Interacting with Peers

Hondros College of Nursing knows that good manners and respect for students and faculty are necessary; therefore, good behavior is essential for all students and faculty while on campus.

Good manners and basic etiquette help to create an environment where students and faculty can interact productively. The extent of expected manners depends upon if you’re in a classroom, where a more rigid atmosphere exists, or in a study room, where a more relaxed atmosphere occurs. Saying please and thank you are two basic and expected ways to make interactions pleasant.

TIPS FOR INTERACTING

• Actively listen to what your peers are saying. Listen and concentrate on what they are saying and not just on how you will respond.
• Avoid interrupting your peers. Wait until the person you are speaking with has stopped talking before you begin to speak.
• Ask questions during conversations to clarify your understanding when appropriate; doing so lets the speaker know you are listening and interested in what they are saying.
• Engage in polite behavior. Cussing, swearing, and inappropriate hand gestures are unacceptable.
• Avoid cutting into conversations and changing subjects; this give the impression you’re not interested in what the other person has to say.
• Give constructive criticism when appropriate regarding the subject material and not the person.

CONFLICT

Conflict is a disagreement between two students or a student and faculty member where at least one person perceives a threat to their personal well-being. This can lead to very disruptive behavior in a classroom setting. Conflict should be avoided at all cost.

APOLOGIES

If an act of bad manners should occur, a sincere apology appropriate for the situation may repair the damage. Give it a try.

PEERS CAN BE HELPFUL

Faculty and students approach class material content from different perspectives, and explanations from peers can greatly benefit a student’s understanding. Faculty have a role to play in facilitating peer collaboration through the suggestion of study groups.

Studies have shown that students are more likely to ask a peer for help than ask for clarification from faculty. Struggling students may find it’s especially helpful to get more individualized help from a peer rather than from faculty. That is why student tutors were created and study groups are formed. Chances are that fellow students are interested in forming a study group, so don’t be afraid to ask other students to join one. Seek out a peer-tutor if you’re more comfortable doing so. These tutors should be listed on the Tutoring Schedules which are posted on campus, in CAMS, and on the Tutoring Tab in the online library.

NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION / BODY LANGUAGE

It’s even more important that you are aware of your non-verbal communication and body language, as these things communicate much more than your words do. The look on your face, the way you are standing, and many other nonverbalss will tell people how you are feeling, if you agree or disagree with them, and much more. The words you are saying have to match the body language you are projecting in order to be believable and come across as sincere.