



Frequently Asked Questions For Parents and/or Significant others

From the Dean's Desk

September, 2009

Greetings to all the parents, or spouses, or significant others of the SIUE School of Nursing students. I have decided to add a new feature to the School's WEB page, a column devoted to those individuals who support the students financially, or emotionally, or both. You are a valued and important member of our academic team. The nursing program is rigorous and certainly at times, stressful. The students need a place and a person with whom they can be themselves and decompress from the demands of the program and the clinical experiences. That person is YOU! You play a very important role in their lives at this time. Keep in mind that as the students engage in the clinical practice component of their course work that they will care for a variety of patients along a gamut of illnesses and needs. For some of the student nurses, they will have to deal with the death of their patient. For a number of our students this may be their first actual experience of working with a terminally ill person. Especially in those instances when the student has established a relationship with the patient, the death of that person can be quite devastating to the student. It is hard for non-nursing majors to fully comprehend such an event and they may not be the source of support that the nursing student needs at the time. More often than not they turn to a fellow nursing student, a faculty member, and to a loved one at home. The student's family members know the student the best and usually have just the right words to support him or her. So you do indeed play a significant role for your student.

Most often asked questions for the Dean:

Why can't I have my child's or spouse's grades? I am paying the tuition!

As a parent that sure seems like a logical argument to me! After all, I am supporting my college student why shouldn't I know his grades! FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, formerly known as the Buckley Amendment of 1974 is intended to protect the rights of students and to insure the accuracy and privacy of education records. The Act applies to all institutions that are recipients of federal dollars (such as SIUE). The rights afforded the student with respect to their education record are as follows:

- The right to inspect and review their education records
- The right to request an amendment to their education records that they believe are inaccurate or misleading
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in their education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent
- The right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with FERPA.

FERPA rights transfer to the student when the student reaches the age of 18 or attends a post-secondary institution. So, can you ever find out your student's grades? YES, if the student signs an authorization that waives disclosure of grades to parents or spouses. Please understand then, that if you call requesting your student's grades, the School of Nursing nor SIUE will be authorized to disclose this unless a waiver of disclosure is on file. Obviously, as an institution who receives federal support it is imperative that we comply with the law. When you contact the School of Nursing requesting grade access, we will have to obtain waiver information from a central office. Thus, we will not be able to answer you immediately but will return your call or email with a response in a timely manner.

What is FERPA? Retrieved August 20, 2009 from <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/index.html>

What is the School of Nursing doing about Swine Flu (H1N1) prevention and treatment?

The School is working with the Student Health Center in a consultative role to implement a campus-wide teaching program aimed at preventive measures and a "What to do" program if anyone gets sick. Information about the Swine Flu and prevention measures will be distributed to all nursing students when classes begin the week of August 24th. A condition of going to the clinical agencies is a requirement that the students have the traditional flu vaccine. This will be especially stressed this year. While not a prevention against the Swine Flu, it will be important that the student be protected against the normal flu strain. Since health care workers will be priority for receiving the flu vaccine, the nursing students will also receive the Swine Flu vaccine when it is available. At this time we have no information regarding the cost of the 2-series injections.

In addition, measures such as covering computer keyboards with plastic protectors in common areas that students use will be instituted. Sanitizing wipes will be located at the keyboards with signs reminding the user to wipe the protective key stroke covers prior to using. Foam in – Foam out dispensers will be strategically placed in areas frequented by the Nursing students in the School of Nursing. Sign reminders to wash hands will be located in rest rooms and other heavily used rooms in the School of Nursing. Proper sneezing and coughing techniques will be displayed as well. Local hospitals are already preparing for increased emergency room visits and potential hospitalizations. The SIUE student health services will be available and when that is closed an Urgent Care Center (Urgi Care) sponsored by Anderson Hospital is located on route 157 close to the campus. Flyers about the Urgi Care center are located in a convenient location in the School of Nursing for the students to pick up. Additional campus initiatives will be rolled out over the next few weeks.

I hope that the preceding information provided was helpful to you. This column will be updated monthly. I want to remind the families of the junior nursing students that they are invited to the annual "Dedication to the Profession" ceremony scheduled for Sunday, September 20, 2009 at 2PM. This is an opportunity to celebrate with the students their initiation into clinical practice. I think you will enjoy the event and your student will delight in having you there as well. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. My email is mamaure@siue.edu.

Respectfully,

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