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Revised 2/2014 DW,cp
This Student Handbook is designed to provide you with information about Nursing Programs. It is to be used in conjunction with the PHSC College Catalog and the nursing course syllabus for each course. Every effort is made to keep the information in this Handbook current. However, policy and procedural changes may be made at any time. Therefore, please check with your clinical instructor each semester. It is your responsibility to keep up to date. Any portion of the Nursing Programs Handbook may be revised at any time by action of the Nursing Department. Such revision shall be binding on all parties.

Accreditation
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
Pasco-Hernando State College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award Associate and Baccalaureate Degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Pasco-Hernando State College.
Section I
Nursing Programs Overview
Nursing Program’s Mission
The Nursing Programs at Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC) serve to support and assist in implementing the philosophy and objectives of the college through the Associate Degree Nursing Program, the Technical Certificate Practical Nursing Program, and continuing education for licensed nurses. Members of the nursing faculty recognize their responsibilities to support diverse learning experiences which guide students in attaining academic success and cultural growth, to build and expand their knowledge and skills to promote their own personal and professional development and to participate in community activities in a global society.

Purpose
The Technical Certificate Practical Nursing Program will:
1. Prepare an educated entry level practitioner who provides safe, competent nursing care to clients experiencing defined health needs with predictable outcomes in a variety of nurse practice settings.
2. Provide a foundation for future education in nursing and lifelong learning.
3. Foster a commitment to the art and science of nursing.
4. Provide opportunities for cultural enrichment and for personal and professional development.

Nursing Philosophy
The PHSC nursing faculty believes that nursing is an art and a science with its own unique body of knowledge. This body of knowledge is derived from the scientific and/or theoretical principles of the arts, nursing and the physical, biological, social and behavioral sciences.

The nursing faculty believes that the core concepts of nursing are the person, health, environment, and nursing. We believe that each person is a unique and holistic individual with dynamic basic health needs which are critical to physiological and psychological integrity. The person, as a client, is a consumer of health care. We believe that health is a dynamic state in which a person adapts to changes in his/her internal and external environments to maintain physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual well-being. We believe that the environment consists of all internal and external factors that influence the person. These factors include but are not limited to physical, bio psychosocial, and cultural surroundings. We believe that nursing is the interactive, holistic process whereby a client is assisted to attain and maintain an optimal level of health within a nurse practice setting. A client is a person, family, or community. A nurse practice setting is anywhere the physical and/or psychosocial relationship of nursing care is established.

The nursing faculty believes that nursing process provides the framework for analysis of the practice of nursing and helps to incorporate the ability of the nurse to function in identified, interactive roles. Nursing roles are defined as: provider of care, communicator, teacher, manager and member of profession. The nursing faculty further believes that nursing education provides the pre-requisite knowledge and environment for: nursing students to develop practice and evaluate critical thinking and clinical judgment based on their scope of practice relative to their licensure status.

Nursing Education
The nursing faculty believes that nursing education is a dynamic interactive process that utilizes theoretical instruction and clinical practice in a curriculum developed by nursing faculty. Opportunities are provided for students to progressively apply the nursing process to client care across the lifespan in a variety of nurse practice settings. Learning experiences reflect the unifying curriculum concepts within the cognitive, psychomotor and affective domains of learning.

The nursing faculty believes that learning is a lifelong process that proceeds at varying rates and one in which new information and experiences are incorporated into and become a part of each individual's cognitive framework. New information and experiences are incorporated into an individual's cognitive framework more readily when presented from simple to complex and from common (more frequently occurring) to uncommon (less frequently occurring). Learning is demonstrated by changes in attitudes and behavior. Motivation for these changes must take place within the learner and is facilitated by the teaching-learning process that leads to self-discovery.
The nursing faculty believes that the evaluation of teaching and of learning is ongoing formative and summative processes. We believe that self-evaluation and instructional evaluation are integral parts of education. Instructional evaluation is predicated on the responsibility of nursing faculty to maintain expertise in their respective areas such as teaching, service, clinical practice and/or scholarship. Curriculum evaluation is based on established philosophy and objectives, outcome achievement, and regulatory/accredited agency guidelines that are reviewed annually by nursing faculty. Opportunities for student contribution are provided. Faculty, students and a Nursing Advisory Committee participate in review of Nursing Program outcomes.

The nursing faculty believes that the Practical Nursing program is the entry level into the practice of nursing. The nursing faculty further believes that associate degree nurses are prepared to provide client services in a variety of nurse practice settings and administer care to clients experiencing defined health needs with predictable outcomes. Practical Nurses assist with client care under the supervision of the Registered Nurse and within the limits set in the scope of practice.

The nursing faculty further believes that the Associate Degree Program in Nursing (ADN) is the minimum preparation for practice as a registered nurse and that it spans a period of at least two years in an academic setting. The location of the ADN Program and the Technical Certificate Practical Nursing Program within the community college setting is appropriate to acquire the necessary body of knowledge for individuals to take their places in the community as educated productive citizens prepared for competent technical and practical nursing practice. This setting provides educational opportunities without regard to race, color, age, religion, marital status, sex, disability or national origin.

This philosophy statement, as developed by PHSC nursing faculty, is in agreement with the standards set forth by the Florida State Board of Nursing, the Florida Department of Education, and with the criteria established by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

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Faculty Workshop, Pasco-Hernando Community College, April, 1981.
Faculty Review and Revision May 1993, January 1994.
Faculty Review and Approval, May 1994.
Nursing Advisory Committee Review and Approval, January 1995.
Faculty Review and Revision, 1999/2000
Faculty Review and Revision, 2004/2005
Faculty Review and Revision, 2014

**Nursing Scholarship**

To ensure an academically rigorous and structured approach to nursing education, the nursing faculty have adopted the following definition of nursing scholarship, which is reflected in the nursing curriculum.

**Definition of Nursing Scholarship**

The efforts whereby an individual or group of individuals applies learned knowledge in order to promote professional growth of a discipline. The efforts (activities) include but are not limited to: clinical practice, writing for professional journals; participating in review/edition/writing of textbooks; attendance at conferences to engage in critical thinking/learning activities; participating in community, national and international associations, and participating in research development of educational engagement/mentoring activities to improve learning outcomes.

Furthermore, the Nursing Faculty believes that it is imperative to provide learning opportunities for both faculty and students to participate in the pursuit of nursing scholarship activities so as to improve both student and professional outcomes.

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Nursing Faculty Meeting, May, 2010
Faculty Review, 2014
Nursing Program Conceptual Framework
The unifying concepts for the nursing program at PHSC are the basic health needs, roles of the nurse and nursing process. These concepts, as defined by this faculty are:

### Basic Health Needs: The basic health needs, which are influenced by internal and external factors are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Health Needs</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oxygenation</td>
<td>Is the need to maintain normal circulatory and respiratory functions as indicated by established physiological factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>Is the need to ingest and metabolize foods and fluids in order to build and restore tissues and to promote balance of fluids and electrolytes within the body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elimination</td>
<td>Is the need to discard products of metabolism that are no longer useful to the body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>Is the need for movement within the environment to perform activities of living and to maneuver safely at an optimum level for the person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfort/Safety</td>
<td>Is the need to maintain a positive image, and an environment that is conducive to adequate rest and sleep patterns, and to manage stress and pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Is the need to function in an environment that provides for protection against disease and assaults or insults to the person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Roles of the Nurse
The roles of the Practical Nurse in assisting client(s) to meet basic health needs are identified as follows:

**Provider of Care:** As provider of care, the Practical Nurse utilizes nursing principles, critical thinking and interactive skills to assist the Registered Nurse in the provision of individualized client care, characterized by caring, clinical competence and accountability.

**Communicator:** As a communicator the Practical Nurse demonstrates cultural awareness, individual respect and unconditional regard for the client and the client’s choices. This is accomplished through the use of verbal and non-verbal interactive skills that support a therapeutic environment of caring, compassion and trust. The Practical Nurse effectively interacts with the client, significant others, colleagues and other members of the health care team to provide bio-psycho-social support for the client as well as assist the Registered Nurse to promote positive client outcomes.

**Teacher:** As a teacher the Practical Nurse reinforces information provided to clients based on awareness of teaching and learning principles to help improve positive outcomes.

**Manager of Care:** As a manager of care, the Practical Nurse participates as a member of the interdisciplinary health care team under the direction of the Registered Nurse to assist in the efficient delivery of care.

**Member of Profession:** As a member of a profession, the Practical Nurse demonstrates a commitment to caring, professional growth, continuous learning and self-development, and practices within the legal and ethical parameters of nursing based on standard of care and scope of practice.

### Nursing Process
The nursing process provides an operational framework for the nurse to insure safe, effective care. The nurse utilizes critical thinking to effectively implement the nursing process and provide the basis for appropriate clinical decision making. Critical thinking is the use of reasoning in the analysis, synthesis and evaluation of client data and other information. Clinical decisions are judgments made resulting in therapeutic nursing interventions to increase the effectiveness of care and mobilize resources to attain positive client outcomes. The following table differentiates the role of the ADN and the LPN in each component of the nursing process.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process Component</th>
<th>LPN</th>
<th>ADN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment</strong></td>
<td>Collects pertinent data/information. Contributes in the initial and ongoing Assessments to be used in initial and ongoing observations for patients</td>
<td>Assesses pertinent data/information and uses that information to formulate a plan of care for patients and/or a group of patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nursing Diagnosis</strong></td>
<td>Assists with, performs, supports, and contributes in the formulation of the patient nursing diagnosis.</td>
<td>Formulates and prioritizes nursing diagnosis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Planning</strong></td>
<td>Performs interventions, supports, and contributes to the plan of care for the patient.</td>
<td>Manages, implements, supports, and contributes to the plan of care for the patient. Determines and prioritizes care outcomes. Implements therapeutic and preventive nursing treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implementation</strong></td>
<td>Performs activities related to plan of care.</td>
<td>Performs or delegates activities to be performed related to the plan of care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluation</strong></td>
<td>Observes and reports outcomes and assists with the revision to the patient’s plan of care through collaboration with the RN and other healthcare members.</td>
<td>Decides on the effectiveness of care and modifies the plan of care based on the change in the patient condition and clinical judgment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Furthermore, the nursing faculty has defined major curriculum threads that are addressed throughout the nursing programs. The major curriculum threads are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth and Development</th>
<th>are the individualized orderly, anticipated, dynamic processes beginning with conception and continuing to death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>is the study of the source, properties, uses, action and effects of any oral, parenteral, or topical substance used to alleviate symptoms of and treat or control a disease process or aid recovery from an injury.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathophysiology</td>
<td>is the study of altered function of body organs and systems. Actual or potential pathophysiologic change indicates the need for nursing assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>includes the processes involved in the taking in of nutrients in order to maintain and improve optimal body functioning and maintenance of health. These include metabolic processes such as but not limited to ingestion, digestion, absorption, assimilation and excretion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Awareness/Gender Diversity</td>
<td>includes the recognition of and respect for the effects of a person’s values, beliefs, attitudes, customs, lifestyle and gender on health care and health care related choices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Promotion</td>
<td>is the provision of knowledge and resources necessary to enable the client to maintain or to enhance a present level of health.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Faculty Review and Revision, March – April, 1999
Faculty Review and Revision, May, 2000
Faculty Review and Revision, May, 2004/2005
Faculty Review and Revision, 2014
Nursing Department Organizational Chart: ADN and LPN
The chart below depicts the organizational structure of the Nursing Department: ADN and LPN programs. As programs are run on multiple campuses, there is a distribution of available services based on course offerings. The Associate Dean of Nursing serves to oversee ADN and LPN programs and performs faculty evaluations for full time faculty in addition to handling administrative issues relative to these nursing programs. The Associate Dean is responsible for providing direction and decision making relative to student issues. The Associate Dean of Nursing reports to the Dean of Health Occupations.

The Clinical Coordinator reports to the Associate Dean and helps to coordinate clinical placement for students along with working with faculty regarding clinical site issues. The Clinical Coordinator is responsible for evaluating adjunct clinical faculty. Additionally, the Clinical Coordinator is involved in student evaluations related to lab skill performance when indicated. The Clinical Coordinator may be involved in direction and decision making relative to student issues if the need arises in terms of chain of command.

For each nursing course combination, (with the exception of NUR 2820 Role & Scope), a full time faculty member maintains a role as the Course Primary Faculty. This full time faculty member is responsible for coordination of the specific course ensuring consistency across campuses. In addition, the Course Primary Faculty serves as the initial point of contact should there be a student issue that requires additional consideration. The Course Primary Faculty notifies the Clinical Coordinator and/or the Associate Dean of Nursing in terms of chain of command. If an issue arises on a remote campus, the Associate Dean for that campus should be notified about the student situation. Additionally, the Provost for the remote campus may also be contacted regarding the student issue.

Nursing faculty consists of both full time and adjunct members. Distribution of faculty is based on campus and course offerings. Lab facilitators contribute to clinical simulation labs and nursing skills labs. Distributions of lab facilitators are based on campus assignment. Staff assistants are present on North, West and Porter campus at the present time.

With regard to a nursing student issue of concern, the chain of command is as follows: (1) Course faculty, (2) Course Primary Faculty, (3) Clinical Coordinator and (4) Associate Dean of Nursing. To make an appointment with the Clinical Coordinator and/or Associate Dean, please contact the Staff Assistant on West campus.
Pasco-Hernando State College
Nursing Department Organizational Chart - ADN and LPN

Associate Dean of Nursing

Clinical Coordinator

Generic Track*

Transition Track*

Practical Nursing Track*

*Course Specific

*Course Primary Faculty

*Course Nursing Faculty

Staff Assistants – North, West & Porter Campus

Lab Facilitators – West, East/North & Porter Campus

West Campus:  Generic, Transition, Practical Nursing Days and Practical Nursing Evenings/Weekend

East Campus:  Generic Days and Generic Evening/Weekend +

North Campus: Transition Evening and Practical Nursing Days

Porter Campus:  Generic Days and Practical Nursing Evening/Weekend

+ - Sponsored Group /HIB Grant

Subject to change dependent upon enrollment, sponsorship and needs assessment – January 2014
Technical Certificate Practical Nursing Program

The Practical Nursing Program consists of a three (3) semester track, (1350 technical credit hour), is designed for the student with no previous nursing education. See current year’s Catalog and Student Handbook.

Graduates of this program are eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) in accordance with the regulations set for the Florida Nurse Practice Act.

Program Objectives

The objectives for the graduate of the Practical Nursing Program are to:

1. Utilize the nursing process in giving care, applying concepts of human growth and development, therapeutic principles of nutrition and cultural awareness according to established standards.
2. Utilize data collection skills to provide individualized care.
3. Utilize communication skills effectively in interactions with clients and their families, health team members and care agency personnel.
5. Provide hygienic care and assist the client with activities of daily living.
6. Provide nursing care for clients with more frequently occurring health needs affecting oxygenation, nutrition and hydration, elimination, comfort and safety, security, and mobility.
7. Provide nursing care for a group of 4-6 clients experiencing acute and chronic illnesses that are common and well defined, under the direction of the experienced Registered Nurse.
8. Administer medications and specific treatments safely.
9. Participate as a member of the interdisciplinary health care team.
10. Demonstrate a commitment to self-growth, practicing within the framework of the profession’s legal and ethical parameters based on standard of care and scope of practice.
11. Suggest and adapt to constructive changes in the health care delivery system, utilizing appropriate channels of communication.
12. Demonstrate employability skills specific to practical nursing

Intended Outcomes

The objectives for the graduate of the Practical Nursing Program are based on meeting the essential competencies outlined by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE). They are:

Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Student Performance Standards, specifically intended outcomes 1-16 complete the occupational completion point of A of Basic Healthcare Worker SOC Code 31-9099.

Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Student Performance Standards, specifically intended outcomes 17-27 complete the occupational completion point of B of Nurse Aide and Orderly SOC Code 31-1014.

Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Student Performance Standards, specifically intended outcomes 28-48 complete the occupational completion point C of Licensed Practical Nurse SOC Code 29-2061 (Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurse).

Please refer to the FDOE Curriculum Frameworks page for the most up to date information: http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/
PART II
Student Policies
Pasco-Hernando State College

Code of Academic and Clinical Integrity
Honesty Integrity Respect Responsibility and Ethics (HIRRE)

PHSC nursing students strive for HIRRE nursing accountability

You have chosen to enter one of the most trusted professions in the world. Studies have shown that both in the United States and other areas of the world, people have a trust and faith in nurses that far surpasses most other professions. With this honor also comes an incredible responsibility to conduct yourself in a manner that is deserving of this trust. This responsibility does not begin at graduation; it begins upon admission into the nursing program.

You have an obligation to report students that are violating the HIRRE principles.

As a PHSC nursing student, you are expected to conduct yourself with honesty and integrity in both the academic and clinical settings.

- Academic honesty and integrity involves refraining from lying, cheating, plagiarizing or doing anything to gain an unfair academic advantage. Honesty and integrity also includes reporting unethical behavior that is being conducted by other students.
- Clinical honesty and integrity involves refraining from falsifying information (such as vital signs and intake and output records), seeking out your clinical instructor if you have made a mistake, and only documenting care that was provided.

As a PHSC nursing student, you will demonstrate respect for your instructors, peers, and patients.

- Respect for your instructors includes calling them by their last names, refraining from talking when the instructor is speaking, and raising your hand if you have a question in class.
- In class, respect for your peers includes refraining from talking when another student is speaking, refraining from making comments when another student has a question, and never making fun of other students.
- In clinical, respect for your patient includes refraining from talking down to your patients, maintaining an appropriate provider/patient relationship, and treating your patients as you would want to be treated.

As a PHSC nursing student, you will demonstrate responsibility for your actions.

- Academic responsibility includes handing assignments in on time and not representing the work of another as your own. You should never give your paper work to another student taking the same course, and should not accept paperwork or guidance from other students regarding exams or assignments.
- Clinically, responsibility refers to the execution of duties associated with the student nurse’s particular role, depending upon where you are in the program. Clinical responsibility involves arriving on time to your clinical agencies, remaining there the entire time even if you are at an observational site and your instructor is not present, and informing your instructor if changes in the assignment occur. Failure to perform these acts can be considered patient abandonment.
- Inappropriate use of social media is not permitted and can result in HIPPA violations.

As a PHSC nursing student, you will demonstrate ethics in your conduct. Ethics involve the following principles:

- Nonmaleficence- not inflicting harm; the duty to do no harm to others
- Beneficence- benefiting others by doing good; the duty to do good, not harm to others
- Justice- involves treating others fairly
- Fidelity- faithfulness, means that student nurses keep the promises they make to their patients, peers, and instructors, and involves the duty to be true and loyal to others
If you wish to report a violation of these principles, please obtain a Student Situation Report form and place it in the HIRRE drop box on your campus. Consequences for violations of these principles will depend upon the severity of the infraction. Specific information regarding cheating and plagiarism can be found in the student handbook. Violations may result in disciplinary procedures.

**Criminal Background Checks**

Although not a requirement for admission, each student after admission to a nursing program must obtain a criminal background check. This is required by the hospitals we use for our clinical rotations. These checks are required in order for students to participate in the clinical activities in these agencies. The clinical agency has the right to deny a student access to their facility, which may result in the student’s inability to both satisfy the course clinical objectives and complete the nursing program.

All students are required by the college (at their own expense) to obtain a Criminal Background Check from the company Certified Background (www.certifiedbackground.com) a minimum of once a year. The cost is $64.00 for the initial check and $49.00 for rechecks. Students are to initially submit two (2) paper copies to the Nursing Programs office at the time of program orientation and sign the “Consent for Release for Criminal Background Check” form so that information can be released to the student’s assigned clinical agency.

In addition, students are required to provide an updated background check, two (2) paper copies, after their first year in any nursing program, or if any changes occur during the program, to the Nursing Programs office.

A more in-depth Level 2 background check may be required of select clinical agencies. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain this additional background check (as directed by faculty). The Level 2 background check results are reported directly to the nursing office.

**Health Clearance**

Upon admission to the Health Programs, a current complete physical examination is required utilizing the Health Programs Physical Examination Report (SAR-40) provided for that purpose. Students cannot enter the clinical setting until this requirement has been satisfied. The health records are reviewed by the Associate Dean of Nursing and/or the Clinical Coordinator and are retained in the student records in that office.

In instances of major illness, surgery, accident, or an infectious disease, students will be asked by faculty/Associate Dean of Nursing to submit a physician’s statement of release prior to reentering campus and/or clinical settings. A repeat physical exam may be required. Failure to provide faculty of any health concerns places the client, staff and other students in jeopardy.

Since some clinical practice settings or assignments may be contraindicated during pregnancy, the student needs to advise the clinical faculty of the pregnancy. Reasonable accommodations will be made so that the student can meet required course outcomes.

The Associate Dean of Nursing may require a student to obtain an IPN (Impaired Nurse Program) evaluation or a urine drug screening test, as a condition to re-enter or to continue in the nursing program, when there is sufficient reason to suspect substance abuse may be present.
**Drug/Alcohol Screen Policy**

Upon admission to the nursing programs, current (within the last three (3) months), negative drug/alcohol screens are required. Student may be required to repeat the drug/alcohol screens per clinical agency request.

Students cannot enter specific clinical settings until the requirement is satisfied. The drug/alcohol screens are reviewed by the Associate Dean, Nursing Programs or an approved designee and may be utilized by the clinical agency to determine student clearance for clinical placement. Failure to submit drug/alcohol screens or positive results may prevent progression in the program.

**Insurance Coverage**

The College does require Health Program students to purchase liability/malpractice insurance for clinical assignments. The required liability insurance fee is incorporated annually into tuition fees, fee subject to change.

The College does not carry health or accident insurance for students or family members. In the event of an accidental needle stick or unprotected exposure to blood or body fluids, the student should immediately report the incident to their clinical instructor and is advised to seek advice from their healthcare provider regarding treatment and follow-up. Neither the college nor the clinical agency will pay for any treatment rendered as a result of accidents or injuries that occur while on clinical assignment, however, students will purchase, through the college, accident insurance to cover clinical accidents and injuries only. The insurance cost for accidents and injury in the clinical setting is $8.00 per year.

**Disability Statement**

Pasco-Hernando State College provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities in compliance with *Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*. A student who is in need of one or more accommodations for a disability must make a request either verbally or in writing to the Coordinator of Disabilities Services. In the event that a request is made directly to an instructor or other staff member, the instructor or staff member must refer the student to the Coordinator of Disabilities Services. The student must self-identify the disability by completing the *Self Identification and Authorization Form for Students with Disabilities* (SDS-1) as well as provide documentation of the disability that complies with the PHSC published Guidelines for Documentation of a Disability. Confidentiality is strictly maintained for any records provided to the Office of Disabilities Services related to the student’s disability. Under the law, PHSC is allowed to request documentation that reflects the current functioning of the student.

**Attendance**

**Theory and/or Lab**

Students are expected to attend all class, laboratory, and clinical sessions and to be on time. Any absences from class and laboratory sessions are to be reported by phone to the faculty to which assigned, prior to the class or laboratory time. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any information provided on the day of absence including handouts, directions, class notes, etc. from class members. It is the responsibility of the student to make an appointment to see the faculty responsible for the class to clarify any questions. PN student hours are recorded in clock hours and all time is accounted for and reported for financial aid considerations. Nursing students must be in compliance with required college policies related to attendance verification for courses.

**Clinical Absences and Tardiness**

Student’s arriving late for clinical will be advised by the faculty or preceptor regarding his/her ability to complete the clinical activity. Any absences from or tardiness for clinical sessions are to be reported by phone to the clinical facility prior to the start of the clinical day/activity. Phone numbers for clinical agencies will be provided. Students may not miss more than 10% of the total clinical days. For example, if a course has 10 clinical days, 10% of that equals 1 day. Limited exceptions to the clinical absence policy may be made on an individual basis by clinical faculty in consultation with the Associate Dean of Nursing.

Revised 2/2014 DW,cp
Make-up assignments, including days of absence, are at the faculty’s discretion and availability, and the availability of clinical space. Absences late in the semester may result in a clinical unsatisfactory and failing grade in the course. Students are required to stay on clinical site, unless authorized to leave by faculty.

STUDENTS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE POLICIES REGARDING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AS OUTLINED IN THE COLLEGE’S CATALOG AND STUDENT HANDBOOK.

PHSC’S POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY INCLUDES CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM.

CHEATING IS DEFINED AS THE GIVING OR TAKING OF INFORMATION OR MATERIAL WITH THE PURPOSE OF WRONGFULLY AIDING ONESELF OR ANOTHER PERSON IN ACADEMIC WORK THAT IS TO BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING A GRADE.

Examples of cheating include: eyes wandering onto another’s exam/Scantron; papers with notes for reference during test; tape recording and open discussion of exam with another during test break (bathroom, in corridor). Refer to current PHSC Catalog/Handbook regarding Academic Dishonesty.

PLAGIARISM, OR LITERARY THEFT, IS DEFINED AS APPROPRIATING THE LITERARY COMPOSITION OF ANOTHER PERSON, INCLUDING PARTS, PASSAGES, OR LANGUAGE OF THAT WRITING, AND PASSING OFF THE APPROPRIATED MATERIAL AS ONE’S OWN. PLAGIARISM IS THE FAILURE TO GIVE PROPER CREDIT OR CITATION TO ONE’S SOURCE(S) OF INFORMATION. IT INCLUDES THE FAILURE TO USE CONVENTIONAL METHODS OF DOCUMENTATION FOR MATERIAL QUOTED OR PARAPHRASED. ADDITIONALLY, PLAGIARISM INCLUDES ALLOWING SOMEONE ELSE TO COMPOSE OR REWRITE AN ASSIGNMENT FOR A STUDENT.

Examples of plagiarism include: the copying in total or in part of someone else’s work without the benefit of quotation marks and author; failure to identify references used (e.g. Internet resources; personal interview and article/text), two or more students collaborating on a graded assignment that is NOT a group project. Refer to current PHSC Catalog/Handbook regarding Academic Dishonesty.

Any form of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment and may result in a failing grade in the course. Check your nursing course syllabus for course policy.

Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) Testing Process
All nursing students will be required to demonstrate mastery of curriculum content by utilizing the Comprehensive Assessment Review Package provided by Assessment Technologies Institute. Specific courses will require the student to meet minimum expectations by completing assigned proctored/non-proctored exams to successfully complete the course. Each course will provide the student with a list of ATI test requirements and specific due dates for submissions

Proctored Exams
Proctored exams will be given according to the schedules specific to each program below. The student is required to perform at a minimum of a Proficiency Level 2. Those achieving a Proficiency Level 1 or below on the proctored exam will be required to remediate.

Guidelines for Remediation
Remediation involves both the creation and submission of a Focused Review Report indicating that the student has spent a minimum of 45 minutes time in the review process. Additionally, the student may be given an additional ATI test to take which will serve as part of the remediation process.
Focused Reviews
For students achieving a Level I Proficiency or below on the assigned proctored exams, remediation is mandatory. The student should create a focused review using the proctored exam results. The student will then use the focused review as a study guide for remediation prior to any additional testing. Students will submit communication that the focused review has been generated and then submit a transcript indicating that they have achieved the minimum time requirement to their instructor.

Non-Proctored Exams
Non-proctored exams will be used as a remediation tool and as required assessment tests. Whether assigned as a remediation tool per the proctored exam results, or as a required assignment, students must achieve a minimum competency level on the non-proctored exams. The minimum competency level for the LPN student is 75%. If the student does not meet the established benchmark, then an additional test may be required to verify competency. If upon taking the additional test, the student does not meet the benchmark, a focused review will be required as evidence of remediation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Proctored Exams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRN0000- Fundamentals I</td>
<td>Critical Thinking Entrance Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRN 0002- Fundamentals II</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRN 0030-Medication Admin./Pharmacology</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRN 0120- Maternal Child Nursing</td>
<td>Maternal Newborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Care of Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRN 0205- Medical Surgical II</td>
<td>Adult Medical Surgical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Semester (Gero/MC/MS II- depending on last course)</td>
<td>Comprehensive Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Critical Thinking Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Non-Proctored Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRN0002-Fundamentals II</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRN 0500-Gerontological Nursing</td>
<td>Nursing Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clinical Dress, Grooming Code and Uniforms Policies
With regard to clinical dress, students are required to wear the designated student uniform. This uniform helps not only to identify the wearer as a student from the college but also to distinguish him/her from other health care givers in clinical facilities. It is expected that the student will wear the uniform with pride as representatives of the college and will comply with the uniform policies noted below.

The complete student uniform is worn in all clinical settings unless indicated otherwise by clinical agency policy and/or the faculty. Faculty will advise students at the onset of each nursing course of the uniform policies of the clinical agencies to be used. Student uniforms are to be worn only for designated PHSC clinical experiences. The uniform should be representative of professional appearance in that it is clean and properly fitted. For observational experiences, the student may be asked to wear an optional observational experience uniform as noted below. A student uniform and/or lab coat will be considered incomplete if it is lacking the student photo ID and the PHSC patch emblem. These emblems are available in the campus bookstore. Failure to adhere to appropriate dress code will result in removal from the assigned clinical setting.
**PN Uniform Requirements**

**Women:** Landau Top #8129 women’s V neck tunic – white with green and gold ribbon trim. White unisex pants (no jeans).

**Men:** Landau Top, #7489 V neck scrub top– white with green and gold ribbon trim. White unisex pants (no jeans). A plain white T-shirt may be worn under top.

**Photo ID:** To be obtained from the library after add/drop date.

**Patch Emblem:** Sewn on left front upper chest of uniform top.

(2) A student uniform will be considered incomplete if it is lacking the student photo ID and/or the PHSC patch emblem. These emblems are available in the campus bookstore.

**Shoes:** White uniform shoes i.e., Nurse-Mate type shoes. NO sandals, tennis or platform shoes. Solid white leather athletic walking shoes are acceptable (except high tops, pumps, etc., that are sports oriented in appearance and function). Men: white socks. Women: white hose. White socks may be worn with pants only.

There may be additional uniform requirements that relate to a specific agency. The Students are expected to adhere to both the PHSC and the clinical agency uniform requirements.

**Accessories:**

White or navy blue sweater (NO pullover sweaters) is optional. Required: bandage scissors, wrist watch with sweep second hand, ball point pen, small pocket size notepad, stethoscope.

Purse and valuables in the clinical area are discouraged. Waist fanny packs are NOT to be worn due to infection control concerns. Back/waist support belts may be worn for medical/back safety reasons, only if kept clean and in good repair.

**Grooming**

Students are expected to keep uniform neat and clean in appearance and appropriately sized. To do otherwise may result in the student’s dismissal from the clinical setting. Basic hygiene and cleanliness are expected of all students in both clinical and classroom settings. PHSC photo identification badges and any agency badges are to be visible at all times. Student may cover last name when designated by faculty.

Make-up will be subdued. Use of artificial nails (gels, acrylics, tips) is prohibited in the clinical setting: nails must be natural and of a length no longer than ¼ th of an inch. Consult faculty concerning specific requirements.

Wedding band sets and one pair small stud (non-dangling) earrings are permitted. No necklaces, other than a religious medal, or bracelets, other than Medical Alert, may be worn. When a necklace is worn, it must be under the uniform to prevent pulling and prevent being a reservoir for infection. It is recommended that only the wedding bands be worn in the clinical setting. To prevent loss and infection, no facial jewelry, i.e., nose, lip, tongue, eyebrow, etc. will be allowed. No seasonal pins may be worn without faculty permission.

Hair should be neatly groomed, clean natural color tones, controlled and kept off the collar by hair restraints that blend with the hair color and do not serve as ornamental. No bows, ribbons, scarves etc. Beards and moustaches are to be neatly trimmed.

Personal, clothing or breath that smells of cigarette smoke will not be tolerated in the clinical setting. No chewing gum, strong perfume, scented hair spray, cologne/aftershave, Any Body art, i.e., tattoos, are to be covered.
This uniform policy is not meant to be comprehensive, but to serve as guidelines for professional appearance in clinical practice. If there is a concern regarding appropriateness of appearance that is not addressed in these guidelines, the clinical instructor will determine the appropriateness.

**Student Evaluation**

A course grade is determined at the end of each nursing course. The course grade is derived from a letter grade in all nursing courses. A grade of "C" or higher is required in all nursing courses and must be achieved to progress in the program. Students must enroll concurrently in the didactic and lab/clinical course during the 1st attempt at the courses. If a failure occurs in either the didactic or lab/clinical course, students may not progress to the next course until the failed course is repeated and successfully passed with a grade of “C” or higher and must be within the allotted number of attempts per college policy. The grading scale that is used in all practical nursing courses is as follows:

**PN Nursing Classes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75 - 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 - 59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The evaluative process for the theory course includes the use of NCLEX style testing and other course-specific assignments to achieve the required benchmark based on designated course content. The evaluative process for the lab/clinical course includes the use of NCLEX style testing to verify math mastery and medication mastery and demonstration of lab skills based on designated course content. Students who are in academic jeopardy in the Theory course will receive a Student Status Report and be enrolled in the SUCCESS program.

Student exam average must be a minimum of 75% to pass the course. Upon successfully meeting the minimum exam average, other assignment grades will be calculated into the final grade.

Clinical performance is evaluated in part by using grading rubrics with established indicators based on the roles of the nurse as defined by specific course content. Clinical performance is also evaluated by student self-reports related to observational experiences and clinical teaching projects based on specific course content. Midterm and final evaluations are discussed as part of clinical conferencing between student and faculty throughout the course. Students who are not meeting established clinical/lab competencies will receive a Student Status Report and be enrolled in the SUCCESS program.

**Testing/Review Policy**

1. **All** required learning activities are subject to examination.
2. Schedule and/or unscheduled quizzes may be given at the faculty’s discretion.
3. Personal items are not permitted in the testing area. These include notebooks, backpacks, purses, papers, hats, cell phones, cigarettes, and other items as requested by the faculty. All materials except those used for actual testing will be placed at the front of the room, per your instructor’s directions. Faculty is not responsible for lost or stolen items in the testing area.
4. The student needs to bring pens for testing supplies for the exam. Books, papers and tape recorders, electronic devices and cell or ear phones are not allowed during examinations or exam review sessions. Computer calculators are also not allowed for written exams.
5. The student must ensure that scanner answer sheets are completed correctly. Incomplete erasures and/or stray pencil marks are detected by the electronic equipment used to process answer sheets, which can result in inaccurate scoring.
6. The student must submit the answer sheet(s) **AND** examination booklet to the proctor at the conclusion of the exam period. **Students should exit the testing site quietly. No re-entry is allowed until all students have completed the exam.**

7. Tests may be administered on myPHSC on campus in one of the college’s computer labs. Students are to enter the testing site and are to refrain from talking. After completing the test, students are to power off the computer and leave the area quietly. Students are not allowed to bring items into the testing site.

8. Review sessions may be scheduled following examinations. **Test review is at the nursing faculty’s discretion.**

**Testing Issues**
- Should you think that a question suggests another correct answer according to your book or handouts, you are to submit your concern in writing using the following format within 7 days of the test review:
  - Submit the topic of the question, your concern.
  - What you think is the correct answer is with your referenced rationale.
  - Referenced rationales include the precise source from the required textbook. Include page number, column, and paragraph number for easy review by faculty.

Faculty will review the request and provide a response.

**As per testing policy, the student has one week from tests and midterm to challenge the accuracy of their grade. There is no test review for the final exam and the one week policy does not apply due to time constraints. No revisits to previous exams will be allowed after the one week time framework.**

9. NO GRADES WILL BE GIVEN OVER THE PHONE OR TO OTHER STUDENTS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

10. Students must take exams at the scheduled date and time. No exceptions will be made for vacations, social or family events, etc. If there is an **unexpected situation that is beyond the student’s control** (serious illness, accident, death of an immediate family member, etc.), the student must notify the appropriate instructor(s) prior to the exam. Proof of the illness, accident or family death must be submitted to the instructor on return. A 10 point reduction in the makeup exam will automatically occur.

In the following situations, another 10 point reduction will occur:
   - a. Failure to notify the course faculty.
   - b. Missing more than 1 scheduled test date (results in 10 points per day until test is completed)

11. **Make up tests may consist of essay, fill-in-the-blank and/or multiple choice. The exam must be completed on the day of return to class** which should be within 3 calendar days of the date of the original exam. Extemuating circumstances will be evaluated by the faculty.

12. **It is disruptive to other students taking the exam if other students are tardy. If a student is tardy, the following will occur.**
   - a. The student needs to speak directly to the instructor upon arrival at the testing site. **It is at the instructor’s discretion as to whether the student will be allowed to enter and take the test.**
   - b. If allowed to enter, the original test time remains, and the student will only be allotted the remaining time to complete the test.
   - c. No student will be admitted to the testing site after the first student completes the exam and leaves the testing site. Student will need to schedule time for make-up exam with instructor.
   - d. If the student is not allowed to enter during the scheduled testing time, the student will be required to take a make-up test which will be accessed in the learning center or a designated area by the instructor.
   - e. Consecutive tardiness may result in a 10 point deduction.

13. **Students are expected to make arrangements for any make-up exam with faculty immediately upon return to class/clinical activities unless faculty grants an extension.** If the student’s make-up exam is placed in the testing center, the student must bring pencils, scanner sheet(s) and photo identification. Test(s) must be completed in the designated time frame.
   - a. It is the student’s responsibility to notify nursing faculty for any scheduling difficulties with the testing center that would delay the student from completing the examination upon return to class/clinical.
14. There is rounding of grades at the final calculation of the course. The specific objective to be attained by the student and the method of calculating the final course grade is written in each course syllabus. Students are responsible for reading each course syllabus to apprise themselves of the particular objectives and grading system for each course.

**Guidelines for Written Assignments**

1. The first late assignment will result in a 10 point deduction per day from the final score. Subsequent late assignments will not be accepted and will result in the score of a zero on the assignment(s).
2. The *APA Manual* (6th ed.) is the required reference for written assignments in the nursing program.
3. Scientific, scholarly health-related journals are acceptable references/sources of information. Textbooks are acceptable in some instances. Journal articles may not date more than five (5) years. Students should check with the faculty if in doubt regarding a source.

The evaluative process for the classroom component includes the use of multiple-choice examinations and other course-specific assignments.

The evaluative process for skill development used in the campus laboratory setting is as follows:

1. Initial instruction/demonstration (by faculty to assigned group of students)
2. Supervised student practice
3. Student peer evaluation
4. Achievement of a "Pass/Safe" grade within two (2) evaluative sessions/attempts
5. After the first unsafe performance, the student will remediate as instructed by faculty.
6. Within one (1) week, the student is to make an appointment with the lab facilitator and complete a re-evaluation of the skill.
7. If the student is unsatisfactory after the second evaluation then the student will be referred by faculty to the appropriate program coordinator.
8. Student failure to satisfactorily perform the skill may result in failure of the lab section of the course which results in course failure.

**Laboratory Evaluation Procedures**

Skills-specific evaluation tools/checklists that identify the elements critical to safe performance are used. Satisfactory performance of skills in the campus laboratory setting is required prior to implementation in the clinical setting.

The evaluative process for skill development used in the campus laboratory setting is as follows:

1. Initial instruction/demonstration (by faculty to assigned group of students)
2. Supervised student practice with completion of student peer evaluation
3. Successful completion of clinical skill performance with no more than two (2) evaluative sessions/attempts
4. If the student performance is deemed unsuccessful upon evaluation, the student will be referred to the lab facilitator for remediation within one week’s timeframe.
5. Following the required remediation, the student will be re-evaluated by a faculty member.
6. If the student is unsatisfactory after the faculty second evaluation then the student will be referred by the faculty to the clinical coordinator for skills performance.
7. If the student is unsatisfactory after the faculty second evaluation then the student will be referred by the faculty to the clinical coordinator for evaluation of skills performance. Additional remediation may be required prior to re-evaluation for this third attempt.
8. If the Student does not satisfactorily perform the skill on this third attempt, it may result in failure of the lab section of the course which results in course failure.

Skills-specific evaluation tools/checklists that identify the elements critical to safe performance are used. Satisfactory performance of skills in the campus laboratory setting is required prior to implementation in the clinical setting.
Campus Lab Policy: Student Lab Skills Kits

Students are responsible for purchasing the required lab skills kit for each semester year. This is a program requirement. Student should present the bookstore receipt for the lab skills kit to the lab facilitators when reviewing lab pack contents. If a student comes to lab without the lab skills kit, he/she will receive an unsatisfactory for the day for lack of preparation. The student(s) may not participate in lab activities until they are prepared with a lab skills kit. Students with lab skills kits are to be told not to share their materials with other students, since they will deplete their kits. With regard to lab skill performance, students must use supplies in their respective lab kit during practice sessions. For evaluation of lab skills, students will be provided with the necessary supplies relative to skill check off. If subsequent evaluation is needed, the student will have to use their own kit supplies and/or purchase additional materials.

Clinical Simulation Experiences

Students will participate in clinical simulation experiences as part of their clinical course component throughout the nursing program. In this simulation experience, students will be able to perform assessments and skills in a safe environment. Dependent on the specific nursing course, students will be able to perform in the assigned nursing roles (provider of care, communicator, and teacher, manager of care and member of profession) providing care using high-simulation manikins under the guidance of the designated faculty member and lab facilitator. Students will undergo a debriefing session following all simulation experiences and grading for simulation experiences will be based on a clinical simulation grading rubrics. Student uniform is required for all Clinical Simulation Experiences.

Clinical Evaluation Procedures

The evaluative process for the clinical component in each nursing course includes the use of clinical performance grading rubrics, course-specific evaluation tools, student-faculty conferences and the RN preceptor's evaluation where applicable. Student-faculty conferences are scheduled at mid-term and at course-ending to formally document student progress and performance. Students complete self-evaluation prior to the scheduled conferences. Conferences are documented on the Student Status Report.

Interim student-faculty conferences are scheduled at the faculty's discretion and/or at the student's request to provide ongoing evaluation of student performance at any time throughout the semester. In instances where the student does not demonstrate safe clinical performance the following process is initiated:

1. Student-faculty conference in conjunction with Student Status Report
2. Clinical Improvement plan developed in conjunction with faculty and student with a written prescription for remediation.
3. Establishment of a Performance Plan relative to the identified deficiencies and a formal signature page to indicate acceptance of clinical improvement plan based on stipulated evaluation criteria within a specified time frame
5. If student meets competencies based on review of Performance Plan and Updated Performance Plan, then the student will satisfy the course objectives. If the student does not meet the established competencies, this will result in a clinical course failure.
6. Please refer to college catalog/handbook for additional information relative to Dismissal from Health Programs

Progression in the Program

Students must maintain a grade of "C" or higher in all nursing and pre and co-requisite courses, in order to continue in the program. Nursing courses must be completed in the sequence in which they are offered in the curriculum. Due to the nature of the nursing program having both theory and clinical/lab courses in a semester, based on student performance there is a possibility that additional time may be needed to complete the program if a student does not successfully pass both theory and clinical/lab courses relative to a specific semester. If a student should have to repeat
an individual theory or clinical/lab course, they will have to submit a letter for Re-entry. Enrollment in the course is subject to faculty approval and space availability. Students are expected to maintain theory and clinical lab competencies as they progress throughout the program. Please see Re-admission to Limited-Access Health Programs (Nursing) Procedures for Students section: Second and Subsequent Semester Repeats and/or Multiple Course Repeats if this should occur.

SUCCESS Program
The purpose of the SUCCESS program is to promote student achievement in the nursing programs. Students can enter this program via the academic and/or clinical track. Academic admission criteria include a failure of one unit exam. A clinical admission criterion includes inconsistent clinical performance. A student may also request to be admitted into the SUCCESS program. If a student who meets the requirement for entry in to the SUCCESS Program refuses assistance, then a notation will be made on the SUCCESS form indicating this fact. If it proves to affect an individual’s student successful performance in passing the course, this fact will rest on the individual student accountability.

An individual meeting between the student and faculty member must be scheduled to sign the contract and formalize the development of an individualized student learning plan. Remediation and compliance with follow-up is an integral part of this program. A SUCCESS discussion board will be available (in each course as needed) to any student who is enrolled in this program.

Re-admission to Limited-Access Health Programs (Nursing) Procedures for Students
This procedure applies to students who fail to successfully complete a program course in their first semester in the Registered Nursing, Practical Nursing, Radiography, Paramedic, Dental Assisting or Dental Hygiene programs. The process for readmission to a limited-access health program depends upon the course the student is requesting to repeat.

Readmission to Limited-Access Health Programs is under review and subject to change. Students are encouraged to meet with an advisor or visit the PHSC Health Occupations page for updates.

A. First Semester Repeats
Students who fail to successfully complete one or more program courses in their first semester must reapply to the program. This is done by submitting a program application and application fee to the Admissions and Student Records Office during the posted application time frame. Students must meet all admission requirements in effect at the time of their reapplication.

B. Second and Subsequent Semester Repeats
Students who do not earn a grade of “C” or higher in a limited-access health program course in their second or subsequent semesters must request to repeat the course by submitting a Student Request to Repeat Health Program Course form. This form is submitted to the coordinator of the appropriate health program. Courses may be repeated only with the recommendations of the coordinator of the health program and the Dean of Health Occupations. If the request is approved, students will be allowed to enroll in the next available course, on a space-available basis. Students must meet all program and graduation requirements in effect at the time of their readmission. In addition, students approved to repeat a course may be required to demonstrate retention of essential prerequisite knowledge and skills before being allowed to re-enter the clinical sequence of courses. Students will be notified by the program coordinator of the next available start date. Students in a two-year program will have four years to complete all program requirements for that program. Students in a one year program will have two years to complete all program requirements for that program. If students are unable to meet this requirement they will have to reapply to the program.

C. Multiple Course Repeats
This procedure applies to students who:
1. Do not earn a grade of “C” or higher in the same course twice, or
2. Do not earn a grade of “C” or higher in two different courses.
To re-enter the health program, students may be required to enroll in Strategies for Student Success (SLS 0002). After satisfactory completion of SLS 0002, students must request to repeat the health program course by submitting a Student Request to Repeat Health Program Course form. This form is submitted to the coordinator/Associate Dean of the appropriate health program. Courses may be repeated only upon the recommendations of the coordinator/Associate Dean of the health program and the Dean of Health Occupations. If the request is approved, students will be allowed to enroll in the next available course, on a space-available basis. Students must meet all program requirements in effect at the time of their readmission. In addition, students approved to repeat a course may be required to demonstrate retention of essential prerequisite knowledge and skills before being allowed to re-enter the clinical sequence of courses. Students will be notified by the program coordinator of the next available start date. **Students who do not earn a grade of “C” or higher in two health program courses, either in the same course or in a combination of courses, will not be permitted to re-enroll in the health program.**

**Graduation**

Students must complete all required nursing courses satisfactorily and meet all College and State requirements in order to graduate
- Students must complete graduation application and pay fee per established dates. This is the student’s responsibility as well as a college requirement to ensure that the student’s degree has been verified.

**Faculty Student Interactions**

**Faculty Student Conferences**
Counseling sessions are confidential between faculty and student. In order to maintain confidentiality with regard to these meetings, students should refrain from discussing any content with non-participant members.

**Conduct**

In accordance with Florida Statutes, no student attending Pasco-Hernando State College may participate in any activities that are disruptive to the normal, peaceful, and orderly operation of state institutions of higher learning. Certain actions are prohibited at or on any campus, or at any college-sponsored or college-affiliated activity or event. Violation of any of these regulations may result in disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may also be imposed for special circumstances as prescribed by law. (See College Catalog and Student Handbook: Student Affairs, Student Conduct, Academic Dishonesty: Cheating and Plagiarism, Hazing.)

**Dismissal from the Health Programs**

Students may be dismissed from any of the following programs or any other health-related degree, certificate, or diploma program at PHSC as authorized by District Board of Trustees (DBOT) Rule 6Hx19-6.15, “Dismissal from Health Programs”. These programs include Registered Nursing, Practical Nursing, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedics, Radiography, Dental, Medical Coder, Medical Records Transcribing, Health Unit Coordinator, Patient Care Technician, Medical Secretarial/Examining Room Assistant, Human Services, Phlebotomy, Nursing Assistant, or any other College-related program. (See Dismissal from Health Programs policy in the PHSC Catalog / Student Handbook in the section under Student Services and Advising).
College Services
Nursing students attending the college have access to all available college services as do other non-nursing students. These include but are not limited to: Student Services, Disabilities, The Learning Center and Behavioral Health counseling, etc. Please refer to College catalogue for full listing of available services.

Student Employment
The regulation of nursing practice is the prerogative of each state and is defined in state laws or statutes. In Florida, the state statute is Chapter 464 and is known as the "Nurse Practice Act". As defined in the law, the state's Board of Nursing is tasked with implementing the law and is authorized to make such rules as necessary to do so, provided those rules are consistent with the law. These rules are entitled Board of Nursing Rules 6489.

The "Nurse Practice Act" addresses student nurse practice as follows:
"464.022 Exceptions - No provision of this chapter shall be construed to prohibit:
(3) The practice of nursing by students enrolled in approved schools of nursing."

Rules 6489 addresses student nurse practice as follows:
"6489-2.003 Student Employment. - A nursing student shall practice nursing within the meaning of Chapter 464, F.S. only within the courses of an approved program in which the student is enrolled and under the supervision of program faculty."

Students enrolled in nursing programs are frequently offered employment in hospitals and health care agencies. It is essential that the student recognize the need to validate that such employment is in a non-professional nursing role that is in accordance with the law and the rules that regulate nursing practice. Student uniforms are to be worn for PHSC clinical experiences only. Students who hold valid, active Florida licenses as LPNs or Paramedics are eligible for employment in those roles as defined by licensing law.
PART III

Occupational Safety Guidelines
Infection Control Policies

With regard to infection control policies, the nursing department takes appropriate measures to help maintain the safety of nursing students in the clinical education environment. Using STANDARD PRECAUTIONS is at the core of each and every nursing experience. The use of these measures will help to prevent the spread of transmission of pathogens thus helping to make for a safer clinical education environment. Noted below are specific college policies related to: HIV-Hepatitis, Varicella & Rubella, Respiratory Protection, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Flu Immunization.

HIV - Hepatitis Policy

Pasco-Hernando State College Health Programs involve clinical experiences in which students may be assigned to administer care to individuals who are HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) seropositive, have AIDS or Hepatitis. Students will, in every case, be expected to treat all patients with concern and dignity inherent in professional standards of care. Students will be expected to follow all guidelines for prevention of the transmission of HIV virus and other blood borne pathogens.

Pasco-Hernando State College Health Programs involve clinical and laboratory experiences which could be potential health hazards to students who have compromised immune systems. Students who are seropositive for HIV should be aware of the potential health hazards to which they are exposed.

Pasco-Hernando State College Health Programs students and faculty will follow the recommended guidelines for "Prevention of HIV Transmission in Health Care Settings" published by the CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) and the OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AGENCY (OSHA), as well as the policies of the various agencies in which clinical experiences are scheduled. Policies will be updated as new information related to prevention and treatment of HIV becomes available.

To standardize the delivery of health care to all patients and to minimize the risk of transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), Health Programs students will:

1. Be taught basic skills in universal precautions, isolation techniques, injections, handling of body fluids in the skills laboratory and disposal of bio hazardous waste before actual clinical practice of these skills on clients.
2. Be provided classroom instruction related to HIV treatment, modes of transmission, prevention and legal aspects.
3. Receive clinical agency orientation on specific policies for blood and body fluid precautions.
4. Utilize the following blood and body fluid precautions consistently on all patients:
   (a) Gloves should be worn when touching blood and body fluids, mucous membranes or non-intact skin of patients, or when touching items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids (including performing venipuncture and other vascular access procedures).
   (b) Hands should be washed immediately before gloving and again after removing gloves.
   (c) Gloves should be changed between each patient.
   (d) Gowns or approved protective outerwear, masks, and protective eyewear should be worn for any procedures likely to result in or prone to splashing of blood or body fluids.
   (e) Used needles should not be recapped, purposely bent or broken by hand, removed from disposable syringes, or manipulated by hand. Disposable needles, syringes, scalpel blades and other sharp items should be placed in puncture resistant containers for disposal.
   (f) Soiled linen should be handled as little as possible with minimum agitation. All soiled linen should be bagged and labeled in appropriate bio hazardous waste container and tied closed at the location where it is used.
   (g) Gloves are to be worn for post-delivery care of the umbilical cord and until all blood and amniotic fluids have been cleaned from the infant’s skin.
When universal blood and body fluid precautions are implemented on all patients, isolation/labeling of the patient’s room, chart, and specimens are to be done according to agency policy. Upon death, state law requires that a bio hazardous tag be affixed to the body of anyone known to have a blood borne pathogen.

Specimens of blood and body fluids should be placed in a leak-proof container. When collecting the specimen, care should be taken to prevent contamination of the outside of the container. All containers (except blood tubes) should be placed in a zip-lock bag and labeled appropriately.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

PPE kits are located in the campus laboratories. Use of this emergency equipment is addressed in laboratory orientation sessions.

Hospital and college incident reports are to be completed if the student is exposed to blood or body fluids through needle stick or cut, mucous membrane (splash to eyes or mouth), or cutaneous (through skin which is chapped, abraded or has dermatitis) means. Follow-up screening will be recommended according to hospital/school guidelines. The student referral for follow-up at a local Health Department Unit may be recommended. The cost of follow-up medical care is the responsibility of the student.

The College supports the recommendations of the American Dental Association, American College of Physicians, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and **strongly encourages** the vaccination of students against Hepatitis B in an effort to minimize the risk of infection to patients, clients, and students.

All students enrolled in Health Programs who do not receive the Hepatitis B vaccine prior to clinical assignments are required to sign a statement indicating that they have been informed about the risks of Hepatitis B and the need for active immunity and are releasing the College of liability in the event they contract the disease.

**Varicella & Rubella Infection Policy**

Varicella (chickenpox) and Rubella (measles) are common childhood diseases caused by viruses which are extremely contagious. Complications are rare in a normal, healthy adult or child. However, these viruses can cause serious complications, even death, for a child or adult who is ill or immunosuppressed. Shingles is also caused by the Varicella virus.

It is the intent of the College to implement infection control policies and procedures that decrease the risk of exposure and/or infection for students and the clients being cared for by students enrolled in the Nursing, Dental, and Paramedic programs.

The student will submit proof of immunization or a report of a positive titer with the physical examination form on admission to the program. The Associate Dean of Nursing and/or the Clinical Coordinator will review all physical examinations records to ensure compliance with this policy. Students may not participate in clinical activities until this policy is met, which may jeopardize successful completion of the nursing courses.

Rubella vaccines are readily available and a recent vaccination will be required if there is not a positive titer. Varicella vaccines are readily available and a recent vaccination will be required if there is not a positive titer. A series of 2 injections must be taken to produce the desired immunity.

* **NOTE:** Satisfaction of make-up assignments does not guarantee successful completion of course or clinical objectives, which is required to complete each course successfully.
Respiratory Protection Policy

Pasco Hernando State College Health Programs involve clinical experiences in which students may be assigned to provide care to individuals who have suspected or active Tuberculosis (TB). Students will, in every case, be expected to treat all tuberculosis clients with concern and dignity inherent in professional standards of care. Students will be expected to follow all guidelines for prevention of the transmission of the tubercle bacillus.

Pasco Hernando State College Health Program students and faculty will follow the recommendation guidelines for "Prevention of TB transmission in Health Care Settings" published by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the "Federal Respiratory Protection Standard (29CFR 1910.134) as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA), as well as the various agencies in which clinical experiences are scheduled. This will include the wearing of personal protective equipment when entering any TB area or when caring for an active or suspected client with TB. Policies will be updated as new information related to the prevention and management of TB becomes available.

Students will be fitted for particulate respirators at the assigned clinical agency as the need arises. The student will receive training on the proper use and limitations of the particulate respirator model in use at the agency.

Flu Immunization Policy

Recent health indicators in clinical healthcare settings have led to the requirement that all healthcare providers/members become vaccinated annually with the current flu vaccine. Based on this requirement, nursing students and faculty must comply and provide evidence of vaccination for the current flu season prior to entrance into the clinical environment. If a student cannot take the immunization, then the student will be required to wear a “mask” while in the clinical environment and/or meet other additional requirements as designated by the respective clinical facility.
PART IV

Student Nurse Associations
Nightingale Nursing Club

This PHSC College approved club is the official Florida Student Nurses Association Chapter, which is open to all nursing students and pre-nursing students on all campuses. Students can choose to pay membership dues to NSNA for full membership and benefits.

The Club has regular election of officers, which will represent all campuses and have representation at nursing faculty meetings and at meetings of the College’s Student Government Association (SGA). The Nightingale Club presidents are the organizational representatives to the SGA. The association supports fundraising activities in accordance with College policy.

The Club participates in college wide Standing Committees which focus on planning and coordinating student-driven activities affecting all students enrolled in the ADN and pre-nursing programs. The Club members will participate in the activities of FSNA and NSNA conventions and conferences at a state and national level. Members will also be invited to FNA activities throughout the school year. A faculty liaison person is assigned to each committee.

5 Star – Award

Nightingale Nursing Club (NNC) will be working toward gaining or 5 Star status through college programs, community outreach, health fairs, leadership development, and club meetings.

Convention

NNC will give members opportunity to participate in the FSNA and NSNA conventions.

Scholarships

NNC will be performing fundraisers throughout the year for our many nursing scholarships.

PN - Student Nurses in Action

Practical nursing students on North and West campuses each have a chapter of this club on their campus. Each chapter elects officers and participates in fundraising events and other College activities.

Pinning Ceremony:

The Nursing Pinning ceremony takes place three times a year following graduation from the respective nursing programs. It is held on West Campus in the Performing Arts Center (fall, spring and summer). Pertinent information relative to the ceremony is contained in a power point presentation for student viewing. Students may also contact the designated Faculty Advisor for additional information or queries related to this ceremony.
PART V

Graduate Licensure Instructions
Registering for NCLEX

School Code: PN: US70106400

Part I - Submission of Names to Board of Nursing
The nursing program will provide proof to the Florida Board of Nursing (BON) that you have met the program requirements and all obligations to the college which indicates you may apply for licensure. This information will be sent to the BON once your degree has been verified by the college. The school code is listed above for the application process.

Part II - Application for licensure
The student is responsible for applying to the Board of Nursing from the state(s) in which seeking licensure. To apply to the Florida Board of Nursing, the following steps will assist you in completing the application process.
Go to the following website: http://www.floridasnursing.gov/
1. Select apply for license. You will then have the choice to apply online or print out an application. Choose your applicable licensure (LPN or RN) depending on which program you graduated from. By clicking on requirements, process, fees or statues & rules, you will find relevant information that will help you in the application process.
2. Make sure that you follow the instructions and provide accurate documentation. Incomplete or incorrect documentation can result in delays and additional fees being imposed.

Part III - Applying to take the NCLEX Exam
1. Go to the following website: http://www.ncsbn.org/ Click on Candidates link.
2. That will take you to a page called NCLEX Candidate Progress and there you will see links providing detailed information about common concerns regarding the NCLEX process.
3. Go to the following website: www.pearsonvue.com/nclex/ This link will take you to Pearson where you can register for the exam. You will have to create an online WEB account and pay the exam fees.

What’s Next?
1. Once you have completed your registration process for Pearson Vue and applied for your licensure through the board of nursing (and paid your fees) and once the school has sent confirmation to the Board of Nursing, you will receive your ATT (Authorization to test). This ATT replaces the term “sit/pass” that you have may heard. The ATT will specify a timeframe during which you must take the NCLEX test. Make sure that you pay attention to this timeframe as it can NOT be extended.
2. You can then go back to the Pearson website to schedule your exam. Select the “schedule a test link” on the top of the page and a new window will appear. Here you will enter your user name and password that you have previously established and schedule the test. You will receive an appointment within 30 days from when you start the process.
LICENSURE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR

STUDENTS WITH A CRIMINAL HISTORY

Pursuant to Section 456.0635, Florida Statutes, the Florida Board of Nursing, Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, and the Bureau of Health Care Practitioner Regulation shall refuse to issue a license, certificate or registration and shall refuse to admit a candidate for examination if the applicant has been:

456.0635 Health care fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration.—

1. Health care fraud in the practice of a health care profession is prohibited.

2. Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

   (a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the candidate or applicant has successfully completed a drug court program for that felony and provides proof that the plea has been withdrawn or the charges have been dismissed. Any such conviction or plea shall exclude the applicant or candidate from licensure, examination, certification, or registration unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

   1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.
   2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).
   3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application;

   (b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application;

   (c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;

   (d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application;

   (e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities.

Pursuant to Section 456.0635, Florida Statutes, the Florida Board of Nursing, Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, and the Bureau of Health Care Practitioner Regulation shall refuse to issue a license, certificate or registration and shall refuse to admit a candidate for examination if the applicant has been:

1. Convicted or plead guilty or nolo contendere to a felony violation regardless of adjudication of: chapters 409 (Social Welfare), 817 (Fraudulent Practices), and 893 (Drug Abuse Prevention and Control), unless the sentence and any probation or pleas ended more than 15 years prior to the application.

2. Terminated for cause from Florida Medicaid Program (unless the applicant has been in good standing for the most recent five years).

3. Terminated for cause by any other State Medicaid Program or the Medicare Program (unless the termination was at least 20 years prior to the date of the application and the applicant has been in good standing with the program for the most recent five years).

4. The change in Florida Statute 456.0635 indicates that if a student’s criminal background check reflects a conviction involving any of the above categories, the student will not be eligible to apply or receive a Florida license, or to sit for a certification examination if it is applicable to the program they are intending to apply more information regarding this statute, please visit the statute page.
Once the program is completed, the Florida Board of Nursing will require and FDLE and FBI check. Below are the Board of Nursing guidelines for applicants applying for state licensure that has a criminal history.

Applicants with Criminal History – the following information is required:

1. A letter in the applicant’s own words describing the incident(s) that led to each arrest.

2. Arrest record(s) with written narrative by arresting officer – from police department(s) where on file. If actual booking report is not available, the applicant must supply a statement from a representative of the police department attesting to this fact.

3. A copy of the court record showing the sentence/judgment (not a docket sheet). In the event docket sheets are the only available records, the applicant must submit a statement from a court representative attesting to this fact. If no records are available, please submit a statement from a representative of the clerk of courts that the record is not available. If the case was dismissed or not prosecuted, this is the only documentation needed.

4. Certified Court records verifying compliance with the Order of the Court (completion of probation, payment of fines, etc.).

5. A reference letter from the Associate Dean of Nursing of the program attended. The Associate Dean’s letter must indicate an awareness of the arrest, nature of the charges and provide an overview of the applicant’s behavior while in the program.