Undergraduate Nursing Student Travel Safety Policy

Students may need to travel outside the Kingston area to complete academic placements. The purpose of this policy is to provide general recommendations for nursing students’ safe travel during school-sanctioned events and clinical placements. The ‘clinical placement’ is defined as starting when the student enters the door of the location where they are completing their placement.

Related to travel, students are to choose the most appropriate method of transportation by considering, as an example, but not limited to: the availability of public transportation, distance to the destination, the time of day, the season, the weather conditions, and academic responsibilities. Common sense and practical considerations for reducing risk should take precedence in travel decision making.

- It is the responsibility of the student to provide their own transportation to required clinical placements and have appropriate automobile insurance if driving their own vehicle. Students should also ensure that they have appropriate insurance for travel outside the province, if applicable.

- There is additional potential liability if a student transports other students to placements. Students should ensure that their insurance is adequate to cover themselves and any other students travelling with them.

- If a student is traveling during clinical practice as a requirement of the placement, students should ensure their insurance will cover those activities if they are driving their own car for this purpose.

- Students are reminded to assess the weather forecast and road conditions before travelling to ensure they are proceeding under safe conditions. If weather conditions are not conducive to safe travel, students should consider alternate methods of travel or delay travel plans. The appropriate faculty at Queen’s School of Nursing and the appropriate person at the clinical agency should be notified as early as possible if there will be a delay in arrival, or it is deemed unsafe to travel to the clinical placement.

- A common cause of motor vehicle accidents and fatalities is the driver failing to maintain their full attention to operating the vehicle. This may include but is not limited to: texting, emailing, phone conversations or loud music. It is paramount that students ensure that their full attention is given to driving the vehicle and navigating traffic, weather and road conditions, and they do not engage in distracted driving.
• Professionalism is required at all times and includes when interacting with others (ex: police, other drivers).

• At all times it is essential that students follow all laws and legislations when driving to and from placements.

References


Approved at School of Nursing Academic Council January 30, 2019