

Online Discussion Policy

The purpose of this online discussion policy is to provide a safe, accessible mode of communication and support amongst students, faculty and staff of NCM. Being a midwifery student or preceptor comes with challenges that are sometimes met in isolation. NCM encourages students and faculty to use online discussion spaces the college provides (Facebook and Canvas) to reach out to one another in order to seek guidance and solace in meeting challenges. Celebrate and expound on successes so that others can take inspiration. Share helpful resources and assist others in being the best students and preceptors they can be! In general NCM online discussion groups are limited to NCM students (including observers), faculty, supervisors, BOD, staff and advisors. Discussions, chats, and messages on NCM forums are for the use of NCM invited participants only and may not be distributed to anyone outside of the group or class. Nevertheless, NCM recognized that there is no way to guarantee that messages will be kept confidential. Students, staff and faculty are required to affirm and be familiar with the following rules governing behavior on the discussion group.

Guidelines for Discussion Group and Chatting

NCM asks that group members follow these rules as a courtesy to other members and the midwifery community as a whole:

- Maintain confidentiality. As we all know, the world of midwifery is small and intimate. Please refrain from sharing information about others (e.g. your preceptors, your clients or other midwives) that should be kept confidential, even if names are not being used.
- It's okay to share personal stories, but when it comes to others' stories, keep discussions focused on concepts rather than on personal information.
- Consider cultural appropriateness. NCM has students from all walks of life in diverse geographic settings. Please consider whether your words might be offensive to someone of a culture different than your own.
- Practice wise speech. Be kind, honest, respectful, helpful and thoughtful.
- Come to the discussion with openness to varying perspectives and enough humility to listen deeply. Come with trust that everyone in the group is seeking to listen and to be heard.
- Consider that it is extremely difficult to interpret tone through electronic communication so avoid implying tone when reading posts as this can lead to misinterpretation.
- All defamatory, abusive, profane, threatening, offensive, or illegal materials are strictly prohibited as are hateful, negative or discriminatory comments regarding race, color, national or ethnic origin, ability, religion, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status, formal education, language, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic and/or ancestry information, political beliefs or other identities.
- Do not post commercial solicitations.
- Consider that comments are subject to libel, slander, and antitrust laws.
- Do not post any material protected by copyright or intellectual property rights without the permission of the owner.
- Remember that while users are prohibited by this policy from reproducing and distributing posts to non-members and, while NCM believes its members will

follow this Discussion Group Policy, NCM has no technical means to prevent a user from reproducing or distributing a post.

If you have any questions about the guidelines, please contact Marcy Andrew at marcya@midwiferycollege.org.

Online Discussion Group Compliance

Messages will not be screened before they are posted. However, posts that do not comply with the guidelines listed above will be removed and the author of the post will be given direction by the moderator on how to revise the post, if within reason, to meet the guidelines of the discussion group.

Anyone consistently posting out of compliance with the guidelines will be removed from the group and possibly dismissed from the College.

If a you find a post to be inappropriate:

- Take pause. Consider the possibility that you might be taking something personally that is meant to further deeper learning, which can come with a certain level of discomfort. See how others respond before choosing to respond yourself.
- Ask questions and seek clarification without inspiring conflict or confrontation.
- If you just can't shake the viewpoint that the post is inappropriate, remove yourself from the conversation and contact the moderator directly at marcya@midwiferycollege.edu.

Online Discussion Group Disclaimer

Discussion groups are provided as a service of the National College of Midwifery. NCM accepts no responsibility for the opinions and information posted on any NCM site by others. In no event shall NCM be liable for any damages whatsoever in connection with the use of any information posted on this site.

From time to time, posts may include attachments from users, third parties, or hyperlinks to other websites or materials ("non-NCM content"). Because NCM has no control over this non-NCM content, you acknowledge and agree that NCM is not responsible for its availability and that NCM does not endorse or warrant the accuracy of any non-NCM content. Students, staff and faculty further acknowledge and agree that NCM shall in no way be liable or responsible for such non-NCM content.

NCM does not represent or guarantee that its discussion group will be free from loss, corruption, attack, viruses, interference, malware, hacking, or other security intrusions and NCM disclaims any liability relating thereto.

By joining and using a discussion group, Students, staff and faculty acknowledge reading, understanding, and waiving any cause of action you may have against NCM with regards to this disclaimer.