



## **UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems**

### **Student Engagement and Attendance**

### **General Principles and Information for Students**

Our priority in the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems (SNMHS) is to ensure that all students have a positive, fulfilling, and successful experience during their programme of study. Our programmes are designed to ensure they are student-centred and inclusive, underpinned by principles of consistency, connection and community, equity, accessibility, and student wellbeing.

Learning is a lived, active, and engaging process, and we adopt strategies in our teaching and learning that promote student engagement in a stimulating, supportive and challenging learning environment. Students have a suite of learning opportunities, including face-to-face classroom experiences, technology-enhanced learning, clinical/practice experience, and time and space for self-directed learning. Our school-based face-to-face classes in the form of lectures, workshops and tutorials are intentional opportunities to promote deep learning and critical thinking through interaction, engagement and discussion with faculty and peers. These blended learning approaches give options for multiple means of engagement and flexibility in the learning process.

#### **The importance of student engagement**

Students play a critical role in influencing their learning and success through their involvement and engagement in their programme of study and availing of the support and opportunities offered by the school/university.

There is a clear expectation within the university and school regarding student engagement which is a requirement set out in the [UCD Academic Regulations](#), which states

Students are expected to participate in all activities associated with the modules or other learning experiences they are registered for. This includes regular and punctual attendance at and engagement with lectures, laboratories and other teaching and learning activities. Engagement and participation requirements may be incorporated into assessment strategies or programme specifications.

(Academic Regulation 3.38)

## **SNMHS expectations of student engagement and responsibilities**

All students registered for SNMHS programmes/modules must participate and engage actively, including attendance at all scheduled classes, completing learning activities and formal assessments. Expectations around attendance are outlined in Academic Regulation 3.38. The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI, 2016) also mandates standards and requirements for professional programmes.

A UCD trimester typically involves 15 weeks of student participation and activity:

- 12 weeks of teaching and learning
- Note: Trimester one is 10 weeks of teaching and learning for stage 1 undergraduate
- 1 week of revision
- 2 weeks of revision and assessment/examination.

A standard 5-credit UCD module represents 100-125 hours of student effort over the trimester, which includes:

- scheduled classes
- assigned learning activities
- formal assignments/coursework
- independent, self-directed study

In a typical programme of study, students take 30 credits in a trimester, usually in the form of 5 or 10 credits for theoretical modules. Clinical/practice placements and Project/Dissertation modules often carry a larger credit load.

There are programme-specific mechanisms to monitor student engagement and attendance within Brightspace, Virtual classroom (Zoom), scheduled classes and clinical/practice placements.

Non-engagement or concerns with non-attendance can be actioned in the following ways:

- E-mail alerts to notify a student about a concern.
- A request to a student to attend a meeting to discuss engagement /attendance.
- Students may be required to engage in an academic plan as a form of support and a way to monitor progress.

## Student Responsibilities

- Students should familiarise themselves with the standards of engagement that the University/School expects in university or on clinical/ practice placements.
- Students must ensure they attend scheduled campus-based classes (lectures, seminars/tutorials, clinical skills laboratories).
- Students can consult the scheduled timetable and module information and outline the specific requirements for attendance across modules/programmes.
- The SNMHS advise that students develop a personal timetable to give adequate time to plan for attending scheduled classes, engaging in learning activities and self-directed study.
- All learning activities set by modules should be completed within the timeline established.

## Seek support if required

- From time to time, students may experience difficulties that prevent them from being able to attend classes or engage with the programme of study due to [extenuating circumstances](#) (i.e., illness/ personal difficulties). Students should notify the appropriate person responsible for the module/programme in these situations to ensure they can gain the appropriate support. This will normally be the Module Coordinator, Personal Tutor, and/ or Programme Director if anticipated prolonged absence.
- [UCD Access and Lifelong Learning](#) is available to all UCD Students and provides a range of support, including financial, disability, digital academic and personal support.
- Each programme has a dedicated [Student Adviser](#) who can offer support, information, and advice.

## Useful links

Click on the links to bring you to relevant information and sources

- [Academic Regulations 2021-2022](#)
- [Nurse And Midwife Education: Standards and Requirements](#) (NMBI 2016)
- Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems- click the link to [contact us](#)
- [Student Advisers](#)
- [UCD Access and Lifelong Learning](#)
- [Student Guide to Extenuating Circumstances](#)