

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**STUDENT POLICIES GOVERNING ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS**  
Traditional, ACE (Accelerated BSN) AND RN-BSN)

**IN NURSING**

1. The policies are consistent with and supplementary to policies in the current **SCSU STUDENT HANDBOOK** and **UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG**.
2. The provisions of this Manual are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the School of Nursing and the student. The school reserves the right to change any provision of any requirement at any time. Students will be notified in writing of such changes within a reasonable time frame. Students are expected to adhere to the most recent updated policies.

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## **BSN PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

1. Incorporates theoretical concepts and foundational knowledge from liberal education to guide nursing practice.
2. Integrate current best evidence and professional standards into nursing practice with consideration of clinical expertise and patient preferences and values.
3. Apply leadership and management principles to achieve quality and safety outcomes.
4. Demonstrate responsiveness to the larger context of the healthcare system regarding regulatory, financial, and political factors that influence the quality and value of care.
5. Function effectively within nursing and interprofessional teams to foster open communication, collaboration, mutual respect, and shared decision-making.
6. Provide patient-centered care that recognizes individual and/or family preferences, values, and needs, respecting patients and families as full partners in care.
7. Promote individual and population health, wellness, and disease prevention at the global/local level.
8. Use information and technology to provide care, communicate, educate, manage knowledge, prevent error, and make critical decisions that optimize patient outcomes.
9. Demonstrate behaviors consistent with social justice, legal and ethical accountability, and professional codes and standards.
10. Minimize risk of harm to patients, providers, and the public through continuous improvement in both system effectiveness and individual performance.

**Southern Connecticut State University School  
of Health & Human Services**

**School of Nursing**

**Philosophy**

**Basis for Philosophy**

Nursing is a practice discipline based on a specialized body of knowledge. The knowledge base continues to evolve through qualitative and quantitative research, which are both, valued as a foundation for practice. The essentials of baccalaureate and master's education as described by the AACN (2008) provide the organizing framework for the curriculum. Baccalaureate nursing education is enriched by integrating knowledge from the liberal arts and sciences, which prepares students for study in the major. Graduates of the baccalaureate program are prepared to assume beginning level professional nurse positions in a variety of health care settings. In their professional nursing practice, they will be able to address the need for outcome-oriented and patient-sensitive health care.

**Nursing**

Nursing is an art and a science that serves humanity. As a practice discipline, nursing is based on a defined knowledge base developed through the integration of theory and practice. The values embraced by professional nursing include: altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity, and social justice. While providing care to a community of interest, professional nurses are accountable for safe practice based on current research, legal and ethical guidelines, and accepted nursing standards.

At the baccalaureate level, theories and concepts drawn from nursing, related sciences and liberal education are used to develop holistic approaches to care. Nursing interventions are implemented in a culture of caring and involve interactive partnerships. Within these partnerships, students are expected to utilize the professional and therapeutic self to diagnose human responses and to respond to human needs. Through the nursing process, professional nurses interact with persons in their care to foster the holistic integrity of their family, community, and global position. The experience of interacting with persons changes the nurse as well as the person. Professional nursing, which works within a multidisciplinary team, manifests itself in several roles. At the baccalaureate level these roles include, director and designer of care, clinical provider, manager of services and resources, member of a professional discipline, and advocate for health care standards.

In addition to baccalaureate level competencies, the graduate student develops skills in critiquing, applying, and evaluating a range of nursing and related theories and concepts to develop holistic approaches to care

## **Person**

The School of Nursing believes that all persons are multidimensional with diverse cultural, spiritual, and socioeconomic backgrounds and deserve recognition for their inherent dignity and worth. They are members of a family, however it may be defined and, as such, share the right to social justice in all settings. To that end, all persons are respected for their individual differences. Nurses are expected to define, design and implement culturally competent care. All persons have the right to health care and the right to refuse care. Nurses also support the person's right to die with dignity.

## **Environment**

Environments are diverse and reflect psychological, social, and physical components. Environments and persons experience an interactive and reciprocal relationship. Environmental factors such as poverty, pollution, violence, homelessness, abuse, and chronic illness make populations vulnerable. Individual responses to the environment are influenced by health care technologies, information systems and global economics. The focus of nursing is to optimize personal, community, health care and global environments.

At the BSN level, students are expected to understand environmental factors that influence health and health care and incorporate knowledge of these factors in the care they provide.

## **Health**

Health is multidimensional, dynamic, and is defined by more than the absence of disease. It is self-defined in terms of cultural norms, personal beliefs, optimum personal function and quality of life. The professional nurse uses the principles of health promotion/protection, disease prevention, health restoration and maintenance of function in working with clients across the health-illness continuum.

At the BSN level, theories and research from nursing and related disciplines are applied to develop intervention strategies, including teaching and counseling, to promote, preserve and restore health. Independence and effective interdependent relationships are essential to achieve and maintain personal optimal health.

In addition to the BSN competencies, acquire skills and knowledge to develop and evaluate comprehensive and holistic approaches to care and provide leadership to effect changes that improve health care practices.

## **Philosophy of Education**

Education is an interactive process that guides and facilitates the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes. The goal of nursing education is to foster changes in behavior which may be observed through the development of professional attitudes, values, and beliefs, creative thinking abilities, the application of knowledge from the sciences, liberal arts, and humanities, and the performance of professional skills.

The academic environment provides a framework for academic and clinical work while promoting life-long learning. Learning is best achieved in an environment where faculty and students engage in partnership relationships and demonstrate mutual respect for their unique contributions to the learning process. Learning is further promoted in an atmosphere where ideas can be freely expressed and challenged, and the development of creative solutions is enhanced using the critical thinking process. Assisting learners to reach their optimal intellectual growth and development is central to the learning process.

The role of the teacher is to foster learning using a variety of teaching and evaluation methods that recognize and are inclusive of students' diverse talents and ways of learning, stage of intellectual development, sociocultural backgrounds, and previous educational, practice, and life experiences. In addition, faculty provide students with increasingly complex learning experiences that facilitate the acquisition of essential core knowledge and competencies and the development of professional roles and values.

As a partner in the education process, the learner demonstrates accountability for classroom and clinical learning and responsibility for embracing professional attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. The learner is responsible for engaging in self-evaluation and integrating constructive feedback in order to maximize the educational experience.

## **School of Nursing Vision and Mission**

The vision of the School of Nursing is to be a center of excellence and innovation in nursing education.

The mission of the School of Nursing is to prepare nursing graduates to practice, educate, and lead within an evolving, complex world. This is accomplished by:

- Discovering and applying the science of nursing and related disciplines in the pursuit of excellence and innovation, through scholarship and lifelong learning.
- Preparing graduates to incorporate professional standards to provide safe, evidence-based and compassionate care of the highest quality to diverse populations; and
- Providing the foundation for students to develop professionally in order to optimize their contributions within the context of interprofessional practice.

## **School of Nursing's Study Abroad Mission and Vision:**

It is the vision of SCSU Nursing School that undergraduate and graduate nursing students will have the opportunity to participate in experiential learning in areas such as global health, providing care to underserved populations, and learning about differing healthcare systems within the United States and abroad.

Southern, as a university, strives to empower every undergraduate and graduate student with the knowledge, skills and perspectives essential for active participation and impassioned, ethical leadership in our rapidly changing, global society. These global opportunities will advance the mission of the department and university by enhancing student learning with opportunities to examine various healthcare environments and develop leadership skills in providing culturally congruent care.

The experiential learning outside of the traditional clinical and classroom environments will encompass work, such as providing care in clinics with underserved populations in impoverished areas both within the U.S. and in countries through the world; visiting and examining varying healthcare systems, engaging in exchange learning with foreign nursing education systems; expanding their perspectives of a global society, and developing cultural congruent care that can be applied to practice in the U.S. and abroad.

## I. ATTENDANCE/COMMUNICATION

The nursing major prepares students to assume professional accountability and professional/clinical competence. The student's future practice must be licensed and carries with it adherence to professional standards set forth by the American Nurses Association and other professional organizations. Therefore, attendance and professional behavior is expected in all classrooms, laboratory or clinical settings.

Attendance and prompt arrival correspond to professional accountability. Students are expected to be prepared for all classroom, laboratory or clinical settings prior to scheduled sessions, and to be respectful of their peers and faculty in these settings. No electronic communication devices (i.e., cell phones, pagers, iPods, etc.) are allowed to be "on" in inpatient clinical settings or during class or laboratory except at the discretion of the clinical or classroom instructor. Students may be asked to put away electronic communication devices during class, clinical or laboratory experiences. Computers used in the class or laboratory experiences must be utilized for class work only. Students are expected to regularly check, **minimally three times per week (M-F)**, their Southern email account for course related information and correspondence. Personal Email accounts are not to be used for course communication.

### A. Class

Class attendance is expected in all courses in order to meet objectives. The instructor will advise the students of the attendance policy during the first week of the semester in the course syllabus. The policy will include the degree to which lack of attendance will affect grades as well as the rationale. Students who are not meeting the attendance requirements of the course have the potential to be placed on Academic Probation at the discretion of the course instructor. As written in each course syllabi more than 2 classroom absences may result in a grade deduction of up to two points of the final grade. More than two classroom absences may also result in an academic probation and subsequent referral to the BSN Committee for review. (Refer also to the SCSU Student Handbook)

### B. Laboratory (On campus and off campus clinical experiences.)

Students are responsible and accountable to the consumers and providers of health care. Therefore, laboratory/clinical attendance in any setting is required. Students must come at the assigned hour and remain for the scheduled time unless excused by the faculty involved. Students must also understand that they should not come to clinical if they are truly ill or injured in such a way that they cannot participate at clinical.

Students should not attend clinical if they:

- Have an open wound
- Have vomiting &/or diarrhea
- Have an undiagnosed rash on exposed skin
- Are on medications that cause significant drowsiness or make them unsafe to drive
- Have been on antibiotics for less than 24 hours for a communicable bacterial infection
- Have herpes infections (including cold sores) that are exposed

**\*A medical note of clearance to participate in clinical without restrictions is required to return to the**

**clinical setting after an absence for illness, surgery, or injury. Medical notes of clearance should be from the student's primary care provider unless they are after the primary care provider's office hours or in the case of an emergency room visit.**

Students are required to attend clinical experiences during day/evening and/or weekend hours. Clinical placements are made by the Clinical Education Office in the School of Nursing and are based on clinical site and faculty availability. **Students cannot arrange their own clinical experiences and student requested changes cannot be made in clinical placements.**

Students are responsible for notifying the clinical agency and/or instructor **prior to the absence** when absence or lateness is unavoidable. **Students must** assume responsibility for arranging **and completing** clinical make up before the end of their clinical rotation.

**Clinical makeup may include: a makeup day at the clinical site with a SCSU Clinical Faculty member, a Simulation Makeup, and/or a Case Study assignment. All Clinical/ assignments must be successfully completed prior to the end of the course clinical practicum to successfully pass the course.**

Clinical faculty will make decisions when clinical will be cancelled for inclement weather. Students should consider their own personal safety when driving to and from clinical settings and are responsible for notifying clinical faculty and agency of any absence due to inclement weather (those days will count as an absence that need to be made up).

Covid\_19 related placements: see Addendum to BSN and MSN Policies for Laboratory and Clinical Placements regarding COVID-19 (Revised 8/2021)

## **II CLINICAL PRACTICE**

### **A. Malpractice Insurance/Licensure**



Coverage is provided by the university only when students are participating in university or department clinical activities. Students must adhere to all standards set by the Connecticut Nurse Practice Act and the ANA Code of Ethics as well as institutional policies while participating in clinical experiences.

RN-BSN students must maintain and provide documentation of current RN licensure in the state where students' practice while enrolled in the program

## B. Health Insurance

Students must carry their own health insurance.

## C. CPR certification/recertification (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers)

Current Healthcare Provider level (adult/child/infant) Basic Life Support (BLS) certification is required for students to attend any clinical experience. Evidence of BLS for Healthcare Providers certification must be provided to Castle Branch by July 1 or students cannot begin clinical during the fall semester of the junior year. CPR BLS must be updated every 2 years (or as required by the certifying agency) and submitted to Castle Branch (by July 1) ACE (Accelerated BSN) students must submit this material (by June 1) DEC 1st FOR Winter ACE COHORT. Renewal date will be set two years from the issue date. Students will be cleared to attend clinical when this information is on file at the school BLS for Healthcare Providers instruction must be an onsite course with skill performance demonstration. This is available through the American Red Cross (BLS for Healthcare Providers) or American Heart Association (BLS for Healthcare Providers).

## D. Health Requirements

The following is a list of items required by clinical placement agencies, which must be on file with Castle Branch for students to attend clinical. Health requirements must be submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup>. ACE (Accelerated BSN) students must submit this material by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Students will be cleared to attend clinical when this information is on file with Castle Branch. Please note that students will be removed from clinical rotations if they do not submit required health and clinical requirements by August 1. Students who do not fulfill clinical agency health & clinical requirements will not be able to attend clinical. If health and clinical requirements expire at any point during the student's clinical portions of the nursing program, the student will be removed from the clinical setting. Medically-certified health requirement exemptions are subject to healthcare institution review and students not meeting all health requirements may be delayed in program progression.

### 1. Physical Examination:

A complete physical examination is required every year. The physical must be performed by a licensed MD, DO, PA or APRN and must be documented on the health form provided by the SCSU School of Nursing.

### 2. Tuberculosis Screening (Annual):

All students must provide documentation of annual tuberculosis screening, also known as a “TB Test”. Screening results must be demonstrated by either of the following methods:

- 2 step PPD initially prior to starting the program, followed by an annual single PPD every year thereafter
- Quantiferon Gold blood test yearly

Please note that if a student has a positive skin or blood test, he/she must submit results of a current chest x-ray, demonstrating no active pulmonary disease. Additionally, if a student has a history of active or latent tuberculosis infection that was treated with medication, he/she must submit evidence of appropriate and complete treatment in the form of a confirmatory letter from his/her primary care physician or pulmonary specialist.

3. Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR):

- All students must provide documentation of immunization or a positive MMR titer.
- For negative or equivocal results on MMR titer, students need to refer to their Castle Branch account for instructions

4. Varicella:

All students must provide documentation of immunizations or a positive Varicella titer.

- For negative or equivocal results on Varicella titer, students need to refer to their
- Castle Branch account for instructions

5. Hepatitis B (HepB):

All students must provide documentation of Immunizations and a positive Hepatitis B antibody titer

- For negative or equivocal results on Hepatitis B antibody titer, students need to refer to their Castle Branch account for instructions
- **Students who decline the Hepatitis B vaccine must provide a signed Declination Form**

6. Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis (Tdap):

All students must provide documentation of one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis (Tdap) within the past 10 years. Those individuals who are unsure if they have previously received a dose of Tdap should receive a one-time dose of Tdap as soon as feasible, without regard to the interval since the previous dose of Td immunization (Tetanus & diphtheria, also known as a “tetanus shot”).

7. Influenza:

All students must provide documentation of vaccination with the current year influenza vaccine, administered during the current flu season, which is identified by the Connecticut Department of Health as **August 1<sup>st</sup> -March 31<sup>st</sup>**.

8. Covid Vaccination:

- Covid vaccination is currently required by most clinical agencies. Agencies who do allow for an exemption or a deferment to Covid vaccination have specific policies and procedures for Covid vaccination exemption/deferment that the student must follow

to be reviewed for acceptance or declination by their clinical site. SCSU School of Nursing may not be able to place students in clinical settings if there are no available clinical sites who accept students without the Covid-19 vaccination, and this may delay or cease the student's progression in the nursing program.

9. Additional Clinical and Health Requirements per agency requirements:

Clinical and health requirements are subject to change at any time depending on CDC or the CT Department of Public health recommendations as well as any requirements established by our affiliating clinical agencies.

10. Costs:

The student is responsible for the costs associated with the clinical and health requirements.

E. Dress Code

All students are expected to be professionally attired in lab and clinical and will be guided by faculty and/or agency expectations

1. Navy blue scrubs. Students must order uniforms from the company designated by the School of Nursing
2. Clean, plain white, black or navy shoes/sneakers. No sandals, open backed or open-weave clogs.
3. A white name pin with navy blue lettering with SCSU Student Nurse below the student's full name.
4. Students are required to wear a picture ID when participating in clinical practice, as required by Connecticut regulations. If a picture ID is not provided by the clinical agency, the SCSU picture ID is required.
5. Community and psychiatric clinical experience dress code is individualized and determined by the agency's policies. Clinical faculty will notify students of this dress code policy before clinical begins
6. Laboratory coat may be required in the laboratory setting (as directed by faculty)
7. A watch with a second hand, black ink pen, and stethoscope are required. Sphygmomanometer may be required for some clinical experiences
8. Jewelry is limited to one pair of stud ear earrings and a wedding band. No other visible body piercing or jewelry is allowed.
9. Some agencies may require that visible tattoos be covered.

10. Hair is to be secured away from the face and off the shoulders
  11. Beards and mustaches must be neatly trimmed, or male students must be clean shaven (except for religious or cultural practices)
  12. Fingernails must be short. Nail polish and artificial nails are not allowed.
  13. No gum chewing is allowed in clinical or laboratory.
- i. Students are not allowed to use electronic devices (including cellphones) for **personal reasons** while in the clinical setting. **Refer to Social Media Section.**
  - ii. When in the clinical area for reasons other than clinical experience (for example during orientation or for clinical preparation), all students must wear a laboratory coat, name pin, and picture ID over appropriate attire. (Jeans and sneakers are not acceptable).
  - iii. Some clinical agencies may prohibit unnatural hair coloring, which may limit clinical options and subsequently delay or cease student's progression in the nursing program.

Other requirements or deviations from the outlined code may be necessary in specific situations and clinical facilities. Faculty will inform students of these as necessary.

b. Transportation

A variety of clinical experiences are necessary to meet the educational needs of nursing students in practice areas. Clinical placement is based on course objectives and the availability of clinical sites. Students may be required to travel anywhere within the state of Connecticut when attending clinical experiences, and the base site is considered SCSU and not where the student resides. Students are responsible for their own transportation and any parking or gasoline cost.

c. Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Policies and Incident Reporting

1. Students are required to read the CHA (Connecticut Hospital Association) Student Orientation Curriculum Guide and pass the post-test annually.
2. Students or clinical faculty, who are exposed to bloodborne pathogens at a clinical site with on-site capability for providing appropriate care for bloodborne exposure, will follow the clinical site protocol and see initial evaluation and treatment at the clinical site. Students and/or clinical faculty are responsible for using his/her own health insurance for the initial treatment, any associated transportation costs, and for paying for the visits associated with post-exposure follow-up care. If the site does not have this capability, students and clinical faculty should immediately contact their Primary Care Provider or Emergency Department for immediate post-exposure follow-up care. A copy of the Agency Incident Report must be placed in the student's SCSU file if an incident takes place.
3. The SCSU School of Nursing Incident Report for Accidental Exposure to Blood and Body Fluids must be completed and placed in the student's SCSU file if an incident takes place.

4. The above procedures and policies also apply to any other types of injuries or illness associated with clinical experiences.

#### G. Background Checks

Clinical practice experiences in healthcare and other agencies are a required component of program completion and graduation with a pre-licensure credential or baccalaureate nursing degree. Students must meet all standards and requirements necessary to complete required clinical placements. Failure to do so will result in an inability to complete the program.

Many agencies providing clinical practice experiences are requiring that students undergo a criminal background check before commencing the clinical practice experience. The Connecticut League for Nursing (CLN) has engaged an outside contractor to perform criminal background checks on students pursuing clinical practice experiences. The results of the background check will be released to the agencies where clinical experiences are planned. Students must apply directly to CLN and pay all costs associated with the background check. CLN CORE background check must be completed by July 1<sup>st</sup>, before beginning the program.

It is important to understand that the results of a student's criminal background check may prevent a student from commencing or completing a clinical placement. Failure to complete all required clinical placements will prevent a student from graduating from the School of Nursing.

The following is a *partial* list of crimes and offenses that may negatively impact a student's ability to complete required clinical placements: any sexual crime, any crime of violence, any drug crime, any weapons crime, property crimes, theft, robbery, burglary, embezzlement or fraud, public intoxication or substance abuse, and other felonies and serious offenses which would not be appropriate in a healthcare/patient care environment.

Additional background and fingerprinting may be required for specific Health Care Agencies at a cost to the students.

### Drug Screening

According to the Connecticut Department of Labor, nursing is a high-risk occupation. Due to health and safety concerns, nurses must conduct healthcare and educational activities fully in control of their manual dexterity, mental faculties, and judgment. The presence or use of drugs, which may interfere with the judgment or motor coordination of nursing students in a health care setting, poses an unacceptable risk for patients, colleagues, the University, and affiliating clinical agencies. Southern Connecticut State University recognizes its responsibility to provide a safe, efficient academic environment for students and to cooperate with clinical agencies' requirements in providing for the safe and effective care of their patients during nursing students' clinical experiences in their facilities, the University has instituted drug testing for nursing students.

Students will be required to participate in a urine toxicology drug screening to be in compliance with clinical agency requirements. MOST clinical agencies currently require urine drug screening either annually or more frequently depending on the clinical agency's policies. When the student is notified that a urine drug screen is required, the test must be completed within the required time frame for the student to begin or continue in clinical experiences in the nursing program.

**i. Pre-Clinical Drug Screening:** Drug screening will occur prior to nursing students' participation in

clinical. Drug screening may be repeated thereafter, if required by the clinical agency that the student is assigned to for any clinical experience. An outside vendor (e.g. Castlebranch) will oversee drug screening using certified laboratories. Any records of such tests shall be treated as confidential pursuant to Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Refusal to complete the drug screening as required may result in the student being removed from the clinical rotation, which can lead to the inability to progress or graduate from the nursing program.

**ii. Prescribed Drugs:** If a student tests positive for a prescribed drug other than medically certified marijuana (see section below for medically certified marijuana), they must provide written documentation to the testing laboratory's Medical Review Officer (MRO) who will then review the documentation and report the drug screen results as positive (failed) or negative (passed). A positive or failed drug screen will result in the student being unable to attend clinical experiences which can lead to the inability to progress or graduate from the nursing program. The student will be required to meet with the Dean of Health and Human Services if a drug screen is reported as positive after the review by the MRO.

**iii. Nonprescribed Drugs:** If a student's drug screen result is positive for a nonprescribed drug including recreational marijuana this is a failed drug screen. A positive or failed drug screen will result in the student being unable to attend clinical experiences which can lead to the inability to progress or graduate from the nursing program. The student will be required to meet with the Dean of Health and Human Services.

**iv. Medically Certified Marijuana:** Medical marijuana can be certified for specific approved conditions in Connecticut. However, in accordance with federal law, a positive toxicology screen for legally certified marijuana may prohibit a student from being placed in a clinical setting that accepts federal funding. If a student tests positive for marijuana, they must provide a copy of a current, valid state of Connecticut certification card to the School of Nursing Chairperson. At any time during the student's nursing program, if clinical sites accepting medically certified marijuana use are not available, this will result in the student being unable to attend clinical experiences which can lead to the inability to progress or graduate from the nursing program.

**v. Dilute Drug Screens:** It is very important NOT to drink large amounts of fluids before a urine drug screen. It is also recommended to have a urine drug screen early in the day when urine tends to be the most concentrated. Drinking large amounts of fluid or testing later in the day can cause a dilute drug screen result. A finding of a dilute drug screen is a failed drug screen result. The student will be allowed one drug screen retest at the student's expense. Should the student have a second dilute drug screen result, the student must meet with Dean of Health and Human Services. A failed drug screen will result in the student being unable to attend clinical experiences which can lead to the inability to progress or graduate from the nursing program.

#### H. Technical Standards

In order to be successful in the Nursing program, students should be aware that the ability to meet the following technical standards is continuously assessed. Students are required to have the physical and mental capabilities to perform in the role of a student nurse.

Students in the nursing program need ability and skills in the following domains: observational/communication ability, motor ability, intellectual/conceptual ability, and behavioral, interpersonal, and emotional ability. Students must be able to independently, with or without accommodation, meet the following technical standards:

Observation/Communication Ability – Nursing students must be able to:

- effectively communicate both verbally and non-verbally with patients, peers, faculty, and other healthcare professionals
- use senses of vision, touch, hearing, and smell in order to interpret data
- demonstrate abilities with speech, hearing, reading, writing, English language, and computer literacy

Motor Ability – Nursing students must be able to:

- display gross and fine motor skills, physical endurance, strength, and mobility to carry out nursing procedures
- possess physical and mental stamina to meet demands associated with excessive periods of standing, moving, physical exertion, and sitting
- perform and/or assist with procedures, treatments, administration of medications, operate medical equipment, and assist with patient care activities such as lifting, wheelchair guidance, and mobility

Intellectual/Conceptual Ability – Nursing students must be able to:

- problem solve, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize data in order to make decisions, often in a time urgent environment
- incorporate new information from teachers, peers, and the nursing literature
- interpret data from electronic and other monitoring devices

Behavioral, Interpersonal, and Emotional Ability – Nursing students must be able to:

- tolerate physically taxing workloads and function effectively during stressful situations
- display flexibility and adaptability in the work environment
- function in cases of uncertainty that are inherent in clinical situations involving patients/clients
- possess the skills required for full utilization of the student's intellectual abilities
- exercise stable, sound judgment

- establish rapport and maintain sensitive, interpersonal relationships with others from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds
- accept and integrate constructive criticism given in the classroom and clinical setting

Note: Students may be asked to provide documentation from their healthcare provider that they are safely able to return to clinical or class after an injury, extended illness, or disability (see SCSU Student Handbook).

### III. Assignments, Examinations, Grading and Reporting of Grades

#### A. Assignments

1. Students will be provided a detailed course syllabus at the beginning of each course.
2. All assignments within courses must be submitted in order to meet course requirements.
3. Faculty reserve the right to retain papers and assignments. Students are encouraged to make copies of all papers prior to submission to the faculty. The copiers in the School of Nursing are not available for student use. Printers are available at the printing stations across the campus for use with a Hoot Loot card.
4. Student papers and other written assignments are due on the date specified by the faculty unless specific arrangements have been made by the student with the faculty member prior to the due date of the assignment. Refer to the course syllabi or the SCSU Student Handbook for specific consequences.

#### B. Examinations

1. University policies concerning examination procedures (including laboratory practicum exams) will be strictly enforced. (See SCSU Handbook)
2. All examinations must be taken on the day scheduled. If there is an excused absence for an examination, agreed upon by the faculty member for an extenuating circumstance, students must assume responsibility for making arrangements with the appropriate faculty member. The make-up exam must be taken within one week; unless arrangements have been made with the faculty due to extenuating circumstances such, hospitalization, and death in the family otherwise, the grade automatically becomes a zero. Students who miss more than one exam for the same course may be placed on Performance Warning Probation. Documentation from the student's health care provider is required in the extenuating case of illness. Make up exams may be in a different format than the original exam.
3. When a student is late for an examination, the student will be permitted to take the exam but will not be given additional time. Faculty may deny students access to an exam. Students will then be required to make up the exam, otherwise the grade automatically becomes a zero.



4. Students are neither allowed to keep examination or test papers nor to copy test questions and answers. Students may review their own papers at the discretion of the faculty. Students are not allowed to tape record or photocopy exam reviews. Doing so will automatically be considered academic dishonesty.
5. Dictionaries of any kind that translate words into other languages are not permitted during exams. This is consistent with the expectations of the NCLEX exam.
6. Any activity related to recording or sharing of content or answers on written, practicum or computer-generated exams will be considered academic dishonesty.
7. Before students receive course accommodations for a disability related need in a nursing class, the students must make an appointment with the Disabilities Resource Center and provide documentation to course faculty. Students should speak to their instructor about accommodations, or other concerns, such as medical emergencies or arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, as soon as possible after the course begins.
8. All students must perform in the expected standard time allotment for Health Assessment Practicum Exams or for Evidence Based Nursing Interventions Practicum Exams. Students are encouraged to access laboratory resources prior to practicum exams to ensure optimal outcomes

#### C. Grading

The grading system of the School of Nursing will be in accordance with those policies set by the governance of the Connecticut State University as indicated in the Student Handbook. The numerical ranges that are used in the School of Nursing are as follows:

A+	97-100	C+	77-79
A	94-96	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63

Students in the School of Nursing must attain at least a “C+” in all nursing prerequisite course and in all nursing courses. A GPA of 2.3 in the nursing program must be maintained to remain in the nursing program.

Students receiving an “Incomplete” are referred to the Student Handbook, University policy governing incomplete grades. Course withdrawal policies are in accordance with the university policy.

#### D. Conferences

All conferences between students and faculty regarding student difficulties with academic

progress will be documented, dated, and retained by faculty in the student's academic folder or SSC Navigate.

#### IV. CONTINUATION IN THE NURSING PROGRAM

- A. Direct Admit Progression Policy (refer to Appendix A)
- B. Medication Calculation Exam

As a requirement of the School of Nursing, students in the traditional undergraduate program and the ACE (Accelerated BSN) RN program are required to complete the Medication Calculation ATI modules and submit proof of 100% score by the designated date identified in the Nursing Admissions Packet associated with that academic year. The first day of orientation all students will take a medication calculation test on Examsoft. Any student scoring below 85% will need to remediate. Students will be provided remediation material in preparation for their N342 medication calculation exam.

#### C. Academic Standards

- In order to graduate with a major in nursing, an overall achievement of 2.3 GPA must be maintained. Otherwise, the student will be terminated from the nursing program and will be ineligible to reapply to the Traditional BSN or Accelerated BSN nursing program.
- The student is responsible for monitoring his or her own academic and clinical performance/progress and must seek consultation with the instructor/academic advisor if unusual issues/situations exist which may affect academic or clinical performance. Students are expected to be an active participant in their academic and clinical progress and are responsible for following through with recommendations made by clinical or theory faculty.
- A temporary grade of Incomplete (I) is recorded when a student has a valid reason for not meeting a partial requirement in a course prior to the termination of the semester. The student should discuss the reason for the incomplete status with the course instructor. If the incomplete is granted the student has until 30 days after the next semester begins to complete course requirements. The course grade will automatically be converted to a failure in the course (F) if the student does not complete the work within thirty days after the next semester begins (see SCSU Student Handbook). A student must complete the Incomplete form and submit it to the School of Nursing and the Registrar's office. All courses which are prerequisites need to be completed prior to starting the new semester.
- Prior to completion of NUR 443 (Nursing Capstone), students are required to take all three HESI RN Exit NCLEX predictor exams. Students must earn a score of 900 or above on at least one of the HESI RN Exit exams or provide evidence of registration for a comprehensive NCLEX-RN review course in order to receive a grade in the NUR 443 course. The HESI RN Exit exam will be administered three (3) times during the course. The highest score of the three will be counted as 20% of the final course grade. Note: For Accelerated BSN (ACE) Students, HESI RN Exit v1 is typically administered prior to the start of NUR 443

(Nursing Capstone). The number of exit HESI's may be modified due to COVID 19 or any other situation that prevents the School of Nursing from being able to administer the three (3) exams.

Please note that successful completion of Nursing 443 is required for program completion. Once the student has provided evidence of registration to the student's Nur 443 course faculty, the grade earned in Nursing 443 will be posted in Banner as the final grade for the course. However, if the student does not achieve a minimum score of 900 on at least one HESI RN Exit exam AND does not provide evidence that he/she has registered for *any comprehensive NCLEX review course*, the student will receive a grade of "F" for Nursing 443 and be required to repeat the course the next time it is offered for students in that program.

#### Honors Convocation

ACE (Accelerated BSN) Students will need to register for their summer courses prior to March 31st, in order to qualify for the honors convocation. Registering for summer courses by that date will allow students to meet the minimum of 50 credits completed or in progress.

#### D. Academic/Clinical Probation/Course Failure

1. The following occurrences result in Academic/Clinical Probation Status:
  - a. A grade at midpoint in course (fourth week in a seven-week course or seventh week in a 15-week course) is below "C+". Academic probation status is discontinued when the student passes the theory portion of the course at semester end.
  - b. Clinical probation may occur at any time during the course when students are not meeting clinical objectives or professional behaviors identified on the clinical evaluation tool. Students will be notified in writing and a plan for remediation will be outlined by the clinical faculty. The clinical faculty member will notify the Clinical Education Director, the Program director and the student's advisor of the student's probation status. If a student withdraws from a clinical course due to a failure or pending failure on a clinical evaluation tool (CET) it will be considered a nursing course failure. Clinical probation status is discontinued when the student passes the clinical objectives.
  - c. Failure in any nursing course at the end of the course (Below "C+"). This includes failure to meet clinical objectives. In fact, students failing a course clinically receive a grade of "F" despite other grades achieved in the course. Failure in any nursing course will result in the student being placed on academic probation. The appropriate program director will notify, in writing, any student who is on academic probation due to clinical or course failure at the end of the semester.
  - d. A failure in the clinical component of a course requires students to repeat both the theory and clinical portion of the course.
  - e. Students who are on academic probation for course failure may continue in the nursing program provided they meet course prerequisites for subsequent courses. Students will be

allowed to repeat a course the next time it is offered in the student's program if space is available in the course. Departmental Permission is required prior to registering.

- f. Students admitted to the traditional nursing program must follow the course sequencing outlined in their program of study. AC E ( Accelerated BSN) students must continue with an AC E ( Accelerated BSN) cohort, regardless of prerequisites. AC E ( Accelerated BSN) students are not allowed to make up courses (after course failure or withdrawal) in the traditional nursing program. Traditional nursing students are not allowed to make up courses (after course failure or withdrawal) in the A C E ( Accelerated BSN) program.
- g. The appropriate program director will notify, in writing, any student who is place on academic probation.
- h. Rounding up of grades will only be done when final grades are calculated (0.5 or above will be rounded up)

#### E. Academic Dismissal

- 1. Conditions under which students are subject to academic dismissal are found in the SCSU UNDERGRADUATE CATALOGUE and STUDENT HANDBOOK.
- 2. The following occurrences result in academic dismissal from the School of Nursing:
  - a. Failure (below C+) of any two nursing courses in the nursing program.
  - b. Failure (below C+) of the same nursing course more than once.
  - c. Students will only be allowed to take the same nursing course twice, including any course withdrawals or failures. Failure is defined as final course grade under 77 or failure of clinical component of course. Two withdrawals and/or failures (or any combination of the two) in the same nursing course will result in program dismissal.
- 3. Original grades will be used to determine students' academic status for purposes of probation, progression, and dismissal in the Nursing Program. Replacement grades will not be considered for the above purposes.
- 4. Students receiving academic dismissal from the School of Nursing are ineligible to continue or apply for readmission to the Traditional BSN or (A C E) Accelerated BSN program.
- 5. The appropriate program director will notify, in writing, any student who is being dismissed from the nursing program.

#### F. Withdrawal

- 1. Any student in the School of Nursing has the right to withdraw from the nursing program. A terminal interview with the student's faculty advisor and the Chairperson must be arranged by

the withdrawing student. There is no guarantee, however, that a student who has withdrawn will be readmitted to the nursing program. (Refer to the SCSU Student Handbook.)

2. Students who withdraw from any of the undergraduate programs (Traditional, ACE (Accelerated

BSN), or RN-BSN) (or take a semester or longer leave of absence) and wish to return to the nursing program, must request readmission within two academic years of withdrawal. Students should submit a letter to the appropriate program director explaining the reasons for withdrawal (the semester before admission is being requested). Readmission is not guaranteed and is dependent upon the students' potential for success, current availability of learning opportunities and department resources. Students must follow the designated plan for readmission, including demonstration of clinical competency. If more than two academic years have passed since withdrawal from the Nursing program, students will be required to reapply to the Nursing program and repeat all nursing courses. Students should complete the Traditional BSN program within 4 academic years of enrolling/starting the junior year nursing courses, *not inclusive of any approved Leaves of Absence (LOA)*.

3. ACE (Accelerated BSN) or Traditional BSN students who are not enrolled in clinical courses for more than one semester will be required to make an appointment with the lab director to review and demonstrate competency in performing selected nursing interventions/assessments necessary for continuation in clinical courses. This must be completed prior to the first week of the semester.
4. Refer to the SCSU Undergraduate Catalog and Student Handbook for the policy on course withdrawal and late course withdrawal. A late course withdrawal is viewed as an exception to the general policy. Late course withdrawal may be granted only for extenuating circumstances, such as prolonged illness. Poor grades are not to be interpreted by the student or the instructor as extenuating circumstances. A potential or pending course failure is not to be considered as a justification for a late course withdrawal.

G. Academic honesty/dishonesty (refer to current SCSU Undergraduate Catalog, SCSU Student Handbook, and BOR/CSCU Code of Conduct).

The following excerpt on academic honesty is directly quoted from the [SCSU Undergraduate Catalog 2021-2022](#).

- A. The integrity of scholarship is the cornerstone of the academic and social structure of the university. It is the expressed policy of the university that every aspect of undergraduate academic life, related in whatever fashion to the university, shall be conducted in an absolutely and uncompromisingly honest manner. Violations of academic honesty are grounds for a failing grade and may result in dismissal from the university. For more information, see the SCSU Student Handbook or BOR/CSCU code of conduct.
- B. Behavior that falls under the heading of academic misconduct, includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism and all forms of cheating. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. The use of unauthorized assistance in taking examinations. The giving and receiving of aid on examinations.
  - b. Use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments
  - c. The acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff. The theft of course material
  - d. Engaging in any other behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus

C. Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another writer and presenting them as your own. It is a kind of academic theft and is therefore dishonest. Once your name appears on an essay or term paper, you are stating that the ideas and language in the paper that are not attributed to another are entirely your own, and the reader assumes that this is your work. An obvious form of plagiarism is copying the exact words from your source without providing quotation marks and without giving credit to the source, usually in a citation. A less obvious, but equally dishonest form of plagiarism is the changing of a few words (paraphrasing) or using of an author's original idea without properly introducing and documenting that change or usage. The ideas, interpretations, and words of an author belong to the author. They are the author's property. They are protected by law and they must be acknowledged whenever you borrow them.

D. An incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in the following ways:

a. The instructor may take direct action, including personal reprimand, or re-examination, additional assignments, lowering of the grade for the paper or course, failure in the exam or the course itself. In all cases, the instructor shall inform his/her department chairperson and the appropriate dean in writing.

The Judicial Officer may also be notified. Students shall have the right to appeal the decision of the instructor, or the sanction imposed by utilizing the Grade Change Policy found in the Academic Information of the current SCSU Student Handbook. Students will be referred to the Judicial Officer.

b. If an instance of academic misconduct is reported by a member of the university community other than the relevant instructor, the Vice President or Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designees will inform the Academic Vice President or his/her designee. The Academic Vice President or his/her designee will inform the relevant instructor. If disciplinary action seems warranted, "the case will be presented to the appropriate Judicial Officer or Board or panel by the Vice President of Student and University Affairs." (SCSU Student Handbook), also see current SCSU Student Code of Conduct Policy on Academic Misconduct.

c. Students are also not permitted to purchase (from paper mills or other sources) or share papers (or parts of a paper) and submit them for course/program written requirements in the nursing program. Students are also not allowed to submit a paper for one course that has been used in another course. Any work that is assigned as individual work (such as a written paper or take-home test) must be completed only as the student's own work- assistance from others or group work is not permitted and is considered an act of academic dishonesty.

d. **Social media** is defined as a method of communicating electronically through use of chat rooms, blogs, share sites, social networking sites, video or web broadcasting sites and other online forums of any kind.

a. Electronic communications are not considered a secure method for transmitting confidential or private information. Examples of social media include but are not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, blogs, Flickr, YouTube, Wikipedia, Podcasts, MySpace, Allnurses.com, Instagram, RSS feeds. Improper use of social media by nursing students may violate state and federal laws

established to protect confidentiality and can result in both civil and criminal penalties, including fines and possible jail time.

- i. No texting, talking or cell phone use in clinical areas or classroom/lab without permission of faculty. Cell phones/smartphones are only allowed for information gathering related to clinical situation (if permitted by faculty or agency) during clinical, laboratory, or classroom time. Otherwise, cell phones need to be *turned off*.
  - ii. No videotaping or still pictures of patients/clients/clinical sites without written permission of patient, faculty and institution, or clinical site.
  - iii. No videotaping or still pictures of professors or fellow students for personal or social media use without written permission of those you are taking pictures of or videotaping.
  - iv. Clinical agencies/sites may require further restrictions that must be adhered to.
- b. Online comments by nursing students regarding faculty, peers, coworkers, and clinical sites, even if posted after clinical or didactic hours may constitute lateral violence or misuse of social media. Lateral violence includes disruptive behaviors of intimidation and bullying which is detrimental to the School of Nursing faculty and students and may result in legal action against the nursing student. As nursing students, you will want to represent the school in a fair and positive manner and need to keep in mind social media sites are public and information accessed can be traced back to the sender even after they have been deleted. Nothing posted or transmitted by social media is private.

#### Consequences

- a. Violation of the social media policies will result in school, University or other disciplinary action. (SCSU Student Handbook)
- F. BOR/CSCU-SCSU Student Code of Conduct – Students are expected to adhere to all provisions of the current Student Code of Conduct as posted on the SCSU website.

#### G. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The STUDENT HANDBOOK outlines procedural information for student grievances.

#### V. STUDENT BEHAVIORS

The following behaviors and actions are recognized as fundamental to nursing practice. The ANA Guide to the Code of Ethics for Nurses (2008) provides the framework for these student expectations.

- A. Students Clinical Expectations:
  1. Demonstrates responsibility and accountability for practice by adhering to course expectations
  2. Demonstrates responsibility and accountability by completing written assignments on time
  3. Demonstrates respect for patients and the profession of nursing by adhering to the SCSU School of Nursing and agency dress code policies/behavioral expectations



4. Maintains privacy and confidentiality of health related information. **Students can only access their assigned patient information when they are directly caring for the patient during their SCSU nursing course clinical shift.**
5. Delivers care in a non-judgmental and non-discriminatory manner sensitive to client diversity
6. Realistically assesses own strengths and limitations, seeks help appropriately and is responsive to constructive criticism regarding performance
7. Seeks out new opportunities for learning and professional development
8. Demonstrates adequate preparation for clinical responsibilities
9. **Students cannot access their clinical site unless it is their assigned clinical shift when they are with their SCSU Clinical Faculty member or assigned clinical site preceptor or assigned clinical agency nursing staff member.**
10. Works in collaboration with team members and agencies
11. **Only administers medications as assigned by their SCSU Clinical Faculty member and under the direct supervision of the student's SCSU Clinical Faculty member.**
12. **Students are required to follow all clinical agency policies and procedures during their clinical practicum at their assigned clinical agency.**

B. Examples of student nurse behaviors which may result in clinical probation, dismissal, and/or failure include:

1. Falsifying a client's record
2. Violation of HIPAA regulations (i.e., breach of clients' confidentiality)
3. Failure to adhere to principles of safe nursing practice (i.e., safe medication administration)
4. Inadequate preparation for clinical responsibilities
5. Inability to recognize limitations and failure to seek appropriate help in time-sensitive situations
6. Dishonest communication with clients, families, faculty, agency staff
7. Denying responsibility for one's actions
8. Participation in actions that may threaten the safety of clients, peers, faculty, others in the clinical setting (i.e., being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, verbal/sexual/physical abuse)

- C. Unsafe practice is a violation of any part whatsoever of the above identified areas of safe practice. (Refer to the SCSU Student Handbook grievance policy.)
1. Unsafe practice, in any form, results in Disciplinary Action.
  2. A student will be suspended from the clinical experience immediately if, in the professional judgment of a faculty member, the student has demonstrated unsafe practice in a clinical/laboratory area or exhibited unprofessional behavior.
  3. The faculty member, as the primary clinical instructor, who suspended the student will immediately notify the Course Director and Chairperson of the BSN Program Committee.
  4. It is understood that the primary clinical instructor is solely responsible for evaluating the student and assigning the student grade for the clinical experience. The BSN Program Committee, ACE (Accelerated BSN) Program Committee, or the RN-BSN Program Committee serves as a forum for record keeping and notice to the student and is not responsible for grading the student. (SCSU Student Handbook.) The clinical faculty is responsible for notifying the student of the grade for clinical.
5. In the event a student demonstrates unsafe practice in the clinical setting the agency standards may take precedence **over the School of Nursing guidelines**
6. The students have the right to appeal the final course grade (see SCSU Student Handbook)

## VIII PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION/LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### National Student Nurses' Association

#### Southern Connecticut State University Student Nurses' Association

This organization's membership is open to all students attending Southern Connecticut State University who are interested in nursing as a major or are currently enrolled in the nursing school. Becoming a member requires payment of dues to the National Student Nurses' Association which automatically makes one a member of the Connecticut Student Nurses' Association.

Southern Connecticut State University Student Nurses' Association functions under a Constitution and Bylaws in concert with the National Student Nurses' Association and is associated with the Student Activity Program at Southern.

Students are encouraged to join and maintain membership in SCSU NSNA as a beginning professional activity.

Southern Connecticut State University Multicultural Healthcare Leaders/CT Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses functions under a bylaws of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses and Southern Connecticut State University.

Students are encouraged to join and maintain membership in SCSU MCHL as a beginning professional activity.

## SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL Mu Beta Chapter

Sigma Theta Tau is an International Nursing Honor Society. Students completing their junior year or RNs who have completed one-half of the nursing components are invited to join the organization if they have met the following criteria: a 3.0 G.P.A., (rank not lower than the highest 35 percent in their class in scholarship) and meet the professional standards of the Nursing Program. Membership includes graduate and undergraduate nursing students, alumni, faculty, and community nursing leaders.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES

Students may volunteer to represent the junior or senior level class at BSN Committee and ACE Committee meetings during the year. Students are responsible for bringing student suggestions and/or concerns to the BSN Committee and to share information from the Traditional BSN and ACE (Accelerated BSN) Committee meetings with students in their class.

## IX AWARDS

### **“Immaculata M. Alba Excellence in Nursing” Award**

The School of Nursing will present an “Immaculata M. Alba Excellence in Nursing” Award to the Traditional BSN graduating senior(s) in recognition of excellence in academic theory and clinical practice. The Award will be made to a graduating senior(s) who, in the opinion of the faculty, has/have demonstrated a high degree of excellence in nursing and has/have attained a GPA, including grades of “B” or better in all nursing courses.

The award will be presented at the Honors Convocation by the Department Chairperson and at the Pinning Ceremony.

### **Bernadette Madara ACE Honors Award**

**Description:** The School of Nursing (SON) will present a “Bernadette Madara ACE Honors Award” to the graduating ACE student in recognition of their demonstration of academic honors and excellence in clinical nursing practice.

**Eligibility:** The Award will be made to a graduating ACE student who has completed all other requirements for graduation at the time of Pinning. The awardee will have achieved academic honors status and in the opinion of the faculty has demonstrated excellence in clinical nursing practice. Excellence in clinical nursing practice is evidenced by professionalism, implementing safe quality care, while never losing sight of the patient and family’s experience.

**Selection of the Awardee:** The Director of the ACE Program will identify graduating students meeting the GPA Honors requirement. Faculty will be notified of students eligible for the award and be provided an opportunity to submit nominations to be considered by the ACE Curriculum Committee and faculty teaching in the ACE Program in selecting the recipient of the award. Only nominations that provide specific details as to the candidate’s exemplary demonstration of the award criteria will be considered.

**Timeline for Selection of Awardee(s):** No later than 1-week prior to final exams.

**Presentation of the Award(s):** The Director of the ACE Program will present the award at the ACE Pinning Ceremony

### **“Service” Award**

The School of Nursing may present a “Service” Award to a graduating senior(s) in recognition of outstanding performance and commitment to pre-professional, community activities and/or unique learning experiences, which enhance the educational process.

The Award will be made to a graduating senior(s) who has/have attained at least a 2.7 or greater total GPA. Students eligible for the Award will be notified by the Chairperson of the School of Nursing and asked to submit substantiating evidence for their involvement in pre-professional, community and/or other activities. Students may nominate (or self-nominate) a peer for this award.

At the School Faculty Meeting, the faculty will have the opportunity to submit additional data and determine the recipient(s) of the Award.

The Award will be presented at the Honors Convocation by the Department Chairperson and at the Pinning ceremony.

### “CLN Peer Recognition Award”

Students will be asked to nominate a peer who exhibits clinical excellence for the CLN Peer Recognition Award every year. The award is presented at the CLN Annual Student Day in the fall.

### “Mary Ann Glendon ACE Leadership Award”

Description: The School of Nursing (SON) will present a “Mary Ann Glendon ACE Leadership Award” to the graduating ACE student in recognition of their demonstration of leadership and serving as a role model for their peers.

Eligibility: The Award will be made to a graduating ACE student who, in the opinion of the faculty has through their prior life experiences, has enhanced their nursing professionalism, and embraced the student nursing role utilizing compassion for patients and their peers, being encouraging, and nurturing to the SON community. The Awardee will have demonstrated advanced time-management skills, and leadership while in the challenging ACE curriculum, achieved a grade of B or above in all nursing courses, and will have successfully completed all other requirements for graduation from the ACE program.

Selection of the Awardee: The Director of the ACE Program will identify graduating students meeting the GPA requirement. Faculty will be notified of students eligible for the award and be provided an opportunity to submit nominations to be considered by the ACE Curriculum Committee and faculty teaching in the ACE Program in selecting the recipient of the award. Only nominations that provide specific details as to the candidate’s exemplary demonstration of the award criteria will be considered.

Timeline for Selection of Awardee(s): No later than 1-week prior to final exams.

Presentation of the Award(s): The Director of the ACE Program will present the award at the ACE Pinning Ceremony

### Other Awards and Scholarships

Other student awards and scholarships may become available for students in the nursing program. Students are encouraged to review the bulletin board outside the nursing lab periodically for scholarship announcements.

These policies are reviewed yearly by the School of Nursing Faculty. Students will be notified of the policies at the beginning of the fall semester of their junior year and then yearly if any substantive revisions are made.

Appendix A  
Direct Admit Progression Policy

- D. Students, who were admitted to the Nursing Program through the Direct Admission application pathway, must achieve the following by end of Fall semester of sophomore year in order to progress into the BSN upper division major courses in the Undergraduate Traditional Baccalaureate Program in Nursing:
- 1) Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. [and]
  - 2) Completion of at least 7 of the 11 required pre-requisite courses with a C+ or greater [and]
  - 3) No more than 2 earned grades lower than a C+ for any of the required nursing prerequisite courses

Students, who do not meet the above criteria\*, will need to re-apply for admission as outlined in Step 2 of the College Admission pathway application process. This includes the following:

- 1) Complete BSN Nursing Application, which is accessible on the Nursing School's home page, and submit by February 1<sup>st</sup>. All information pertaining to the application will be provided on the application itself.
- 2) TEAS exam completed through ATI testing with score submitted by February 1<sup>st</sup>

Note: Admission to the nursing program is competitive. Although the minimum Commutative GPA required for the application is a 3.4, the average cumulative GPA is much higher for those admitted to the program. Qualified applicants may not be accepted because of a limit in the number of clinical placements. Cumulative GPA, GPA in just the prerequisite courses, and the TEAS exam score will be used as a way of evaluating students for acceptance into the nursing program. The number of repeated prerequisite courses are also taken into consideration.

\*Note: Students who have more than 2 earned grades lower than C+ for any of the required nursing prerequisite courses are not eligible to re-apply for admission.