

To disclose this information:

- 1) clearly describe the nature of the health concern and the potential limitations with regard to the learning tasks expected in either the academic or fieldwork site. Appropriate verification of the information may be required.
- 2) list any adaptations, modifications and/or safety procedures that may be required in planning the student's learning experiences in either setting.
- 3) provide clear and appropriate advice regarding the management of this health concern

If the disclosure of health information in fieldwork and/or academic sites produces difficulties, students are

If the disclosure of health information in fieldwork and/or academic sites produces difficulties, students are encouraged to report these difficulties immediately to the appropriate person(s) within both the fieldwork site and/or within their educational program (See see Appendix). Discrimination in any form will not be tolerated.

Approved by Faculty Council May, 1995

Appendix

Students are advised to make the initial contact with the person with whom they are most comfortable from the lists below. These individuals would be available for consultation/advocacy.

Academic/faculty advisor
Field work coordinator(s)
Director of the School or college where the student is enrolled
Dean of the Faculty of Health Professions
Advisor to Students with Disabilities, Dalhousie University
Dalhousie/King's Association of Students with Disabilities
Human Rights Commission

College of Pharmacy	Preceptor Site coordinator Externship administrator
School of Nursing	Clinical instructor Course professor Associate Director, Undergraduate Student Affairs Coordinator, Outpost and Community Health
School of Occupational Therapy	Preceptor Site Director in field site Provincial fieldwork coordinator
School of Physiotherapy	Clinical supervisor Facility clinical coordinator Provincial coordinator
Maritime School of Social Work	Agency field instructor Program coordinator Faculty field instructor
School of Health Services Administration	Preceptor
School of Human Communication Disorders	Clinical Educator
School of Health and Human Performance	Associate Director Undergraduate Studies