

	Policy Name	Policy Number	Policy Dates	Responsible Unit
	SUNY Niagara Student Social Media Policy	SS-002	First Approval: 12/16/2025 Effective Date: 2/17/2026 Reviews: 1/21/2026	Student Services

SUNY Niagara Student Social Media Policy

Purpose:
 SUNY Niagara is committed to upholding students' First Amendment rights. This policy regulates **conduct**, not personal viewpoints or opinions. The College does not discipline students for lawful expression, criticism, or personal beliefs. Only behavior that involves threats, harassment, discrimination, academic dishonesty, privacy violations, or disruption of College operations is subject to review under College policies. Social media is an important tool for communication, learning, and connection. Students are expected to use these platforms in a manner consistent with the SUNY Niagara Student Code of Conduct, Title IX Sexual Misconduct Policy, and applicable federal and state law.

Compliance with Federal and State Law for Students
 SUNY Niagara prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation in accordance with all federal and state laws that apply to students in educational settings, including **Title IX** (sex discrimination and sexual harassment), **Title VI** (race, color, and national origin discrimination), **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act** and the **Americans with**

Disabilities Act (ADA) (disability access and accommodation), the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)** (student privacy), the **New York State Human Rights Law**, the **Clery Act and VAWA requirements**, and **New York State Education Law §129-B (Enough is Enough)**. Social media behavior that violates these laws or related College policies may be reviewed under the Student Code of Conduct, Title IX procedures, or other applicable processes.

Student Code of Conduct (Official Document):
<https://sunyniagara.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/StudentCodeofConduct202526FINAL.pdf>

This policy applies to all forms of social media, including Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook, X/Twitter, YouTube, Discord, messaging apps, online forums, and any emerging platforms where users create or share content.

I. Expectations for Student Conduct on Social Media

1. Respectful and Non-Disruptive Behavior

Students may not use social media in ways that:

- Threaten, harass, or intimidate others
- Dox or share private information without consent
- Encourage violence, illegal acts, or self-harm
- Interfere with College operations, classes, or activities
- Violate discrimination or harassment policies governed by Title IX, Title VI, NYSHRL, ADA/504, or §129-B

2. Discriminatory or Harassing Content

Students may not create or share content involving:

- Harassment or discrimination based on protected characteristics
- Sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, or sexually explicit content involving others without consent
- Non-consensual sharing of intimate images
- Hostile environment behavior limiting another student's ability to participate in College programs

3. Academic Integrity and Privacy

Students must not use social media to:

- Facilitate cheating or academic dishonesty
- Share unauthorized course materials, exam content, or faculty intellectual property
- Post recordings, photos, or videos from classes, labs, or clinical sites without permission
- Share personally identifiable information about students, faculty, or staff (FERPA-protected data)

4. Safety and Emergency Concerns

Students may not post:

- Threats of harm to self, others, or the College
- False information likely to cause panic or impact campus safety
- Content encouraging dangerous or destructive acts involving College property

Reports will be directed to Campus Public Safety, the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), and law enforcement if warranted.

5. Misuse of SUNY Niagara Branding or Representation

Students may not:

- Represent themselves as official College spokespersons
- Use College logos or trademarks without authorization
- Create impersonating or fraudulent SUNY Niagara accounts

6. Additional Expectations for Clinical, Internship, Athletic, or Leadership Roles

Students in programs with professional, clinical, or leadership responsibilities must comply with departmental rules, professional standards, host-site policies, and any program-specific guidelines. Violations may impact program eligibility or participation.

II. Reporting, Response, and Potential Outcomes

1. Reporting Concerns

Concerns may be reported to:

- Office of Student Services
- Title IX Office
- Campus Public Safety
- BIT (Behavioral Intervention Team)
- Any SUNY Niagara faculty or staff member

Cases will be reviewed under the Student Code of Conduct, Title IX/VAWA procedures, or other applicable processes.

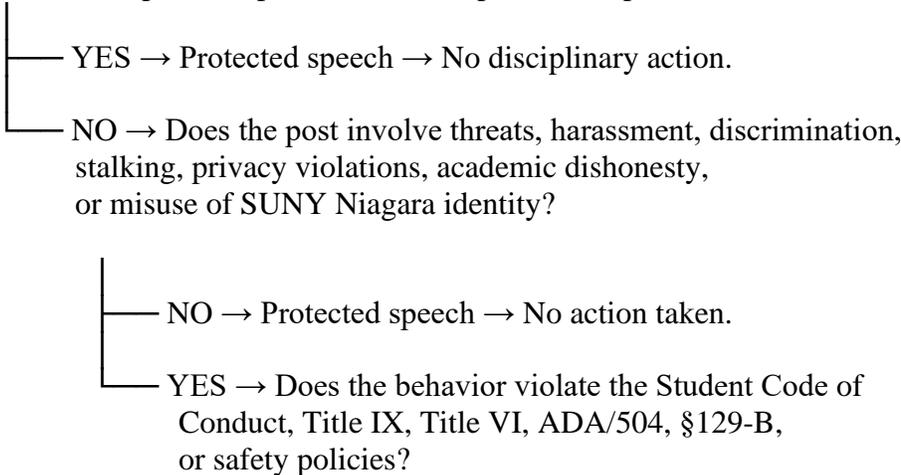
2. Potential Outcomes

Depending on severity, outcomes may include:

- Educational or restorative measures
- No-contact directives or supportive measures
- Loss of privileges or program access
- Interim actions for safety
- Conduct sanctions, including suspension or dismissal
- Referral to law enforcement where required

III. Flowchart — When SUNY Niagara May Take Action on Social Media Conduct

START → Is the post an opinion, belief, or personal expression?



- YES → Refer to appropriate office (Student Conduct, Title IX, BIT).
- NO → Review under academic integrity, IT use, or other applicable policy.