

## 1.1 Professional Nursing

(Revised 1/10/2019)

### 1.1.1 Good Professional Character

§213.27. Good Professional Character

Texas Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations Related to Nursing Education

[http://www.bon.texas.gov/rr\\_current/213-27.asp](http://www.bon.texas.gov/rr_current/213-27.asp)

Good professional character is the integrated pattern of personal, academic and occupational behaviors, which, in the judgment of the faculty, indicates that an individual is able to consistently conform his/her conduct to the requirements of the Nurse Practice Act, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice including, but not limited to, behaviors indicating: honesty, accountability, trustworthiness, reliability, and integrity.

A person who seeks to obtain or retain a license to practice professional nursing shall provide evidence of good professional character which, in the judgment of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) is sufficient to ensure that the individual can consistently act in the best interest of patients/patients and the public in any practice setting. Such evidence shall establish that the person:

1. is able to distinguish right from wrong;
2. is able to think and act rationally;
3. is able to keep promises and honor obligations;
4. is accountable for his/her own behavior;
5. is able to practice nursing in an autonomous role with patients/patients, their families and other significant others and members of the public who are or who may become physically, emotionally, or financially vulnerable;
6. is able to recognize and honor the interpersonal boundaries appropriate to any therapeutic relationship or health care setting; and,
7. is able to promptly and fully self-disclose facts, circumstances, events, errors and omissions when such disclosure could enhance the health status of patients/patients or the public or could protect patients/patients or the public from unnecessary risk or harm.

**The faculty members support the above excerpt from the BON Rules & Regulations relating to Professional Nurse Education. Failure to demonstrate competency in the above criteria can result in a rating of “unsafe clinical performance and not meeting professional conduct standards”, as defined in the syllabus of each clinical nursing course.**

### 1.1.2 Professional Behavior

Any statement or behavior that is perceived to be a **grievous offense** threat to the safety of students, staff, faculty, and/or patients will be taken seriously, and reported to the appropriate authorities for follow-up. Students should also report it to their instructor and/or the appropriate program director. Title IX infractions will be reported to the Student Affairs office and a reporting form will be completed for Title IX link on the UT Tyler website.

[www.uttyler.edu/titleix/](http://www.uttyler.edu/titleix/)

*BSN Students*

The Texas BON requires the following before students are eligible to apply for a Texas RN license.

[https://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure\\_examination.asp](https://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure_examination.asp)

Successful completion of a criminal background check through the Texas Board of Nursing is required for admission and continuation in the UT Tyler BSN Nursing Programs. Background checks are generally honored for the duration of the student's enrollment in the program if the student has not had a break in enrollment. A break in enrollment is defined as nonattendance for two or more semesters. Students with a break in enrollment for more than two semesters will be required to complete a new background check.

If a student is arrested, pleads to a criminal charge, is convicted, or is put on deferred adjudication or probation for any criminal charge (other than a Class C misdemeanor minor traffic violation), he/she must notify the BSN Program Director or Palestine or Longview Campus Director in writing within 72 hours of the incident. The student will need to complete a petition for Declaratory Order (a formal disclosure to the Texas Board of Nursing) as soon as possible. The Declaratory Order form is on the Texas Board of Nursing website. <https://www.bon.texas.gov/>

A student's failure to timely notify the BSN Program Director or Palestine or Longview Campus Director of an arrest may result in immediate removal or withdrawal from the program.

If a student is found to be ineligible for clinical placement any time during the program, the student is unable to meet the clinical learning objectives and will be dismissed pending resolution of the situation.

In addition, Rusk State Hospital, used for mental health clinical experiences, requires that all students who could answer yes to any of the questions on the Declaratory Order **must** have filed the Declaratory Order prior to beginning of the mental health clinicals. Failure to comply could lead to failure of the course and/or academic disciplinary action.