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Welcome to the College of Nursing at Charleston Southern University!

This handbook for graduate students at the College of Nursing provides information regarding policies, procedures, available resources, and issues that pertain to student academic life. It also outlines the rights and responsibilities of all College of Nursing students.

Students are responsible for using the handbook as a resource when questions arise and as a guide to academic and non-academic policies and procedures. All students are required to sign the Handbook Acknowledgment document, which certifies that students are responsible for:

a. Reading the handbook to its entirety
b. Reviewing and understanding any changes made to the Handbook during the entire time they are enrolled as a student in the College of Nursing
c. Recognizing that changes made to policies and procedures may impact them as a student

Please note that information in the Student Handbook is updated annually. Changes in policies may be implemented immediately throughout the academic year, and students will be notified of any changes. The information in this handbook is accurate as of August 2015. A copy of the MSN Student Handbook of Academic Policies and Procedures is available electronically on the College of Nursing MSN website: [http://www.csuniv.edu/nursing/msn/index.html](http://www.csuniv.edu/nursing/msn/index.html).
### 2015-2016 Academic Calendar

#### Fall Semester 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>Fall Faculty Kickoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21-23</td>
<td>New Student &amp; Freshman Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>Registration and Drop/Add - All Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>Classes Begin (Day, Evening, Accelerated I &amp; CAPS I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Last Date to Register or Drop/Add Classes for Day, Evening, Accelerated I &amp; CAPS I before 5:00 pm; Last Date to Receive Full Refund of Tuition If Withdrawing from CSU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>Last Date for 25% Tuition Refund if Withdrawing from CSU before 5:00 pm; No Refund after this Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Last Date to Withdraw from an Accelerated I &amp; CAPS I Classes with a Grade of “W” before 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Last Date to Withdraw From an Accelerated I &amp; CAPS I Classes with a Grade of “WP” or “WF” before 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Accelerated I Classes End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>CAPS I Classes End and Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12-13</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>Day and Evening Classes Resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Final Exams, Accelerated I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Last Date to Withdraw a Grade of “W” in Day and Regular Evening Classes before 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>Accelerated II &amp; CAPS II Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19-23</td>
<td>Advisement and Preregistration for Seniors and Juniors starts at 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>Last Date to Register or Drop/Add Accelerated II &amp; CAPS II before 5:00 pm; Last Date to Receive a Full Tuition Refund if Withdrawing from CSU before 5:00 pm (Accelerated and CAPS II only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 26-30</td>
<td>Advisement and Preregistration for Sophomores starts at 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>Last Date for 25% Tuition Refund if Withdrawing from CSU before 5:00 Pm (Accelerated and CAPS II only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2-13</td>
<td>Advisement and Preregistration for Freshman starts at 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>Last Date to Withdraw from an Accelerated II &amp; CAPS II Class with a Grade Of “W” before 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Last Date to Apply for Spring Graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays- No Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26 - 27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays – Campus Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>Last Date to Withdraw from Day, Regular Evening, Accelerated II &amp; CAPS II with a Grade of “WP” or “WF” before 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Day and Regular Evening Classes End (Accelerated II &amp; CAPS II continues)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>CAPS II Classes End and Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Accelerated II Classes End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7 - 10</td>
<td>Final Exams, Day and Regular Evening Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>Final Exams, Accelerated I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spring Semester 2016

January 11  Registration and Drop/Add
January 11  Classes Begin (Day, Evening, Accelerated I & CAPS I)
January 15  Last Date to Register or Drop/Add Classes for Day, Evening, Accelerated I & CAPS I before 5:00 pm; Last Date to Receive Full Refund of Tuition if Withdrawing from CSU
January 18  Martin Luther King, Holiday (Campus Closed)
January 19  All Classes Resume
January 22  Last Date for 25% Tuition Refund if Withdrawing from CSU before 5:00 pm
February 1  Last Date to Withdraw from Accelerated I & CAPS I with a grade of “W” before 5:00 pm
February 22  Last Date to Withdraw from an Accelerated I & CAPS I with a grade of “WP” or “WF” before 5:00 pm
February 28  CAPS I Classes End and Finals
February 29  Midterm
February 29  Accelerated I Classes End
March 3  Final Exams, Accelerated I
March 7-11  Spring Break
March 14  Classes Resume
March 14  Accelerated II & CAPS II Classes Begin
March 18  Last Date to Receive a Grade a “W” in Day and Regular Evening Classes before 5:00 pm
March 18  Last Date to Register or Drop/Add Accelerated II & CAPS II classes before 5:00 pm; Last Date to Receive a Full Tuition Refund if Withdrawing from CSU before 5:00 pm (Accelerated II only)
March 21-25  Advisement and Preregistration for Seniors and Juniors starts 8:00 am
March 24  Last Date for Refund of 25% Tuition if Withdrawing from CSU before 5:00 pm (Accelerated II only)
March 25  Good Friday, Holiday (Campus Closed)
March 28  All Classes Resume
March 28- April 1  Advisement and Preregistration for Sophomores starts 8:00 am
March 31  Last Date to Withdraw from an Accelerated II & CAPS II with a Grade of “W” before 5:00 pm
April 4 - April 15  Advisement and Preregistration for Freshman starts 8:00 am
April 8  Last Date to Apply for Summer and Fall Graduation
April 19  Last Date to Withdraw from Day, Regular, Evening, Accelerated II or CAPS II Class with a Grade of “WP” or “WF” before 5:00 pm
April 26  Day & Evening Classes End (Accelerated II & CAPS II continues)
April 27  Reading Day for all Day Classes
April 27  Final Exams for Wednesday classes that start at 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
April 28 – May 3  Final Exams; Day and Regular Evening Classes
May 1  CAPS II Classes End and Final Exams
May 2  Final Exams, Accelerated II
May 7  Commencement 10:00 am
Chapter 1

MSN PROGRAM BACKGROUND

MISSION

To prepare advanced practice nurses who are committed to the pursuit of excellence and a life of service and leadership through a high quality educational program with a Biblical model of caring and serving individuals, families, groups, and society; ministering to the whole person, both physically and spiritually.

PURPOSE

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program at Charleston Southern University is a faith-based graduate nursing program that prepares nurses to serve in advanced nursing roles within the healthcare community. The curriculum prepares graduates for educator, leadership and practice positions, emphasizing the spiritual, ethical, and moral dimensions of the art of nursing.

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the College of Nursing revolves around developing nurses in a personal, professional, clinical and spiritual sense. The Faculty of the College of Nursing is an integral part of the Charleston Southern University community. We support the mission and purpose of the University to provide an education which encompasses concepts that will determine the quality of life and equip students for significant roles in leadership, lifelong learning, and service. The faculty strives to enhance student academic excellence and Christian character in a Christian environment. The faculty prepare graduates with an increased level of critical thinking skills for personal and professional decision-making. These skills enable graduates to provide care to individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations in response to rapidly changing and complex social and technologically advancing global environments. The faculty of the College of Nursing believes that:

A person is a unique individual, possessing dignity and worth, who is created in the image of God. A person is comprised of integrated dimensions of biopsychosocial and spiritual variables, but when examined as a whole is more than the sum of the parts. In the process of self-realization, the person progresses through developmental stages. Each person has innate and acquired strengths and limitations, which influence the ability to adapt throughout life.

The environment is a complex structure composed of systems and subsystems, which interact in the chain of life. Environment encompasses the physical realm of inanimate and animate objects. The inanimate realm includes the basic elements essential to life. The environment of human community, as part of the animate realm, includes society and its inherent cultures. Culture defines the person’s values, roles, expectations and behavior. The importance of health to a person may be influenced by culture. Persons are in constant interaction with the environment. These surroundings are a source of internal and external stressors and resources, which assist or hinder the person in the adaptation to environment.

Health is a dynamic state of being, which is determined by the ability to adapt.
human response to stressors in an effort to maintain equilibrium. Adaptation is the process by which one attempts to maintain equilibrium. Varying levels of health exist which fluctuate in response to interaction with the internal and external stressors in the environment. Failure to maintain equilibrium results in physical, psychosocial or spiritual disequilibrium.

**Nursing** is an art and science utilizing specialized knowledge. The art of nursing is caring. Caring is the creative and dynamic application of nursing knowledge emphasizing the human aspect. The science of nursing is built on theoretical foundations acquired from the arts, humanities and the biological, physical and behavioral sciences. The combination of the art and sciences makes nursing a unique practice discipline, which is goal-directed through the use of the nursing process. Nursing process is a scientific method of problem solving, the steps of which are assessing, analyzing, planning, intervening and evaluating.

In an advocacy state, nursing delivers varying levels of care in a collaborative and therapeutic relationship with the client. The graduate recognizes safe, quality patient care is achieved through collaboration and communication with other disciplines within the health care system, nursing coordinates and manages care of the client, while maintaining quality of care and promoting safety in practice. In order to respond to the needs of clients in complex health care systems, multiple nursing roles at various educational levels are required to meet society’s diverse health needs.

**Education** is the process of creative application of the principles of teaching and learning. Education is goal-directed and can occur in formal and informal settings.

**Learning** is an active, continuous, life-long process through which the individual’s knowledge, attitudes or behavior is changed. Learning is achieved as a result of developing the individual’s inherent abilities through organized or independent experiences. These experiences may be actual or simulated in nature and may involve the use of information technology. The learner is an individual with self-perceived learning needs and goals, and varying degrees of readiness.

**Teaching** is an ongoing interactive process whereby knowledge, skills and experience are shared between the teacher and learner. The teacher is the facilitator of the teaching-learning process. Teaching is effective when learning occurs.

**Nursing education** is a systemized plan for assisting the learner to acquire an essential body of knowledge including interpersonal, intellectual and psychomotor skills and attitudes, which are essential for the learner to be accountable as a member of the profession of nursing. This education is based on learning principles—familiar to unfamiliar, simple to complex, and known to unknown. Nursing education is based upon a liberal arts education, which enables the students to think critically, to seek out information, and to problem solve. This education can best be obtained in the collegiate setting. This setting provides a balance between general education and nursing education, thus enabling the graduate to function effectively as a contributing member of nursing and society. Nursing education contains a common core of nursing knowledge and competencies, which serve as a basis for nursing practice.

Education at the baccalaureate degree level prepares the professional nurse. The baccalaureate graduate is prepared to provide care in multiple settings to individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations with less common and more complex health stressors. This graduate is able to function independently, assume leadership roles, and is prepared to seek further education
in a graduate setting and assume emerging roles with additional preparation.

Beyond the baccalaureate degree, the graduate continues to identify personal and professional learning needs. These needs may be met through continuing education or advanced degree preparation at the master’s and/or doctoral levels. Graduate education prepares the nursing student as a specialist in a selected area of concentration.

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

**MSN-Nurse Educator Emphasis**
The Nurse Educator emphasis prepares nurses to serve in the faculty/nurse educator roles within health care settings. The curriculum prepares graduates to develop and evaluate curriculum and to effectively implement innovative teaching strategies using multiple learning formats. Focus will be on curriculum design, delivery and evaluation, informatics integration, evidence-based educational strategies and supporting quality and safety in the classroom, clinical and healthcare settings.

The Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) of the Nurse Educator Emphasis at the College of Nursing provide additional support for the program content. Graduates with a Master of Science in Nursing degree, Nurse Educator Emphasis, from the College of Nursing will:

1) Synthesize research from education, nursing, the humanities and the sciences.
   (AACN ESSENTIAL: Translating and Integrating Scholarship into Practice  NLN Competency 7 – Engage in Scholarship)

2) Evaluate a broad range of change, leadership, teaching and management strategies for influencing health policy, improving nursing practice and health care systems.
   (AACN ESSENTIAL: Health Care Policy, Organization, and Financing NLN Competency 5 - Function as a Change Agent and Leader)

3) Analyze the ethical, legal, financial, social, political and spiritual issues impacting diverse client populations, health care, nursing practice and education, with an emphasis on identifying and implementing strategies for enhancement or resolution.
   (AACN ESSENTIAL: Ethics; Human Diversity and Social Issues)

4) Synthesize theoretical foundations for nursing, education, and health sciences.
   (AACN ESSENTIAL: Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice  NLN Competency 1 – Facilitate Learning)

5) Apply knowledge, concepts, strategies, and evidence-based research findings to promote health, prevent disease, enhance the quality of health care and improve the environment in which health care is provided.
   (AACN ESSENTIAL: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention  NLN Competency 6 - Pursue Continuous Quality Improvement in the Nurse Educator Role)

6) Synthesize knowledge from nursing science, learning theory and information technology to facilitate the application and practice of teaching in the classroom, clinical and community arenas.
   (NLN Competency 1 – Facilitate Learning)

7) Function effectively in the role of nurse educator by working collaboratively within an academic, institutional or community setting to establish a climate that fosters the development of learners and facilitates a commitment to excellence in nursing education and lifelong learning.
   (NLN Competency 2, 8 – Facilitate Learner Development and Socialization; Function within the Educational Environment)

8) Develop and implement educational curriculum and teaching-learning activities based on
theories, knowledge, and principles of learning and pedagogy and andragogy
(NLN Competency 3 – Use Assessment and Evaluation Strategies)

9) Engage in formative and summative evaluation of teaching-learning and use results of evaluation to revise and enhance nursing education.
(NLN Competency 4 – Participate in Curriculum Design and Evaluation of Program Outcomes)

**MSN-Nursing Leadership and Health Care Administration Emphasis**
The Nursing Leadership and Health Care Administration emphasis prepares nurses to serve in leadership and administrative roles within health care settings. The curriculum uses diverse leadership and organizational theories as a foundation, and is designed to provide the participant with advanced problem-solving skills to address issues in modern healthcare. Focus will be on new models of leadership, strategic planning, program development and management, financial management, evidence based healthcare delivery and change project design and implementation.

The Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) of the Nursing Leadership and Health Care Administration Emphasis at the College of Nursing provide additional support for the program content. Graduates with a Master of Science in Nursing degree, Nursing Leadership and Health Care Administration Emphasis, from the College of Nursing will:

1) Synthesize research from education, nursing, business, the humanities and the sciences.
(AACN ESSENTIAL: Research AONE Competency 2 and 4 Knowledge of the Healthcare Environment & Professionalism)

2) Evaluate a broad range of change, leadership, teaching and management strategies for influencing health policy, improving nursing practice and health care systems.
(AACN ESSENTIAL: Health Care Policy, Organization, and Financing AONE Competency 2 and 3 Knowledge of the Healthcare Environment & Leadership of the Healthcare Environment)

3) Analyze the ethical, legal, financial, social, political and spiritual issues impacting diverse client populations, health care, nursing practice and education, with an emphasis on identifying and implementing strategies for enhancement or resolution.
(AACN ESSENTIAL: Ethics; Human Diversity and Social Issues) AONE Competency 4 Professionalism)

4) Synthesize theoretical foundations for nursing, education, business and health sciences.
(AACN ESSENTIAL: Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice)

5) Apply knowledge, concepts, strategies, and evidence-based research findings to promote health, prevent disease, enhance the quality of health care and improve the environment in which health care is provided.
(AACN ESSENTIAL: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention AONE Competency 2 and 3 Knowledge of the Healthcare Environment & Leadership of the Healthcare Environment)

6) Synthesize knowledge from nursing science, business, economics, finance, marketing and information technology to facilitate the practice of leading and managing in organizational and community arenas.
(AONE Competency 2, 3, 4 and 5 Communication, Knowledge of the Healthcare Environment, Leadership of the Healthcare Environment, Professionalism, Business Skills)

7) Function effectively in the role of nurse administrator by communicating with other professionals and working collaboratively within a healthcare, institutional or community setting to establish a climate that fosters the development of others and facilitates a commitment to excellence in nursing and lifelong learning.
(AONE Competency 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Communication, Knowledge of the Healthcare Environment, Leadership of the...
8) Participate in decision-making, risk management, strategic and succession planning to analyze governance, care delivery, relationships, advocacy, policy, quality and outcome measurement within a diverse modern healthcare environment. (AONE Competency 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Communication, Knowledge of the Healthcare Environment, Leadership of the Healthcare Environment, Professionalism, Business Skills)

**SCHOLARSHIP**

The College of Nursing defines scholarship as “those activities that systematically advance the teaching, research, and practice of nursing through rigorous inquiry that 1) is significant to the profession, 2) is creative, 3) can be documented, 4) can be replicated or elaborated, and 5) can be peer-reviewed through various methods” (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 1999).

**HISTORY**

Charleston Southern University (CSU) has a long history of providing nursing education. During the 1970s and 1980s, the University offered a successful associate degree in nursing program. Although the University decided to cease operations of the nursing program in 1983, the idea of nursing remained on university officials’ minds.

In January 1993 the Board of Trustees approved the beginning of a baccalaureate program at CSU, the College of Nursing (CON). Pre-nursing students began enrolling in the Fall of 1994. The first students were admitted into the nursing major in Fall 1995 with students admitted each subsequent Fall semester. The first students to receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduated in May 1998.

An MSN degree in Nursing Education was proposed in 2008 to prepare nurses to teach at a faculty level in nursing programs as well as to accept educator positions within hospital and clinic settings. This program targets BSN nurses as well as ADN nurses who would receive content already available in our RN-BSN program in addition to the MSN Nurse Educator content. The curriculum would be modeled after the National League for Nursing (NLN) criteria for certification as a Nurse Educator (CNE). The first cohort of the Masters program started in the Fall of 2009 and graduated in December, 2010. Since that time, additional programs/emphases have been added, including the Nursing Leadership and Healthcare Administration track, as well as a Post-Master’s Certificate in Nursing Education.

The Derry Patterson Wingo School of Nursing, now the College of Nursing, at Charleston Southern University, was named for the late Derry Patterson Wingo of Kline, South Carolina. Since the mid 1970s, both Mrs. Wingo and her husband, Henry, were strong supporters of the University. In Spring of 2014, the Board of Trustees approved the College of Nursing. The transition to a College included the addition of Kinesiology and Athletic Training programs. These programs were later housed under the College of Health Sciences, and in May 2014 the College of Nursing became the College of Nursing.

**ACCREDITATION**

11
Charleston Southern University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award bachelor’s, and master’s level degrees.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, Georgia 30033  
Phone: 404.679.4500  
Fax: 404.679.4558

The nursing program has Full Approval of the South Carolina Board of Nursing and is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Next site visit will be 2020.

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing  
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850  
Atlanta, Georgia 30326  
Phone: 404.975.5000  
Fax: 404.975.5020

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT**

The College of Nursing does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, age, or handicap, in the recruitment and admission of students, as specified by federal laws and regulations.
Dr. Jacqueline Fish
Vice President
For Academic Affairs

Dr. Andreea Meier, Dean
College of Nursing

Program Directors (MSN, BSN)

College of Nursing Faculty
Simulation Lab Manager
Undergraduate Program Assistants
Executive Assistant to the Dean

Revised June 2015
FULL-TIME FACULTY AND STAFF

Faculty

Meier, Andreea, DNP, MSN, RN
   Dean and Assistant Professor of Nursing

Ball, Vicki, EdD(c), MSN, RN
   Assistant Professor of Nursing
   Director of MSN Program

Dyson, Cynthia, EdD, MSN, RN BC, CNE
   Assistant Professor of Nursing

Isaacs, Jill, DNP, APRN, ANP-C
   Assistant Professor of Nursing

Kling, Vera, DHSc, MSN, RN BC
   Associate Professor of Nursing

Shearer, Jennifer, PhD, RN, CNE
   Associate Professor of Nursing

Taylor, Wanda, PhD, RN
   Assistant Professor of Nursing

Williams, Kathleen, MSN, RN
   Assistant Professor of Nursing

Staff

Robertson, Michele,
   Executive Assistant to the Dean

Quwintoria Clement
   Nursing Program Assistant

Caiti Mahaffey
   Simulation Lab Manager
Chapter 2

GENERAL INFORMATION AND POLICIES

STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students accepted into the nursing program accept not only the published academic regulations, but also all rules found in any official announcement. Each student assumes responsibility for her/his actions. She/he is expected to respect constituted authority, protect private property, and exhibit conduct becoming a student of Charleston Southern University. This implies respect for the rights of others and freedom from control by any person other than recognized authority in accordance with established rules and regulations.

Each student will receive a College of Nursing MSN Student Handbook either in hard copy or directed to an online version each year and will sign a statement reading, “I have received a copy of the College of Nursing Student Handbook and I understand that I am responsible for abiding by the policies therein.” Policies in the College of Nursing Student Handbook are subject to change. Students are informed of changes through the College of Nursing Student Handbook and other official means of communication.

Wherever in this College of Nursing Student Handbook the pronouns “she” or “he” is used, the same shall be interpreted to include members of both sexes. In addition to the information in the CSU MSN Student Handbook related to the Student Code of Conduct, students are expected to be familiar with and comply with the following rights and responsibilities:

Students have the right to:
1. Quality learning experiences without regard to race, color, religion, gender, age, political affiliation, national origin, or handicap.
2. Participate in the teaching/learning process and to have the freedom to learn and explore all aspects of the subject matter.
3. Question the ideas or information presented in their courses.
4. Confidentiality regarding information about their personal views, beliefs and associations which faculty acquire in the course of their work.
5. Regular, objective evaluations of progress in their courses.

Students have the responsibility to:
1. Interact with others in a professional manner, regardless of race, color, religion, age, gender, political affiliation, national origin, handicap or marital status.
2. Exercise academic freedom in a responsible, professional way, and to prepare for and participate in each learning experience according to professional standards.
3. Critically inquire regarding the material presented in their courses.
4. Maintain confidentiality in all areas of their professional practice.
5. Maintain established standards of academic/clinical performance for the courses in which they are enrolled.
6. Continue to think creatively throughout their professional lives.
6. Develop the framework for critical thinking and judgment.

7. Be aware of the concepts of curriculum development, and to know Program Objectives and their relationship to the curriculum and CSU’s Mission and Life Preparation Concepts.

7. Have a voice in the determination of the curriculum and application of institutional policy affecting academic and student affairs.

8. Provide or ascertain information requested of the student and make available to the Registrar’s Office and the College of Nursing

**STUDENT CODE OF ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

The education of the students within the College of Nursing is based on the concept that integrity, sense of responsibility, and self-discipline are inherent to the profession of nursing. Each student is responsible for sustaining high ethical standards that are parallel to the concept that the professional nurse must also be accountable for professional standards within the practice of nursing. Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the *American Nurses' Association Code of Ethics for Nurses (2015)*:

1. The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

2. The nurse’s primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.

3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.

4. The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practices; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal care.

5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence and continue personal and professional growth.

6. The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.

7. The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.

8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.

9. The profession of nursing, collectively though its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social
justice into nursing and health policy.

Mutual respect and trustworthiness between faculty and students promotes optimal learning, and students within the CON must exhibit behavior that is appropriate to the professional standards, and assume personal responsibility for being in physical and mental condition to provide safe patient care and for the knowledge and skills necessary to give this care. Any questions regarding the Code of Academic and Professional Conduct must be addressed immediately to relevant faculty. The Dean of the College of Nursing will decide upon any questions regarding the meaning of any provision within this code. The Dean’s decision as to any questions of interpretation of these policies is final.

**DEFINITION OF UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR**

The following behaviors are examples of violations of this policy. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive of behaviors that violate basic ethical standards expected of nursing students.

1. **Plagiarism**
   Taking credit falsely for someone else’s work, ideas, methods, or copying the writing of others without the appropriate citations, quotations, or acknowledgement.

2. **Cheating**
   Using or attempting to use unauthorized notes, technology, information, or study aids on an exam, assignment, or other document; altering graded work after it has been returned and submitted the work for regarding; or allowing another individual to complete one’s work and submitting the work under one’s own name.

3. **Violating Computer, Technology, or Social Media Policies**
   Violating the University or College of Nursing policies on Social Media, technology, and computer/iPad usage that defines proper and ethical use of these devices.

4. **Providing Nursing Care in an Unsafe or Harmful Manner**
   This includes carrying out a procedure without guidance of a qualified person as identified by the instructor or without competence; willfully or intentionally doing physical or mental harm to a client; exhibiting careless or negligent behavior associated with the care of a client; refusing to perform the assigned or necessary care of a client and failing to inform the instructor or nursing staff with immediacy.

5. **Use of Drugs or Alcohol**
   Using, possessing, distributing, or selling illicit and prescription drugs or alcohol that impairs one’s judgment or performance as a nursing student, including being in a class or clinical setting under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. Students are expected to adhere to the CON **Drug Screen Policy and Procedure** and **Substance Abuse Policy**.

6. **Commission of a Crime**
   Engaging in illegal or criminal activity that would impact a student’s ability to obtain or maintain a professional license with the respective Board of Nursing or employment within the nursing profession.
7. Disruptive Behavior
Obstructing or disrupting classes, clinicals, or other activities or programs of the CON. Students are expected to adhere to the CON Incivility Policy.

8. Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment
This includes not only sexual harassment, but also stalking, repeatedly sending emails, making phone calls, or transmitting documents that are unwanted or uninvited, making threats, and any other wrongful conduct that seriously interferes with the work or student of any member of the University community or guest.

**INCIVILITY POLICY**
(Also known as lateral violence, disruptive behavior, bullying, horizontal violence, and verbal abuse)

**Definition**
Incivility is defined as rude and/or disruptive behaviors, which results in psychological or physiological distress (this includes any form of physical, verbal, or emotional abuse) for the people involved. The behaviors include, but are not limited to, intimidating, rude, malicious, sarcastic, aggressive or insulting verbal or nonverbal behaviors. This can also include abuse of power by an individual that makes the recipient feel upset, threatened, intimidated, humiliated, vulnerable or attacked. These behaviors may occur person-to-person or in an online environment.

The 10 most frequent behaviors associated with incivility are:
1. Nonverbal behaviors (eye-rolling, raising of eyebrows, making faces)
2. Verbal behaviors (covert or overt snide remarks, lack of openness, abrupt responses)
3. Intimidating verbal and nonverbal behaviors.
4. Undermining activities (turning away, not available)
5. Withholding information to intentionally cause disruption or intimidation
6. Sabotage (deliberately setting up a negative situation)
7. Infighting (bickering with peers) and/or scapegoating (attributing all that goes wrong to one individual)
8. Malice directed at another
9. Taking part in discussions with others, including students, faculty, and/or staff, or allowing others to talk or “vent” about any other faculty, students, and/or staff.
10. Talking negatively or rudely about students, faculty, or staff with other students, faculty, or staff in any area including, but not limited to: classroom, clinical, lab, lounges, or in any online settings.

**Reporting**
Everyone (Faculty and Students) in the College of Nursing is responsible for promptly reporting incidents of suspected uncivil behaviors. Depending on the urgency/nature of the situation, the incident may be reported by the Dean to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. There will be no retaliation or adverse action taken against the person reporting the incident of suspected intimidating and/or disruptive behaviors.
If you are the Victim:
If you have reason to believe that you are the victim of incivility you should:

- Gain control. Recognize that the aggressor is at fault – not you.
- Get help from the Dean of the College of Nursing
- Make an action plan
- Confront the aggressor. Make it clear that the behavior is offensive and must stop. Use the word “I” and specifically describe the behavior and how it made you feel.
- Make a formal written complaint using the format below and submit it to the Dean.

If You Observe the Behavior:
If you have reason to believe that you observed an incident of incivility you should:

- Go stand by the victim
- Offer to go with the victim to report it to the Dean of the College of Nursing
- Document your observations using the format below and submit it to the Dean of the College of Nursing

Documenting

Documentation of the incident of incivility is an important part of the process. It may not be one incident that justified disciplinary action but rather a pattern of conduct. Documentation should include:

- Date and time of incident
- Names of those involved
- A description of the incident that is factual and objective and without analysis/opinion
- Consequences of the behaviors observed
- Actions taken (if any) and by whom
- List of witnesses
- Signature of person submitting the report

COMMUNICATION IN THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

STUDENT-FACULTY COMMUNICATION

Students are encouraged to take course related concerns to the appropriate faculty member. If a concern is not resolved, the student should follow the organizational chain of command in the College of Nursing. Students may also communicate concerns or suggestions through the class representatives to the Faculty Committee and/or Dean after conferring with course faculty. Course/clinical evaluations as well as senior Exit Interviews and surveys provide additional mechanisms for students to provide feedback to faculty and the College of Nursing.

Student input is valued in the governance of the College of Nursing and Charleston Southern University. Thus, students may be nominated, asked to volunteer, or be appointed to serve on various committees within the College of Nursing and the university. Committees in the College of Nursing include the Faculty Committee; Admission and Progression Committee; Testing Committee; Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, and Projects, Resources, and Evaluation Committee. Students are encouraged to be actively involved in the College of Nursing and
university-wide activities.

All students are required to use their @csustudent.net account to communicate on email for any College of Nursing and University business.

**SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

**PURPOSE**

The College of Nursing supports the use of social media to reach audiences important to the University such as students, prospective students, faculty and staff. The University presence or participation on social media sites is guided by university policy. This policy applies to College of Nursing students who engage in Internet conversations for school-related purposes or school related activities such as interactions in or about clinical and didactic course activities. Distribution of sensitive and confidential information is protected under HIPAA and FERPA whether discussed through traditional communication channels or through social media.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Social media are defined as mechanisms for communication designed to be disseminated through social interaction, created using highly accessible and scalable publishing techniques. Social media is commonly thought of as a group of internet-based technological foundations of the Web that allows the creation and exchange of user-generated content.

Examples include but are not limited to LinkedIn, Wikipedia, Second Life, Flickr, blogs, podcasts, RSS feeds, Allnurses.com, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and MySpace. While this policy may need to be modified as new technologies and social networking tools emerge, the spirit of the policy will remain the protection of sensitive and confidential information. Social media often spans traditional boundaries between professional and personal relationships and thus takes additional vigilance to make sure that one is protecting personal, professional, and university reputations.

As students you will want to represent the University and the College of Nursing in a fair, accurate and legal manner while protecting the brand and reputation of the institution. When publishing information on social media sites remain cognizant that information may be public for anyone to see and can be traced back to you as an individual. Since social media typically enables two-way communications with your audience, you have less control about how materials you post will be used by others. As one person remarked, “If you wouldn’t put it on a flyer, carve it into cement in the quad or want it published on the front of the Wall Street Journal, don’t broadcast it via social media channels.”

**POLICY**

- Protect confidential, sensitive, and proprietary information: Do not post confidential or proprietary information about the university, staff, students, clinical facilities, patients/clients, or others with whom one has contact in the role of a Charleston Southern University College of Nursing student.
• Respect copyright and fair use. When posting, be mindful of the copyright and intellectual property rights of others and of the university. For guidance, visit the University’s Library site or seek consultation through the Copyright Office, Libraries.

• Do not use Charleston Southern University or College of Nursing marks, such as logos and graphics, on personal social media sites. Do not use Charleston Southern University’s name to promote a product, cause, or political party or candidate.

• Use of the College of Nursing marks (logos and graphics) for University sanctioned events must be approved (posters, fliers, postings) by administration.

• It is expected that during clinicals, use of devices employed for social media will be used only as authorized by faculty. If the device is combined with a cell phone, it is expected that the cell phone aspect of the device be silenced.

• No personal phone conversations or texting are allowed at any time while in patient/client areas or in the classroom. If the student needs to respond to an emergency text or phone call during class, the student is asked to leave the classroom and respond as deemed necessary.

• Use of computers (iPads, Notebooks, etc.) during class shall be restricted to note taking and classroom activities. Use otherwise is distracting for not only the student involved in the activity but those in the immediate area/vicinity.

• No student shall videotape professors or fellow students for personal or social media use without the express written permission of the faculty or fellow student. At NO time shall patients/clients be videotaped or photographed without written permission of the patient/client and of the facility. The ability to audiotape or videotape in the classroom or laboratory setting is at the discretion of the faculty member, and students must receive permission from the faculty member prior to any audiotaping or videotaping. Violation of this policy subjects the student to immediate dismissal from the nursing program.

• Be aware of your association with Charleston Southern University in online social networks. If you identify yourself as a student, ensure your profile and related content is consistent Charleston Southern University policies and with how you wish to present yourself to colleagues, clients, and potential employers. Identify your views as your own. When posting your point of view, you should neither claim nor imply you are speaking on Charleston Southern University’s behalf, unless you are authorized to do so in writing.

• HIPAA guidelines must be followed at all times. Identifiable information concerning clients/clinical rotations must not be posted in any online forum or Web page.

• Ultimately, you have sole responsibility for what you post. Be smart about protecting yourself, your and others privacy, and confidential information.

• Text messaging is not an acceptable form of communication with your faculty unless otherwise indicated by your faculty member.
PROCEDURE/CONSIDERATIONS

- There is no such thing as a “private” social media site. Search engines can turn up posts years after the publication date. Comments can be forwarded or copied. Archival systems save information, including deleted postings. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it’s wise to delay posting until you are calm and clear-headed. Think twice before posting. If you are unsure about posting something or responding to a comment, ask your faculty. If you are about to publish something that makes you even the slightest bit uncertain, review the suggestions in this policy and seek guidance.

- Future employers hold you to a high standard of behavior. By identifying yourself as a Charleston Southern University student through postings and personal Web pages, you are connected to your colleagues, clinical agencies, and even clients/patients. Ensure that content associated with you is consistent with your professional goals.

- Nursing students are preparing for a profession that provides services to a public that also expects high standards of behavior.

- Respect your audience.

- Adhere to all applicable university privacy and confidentiality policies.

- You are legally liable for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others. Individual bloggers have been held liable for commentary deemed to be proprietary, copyrighted, defamatory, libelous or obscene (as defined by the courts).

- Employers are increasingly conducting Web searches on job candidates before extending offers. Be sure that what you post today will not come back to haunt you.

- Monitor comments. You can set your site so that you can review and approve comments before they appear. This allows you to respond in a timely way to comments. It also allows you to delete spam comments and to block any individuals who repeatedly post offensive or frivolous comments.

- Don’t use ethnic slurs, personal insults, obscenity, pornographic images, or engage in any conduct that would not be acceptable in the professional workplace.

- You are responsible for regularly reviewing the terms of this policy.

CONSEQUENCES

Violations of patient/client privacy with an electronic device will be subject to HIPAA procedures/guidelines and consequences. Students who share confidential or unprofessional information do so at the risk of disciplinary action including failure in a course and/or dismissal from the program. Each student is legally responsible for individual postings and may be subject to liability if individual postings are found defamatory, harassing, or in violation of any other applicable law. Students may also be liable if individual postings include confidential or
copyrighted information (music, videos, text, etc.).

Additional resources can be found at:

https://www.ncsbn.org/NCSBN_SocialMedia.pdf

STUDENT SERVICES AND RESOURCES

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Charleston Southern University Student Government Association (SGA)

The CSU SGA is composed of all students at CSU.

Sigma Theta Tau

The Nursing Honor Society was established in 2000 to recognize students who demonstrate academic excellence. In 2003, the Nursing Honor Society joined with the Gamma Omicron Chapter at the Medical University of South Carolina to form the Gamma Omicron At-Large Chapter. Graduate students selected for membership must:

- Have completed ¼ of the nursing curriculum
- Achieve academic excellence (a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5)
- Graduate nursing students may also be selected for membership based upon Sigma Theta Tau’s criteria for a Nurse Leader at any point during the graduate nursing program.
- Nurse Leader candidates must be legally recognized to practice nursing in their country, hold a minimum if a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field, and demonstrate achievement in nursing.

Alumni Association

Graduates are eligible for membership in the Charleston Southern University College of Nursing Alumni Chapter. The members of the alumni chapter work with faculty and students to promote the interests of the College of Nursing.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

CLINICAL LABS

The Clinical Labs on the second floor of the College of Nursing building are available for nursing students to practice technical skills, view required computer programs, review course content in self-tutorial computer programs, and access word processing capabilities. The Clinical Lab computers have applications including word processing and educational software. Internet and E-mail are accessible allowing for access to the library and its online catalog and database. The Clinical Labs will be open during specific hours Monday-Friday each week during the Fall and Spring semesters. The hours will be posted on the Clinical Lab doors at the beginning of each semester.

Policies for the Clinical Labs are:

- **Only** nursing students are allowed in the labs
- Eating or drinking in the labs is not permitted
- Studying, lounging, or sleeping on beds is not allowed
• The telephone is for necessary calls - No personal calls
• Ask for help in using computer equipment and programs
• Work should be done as quietly as possible
• Skills to be practiced should be cleared and approved in advance by the instructor and Lab Coordinator
• All supplies for practice will be provided to the student by an instructor or lab manager
• No needlesticks of any type are to be performed unless the instructor is present or clearance has been given in advance by the instructor/lab coordinator
• Use of the simulation equipment without a faculty member or simulation lab member present is prohibited.

**COMPUTER LABS**

The Computer Lab resources are located on the first floor of the College of Nursing building and include two networked computer labs with stations that include the applications word processing, Internet and E-mail access, network access to the library and its online catalog and databases, laser printers, and nursing educational software. Open times for the Labs will be posted at the beginning of each semester.

Information on campus-wide facilities and services may be found in the CSU Graduate Catalog and the CSU Student Handbook.

**TECHNOLOGY CODE OF CONDUCT**

College of Nursing faculty, staff, and students may access the CSU Network (including the Internet) within limitations to facilitate diversity and personal growth in technology, informational research skills, and communicational skills.

Faculty, staff, and students may send e-mail to any member on the CSU network.

*Responsibilities of all students:*

• Always use a computer in ways that show consideration and respect for others.

• Do not send e-mail or attachments that are offensive, threatening, or disrespectful.

• Do not interfere with the computer work of others.

• Accept the responsibility of keeping copyrighted software of any kind from entering the school computers. Do not copy software for personal use.

• Accept the responsibility for all materials received or sent through the network and the Internet.

• Do not send or receive material containing pornographic material, inappropriate information, or text-encoded files that are potentially dangerous to the integrity of the hardware connected to the network.
• Do not attempt to enter anyone else’s e-mail account or private folder for any reason.
• Do not use anyone else’s password to enter his/her e-mail account or private folder.
• Do not alter or attempt to alter a computer setup or system configuration.
• Do not download games or other non-educational files.
• Do not subscribe to lists via e-mail.
• Do not access websites while testing in the computer labs. This is considered a breach of the Honor Code and is subject to dismissal from the program.
• Do not access an electronic test after it has been administered. Violation will result in a grade of “0” for the test and an academic integrity form will be submitted to the Registrar’s Office for the student’s permanent file.
• Understand that all electronic files are subject to review by the University and the College of Nursing.
• Students are responsible for reporting violations stated above to a faculty member or the Dean.

**ADVISORS**

Upon admission to the University, each student is assigned to a faculty advisor. The faculty advisor for all MSN programs is the MSN Program Director. The faculty advisor assists the student with academic advising and schedule planning, registration, referral to College of Nursing and University resources and services, and in general, serves as a student advocate. Any student who is anticipating a change in plans for completing the chosen major/program (e.g., add/drop, withdrawal, etc.) must speak with the faculty advisor prior to initiating the appropriate paperwork to effect the change. Faculty advisors are also available to assist students with career advisement, clarify College of Nursing and University policies and procedures, counsel regarding academic problems, and facilitate adjustment to College of Nursing and University life.

Students should contact their faculty advisor at the faculty member’s office, or leave a message with the executive assistant (see faculty and staff listing in this handbook). **The responsibility for assuring that all requirements are met rests solely with the student, which includes meeting University requirements for receiving financial assistance.**

**LIBRARY**

MSN students have access to the Library, databases and informational files. An orientation to the utilization of Library resources will be given on MSN Orientation/Residency Day. Library hours are posted at the entrance to the Library, on the Library web page and in the CSU Student Handbook. The hours are modified during vacation and exams.

**LEARNING CENTER**
The Learning Center, certified by the College Reading and Learning Association, provides academic and writing support services across the curriculum and is free to all students. Information about services provided and hours of operation may be obtained on their website or by calling 843-863-7091.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Charleston Southern University provides financial assistance to any qualified student who would otherwise be unable to attend because of lack of funds. Financial aid is available through loans, scholarships, grants, veteran’s benefits, social security benefits, college work-study program’s institutional employment, vocational rehabilitation, and other sources.

All forms of financial assistance are administered through the financial aid office. Further information on financial assistance may be found in the CSU Graduate Catalog.

**BOOKSTORE**

Textbooks, reference material, and general supplies are available for purchase at the University Bookstore, located in the Strom Thurmond Center or available online at:

http://csuniv.bncollege.com

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

In the event of severe weather conditions, students should listen to local radio and television news for closings. When Charleston Southern University classes are canceled, the cancellation also applies to scheduled student preceptored experiences. Online classes will continue as originally scheduled.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS/NAME/TELEPHONE**

The College of Nursing, as well as the University, should be kept current on changes in address, telephone number, and name. The student’s address and telephone number(s) should be on file with Charleston Southern University and the College of Nursing at all times. A name change requires submission of legal proof (e.g., legal marriage certificate, court order).
Chapter 4

GENERAL ACADEMIC POLICIES

For general information, policies and regulations applying to all CSU students refer to the CSU Graduate Catalog and the CSU Student Handbook accessible online at www.csuniv.edu.

Policies in the MSN Student Handbook are updated annually and take precedence over those in the CSU Graduate Catalog and CSU Student Handbook if there is a discrepancy.

RESIDENCY DAYS

There are two Residency days in the MSN program; students must come to campus for these two days. During the Orientation/Residency Day, students will be introduced to the faculty, given important information about graduate program and campus services, oriented to the online learning format and to the College of Nursing, receive course instruction and be given the opportunity to ask questions about the program. Orientation/Residency Day is offered at the beginning of the first semester of the program.

Students will return to campus during their final semester in the program for their second Residency Day. Information about dates and times for this Residency Day will be given to students near the beginning of the last semester in the program (see Graduation Requirements below).

GRADE SCALE

The College of Nursing grade scale is as follows:

- A = 92 - 100
- B+ = 89 – 91
- B = 84 – 88
- C = 75 – 83
- F = 74 and below

The calculation of a grade will be based on rounding a score from number + 0.5 below the number and to + .49 above the number to the common whole number.

(Example: a grade of 85 = 84.5 - 85.49; 84 = 83.5 - 84.49)

Grades/evaluations will be distributed during regular class times in a timely manner or posted on E-College/Blackboard if appropriate. No grades will be given over the telephone. Official final course grades will be made available to students from the university.

See the CSU Graduate Catalog for further descriptions of the grading policy.

PROGRAM PROGRESSION

The student must maintain an overall 3.00 GPA. If the GPA falls below 3.00 it must be raised to the required GPA the next semester or the student will be ineligible to continue in the program. The GPA is calculated only on work at CSU. A student may earn one grade below a “B” in their program of study. If a student earns more than one grade below a “B” the student's record will be reviewed by the Director of the Graduate Program in Nursing. The student may be dismissed from
the program.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Completion of a minimum of 39 semester credit hours.
2. Completion of nursing courses in compliance with the CON Graduate Progression Policy.
3. Attainment of an overall 3.0 GPA in all nursing course work.
4. Completion of CSU requirements.
5. Recommendation by the faculty.

In addition to meeting academic requirements for graduation, all graduating students are required to submit a degree application (See CSU Graduate Catalog and Residency Day information).

**Please note: responsibility for assuring that all requirements for the College of Nursing and University rests solely with the student.**

Students must apply to the Registrar’s Office for graduation by the first day of classes in their final fall semester. There is a fee associated with this application for graduation. During the final semester of the program, students will be given information about graduation/commencement. Announcements will be made regarding the process of completing degree applications, ordering cap and gowns, ordering school pins, and having graduation photos taken for class composites. Students will be notified by the University and/or the College of Nursing in advance of these dates, and are expected to complete these activities within the established period.

**CLASSROOM POLICIES**

**Class Attendance, Participation and Punctuality**

1. By the act of enrollment:
   a. The student is responsible for all course work.
   b. The student is expected to participate in class regularly and substantively (see below)

2. Class attendance: Students must be present (by making an online posting) in the online classroom 4 out of 7 days each week in the course without missing more than 2 consecutive days. **Students not meeting the class attendance requirement may be issued an FA (fail by absence) grade for the course.**

3. Participation: Students are required to have active weekly participation in each course. Students are responsible for following the specific participation requirements outlined in each course syllabus. Questions about participation requirements should be directed to the course faculty.

4. If a DQ Initial Posting is posted past the due date, a grade of zero (0) will be given for that DQ, however, the student, at the prerogative of the faculty, might still earn partial credit and/or participation or response points. No credit will be given for responses made after the weekends.

5. Substantive postings: Successful online learning requires active Discussion Area participation. Substantive feedback adds new information, challenges a position (respectfully), and improves learning and understanding. Substantive postings should be
grounded in relevant, recent literature of the subject matter. While experience is a great teacher, it should not be the only rationale for the feedback given. Stating one’s opinion does not constitute a substantive post unless ‘backed-up’ by theory, content or relevant references. Examples of substantive participation do not include posting assignments or a question a student might have for the facilitator or the group. Substantive participation does include responses to discussion questions as well as discourse between students related to the subject matter. A simple “I agree” or ‘Great job!’ will not count. Substantive responses should also include appropriate documentation/citation. The participation point value in the learning experience is defined within each assignment as presented in the assignment pages associated with each course and/or as directed by the instructor.

6. In case of absence from class or technology problems, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor, and, if working in a group, obtain information and handouts from fellow students.

7. Students not participating in the first week of class by Day 3 will be reported to the Registrar as a ‘No Show’. Being a class ‘No Show’ does not constitute ‘Withdrawal’ from the course or the University.

**TESTING POLICY**

1. Students are expected to take all tests at the time or during range of time specified by the faculty.

2. Tests given in the e-learning platform will be scheduled on days and times determined by the professor. Students will follow instructions about test access and test time limits.

3. Students will be given a set amount of time to finish the test. The 'test clock' counts down the time and continues, no matter what happens to your connection. Be sure to 'save' answers as you progress through the test. When finished with the test, be sure to 'submit your test for grading'.

4. Students may be penalized for exceeding the allowed testing time, as determined by each course instructor.

5. Having 'technology', server, computer, human error or Internet problems is not a valid excuse for exceeding allotted test time, not taking test during the testing period or otherwise not completing the test as prescribed. Penalties may accrue according to the above schedule, regardless of technology or other issues (see each course syllabus)

6. Students must take the test individually; students may not collaborate with others when taking tests.

**WRITTEN WORK**

1. All graded assignments must be submitted with proper format, grammar, spelling, punctuation, faculty, and referenced according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), most recent edition (see APA Policy below).
2. All required written assignments are due by the due date and time set by the instructor. All required written assignments will be considered late if received by faculty after the designated date and time. The end of a day in the MSN Program is 11:59 pm, Eastern Time.

3. Late work may be penalized as follows: Up to 10% of the points possible will be subtracted from the assigned grade for each day an assignment is late (weekends and holidays are included) (1 day late – 10% penalty, 2 days late – 20% penalty, 7 days – 70% penalty, etc). No work will be accepted after the 7th late day, unless prior arrangement has been made with faculty. Having 'technology', server, computer, and human error or Internet problems is not a valid excuse for turning an assignment in late. Penalties may accrue according to the above schedule, regardless of technology or other issues. If you have questions, please ask the instructor prior to the assignment due date. Extenuating circumstances may be, but do not have to be, considered by the course faculty, on a case-by-case basis.

4. Discussion Post requirements may be specified by faculty but may be no less than 350 words for a substantive initial posting and no less than 200 for at least two peer substantive postings, with appropriate nursing journal references.

5. Students should maintain file copies of all work submitted to faculty.

6. All course work is considered property of the College of Nursing and must be submitted to course faculty, or the semester’s course grade will not be released.

7. The faculty support the university’s Academic Integrity Policy. Please see information about Academic Integrity below and refer to CSU Student Handbook regarding A Community of Honor, and the Academic Integrity Policy.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (CHEATING) AND PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is defined as submitting someone else's work as your own for credit. Obviously, copying the work of a classmate would constitute plagiarism. But the source of the content need not be someone in your class. For instance, if you copy content (such as a definition, example, or solution) from a book or Web site, and submit that content as your own work for credit, that would be plagiarism. And if you paraphrase content from a book or Web site (that is, change a few words but leave the essential elements and ideas intact) and do not include a citation (see APA below) that also constitutes plagiarism. Ignorance or forgetfulness is not an acceptable excuse for using someone’s work as your own. That is, forgetting the need to cite and reference material or ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not a valid reason for plagiarizing work.

Cheating is defined by the CSU student Handbook (page 11) as ‘wrongfully giving, taking or presenting any information or material borrowed from another source - including the Internet - by a student with the intent of aiding himself or another on academic work.”

Plagiarism and Cheating, whether intentional or unintentional, in the CSU MSN program will not be tolerated.

The College of Nursing policy is that instructors may submit any assignment to Turn It In (www.turnitin.com), or another online service that compares the content of assignments to its
comprehensive database of Web sites, textbooks, newspapers, magazines, and student-submitted material. In short, if you take content from any book or Web site without giving proper credit, turnitin.com will detect it, providing the facilitator with a report of what content was plagiarized, and the source of the material. That report, along with other instructor evaluation, can become the basis for an Academic Integrity report to the University.

Students are responsible for reviewing the University policy on Academic Integrity/Dishonesty carefully – it can be found in the CSU Student Handbook. Ignorance is not an excuse for plagiarizing material or otherwise cheating in a course.

**APA FORMAT POLICY**

The College of Nursing uses the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), latest edition, to give credit where credit is due and to offer guidelines for standards in expression and formatting of formal written work. Students in the College of Nursing should use APA style in all their assignments.

Faculty do not want to diminish the importance of content by placing undue focus on APA formatting during the grading process. However, the faculty believes that competence in APA format in professional writing is an essential skill for graduates of the MSN program. Key items that faculty members will consider when reviewing assignments that are submitted to an assignment Dropbox for APA style include the following:

- Title page
- Running head, Header, page numbers Double-spaced
- In-text citations
- Reference sheet, alphabetized and formatted correctly
- Indented paragraphs
- Properly formatting quotations
- Font size / type
- Third person
- Margins

Using correct APA format is equally important when the assignment is submitted directly into a discussion thread. The purpose of the discussion threads is to foster and encourage interaction between classmates and the instructor. Students do not need to write in third-person in discussion threads. Students may relate personal experiences, if they are relevant to the discussion. However, it is also expected that students will support their assertions with literature support. Therefore, citing outside sources (when used) and providing a complete reference at the end of the discussion entry is a requirement in each course.

While there are many computer programs and books (other than the APA manual) that claim to format students’ documents or tell the student how to format a document, the student should avoid reliance on these resources. **The only totally reliable resource for formatting documents according to APA format is the APA Manual.** Penalties for non-compliance with APA format are determined by the faculty. The assignment grading rubric for each assignment allocates potential points given for APA format. Faculty will determine a penalty for the first incidence of incorrect APA format (e.g. incorrect margins), according to the rubric. Students should be aware that repeated APA infractions for the same problem (e.g. repeatedly using incorrect margins) may result in increased assignment penalties, up to receiving a zero (0) for the assignment.
Chapter 5

GRADUATE PROGRAM DETAILS

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

The MSN program runs as a web-based cohort model with 10 5-week classes in a 12-month period, allowing completion of the program in 16 months. Students will be required to pass an assessment of computer competency prior to beginning the program. Please refer to the charts below for curriculum and suggested sequencing.

*Note: * indicates a practice component

### ADN-MSN Program Option
**Master of Science in Nursing - Nurse Educator**

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**Total Credit Hours:** **51**
### ADN-MSN Program Option
**Master of Science in Nursing - Nursing Leadership and Healthcare Administration**

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**Total Credit Hours:** 51
### BSN-MSN Program Option
#### Master of Science in Nursing - Nurse Educator

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| Total Credit Hours: | 39 |

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### BSN-MSN Program Option
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| Total Credit Hours: | 39 |
### Post Master’s Certificate in Nursing Education - without practicum option

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Total Credit Hours: **14**

### Post Master’s Certificate in Nursing Education - with practicum option

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Total Credit Hours: **19**
Chapter 6

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS OF THE NURSING PROGRAM

FEES AND EXPENSES

Students are responsible for payment of all fees by established deadlines. In addition to tuition and fees listed in the CSU Graduate Catalog, nursing students may expect to incur the following additional expenses: books and supplies. A car will be necessary for coursework. In the last semester, there are additional expenses related to graduation, College of Nursing pin (which may be worn after graduation), senior pictures and other incidentals.

TRANSFER CREDIT FOR A GRADUATE NURSING COURSE

1. The nursing course to be considered for transfer must have been completed at the masters level in a ACEN or CCNE accredited program within three years of admission to the College of Nursing. A grade of “B” or better must have been achieved in the course. A maximum of 9 hours of transfer credit may be applied toward the degree.

2. Transfer credit is not granted automatically.

3. After acceptance to the College of Nursing and no later than one month prior to matriculation, the student must submit a transcript and course outline/syllabus of the course to be considered for transfer to the Dean of the College of Nursing. The materials will be reviewed by the course coordinator for equivalence to the appropriate College of Nursing course, and a recommendation will be made to the Dean. The student will be notified in writing of the decision and the decision will be considered final.

PROGRAM MINIMUM SKILLS FOR ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Applicants and students should possess these abilities, or with the help of compensatory techniques and/or assistive devices, be able to demonstrate ability to become proficient. The following skills are needed by applicants to the nursing program:

1. Observational skills, for example: observing physical appearance, listening to heart and breath sounds, detecting odors, using tactile sense for palpation.

2. Communication skills, for example: ability to interact with others to obtain information, describe situations, perceive nonverbal cues, interpret messages, convey caring and compassion.

3. Motor skills, for example: perform technical procedures while delivering patient care such as helping with ambulation, positioning, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous and oral medications, apply pressure to stop bleeding, open an obstructed airway, provide hygienic care.
4. Behavioral/Intellectual skills, for example: ability to problem solve, tolerate stress, adapt to quickly changing environments, work as a team member, have compassion for others.

5. Basic computer skills. Understanding and being able to use the basic operating components of a computer (CPU, Mouse, Keyboard, Printer), ability to effectively use the Internet for information searches, email, etc. as well as competence in software programs such as MS Word (word processing), Excel (spreadsheets), PowerPoint (presentations) and SPSS or other statistical software are essential for program success. Students will also need to become familiar with and be able to use effectively the online learning platform used by the school.

**CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK FOR CLINICAL EDUCATION AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

In compliance with the affiliation agreements between Charleston Southern University, the College of Nursing, and practice facilities/agencies, a criminal background check is now required for all nursing students participating in clinical education/learning experiences effective August 2005. The enforcement of this policy is in conjunction with the facilities/agencies’ compliance with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization [JCAHO] Standards that require criminal background checks on anyone providing care, treatment, or services.

The purpose of this policy is to:
1. Promote and protect patient/client safety;
2. Comply with clinical affiliates that may require a student and faculty background check as a condition of their contract;
3. Promote early submission by students of petition for a review of convictions in order to continue in the nursing program; and,
4. Provide early identification of students who may have difficulty meeting eligibility for licensure requirements.

**Conduct of Criminal Background Check**

Beginning August 2005, all nursing students will be required to have a criminal background check prior to starting the MSN program. Students will place their order for a background check online and pay the required fee with a credit or debit card.

Results of the criminal background checks will be made available to the Dean of the College of Nursing by the designated agency/company selected to perform the criminal background check. The Dean will make the results available to the individual student. The Dean or designee(s) will validate to the clinical facilities/agencies that the student has passed a criminal background check.

New students must complete the Criminal Background Check in order to have the results received by the College of Nursing prior to beginning the program. Failure to comply with this mandate may result in the student being withdrawn from the nursing program. As part of the signed application to the nursing program, students will indicate their knowledge of this policy and their belief that they do not have any criminal history that would disqualify them from clinical practice and/or licensure.
Unsatisfactory Results

Failure to pass a criminal background check may prevent a student from enrolling and/or continuing in the nursing program. A student with a significant criminal background screen will be required to withdraw from the program.

Record Keeping

All criminal background information will be kept in confidential electronic files by the investigating agency and archived for at least seven years. The Dean of the College of Nursing will have access to these files. A copy of the criminal background check will be kept in a secured cabinet in the College of Nursing.

Student Rights

If a student believes his/her background information is incorrect, he/she will have an opportunity to demonstrate the inaccuracy of the information to the investigating agency. The search of court records and documents is the responsibility of the student in question. The student will not be able to participate to enroll in the nursing program until the matter is resolved.

The background check consists of:

- Criminal History Investigation (7 years)
- Sexual Offender Registry/Predator Registry
- Social Security Number Verification
- Positive Identification National Locator with Previous Address
- Maiden/AKA Name Search
- Medicare/Medicaid Sanctioned, Excluded Individuals Report Office of Research Integrity (ORI) Search
- Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA Search FDA Debarment Check
- National Wants & Warrants Submission
- Investigative Application Review (by Licensed Investigator)
- National Healthcare Data Bank (NHDB) Sanction Report
- Misconduct Registry Search
- Executive Order 13224 Terrorism Sanctions Regulations
- Employment Verification (3 most recent employers)

**DRUG SCREEN POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

The University and the College of Nursing are committed to protecting the safety and health of its students as well as people who they may come in contact with during clinical learning experiences. Use of substances that interfere with the judgment and/or motor coordination of students of the College of Nursing poses unacceptable risk for their clients/patients, Charleston Southern University, the faculty, and health care agencies.

The University prohibits the illicit use, possession, sale, distribution, or knowingly being in the presence of any narcotic, marijuana, stimulants, hallucinogens, or other similar drugs and/or
chemicals on or off campus.

Charleston Southern University states its policy in the Student Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook regarding the use and misuse of alcohol and illegal drugs. The policy serves as the basis for individual and group decision-making and as a standard of behavior. The procedures and consequences for handling violations are also discussed in the Student Handbook. Every student at the University, “by virtue of enrollment, has agreed to abide by and uphold the policies of this institution.”

Due to the requirements of the affiliating clinical facilities, each MSN student is required to undertake a urine drug screen for evidence of drug abuse. All students must be free of alcohol and unlawful drug use in order to enroll and/or continue in the nursing program. Nursing students will not be allowed to participate in learning experiences until negative drug screen results have been received. Students who refuse to submit to the urine drug screen will not be permitted to begin and/or continue in the nursing program.

All drug screens whether federal, non-federal, or in-house are performed by the 49 CFR Part 40 guidelines as required by the Department of Transportation.

**Procedure for Obtaining Urine Drug Screen**

**General information**

1. Students will obtain the urine drug screen prior to beginning the program.

2. Students will place an order for their urine drug screen through Certified Background, and the company will directly email the student to go to the nearest collection facility to submit his/her urine specimen.

3. The 10 Panel urine drug screen tests for:
   a. Amphetamine (methamphetamine)
   b. Barbiturates
   c. Benzodiazepine
   d. Cocaine
   e. Marijuana
   f. Methadone
   g. Methaqualone
   h. Opiates (Codeine and Morphine)
   i. Phencyclidine
   j. Propoxyphene

4. The testing device is a FDA approved one-step drug test, which is 99% accurate.

5. Cut-off levels are set to the SAMSHA- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration standards.
6. A form will be given to the student by the College of Nursing to take to the agency (HealthFirst if the student is local) performing the urine drug screen. The form identifies the student as a CSU nursing student need a drug screen. A driver’s license must be presented along with the form to the agency performing the urine drug screen.

Drug Screening Procedures

1. Upon presenting the required form and driver’s license to the agency performing the UDS, the student will complete all required paperwork and the urine drug screen will be collected as per agency policy. The student incurs all costs related to the UDS. Insurance policies will not pay for the drug screen.

2. The urine sample will be tested and student may be told the results immediately.

3. If the results are non-negative, the urine sample may be sent to an outside lab for more intensive testing. The student incurs any cost for the urine to be sent to the outside lab.

4. If the results from the outside lab are non-negative, the medical review officer (MRO) at the lab may contact the student directly and the student may be asked to provide proof that he/she was prescribed any medications in question. Evidence requested may include health history, diet, prescriptions, and documentation from a physician/health care provider. The outside lab will provide the results back to the agency performing the UDS.

Results

1. A drug screen will be presumed non-negative if any of the drugs listed in I.A.2. are found and when further review by the MRO could not verify or confirm acceptable justification with proper documentation.

2. The agency performing the UDS will provide written results of drug screens for nursing students directly to the Dean of the College of Nursing.
   a. Non-negative results will be made available to the Dean of Students at the University who will determine any disciplinary action.
   b. Results will not be given to parents, guardians, or spouses.

3. All results will be kept confidential and placed in the student’s blue file in the College of Nursing office in a secured cabinet.

4. The Dean of College of Nursing must receive results from the drug screen by October 1st.

Non-Negative Urine Drug Screen

1. The Dean of the College of Nursing or a faculty member designated by the Dean will interview the student.

2. The student may be requested to submit to the collection of a second urine sample for drug screen at the student’s expense.
3. After all testing has been completed, a non-negative drug screen with evidence of drug abuse will require the student to be withdrawn from the nursing program and will prohibit the student from enrolling and/or continuing in the program.

4. The University, in accordance with the Charleston Southern University Student Handbook, may take disciplinary action.

**Readmission to the Nursing Program Following a Non-Negative Urine Drug Screen**

Students are not allowed to enroll and/or continue in the nursing program due to a non-negative drug screen are not eligible for readmission to the program.

**Random Drug Screens**

A random drug screen (hair or urine testing) may be requested by the College of Nursing and/or a clinical facility at any time during the student’s enrollment in the program. The student will incur the cost of the random drug screen.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

Charleston Southern University states its policy in the Student Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook regarding the use and misuse of alcohol and illegal drugs. The policy serves as the basis for individual and group decision-making and as a standard of behavior. The procedures and consequences for handling violations are also discussed in the Student Handbook. Every student at the University, “by virtue of enrollment, has agreed to abide by and uphold the policies of this institution.”

Use of substances that interfere with the judgment and/or motor coordination of students of the College of Nursing poses unacceptable risk for their clients/patients, Charleston Southern University, the faculty, and health care agencies. Therefore, use of alcohol, use of illegal drugs and/or the misuse of legal therapeutic drugs by nursing students while engaged in any portion of their educational experience is strictly prohibited. Further, nursing students are strictly prohibited from being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs or any legal drug at a greater than therapeutic level while engaged in any portion of their educational experience.

Registered nurse students will be expected to abide by the above policy. Notification of failure to adhere to the policy will be made to the appropriate State Board of Nursing.

All information related to these procedures will be held in confidence and released only in those instances required by Charleston Southern University, the College of Nursing and/or the Board of Nursing policy.
**DISABILITY STATEMENT**

Students who believe they require accommodations should review the requirements and procedures for special accommodations on the CSU Disability Services website: www.csuniv.edu/disability services.

Approval for accommodations is granted by CSU Disability Services **only**. Students may contact the office at 863-8010. Students who have been approved to receive accommodations must contact the course coordinator during office hours to discuss the accommodations approved by CSU Disability Services.

**COMPLIANCE AND HEALTH POLICIES**

*Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification*

To ensure appropriate level of safe care and professional responsibility in clinical sites, all CSU nursing students must be CPR certified from the American Heart Association, Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers.

New students must provide documentation of their certification during orientation. Continuing students should provide documentation of their recertification from the American Heart Association to the Dean at the beginning of each academic year.

Students not in compliance with this policy will be prohibited from attending clinical experiences and progressing in the nursing program. Any absence in clinical as a result of lack of current CPR certification will be recorded as an absence in the course.

*Professional Liability Insurance*

All CSU nursing students must maintain a personal Professional Liability Insurance Policy throughout the program. The policy is obtained through the University and the yearly cost for the student appears on the student’s tuition bill.

*Required Immunizations/Tests*

The following immunizations/tests are required of all CSU nursing students prior to enrollment. Each immunization must be dated and signed or stamped by a health care professional or office. Parental signatures are not acceptable.

1. Measles, Mumps, Rubella. (Two vaccine doses required **and** positive antibody titer for each – Measles, Mumps, Rubella.) You may be exempt from this requirement **only** if (1) you are pregnant or trying to conceive, or (2) you are allergic to eggs.

2. Tetanus-Diphtheria (Primary series with DtaP or DTP **and** booster with Td in the last ten years meets requirements.)

3. Varicella (Chicken Pox) (a positive Varicella antibody **and** two doses of vaccine given at least one month apart if immunized after age 13 years meets the
4. Hepatitis B: Three doses of vaccine **and** a positive Hepatitis surface antibody meets the requirement.

5. TB Skin (PPD) Test: Within 3 months of enrollment in the nursing program. Tine test (prong test) is not acceptable. If above TB skin test is equal to or greater than 10mm, a chest x-ray is required. If there is a history of a positive TB skin test, a chest x-ray within 6 months prior to CSU College of Nursing enrollment is required. Thereafter, all students are required to be screened yearly for tuberculosis and must provide documentation to the Dean at the beginning of each academic year.

6. An annual flu shot is required each year while enrolled in courses that include a clinical component.

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

Health Insurance is required for CSU nursing students throughout the nursing program in order to participate in preceptored teaching experiences. Students must furnish evidence of having the insurance annually. Students are required to sign a statement indicating their understanding of maintaining the personal health insurance at all times and failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program. Students are personally liable for all health/medical costs incurred while attending the University.

**OTHER HEALTH POLICIES**

Students are required to submit a letter from their health care provider in instances of extended illness, surgery or pregnancy. This letter should include the student's health status at the time and physical limitations, if any. Upon receipt of this information, the student will be evaluated for clearance to resume full or partial classroom and/or clinical activities.

The College of Nursing reserves the right to request the withdrawal of a student from the nursing program when physical or emotional difficulties occur which may pose a threat to the student's own health or to the health of others. The student may apply for consideration for re-entry to the school upon submitting a letter from a qualified health care provider that the problem has been resolved.

Students are not eligible to attend preceptored learning experiences if they are not in compliance with all Compliance and Health Policies.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT POLICY**

Students will be required to provide the College of Nursing with a name and telephone number of someone close to the student who could be contacted in case of an emergency. Students should provide the College of Nursing telephone number (843-863-7095) to family members who may need to contact the student in case of an emergency. Should this event occur, the student's location in class or clinical will be determined. The faculty will be contacted first who will then inform the students.
HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA)

In compliance with HIPAA regulations and privacy of health information, students’ health information submitted to the College of Nursing as a requirement for enrollment and participation in clinical learning experiences will be secured in individual student records in locked cabinets. Health information on individual students may be used or disclosed:

1. For Treatment – The College of Nursing may use or disclose health information about a student to facilitate medical treatment or services to a provider or in the case of an emergency to an emergency dispatcher should the student become injured or ill while off campus at an assigned facility.

2. As Required By Law – The College of Nursing will disclose health information about a student when required to do so by federal, state, or local law. For example, the College of Nursing may disclose health information when required by a court order in a litigation proceeding such as a malpractice action.

3. To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety - The College of Nursing may use and disclose health information about a student when necessary to prevent a serious threat to the student’s health or safety or the health and safety of the public or patients for whom the students provide care. Any disclosure, however, would only be to someone able to help prevent the threat.

4. Disclosure to Health Plan Sponsor – Health information may be disclosed for purposes of facilitating claims payment under the student’s primary health plan in the event the student becomes injured or ill while off campus at an assigned facility.

5. Law Enforcement – The College of Nursing may release health information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official:
   a. In response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process;
   b. To identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person;
   c. About the victim of a crime if, under certain limited circumstances, the school is unable to obtain the person’s agreement;
   d. About a death believed to be the result of a criminal conduct;
   e. About criminal conduct at the hospital; and
   f. In emergency circumstances to report a crime; the location of the crime or victims; or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime.

6. Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors – The College of Nursing may release health information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death.

7. National Security and Intelligence Activities – The College of Nursing may release health information about the student to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

8. In the Event of Death – In the event of the death of a nursing student, the School of
Nursing may be required to supply personal health information to determine the cause of death.

**STUDENT RIGHTS TO HEALTH INFORMATION**

Students have the following rights regarding health information maintained by the College of Nursing:

1. **Right to Inspect and Copy** – A student has the right to inspect and copy health information that is required as a nursing student. To receive a copy of this information, a student must submit in writing this request to the Dean of the College of Nursing. If there is a request for verification of the contents of these files, we will give that information to the requesting party if they are a provider or an insurance company of the nursing student.

2. **Right to Amend** – If a student feels that health information is incorrect or incomplete, the student may ask the College of Nursing to amend the information. A student has the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept while the student is a nursing student. This request for an amendment of information must be in writing and submitted to the Dean of the College of Nursing.

3. **Right to Request Restrictions** – A student has the right to request a restriction or limitation of the health information used or disclosed about the student for treatment, payment of claims or health care operations. A student also has the right to restrict or limit the health or injury information that would be given to a nursing faculty member. These restrictions must be put in writing to the Dean of the College of Nursing. The request is considered in relation to the “Program Minimum Skills for Eligibility to Participate in Educational Programs and Activities,” requirements of facilities in which clinical learning takes place, and the safety of the patients under the care of the student in the present and potentially in the future.

The College of Nursing reserves the right to change this HIPAA notice of privacy. The College of Nursing reserves the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for health information already maintained about the student as well as information received in the future.

Other uses and disclosures of health information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to the university and College of Nursing will be made only with a student’s written permission. An Authorization for Release of Information, provided by the College of Nursing, must be completed by the student. If a student provides the College of Nursing permission to use or disclose health information, the student may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If the student revokes permission, the College of Nursing will no longer use or disclose health information about the student for the reasons covered by the written authorization. The student understands that the College of Nursing is unable to take back any disclosures already made with permission and that the College of Nursing is required to retain records concerning use or disclosures of health information.

**HIV/AIDS POLICY FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY**

In accordance with the HIV/AIDS policy statement of the American Nurses Association, inquiry into an individual's HIV status is not a part of the student, faculty, or staff application at the College of
Nursing, Charleston Southern University. Qualified applicants cannot or will not be denied admission to the College of Nursing or denied faculty appointments on the basis of HIV status. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) makes it illegal to discriminate against individuals with HIV/AIDS. Testing for HIV status is voluntary for all students, faculty, and staff in the College of Nursing and it is the choice of the individual to disclose HIV status to anyone. Strict confidentiality of any disclosure is maintained and no reference to the HIV status is kept in any individual’s record unless written permission is given.

Students are expected to use standard/universal precautions to prevent the transmission of HIV and other infectious diseases at all times. Students and faculty members who have reason to believe they have been exposed to HIV in the clinical setting are to immediately follow the specific agency’s procedure established for reporting possible exposure. In the event of no agency/setting policy, the student should report to the closest emergency department/urgent care facility within two hours of possible exposure. The student will incur all costs.

In July 1991, CDC narrowed the type of procedures posing risk of HIV/HBV transmission to “exposure prone procedures” (EPIPs) which CDC describes as follows: “Characteristics of exposure- prone procedures include digital palpation of a needle tip in a body cavity and the simultaneous presence of the health-care worker’s fingers and a needle or other sharp instrument or object in a poorly visualized or highly confined anatomic site.” Currently available data provide no basis for restricting the practice of nurses infected with HIV or HBV who perform invasive procedures NOT identified as exposure-prone, provided the infected nurse practices recommended medical or nursing techniques and complies with universal precautions and current recommendations for sterilization/disinfection. Any listing of EPIPs is not expected to include commonly performed and highly visible and controlled procedures such as the administration of injections by subcutaneous, intradermal, hypodermic, or intramuscular routes; and venipuncture for the purpose of giving or removing fluid. These procedures do not meet the CDC definitions of invasive procedures or exposure-prone procedures.

Invasive procedures are the procedures which pose a significant risk of transmission of HIV or HBV. CDC defines such procedures as surgical entry into tissues, cavities or organs, or repair of major traumatic injuries associated with any of the following:
1. Operating or delivering room, emergency department or outpatient setting, including both physicians’ and dentists’ offices;
2. Cardiac catheterization and angiographic procedures;
3. Vaginal or cesarean delivery or other invasive obstetric procedure during which bleeding may occur; or
4. Manipulation, cutting, or removal of any oral or perioral tissues, including tooth structure during which bleeding occurs or the potential for bleeding exists.

The CDC recommends that nurses who perform exposure-prone procedures should know their HIV antibody status and HBeAg Status. CDC further recommends that nurses who are seropositive should not perform exposure-prone procedures unless the nurse has sought counsel from an expert review panel.
**PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL DRESS STANDARDS**

All students enrolled in the program will be attired in a professional manner appropriate to the laboratory and clinical setting when engaged in laboratory and clinical learning or preplanning experiences.

1. In traditional settings, students must wear the standard/approved professional uniform with the embroidered University logo purchased from the uniform retailer selected by the College of Nursing. No other uniform will be allowed. Approved white, black, navy or brown shoes and above the ankle socks will be worn with the uniform. A secondhand watch (no digital) and a writing pen are required when wearing the uniform.

2. In designated settings, students may be required to change to scrubs or gowns. In this event, the uniform should be worn to and from the clinical setting (street clothes are not permitted).

3. In non-traditional settings, appropriate attire will be designated by course faculty in accordance with agency policies (for example, street clothes in psychiatric-mental health settings or day care settings). However, blue jeans may not be worn. Shoes must be reasonable.

4. In community health settings, students will wear the standard/approved uniform worn in traditional settings along with the approved lab coat.

5. Students are required to purchase and have available the standard/approved white lab jacket with the embroidered University logo.

6. Whenever students are in any clinical setting in a student capacity, they are required to wear a name pin (furnished by the School of Nursing) and CSU photo student ID and any other identification required by the clinical facility.

7. For pre-planning for clinical sessions students must wear the standard/approved uniform with the approved white lab coat as worn in community settings.

8. It is expected that students will maintain acceptable personal hygiene and that uniforms will be clean, neat and unwrinkled, and fit appropriately. Students are responsible for care and cleaning of uniforms and lab jackets. Students are cautioned not to use bleach on the uniform or lab jacket, which will damage the material and fade the embroidered logo. Students not maintaining proper care of the uniform and/or lab jacket will be required to purchase a new one.

9. Students will abide by the agency’s policies governing the wearing of rings, nail polish, jewelry, perfume or cologne and the covering or style of hair.

10. Students are **not** to wear the College of Nursing uniform, lab jacket, and/or name pin furnished by the College of Nursing or the College of Nursing patch when in a clinical setting in a capacity other than as a CSU student in a required learning experience.

**General Dress Standards**

1. **Hair** - Hair should be neat, clean, and of a style that stays out of the face when giving patient
care. Hair that is below shoulder length should be secured so that it cannot fall forward over the
shoulder. No brightly colored or elaborate ornaments may be worn in the hair. Males may have
beards and/or mustaches; however, these must be kept well-groomed and clean.

2. **Nails** – Fingernails should be short enough so that they will not injure patients. Clear or light
colored nail polish may be worn, but must be kept neat in appearance. Artificial nails of any type
are not allowed in the laboratory or clinical settings.

3. **Jewelry** - Only wedding rings may be worn. Earrings may be worn if less than one-half inch in
diameter. One stud/earring per ear is allowed. Bracelets, necklaces, dangling earrings, and visible
body piercing jewelry (other than the one earring per ear) are not permitted.

4. **Odors** - Perfumes, colognes, lotions, smoke, and deodorants with heavy scents are not
permitted.

5. **Tattoos** - Tattoos should be covered with appropriate attire.

6. **Shoes/Socks** – No canvas-type shoes, athletic shoes, clogs, open-toed shoes, sandals, or high
heels are allowed. Sock color should be white, black, blue, or brown only.

Students will be held accountable for all professional and general dress standards. Students failing
to comply with the standards will not be allowed to attend the clinical session for that day, and will
receive an "unsatisfactory" for the clinical session and an absence will be recorded.

Faculty are responsible for ensuring that students adhere to the professional and general dress
standards.

**PRECEPTORED EDUCATION POLICIES**

**PREPARATION**

1. Students may be required to complete Agency Orientation/Safety Training(s) specified by
clinical agency or faculty.

2. Students are responsible for the selection, initiation and completion of practice teaching
experiences. All experiences must be approved by the course faculty.

3. Some organizations require a Statement of Understanding or contractual agreement with the
College of Nursing prior to students beginning preceptored work in the facility. It is the
students’ responsibility to find out about any required agreements and to acquire the contact
information for the person(s) in charge of these agreements at their organization. This can be a
lengthy process so students are encouraged to begin early with preceptored education
arrangements. At times, there is already a contract in force but this is not the case for every
organization, especially those outside the Charleston area. Questions should be directed to the
Program Director or to the Executive Assistant.

4. Preceptors must complete a preceptor agreement, approve learner objectives and complete an
experience evaluation. Students are responsible for the completion of the required paperwork
and cannot pass preceptored courses until all paperwork is received by the course faculty.

**ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY**

1. Students are expected to attend ALL clinical sessions. If the student is unavoidably absent or late, they must notify the preceptor.

2. Students should not bring food, beverages, or a large number of personal items to the clinical setting (bag lunches are acceptable).

3. All personal pagers, cellular phones, and electronic equipment must be turned off and stored out of sight. Students are encouraged not to bring these to the clinical setting.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

1. The student must have a satisfactory performance in each practice clinical objective by the last clinical day or the student will not be able to pass the course.

2. A mid-term evaluation will be conducted in practice clinical courses over 5 weeks in duration, outlining progress and areas needing improvement.

3. A final clinical evaluation conference will be conducted in all practice clinical courses. The evaluation form is discussed between preceptor and student and forwarded to faculty for approval and issuance of grades. The evaluation form is signed by the preceptor, faculty and the student. The signed evaluation is placed in the "official" student file in the College of Nursing. The student may request a copy for personal records.

**BALANCING EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT DEMANDS**

Most students find it necessary to work while enrolled in school to help defray living and educational expenses. The nursing curriculum is demanding and requires preparation and study time in addition to scheduled classes and practice teaching experiences.

Certain practice clinical experiences involve intensive ‘preceptored’ work requiring the student’s full time and attention. Students should plan for such experiences and they may need to reduce other work commitments during intensive practice experiences.

**STUDENT PROGRESS POLICIES**

**PROGRESSION**

The student must maintain an overall 3.00 GPA. If the GPA falls below 3.00 it must be raised to the required GPA the next semester or the student will be ineligible to continue in the program. The GPA is calculated only on work at CSU. A student cannot earn more than one grade below a “B” in their program of study. If a student earns more than one grade below a “B”, the student's record will be reviewed by the Director of the Graduate Program in Nursing. The student may be dismissed from the program.
**DISMISSAL**

A student will be subject to dismissal from the nursing program under any one of the following circumstances:

1. A student is absent for a semester and was not granted a leave of absence or did not submit a written request for withdrawal from the College of Nursing.

2. A student does not complete program requirements within 6 years of initial enrollment in the nursing program/major.

3. A student violates established professional standards or practice guidelines set forth by the State Board of Nursing.

4. A student does not meet the Progression requirements of the program

**A student dismissed from the program for any reason is not eligible for readmission.**

See policies related to withdrawal from a course, in the CSU, Graduate Catalog and the policy for “Appeal For Dismissal From A Program” (R-51) in the Office of the Registrar, Manual of Academic Policies and Procedures.

**VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL**

A student who wishes to withdraw from the nursing program must contact their faculty advisor, and indicate their intent to withdraw in writing to the Dean of the College of Nursing.

**Readmission/Admission after voluntary withdrawal or transfer**

A student who leaves the university and/or College of Nursing in **good standing** through voluntary withdrawal or a student from another nursing program who left the program in good standing and desiring to transfer to the CSU nursing program may be evaluated for readmission/admission under the following circumstances:

1. Make formal reapplication/application to the College.

2. At the time of reapplication/application, submit a statement which addresses the reasons for the withdrawal or transfer, outlines what she/he has done to ensure success in the College of Nursing and why she/he should be readmitted/admitted. The statement must be written by the student.

3. Have a personal interview with the Dean. In addition, the student’s complete academic record, including all clinical evaluations, will be reviewed.

4. Readmission/admission is not automatic. Students will be considered as part of the total applicant pool.
5. The requirement for completion of program/major requirements within 6 years of initial enrollment will be in effect for readmitted students.

6. All policies in place at the time of readmission/admission will apply.

**VARIANCE FROM POLICIES**

The Faculty Committee acts on petitions from students who seek exceptions to any College of Nursing policy or regulation. A *written* request for an exception must be submitted to the Dean, with supporting rationale or documentation. The student will receive a letter from the Dean regarding the Faculty’s decision on the petition. A copy of the petition and the Faculty’s reply is placed in the student’s academic record.

**REQUEST FOR FACULTY REFERENCE**

When requesting a reference letter from a faculty member or the Dean, please use the approved form available from the department Administrative Assistant or Nursing Program Assistant.