

July 15, 2003

Dear Nursing Student,

The Capstone College of Nursing is committed to maintaining a drug and alcohol-free workplace and academic environment; therefore, the use of illegal drugs and the unauthorized use of alcohol by students will not be tolerated. For obvious health and safety reasons, nurses and nursing students are expected to perform in control of their manual dexterity skills, mental faculties and judgment in health care settings and in educational activities. The presence or use of drugs or alcohol that interferes with the judgment or motor coordination of nursing students in a health care setting poses an unacceptable risk for patients, colleagues, the University, and affiliating clinical agencies. Preventing and/or detecting substance abuse is particularly critical in the upper division of the BSN program and in the MSN program.

The Capstone College of Nursing has, therefore, adopted a Substance Abuse Policy and a Drug/Alcohol Testing Policy that is effective in fall semester, 2002. A copy of the policy and the attachments are appended to this letter. This policy requires that students in the upper division of the BSN program or in the MSN program sign a statement indicating whether that student does or does not engage in substance abuse activities, and whether the student is or has been involved in administrative or legal proceedings related to illegal drug use or drug/alcohol abuse. In addition, prior to being assigned to an affiliating clinical agency, the policy requires that the student sign a consent to a) abide by the drug/alcohol testing policies of the clinical agency to which the student is assigned, b) to submit to drug/alcohol testing if required by the clinical agency, and c) to release a copy of any drug/alcohol test results to the clinical agency and/or the Capstone College of Nursing. The policy also provides that any student who demonstrates behavioral changes reasonably suspected to be related to substance abuse will be subjected to drug testing. Any student who tests positive to a substance abuse test mandated by the clinical agency or requested by the CCN's reasonable suspicion drug testing policy will be dismissed from the CCN's program.

Please let me know if you have any questions about these policies.

Sincerely,

Donna R. Packa, RN, DSN
Associate Dean for Academic Programs