Approving University Official(s): Provincial Senate – New Brunswick
Responsible Unit: Office of the Principal & Vice President, Academic NB
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Use of Electronic Technologies in Placement Settings Policy

Purpose

This policy establishes expectations for the appropriate and professional use of electronic communications, electronic devices, and social media by Yorkville University ("Yorkville") students in placement settings. It is intended to support professional conduct, privacy, confidentiality, and compliance with placement facility requirements.

Scope

This policy applies to students enrolled in Yorkville University's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) program who participate in clinical placements, practicums, preceptorships, or other placement-based learning activities.

Definitions

***"Electronic Technologies"* –** Cell phones, smartphones, tablets, laptops, smart glasses, wearable devices, and other electronic or communication technologies used by students.

***"Placement Setting"* –** A clinical, practicum, preceptorship, or other practice-based learning environment in which a Yorkville student participates as part of a program.

***"Social Media"* –** Online platforms or services through which users create, share, or exchange content or communications.

Policy Statement

Professional Communication

All communication within a Yorkville program and in placement settings must be respectful and professional. Disrespectful communication, derogatory statements, or misrepresentation may result in an allegation of professional misconduct.

Use of Electronic Technologies in Placement Settings

Students must use electronic technologies in placement settings only in a manner that is consistent with professional expectations and the policies of the placement facility.

- Cell phones, tablets, laptops, and other electronic devices may not be used during clinical, practicum, or preceptorship practice unless authorized by the appropriate faculty instructor or preceptor and the device is required for placement-related activities.

- Students must confirm appropriate use of electronic devices with the appropriate faculty instructor or preceptor and comply with all applicable clinical placement facility policies.
- Students must not use any electronic technology to photograph, record, livestream, or otherwise capture images, audio, video, or information in a placement setting unless expressly authorized for an approved educational or clinical purpose and permitted by the clinical placement facility.
- Students must not share individual usernames, passwords, access codes, authentication credentials, or other unique system access information, and must not use another person's credentials or access systems, records, or information for which they are not authorized. Shared or common access credentials may only be used where expressly authorized by the clinical placement facility and in accordance with applicable privacy and security requirements.
- Personal use of electronic technologies, including text messages, phone calls, voice messages, social media, and other non-placement-related communications, is permitted only during scheduled breaks or in urgent personal emergencies. Such use must occur in designated non-clinical areas away from patients, clients, families, and clinical care activities and must not interfere with patient care, student responsibilities, professional conduct, confidentiality, or the learning environment.
- Students must not initiate or accept personal social media connections or communications with patients or clients encountered through a placement.
- Students must maintain professional conduct when using personal social media or other electronic communication platforms. Students must not post or share disparaging, disrespectful, or unprofessional comments about patients, clients, colleagues, faculty, preceptors, clinical placement facilities, or workplace experiences where the content could reasonably be connected to their role as a student or to the placement environment, whether the communication occurs in a public or private forum.
- Students must not photograph, record, capture, store, or share patient or client information for preparation or any other purpose, nor disclose private or confidential information about patients, clients, or the clinical placement facility through social media or any other electronic communication method.

Alleged Violations and Review

Where a complaint is received regarding inappropriate use of social media or electronic technologies, Yorkville may initiate a professional conduct review in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct Policy.

Consistent with principles of natural justice, matters arising under this policy will also follow the Student Corrective Action Policy, including the applicable appeal process.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

The University promotes a respectful, discrimination- and harassment-free learning environment grounded in equity, diversity, and inclusion, with equitable opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds to pursue an education. Equitable access may require different supports for individuals and groups experiencing attitudinal, historical, social, or environmental barriers related to age, ethnicity, disability, economic status, marital status, family status, Indigenous identity, nationality, race, creed/religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Accommodations and accessibility supports are provided in accordance with applicable provincial human rights legislation. These supports enable students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills and meet essential program requirements without reducing academic standards or altering those requirements. Students with permanent, episodic, or temporary disabilities and medical conditions may receive individualized accommodations, assistive technologies, barrier-removal supports, and other resources to support course and program completion.

The University also promotes mental health and well-being through free webinars, literature, 24/7 online and telephone mental health resources, a well-being online tool, and confidential counselling for students and their family members through Homewood Health.

The Student Services Department supports students and faculty in developing accessible learning environments and individualized accessibility and accommodation plans that promote academic success.

Related Information

- *Clinical Placement Policy*
- *Student Dress Code Policy*

Contacts

For questions regarding this policy, please contact:

Department/Office Name: Office of the Principal & Vice President, Academic NB
Email: VPANB@yorkvilleu.ca

Note: Names and structures of Yorkville offices or governing bodies may change over time. Such changes do not affect the validity of this policy. To confirm the current responsible office or body, contact the Office of Regulatory and Government Affairs at academicgovernance@yorkvilleu.ca.

Revision History

Version Code	Date	Summary of Changes	Authorized by (Title)
1.0	October 30, 2026	New policy	Provincial Senate – New Brunswick