

PhD in Gerontology Student Handbook

2021-2022

College of Public Health Mission and Vision

Mission Statement

To develop health champions, conduct multidisciplinary and applied research, and collaborate with partners to improve health in Kentucky and beyond.

Vision Statement

To be a catalyst of positive change for population health.

Student Responsibility

This handbook offers an overview of the policies and procedures of PhD in Gerontology degree program. It is intended to serve as a guide for the program within the context of the University of Kentucky Regulations and Procedures. Questions regarding degree program policies and procedures should be directed to the Graduate Advisor, Director of Graduate Studies, or the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs.

It is the student's responsibility to be informed concerning all program regulations and procedures. Students should also become familiar with the Graduate School Bulletin

The PhD Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. John Watkins, should be consulted concerning course requirements, any deficiencies, the planning of a program, and special regulations. Programs may have degree requirements that are not listed in the Bulletin. The Dean of the Graduate School interprets the Graduate School Bulletin. Only the Graduate Council may waive Bulletin requirements.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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cph.uky.edu

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Dear PhD Students,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the University of Kentucky College of Public Health (UKCPH), welcome. We are delighted that you have chosen to join us and congratulate you on choosing such a meaningful field of study.

We all know the odds: severe health disparities affect populations across Kentucky and around the globe. Creating change can be a long process with daunting obstacles. But we're persistent—and we know you are too. And that's why you're here—to learn what's possible for you and the world.

At UKCPH, we are proud of the role we play in fighting on behalf of vulnerable populations while educating you—the next generation of public health leaders. It is our responsibility to provide you with learning opportunities that make it possible for you to achieve your highest potential. Faculty and staff are ready to teach, advise, and mentor you as you discover your future in public health.

By becoming part of UKCPH, you are joining a supportive and inclusive community. Diversity in all its forms is central to our identity as a college, and we hope you will learn just as much from your classmates as you do in the classroom. From this day forward you are colleagues working toward the common goal of a healthier world.

Whatever path has led you to UKCPH, know that this is a place where you will find knowledge, support, and the opportunity to expand your heart and mind while preparing to work on behalf of the most vulnerable populations.

Again, welcome. Now let's get to work—together.

Sincerely,



Donna K. Arnett, PhD, MSPH
Dean
University of Kentucky College of Public Health

Program Information

The PhD program in gerontology employs a curriculum designed to establish the knowledge base and especially the thinking/methodological skills necessary to successfully contribute to gerontology scholarship. The curriculum consists of 41 hours of course work plus directed studies and research within a program of study that involves six interlocking elements:

- a required core in gerontology
- specialized coursework in a substantive thematic research domain
- training in appropriate and supportive research methods
- grounding in public health concepts
- a qualifying examination
- a dissertation

Program Outcomes

1. A comprehensive knowledge and appreciation of the history and interdisciplinary philosophy of gerontology: Students will demonstrate familiarity with: a. major concepts and theories from the traditional fields of aging research within such areas as anthropology, biology, geography, psychology, and sociology; and b. historic and contemporary development of gerontology's holistic and interdisciplinary philosophy.
2. Knowledge of and critical expertise in at least three distinct thematic areas within gerontology that link to the student's more specific area of research: Students will demonstrate in-depth knowledge of three specific thematic areas and be able to link these thematic areas to focused expertise on a distinct research topic.
3. Expertise in theory and research design: Students will demonstrate expertise as original researchers, through:
 - a) The ability to formulate a theoretically sound and evidence based research problem and research questions;
 - b) The ability to design and carry out an appropriate and effective literature review and undertake original field or laboratory work for addressing the research problem and research questions;
 - c) The ability to collect, analyze, and interpret data using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed method techniques appropriate to the student's particular research design and data.
4. A knowledge and appreciation of the strengths, weaknesses, and applications of different methodologies and their associated measurement techniques.

- a) Students will demonstrate knowledge of the range of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed method techniques used in gerontology research;
 - b) Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively and judiciously apply appropriate techniques in the context of independent and original research.
5. Competence in thinking critically, and in ways that are holistic and integrative: Students will demonstrate ability to assess immediate and potential value of extant knowledge, and to formulate strategies for synthesizing knowledge and understanding drawn from disciplinarily disparate but thematically relevant literatures.
6. Competence in written and oral communication: Students will demonstrate effective skills at presenting and defending their ideas and their research in both spoken and written formats.
7. Excelling in a professional academic setting: Students will demonstrate the ability to excel in a professional academic setting, as appropriate for their chosen career, including:
- a) Expertise in teaching practices;
 - b) The ability to write high quality research grants and contract proposals;
 - c) The ability to present in a clear and effective manner at professional conferences.

Teacher Training Component

The Teacher Training Component provides a formal arena for acquiring valuable teaching experience. It is based on the premise that practice is a necessary component of ability, yet it recognizes that careful and informed guidance is a staple in building true proficiency. This component further provides the opportunity of ensuring a solid foundation in general gerontology, which is an invaluable part of preparing for qualifying exams.

Students who have completed GRN 616 – Teaching Seminar in Gerontology become eligible for team or full responsibility in teaching an undergraduate course in gerontology during a subsequent semester. The student may concurrently enroll in GRN 617– Teaching Practicum in Gerontology (3 hours).

Completion of GRN 616 is required of all graduate instructors regardless of any prior teaching experience.

Notification of Professional Activities

Students are required to keep a running log of all professional activities while affiliated with the gerontology program. This record is similar to the curriculum vitae and should include, but is not limited to: presentations at professional meetings, seminars presented, papers published, awards, and visits to other universities. Students should notify the DGS of all professional activities when they occur and are required to notify the DGS of all progress indicators at the close of each spring semester.

Program Requirements

The PhD program in gerontology employs a curriculum designed to establish the knowledge base and especially the thinking/methodological skills necessary to successfully contribute to gerontology scholarship.

Program Curriculum

The following curricular requirements are presented as a guide to your matriculation through the program. Depending on your previous coursework, there may be changes and alternatives suggested by your advisor.

<u>Required Courses</u>	<u>Elective Courses</u>
GRN 600 A Study of the Older Person (3)	Work with your advisor and DGS to identify appropriate electives.
GRN 620 Human Aging and Adjustment (3)	
GRN 650 Research Design in Gerontology (4)	Subtotal: Elective Hours (15)
GRN 656 Integrative Studies in Gerontology (3)	
CPH 603 Data Analysis (3)	
Additional Methods Courses (6)	<u>Teacher Training</u>
CPH 605 Epidemiology (3)	GRN 616 Teaching Seminar in Gerontology 2
CPH 663 Introduction to Public Health Practice & Administration (1)	GRN 617 Teaching Practicum in Gerontology 3
Subtotal: Core Hours (26)	Subtotal: Teacher Training Hours (5)
	Total Minimum Hours Required for Degree (41)

The Graduate School allows up to 9 credit hours to be transferred under certain guidelines (see: <http://gradschool.uky.edu/graduate-school-bulletin>). It is, however, not necessary to officially transfer credits to the University of Kentucky; any graduate courses taken at other universities may be used toward the degree if they exhibit relevance to the student's study plan. Such courses must be approved by the student's advisory committee and the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), with this approval being documented in the student's file.

Residency Requirement

See the admission year's edition of the Graduate School Bulletin for both pre- and post-qualifying residency requirements. In general, two years of residency is required prior to the Qualifying examination, and a minimum of 1 year is required after completion of the qualifying examination. Post-qualifying residency is formalized by ongoing registration in GRN 767 (Dissertation Research) for each semester through defense of the dissertation. Students must remain actively enrolled throughout the degree program to retain "active" status and to avoid having to re-apply to the program.

Student Advising

Upon admission to the Ph.D. Program in Gerontology, each student will be assigned a preliminary “Faculty Mentor” who will serve as a provisional advisor (the Director of Graduate Studies will serve as the student’s official advisor until a permanent advisor has been identified and formalized with the graduate school). This Mentor, working in collaboration with relevant departments and the student, will develop an individually tailored program of study and research within the framework of the required curriculum. By the end of the first year, each student should have selected a permanent advisor. This advisor, if serving as the sole advisor, must hold a faculty rank of Associate Professor or above. An Assistant Professor may serve as co-chair of the advisory committee if accompanied by a senior faculty member.

It is anticipated that by the end of the Fall semester of his or her second year of study, each student will have formed a four member (minimum) Advisory Committee that must include at least three Gerontology Faculty, one of whom will serve as chair. One committee member must have an appointment outside of gerontology (affiliate faculty can serve in either capacity). Finally, at least three committee members must hold the status of “Full” graduate faculty (i.e., they are tenured and have the rank of Associate Professor or higher). Students should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies when finalizing the Advisory Committee.

Each student is required to meet at least once per year with his or her Advisory Committee. The student is required to write a summary report on this meeting that should then be signed by his or her advisor and placed in the student’s file.

Students are expected to meet with their advisor on a regular basis. The advisor’s role is to assist the graduate student/degree candidate with any problems that may arise in their program of study and research, to monitor the student’s progress, and to serve as an intellectual and professional mentor during the student’s tenure in the Program.

Graduate students are not obligated to remain with or to retain their initial mentor and/or advisor. With the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, any student may change advisor at any time during his or her tenure in the program. It is understood that changes will occur as students define or re-define their area of interest or otherwise change focus and direction in their work. This is not, however, a license for making numerous changes to the Advisory Committee.

Expectations for Faculty Supervised Research

Because the Doctoral Program in Gerontology is research focused, students are expected to participate in research from entry to the program and progressively increase their research commitment and rigor as they advance. Until a student has selected a permanent advisor to direct her/his dissertation work, the Director of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the student, will assign the student to a Faculty Mentor with whom she/he will work on research activities related to the student’s interest in gerontology. In this context, care will be taken to match a given student with faculty doing research along the lines of the student’s interest.

A student, working with her/his assigned faculty research mentor, is strongly encouraged to complete a Research Mentoring Agreement containing:

1. Type of research activity (e.g., funded or non-funded);
2. A description of the project or topic;
3. The roles and responsibilities of the student and the faculty advisor; and
4. Expected time commitments (e.g., hours per week the student is expected to commit to the research, and scheduled meeting times between student and advisor. As a general rule, full time students (pre-qualifying) are expected to commit 10 to 20 hours per week on research activities, and part time students approximately 5 to 7 hours per week.)

A copy of the Mentoring Agreement, signed by both the student and the faculty advisor, should be submitted prior to the mentoring arrangement (strongly recommended for completion before the semester it begins) for approval to the Director of Graduate Studies of the Program. The role of the DGS is primarily to maintain records of student research interests and/ or progress and to assure fairness among individual student agreements.

Academic Progress

Our Program is based on the philosophy that faculty instruction, mentorship, and advising, along with financial support (through at least fellowships or assistantships, tuition coverage, travel allowances, dedicated office space, and ongoing technology assistance) is solely intended to promote the intellectual and professional development of students to a level deserving of a Ph.D. in Gerontology. But the true value of a doctoral education emerges, first and foremost, from each student's personal investment in intellectual and professional development. Our concept of "Academic Progress" is, therefore, based on whether a student's personal investment meets or exceeds the Program's investment, and whether students are moving expeditiously towards completion of coursework, qualifying examination, and dissertation.

Failure to Make Adequate Progress

Students in the Program are expected to maintain consistent progress in their course work and independent research activities. Any student who accumulates more than six hours of incomplete (I) grades, or who has less than a 3.0 cumulative grade point average, will be placed on Program Probation. In such cases the student may become ineligible for further assistantships or fellowships.

If deficiencies are found, the student will be so advised in writing along with means for remedying deficiencies. If the deficiencies are not removed in a specified period of time, or if the student's performance reveals a persistent pattern of less-than-satisfactory performance, the Administrative Council, with the concurrence of the student's advisor, may recommend termination from the Program. Should the student wish to appeal the termination, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. An ad hoc Committee appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies will meet to discuss the situation and vote on the issue of the student's continuation. All existing information on the case will be made available to the faculty. Recommendations will then be made to the entire Graduate Faculty in Gerontology.
2. If the Graduate Faculty recommends to the Dean of the Graduate School that a student be terminated, the student will receive written notice of the decision that will clearly state the reasons for the termination and provide the student with an opportunity to meet with the Graduate Faculty of the Program. At this time, a second vote will be taken and a final recommendation will be made to the Dean of the Graduate School.

Completion of Degree

Qualifying examinations and defenses must take place during the academic year or while classes are in session. Although the defense of the dissertation (also called the "final examination") is the apex of doctoral studies, the degree is not complete until all revisions to the dissertation have been made and approved, and the required signed copies of the dissertation are submitted to the Graduate School.

Student Services and Resources

For a complete list of resources, please refer to the University website - <http://www.uky.edu/UKHome/>.

Disability Accommodations

The University of Kentucky Disability Resource Center partners with qualified students with disabilities to assist them in gaining equal access to institutional programs and services consistent with their unique needs. The Center seeks to responsibly advocate the needs of students with disabilities to the campus community through consultation and outreach efforts with administration, faculty, students and University partners.

Disability Resource Center
725 Rose Street, Suite 407
Multidisciplinary Science Building
Lexington, KY 40536-0082
(859)257-2754

<https://www.uky.edu/DisabilityResourceCenter/>

Students who are denied accommodations authorized by the DRC or who feel they've been treated unfairly by an instructor because of the accommodations may contact Academic Ombud Services at <https://www.uky.edu/ombud/>.

E-mail

All UKCPH students must establish a University of Kentucky e-mail address. All emailed communication from the UK College of Public Health will be sent to students' UK email address. Students may establish a UK email address at <http://www.uky.edu/its/customer-support-student-it-enablement/customer-services/university-email-and-cloud-apps>.

Graduate Certificates

The College of Public Health offers multiple Graduate Certificates that students can pursue. Please see the College of Public Health website for a complete listing - <http://cph.uky.edu/academic-programs/graduate-certificates>.

Find a complete list of University graduate certificates at the Graduate School's website - <http://gradschool.uky.edu/graduate-certificates>.

Information Technology Services

If students experience any technical issues, please go to: <http://www.uky.edu/its/>.

Library Resources

The University of Kentucky libraries house over two million volumes and rank among the largest in the south and Midwest. The Government Publications Department, a Federal Depository, contains documents relating to municipal, state, and national topics. The system also includes Special Collections, and individual libraries of Medicine, Business, Economics, and Law. The University has the W.T. Young Library, a multi-million-dollar, state-of-the-art central library.

Public Health students can access library resources at <http://libraries.uky.edu/>.

Student Organizations – For a complete list of student organizations, visit <http://getinvolved.uky.edu/>.

University of Kentucky Student Public Health Association (UKSPHA)

The University of Kentucky Student Public Health Association (UKSPHA) was founded on September 21, 2000 as a student-run, student-governed nonprofit organization of the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. UKSPHA is a student affiliate of the Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA) and is open to University of Kentucky College of Public Health students as well as other University students interested in public health.

UKSPHA serves to promote student involvement in the development of healthy communities.

In addition to SPHA, students have the option to become members of the American Public Health Association (APHA), <http://www.apha.org/become-a-member>, as well as Kentucky Public Health Association <https://www.kpha-ky.org/members/join-today>.

Delta Omega Society - Beta Gamma Chapter

Delta Omega is the honorary society for students in public health. The Society was founded in 1924 at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. There are currently more than 108 chapters throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Membership in Delta Omega is by invitation to students with exceptionally high GPAs who also have promising leadership potential in Public Health.

Sigma Phi Omega - Gamma Mu Chapter

The national honor society of Sigma Phi Omega recognizes academic excellence in the field of gerontology and/or aging, as well as professionals in aging service. Gamma Mu is the University of Kentucky chapter. Sigma Phi Omega seeks to promote scholarship and professionalism within any endeavor associated with aging and older persons.

Membership is open to undergraduate and graduate students who are majoring or minoring in gerontology/aging studies and related fields and who are in at least their second term of enrollment. Undergraduates must have a grade point average of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale, and graduate students must have at least a 3.5 GPA to be eligible for membership.

Student Presentation Resources

The [Student Media Depot @ The Hub](#) is a student digital media space located in the Hub at William T. Young Library. The Media Depot provides; access to recording equipment and space, editing stations with specialized multimedia software, and technical support for students' development of their academic media projects. The Media Depot is funded by the Student Technology Fee and is a collaboration between the University of Kentucky Information Technology Services (ITS) and UK Libraries and is in support of the [Quality Enhancement Plan](#).

Presentation U! is the University of Kentucky's centralized tutoring center for speaking, writing, visuals, and all other forms of communication. Presentation U! supports UK's efforts to graduate confident communicators by providing services to undergraduate students, graduate students, staff, and faculty. They help students succeed in the classroom and beyond through the development of self-directed learning, as well professional skills such as interpersonal communication, visual literacy, and excellence in writing. Learn more at <https://www.uky.edu/ie/content/quality-enhancement-plan-qep>.

University Academic Ombud

At the University of Kentucky, Academic Ombud Services is responsible for resolving academic related problems and conflicts for which established procedures have not yielded a satisfactory solution or for which no established procedure exists. Academic Ombud Services is not intended to supplant the normal processes of resolution (contacting the course instructor, department chair, director of undergraduate/graduate studies, and/or associate dean). In cases where there is a clear need to achieve a solution more quickly than normal procedures provide, the Ombud may seek to expedite the process.

The two major areas of activity for Academic Ombud Services involve student academic rights and violations of academic integrity. The primary task of Academic Ombud Services is to ensure fair policies, processes, and procedures, as related in the [Senate Rules](#), are equitably implemented. Thus, Academic Ombud Services is a neutral office working as an advocate for fairness and equity.

Professional, graduate, and undergraduate students as well as faculty contact Academic Ombud Services with a variety of questions and concerns. Students often want to be pointed in the right direction while others want to discuss complex situations. Faculty inquiries often involve how the University Senate Rules relate to an instructor's particular course; issues often involve attendance, Dead Week, and the procedures for violations of academic integrity.

All inquiries are held in confidence. Learn more at <https://www.uky.edu/ombud/>.

Academic Ombud Services
109 Bradley Hall
545 Rose Street
Lexington, KY
(859) 257-3737

University Health Services - <https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/university-health-service>.

University Health Services provides medical treatment for full and part-time students.

WildCard Student ID - <https://www.uky.edu/wildcard/>

Students are required to have a WildCard Student ID, which is used for a variety of services on campus (copying services, athletic events, library use, etc.) as well as access in areas of the UK HealthCare - Chandler Hospital.

Academic and University Policies

Academic Calendar

The College of Public Health follows the UK Academic Calendar - <http://www.uky.edu/registrar/content/academic-calendar>. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all deadlines are met.

Academic Integrity, Cheating, and Plagiarism

Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating, plagiarism, and destruction of course materials violate the rules of the University. For more information on the University's policy on Students Rights and Responsibilities see the following website: <https://www.uky.edu/deanofstudents/student-rights-and-responsibilities>.

Violations of the university's rules regarding academic honesty can lead to a failing grade in the course and suspension, dismissal, or expulsion from the University. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to appropriate University officials as required by University rules and procedures.

Class Attendance

Every student is expected to attend all class sessions, including laboratories, other outside-the-classroom activities as deemed necessary by the course instructor, and to complete all examinations. Each instructor determines the policy for class attendance, completion of assigned work, absences at announced and unannounced examinations and excused absences. A student has the right to expect this policy to be in writing and given to him or her by the first or second meeting of the class. Failure to comply with these rules may result in lowered grades.

In all cases, the student bears the responsibility for notifying the instructor of any missed work and for making up any missed work. If feasible, the instructor may give the student an opportunity to make up the missed work or examination missed due to an absence during the semester in which the absence occurred.

Class Cancellations

Severe weather procedures can be found at <https://www.uky.edu/see/severe-weather-procedures>.

The announcements regarding the cancellation of classes, closure of offices or delay of classes and offices opening will normally be made by 6 a.m. through a UK Alert. Other sources of up-to-date and complete information include the local media, the UK Infoline at 859-257-5684, UK TV Cable Channel 184, the UK websites www.uky.edu and www.uky.edu/alerts, and the UKNow news website at www.uky.edu/uknow. UK Alert will be activated and provide limited information referring people to the UK Alerts website for more information. It is often difficult for the local media to present complete information, since the local media are handling hundreds of calls. Please refer to the UK websites, UK Infoline, Cable Channel 184 on campus to stay informed.

In addition to notifying the university community through UK Alerts and traditional forms of local media, the cancellation of classes, closure of offices, or delay of classes and offices opening due to severe weather will also be posted to UK's official social media accounts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter UK](#).

Confidentiality and Disclosure

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, as amended, is a federal law that protects the privacy and confidentiality of personally identifiable information contained within student education records. The University of Kentucky complies with FERPA's confidentiality protections and adheres to procedures dealing with student education records and directory information recommended by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. This law applies to K-12 as well as postsecondary education.

Under FERPA provisions, students have the right to have their academic record kept separate and confidential unless they consent in writing to have it released. However, FERPA also provides that the

College of Public Health may disclose (to University personnel) the student's academic record without the student's consent when the person requesting the information has a legitimate educational interest and the information is used under the following disclosure guidelines and for the purpose of:

1. academic advising;
2. writing a letter of recommendation requested by the student. (If the student is requesting a letter be sent to someone outside the University of Kentucky, the Release of Information Consent Form must be completed:
https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0SS4IOC92X7UHg9);
3. selecting students for honorary organizations;
4. informing community-based faculty members serving as preceptors;
5. responding to a directive pursuant to law or court order.

More information about FERPA and students' rights to privacy can be found at <https://www.uky.edu/registrar/FERPA-privacy>.

Diversity, Equal Educational and Employment Opportunities

The College of Public Health and University of Kentucky strive to develop an environment where the value of diversity among students, faculty and staff is accepted, encouraged and embraced. Diversity encompasses differences in age, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background and unique individual style. The individual characteristics, talents and contributions of all people are valued and recognized for the unique contribution they make to our College. The following statement, required on all official UK documents, guides all admissions and employment practices, and represents the best expression of the CPH commitment to diversity.

The University of Kentucky is committed to a policy of providing educational opportunities to all qualified students regardless of economic or social status, and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, beliefs, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability.

Drug Free Institution

The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 set a standard of behavior, which affects students who are on University of Kentucky property, on University business, or at University-sponsored events. The University policy, as well as the laws from which the policy is derived, define conduct related to the unlawful possession, use, dispensation, distribution or manufacture of alcohol or illicit drugs. Students found in violation are subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or termination. The Drug-Free Institution Policies can be found at

<http://www.uky.edu/hr/policies/drug-abuse>.

Health Care Colleges Code of Professional Student Conduct (HCC Code)

The Health Care Colleges Code of Student Professional Conduct (HCC Code) provides the standards of professional conduct and procedures to be followed when questions arise about the professional, moral or ethical character of a student enrolled in courses or programs, including clinical programs, in the health care colleges, <http://www.uky.edu/regs/files/HCCcode.pdf>.

Procedure for Redress of Grievances

The purpose of the student grievance procedure is to provide a process for resolving student complaints. This procedure applies to all student complaints, including but not limited to academic issues, student services or administrative concerns, or matters involving any form of discrimination or harassment. Grievances involving academic issues are limited to final course grades and satisfactory completion of instructional program requirements.

Submissions to this form are reviewed by the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs.

Students may file a grievance at https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3IAE6y9m19OF9nT.

Social Media Guidelines

University of Kentucky social media policies and guidelines can be found at <https://www.uky.edu/regs/sites/www.uky.edu/regs/files/files/ar/AR10-4.pdf>.

UK HealthCare recognizes the impact of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) on our workforce. Our expectation is that faculty, trainees, students, and employees know what is expected in healthcare and observe policies on behavioral standards, patient privacy, use of personal electronic devices and hospital resources. Patient privacy is vitally important and we train regularly on obligations related to privacy and security matters (HIPAA). Recent changes to HIPAA rules require that the federal government is notified when patient privacy has been violated.

Below are some expectations when using social media sites.

- Do not “friend” patients/clients
- Do not accept “friend requests” from patients/clients or their family members
- Never share any patient information via Facebook or other social media
- Never post pictures of patients or pose with patients/clients for pictures
- Never give medical advice via social media

Smoke-Free Environment

On April 22, 2008, the UK Board of Trustees gave final approval to the revised version of the university policy that outlines the university’s smoke-free policy. Tobacco use is not allowed on University property.