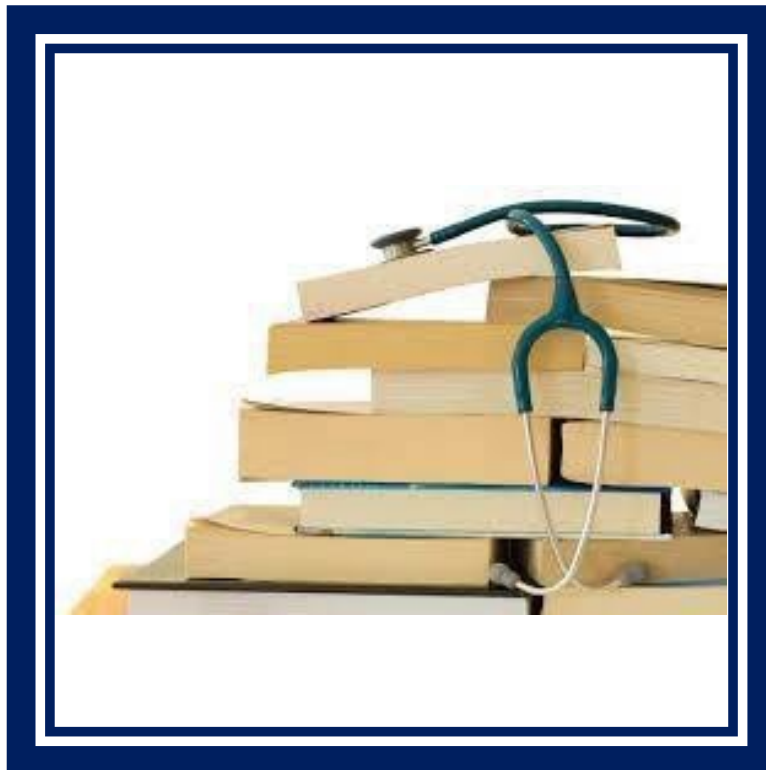


NORTHAMPTON

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Associate Degree Nursing Student Handbook

2024-2025



Reviewed/Revised Annually

This handbook is designed as a supplement to the Northampton Community College Student Handbook. For information not contained here, please refer to the College Student Handbook.

Nursing Program Student Handbook

The policies in this handbook apply to you, as a student in the Registered Nursing or Licensed Practical Nursing Programs at Northampton Community College, and at any clinical site that you attend as part of the program. Read this manual carefully now and as needed during your enrollment in the Nursing Program. It is imperative that you are aware of ALL policies, are familiar with them, and adhere to them.

DISCLAIMER: The Program policies are subject to change at the discretion of the Program Director and faculty. Should changes be required, they will not be made capriciously, but for valid and necessary reasons.

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NCC HEALTH SCIENCES/HEALTHCARE EDUCATION COVID-19 POLICY

NCC continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and works closely with local and state health agencies. The college follows guidance issued by the Governor or PA Department of Education.

Up to date information can be found at <https://www.northampton.edu/health-and-wellness.htm>

Students are required to follow the PPE guidelines and policies of their assigned clinical site. Failure to comply with college or clinical site guidelines may result in disciplinary action, up to and including program dismissal.

1. Proof of a COVID-19 vaccination is mandatory for all students. Proof should be uploaded to your My Record Tracker account.
2. If you are not feeling well/experiencing any COVID-related symptoms, stay home. Be sure to notify your instructor, as well as your preceptor/manager, if applicable, as you have been instructed to during orientation with as much notice as possible.
3. Please be considerate of those around you and wear a mask if requested by your instructor or another student. Masks are available upon request.
4. NCC instructors and students should wear their NCC ID badge while on NCC property.
5. NCC instructors and students will adhere to these policies at all times while at NCC and adhere to facility policies during clinical rotation, which may include wearing a mask at all times, safety glasses and other PPE, as required by the clinical site.
6. Students may be required to have a COVID-19 test before clinical rotation if requested by the facility. If so, students will be responsible for the out-of-pocket expenses for the testing.
 - a. Students may not be allowed to enter clinical site without proof of a negative COVID-19 test.
 - b. Remember that a negative COVID-19 test today does not mean that you cannot contract COVID-19 tomorrow.

"I have read and agree to abide by the aforementioned policy related to COVID-19:"

Student's Name (PLEASE PRINT)

Student's Signature

Date

Nursing Department Staff Directory

<u>NURSING DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Thomas Warren Rush, Director	PENN 120-J	610.861.5375	trush@northampton.edu
Kim Berger, Secretary	PENN 120-H	610.861.5376	kberger@northampton.edu
Lori Briskie, Clinical Coordinator	PENN 122-B	610.86105549	lbriskie@northampton.edu
Margery Lafferty, Support Specialist	PENN 122-A	610.861.5528	mlafferty@northampton.edu
Tracy Lester, Prof. Lab Assistant	PENN 112	610.861.5436	glester@northampton.edu
Cindy Martin, Prof. Lab Assistant	KAPP 201		cmartin@northampton.edu
<u>FACULTY</u>			
Michele Cohen	PENN 109-A	610.861.5379	mcohen@northampton.edu
Christine Collado	PENN 109-B	610.861.5384	ccollado@northampton.edu
	KAPP 108-C	570.369.1866	ccollado@northampton.edu
Dr. Jacqueline Crocetti	PENN 113-B	610.861.5382	jcrocetti@northampton.edu
Antoinette McCreary	KAPP 120-L	570.369.1932	amccreary@northampton.edu
Kristen Lissenden	PENN 210		klissenden@northampton.edu
Kellee Mory	PENN 210		kmory@northampton.edu
Selena Queitzsch	PENN 113A	610.861.5595	squeitzsch@northampton.edu
Skadi Rodewald	KAPP 201-C	570.369.1827	srodewald@northampton.edu
Benjamin Watchous	PENN120-B	610-961-4106	bwatchous@northampton.edu

WEATHER INFORMATION/COLLEGE CLOSING

Changes to the College daily schedule due to inclement weather can be accessed via:

- Radio Announcement
- College's Weather Information line:
 - Bethlehem Campus: 610-861-4595
 - Pocono Campus: 570-369-1900
- College Website: www.northampton.edu
- NCC Alerts: registration required; see <http://webapp.northampton.edu/alerts/>

The NCC Alerts system is a notification system that enables the school to send urgent news to your cell phone or email address.

If the College is closed, there will be no clinical experience on that day. If the College opens late, there **will** be clinical experience on that day starting at the same time that the College opens. Classes on campus will begin when the college opens.

Accreditation

Nursing Programs

The Practical Nursing Certificate Program and Associate Degree Registered Nursing Program at Northampton Community College have full approval of the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN), 3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400 Atlanta, GA 30326, and (404) 975-5000. The most recent accreditation decision made by the ACEN Board of Commissioners for the Practical Nursing program (March 2023) and the Associate Degree Registered Nursing Program (March 2020) is Continuing Accreditation. View the public information disclosed by the ACEN regarding these programs at the link below. <https://www.acenursing.org/acen-programs-05202024/northampton-community-college>

College

Northampton Community College is approved and registered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The Commission can be contacted at 267-284-5000 or at 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NURSING DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The faculty hold certain beliefs and concepts essential for the education of the associate degree nurse. These beliefs and concepts are the foundation of the curriculum and organize its design, implementation, and evaluation and are in accord with the mission and goals of the College.

The faculty views people as unique individuals who are members of a diverse community. Each person possesses unique physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and social dimensions. These dimensions affect behavior and change across the lifespan. People are deserving of respect and dignity and are entitled to achieve their maximal level of health and wellness.

People exist as part of a global society and a community at large with common interests and goals. Biological, social, psychological, political, and cultural forces influence their interaction with the social environment. The healthcare system is an integral part of this global society.

Health is a dynamic, interactive state of optimal, holistic well-being, which is affected by multiple dimensions and the individual's perception of his basic needs for a safe environment, physical integrity, psychosocial integrity, and health promotion. A state of illness exists when an individual is unable to obtain optimal wellness. Individuals strive to attain wellness across the lifespan.

Nursing is an art and science, which uses caring as the foundation for practice to assist individuals to meet their basic human needs and achieve optimal wellness. Nursing uses the nursing process, communication, and critical thinking as a framework for decision-making and delivery of outcome-based nursing care. Nursing is an integral part of the collaborative healthcare system that provides assistance to empower individuals, families, and diverse communities.

The faculty believes that learning is a dynamic, student-centered, interactive process in which knowledge is acquired in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains resulting in behavioral changes. Learning is maximized when knowledge can be acquired progressively with increasing levels of complexity. In nursing education, behavioral changes are observable through the demonstration of clinical skills, application of classroom theory, and acquisition of values relevant to nursing.

Teaching is a process of providing direction for learning. The faculty, through the use of a variety of teaching modalities, provides opportunities for knowledge to be shared between teacher and learner-directed toward attaining established competencies and course and program outcomes. Teaching occurs in a variety of settings and entails the facilitation and evaluation of learning and the provision of feedback.

The faculty believes that nursing education should take place in an institution of higher learning and in a variety of settings. Nursing education is a systematic, participatory process in which the student combines a broad base of general education courses, theoretical and clinical nursing knowledge, to develop competencies essential to safe, effective nursing practice. Learners are served best through a mutual caring commitment between teacher and learner, and education that is accessible, flexible, and designed to meet the educational goals of students with a diversity of backgrounds, abilities, and needs. The nursing curriculum correlates theory and clinical application to prepare students to practice competently within the parameters of the Nurse Practice Act in Pennsylvania.

The faculty recognizes the NLN Educational Outcomes of the Associate Degree Nurse on Entry into Practice and the roles of provider of care, manager of care, and member within the discipline of nursing as the definition for associate degree nursing. Associate degree nursing prepares the graduate nurse to provide safe, competent, holistic care in a variety of settings to individuals with common well-defined health problems across the life span. The practice of the graduate is characterized by critical thinking, accountability, and a commitment to the value of caring. The associate degree graduate uses the nursing process, a code of ethics, and a legal framework as a basis for decision-making in practice. The graduate is prepared to participate as a member of the interdisciplinary team committed to a collaborative approach to patient-centered care. As a manager of care, the graduate provides and coordinates care for patients who have health care needs. The graduate of the associate degree nursing program is committed to professional growth, life-long learning, and self-development.

Original Approval: May 20, 1976

New Approval: May, 1986

Revised: May 1988, June 1992, May 1993, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2010, 2014, 2022

Reviewed: May 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2016, 2018, 2024



Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society Eta Delta Chapter

The NCC Eta Delta Chapter of the Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society promotes scholarship and academic excellence in the profession of nursing. The Eta Delta Chapter recognizes the academic excellence of students in the study of Associate Degree Nursing, encourages the pursuit of advanced degrees in the profession of nursing, and supports continuing education as a life-long professional responsibility.

Eligibility: Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all general education classes; B or better in each nursing class; no previous failures in any nursing class

Provisional membership is offered to eligible students after completing 2nd semester with a grade of B or better in nursing courses and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. Students with provisional membership are required to sponsor one educational or recruitment project during the provisional membership period. The project must be approved by the faculty advisor(s) and conducted by the provisional members. Full participation is expected. The activity is a requirement for full membership.

Full membership is granted in the final semester of the program if the student maintains a cumulative 3.0 GPA, earns a grade of B or better in all previous nursing courses, and demonstrates conduct that reflects integrity and professionalism.

Fees: \$25 fee for society membership pin and honor cord for those meeting full membership requirements. The ability to pay the fee is not a criterion for membership or participation

Advisors: Dr. Jacqueline Crocetti DNP, CRNP, RN

ORGANIZING FRAMEWORK

Based on the philosophy and objectives of the nursing program, the organizing framework for the curriculum consists of four (4) factors:

1. human needs
2. the nursing process
3. sequential progression of courses from simple to complex
4. general education courses

Human needs are life-sustaining factors that are basic components of life and include a safe environment, physiologic integrity, and psychosocial integrity. A safe environment is one in which external and internal influences surrounding the individual provide safety and security. Physiologic integrity is the achievement of optimal physical functioning through basic care, physiologic adaptation, nutrition, and pharmacologic therapies. Psychosocial integrity encompasses spiritual, cultural, and emotional components that contribute to an optimal state of mental health that an individual can achieve through coping and adaptation.

Management of care, professional behaviors, communication, health promotion, and growth and development are strands woven through the curriculum.

Sequential steps of the nursing process are used through the curriculum to provide structure and process methodology. The nursing process provides a framework for the nurse to assess, analyze, diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate care.

Employing critical thinking and problem-solving skills, nursing courses are sequenced to facilitate the progressive acquisition of nursing knowledge necessary to provide care. Initial coursework prepares students with basic fundamental principles. Subsequent courses incorporate new knowledge which enables students to meet patient needs of increased complexity.

General education courses provide breadth and depth to the nursing curricula. Students in the PN certificate program complete general education courses which provide foundational knowledge in arts and sciences. Students in the ADN program must meet the core requirements of the college to earn the Associate in Applied Science degree. The core college curriculum is comprised of courses in humanities, social science, and math/science. The core enables the student to develop powers of reasoning and judgment, acquire desirable traits of character, and acquaint the student with broad scientific and humanities knowledge.

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAMS ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The student is expected to perform the same "essential functions of the employment position" as a licensed nurse. "A student must be able to practice nursing as it is defined in the law. He/she must have adequate cognitive, sensory, and psychomotor functioning to effectively implement nursing care" (PA State Board of Nursing memo, 2/28/01, "Factors which Impact on Nursing Education Program Policies"). A student with sensory or motor-skill/strength limitations must be able to demonstrate the ability to meet those standards for performance, using adaptive equipment where necessary. "A student must be able to tolerate physically taxing activities and exercise restraint during stressful situations to meet the demands of the profession" (PA SBN memo).

Accordingly, the standards for classroom and clinical participation will be interpreted by the Nursing Department to reflect the essential functions of a nurse's employment. The student must display physical and emotional stability such that his/her behavior will not lead to excessive absence from the classroom or clinical setting or render him/her unable to meet established reasonable standards of performance in the classroom or clinical setting.

The *essential functions* are the basic cognitive, psychomotor, and affective activities that are essential to successful completion of the NCC nursing curriculum in leading to initial licensure as a nurse. Essential functions are categorized as Sensory (tactile, visual, hearing, and smell), communication, psychomotor (gross motor skills, fine motor skills, physical endurance, physical strength, mobility), intellectual and cognitive abilities (reading, arithmetic competence, analytic thinking, and critical thinking), professional and social attributes (interpersonal skills, and communication and application of legal/ethical principles and professional standards).

The following are examples of essential functional abilities needed to be successful in the Nursing Program. All students are required to meet these essential functions. Allowing for individual differences and encouraging program completion for students with a documented disability, the Nursing Program will work with the student and Disability Services to provide any reasonable accommodation to meet these essential functions. Contact the Nursing Department at 610-861-5376 if you have questions regarding these requirements.

Sensory Nursing students must be able to accurately observe both close at hand and at a distance to learn skills and to gather data. Students must possess functional use of the senses that permit such observation.

<p>Visual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See objects up to 20 inches away (e.g., information on a computer screen, skin conditions) • See objects up to 20 feet away (e.g., client in a room) • See objects more than 20 feet away (e.g., client at end of hall) • Use depth perception • Use peripheral vision • Distinguish color (e.g. color codes on supplies, charts, bed) • Distinguish color intensity (e.g. flushed skins, skin paleness) 	<p>Visual acuity sufficient to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe changes in skin condition including distinguishing change in skin integrity, breathing patterns (including absence of respiratory movement) and color intensity such as the ability to identify cyanosis • Identification of allergic responses such as skin rashes • Access patient information on computer screens • Read very fine print on medication labels, monitor strips, equipment calibrations • Draw up correct quantity of medication into syringe
<p>Hearing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear normal speaking level sounds (e.g. person-to-person report) • Hear faint voices • Hear faint body sounds (e.g. blood pressure sounds, assessment placement of tubes) • Hear in situations when not able to see lips (e.g., when masks are used) • Hear auditory alarms (e.g. monitors, fire alarms, call bells) 	<p>Hearing acuity sufficient to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess changes in heart, breath, abdominal, vascular sounds • Take blood pressure
<p>Smell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detect odors from client (e.g., foul smelling drainage, alcohol breath, etc.) • Detect smoke • Detect gases or noxious smells 	<p>Smell sufficient to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detect odors exhibited by body fluids which may be indicative of disease processes

Tactile

Ability sufficient to perform physical assessments, examinations and perform procedures.

Nursing Department Essential Functions	Clinical Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feel vibrations• Feel differences in sizes, shapes• Detect temperature• Feel differences in surface characteristics• Detect environmental temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Palpate pulses• Identify body landmarks• Assess skin temperature• Assess skin turgor• Check for drafts

Communication

Nursing students must be able to communicate effectively (verbally and in writing) and efficiently in English.

Nursing Department Essential Functions	Clinical Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach (e.g. client/family about health care)• Explain procedures• Give oral reports (e.g., report on client's condition to others)• Interact with others (e.g., health care workers)• Speak on the telephone• Influence people• Direct activities of others• Convey information through writing (e.g., progress notes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicate with patients/clients, family members and health care providers• Regarding the individual's plan of care.• Read and comprehend printed materials and documents.• Document clearly and correctly on patient's medical record for legal documentation.• Transmit information through written documents that use good grammar, syntax, spelling and punctuation.• Access laboratory data via automated information system.• Clarify the meaning of non-verbal communication.• Use physical touch as a therapeutic non-verbal intervention.• Present oral reports.• Clarify physician orders.

Psychomotor Skills

Nursing students must have sufficient motor capacities and mobility to execute the various tasks and physical maneuvers that are required within the program. Candidates must be able to display motor functioning sufficient to fulfill the roles toward which the program educates.

Nursing Department Essential Functions	Clinical Examples
<p><u>Gross Motor Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move within confined spaces • Sit and maintain balance • Stand and maintain balance • Reach above shoulders (e.g., IV poles) • Reach below waist (e.g., plug electrical appliance into wall outlets) • Stoop and squat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer medication via a variety of routes • Institute appropriate nursing interventions to stabilize a patient’s condition and/or prevent complications
<p><u>Fine motor skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick up objects with hands • Grasp small objects with hands (e.g., IV tubing, pencil) • Write with pen or pencil • Key/type (e.g., use a computer) • Pinch/pick or otherwise work with fingers (e.g., manipulate a syringe) • Squeeze with fingers (e.g., eye dropper) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate eyes and hands/fingers with speed and accuracy to make precise movements when providing patient care • Calibrate equipment • Draw up solution/medication in a syringe • Twist objects with hands • Take vital signs, including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, respiratory rates, pulse oximetry • Insert catheters • Pick up or grasp small objects • Transmit information via electronic means
<p><u>Physical endurance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand (e.g., at client side during surgical or therapeutic procedure) • Sustain repetitive movements (e.g., CPR) • Maintain physical tolerance (e.g., work entire shift) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (e.g., move above patient to compress chest and manually ventilate patient) • Stand/walk to complete clinical day (e.g., 8 ½ hour shift) • Complete assigned clinical practice within an acceptable time period

<p><u>Physical strength</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push and pull 25 pounds • Support 25 pounds of weight • Lift 25 pounds • Move light objects weighing up to 10 lb. • Use upper body strength 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position patients • Assist with ambulation • Move, transfer and lift patients • Assemble IV equipment • Perform CPR, physically restrain a client
<p><u>Mobility</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twist • Bend • Stoop/squat • Move quickly (e.g., response to an emergency) • Climb (e.g., ladders/stools/stairs) • Walk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maneuver in small spaces* • Move independently from room to room • Twist, bend, stoop, engage in procedures and direct patient care <p>*While health care agencies must meet ADA physical access standards, potential clients and equipment may limit the amount of available space in which to move.</p>

Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities

Nursing students must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, remember and apply information. Creative problem-solving and clinical reasoning require all of these intellectual abilities.

Nursing Department Essential Functions	Clinical Examples
<p><u>Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and understand written documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and understand English printed documents (e.g., policies, protocols, standards of care) • Read measurement marks

<p><u>Arithmetic Competence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and understand columns of writing (e.g., flow sheet, charts) • Read digital displays • Read graphic printouts (e.g., EKG) • Calibrate equipment • Convert numbers to and/or from metric system • Read graphs (e.g., vital sign sheets) • Tell time • Measure time (e.g., count duration of contractions, etc.) • Count rates (e.g., drips/minute, pulse) • Use measuring tools (e.g., thermometer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use measurement tools recognized as central to the care of patients/clients • Perform dosage calculations in a time frame to deliver safe care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read measurement marks (e.g., measurement tapes, scales, etc.) • Add, subtract, multiply, and/or divide whole numbers • Compute fractions (e.g., medication dosages) • Use a calculator • Write numbers in records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use measurement tools recognized as central to the care of patients/clients. • Perform dosage calculations in a time frame to deliver safe care
<p><u>Analytical Thinking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer knowledge from one situation to another • Process information • Evaluate outcomes • Problem solve • Prioritize tasks • Use long-term memory • Use short-term memory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handle multiple tasks and problem solve simultaneously • Assimilate and apply knowledge acquired from multiple learning experiences • Seek supervision and consultation in a timely manner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Critical Thinking</u> • Identify cause-effect relationships • Integrate knowledge and skills • Sequence information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize assessment data in determining nursing diagnoses • Prioritize tasks • Comprehend and apply abstract concepts

Professional and Social Attributes

Nursing students must exercise good judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities required of each program. They must develop mature, sensitive, and effective professional relationships with others. They must be able to tolerate taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and function in the face of uncertainties and ambiguities. Concern for others, interpersonal competence and motivation are requisite for the programs.

School of Nursing Essential Functions	Clinical Examples
<p><u>Interpersonal Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate interpersonal conflict • Respect differences in clients • Establish rapport with clients • Establish rapport with co-workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show respect for the differences in patients/clients and co-workers • Function as a member of an interdisciplinary team (e.g., consult, negotiate, share) • Establish rapport with patients/clients • Participate in partnered and group efforts in classroom and clinical learning activities • Practice in a manner that is nonjudgmental and non-discriminatory • Interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds
<p><u>Emotional Stability:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish therapeutic boundaries • Provide client with emotional support • Adapt to changing environment/stress • Deal with the unexpected (e.g., client going bad, crisis) • Focus attention on tasks • Monitor own emotions • Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently • Handle strong emotions (e.g., grief) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Function effectively under stress • Assume responsibility/ accountability for own actions • Provide patient/family with emotional support • Adapt effectively to changing environments and increasing tension levels in a variety of situations (e.g., learning, patient care, emergencies)

Application of Legal/Ethical Principles and Professional Standards

Nursing students must demonstrate professional attitudes and behaviors and must perform ethically in dealing with others. The nursing programs require personal integrity and adherence to standards that reflect the values and functions of the profession. These requirements align with the NCC Policy on Student Professional Conduct available at

<http://catalog.northampton.edu/Policies-CollegeAcademic/Policy-on-Student-ProfessionalConduct.htm>

Department of Nursing Essential Functions	Clinical Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the application of the professional nursing Code of Ethics to clinical practice • Adhere to the practice standards of the nursing profession • Adhere to the legal/ethical standards set forth by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Pennsylvania • Apply negotiation and mediation skills in ethical decision making • Reflect the values of the profession in their practice • Demonstrate accountability for one’s own practice • Take action to protect the public from the unsafe, illegal or unethical practice of others • Participate in the legal/regulatory/ social policy processes that influence health care and nursing practice • Act as a moral agent in the practice of nursing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abide by professional standards of practice • Demonstrate ethical and professional attitudes and conduct • Assist individuals and families in making end-of-life decision • Participate in ethics committee activities relative to patients/clients receiving nursing care • Participate in professional nursing organizations • Advocate for the welfare of individuals and groups • Practice in a manner that preserves/protects client autonomy, dignity and rights • Act as a nurse advocate • Maintain client confidentiality

Data adapted from “A Validation Study: Functional Abilities Essential for Nursing Practice” by Carolyn J. Yocom, National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc., 1996

End of Program Student Learning Outcomes

The Associate Degree Nursing Program at NCC is designed to prepare students for entry-level practice as a Registered Nurse. The end-of-program student learning outcomes reflect the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that students should be able to demonstrate upon completion of the program. The outcomes reflect contemporary RN practice standards, guidelines, and competencies and serve as the framework for the curriculum. Classroom, lab, simulation and clinical learning activities in program courses support students' achievement of these outcomes. When students achieve these outcomes, they are prepared for the transition from student to the role of entry-level registered nurse.

The graduate of the Associate Degree Nursing program will:

- Use the nursing process to manage and provide care to individuals across the lifespan through efficient and effective management of resources in a variety of healthcare settings.
- Perform ongoing comprehensive assessments of patient's health status and changing needs.
- Demonstrate caring interventions based on the physiologic and psychosocial needs of the patient.
- Initiate the teaching-learning processes to promote, maintain, and restore health to individuals within their communities.
- Communicate effectively with patients, their support persons, and the health care team through the use of interpersonal skills and technology.
- Collaborate with patients, support persons, members of the health care team, and community agencies to provide patient-centered quality care.
- Employ clinical decision-making based on critical thinking skills and evidence-based practice to deliver safe effective nursing care through the nursing process.
- Demonstrate professional accountability and commitment to standards of professional practice while practicing nursing within legal, ethical, and regulatory frameworks

**PROGRAM OF STUDY:
ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING AWARDED:
ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE**

First Semester		
Course Code	Course Title	Credits
COLS 101	College Success	1
BIOS 204	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
ENGL 101C	English I	3
NURS 101	Introduction to Nursing	8
PSYC 103	Introduction to Psychology	3
	Total Semester Credits	19
Second Semester		
BIOS 254	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
ENGL 151	English II	3
MATH 150	Introductory Statistics	3
NURS 215	Nursing Care of Patients with M/S Problems	8
	Total Semester Credits	18
Third Semester		
BIOS 202	Microbiology for Allied Health	4
NURS 223	Maternal Child Health Nursing	4
NURS 224	Care of Mental Health Patients	4
PSYC 258	Developmental Psychology	3
SOCA_____	Sociology/Anthropology Elective+	3
	Total Semester Credits	18
Fourth Semester		
CMTH 102	Speech Communication	3
NURS 231	Nursing Seminar	2
NURS 260	Integrated Concepts for Nursing Practice	6
NURS 261	Nursing Practicum	2
PHIL 202G	Ethics and Moral Problems	3
	Total Semester Credits	16
	Total Credits	71

+ For the SOCA elective, students must select a SOCA course from the list of approved General Education courses – SOCA 102 or 103 is recommended.

- One course should be designated as Diversity (D).
- Completion of PHIL 202G satisfies the Writing Intensive (WI) requirement.
- Computer competencies are included in various courses in this program. Thus, completing the program automatically satisfies the computing requirement for this program.
- The Social Science (SIT) requirement and the free elective requirement have been waived for this program.

Classroom and Clinical Behavioral Expectations

The rigorous discipline of nursing demands that nursing students fully engage in the learning and role formation necessary to become professional nurses. Classroom and clinical education is of paramount importance for this transformation. Because the focus of our study is the human person, our nursing behaviors, even as learners, must demonstrate values of academic honesty, accountability, compassion, commitment, and adherence to legal, ethical, and professional standards both in the classroom and the clinical agency. Inherent to these professional behaviors is the simple expectation that each student's work, except where documented, is wholly their own; and, that each student's assignments, assessments, quizzes, and examinations are performed without unfair or illegal advantage. The nursing student will have access to numerous outlines and study guides created by the instructor specifically for this course. Use of any materials not distributed by nursing faculty during the time frame of the student's enrollment in the course may be a violation of the college's *Academic Honesty Policy*. It is the student's responsibility to obtain verification from the instructor whether or not these materials may be used without penalty.

Nursing students enter into trust-based relationships with patients, peers, faculty, and agency staff for the purpose of providing care to vulnerable persons. Therefore, nursing students have a high duty to ensure the integrity of their academic preparation, as well as the integrity of the Nursing Program. Specific examples of personal violations of academic honesty are listed below. Penalties for personal violations many include course failure. If the student has knowledge that professional trust has been broken and/ or that the integrity of an experience, assignment, assessment, test, or examination has been violated, the nursing student is expected to notify the faculty or Dean of Students.

Examples of student violations:

- Use of unauthorized materials during an assessment, quiz, test or examination.
- Providing or receiving unauthorized assistance during an assessment, quiz, test or examination.
- Practicing any form of deceit in an assessment, quiz, test, examination or paper.
- Posing as another student or allowing another student to pose as one's self during an assessment, test, examination or clinical assignment. This violation includes on- line assignments, assessments, tests and examinations.
- Recording, transcribing, using or distributing any part of a previously administered assessment, quiz, test or examination.
- Buying, selling, improperly obtaining or using any assessment, test or examination in advance of its administration.

The NCC nursing student is expected to abide by the requirements and policies contained in the *Practical Nursing or Associate Degree Nursing Student Handbook*. Specifically, the nursing student will abide by the following expectations:

- The student will attend all classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences.
- The student will be prepared for all classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences.
- It is expected that the student prepares before arriving at all classroom and laboratory experiences. The student will understand that the faculty will not permit a student to leave class or lab to print handouts, outlines or articles provided by faculty.
- It is expected that the student prepares before arriving at every clinical experience. Students should be well prepared to discuss each assigned patient's case history, pathophysiology, plan of care and medication regimen. Any student arriving unprepared may be dismissed from clinical and subsequently given an unexcused absence for the experience. The student will be required to make up the experience at the discretion of Faculty and/or the Director of Nursing.

- The student will communicate and interact with others in a respectful, professional manner.
- Students are expected to respect one another and the faculty. Students understand that only one person speaks at a time during classroom and laboratory experiences. Students also understand that talking amongst one another during class or lab will not be tolerated.
- The student understands that foul language or sexually explicit language or comments will not be tolerated in the classroom, laboratory or clinical setting.
- The student will also agree to avoid the use of foul or sexually explicit language or comments in conversation or in the form of written communication (email).
- Any student engaging in aggressive, disrespectful, unethical or sexual harassing behavior toward any person encountered through this course of study, including patients, peers, staff persons, visitors or faculty will be directed to leave or be escorted off the clinical unit or NCC campus by security. This behavior will also require a conference with faculty and the Director of Nursing, as well as the Dean of Students.
- The use of cell phones in the classroom, laboratory or clinical setting is not permitted. The use of cell phones includes making calls, checking voice mail and text messaging. Cell phones are expected to be turned off (not on vibration mode) for all classroom, laboratory and clinical experiences.

The student will assume responsibility for their own learning.

- Students are expected to check Blackboard and their Northampton e-mail on a daily basis. Important announcements may be posted on Blackboard at any given time, and it is the expectation that students take responsibility for their education and periodically check the course Blackboard site and/or their Northampton e-mail account.
- The student understands that the course faculty cannot cover every detail of theoretical knowledge in the classroom or laboratory setting. The student is responsible for reading and understanding the theory discussed in the course textbook and supplemental readings provided by the faculty.
- The student understands that extensions for assignments will not be granted.

This document has been prepared so that every student enrolled in the nursing programs at Northampton Community College will understand what is expected regarding classroom and clinical conduct. The student must understand that failure to comply with these stated expectations will have a negative impact on his or her overall course grade and may also affect progression in the Nursing Program.

Reviewed annually.

Nursing Department Test Security Policy and Procedure

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Testing Security Policy and Procedure is to provide (1) students with direction to avoid academic dishonesty and (2) faculty members with the structure necessary to ensure security of the testing process.

II. SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

- A. Northampton Community College considers honesty to be essential to the learning experience. Academic honesty is one of the values that we expect members of the NCC community will apply in their work on this campus and take into their lives beyond NCC. Violations of academic honesty harm the learning experience and violate the expectations and values that the NCC community embraces. We expect all members of the NCC academic community to conduct themselves and their work ethically and honestly. (NCC Catalog: *Academic Honesty Policy*).
- B. Students are solely responsible for their work and for making sure that their work represents their own honest efforts to meet the goals of the course.
- C. They are responsible for showing that the work they present is theirs in whatever ways are deemed appropriate by the faculty for the course.
- D. They are responsible for learning and following the policies and expectations of the college and for understanding the consequences of actions that violate the policy on academic honesty.
- E. Students have a high duty to ensure the integrity of their own academic preparation, as well as the integrity of the Nursing Program. (Nursing Student Handbook: *The Classroom and Clinical Behavioral Expectations for the Student of Professional Nursing*).
- F. For the purpose of this policy, the term *proctor* refers to assigned course faculty or designated proctor.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. Before entering the testing room:
 - i. Students must complete last-minute reviews for the scheduled test outside of the testing room. No review materials can be taken to the student's assigned seat in the testing area.
 - ii. **Students should use the restroom.** In the event of extenuating circumstances during the test, students will be escorted to the restroom and monitored.

- B. Upon entering the testing room:
 - i. Students will place all belongings at the front of the exam room. This includes all watches, earbuds, all electronics, cell phones, personal computer/flash drives, hats, headbands, drinks, book bags, purses, coats, and backpacks.
 - ii. Cell phones and all electronic devices must be turned off (not just silenced) before placement at the front of the room.
 - iii. The test proctor reserves the right to inspect any item in the immediate testing area including clothing (scarves, sweaters, etc.).

- C. Before the start of testing:
 - i. The exam proctor reserves the right to randomly assign seating.
 - ii. The proctor will distribute the exam, Scantron sheet, scrap paper, a simple calculator, and (2) #2 pencils.

- D. Once testing begins
 - i. Students may not leave the testing room until the student's test is complete. In extenuating circumstances, students will be escorted and monitored.
 - ii. Sharing of calculators is not permitted.
 - iii. The student is responsible for monitoring their progress in the test to ensure completion within the allotted timeframe.
 - iv. Students are not allowed to wear a watch during the exam but a digital clock will be projected on a screen at the front of the classroom for that purpose.

- E. At the end of the testing
 - i. The student must submit the exam, Scantron sheet, scrap paper, and calculator to the proctor.
 - ii. Test review will be completed at the discretion of the faculty member
 - iii. Personal belongings must remain at the front of the room.
 - iv. No writing instruments are allowed.

- F. Test Scoring
 - i. In the event of a discrepancy between an answer written on an exam and the exam answer sheet, only the exam answer sheet will be graded.
 - ii. If a student fails to fill in an answer on the exam answer sheet, there will be no credit awarded regardless of the answers that appear in the exam booklet.
 - iii. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all answers are transcribed from the exam booklet to the exam answer sheet in the allotted time.

Math Testing Policy

Errors in drug dosage calculation pose a significant threat to patient safety. As outlined in the Essential Functions document published in the college Catalog and Nursing Student Handbook a nursing student is expected to perform the same "essential functions of the employment position" as a licensed nurse. The standards for classroom and clinical participation are interpreted by the Nursing Department to reflect the essential functions of a nurse's employment. The *essential functions* are the basic cognitive, psychomotor, and affective activities that are essential to successful completion of the NCC nursing curriculum in leading to initial licensure as a nurse. **Arithmetic Competence** is one of the intellectual and cognitive abilities required and applies to the performance of dosage calculations in a time frame to deliver safe care.

Assessment of **Arithmetic Competence** is done through Medication Calculation testing in each clinical course of the nursing program.

- Students must achieve the minimum score on each Medication Math test in order to obtain a 'Satisfactory' clinical grade for clinical nursing courses (NURS 101, 215, 223, 224, 260, 261).
- The minimum score requirement is 100% in all clinical nursing courses.
- Students are allowed three attempts for each test. The interval for testing is a minimum of 3 days and a maximum of one week. The required test score must be achieved by the deadline articulated in each clinical nursing course syllabus.
- A student who fails to meet the required score after the first attempt is required to meet with course faculty to discuss strategies for future success. Remediation may be assigned at that time.
- A student who fails to achieve the required score on the second test attempt is required to meet with the Nursing Support Specialist for remediation.
- Failure to achieve the required score on the third attempt by the established deadline will not be able to administer medications in the clinical area (or participate in clinical experiences) and, as a result, will not be able to meet the course learning outcomes required for satisfactory completion of the course. A grade of "F" for the course will be assigned.

GRADUATION

Graduation requirements are outlined in the college catalog and available at

<https://www.northampton.edu/admissions/register-for-classes/graduation.html>

Students must complete an Application for Graduation in their Workday account. See the College Calendar for the due date for each semester. Commencement exercises are held twice a year in Bethlehem following the fall and spring semesters; August and December graduates should attend the winter ceremony in January.

The application for a nursing license begins with completing the Application for Graduation.

This must be done even if you are not attending Commencement so that the Program Director can send the State Board of Nursing verification of your degree completion indicating you are eligible to apply for a license and take NCLEX-RN®

STUDENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Students, faculty, or community members with complaints related to the nursing department should attempt to resolve the issue with the individual(s) most directly involved. If a resolution is not reached, a written complaint may be submitted to the Director of Nursing programs. Written complaints will be handled according to the process and time frames outlined in the college Academic Appeal Policy. This policy is available for your review at the link below [Northampton Community College - Appeals](#)

Nursing Department Confidentiality Policy

Confidentiality is a patient's right and the responsibility of the nurse, nursing student, and healthcare team members. Any information in written, oral, or electronic form about a patient's physical, emotional, or mental health or treatment is considered confidential and should be shared only in a private area among healthcare providers involved in the care and treatment of the patient. This information must be handled discretely and privately and protected against theft, loss, or inappropriate disclosure.

Nursing students, by virtue of the educational process, will routinely have access to protected health information (PHI) of patients under their care at a variety of clinical agencies. In accordance with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, nursing students will participate in annual educational review sessions regarding confidentiality and HIPAA regulations. Documentation of participation in the review sessions will be retained in the student's file. Students sign a confidentiality agreement upon entrance into the nursing program which is retained in their file. Students will comply with the Confidentiality Policies and HIPAA regulations at the clinical agency where they are assigned. for clinical lab.

Assignments that include patient-related information must be handled securely to avoid unnecessary or inadvertent disclosure and will not include patient-identifying information.

Students suspected of violating patient confidentiality will be suspended from clinical and an investigation will be conducted by the Director. A student found to have violated patient confidentiality will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

GRADING

Grades represent the individual student's mastery of course and clinical objectives. Grades for all nursing courses in the Associate Degree Nursing Program except NURS 261* are assigned both a numerical value and letter grade based on the scale below.

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	81-83
C+	78-80
F	Less than 78

**Grades are assigned as pass (P) or fail (F) in NURS 261 (Clinical Practicum).*

1. A minimum grade of **78% (C+)** is required to satisfactorily complete the theoretical component of each nursing course in the Associate Degree Nursing Program.
2. A course grade less than 78% or C+ constitutes a course failure and will be assigned a grade of F.
3. Achievement of clinical objectives is evaluated via course-specific clinical evaluation tools on a pass/fail basis.
4. In courses with concurrent clinical experiences, students must pass both the theoretical and clinical portions of the course to receive a satisfactory grade for the course, enabling progression in the program.

Grade appeals will follow the process outlined in the [College Catalog](#).

PROGRESSION POLICY

RN Program

1. A course grade of C+ or better is required in nursing courses* to progress to the next level of the program.
2. All pre and co-requisite courses must be taken before or in sequence as outlined in the nursing program of study (curriculum).
3. The student who has withdrawn from the program or who has failed a nursing course will be readmitted to the nursing program only on a space-available basis at the time of readmission. Course requirements will be stipulated by the current curriculum at the time of readmission.
4. Advanced placement candidates must complete all courses in the curriculum sequences which are required before their point of entry before admission.
5. The safety of patients is a primary focus of competent nursing care. Students are expected to maintain patient safety during all clinical experiences. Violation of safety may result in disciplinary action up to and including program dismissal.
6. Students are expected to uphold the professional standards outlined in the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics (see [ANA Code-of-Ethics](#)) and the Classroom and Clinical Behavioral Expectations (see [Classroom and Clinical Behavioral Expectations.docx](#)) for the Student of Professional Nursing document.

Failure to comply with these expectations may result in disciplinary action up to and including program dismissal.

*any course with the prefix NURS.

REMEDICATION FOR IMPROVING CLINICAL PERFORMANCE

1. If a student's clinical performance is not progressing satisfactorily toward meeting the course objectives, the clinical faculty member will prepare a written remedial plan in collaboration with the lead faculty member. The plan will be presented to the student at a meeting to include the student, lead faculty, and adjunct clinical faculty involved. The plan will define specific area(s) of remediation, proposed learning options/methods, expected outcomes, and a time frame for evaluation of student progress.
2. A copy of the plan will be retained by the full-time faculty and a copy placed in the student's file in the Nursing Department Office.
3. Progress will be documented by the faculty and communicated to the student in a timely manner. Adjunct faculty are responsible for informing full-time faculty of the student's progress.
4. For students requiring additional practice in the nursing laboratory, faculty will complete a Skill Lab Remediation form and make a phone referral to the Lab Assistant.

**NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NURSING DEPARTMENT SKILL LAB
REMEDIATION FORM**

DIRECTIONS:

1. Clinical Faculty will complete the form.
2. Student will bring form (and all of its copies) and present to the Lab Assistant in the Nursing Resource Center.
3. Lab assistant will complete appropriate area of form. Student is responsible for returning yellow copy to clinical faculty who advised them.
 White copy to course faculty
 Yellow copy to clinical faculty.
 Pink copy is student copy.

Student _____	Date _____
Course Faculty _____	Clinical Faculty _____
Skill(s) to be reviewed _____	
Skill(s) to be reviewed by (date) _____	

Methods used for review: _____ video _____ reading
 _____ 1:1 demonstration _____ skill checklist review

Lab Assistant Recommendations

Return demonstration by student -----satisfactory _____unsatisfactory

needs additional work _____referred to course faculty _____

Additional Comments:

Lab Assistant Signature _____

Date _____

Student Signature _____

Clinical Faculty Signature _____

Reviewed annually.

ATTENDANCE POLICY LICENSED PRACTICE NURSING AND REGISTERED NURSE PROGRAMS

The Nursing Department follows the guidelines for attendance for class and laboratory as outlined in the college catalog.

“Class attendance and engagement in the learning process are critical factors in determining students’ success in their courses. NCC students are expected to attend all class sessions of courses in which they are enrolled and are responsible for all material presented in class sessions of these courses. However, a student who misses class more than twice the number of weekly meetings of the class (or the equivalent in short-term courses) may be withdrawn from the course by the lead faculty.”*

ABSENCES FROM CLASS AND LABORATORY

If a student is absent from class/lab for two or more consecutive days, s/he must present a physician’s note to the College Health Center stating dates of treatment and release date to return to class and/or clinical.

Students who are withdrawn for poor attendance will receive a grade of “W.” Faculty may issue a withdrawal through the first 90% of the semester (14th week or equivalent in short-term classes). After the 90% period, a student may not withdraw or be withdrawn.” Nursing students are expected to attend all class, laboratory, and clinical sessions of courses in which they are enrolled and are responsible for all material presented therein.

****No clinical absences are permitted****

Regular attendance is essential for successful completion of the program. Class and laboratory absences will be monitored by faculty. Clinical absences will be monitored by the clinical coordinator. Class and laboratory time missed will be made up via methods at the discretion of the faculty. Students absent without a valid excuse for more than twice the number of weekly meetings (4 absences) or who cannot meet the course objectives because of excessive absences will be withdrawn from the class.

Unexcused absences from class or laboratory may include, but are not limited to tardiness, unreported absence, scheduled vacation or events, and excessive undocumented illness. If it is determined that the student will be unable to meet the course objectives within the assigned time frame, a meeting will be conducted with the student to explore academic options.

CLINICAL ABSENCES

NCC nursing programs are responsible and accountable for assuring each student meets the required curricular elements in the program plan of study upon graduation, including all course objectives and clinical hours approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

The NCC programs cannot guarantee the availability of makeup opportunities. This policy addresses absences from clinical learning activities at clinical sites, in virtual spaces, or on campus and is applied to each within a single course. Failure of a student to complete their clinical make-up time will result in course withdrawal and/or program dismissal.

Clinical Tardiness Policy

Tardiness is defined as arriving at a scheduled clinical experience 5 minutes after the designated start time including clinical rotations and experiences, simulation, and any nursing-sponsored clinical event.

Any student arriving more than 30 minutes late will not be allowed to participate in clinical experience and will be sent home. Dismissal from the clinical site will result in an unexcused absence and will require make-up per the absence policy.

The first time a student is considered late to the clinical unit, a discussion will ensue with the clinical instructor and will be noted on the clinical evaluation. The second offense will result in a written plan for remediation with notice to the student of the resulting consequences should a third offense occur. A third offense will result in dismissal from the nursing program.

Clinical Absence Policy

Attendance and engagement in scheduled course-related learning experiences is a student responsibility critical to successful course completion. Absences from course-related learning experiences undermine a student's ability to attain the necessary skills to meet course objectives, master course content, and ultimately pass the course.

Understandably, situations may occur that are out of the control of the student. These situations include illness, death of a family member, emergent hospitalization of an immediate family member, and court dates. These are considered excused absences and require a note from a physician, death notice, or court order for it to be considered as "excused."

All other situations are under the control of the student and should be scheduled accordingly outside of class, lab, and clinical hours including but not limited to childcare, family vacations, doctor's appointments, personal appointments, weddings, transportation issues, and work schedules. These are considered "unexcused absences".

Failure to properly comply with deadlines for document submission on myrecordtracker.com or to onboard clinical sites as directed by the clinical coordinator will result in a failure to attend clinical;

therefore, this is considered an unexcused absence. Make-up determinants will follow the same protocol as that of an unexcused absence.

Proper notification of any absence must be made **before** 6:00 a.m. on the day of absence. Proper notification includes a text or email to the student's clinical instructor, lead faculty, and clinical coordinator, including a detailed summary completed by the student noting the emergent circumstances requiring the absence. Failure to notify all the required persons will result in an unexcused absence.

All absences require proper documentation (physician's statement, etc.) within one week of the missed day. Proper documentation from a physician should include a statement indicating the student's clearance to return to the clinical area without restrictions. Students will not be cleared to return to clinical if any physical limitations are prescribed by physician. Any assistive devices are not allowed on the clinical units.

In the skilled and acute care nursing workplace, not calling, and not showing up to work (No Call/No Show), are grounds for disciplinary action, and likewise applies to all students in this training program – as determined by program administrators.

If a student attends clinical and is ill, it will be at the discretion of the clinical instructor to dismiss the student from the clinical day. This will result in an excused absence but will require proper documentation from a physician within one week of the clinical day to be submitted to the clinical coordinator. The student will be required to do make-up clinical hours.

Regardless of the reason or nature, **whether EXCUSED or UN-EXCUSED**, all absences must be made up to assure meeting the course objectives and required course hours.

All excused absences of more than 20 hours will be subject to a make-up fee.

All unexcused hours, regardless of the nature, will be subject to a make-up fee.

Absenteeism of more than 20 hours, whether excused or unexcused may be subject to course dismissal at the discretion of the Director of Nursing Programs.

All unexcused time or excused time more than 20 hours must be made up and paid for before the scheduling of a clinical make-up; otherwise, the student will receive a "F/Failure" for the course.

The make-up time will be at the discretion of the Clinical Coordinator but no later than two weeks after the completion of the course. Any deviation from this 14-day window of opportunity will require special permission by the clinical coordinator/director of nursing programs.

Make-up days for excused absences are limited to a total of 20 hours.

Note: there is NO make-up time built into the program.

For those students enrolled in NURS 101, 151 or 215, 205, 206, 207, clinical make-up will occur at the end of the semester and will be medical-surgical in nature; for those enrolled in NURS 223, 224, and 260, clinical make-up will attempt to be made during the course itself. If the ability to complete a make-up during the course is not available, an incomplete will be issued at the discretion of the lead faculty. Billing for make-up time will be added to the student's bursar account.

NO make-up dates will be arranged until payment is received in full.

Non-payment will result in the inability to make up clinical time therefore resulting in course failure.

MAKE-UP TIME POLICY

Northampton Community College recognizes that unexpected circumstances may arise, causing time to be missed. Make-up time necessitates additional instructor scheduling. Make-up time may not exceed 20 hours.

MAKE-UP FEES

0 – 5 Hours = \$125

6 – 10 Hours = \$250

All make-up time must be scheduled and paid for before the beginning of the make-up session.

Any other personal requests for absence, including late arrivals or early dismissals, must be discussed in advance of the course start date and will be granted at the discretion of the Clinical Coordinator or Director of Nursing Programs.

All clinical absences will require student make-up to ensure course/clinical objectives are met. Absences are to be reported to the Clinical Coordinator as soon as the absence is apparent. If a student is absent from clinical for two or more days (excused or unexcused), the student's performance will be reviewed by the course Faculty, Clinical Coordinator, and Director to determine whether clinical objectives can be met. If it is determined that the student can meet the objectives, a make-up plan will be developed.

If successful completion of the objectives is unlikely or unreasonable, the student will be withdrawn from the course.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Dean's Honors List - students who complete a minimum of six credit hours per semester, and who achieve a semester grade point average of not less than 3.50, will be carried on the Dean's Honor List as a mark of academic distinction.

Graduation Honors - students who complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of coursework in the graduation major at Northampton and have a graduation grade point average of 3.50 or higher in any degree, certificate or specialized diploma will be graduated with honors. The graduation grade point average includes only those courses used toward the graduation major.

ATI TESTING, REMEDIATION, and PROGRAM EVALUATION POLICY

What is ATI?

Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) offers an Assessment-Driven Review (ADR) program designed to support mastery of essential nursing content, increase student pass rates on the nursing licensing exam and lower program attrition. NCC uses ATI throughout the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

Used as a comprehensive program, ATI tools can help students prepare more efficiently, as well as increase confidence and familiarity with content. The ATI program includes post-admission assessment of essential academic skills using the TEAS V test, Nurse Logic, Learning Systems, online practice, and proctored testing over the major content areas in nursing and a comprehensive prediction of how well a student will perform on the NCLEX state board exam using the Comprehensive Predictor exam. In the last semester of the program, students participate in Virtual ATI NCLEX, an online personalized, assessment-driven NCLEX review. The ATI resources are intended to supplement course content and enhance student learning. They are not to replace the course textbooks or faculty-guided instruction.

How the ATI Test Counts in the Course Grade

Performance on Content Mastery tests, submission of remedial work, and/or completion of ATI assignments may be included in the calculation of course grades and will be outlined in each course syllabus.

The ATI test(s) may be scheduled outside of class or lab time and the student is required to attend. All proctored testing will be done online and administered on campus. The testing schedule will be provided in the course syllabus.

Remediation

To remediate means to review an area that is not fully understood as evidenced by performance on practice or proctored tests. Remediation is intended to help the student recover important information that was missed on the initial test. The instructor will provide a description of the remediation plan for the material that applies to each course. Remediation is mandatory but the requirements may vary depending on the course. When completing remediation activity that is not proctored (i.e. on the internet, at home or out of the classroom), be aware that the instructor has access to detailed information about the timing and duration of remediation efforts.

Payment for ATI resources

Course fees are applied each semester to cover the cost of ATI resources, testing and the on-line Virtual ATI NCLEX preparation course.

TITLE IX – SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, VIOLENCE

Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy

Policy Statement

Members of the NCC community, guests, and visitors have the right to be free from sexual discrimination, harassment, and misconduct. All members of the campus community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights of others. When an allegation of misconduct is brought to an appropriate administrator’s attention, and a Respondent (hereinafter referred to as “Responding Party”) is found to have violated this policy, sanctions will be used to reasonably ensure that such actions are never repeated. This policy has been developed to reaffirm these principles and to provide recourse for Complainants (hereinafter referred to as “Reporting Party”) whose rights have been violated. This policy is intended to define community expectations and to establish a mechanism for determining when those expectations have been violated.

Northampton Community College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in a place free of discrimination on the basis of sex; which includes all forms of sexual misconduct. Sex discrimination violates an individual’s fundamental rights and personal dignity.

Northampton Community College considers sex discrimination in all its forms to be a serious offense. This policy refers to all forms of sex discrimination, including but not limited to sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking by employees, students, or third parties.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. To ensure compliance with Title IX and other federal and state civil rights laws, the College has developed policies and procedures that prohibit sex discrimination in all of its forms.

In accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable state and federal laws, Northampton Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, veteran status, disability, genetic information, or any other basis of prohibited discrimination in its programs and activities. This policy extends to employment, programs, and admission to the College.

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, and visitors. It also governs student-on-student sexual discrimination, including sexual assault, both on and off campus.

Persons who experience discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct may respond to the experience in many different ways, including feeling confused, vulnerable, out of control, embarrassed, angry, or depressed. The College provides a variety of resources to assist individuals who have experienced discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct to address the effects of the incident and to help them determine whether and how to make a formal complaint about the incident. Additional resource-related information can be found in Section VIII.

All reports of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation shall be promptly made to the Title IX Coordinator as appropriate (or one of the designated Deputy Coordinators). Employees asserting claims of discrimination pursuant to Title VI, VII, or ADA/504 must notify the Executive Director of Human Resources of his/her complaint within five (5) Business days of having knowledge of the action(s) that gave rise to the complaint.

Deputy Coordinators and/or Investigators will be appointed by the Title IX Coordinator in consultation with President's Cabinet as appropriate. Reporting responsibilities are described in Section III below for those individuals who become aware of incidents involving discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct. Additionally, a Reporting Party's options for reporting are addressed more specifically in Section IV below.

Additional details regarding the scope of the policy, prohibited conduct and reporting responsibilities are available at

<https://northampton.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2023-2024/college-catalog/policies-college-academic/discrimination-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct-policy/>

NURSING PROGRAM POSITION STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

The Northampton Community College Nursing Program is committed to fostering an environment of inclusion and equity in alignment with the college's position statement on diversity. Diverse voices and perspectives provide a rich learning environment for the education of our future nursing professionals. As front-line leaders in their communities, nursing professionals possess strength in healing the multicultural members they serve. Just as nursing professionals are committed to each member of the community, the nursing program is committed to providing a respectful, positive, safe environment free from judgment, and to providing a professional program to every unique and valuable individual. Faculty and students are all responsible for fostering an environment of inclusion and respect that contributes to the academic excellence of our program.

Nursing Program Progression Policy

1. Any student needing to re-take any nursing course must submit a formal written request to do so to the Director of Nursing Programs. The request must contain:
 - Course Number
 - Semester when the course was originally taken, and any subsequent attempts
 - Semester of planned retake
2. Requests will be granted by the Director based on the date received and on a seat-available basis. Students must be aware that courses may be offered on a day or evening schedule.
3. Students who have not maintained concurrent enrollment will be accommodated after current students are seated.
4. Students who receive a failing grade in two separate nursing courses will not be permitted to progress in the program. Students who receive a failing grade in a nursing course (on the first attempt) will have the opportunity to repeat the course one additional time. If the student fails the course on the second attempt the student will be dismissed from the program, with no opportunity for re-entry. If a student fails a nursing course repeats it successfully, and then fails a second nursing course, the student will be dismissed from the program at that time, with no opportunity for re-entry.
5. Students, who elect to leave the program or cannot maintain concurrent enrollment in the nursing program, will be granted re-entry by the Director after a formal written request has been received and seat availability is confirmed. Students must re-enter the program within one calendar year from their last semester of enrollment in the program. Re-entering students will be required to complete a skill validation successfully before enrolling in classes.
6. Nursing students who do not maintain concurrent enrollment will be required to complete their respective program within the required timeframe from their entrance into the program (PN program within 2 years; ADN program within 3 years). If it is determined at the time of re-entry that the student will be unable to comply with this time frame, re-entry will be denied. The student will have the option to reapply to the program and if accepted restart the program.

Special Policy for Re-Admission, Re-Entry into Limited Enrollment Courses

Any student who does not successfully complete a major course in a program which has limited enrollment may retake that course only if space is available. Priority will be given to students entering the program for the first time and to those students who have successfully completed the core courses and have maintained continuous enrollment.*

**A major course is a course which carries the prefix of the student's program.*

ACADEMIC DISMISSAL FROM ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMS*

Any student who does not successfully complete* one (1) course that carries the prefix of the student's Allied Health program, regardless of when in the program curriculum the unsuccessful attempt occurs, will be dismissed from his/her Allied Health program. An unsuccessful course completion for the purposes of this policy is defined as a final course grade of an "F" or "W".

**Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Medical Assistant, Radiography, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Funeral Service, Licensed Massage Therapy, and Veterinary Technician*

ACADEMIC WITHDRAWAL FROM ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMS

Students may withdraw from classes in which they are enrolled through the 90% point of the semester and an instructor may issue a withdrawal for poor attendance through the same period. Any student who officially withdraws or is withdrawn by the instructor during this period will receive a grade of W for the course.

COUNSELING AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

1. Counseling services for academic and career planning are available to students in the nursing program. Career counseling is coordinated for all students on the Bethlehem Campus with services also available on a limited schedule on the Pocono Campus. Academic and personal counseling needs are accommodated on both the Bethlehem and Pocono campuses by a staff of professional counselors and nursing faculty.
2. All nursing students are assigned a nursing faculty member as an academic advisor. Academic advisors serve to provide students with information and academic guidance to promote their success in the program.
3. The Learning Center is available for tutoring support on the Bethlehem Campus and tutoring services are offered at the Pocono Center for students requiring extra help with math, reading and writing, or test-taking skills.
4. The nursing faculty is available to each student to serve in a counseling capacity as necessary. The student is encouraged to discuss any issues affecting academic or clinical performance. Confidentiality will be maintained per the Student Bill of Rights. Referrals may be made to other sources for assistance, should the student and nursing faculty feel a specialized approach is necessary.

REFERENCES

Throughout the program, students may wish to have faculty complete a reference for them to be used during future employment interviews.

1. Students obtain reference forms from the Career Services office located in College Center, Room 348 at the Main Campus, and in Keystone 109 at the Pocono Campus. The office can be contacted at 610-861-5344 and 570-369-1871, or careers@northampton.edu.
2. Students request clinical references from the faculty of their choice.
3. Faculty complete the reference form and will return it to the Career Services Office.
4. The Career Services Office will maintain a file of references for the student.

Students must request that references be sent to potential employers. References will not be relinquished directly to employers without a request from the student.

Additional career information is available in the Career Services Office or on the web at www.northampton.edu/careers.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AND HEALTH SERVICES

1. The nursing program health requirements are determined by the Nursing Department, affiliating clinical agencies, the College and by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing. Students are responsible for fulfilling the health requirements annually as outlined below. Entry into the first semester (RN and PN program) and third semester (RN program) will be denied if the requirements are not met. If at any time the student's health requirements are out of compliance, the Nursing Department will reserve the right to withdraw the student from clinical and ultimately the course.
2. The College Health and Wellness Center coordinates and houses student health records for all nursing students. They are located in College Center, room 120. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the summer semesters. Their phone number is 610-861-5365 and the fax number is 610-861-4545.
3. Information regarding the services offered at the Health and Wellness Center may be accessed at <https://www.northampton.edu/student-experience-and-support/health-and-wellness/health-and-wellness-center.html>
4. When submitting forms or lab results to the health center, clearly indicate your name and the program in which you are enrolled. Pocono PN students should indicate the Pocono site on the paperwork submitted. It is always recommended that the student retain a copy of any paperwork submitted for their personal records.
5. The health requirements for the nursing program are as follows:

FIRST YEAR (RN & PN)

- A. Physical examination.
- B. Diagnostic tests. Results should be attached to the health form.
Required:
 - Two-Step Tuberculin Skin Test – acceptable only if done after April 1 for fall entry and October 1 for spring entry.
 - Urine Drug Screen.
- C. Required immunizations or documents of prior immunization:
 1. MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) – 2 doses are required if born after 1957.
 2. TD (Tetanus and Diphtheria) – last dose must be within 10 years.
 3. Hepatitis B – series of 3 immunizations followed by titers.
 4. Hepatitis C titer.
 5. Varicella – 2 doses are needed (if received after age 13) or history of Chicken Pox disease.

If records of these immunizations cannot be obtained, blood titers are required to document immunity.

SECOND YEAR (before the third semester) (RN only)

- Required: Two Step Tuberculin Skin Test – must be repeated yearly.
Urine Drug Screen.

HEALTH INSURANCE

All students are required by the College to carry health insurance during the program. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in an immediate withdrawal from the program.

Northampton Community College does not offer student insurance plans.

The below insurance options are being provided for your information only. Northampton Community College does not recommend or endorse any Health Insurance plan.

Go to <https://www.healthcare.gov/> to obtain information and/or to purchase health insurance coverage through the official government insurance exchange website.
Contact your existing or other local insurance carrier for coverage and pricing options.

ILLNESS DURING PROGRAM

1. An illness that results in a student missing significant class or clinical time must be reported to the faculty as soon as possible. In such cases, the faculty will request written medical clearance for students to return to the clinical setting.
2. The plan to make up content and time missed due to illness will be at the discretion of the full-time faculty member. Should the feasibility of making up the missed content and time be unlikely, a meeting will be held with the Director, full-time faculty member, and student.

Any student who must withdraw from the program for medical reasons must: 1) see the nurse in the Health and Wellness Center for appropriate forms and procedures, and 2) notify the Nursing Department of the need to withdraw. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Director of Nursing Programs when re-entry into the program is desired. The student will be required to submit medical clearance documentation to the Health and Wellness Center and the Nursing Department before being considered for re-entry.

CPR

Students must maintain current certification in CPR for Health Care Professionals throughout their nursing studies. **It is the student's responsibility to keep updated certification on file in the nursing office.** Students without current certification will not be permitted to attend clinical and will be withdrawn from the program.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

All students in the nursing programs have professional liability insurance through the College's policy. Student fees for insurance coverage are paid yearly.

DRESS CODE

The Northampton Community College nursing student uniform serves to identify you as a student nurse amongst many health care providers. The uniform was selected to present a professional image of you, the nursing program, and the college.

As a student in the nursing program, you are expected to comply with the dress code. The clinical agency and nursing faculty have the authority to deny access to the clinical experience if a student does not adhere to the dress code.

Students participating in an assigned clinical experience or scheduled simulation experience are expected to wear a complete NCC student uniform. In some clinical units, a dress code may be outlined by the clinical agency i.e. operating room. When a student is assigned to these specific areas, they will follow the specified agency protocol. The uniform is only to be worn in the clinical area, simulation setting, NCC Lab or while traveling to and from the clinical site. It may not be worn at the student's place of employment.

Uniform Requirements for Clinical and Simulation Experiences

- Blue uniform top with embroidered NCC logo.
- Blue uniform pants
- Clean solid black shoes or walking sneakers. Clogs, high-top sneakers, or sneakers with colored insignia are not permitted.
- Solid white, black or dark stockings/socks.
- The uniform must be clean, pressed, and in good repair.
- NCC Student IDs which are only obtained online - <https://www.northampton.edu/forms/ncc-id.html>
- Stethoscope, BP cuff, bandage scissors, pen light, and watch with a sweep or digital second hand.

Uniform Requirements at a Clinical Site during Non-clinical Hours

When a student enters a clinical site to get a clinical assignment and/or access patient data in preparation for a clinical assignment, the designated white lab coat embroidered with the NCC logo, and NCC student ID must be worn over business casual street clothes.

Students are not permitted to wear jeans.

Additional Requirements Related to Professional Appearance

- Fingernails must not protrude beyond the fingertips. Only clear or natural nail polish is permitted. Tips, wraps, or acrylic gel nails are not permitted because of the risk of infection.
- No jewelry or accessories can be worn with the uniform other than a wedding band, a wristwatch, and one (1) pair of stud earrings.
- Visible body piercings including but not limited to eyebrows, lips, tongue, cheeks, and nose are not permitted.

- Tattoos must be completely covered when in the clinical area.
- Ear gauges must be plugged with plugs matching skin tone.
- Hair must be worn in a neat, controlled style, away from the face and off the collar. Male facial hair must be neat and well-trimmed. Artificial eyelashes or extensions are not allowed.
- Hair must be of a color found in natural hair.
- No offensive body odor.
- No odor of smoke or cologne/perfume/powder.

NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

1. Involvement with the College can continue long after graduation. All nursing graduates automatically become members of the Nursing Alumni Association and can take advantage of the activities the association offers.
2. Officers of the NAA include a president and vice president and are elected by nursing alumni for two-year terms. Committees of the NAA are Fundraising, Programming, and Health Care Institutional Liaisons.
3. The NAA plans and manages activities for nursing alumni from participation in college and nursing events to awarding the Clinical Achievement Award. Contact the Alumni Office, Gates Center, ext. 4589, for further information.

NURSING LAB/ CLINICAL INJURY REPORTING PROCEDURE

- A. Any student who sustains an injury, or feels ill, should immediately:
1. Report the incident to the faculty/lab assistant in attendance.
 2. If the injury was caused by:
 - a) A needle or sharps, discard the object in the proper receptacle and wash the area immediately with soap and water.
 - b) For other equipment, identify the item.
 3. Main Campus: Report to the College Health Center.

Clinical facility: follow directions given by faculty as per agency policy.
Pocono Campus: report to faculty present and private physician if necessary
 4. Complete the appropriate form (example – next page) as directed by the College nurse or nursing faculty.
- B. Students who incur an accident, incident, or occupational exposure in the clinical setting must follow the protocols of the Clinical Agency and report same to the College Health Center for appropriate follow-up. Students are financially responsible for any medical care received at the clinical agencies or for any medical follow-up necessitated by the injury.

**NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NURSING DEPARTMENT INJURY REPORT**

Name: _____

Social Security #: _____ Phone #: _____

Today's Date: _____ Date of Incident: _____

Current Nursing Course: _____

Description of the Incident (how the injury occurred): _____

Description of Injury (type and location): _____

Injury Occurred: Clinical Lab College Lab Other _____

Immediate treatment administered:

Yes – Describe: _____

No _____

Reported to Faculty/Lab Assistant: (Name) _____

Referred to College Health Center: Yes

I, _____, understand that Northampton Community College policy requires all student injuries to be reported and evaluated by the campus nurse. I will report to the Health Center during working hours on this or the next business day. If I am unable to report to the Health Center, I will notify the Health Center of my injury via phone (610-861-5365).

Student Signature: _____

Faculty Signature: _____

Comments:

cc: Director, Nursing Programs
School Nurse

Approved 11/02

nurs\forms\injuryreport

LICENSURE

At the completion of the prescribed curriculum students who have successfully completed required courses are eligible to apply to a state Board of Nursing for licensure and take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX®). The state Boards of Nursing use the NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® to test entry-level nursing competence of candidates for licensure/registration as Registered Nurses and as Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses. The NCLEX examinations are provided exclusively as computerized adaptive tests.

Detailed information concerning the process for licensure and testing will be provided to the students in the last semester of the program. The fees associated with the application for licensure to the State Board of Nursing and testing registration with Pearson Vue are the responsibility of the student.

A person convicted of any felonious act may be prohibited from licensure by the Board of Nursing at any time. Students who have known convictions must meet with the Director before the start of the program to discuss the implications of a positive criminal background on the ability to meet course objectives and program outcomes. Licensing and credentialing bodies may apply their own standards to determine what convictions would disqualify a candidate for licensure. A student with a positive background check who completes the program is not guaranteed licensure.

Act 1985-109 known as the Professional Nursing Law of the Laws of Pennsylvania declares the following: "... The Board shall not issue a license or certificate to an applicant who has been convicted of a felonious act prohibited by the act of April 14, 1971 (P.L. 233, No. 64), known as 'The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act', or convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance in a court of law of the United States or any other state, territory, or country unless:

1. at least ten (10) years have elapsed from the date of conviction;
2. the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates to the board that he has made progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction such that licensure of the applicant should not be expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the health and safety of patients or the public or a substantial risk of further criminal violations; and
3. the applicant otherwise satisfies the qualifications contained in or authorized by this act.

Sections 133.14. and 15.1 of the Professional Nursing Law imply the will of the legislature in relation to felonies and misdemeanors reflecting questions about moral character. As used in this section the term 'convicted' shall include a judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere. An applicant's statement on the application declaring the absence of a conviction shall be deemed satisfactory evidence of the absence of a conviction, unless the board has some evidence to the contrary."

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

PERMISSION FOR THE RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION

By federal law, the College may not fill a request for a transcript requested by an employer or send a reference unless a written authorization is on file.

STUDENT NAME *(Please print)*: _____

I hereby give Northampton Community College Nursing Program permission to release information to:

- Prospective Employers _____
- CareerLink® (Caseworker) _____
- Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____
- Other (please print names) _____

The following categories may be released for the purpose of referral or information:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Test Data | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Personal Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Academics | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Date: _____ Signature: _____

I hereby authorize Northampton Community College Nursing Program to release a copy of my competencies to prospective employers/agencies who request training information.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

BACKGROUND CHECKS

A Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Report, Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, and FBI Criminal History Record Report must be completed by all nursing students by the deadline noted on their Acceptance Checklist in order to comply with clinical facility requirements. Acceptance is considered conditional until the criminal background check requirement is met. The timeline is established to allow adequate time for the Allied Health Review Committee to review the report and make a recommendation to the Program Director regarding full acceptance into the program. Acceptance will be rescinded if the documents are not received by the deadline.

Students with three (3) reports reflecting “no record” (no convictions) can consider themselves fully accepted.

If there is a criminal record, entry into clinical education will be dependent on the decision of the Allied Health Review Committee after a written, detailed explanation is received from the student. Upon receipt of the statement, the Allied Health Review Committee will review the report and make a recommendation to the Program Director regarding the student’s acceptance into the program. Students will be notified of their status within 3 days of the committee’s review. The student may appeal the decision in writing to the Vice Provost of Academic Affairs (VPAA) within 5 working days of notification receipt. The decision of the VPAA is final.

The records related to the criminal background process for students will be secured in the Dean’s office.

Clinical agencies have the right to deny access to any student with a criminal record based on that site’s own criteria. In the event that a student is denied clinical placement based on their criminal record, their acceptance may be rescinded.

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING ADVANCED PLACEMENT LPN TO ADN PROGRAM

The Advanced Placement Licensed Practical Nurse to Associate Degree Nursing Program is intended to afford LPN's the opportunity to receive advanced nursing standing of a maximum of twelve (12) credits by testing. The program is offered on a part or full-time basis. A minimum grade of C+ or 78% is required in Fundamentals of Nursing or course equivalent in the Practical Nurse curriculum to be considered for admission. After receiving advanced placement status, students will follow the basic nursing curriculum of the associate degree program. Students may complete the general education and support courses before entering the nursing course sequence. Anyone interested in the program must meet with an Admissions counselor to discuss admission. All Excelsior College testing and admission criteria must be completed by September 15 for the spring semester and February 1 for the fall semester of the year for which a student is seeking admission. Candidates will be reviewed on an ongoing basis based on seat availability. Test administration is done through Excelsior College at local Pearson VUE Test Centers. Information packets are available in the Admissions or Counseling offices at NCC. Please follow the instructions given in the Excelsior College Registration Guide regarding fees and registration deadlines.

Credit for NURS 101

- Graduates of the Northampton Community College Practical Nursing Program who were assigned a grade of C+ or better automatically apply eight (8) Nursing 101 credits to the Associate Degree Program.
- LPN's who have graduated from a program other than NCC are required to take the Excelsior College test "Fundamentals of Nursing"
- The Excelsior Fundamentals of Nursing test consists of questions related to concepts basic to nursing practice; communication and interpersonal relations; protection and promotion of safety; comfort, rest, and activity; nutrition; elimination; oxygenation; and fluid and electrolyte balance.
- Successful completion of the test **with a score equivalent to 78% or greater** awards the student eight(8) credits for NURS 101.
- Candidates who do not achieve a score **equivalent to 78% or greater** in the Excelsior College Fundamentals of Nursing test are not eligible for program admission.

Credit for NURS 223

- Practicing LPN's are eligible to take the Excelsior College Test Maternal Child Nursing before entering the program.
- Successful completion of the test with a score **equivalent to 78% or greater** awards the student four (4) credits for NURS 223.

- Candidates who are not successful at achieving the required test score must enroll in the NURS 223 class.
- Should a student choose to enroll in NURS 223 instead of taking the Excelsior College Maternal and Child Nursing test, they are ineligible to register or gain credit for NURS 223 by Excelsior testing.
- The Excelsior Maternal and Child Nursing test measures the ability to use the nursing process in the nursing management of the childbearing and childrearing family, of normal pregnancy, and of the family with a high-risk pregnancy and a high-risk neonate. The test also includes nursing management of the well child and family and of the ill child and family, from infancy through adolescence.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT RN PROGRAM OF STUDY

<u>Advanced Placement Testing/Excelsior College Exams</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Excelsior Fundamentals of Nursing test or NURS 101 (8 credits at NCC)	8
Excelsior Maternal & Child Health test or NURS 223 (4 credits at NCC)	4
Total	12
<hr/>	
<u>General Education Courses (must be completed before admission)</u>	
COLS101 College Success	1
ENGL 151 English II	3
BIOS 204 Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIOS 254 Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
MATH 150 Introduction to Statistics	3
PSYC 103 Introduction to Psychology	3
Total	21
<hr/>	
<u>Advanced Placement ADN Requirements</u>	
<u>First Semester</u>	
NURS 215 Nursing Care of Patients w/Medical/Surgical Problems	8
NURS 224 Care of Mental Health Patients	4
BIOS 202 Microbiology	4
PSYC 258 Developmental Psychology	3
SOCA---+ Sociology/Anthropology Elective	3
Total	22
<hr/>	
<u>Second Semester</u>	
NURS 231 Nursing Seminar	2
NURS 260 Integrated Concepts for Nursing Practice	6
NURS 261 Nursing Practicum	2
CMTH 102 Speech Communication	3
PHIL 202G Ethics and Moral Problems (W and WC)	3
Total	16

Students who make application for the Advanced Nursing Program must adhere to all admission requirements and deadlines as they appear in the college catalog.

+ For the SOCA elective, students must select a SOCA course from the list of approved general education courses; SOCA 102 or 103 is recommended.

- Once course should be designated as Diversity (D).
- Completion of PHIL 202G satisfies the Writing Intensive (WI) requirement.
- Computer competencies are included in various courses in this program. Thus, completing the program automatically satisfies the computing requirement for this program.
- The Social Science (SIT) requirement and the free elective requirement have been waived for this program.

Revised: 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 2006, 2010, 2018

Reviewed: 6/00, 7/02, 8/06, 9/09, 8/14, 8/18, 7/24

LIBRARY

1. All students will be provided with an orientation to library facilities and resources at their respective site within NURS 101. However, students are not limited to only using resources in that site. Through internet capability and interlibrary loan, all resources at both sites are available to all nursing students.
2. Library facilities within affiliated clinical agencies are available to students. Borrowing from these agencies may be restricted based on policy.

SMOKING POLICY

While on campus, students in the Nursing Program must adhere to the Tobacco Use on Campus Policy as cited in the College catalog. The policy can be accessed from the web at

<http://www.northampton.edu/about-ncc/tobacco-use-on-campus.htm>

Smoking is permitted only in designated areas. These areas are clearly marked, and the use of tobacco waste receptacles is required. Assume you are in a non-smoking area unless you see signs to indicate to the contrary. Compliance will be enforced. Education and treatment will be the primary approach, but violators may also face fines or other actions.

To learn ways to quit smoking, contact the health center at 610.861.5365. Smoking cessation materials and counseling are available at no charge.

However, smoking is prohibited during any clinical time. Students may not leave the clinical setting to smoke. Students may not subject others to their secondhand smoke. Students must refrain from smoking before clinical and/or clinical activities as the odor of smoke is absorbed by clothing can be an irritant to clients and others, and is in direct violation of the **Dress Code**.

URINE DRUG SCREENING

Urine drug screening is required annually. Clinical agencies require evidence of a negative urine drug screen before permitting a student to participate in clinical experiences at their facility.

Therefore, any student with a positive urine drug screen cannot remain in the program. A student may be required to submit to additional drug testing based on the affiliation agreement with each clinical site.

If the Nursing Program has reasonable suspicion that a student is using illegal drugs or is under the influence of drugs or alcohol while engaged in the program, the student may be required to report for drug testing at a designated vendor. If a student refuses to submit to a reasonable suspicion alcohol or drug test, the refusal may be considered a presumptive positive.

Health Careers Medical Marijuana Policy

In order to be transparent regarding the entire drug screening process and the use of Medical Marijuana, Northampton Community College recognizes our responsibility to fully inform students of NCC's policy at the time of acceptance. Please read the following policy carefully and acknowledge your understanding by signing and uploading this form to myRecordTracker. The Pennsylvania Department of Health is currently implementing the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program, a component of the Medical Marijuana Act (MMA) that was signed as law on April 17, 2016. This program provides access to medical marijuana for patients with serious medical conditions as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

At this time, the Federal government regulates drugs through the Controlled Substances Act, which does not recognize the difference between medical and recreational use of marijuana. Under Federal law, marijuana is a Schedule 1 controlled substance, meaning that it is considered to have no medical value. Medical practitioners may not prescribe marijuana for medical use under Federal law.

Students entering any Health Science Careers Program are required to have urine drug screenings upon admission to the clinical phase of the program and on a yearly basis while participating in clinical experiences. As per current policy, if the results are positive, the student will be dismissed from the program immediately and referred for appropriate counseling.

Students using medical marijuana will not be eligible for clinical, internship, or externship placement in any NCC health science career program, due to the current discrepancy between State and Federal law regarding the Drug-Free Workplace Act and the MMA. Businesses that are not in compliance with Federal law are at risk for criminal or civil charges; and additionally, may find issues with eligibility for Federal contracts and grants. Additionally, Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana statute specifically provides that an employer does not have to accommodate an individual in a safety-sensitive position if that person is under the influence of medical marijuana. Most positions involving direct patient care will be considered safety-sensitive positions.

Students should also understand that under current Pennsylvania State Board law, many health career licensing boards require drug screening at the time of application for licensure. Similarly, most health care employers will perform routine drug screening as a condition for

employment, as these positions involve direct patient care, and are considered safety- sensitive positions. **This discrepancy between Federal and State law allows our clinical partners to deny student placement for clinical experiences and the State of Pennsylvania to deny licensure.**

Due to current laws, NCC cannot provide admission to the clinical phase in any of our Health Science Career Programs, and students who have been admitted and are later to be found positive for medical marijuana will be dismissed from the Program.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand NCC's Health Careers Medical Marijuana Policy.

Student's Name (Please Print)

Signature of Student/ Date_

Upload signed form to your myRecordTracker® account.

ANA CODE OF ETHICS

The Code, consisting of nine provisions and the accompanying interpretive statements:

- Provides a succinct statement of the ethical values, obligations, and duties of every individual who enters the nursing profession.
- Serves as the profession's nonnegotiable ethical standard.
- Expresses nursing's own understanding of its commitment to society.

The Code reiterates the fundamental values and commitments of the nurse (Provisions 1–3), identifies the boundaries of duty and loyalty (Provisions 4–6), and describes the duties of the nurse that extend beyond individual patient encounters (Provisions 7–9).

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

Provision 2 - The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population

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

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

Provision 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.

Provision 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.

Provision 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.

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

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

American Nurses Association. (2015). *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*. Washington, D.C.: American Nurses Publishing.