

# The Relationship between Level of Awareness and Compliance Following LPU Cavite College of Nursing Decorum Guidelines

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## ABSTRACT

Decorum functions as an essential aspect of professional conduct, where compliance to moral and conduct standards is crucial. In University, applying decorum guidelines assures that students demonstrate professionalism, discipline, and respect, both in the classroom and during clinical practice. It has been observed that some students continue to disregard the decorum guidelines which is why this study would measure their level of awareness and level of compliance to see if there is a significant relationship between the two. This research relates to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, fostering values essential for sustainable development, such as professionalism, discipline, and respect. The purpose of this research is to determine the relationship between the level of awareness and the level of compliance among Level II, Level III, and Level IV BS nursing students regarding the proper adherence to CON decorum guidelines. This study utilized the descriptive quantitative approach combined with correlational research design, a non-experimental research. This was conducted in Lyceum of the Philippines University - Cavite. The results revealed that the majority of participants were female and second-year students. Students were both fully aware and fully compliant in terms of Time Management and Professional Decorum, but both moderately aware and moderately compliant in terms of Conduct and Behavior. The study revealed that gender found a significant relationship with awareness while Year level found no significant relationship with awareness. Gender found no significant relationship with compliance while Year level found a significant relationship with compliance. And there is a strong positive correlation between awareness and compliance.

**Keywords:** Decorum Guidelines, Enhancement, Level of Awareness, Level of Compliance, Nursing Students, Related Learning Experience

## INTRODUCTION

"Decorum" in healthcare ensures respectful communication, empathy, and active listening, fostering positive relationships and minimizing conflicts [1]. In relation to this, awareness and compliance are both important in following the College of Nursing (CON) Decorum Guidelines. Awareness means knowing the rules, while compliance means following them. These two are connected, when students are more aware, they are more likely to follow the rules properly. It was emphasized that awareness plays a vital role in fostering professionalism, which is significant in nursing education [2]. Furthermore, compliance among nursing students is influenced by various factors such as awareness, supervision, and training [3]. It was observed that some nursing students continue to disregard the RLE guidelines, even though these were clearly explained and emphasized as rules that must be followed.

This study supported SDG 4.7 by highlighting the importance of nursing students' awareness and compliance with decorum guidelines to promote quality education. Few studies have explored the connection between nursing students' awareness and compliance with decorum guidelines, as most research has examined each aspect separately without assessing their influence on RLE performance. This study focused on Level II, III, and IV nursing students, as they are actively engaged in clinical and community settings where decorum guidelines are

directly enforced. Although Level I students are taught about decorum requirements during college orientations and practice some Decorum RLE Guidelines in skills laboratories, they are excluded from this study due to a lack of practical RLE experience, which officially begins at level II.

Understanding the importance of decorum in nursing benefits the College of Nursing, nursing students, and future researchers. For the College of Nursing, the findings can help evaluate the effectiveness of current RLE decorum guidelines and support improvements that ensure students meet professional and ethical standards in both academic and clinical settings. Nursing students may gain better awareness of the importance of following guidelines and be encouraged to develop professional behavior early in their training. Future researchers can use the results as a reference for related studies on decorum, professionalism, and their impact on academic and clinical performance.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Method**

The researchers used a descriptive quantitative approach combined with correlational research design, non-experimental research aimed to understand the relationship between the level of awareness and level of compliance on following the CON Decorum Guidelines Among Level II, Level III and Level IV BS Nursing students at LPU Cavite. The College of Nursing (CON) has a total student population of two hundred seventy-one (271) enrolled students from the second to fourth year of study, who were eligible to participate in the study from the BS Nursing students at Lyceum of the Philippines University-Cavite as of the second semester Academic Year 2024-2025. The target population was around two hundred seventeen (217), which is 80% of the population, for the study to be reliable. The participants of the study are a total of two hundred twenty-three (223) participants, non-randomly selected among Level II, Level III, and Level IV BS nursing students.

### **Sampling Technique**

The researchers' population is among Level II, Level III, and Level IV BS Nursing students at LPU Cavite. A non-probability sampling was used to select the participants for this study. The sampling technique that was utilized is purposive sampling, which involves intentionally selecting participants who meet specific criteria relevant to the study's objectives. This method focuses on identifying nursing students who can provide meaningful insights based on their level of awareness and compliance with the CON Decorum Guidelines.

Participants were selected non-randomly, prioritizing those who met the study's inclusion criteria and were willing to participate. The inclusion criteria applied, specifically: (1) participants must be currently enrolled at LPU-Cavite, (2) have attended college orientations where the CON Decorum Guidelines were introduced, and (3) have experienced or are currently experiencing RLE, such as the clinical and community duty.

### **Validation of the Instrument**

The researchers conducted a face-to-face survey, a questionnaire made by the researchers to determine the relationship between the level of awareness and level of compliance with following the CON Decorum Guidelines among Level II, Level III, and Level IV BSN students at LPU Cavite. Informed consent was presented on the first page before the actual questionnaire. There are a total of one hundred twenty-nine (129) questions in the questionnaire survey, which consists of four sections, which are:

Part I consists of two (2) questions regarding the demographic profile of the participants, specifically the Gender and the Year level.

Part II consists of Seventy-six (76) questions regarding the Level of Awareness on CON Decorum Guidelines; the questionnaire is categorized to three (3) categories, namely, Time Management, consists of fifteen (15) questions, Professional Decorum, consists of thirty-eight (38) questions, and Conduct and Behavior, consists of twenty-three (23) questions.

Part III consists of Forty nine (49) questions regarding the Level of Compliance of CON Decorum Guidelines; the questionnaire is categorized to three (3) categories, namely, Time Management, consists of four (4) questions, while Professional Decorum, consists of twenty-nine (29) questions, and Conduct and Behavior, consists of eighteen (18) questions. And Part IV is regarding the Proposed Enhancement to RLE Guidelines from students.

It is a 4-Point Likert scale type of questionnaire made as simple as possible for the benefit of the participants. The second part of the questionnaire ranges from Fully Aware (4), Moderately Aware (3), Slightly Aware (2), and Not Aware at all (1). The third part of the questionnaire is also a 4-Point Likert scale that ranges from Fully Compliant (4), Moderately Compliant (3), Slightly Compliant (2), and Not Compliant at All (1). Face-to-face surveys were utilized as the main medium for data gathering, and the participants were given ample time to answer the survey at their convenience.

**Data Collection Procedure**

The data collection was conducted through a face-to-face survey during the second semester of A.Y. 2024-2025. A close-ended, structured questionnaire was used to assess the relationship between the level of awareness and compliance with CON Decorum Guidelines, and an open-ended, structured statement regarding the proposed enhancement of RLE Guidelines from LPU Cavite BS Nursing students. Before finalization, the questionnaire was validated and modified based on expert recommendations.

Approval was obtained to use the RLE guidelines of the College of Nursing at LPU Cavite as the basis for the questionnaire. Additionally, the Dean of the College of Nursing granted permission to conduct the study, allowing the researchers to proceed with data collection. During the survey sessions, participants were informed about the study’s purpose and provided with a hard copy of the questionnaire. Clear instructions were given to ensure consistency in responses. Participants were allowed sufficient time to complete the questionnaire at their convenience, after which the researchers collected the responses directly.

Once all responses were gathered, the data were tallied and organized before being forwarded to the statistician for analysis. The findings from the data collection helped evaluate the relationship between students’ awareness and compliance with the CON Decorum Guidelines, providing insights that might have contributed to potential improvements in the RLE guidelines.

**Data Analysis**

A face-to-face survey using a 4-point Likert scale was conducted to assess the level of awareness and compliance with the CON decorum guidelines among BS Nursing students at LPU Cavite. Various statistical tools were used to analyze the data, including mean deviation and standard deviation to measure average response and data variability. Cramer's V and Chi-square tests were applied to examine the strength and significance of associations between categorical variables. The Shapiro-Wilk test assessed data normality, while Spearman’s rank correlation was used to determine the relationship between ranked variables.

**Ethical Considerations**

For the ethical considerations of our participants in answering the researcher’s survey questionnaire, an informed consent was included at the beginning of the questionnaire, they were not required to input their names on the demographic profile in observance of the Data Privacy Act of 2012 but, instead their gender and year level were relevant for the researcher’s study. The answers of the participants remained confidential and were only used for research purposes.

**RESULTS**

Table 1. Demographic Profile in terms of Gender

Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	165	73.9%

Male	58	26.1%
Total	223	100

Table 2. Demographic Profile of Year Level

Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Second Year	105	47.1%
Third Year	78	35%
Fourth Year	40	17.9%
Total	223	100

Table 3. Summary of the Level of Awareness of LPU Cavite BS Nursing Students regarding the CON Decorum Guidelines

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Time Management	3.561	0.619	Fully Aware
Professional Decorum	3.451	0.530	Fully Aware
Conduct and Behavior	3.200*	0.421	Moderately Aware
<b>Average Mean</b>	<b>3.404</b>	<b>0.523</b>	<b>Fully Aware</b>

Table 4. Summary of the Level of Compliance of LPU Cavite BS Nursing Students regarding the CON Decorum Guidelines

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Time Management	3.612	0.721	Fully Compliant
Professional Decorum	3.850	0.413	Fully Compliant
Conduct and Behavior	3.093*	0.302	Moderately Compliant
<b>Average Mean</b>	<b>3.518</b>	<b>0.478</b>	<b>Fully Compliant</b>

Table 5. Relationship between the Demographic Profile (Gender) and the Level of Awareness using Chi-squared Tests

Chi-square Value	p-value	Remarks	Interpretation
79.065	0.05*	Significant	Reject Null Hypothesis

Table 6. Relationship between the Demographic Profile (Year Level) and the Level of Awareness using Chi-Squared Tests

Chi-square Value	p-value	Remarks	Interpretation
114.769	0.618**	Not Significant	Accept Null Hypothesis

Table 7. Relationship between the Demographic Profile (Gender) and the Level of Compliance using Chi-Squared Tests

Chi-square Value	p-value	Remarks	Interpretation
35.463	0.752**	Not Significant	Accept Null Hypothesis

Table 8. Relationship between the Demographic Profile (Year Level) and the Level of Compliance using Chi-Squared Tests

Chi-square Value	p-value	Remarks	Interpretation
106.767	0.048*	Significant	Reject Null Hypothesis

Table 9. Shapiro-Wilk Test for Multivariate Normality

Shapiro-Wilk (W)	p-value
0.695	< .001

Table 10. Spearman's Correlations between the Significant Relationship of the Level of Awareness and the Level of Compliance

Variables	Values	Scores	Interpretation
Compliance Level & Awareness Level	<b>Spearman's rho</b>	0.71	Reject Null Hypothesis
	<b>p-value</b>	< .001	
	<b>Lower 95% CI</b>	0.638	
	<b>Upper 95% CI</b>	0.77	

## DISCUSSION

The results of Table 1 showed that nurses are typically shown as humble, gentle, subordinate, and compassionate, which is considered feminine in society. Because of Florence Nightingale's influence on women, they were chosen to help patients during her time, which heavily influenced the female population to go to nursing school [4] According to the results of Table 2, Nursing became an in-demand profession after the pandemic, encouraging students to pursue and continue nursing because of the shortage of nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic [5].

The findings in Table 3 imply that while the students exhibit a strong understanding and adherence to most decorum-related aspects, there may be a need to reinforce awareness and promote deeper understanding regarding conduct and behavior within the academic setting. The data reveals that students are fully aware in terms of Time Management and Professional Decorum. However, in the area of Conduct and Behavior, they are moderately aware of Conduct and Behavior. Students showed strong awareness of time management. The findings are congruent with the study, effective time management allows nurses to prioritize care, allocate their time and attention to essential responsibilities, and delegate less critical duties to be addressed later [6].

In terms of professional decorum, students also exhibited full awareness. Academic ethical awareness among student nurses states that students should be informed about the importance of proper conduct, punctuality, and the consequences of unethical behavior during orientation programs. This shows that it's important to teach professional values early in nursing school so students will know how they are expected to behave in hospitals and the community [7].

However, awareness related to conduct and behavior was found to be only at a moderate level. There is a need to strengthen this awareness and foster a deeper understanding of appropriate conduct within the academic environment. Students showed a moderate level of awareness about ethics. Students who were more aware of ethics were also more sensitive to right and wrong in patient care. Because of this, their study suggests that nursing education should include more training on ethics to better prepare students for real-life situations in health care settings [8]. Students develop an understanding of professional nursing values, their growth involves utilizing critical thinking, integrating personal and professional emotions, achieving self-awareness, and aligning self-fulfillment with their professional development goals. Students must also recognize their personal and professional values and emphasize demonstrating behaviors such as empathy and compassion. Therefore, achieving self-awareness is important because it helps students understand their strengths, weaknesses, and goals, allowing them to align their fulfillment with their professional ambitions [9].

According to the results of Table 4, students showed strong compliance in time management. Students who manage their time effectively tend to perform better academically and are more likely to achieve their academic goals [10]. This aligns with the results of the study, which revealed that nursing students at LPU Cavite demonstrated full compliance in this area, highlighting their ability to balance academic responsibilities and professional expectations.

In terms of professional decorum, students also exhibited full compliance. Nurses are able to adhere to rules and regulations because they are aware of the guidelines as they see it as a form of professionalism. Nursing students are expected to emulate these standards, as following institutional rules and regulations prepares them for future clinical practice [11]. Their adherence to professional decorum reflects their readiness to transition into competent, responsible healthcare providers.

However, compliance in conduct and behavior was found to be only moderate. This suggests a need for stricter enforcement of rules related to personal behavior and interaction. The level of nursing education significantly influences a student's knowledge and compliance; higher year levels typically correlate with a better understanding of nursing protocols [12].

Students who neglect to follow guidelines may potentially make errors in their future professional practice, which underscores the importance of nursing programs strengthening their approaches to educating nursing students. Using an observational method, the study watched students during practice sessions to identify mistakes. This means that nursing programs should create ways to help students follow the guidelines they are expected to meet [13].

Table 5 indicates a significant relationship between gender and the level of awareness. This suggests that gender may influence students' awareness of the guidelines. There is a significant relationship between gender and the level of awareness, meaning that gender can influence their awareness of following CON Decorum Guidelines.

Women showed more awareness of COVID-19 being a threat and were aware that the virus is a serious risk to their health, meaning that the more aware they are of the pandemic, the more compliant they are in implementing preventive measures. It states that women had been observed having knowledge and beliefs about the risk of COVID-19 compared to men [14]. Females show greater adherence and knowledge about COVID-19 precautionary measures than males do, meaning that female nursing students are most likely to have greater health awareness along with the guidelines [15].

However, Table 6 suggests that students across different year levels have similar awareness levels, and year level does not appear to be a determining factor. On the other hand, there is no significant relationship between year level and the level of awareness, meaning that different year levels do not determine their awareness in CON Decorum Guidelines. According to Patricia Benner's theory of Novice to Expert, it states that at the higher level, the nurse should have enough knowledge and skills to acquire clinical competence, while at the lower level, they have limited knowledge from the start of their career.

Effective primary and preventive healthcare can be provided by nurses at all levels, which could help contribute, along with many healthcare services, to achieving universal health coverage. The level of nursing education

influences both knowledge and compliance as nursing students learn new care techniques that would help them prepare for professional practices [16].

The results of Table 7 showed that there is no significant relationship between gender and compliance. Women were more concerned about COVID-19 and perceived it as a more serious health problem, their actual level of compliance with public health measures was not significantly different from men when measured through observable behaviors [17]. This supports the idea that both genders are equally capable of adhering to rules, aligning that gender does not significantly influence compliance with the CON Decorum Guidelines.

According to the results of Table 8, students' compliance with the guidelines varies based on their academic year, meaning year level may influence adherence to the decorum guidelines. Overall, the findings suggest that gender does not impact compliance, but year level plays a role in students' adherence to the CON Decorum Guidelines. In the study entitled "Compliance to Disciplinary Policies and Procedures in Selected Colleges of Nursing," results also showed that compliance levels significantly varied across different year levels. The study found that students' adherence to disciplinary policies increased as they advanced in their academic years, supporting the current study's finding that year level plays a crucial role in students' compliance with institutional guidelines [18].

On Table 9, the Shapiro-Wilk test to assess the multivariate normality of the dataset. The test yielded a W statistic of 0.695 with a p-value less than 0.001, which is below the commonly used significance level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ . This result indicates that the data does not follow a normal distribution. As such, the use of non-parametric statistical tests is recommended for further analysis.

Given that a correlation between 0.70 and 0.89 is considered strong, these findings suggest a robust association between awareness and compliance. The result of table 10 reveals that the correlation between the level of awareness and the level of compliance shows a strong positive relationship. This indicates that as the level of awareness increases, the level of compliance also tends to increase. It was shown that increasing the level of knowledge will lead to an increase in the level of compliance towards the standard precautions and can improve the nurses' clinical practice, they found that although registered nurses in northern Jordan had high knowledge of standard precautions, their actual compliance was only moderate, highlighting the gap between knowing and doing [19]. It was found that students who know the school rules well tend to have positive attitudes toward following them. However, their study also showed that knowing the rules does not always lead to actually following them. In the same way, having a good attitude toward the rules does not guarantee that students will put them into practice [20]. The study of Knowledge and compliance of guidelines among surgeons in a tertiary care teaching hospital highlighted that while basic practices were somewhat followed, there were notable gaps in awareness and full adherence to standards. Their findings emphasize how limited knowledge can affect compliance with proper protocols [21].

Most of the participants were female, and second-year students dominated the sample. Findings showed that students were fully aware of the guidelines, especially in areas like Time Management and Professional Decorum, but only moderately aware when it came to Conduct and Behavior. Similarly, students were fully compliant in most aspects but showed lower compliance in Conduct and Behavior. A strong, statistically significant correlation was found between awareness and compliance, suggesting that the more aware students are, the more they tend to comply. Gender was significantly related to awareness, but not to compliance, while year level significantly influenced compliance, not awareness. Emphasis on conduct and behavior during orientation, along with routine reminders throughout the semester, can significantly enhance adherence. It is also suggested that students take more responsibility for maintaining professionalism, both in school and in the clinical/community setting.

## CONCLUSION

The study concludes that nursing students at LPU Cavite possess a commendable level of professionalism, particularly in the domains of Time Management and Professional Decorum. The findings reflect a strong departmental foundation where students are well-informed of institutional expectations during their orientation and early academic training. However, a distinct gap exists in the area of Conduct and Behavior, where both

awareness and compliance are only at a moderate level. This suggests that while students understand the "logistics" of being a nurse (punctuality and appearance), they require further immersion and training in the "ethics" and interpersonal complexities of the profession.

The statistical analysis highlights a strong positive correlation between awareness and compliance, affirming that knowledge is a prerequisite for adherence. Interestingly, the study reveals that while gender influences how aware a student may be (with females showing higher sensitivity to guidelines), it does not dictate their actual compliance. Conversely, year level serves as a significant predictor of compliance but not awareness. This indicates that as students progress through the nursing program, the transition from "Novice to Expert" is marked not just by knowing the rules, but by the disciplined habit of following them as they move closer to clinical practice.

Ultimately, to bridge the gap between "knowing and doing," the nursing program must move beyond initial orientations. Strengthening the curriculum through continuous ethical training, stricter enforcement of conduct protocols, and fostering deep self-awareness will be essential. By reinforcing professional values throughout all year levels, the institution can ensure that student nurses transition into the healthcare workforce as competent, ethical, and fully compliant professionals.

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