

Policy: Gifting

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to articulate expectations in relation to the giving and/or receiving of gifts. It will assist Bachelor of Nursing (BN) Programs students, faculty, and staff to avoid situations that may be perceived as instances of manipulation.

DEFINITIONS:

Gifts: Gifts include, but are not limited to, gift cards, personal souvenirs or tokens, and food items.

POLICY SCOPE:

This policy applies to all instructors, faculty, staff, and students in the BN Programs.

SPECIFICS OF THE POLICY:

The BN Programs are committed to maintaining a professional environment for all faculty and students. Expressions of gratitude within professional relationships are recognized as appropriate and are encouraged.

In alignment with the College of Registered Nurses of Alberta *Professional Boundaries: Guidelines for the Nurse–Client Relationship* (2023), the BN Programs emphasize that students must never feel pressured or expected to provide gifts to instructors or unit staff.

If students collectively choose to express gratitude, the following guiding principles must be followed:

1. Written expressions of gratitude (e.g., a card with personal messages) are preferred and considered appropriate.
2. Gifting is neither expected nor required.
3. Cash gifts are strictly prohibited.
4. Modest tokens of appreciation (e.g., homemade items of nominal value) may be acceptable.
5. Instructors may provide a “thank you” card for students to sign and present to unit staff.

APPENDIX:

N/A

RELATED POLICIES/ASSOCIATED GUIDELINES:

N/A

REFERENCES:

College of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CRNA). (2023). Professional boundaries: Guidelines for the nurse-client relationship. <https://www.nurses.ab.ca/media/xkiay5ul/professional-boundaries-guidelines-for-the-nurse-client-relationship-2022.pdf>

For the most current policy information, always refer to the official NESA BN Program Guidelines and Forms Website: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/healthsciences/policies>

Approved by/date: NESA Joint Faculty Council; May 11, 2026