



**M.S. In Nursing (With Accelerated B.S.N.)  
Admissions Information and Program Handbook  
Department of Nursing  
August 2024**

*\*As of July 2024, the name of the Advanced to MSN (A2M) program has been changed to M.S. In Nursing(with Accelerated B.S.N.)*

Welcome to West Chester University, the Department of Nursing and the M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) program. We hope you will find your experience here challenging and rewarding.

This handbook supplements the current West Chester University Graduate catalog and other university publications. The guide includes valuable information for your success in the Program. You are strongly encouraged to keep and refer to this handbook throughout your course of study.

Please note that the material in this handbook is subject to change as university or department policies are revised. Your advisor is there to guide you, but it is still your responsibility to complete all requirements, conform to policies in force, and meet all deadlines. Periodic checking of the Department and University website and consultation with your advisor can help to prevent an untimely delay in your graduation date or problems with your practice experiences.

We look forward to a rewarding association with you and hope you will take advantage of all that our Department and the University have to offer.

*The Department of Nursing Faculty*

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## Mission Statement & Philosophy

The mission of the West Chester University Department of Nursing is to provide the highest quality of undergraduate and graduate nursing education to students who come from diverse populations. All graduates are prepared to provide evidence-based quality nursing care, and to become nursing leaders within the nursing profession. The baccalaureate program provides the art and scientific foundations of entry into nursing practice. The graduate programs provide preparation into advanced nursing practice and education roles; thereby, giving students the ability to synthesize knowledge, strengthen communication, and empowerment to promote health care. The Doctor of Nursing Practice program further prepares advanced practice nurses at the highest level to fully evaluate and contribute to increasingly complex health care systems. These contributions are based on contemporary nursing science, organizational, political, cultural, and economic principles.

Graduates of these nursing programs will be professionals capable of assuming leadership in present and emerging health care roles, citizens who contribute to society and who are committed to life-long learning and personal development.

The Department of Nursing affirms the WCU Vision, Mission and Values Statements and the College of Health Sciences Mission Statement. It shares the University's commitment to teaching, research, and service to individuals, families, communities and populations. The following statement reflects the Department of Nursing's philosophical beliefs.

The Department of Nursing recognizes that individuals, families, communities and populations are entitled to optimum health and quality health care. Nurses play an integral role in health promotion, disease prevention and enhancing the quality of life throughout the lifespan.

According to the ANA "nursing is the protection, promotion and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities and populations." Advanced practice nursing roles include expert clinician, educator, researcher, consultant, and leader. The nursing programs at West Chester University recognize the responsibility to provide innovative educational programs that reflect the growing needs and current trends of diverse populations.

The faculty of the Department of Nursing provide a caring and supportive environment while respecting the diversity of the student body and communities which it serves. The University community cultivates and supports faculty/student collaboration and mentoring. The students are treated as individuals with unique qualities and learning needs. Through professional actions, the faculty reflects the Department's philosophy of excellence in nursing practice, creation of evidence-based research, establishing strong interdisciplinary associations and fostering supportive relationships with colleagues, students, and the community.

The 2008 AACN *Essentials* document (*The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education*), the 2011 AACN *Essentials* document (*The Essentials of master's Education*), and the 2006 AACN *Essentials* document (*The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice*) provided a foundation for the curriculum content of all programs. Based on this foundation, and with the structure provided in the updated 2021 *Essentials for Educations*, the faculty designed programs facilitate the students' abilities to creatively respond to a continuously changing health system. Innovative educational experiences are cooperatively planned to meet the needs of both the students and clients empowering them in the nursing-client partnership. The interpretation, development and implementation of ethical evidence-based research are stressed throughout the educational process.

Ethical decision making, accountability, critical thinking, and effective communication skills are emphasized. This is achieved by the application of nursing theory and empirical evidence to professional practice. All programs promote lifelong learning, leadership, and prepare the student for advance professional degrees or post-doctoral studies.

## **MSN Program Goals**

At the end of the MSN Program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Synthesize philosophy, theory, content, and methods of health science and nursing science as a basis for nursing practice.
2. Demonstrate advanced clinical skills in intervening with society including culturally diverse and/or medically underserved individuals or aggregates.
3. Assume beginning advanced practice nursing roles as an MSN.
4. Design health care strategies in which nurses contribute to health promotion and disease.
5. Evaluate health care issues, trends, and policies.
6. Pursue and evaluate professional development as a continuing professional learner.
7. Collaborate with interdisciplinary groups for the purpose of health care planning and programming.
8. Acquire a foundation for doctoral study in nursing.
9. Assume the role of advocate to promote accessibility of health care services and to enhance quality of care.
10. Demonstrate a philosophy of nursing that reflects a commitment to social justice and the advancement of nursing science.
11. Participate in scientific inquiry directed to the health care needs of populations as well as individuals and families.

**M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.)  
Application Guidelines**



## **M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) Application Guidelines**

Thank you for your interest in the M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) Program at West Chester University. This program is for those who already have a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing discipline and want to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and qualify to take the NCLEX-RN nursing licensure examination.

\*The Graduate School has a wealth of information for applicants and students. The link to their website is [https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/sch\\_dgr/](https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/sch_dgr/)

### **M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) Admission Timeline**

**August - December 1:** Complete and Submit WCU Graduate Application.

**By December 15:** Accepted applicants are notified, completion of agreement forms, pay deposit to university. Upon receipt of WCU email, students will be registered for spring courses by the Graduate Coordinator.

**January 17:** Accepted M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) students complete program orientation on campus.

### **Application Requirements**

All applicants to the M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) must meet the following requirements for admission:

1. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.8 or better and a science GPA of 2.75 or better.
3. Completion of Anatomy & Physiology I & II within the past five years with a minimum of a GPA of 3.0.
4. Verification of completed prerequisite courses listed below. All prerequisite courses must be completed by the start of the program. See the table on the next page with the list of prerequisites and WCU course examples.
  1. Anatomy and Physiology I with lab (4 credits)
  2. Anatomy and Physiology II with lab (4 credits)
  3. General Chemistry for Health Sciences with Lab (4 credits)
  4. Introductory Microbiology with Lab (4 credits)
  5. Introduction to Psychology (3 credits)
  6. Human Development or Developmental Psychology Across the Lifespan (3 credits)
  7. Introductory Principles of Nutrition (3 credits)

8. Introductory Statistics (3 credits)
9. Introductory Pharmacology (3 credits)
10. Introductory Pathophysiology (3 credits)

5. Completion of the **ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)** with a score of 75 or higher. The TEAS test must have been taken within two years of applying for the program. The ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS) Assessment measures your general knowledge in various content areas. Your performance indicates your readiness to begin a course of healthcare studies and is a predictive measure of your future success in the M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N) program. This exam is 4 hours in maximum length. TEAS testing dates will be offered remotely through [ATI testing](http://atitesting.com) (atitesting.com).

A complete application must include the following:

1. Online application
2. Official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended
3. Two letters of recommendation
4. Personal statement
5. Official ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) exam score

Required Course	Required Credits	WCU course offering examples
Introductory Pathophysiology	3 credits	NSG 310
Anatomy & Physiology (I & II) with Lab*	8 credits	BIO 259 & BIO 269
General Chemistry for Health Sciences with Lab **	4 credits minimum, must include a lab	CHE 107 & CRL 107
Introductory Microbiology with Lab	4 credits	BIO 204
Introductory Pharmacology	3 credits	NSG 367
Introduction to Psychology	3 credits	PSY 100
Human Development or Developmental Psychology Across the Lifespan	3 credits	PSY 210 or HEA 206
Introductory Principles of Nutrition	3 credits	NTD 303
Introductory Statistics	3 credits	MAT 121

## **M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) Application and Program FAQs**

### ***How many cohorts/students are admitted each year?***

- Annually one cohort of 30-40 students are anticipated to be admitted each year.
- The program begins in the spring semester of each year (January).
- Applications for the January cohort are reviewed in the fall.

### ***Where are you located?***

- West Chester University Nursing is in the Sciences Engineering Center and The Commons (SECC) Building.
- All Nursing faculty offices are in the SECC building at 155 University Ave., West Chester, PA. 19383.
- In person classes will be held on main campus. Online or hybrid courses will meet either in synchronous or asynchronous format. Details will be listed in course syllabi.

### ***What is your attrition rate?***

- Our current attrition rate (students who leave without finishing) is less than 1%.
- Traditionally, attrition is not due to students' inability to complete course work but rather outside issues impacting student progression.

### ***What is your acceptance rate?***

- Our current acceptance rate is 80%.

### ***Can I make an appointment to meet someone?***

- Virtual group information sessions will be posted on the M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.), webpage, and through the Graduate School.
- Transcripts can be reviewed by the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Jackie Owens. Please submit all transcripts by email to the Graduate Coordinator at [jowens@wcupa.edu](mailto:jowens@wcupa.edu)
- If you still have questions after reading this guide, please submit questions to the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Owens ([jowens@wcupa.edu](mailto:jowens@wcupa.edu)) or the Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions, Dr. Stephens ([mstephens@wcupa.edu](mailto:mstephens@wcupa.edu)) via e-mail for fastest response.

### ***Can I come and tour your facility?***

- SECC tours can be arranged through Admissions at WCU.
- You will not meet Nursing faculty members during your tour.

### ***Are classes online?***

- All Undergraduate classes (300 level designation) are held in person on the main campus. Some assignments may require online content completion/submission or online group interaction.
- All Graduate courses (500 level designation) are held online or in hybrid format. See syllabi for detailed information.

### ***I have a full-time job. Can I continue to work full-time during the program?***

- This is a rigorous full-time program. Experience has shown that successful students do not work more than 20 hours per week during the semesters. This is an individual decision, and as such each student should carefully consider this recommendation prior to applying to the program.
- Classes in a variety of formats either held weekdays during day, afternoons, evenings, online or in a

hybrid format (online plus in person requirements).

- Clinical experiences are held either on a weekday or weekend. Clinical experiences are typically 12 hours/week.
- Plan on at least 50 hours per week of class time, clinical time, preparation, and completion of assignments.
- Traditional, fall and spring semesters classes are held over 7 or 15 weeks.
- Summer classes run in only 7-10 weeks. Coursework and clinical experiences are compressed and may meet more frequently to achieve required classroom and clinical hours.

***How do I get more information?***

- If you still have a specific question that cannot be answered from our online resources, please send an e-mail to the Graduate Coordinator or Assistant Director of Admissions.

***What are the average GPAs and TEAS scores of previously admitted students?***

- Averages in the last admitted cohort were an overall GPA of 3.37 and a TEAS of 80.

***My Undergraduate GPA is not at least a 2.8. Can I apply?***

- You can apply but the odds of acceptance are small.
- Email the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Owens, if you feel your transcript deserves a waiver from our minimum GPA requirement.

***Must all prerequisites be completed before I apply?***

- It is preferred that prerequisites be completed before applying to the program. We do allow 3-4 credits to be in progress, but they must be completed by December 15.
- Completion of all components does not mean you will be accepted, only that you will be considered for acceptance.

***Where can I take my prerequisite classes? Or I want to take course “X” at school “Y”?***

- We do not require that you take classes at any specific institution, but we require that they be from an accredited college or university.
- Most community colleges and four-year colleges offer the prerequisite courses that we accept. Course titles and credit loads need to be similar. We also accept courses taught through Portage Learning.

***My Anatomy & Physiology 1-2 does not meet the 3.0 minimum GPA requirement for admission. Can I apply to the program?***

- We require a 3.0 GPA for your Anatomy and Physiology courses.

***What are the age limits on prerequisite courses I have already taken?***

- Prerequisites that are more than 10 years old will be reviewed individually.
- Anatomy & Physiology 1 and 2 must be completed no more than 5 years from the program's start.

***I am having difficulty finding a chemistry course equivalent to CHE/CRL107. What should I do?***

- CHE/CRL 107 at WCU is 5 credits. We would accept a 4-credit course from another institution if it included a laboratory component described on the transcript.

***Do nursing courses from other universities transfer?***

- No, nursing courses do not transfer.

***I would like to test out of some courses. Can I CLEP any prerequisites?***

- Yes, if you feel you have the background, but not the college course credit, for Basic Biology and/or Human Growth and Development Across the Lifespan, you can take the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam.
- You must score at least a 50.
- For further information, see <http://www.wcupa.edu/registrar/testCredit.aspx>

***Do you still have rolling admissions?***

- Yes, applications are evaluated as they are received during our application period of August to December 1, 2024.

***I have a misdemeanor/felony background. Will that be a problem?***

- All students must submit to criminal background checks before attending clinical courses.
- Most clinical agencies we use will not allow students with certain criminal backgrounds into their agency. Your criminal background may prohibit you from attending clinical rotations and you could no longer progress in the program without clinical.
- Additionally, some crimes may prohibit you from getting a nursing license.

***My degree is from outside the USA, how to I apply?***

- If your bachelor's degree is from a non-USA university, you will need to pay for a transcript review as described on the International Student Admissions page. Applicants are required to submit evidence of English Language Proficiency.
- This link provides more information:  
[https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/SCH\\_DGR/intlgradstudents.aspx](https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/SCH_DGR/intlgradstudents.aspx)

***What is the TEAS exam?***

- The TEAS is a computerized exam of four-option multiple-choice questions and assesses basic academic knowledge in reading, math, science, English and language usage. Test results are available 48 hours after completion of the test.
- See [ATItesting.com](http://ATItesting.com) for test information and where you can take the test. WCU does not administer the TEAS.
- The minimum score for application eligibility is 75.
- TEAS scores must be taken within 2 years of applying to the program.
- You should repeat the exam if you score less than 75. We only consider your latest score.

***I went to West Chester University; do I still need to send transcripts to Graduate Admissions?***

- No. Current or previous WCU students do not need to send WCU transcripts to Graduate Admissions. We have access to transcripts.
- You must still submit all transcripts of any higher education courses you have completed at any other 2 or 4-year institution.

***Do you need recommendation letters, SAT scores, or high school records?***

- DO NOT send high school transcripts, GRE, SAT, or ACT scores. These are not used in admission decisions.
- YES, letters of recommendation are required by the University.

*How do I improve my chances of admission?*

- Complete prerequisites.
- Achieve good grades in your first degree and prerequisite courses. If you have poor prerequisite grades, consider retaking the courses before applying.

# **M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) Program Information**



## **M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) Program**

### **Tuition and Additional Costs**

The M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) is a full-time graduate program, and the tuition/fees are the same as other master's degree programs at WCU. A cost calculator is provided at this link to determine your graduate tuition and fees for either in state or out of state tuition.

<https://www.wcupa.edu/information/AFA/Fiscal/Bursar/forms/costCalculator/>

### **Additional Fees**

In addition to tuition and university fees, other costs are associated with the program. We use ATI, a comprehensive testing and review program. The total cost of the program is approximately \$2600. Students have the option to pay this fee in 4 payments. Payments will be due around the beginning of the first spring semester, the summer session, the fall semester, and the final spring semester. Uniforms (\$50-75 for one pair), a name badge (\$10), and lab kits (\$130-150) will be purchased during your first semester.

A laptop with Windows or Mac OS is recommended. Students have free access to Office 365 (Microsoft) for Windows or Mac through [WCU Information Services and Technology](#).

### **Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Graduate Assistantships**

The Graduate School website ([https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/SCH\\_DGR/financialSupportAwards.aspx](https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/SCH_DGR/financialSupportAwards.aspx)) has information on financial aid, scholarships, and graduate assistantships. Students in the M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) program are not eligible for Graduate Assistantships during their first semester.

### **Parking, Housing, and Meals**

These costs are additional. On campus housing is generally unavailable to students in this program and most students live off campus. Parking passes may be purchased for on campus parking. The link to the Parking and Permits website is <https://www.wcupa.edu/transportation/parkingServices.aspx>

### **Scholarships**

Numerous scholarships are available and will be announced annually.

### **Academic Advising**

Advising within the Department of Nursing is based upon the belief of the university that each student is an individual with unique needs, problems, interests, and aspirations. The department provides academic advising to students beginning with a pre-entrance orientation and continues throughout the program. Curriculum questions are answered and the general policies relating to the department are reviewed. Uniforms, fieldwork, miscellaneous expenses, and other items of interest to the student are also reviewed. The Department of Nursing encourages active participation of the faculty in the area of academic advising. Each faculty member is assigned student advisees by the chairperson. The faculty member is available for advisement during posted office hours and by appointment. Each semester students must meet with their academic advisors to plan their course selection for the following semester. One or two weeks prior to registration, master schedules are available on RamPortal. The student then discusses this selection with the faculty advisor during regular office hours or at special times posted by faculty members specifically for prescheduling. Students should maintain open communication with their advisor for any academic-related question or concern during the school year. The faculty member may suggest the use of the Academic Advisement Center or the Counseling Center on campus to meet the needs of students. This service is a free choice of the student.

## **Services to Accommodate Students with Disabilities**

*Please refer to Essential Behavioral and Social Attributes section of this handbook*

Services to accommodate students with disabilities are also available through the Office of Educational Accessibility (OEA). OEA is located within the Academic Affairs Division of the university. The university's American with Disabilities Act policy statement is located in the undergraduate catalog. The OEA coordinates accommodations and acts as a liaison with faculty, university offices and external agencies. Academic support services and accommodations are provided for eligible students with physical or learning disabilities.

Environmental accommodations, tutoring, coaching, workshops in math, career development, study strategies, and a student support group are available through this office. Eligible students must meet the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) guidelines for learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders. It is recommended that students contact the OEA director as early as possible to allow time for testing or to forward appropriate documentation. To request accommodation or more information, visit the OEA homepage: <https://www.wcupa.edu/universityCollege/OEA/>

## **M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) Curriculum**

The curriculum consists of graduate and undergraduate nursing courses. The undergraduate courses have compressed content and clinical hours. The M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) program curriculum was revised in Spring 2024. Students in Cohorts 1 and 2 (2023 and 2024 admits) will continue with the original curriculum. Students admitted for the 2025 cohort and beyond will follow the revised curriculum. Below are the advising sheets for both curriculums outlining the sequence of courses throughout the program.

### **Class Locations**

In-person courses are held weekdays on campus during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Online or hybrid courses will identify synchronous or asynchronous components in the respective syllabi. Clinical courses NSL 381, 383, and 385 are held in area hospitals, clinics, and community health settings, averaging 12 hours per week or on weekends. Some clinical rotations may differ slightly, with longer clinical hours on some days and other days off. Shifts vary between days, evenings, and nights. You must keep your calendar open for clinical experiences.

## Original Curriculum for Cohorts 1 and 2 (2023 and 2024 admits)

<b>Year One Spring</b>		
NSG 530	Nursing Theories and Issues (7 weeks)	3
NSG 532*	Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nursing (15 weeks)	3
NSG 533*	Physical Assessment for APNs (15 weeks)	4
NSG 535	Population-Based Health Promotion (7 weeks)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
NSG 381	Nursing Foundations and Population Health/Gerontology (10 weeks)	3
NSL 381	Caring for Healthy, Acute and Chronic Populations – Nursing Foundations and Population Health/Gerontology (10 weeks)	3
NSG 536	Evidence Based Practice Research (10 weeks)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Fall</b>		
NSG 383	Caring for Healthy and Chronic Populations- Pediatrics/Maternity/Gerontology/Medical-Surgical I (15 weeks)	6
NSL 383	Caring for Healthy, Acute and Chronic Populations – Pediatrics/Maternity/Medical-Surgical I (15 weeks)	3
NSG 534*	Pharmacology for APN (15 weeks)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Year Two Spring</b>		
NSG 385	Caring for Acutely Ill Populations – Medical-Surgical II & Behavioral Health/Immersive Experience (15 weeks)	6
NSL 385	Caring for Acutely Ill Populations – Medical-Surgical II & Behavioral Health/Immersive Experience (15 weeks)	3
NSG 537	Bioethical Decision Making in Health Care (7 weeks)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
NSG 531	Healthcare Policy, Leadership & Organization (8 weeks)	3
NSG 561	Clinical Nurse Leader I (8 weeks)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Fall</b>		
NSG 562	Clinical Nurse Leader II (7 weeks)	3
NSG 563	Clinical Nurse Leader III (7 weeks)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>58</b>

### Revised Curriculum for 2025 Cohort and beyond

<b>Year One Spring</b>		
NSG 530	Nursing Theories and Issues <sup>2</sup> (7 weeks)	3
NSG 532	Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nursing <sup>2</sup> (15 weeks)	3
NSG 533	Physical Assessment for APNs <sup>2</sup> (15 weeks)	4
NSG 535	Population-Based Health Promotion <sup>2</sup> (7 weeks)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
NSG 381	Nursing Foundations and Population Health/Gerontology <sup>1</sup> (10 weeks)	3
NSL 381	Caring for Healthy, Acute and Chronic Populations – Nursing Foundations and Population Health/Gerontology (10 weeks) <sup>1</sup>	3
NSG 534	Pharmacology for APN <sup>2</sup> (10 weeks)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Fall</b>		
NSG 383	Caring for Healthy and Chronic Populations- Pediatrics/Maternity/Gerontology/Medical-Surgical I <sup>1</sup> (15 weeks)	6
NSL 383	Caring for Healthy, Acute and Chronic Populations – Pediatrics/Maternity/Medical-Surgical I <sup>1</sup> (15 weeks)	3
NSG 536	Evidence Based Practice Research <sup>2</sup> (15 weeks)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Year Two Spring</b>		
NSG 385	Caring for Acutely Ill Populations – Medical-Surgical II & Behavioral Health/Immersive Experience <sup>1</sup> (15 weeks)	6
NSL 385	Caring for Acutely Ill Populations – Medical-Surgical II & Behavioral Health/Immersive Experience <sup>1</sup> (15 weeks)	3
NSG 537	Bioethical Decision Making in Health Care <sup>2</sup> (7 weeks)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
NSG 531	Healthcare Policy, Leadership & Organization <sup>2</sup> (8 weeks)	3
NSG 564	Nurse as Leader I <sup>2</sup> (8 weeks)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Fall</b>		
NSG 565	Nurse As Leader II <sup>2</sup> (15 weeks)	6
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>58</b>

## Course Descriptions

### Undergraduate Courses

**NSG 381:** In this course the student will examine various nursing theories and concepts; conceptual frameworks; theories from other disciplines which apply to nursing; nursing history; nursing education; professionalism in nursing; nursing leadership; the nursing process; nursing diagnosis, nursing research; ethical, legal, economic, and political aspects of nursing and current issues in nursing. The student will also study and learn to practice psychosocial and physical assessment skills as well as learning how to do: vital sign assessment, provide bedside nursing care, hygiene and comfort; transfer and positioning techniques for clients, and understand and demonstrate competence in the utilization of standard precautions as a health care provider. The emphasis of this course will also be on the maintenance, and promotion and health of the older adult and introduction to the care of the inpatient. Clients with chronic health problems in both these populations are addressed. Content is organized around the concepts of wellness, chronicity and acuity. The nursing process is used to assist these clients to grow and or adapt through supportive, therapeutic, palliative, and preventive measures. NSG 381 and NSL 381 must be taken concurrently.

**NSL 381 Laboratory:** In this course the student will examine various nursing theories and concepts; conceptual frameworks; theories from other disciplines which apply to nursing; nursing history; nursing education; professionalism in nursing; nursing leadership; the nursing process; nursing diagnosis, nursing research; ethical, legal, economic, and political aspects of nursing and current issues in nursing. The student will also study and learn to practice psychosocial and physical assessment skills as well as learning how to do: vital sign assessment, provide bedside nursing care, hygiene and comfort; transfer and positioning techniques for clients, and understand and demonstrate competence in the utilization of standard precautions as a health care provider. The emphasis of this course will also be on the maintenance, and promotion and health of the older adult and introduction to the care of the inpatient. Clients with chronic health problems in both these populations are addressed. Content is organized around the concepts of wellness, chronicity and acuity. The nursing process is used to assist these clients to grow and or adapt through supportive, therapeutic, palliative, and preventive measures.

**NSG 383:** The emphasis of this course is the medical-surgical, childbearing family, and the pediatric patient. Content will focus on prevention of illness and promotion of health by assessment of the health status, appropriate intervention, and evaluation of the health promotion plan. Chronic states as well as acute health conditions will be addressed as well. Content is organized around the concepts of wellness, chronicity and acuity. The nursing process provides the framework for the care to be given in a variety of settings with clients.

**NSL 383 Laboratory** – The emphasis of this course is the medical-surgical, childbearing family, and the pediatric patient. Content will focus on prevention of illness and promotion of health by assessment of the health status, appropriate intervention, and evaluation of the health promotion plan. Chronic states as well as acute health conditions will be addressed as well. Content is organized around the concepts of wellness, chronicity and acuity. The nursing process provides the framework for the care to be given in a variety of settings with clients.

### **NSG 385:**

The emphasis of this course is on the care of persons with acute medical surgical and acute holistic health crises. Concepts of holistic care are highlighted throughout classroom and clinical experiences. The content will focus on the use of the nursing process to assist clients in crisis. The framework for the care to be given will reflect concepts including the use of leadership, management, and public /population health nursing concepts to manage and improve health. Students will collaborate, coordinate, and advocate as they use the nursing process

independently and interdependently to as they focus on the complex problems of individuals, families, communities, populations, and systems. Students are expected to function as self-directed learners who correlate nursing/scientific theory and concepts with identifiable research problems in varied environments.

**NSL 385 Laboratory** – The emphasis of this course is on the care of persons with acute medical-surgical and acute holistic health crises. Concepts of holistic care are highlighted throughout classroom and clinical experiences. The content will focus on the use of the nursing process to assist clients in crisis. The framework for the care to be given will reflect concepts including the use of leadership, management, and public /population health nursing concepts to manage and improve health. Students will collaborate, coordinate, and advocate as they use the nursing process independently and interdependently to focus on the complex problems of individuals, families, communities, populations, and systems. Students are expected to function as self-directed learners who correlate nursing/scientific theory and concepts with identifiable research problems in varied environments. Clinical experiences are provided in an immersion experience in acute care psychiatric inpatient and medical surgical settings.

### **Graduate Courses**

#### **NSG 530 Nursing Theories and Issues (3)**

Exploration of a variety of theories and current issues that affect nursing practice, education, and administration.

#### **NSG 531 Health-Care Policy, Leadership, and Organization (3)**

This course will introduce students to the concepts of health policy, leadership foundations and skills, quality and safety in healthcare and healthcare informatics. The course will prepare the nurse for nursing roles outside of direct patient care.

#### **NSG 532 Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nursing (3)**

This course is designed to explore pathophysiologic concepts beginning at the cellular level and proceeding through major body systems. Emphasis will be placed on pathophysiologic changes across the lifespan. This course analyzes the signs and symptoms of various diseases enabling the student and the advanced practice nurse to identify the mechanisms of disease and the clinical manifestations of those diseases so that rational therapies and interventions can be designed and implemented based on the pathophysiologic changes. Appropriate screening and diagnostic laboratory evaluative methods will also be included.

#### **NSG 533 Physical Assessment for Advanced Practice Nursing (4)**

This course combines comprehensive theoretical and laboratory experience to enable the nurse in advanced practice to complete a holistic health assessment of the client. Opportunity is provided to enhance the participant's ability to collect relevant data via use of appropriate interviewing methods, developmental and physical assessment techniques, critical thinking, and psychomotor skills. *(60 hours of Clinical Practice of Physical Assessment Skills).*

#### **NSG 534 Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nursing (3)**

This course will build upon pharmacologic knowledge acquired at the baccalaureate level. This course will introduce the advanced-practice nurse to pharmacologic concepts utilized in advanced- practice roles. Clinical decision-making is applied as students explore pharmacologic aspects of disease management. Communication is encouraged and required through in-class discussions and written assignments.

#### **NSG 535 Population-Based Health Promotion (3)**

This course will provide an overview of the epidemiological model of disease causation. Various epidemiological study designs and their applications will be presented.

### **NSG 536 Evidence-Based Practice Research (3)**

This course is designed to support nurse leaders in implementing and sustaining evidence-based practice within their organizations. Beginning with an introduction to formulating clinical questions, course participants will systematically review and synthesize scientific evidence; perform appraisals of evidence-based practice guidelines; design comprehensive plans for integrating evidence-based clinical practice changes specific to their practice setting; produce drafts of potentially publishable articles related to evidence-based practice; become familiar with grant proposals; and become more knowledgeable about the ethical implications related to evidence-based practice.

### **NSG 537 Bioethical Decision Making in Health Care (3)**

This is a core course in the Master of Science nursing program. Students will examine ethical principles, theories, and concepts affecting clinical practice. Using these principles, students will focus on the identification, articulation, and planned action for ethical concerns of the patient, family, healthcare provider, system, community, and public policy levels.

### **NSG 561: Immersion As Clinical Nurse Leader I (3)**

In today's rapidly changing healthcare landscape, this course is focused on preparing advanced clinical nurses to assume a leadership role is critical to improving the quality of patient care. This course is the 1st of a series of three courses which provides instruction on how CNLs utilize the competencies necessary to lead improvement teams, analyze data, and ensure delivery of quality, safety, and value-based care in any healthcare setting.

\*Students are required to complete 200 indirect practice hours.

### **NSG 562: Immersion As Clinical Nurse Leader II (3)**

This course is focused on preparing advanced clinical nurses to assume a leadership role is critical to improving the quality of patient care. This course is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of a series of three courses which provides instruction on how CNLs utilize the competencies necessary to lead improvement teams, analyze data, and ensure delivery of quality, safety, and value-based care in any healthcare setting. In this course, students in combination with weekly class will begin their CNL Immersion on a specialty unit with an assigned preceptor. Students in conjunction with preceptor under the supervision of their faculty member will identify an appropriate CNL Project. Students will develop a proposal for their CNL Project to faculty/peers/preceptor.

\*Students are assigned to a preceptor for an internship in the field for 150 direct practice hours.

**\*WCU Nursing Faculty will facilitate the placement of students into the educational or healthcare setting where the CNL practicum will be completed. Students will be required to complete agency clearances for practicum placement.**

### **NSG 563: Immersion As Clinical Nurse Leader III (3)**

This course is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of a series of three courses which provides instruction on how CNLs utilize the competencies necessary to lead improvement teams, analyze data, and ensure delivery of quality, safety, and value-based care in any healthcare setting. This course emphasizes that the CNL is a provider and manager of care at the point of care to individuals and cohorts of patients anywhere healthcare is delivered. Key concepts include clinical leadership, care outcomes, synthesis of data/evidence to provide improved outcomes, risk anticipation for individuals or cohorts of patients, design of EBPs, team leadership with interprofessional teams, integration and use of information system and technologies to improve outcomes, stewardship of human/environmental/materials and advocacy for patients, communities and the health professional team. Students will immerse in their role as a CNL and execute a CNL Project in their assigned area. Students will document their work in a CNL Project paper and present their findings at end of this course. CNL students will prepare for CNL Certification examination by **completion of CNL modules.**

\*Students are assigned to a preceptor for an internship in the field for 150 direct practice hours.

**\*WCU Nursing Faculty will facilitate the placement of students into the educational or healthcare setting where the CNL practicum will be completed. Students will be required to complete agency clearances for practicum placement.**

**NSG 564: Nurse As Leader I (3)**

In today's rapidly changing healthcare landscape, this course is focused on preparing advanced clinical nurses to assume a leadership role which is critical to improving the quality of patient care. This course is the first of a series of two courses which provides instruction on how student nurses utilize the competencies necessary to lead improvement teams, analyze data, and ensure delivery of quality, safety, and value-based care in any healthcare setting.

**NSG 565: Nurse As Leader II (6)**

This course is focused on preparing student nurses to assume a leadership role which is critical to improving the quality of patient care. This course is the second of a series of two courses which provides instruction and clinical immersion on how nursing students utilize competencies necessary to lead teams, analyze data, and ensure delivery of quality, safety, and value-based care in a healthcare setting.



## **M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) Program Policies**

**\*Please note:** Policies change regularly so be sure to download the latest M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) Application Guidelines and Graduate Student Handbook and check the WCU Graduate Handbook. Each course syllabus will be specific to course requirements.

### **Technical Standards Policy for Academic Progression, and Graduation**

Students selected for admission into the Nursing major must verify that they understand and meet these technical standards with or without a reasonable accommodation. A student with a condition who may need a reasonable accommodation to meet the technical standards will be referred to the Office of Educational Accessibility (OES) for an evaluation of whether the condition is a disability as defined by applicable laws, and a determination of what accommodations are reasonable. The determination will specifically take into consideration whether the requested accommodations might jeopardize the safety of the patient, and the ability to complete the classroom, laboratory, and clinical coursework required for the Nursing major. The OES, with input from the Department of Nursing, will make this determination. Whenever possible, reasonable accommodations will be provided for those individuals with disabilities to enable them to meet these standards and ensure that students are not denied the benefits of, excluded from participation in, or otherwise subjected to discrimination.

Based on the standards benchmarked by ANA Code of Ethics, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, PA State Board of Nursing Practice Act, the PA State Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations and the Mission and Values Statements of West Chester University (WCU) the Department of Nursing prepares students to practice nursing safely, proficiently and empathetically with cultural awareness and humility and to think critically in diverse and challenging practice settings.

All efforts are intended to build nursing knowledge, develop nursing practice and patient safety, cultivate professional integrity, and ultimately, improve the health outcomes of patients, families, and communities across the life span and continuum of care. The student must have functional abilities that are vital for the delivery of safe, effective nursing care during clinical experiences. Therefore, the Department of Nursing has determined that certain technical standards are requisite for admission, progression, and graduation from the M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) program.

WCU nursing student clinical experiences involve functional considerations that are not similar to classroom accommodations. For this reason, applicants and students who seek accommodations prior to or immediately after enrolling in the nursing programs must also request an assessment of the types of reasonable accommodations needed for the clinical training component of the program.

**A student must be able to independently, with or without reasonable accommodations, meet the following technical standards of general abilities and those specifically:**

#### **General Abilities:**

The student must have functional use of vision, hearing, smell and touch so that intake of sensorial information can be received and interpreted by the senses. This sensorial information can be integrated, analyzed, and synthesized consistently in an accurate manner.

Examples (not limited to):

- Collect data about skin color changes
- Collect data from monitors
- Auscultate (listen to) heart and lung sounds

- Hear alarms or call bells
- Detect smoke from burning materials
- Detect odors associated with body fluids
- Palpate pulses and detect changes in skin temperature

### **Motor & Endurance:**

The student is expected to encompass gross and fine motor movements to be able to provide safe care to clients. It is expected that student have reasonable physical endurance to perform patient care. A nursing student on a clinical day is expected to have the ability to sit, walk and stand.

Examples (not limited to):

- Assessments and patient care require the student to be able to bend, squat, reach, kneel and balance.
- Usual clinical settings expect students to be able to carry and lift from floor to shoulder height to overhead. This would include occasionally lifting 50lbs, frequently lifting 25lbs, and constantly lifting 10lbs.

### **Latex Allergies:**

It is in the student's best interest to disclose any allergies that they may have (specifically latex). The Department and clinical agencies cannot guarantee that students will not be exposed to substances that may cause a sensitivity reaction. Students with latex allergies must provide a note from their health care provider stating that they are able to participate in the clinical experience and also provide a plan should exposure occur during a lab or clinical experience.

### **Pregnancy:**

Pregnancy is a healthy state. Fetal exposure to environmental/ chemical/microbial stressors in the clinical setting may potentially place the developing fetus at risk. Special precautions are warranted. The nursing student who becomes pregnant must notify the level coordinator. The student must provide a signed consent from her health care provider stating the student can safely continue with clinical experiences. In addition, the student who is less than six weeks post-partum must provide a letter from her health care provider stating that she is cleared to return to clinical experiences.

### **Illness/Injury:**

A student who suffers an illness, injury, has been hospitalized, or has a surgery is required to bring a letter of clearance to the level coordinator. Depending on the length of the absence, a decision regarding progression in the nursing course will be made by Department Faculty.

### **Ethical Standards**

The student must develop the ability to consistently deliver safe, effective nursing care using sound judgment according to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Nurse Practice Act (<http://www.pacode.com>) and the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses (<http://www.nursingworld.org>). The student is expected to exhibit good professional character which is an integrated pattern of personal, academic, and occupational behavior. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, honesty, accountability, maintaining confidentiality, trustworthiness, reliability, and integrity, and practice non impaired (ANA Code of Ethics)( PA code Title 49 Professional and Vocational Standards 21.11 General functions and 21.18 Standards of Nursing Conduct).

Individual patient care must be performed regardless of the patient's race, ethnic group, age, gender, religious, or political preference, ability to pay, gender or sexual orientation. Students are not required to be involved with

medical procedures that are in disagreement with individual attitudes and values but are required to learn about these procedures and participate in the professional care of the patient before and after such procedure.

Examples (not limited to):

- Able to distinguish right from wrong.
- Will not falsify patient's medical record or information.
- Seek consultation and supervision whenever their ability to provide patient care is compromised because of lack of knowledge or experience.
- Will not knowingly furnish false information to the other members of the health care profession.
- Able to keep promises and honor obligations.
- Accountable for their own behavior.
- Able to practice nursing in an autonomous role with patients/clients who may be physically, emotionally, or financially vulnerable.
- Recognize and honor the interpersonal boundaries appropriate to any therapeutic relationship or health care setting.
- Will promptly and fully disclose facts, circumstances, events, errors, and omissions that could enhance the health status of patient/client or the public and could protect them from unnecessary risk of harm.

### **Essential Behavioral and Social Attributes**

The student must be able to adapt and function effectively to stressful situations in the clinical and classroom settings. Students will encounter multiple stressors while in the nursing program. These stressors may be (but are not limited to) personal, patient care/family, faculty/peer, and or program related. Compassion, integrity, motivation, effective interpersonal skills, and concern for others are personal attributes required of those in the nursing program. The student must possess skills required for full utilization of the student's intellectual abilities; the exercise of good judgment; the prompt completion of all responsibilities in clinical settings; and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and other members of the health care team. The ability to establish rapport and maintain sensitive, interpersonal relationships with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds is critical for practice as a nurse. The student must be able to adapt to changing environments; display flexibility; accept and integrate constructive criticism given in the classroom and clinical settings; and learn to function cooperatively and efficiently in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical practice.

Examples (not limited to):

- The student must be able to exhibit a level of consciousness and attentiveness that guarantees patient safety. Examples of unacceptable compromise include excessive somnolence, memory impairment, or an inability to retain pertinent details of a patient's situation.
- Chronic or recurrent illnesses and problems that could interfere with patient care or safety may be incompatible with nursing education or practice.

### **Ability to Communicate, Comprehend, Read, and Write English**

The student must be able to read, comprehend, communicate, and write English at a level that meets the need for accurate, clear, and effective communication with individuals, families, and groups respecting social, cultural and spiritual needs.

Examples (not limited to):

- Give clear oral reports
- Read graphs Read and understand English printed documents

- Write legibly or record on computer in English in patient record
- Be able to communicate effectively on the telephone
- Discriminate fine/subtle differences in medical word endings
- Report findings to the licensed nurse

Individuals who are unable to meet these standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, will not be able to complete the program and are counseled to pursue alternate careers. In accordance with law and WCU policy, no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of the disability be excluded from participating in West Chester University programs or activities. WCU will provide reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual with a disability. To obtain accommodations, individuals must request them from the Office of Educational Accessibility (OES).

### **Degree Progression Policy**

*\*This policy takes effect with 2025 M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) cohort; Cohorts admitted in 2023 and 2024 follow the [Graduate School Policy on Academic Standing](#)*

Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) students may not progress to new semester coursework if all previous semester coursework is not successfully completed with the minimum passing grade.

For NSG 381, NSL 381, NSG 383, NSL 383, NSG 385, and NSL 385 in this graduate program, students must achieve a C or better. Students will take the NSG and NSL portions of the courses together

(e.g., NSG 381 and NSL 381) and must pass both courses with a minimum of C to progress. For all graduate 500-level nursing courses, students must achieve a B or better. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in the program. If a student does not achieve the minimum grades and required 3.0 cumulative GPA as outlined above, they will be dismissed from the program. Due to space limitations, students will need to apply for readmission to the program and be admitted only if a space is available with the next cohort.

### **Nursing Class Attendance Policy**

The faculty believes the interactive process of learning takes place in the classroom and is a part of professional behavior. Attendance in class is mandatory and required for nursing courses. Students are responsible for reading specific attendance requirements in each syllabus.

### **Electronic Device Policy Use of Electronic**

Devices Students are not permitted to make phone calls, send text messages/ emails, or engage in non-class related internet activity while in the clinical or classroom setting without the permission of the instructor.

During clinical, taking photographs of patients is not permitted. No patient-identifiable information is to be stored on the device or removed from the clinical agency. Additional restrictions or rules may apply to the agency or instructor. Violations of this policy will be considered a 34 violation of Standards of Safe Clinical Practice.

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Any situation involving a violation of academic integrity is of major concern to the University. Faculty members preserve and transmit the values of the academic community through example in their own academic pursuits and through the learning environment that they create for their students. They are expected to instill in their students a respect for integrity and an understanding of the importance of honesty within their chosen profession. Faculty must also take measures to discourage student academic dishonesty.

Commitment to maintaining and encouraging high standards of academic integrity is demonstrated in many ways. One way is through the establishment of policies and procedures governing violation of the standards of academic integrity. The following policies, procedures, and definitions are intended to help faculty meet these responsibilities.

First, the instructor has both the right and responsibility to demand academic honesty if a student is to remain in good standing in the course and is to be evaluated fairly by the instructor. A grade certifies both knowledge and a standard of academic integrity. It is essential that the instructor retain the right to set the minimum academic penalty for academic dishonesty in a course, subject to the appeal rights of a student.

Second, cheating is not just a matter between an instructor and student in a specific course. While it is the right and duty of the instructor to set minimum penalties for dishonesty in a particular course, the University is responsible for the minimum standards of academic integrity and achievement on which degrees are based. It is the University that permits students to remain members of the academic community and finally certifies that students have attained sufficient academic credit and exhibited acceptable standards of conduct to entitle them to a degree.

Third, students accused of academic dishonesty have the right to have their case heard in a fair and impartial manner, with all the safeguards available within the bounds of due process.

### **NCLEX Examination and Licensure**

All students must attend the ATI Live Review course offered the week following graduation. Students who do not score at least a 94% predictive probability on the RN Comprehensive Predictor Exam will need to retake the Exam after completion of the ATI Live Review. Students who do not achieve a score that is equal to or greater than the predictor probability of 92% of passing the NCLEX-RN on the second Comprehensive Predictor will not be cleared for taking State Boards until they have completed the Virtual ATI and have been given the “green light” to take the exam. Virtual ATI will be purchased at the expense of the student. Students or former students who have not taken the NCLEX must meet all program requirements to be eligible for graduation/nursing education verification. Department paperwork will not be submitted to the State Board of Nursing until the BSN is officially conferred by the Registrar’s Office on the student’s transcript and all program requirements have been met. “The Board shall not issue a license or certificate to an applicant who has been convicted of a felonious act prohibited by the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L. 233, No. 64), known as ‘The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act’ or convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance in a court of law of the United States or any other state, territory or country unless: (1) at least ten (10) years have elapsed from the date of conviction. (2) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates to the Board that he has made significant 37 progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction such that licensure of the applicant should not be expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the health and safety of patients or the public or a substantial risk of further criminal violations; and (3) the applicant otherwise satisfies the qualifications contained in or authorized by the act. As used in the subsection the term ‘convicted’ shall include a judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere. An applicant’s statement on the application declaring the absence of a conviction shall be deemed satisfactory evidence of the absence of a conviction, unless the Board has some evidence to the contrary.” (Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, Professional Nurse Law, September 2009).

### **Application for Licensure**

For those students who will be working prior to taking NCLEX, the PA State Board of Nursing will issue a temporary practice permit to the graduate. The student must apply for this permit at the same time as they apply for licensure. The employer must have on file a state board approved temporary practice permit before anyone who is not currently licensed in PA may be employed as a nurse. If the permit holder fails the NCLEX, the permit becomes VOID and must be returned to the PA State Board of Nursing. The temporary practice permit application is combined with the Application for NCLEX- RN Exam. Students must apply online to be approved by the PA State Board of Nursing to take NCLEX.

### **Graduate School Academic Policies**

Graduate academic policies can be found online at The Graduate School [website](#) and in the Graduate Catalog.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Graduate Student Association**

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) promotes the well-being of graduate students through educational, professional and social events, and advocates for graduate student needs.

As a graduate student, you will find exceptional resources here, including our Graduate Student Lounge on the first floor of the F.H. Green Library (Room 128) and the Graduate Dean's Professional Development Award that reimburses conference registration fees.

### **Student Affairs Committee**

The Student Affairs Committee has been designed to facilitate interaction between faculty and students. Each cohort will have 2-5 student representative and attend monthly meetings. Faculty and cohort representatives plan and coordinate the Mary Kline Lecture Series and Professional Day, the Pinning Ceremony, and additional informal gatherings.

### **Fundraising Activities**

Nursing Fundraising Policy: Students in the Department of Nursing participate in various fundraisers throughout the semesters to help offset the cost of pinning or graduation ceremonies, recruiting, and conference attendance.

- Any Nursing Department related fundraising activity requires prior approval by the Student Affairs committee. This includes but is not limited to: Class or SNAP of West Chester University.
- No two groups shall do the same fundraiser within a two-week time frame unless it is a bake sale or restaurant fundraiser that will only run for one day. In those instances, a one-day fundraiser shall be done on separate days. For example, if SNAP is selling t-shirts, a cohort will not be able to sell t-shirts for two weeks after SNAP sales end.

### **Mary Kline Lecture Series and Professional Day**

An annual campus-wide lecture series has been established by the Department of Nursing to honor Mary L. Kline, a distinguished member of the nursing faculty who retired in 1983 after fourteen years of dedicated teaching and service to the university. These lectures are held annually in the fall semester. Several other professional activities are also planned for this day, including panel discussions and opportunities for contact with potential employers and graduate education programs.

### **WCU Nursing & Xi Delta Research & Evidence Based Practice Conference**

This conference is held in the spring for students and alumni to share their current research and evidence-based practice projects.

**Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma)**

The Honor Society of the Department of Nursing, West Chester University, was established in the spring of 1985. The first induction ceremony for the society was held on March 24, 1985. On April 17, 1994, the Honor Society was chartered as Xi Delta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing in a ceremony conducted by Elizabeth Carnegie, DPA, RN, FAAN, Member of the Board of Directors of Sigma Theta Tau. The purposes of this society are to recognize superior achievement, recognize the development of leadership qualities, foster high professional standards, encourage creative work, strengthen commitment to the ideals, and purposes of the profession.

Membership is open to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the nursing program who have demonstrated superior scholastic achievement and potential for professional leadership as well as to community nurse leaders. Undergraduate candidates must have achieved a grade average of at least 3.25 and be in the top one-third of their class; graduate students are eligible if they have achieved a grade-point average 60 significantly higher than the minimum requirement for graduation. This should be at least a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Community nurse leaders must have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree and have demonstrated marked achievement in nursing education, practice, research or publication.

**Pins**

After having successfully completed the nursing major, students have the option of purchasing a pin representing graduation from the West Chester University Department of Nursing. These pins are usually awarded at a department Pinning Ceremony during graduation week.

# **Clinical and Practicum Information**



## **Clinical and Practicum Information**

The M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) program has both clinical and practicum experiences. Clinical experiences are usually done as a group supervised by a WCU clinical instructor. Practicums are at the graduate level and individual students are assigned a preceptor at the affiliated agency who supervises and guides the practicum experience. Students in practicum experiences must hold a Pennsylvania RN nursing license. All experiences have the same requirements as listed in the following pages.

### **Clinical Requirements**

Requirements for all Nursing Students prior to the start of the first clinical course (NSG/NSL 381)

### **Compliance Tracking: Complio**

West Chester University Department of Nursing utilizes the *Complio* platform to gather and maintains compliance information, documentation, immunizations, certifications, background screening, and FBI fingerprinting. Students who do not submit completed records of their background checks, drug screen, certifications, and immunizations records as defined by the Department Chair are considered non-compliant. Immediate removal from the course will occur, and the student will not be permitted to reenroll until further determination.

### **CPR Certification**

Nursing students enrolled in nursing courses with a clinical or practicum component (NSG/NSL 381, 382,383 and NSG 562,563,565) are required to be currently certified in Life Support (2-person) Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation. Each student is responsible for making their own arrangements for initial certification and for renewals. Courses given by the American Red Cross, or the American Heart Association are among the acceptable resources for CPR certification. The CPR course must include certification in two rescuer resuscitation and resuscitation of children and infants. Students will not be permitted to participate in clinical experiences until current CPR validation (e.g. CPR card) is submitted to the appropriate database. A CPR course is offered by the Nursing Department each spring.

### **Liability (Malpractice) Insurance**

Nursing students are required to have professional liability insurance when enrolled in nursing courses with a clinical laboratory component (NSG/NSL 381, 382,383 and NSG 562,563, 565). The student may not begin clinical experience until the policy is on file. Forms for subscribing for insurance are available from the secretary in the Nursing Department. Students may apply online and pay for their insurance. At the present time, students are required to carry coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000/\$4,000,000 to meet the requirements of some of the clinical agencies.

### **Criminal and Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance**

In accordance with Pennsylvania Nursing Law and Child Protective Services Law as an effort to protect client safety and property, students will be required to complete a criminal background check before progressing to NSG/NSL 381, 382,383, and NSG 562,563,565. In addition, students will be required to complete Delaware Child and Elder Abuse History Clearance prior to NSG/NSL 383 and if completing a practicum in Delaware. Clinical placements may be denied by the clinical site due to felony or misdemeanor convictions, or other adverse findings, and the inability to be placed at a clinical site will prohibit the student from graduating. Since there is not a comprehensive list from clinical sites and licensing agencies, we cannot provide guidance on what would absolutely exclude the student from clinical placement or licensure. However, these decisions are typically dependent upon the nature of the incident, time since the incident occurred, and frequency and type of the incident. It should be noted by all nursing students that the Professional Nursing Law provides that the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing may refuse applications for professional nursing licensure if the applicant “has been convicted, or has pleaded guilty, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or has been found guilty by a

judge or jury, of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude, or has received probation without verdict, disposition in lieu of trial or an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition in the deposition of felony charges, in the courts of this Commonwealth (of Pennsylvania), the United States or any other state, territory, possession or country.” Moral turpitude has been defined by the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania as “anything done knowingly contrary to justice, honesty, or good morals.” Determination of whether a crime is one of moral turpitude depends on the element of the crime as they are enumerated under the criminal statute. All crimes in which fraud is an element are looked on as involving moral turpitude. The Board is authorized to reject application for licensure to anyone who has been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude, even if the crime was not related to the practice of nursing or was not committed while in the practice of nursing.

### **Substance Abuse Policy**

Students are expected to perform unimpaired. Prior to progressing to the nursing clinical courses, a student must have a negative substance abuse result. Students suspected of substance abuse as evidenced by documented impaired behavior are also subject to further testing. This policy is in addition to the West Chester University of PA Student Code of Conduct and the Drug Free campus policy.

**Substance Testing:** Tests are performed by a qualified agency or laboratory using standard procedures for maintaining chain of custody. Tested substances are amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids, cocaine, opiates and phencyclidine. Students are responsible for all costs associated with these tests. Students’ results are sent directly to the Department of Nursing. Students with a positive result will be dismissed from the Nursing major. Refusal to be tested will result in dismissal from the Nursing major.

### **FBI Check**

Students must have an FBI check performed annually before progressing clinical. Students are responsible for costs associated with this check. Student results are accessed directly by the clinical agency. Student access to the clinical agency is at the discretion of the clinical agency based on this FBI check.

### **Health Insurance**

Students are to be covered by their own health insurance policy. If students do not have their own insurance, they are encouraged to consider Affordable Care Act.

### **Health Requirements**

A health form (see forms at the end of this handbook) is required for all nursing students during the first semester of the program. This requirement helps to protect the health of the students as well as the clients with whom you come in contact while providing nursing care. Our department requirements conform to the rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania State Board of Nurse Examiners in regard to provisions for the protection of students' health and requirements of our clinical affiliates. Student health problems should be identified and how the problem will be remediated in their annual physical. Students will attest to the accuracy of their medical history. The student's provider will verify the student's fitness for duty. In some cases, students must provide a provider's clearance to participate in the clinical setting. NO student will be permitted to begin NSG/NSL 381 without completion of ALL preclinical requirements.

The health report must include:

1. Completed health form.
2. Evidence of immunity to rubella, measles, mumps, poliomyelitis, flu, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, Hepatitis B, and varicella.
3. Immunization record: Evidence of first 3 series vaccination and booster of Tdap within the last 10 years OR laboratory test results showing positive titer. The Hepatitis B immunization process is a three-injection series that occurs over a six-month period; initial dose, one month later second dose

and five months later third dose. Therefore, the vaccination must be started no later than the beginning of the M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) program. Prior to starting NSG/NSL 381, you must have been vaccinated or show proof of an acceptable titer.

4. Tuberculosis Screening. Either a two-step tuberculin skin test or a QuantiFERON Gold test is required.
5. The Covid vaccine is required to attend clinical. If students do not receive the Covid vaccine, they may not be placed with a clinical agency, preventing them from progressing in the program.

### **Student Guidelines for Communicable Diseases**

Nursing professionals including faculty have a fundamental responsibility to provide care to all clients assigned to them, and the refusal to care for those patients is contrary to the ethics of the profession. All clients have a right to humane, quality care. Nursing faculty have a responsibility for instructing students in the provision of care based on sound knowledge and professional values. As all clients are potential carriers of communicable diseases, the ability to care for these clients safely is essential. It is the students' responsibility to inform clinical faculty of exposure or symptoms of any communicable disease.

#### **Communicable Disease Policy**

- a. All Nursing majors, prior to direct client contact, must receive instruction concerning the modes and risks of acquiring and transmitting communicable disease in the clinical setting.
- b. All students, prior to direct client contact, must receive instruction concerning infection control precautions such as the standard precautions presented by CDC. This instruction will also include appropriate response/recommendations in the case of an exposure such as a needle stick injury.
- c. All students must demonstrate knowledge of and skill in the performance of basic aseptic technique before they begin clinical practicum. Students who fail to do so will not meet clinical course requirements.
- d. All students will be required to care for clients with communicable diseases.
- e. It is the responsibility of the student to follow the CDC Guidelines in minimizing risk of infection at the clinical setting.
- f. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the personal protection measures such as immunization/vaccination that are required or recommended by the Dept. of Nursing.
- g. In the case of refusal by a student to care for a client with a communicable disease, the Department of Nursing will pursue the following steps:
  - 1.) The Nursing Student will receive additional education and counseling underscoring the obligation to provide care for all clients who have communicable diseases.
  - 2.) If refusal continues, career counseling will be recommended.
  - 3.) Nursing Students are hereby notified that continued refusal to care for a client with a communicable disease may result in dismissal from the nursing program.

CDC's recommendation on Infection Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/index.html>

## Standards of Safe Clinical Practice

In all clinical situations, students are expected to demonstrate responsibility and accountability as professional nurses, with the ultimate goal being health promotion and prevention of harm to others. The Department of Nursing believes that this goal will be attained if each student's daily clinical practice is guided by the Standards of Safe Clinical Practice.

Safe clinical performance always includes, but is not limited to, the following behaviors; therefore, I will:

1. Practice within boundaries of the nursing student role.
2. Comply with instructional policies and procedures on implementing nursing care.
3. Prepare for clinical assignments according to course requirements and as determined for specific clinical setting.
4. Provide nursing care that may be required to promote health and prevent illness or further complications.
5. Demonstrate the application of previously learned skills and principles in providing nursing care.
6. Administer medications and/or treatments responsibly according to guidelines provided by the Department of Nursing and agency.
7. Promptly report significant client information in a clear, accurate, and complete oral or written manner to the appropriate person(s).

During enrollment in the West Chester University School of Nursing Program, all students, in all clinical activities, are expected to practice according to the Standards of Safe Clinical Practice.

Failure to abide by these standards will result in disciplinary action, which may include dismissal from the Nursing Program.

### PROCEDURES

1. M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) students will receive a copy of the Standards of Safe Clinical Practice in NSG/NSL 381.
2. Students are required to read the Standards and sign a statement that they have read and understand the Standards. This statement will be kept during the student's enrollment in the M.S. in Nursing (with Accelerated B.S.N.) Program.
3. At the beginning of each subsequent clinical course, the Standards of Safe Clinical Practice will be reviewed with students by the appropriate level coordinator.
4. If any violation jeopardizes patient safety, the student may be removed from the clinical setting.
5. Violation of these Standards will result in the following disciplinary action:
  - A. First Violation
    - 1) Student will be given an immediate oral warning by the appropriate faculty member. The incident will be documented by the faculty member on the *Violation of Standards of Safe Clinical Practice* form. The student has the opportunity to include their comments in the *Student Comments* section of the form. One copy of this form will be given to the student (either hard copy or electronic copy) and one copy will be kept in the student's confidential record.
    - 2) At the discretion of the faculty member, the student may be required to leave the clinical area for the remainder of the day and may not be allowed to return to the clinical area.

- 3) If the student has not been dismissed and remains in the Program following the above disciplinary action, any additional violation will be documented and referred as above for disciplinary action, which may result in student dismissal from the Program.
- 4) If this violation is of a serious nature (any act which places a client in physical or psychological danger), in addition to Step 1 & 2, it may be referred to the Level Coordinator and Level Team for further disciplinary action as in B below. The student will be given notice and have an opportunity to be heard by and meet with the Graduate Coordinator and M.S. IN NURSING (WITH ACCELERATED B.S.N.) Program Director prior to any disciplinary actions.

#### B. Second and Subsequent Violations

- 1) In addition to 5A, the faculty member will document the incident on the Violation of Safe Clinical Practice form. Following discussion of the incident with the student, the faculty member will forward a copy of the form to the Level Coordinator and Chair of the Department of Nursing, for review and recommendation regarding further action. The student will be given notice and have an opportunity to be heard and to meet with the Level Coordinator and Level Team prior to any disciplinary actions.
- 2) The recommendation of reprimand or dismissal will be forwarded by the Level Coordinator to the Department Chair for review and approval. This disciplinary action process will be documented and placed in the student's confidential record.
- 3) If the student has not been dismissed and remains in the Program following the above disciplinary action, any additional violation will be documented and referred as above for disciplinary action, which may result in student dismissal from the Program.

#### **Student Appeal Procedures for Violation of Standards Safe Clinical Practice:**

A student may appeal a first violation processed under section 5.A. 1 & 2 above according to the following procedures:

1. Student may appeal the Violation with the issuing faculty member within 2 business days of the date of the Violation. If the appeal is not mutually resolved, the student may then appeal to the Level Coordinator within 4 business days of the date of the Violation.
2. If the appeal is still not satisfactorily resolved, the student may then appeal to the Department Chair within 2 business days after completion of Step 1.
3. The student may appeal the decision of the Department Chair to the College of Health Sciences Associate Dean within 2 business days after the Chair's decision. The Associate Dean's decision will be the final determination of the University. Student may appeal a second or subsequent violation or a first violation of serious nature under section 5.A.4 above .

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY  
*Department of Nursing*  
 Violation of Standards of Safe Clinical Practice Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate by Circling: Violation #1 #2  
 #3

Description of Incident:

Action Taken:

**SAMPLE**

Student Comments:

*I understand that I have two business days to appeal this violation with the faculty member.*

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature merely indicates they have read this form.

Instructor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*(Revised & reprinted with permission from Duquesne University School of Nursing)*

**Injury/Incident Form**

The West Chester University Department of Nursing Incident Report is filed when any unusual event occurs (such as exposure to infectious disease or hazardous material, life threatening injury, needle sticks, falls, or being struck by a patient, etc.) which may cause injury to students. Students assume the risk of injury at all clinical sites and laboratory settings and hold West Chester University harmless. The Department Chair and course coordinator should be notified as soon as the faculty member has knowledge of such an event. The completed form should then be sent to the Nursing Department Administrative Assistant for processing.

West Chester University  
Department of Nursing  
***INJURY/INCIDENT FORM***  
(Please Print)

Today's Date:		Faculty Member Taking Report:			
<b>STUDENT INFORMATION</b>					
Student's Last Name: Middle:		First:		Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Age:      Birth date: /   /
Student address:			Student ID no.:	Student phone no.:	
Student E-mail address:		City:		State:	Zip Code:
<b>INJURY/INCIDENT INFORMATION</b>					
Time/Date of injury/incident:	Physical Location of injury/incident (clinical site):	Brief statement of Injury/incident, include body part involved:		Was faculty member present at time of injury/incident? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Injury/incident details (please describe in detail, what happened, use back if need more room):					
Was any first aid provided? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			If yes, what was done and by who:		
Was any referral made and where? (Ex. ER, Urgent Center, PCP) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			If yes, what was done (attach copy of discharge notes if applicable):		
Witnesses and contact information (If any):		Faculty Notified <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No; <b>Who:</b> _____ M.S. IN NURSING (WITH ACCELERATED B.S.N.) Coordinator Notified <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No; <b>Who:</b> _____ Chairperson Notified <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No; <b>Who:</b> _____ Any others notified: Who/relationship:			
Student Printed Name:			Faculty Printed Name:		
The above information is true to the best of my knowledge.					
Student Signature		Date	Faculty Signature		Date

SAMPLE



## Clinical Attendance Policy

Attendance at all clinical and laboratory experiences is required in order to meet the educational objectives of each nursing course. In the case of illness, it is the student's responsibility to notify faculty and the clinical agency (if applicable) if they are unable to be present for the clinical laboratory experience. There will be no grade point penalty associated with clinical absences. However, clinical absences of up to 12 hours per semester must be made up by attending clinical makeup day as scheduled by the faculty. Students who fail to attend the clinical makeup day will be receive an IP grade and must complete the online makeup modules as outlined further in this policy. Failure to complete required makeup work will result in a failing grade in the clinical course. More than 12 hours absenteeism from a single rotation but less than 35% of the clinical hours (27 hours per rotation or 54 hours from the total semester) will result in an IN-PROGRESS (IP) grade for clinical as the student will not be able to meet the clinical objectives set forth in the CET. The student will then be required to complete online educational modules prior to the start of the next semester with all modules to be completed to receive a completed grade for credits. Students that miss more than 35% of the assigned clinical hours for one rotation will receive a failing grade for the course.

<b>Hours Missed</b>	<b>Make-Up Requirement</b>
<b>1-12</b>	<b>Attend Clinical Make-up Day</b>
<b>&gt; 12 hours per semester</b>	<b>Attend Clinical Makeup Day and Receive Incomplete (IP) grade, must complete online modules during semester break to complete clinical course, earn letter grade and progress</b>
<b>&gt;27 hours (35%) in a single clinical rotation or &gt;54 hours (35%) from the total semester</b>	<b>Clinical Failure as student cannot meet the objectives of Clinical Evaluation Tool</b>

## Simulation

It is important to prepare for your simulation experiences. All prep work must be completed prior to attending. Students are expected to complete prep work and arrive on time and be prepared. Should students not attend or not be prepared, students will be marked absent, and it will count toward a clinical absence.

### Simulation Lab – Late Arrival Policy

Rationale:

- Simulation is currently counted as clinical hours.
- Professionalism is an outcome of Clinical Evaluation Tool (CET), lateness is an aspect of professionalism

Students who arrive late for simulation lab will be permitted to attend and participate, as long as they have completed the assigned simulation prelab assignments as per simulation preparation policy.

If the student arrives less than 1 hour late to simulation lab, a written make-up assignment will be assigned. If this written assignment is not submitted within one week and/or does not meet assignment expected outcomes, the lateness converts to a clinical absence of one hour as per clinical absence policy.

If students arrive late to simulation lab at 1 hour or more, a written makeup assignment will be assigned. If the assignment is not submitted within one week and/or does not meet assignment expected outcomes, the lateness converts to a clinical absence equal to the amount of time missed as per clinical absence policy.

### **Attendance at Professional Conferences**

Students may submit a written request (two weeks in advance) to be excused from a classroom and/or clinical laboratory experience in order to attend a professional meeting at the discretion of the clinical faculty and Graduate Coordinator to be limited to one per semester.

\*e.g., Student Nurses' Association Convention, continuing education program, or poster presentation.

NOTE: A job interview does not meet the criteria of a professional day

### **Transportation to Clinical Agencies**

As stated in the University catalog, students are required to supply their own transportation to clinical facilities.

\*\*Please note – some rotations will require students to have their own means of transportation during the clinical day. Carpooling and/or public transportation to clinical during those rotations are not feasible.

### **Dress Code (Uniforms, etc.)**

The faculty believes that the appearance of a nurse is important. The nurse is part of the patient's environment for healing. The Department of Nursing designates a standard dress code and requires that the student obtain the necessary items prior to entering the first clinical experience. For graduate practicum experiences, the student will consult their preceptor on acceptable attire and appearance.

These items include:

1. Eggplant (purple) uniforms may be purchased by the student for many of the hospital settings.
2. An identification tag that includes two lines as follows:  
Student's Name  
Nursing Student
3. Please refer to the Student Affairs Information Guidelines regarding uniform purchase. Forms are distributed in the first spring semester and can be found on D2L.
4. Gray WCU jacket is the only uniform jacket acceptable for clinical.

### **Other Dress Code Requirements/Appearance**

*The following outline states other requirements of the dress code by the Student Affairs Committee, accepted by the West Chester University Department of Nursing faculty, December 2019.*

**Hair** - Neat and preferably no longer than to the collar

**Jewelry** - Earrings: Small, pierced, inconspicuous, non-dangling earrings are acceptable limit one earring per ear  
Watch - A watch with a second hand is necessary  
Other - Wedding bands are acceptable

**Makeup** - Lightly worn facial makeup is acceptable

**Nails** - No artificial nails. Nails not to exceed ¼ inch in length. Only clear nail polish is acceptable

**Facial Hair** - Facial hair should be maintained as neat & trimmed at all times

**Body Art** - Ear piercings should be limited to one stud per ear. No other body piercings may be visible. If visible, facial piercings must be removed or covered.

**Tattoos** - They must be covered.

**Name Pin** - Must be worn as part of the uniform

**Shoes** - Leather or impenetrable professional shoes; no open back/open toe clogs. Shoes should be clean and in good repair.

**Overall professionalism is expected with dress code and appearance. It is at the faculty's discretion as to an appropriate, professional appearance.**

**\*\*\*DISCLAIMER: Clinical agency guidelines may vary regarding dress code & appearance. Students must abide by the guidelines of the institution.\*\*\***

## **Use of Social Media**

The use of social media and other electronic communication is increasing with growing numbers of social media outlets, platforms and applications, including blogs, social networking sites, video sites, and online chat rooms and forums. Nurses often use electronic media both personally and professionally. Instances of inappropriate use of electronic media by nurses have been reported to boards of nursing and, in some cases, reported in nursing literature and the media.

Federal law reinforces and further defines privacy through the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA regulations are intended to protect patient privacy by defining individually identifiable information and establishing how this information may be used, by whom and under what circumstances.

Potential consequences for inappropriate use of social and electronic media by a nurse are varied. The potential consequences will depend, in part, on the particular nature of the nurse's conduct.

## **Board of Nursing Implications**

Instances of inappropriate use of social and electronic media may be reported to the Board of Nursing. The laws outlining the basis for disciplinary action by a Board of Nursing vary between jurisdictions. Depending on the laws of a jurisdiction, a Board of Nursing may investigate reports of inappropriate disclosures on social media by a nurse on the grounds of:

Unprofessional conduct; unethical conduct; moral turpitude; mismanagement of patient records; revealing a privileged communication; and breach of confidentiality.

If the allegations are found to be true, the licensed nurse may face disciplinary action by the Board of Nursing, including a reprimand or sanction, assessment of a monetary fine, or temporary or permanent loss of licensure. (National Council on State Boards of Nursing (August 2011). White Paper: A Nurse's Guide to Social Media)

The entire White Paper can be found on the National Council's website [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org) Students are held to the same standards stated above and may face dismissal from the program if found to be using social media in an inappropriate manner.

## **Student Employment**

Employment in health care settings is not required for students in the nursing program. However, many students choose to work part-time during the school year and/or full-time during the summer vacation period in

hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, or other health care agencies. In most instances, they are employed as nursing assistants or in dealing with clients and families.

When seeking or accepting employment in a health care agency, students should be acutely aware of Section 21.112a of the Rules and Regulations of the Pennsylvania State Board of Nurse Examiners, as follows:

**"If students are employed in health agencies, they may not be employed as registered or practical nurses unless they are currently licensed."**

Nursing students employed in any position involving client care must work under the direct supervision of a registered nurse and must not perform any tasks or accept any responsibilities reserved for practical nurses by the Practical Nurse Law of Pennsylvania or for registered nurses by the Professional Nursing Law, which governs the practice of professional nursing in Pennsylvania. Violation of these guidelines could result in a malpractice lawsuit being brought against the student.

In some health care agencies, an attempt has been made recently to encourage or even require nursing student employees to perform functions which are legally reserved for RN's or LPN's. Students applying for a position in a health care agency should always ask for a detailed job description and job title. Any description or title other than a standard one such as "nursing assistant," "nurse aide," or "ward clerk" should alert the student to investigate further, probably through discussion with her faculty advisor. "Nurse Extern" is one example of a title which can confer inappropriate and/or illegal responsibilities on a student who accepts it prior to graduation.

## **MSN Practicum Guidelines for NSG 562, 563, and 565**

### **Clinical Agency**

The agency is willing to cooperate with the Department of Nursing to provide internships, teaching experiences, or advanced practice experiences for graduate students.

The agency is approved or accredited as is appropriate.

The agency is willing to sign the WCU Department of Nursing Letter of Agreement.

There is an affiliation contract with the facility.

### **Preceptor Credentials**

The preceptor will hold a minimum of a master's degree in nursing.

The preceptor will serve as a role model for the graduate student in education or in an advanced practice role.

The preceptor will have demonstrated expertise in education or in an advanced practice role.

### **Preceptor Expectations**

The preceptor will:

Review with the student the course and personal objectives during the experience.

Plan experiences with the student which will meet course objectives.

Facilitate the student's meeting of the course objectives in the setting.

Participate in the evaluation of the experience.

Collaborate with the faculty and Graduate Coordinator

### **M.S. IN NURSING (WITH ACCELERATED B.S.N.) Student Expectations**

Secure a Preceptor at an approved clinical agency where the nature of the experience will meet course objectives. The Graduate Coordinator can assist students in contacting and selecting a clinical agency and preceptor.

Complete mandatory Department of Nursing and clinical agency clearances

### **Faculty Member Expectations**

The faculty will collaborate with the student and preceptor in planning the experience.

The faculty member will monitor student's progress and evaluate the student's success in meeting course objectives.

Make site visits as appropriate.

### **Graduate Coordinator Expectations**

The Graduate Coordinator will collaborate with the student to initiate contact with agencies and determine the feasibility of the placement of students within any given semester.

The Graduate Coordinator will work with clinical agencies to secure letters of agreement.

**Practicum Hour Requirements Per Course**

NSG 562 150 hours

NSG 563 150 hours

NSFG 565 168 hours

# **Student Clinical Forms**

**Student Clinical Forms**

Department of Nursing

**Consent to Release**  
**Prerequisite Clinical Information to Clinical Agencies**

As part of the agreement to have WCU Nursing students at their agency, some of the clinical agencies request that copies of the TB screening, vaccinations, liability insurance, and/or criminal and child/elder abuse forms be on file at their agency.

I acknowledge that the above information may be sent to the necessary clinical agencies and agree to the release of that information.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_





Department of Nursing

## **Standards of Safe Clinical Practice**

### **STANDARDS OF SAFE CLINICAL PRACTICE**

In all clinical situations, students are expected to demonstrate responsibility and accountability as professional nurses, with the ultimate goal being health promotion and prevention of harm to others. The Department of Nursing believes that this goal will be attained if each student's daily clinical practice is guided by the Standards of Safe Clinical Practice.

Safe clinical performance always includes, but is not limited to, the following behaviors; therefore, I will:

1. Practice within boundaries of the nursing student role.
2. Comply with instructional policies and procedures on implementing nursing care.
3. Prepare for clinical assignments according to course requirements and as determined for specific clinical setting.
4. Provide nursing care that may be required to promote health and prevent illness or further complications.
5. Demonstrate the application of previously learned skills and principles in providing nursing care.
6. Administer medications and/or treatments responsibly according to guidelines provided by the Department of Nursing and agency.
7. Promptly report significant client information in a clear, accurate, and complete oral or written manner to the appropriate person(s).
8. Act with truth/veracity to promptly report incidents (oral or written) of adverse risk(s) for harm to patient, peers, faculty and agencies.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*I have read the West Chester University Department of Nursing Academic Standards of Safe Clinical Practice. I understand that these standards are expectations that guide my clinical practice and will be incorporated into the evaluation of my clinical performance in all clinical courses. Failure to meet these standards may result in my removal from the clinical area, which may result in clinical failure.*

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Student Health Physical Form**

**Please Print:**

<small>Last Name</small>	<small>First Name</small>	<small>MI</small>	<small>WCU ID #</small>
Blood Pressure: _____ / _____	Pulse: _____	Respiration: _____	
Corrected Vision: Right: 20 / _____	Left: 20 / _____	Both: 20 / _____	
Height: _____	Weight: _____	BMI: _____	

<b>MEDICAL</b>	<b>NORMAL</b>	<b>ABNORMAL</b>
Appearance		
Eyes/Ears/Nose/Throat		
Hearing		
Lymph Nodes		
Heart		
Murmurs		
Pulses		
Lungs		
Abdomen		
Genitourinary		
Skin		
Musculoskeletal		
Neck		
Back		
Shoulder/Arm		
Elbow/Forearm		
Hip/Thigh		
Knees		
Leg/Ankle		
Foot/Toes		

Is this student currently under care for a chronic/serious illness? Yes  No

If yes, specify illness: \_\_\_\_\_

Please verify medications or medical treatment if receiving. (If additional documentation is needed, please attach.

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_

4.) \_\_\_\_\_

Is the student nurse fit for full duty: Yes  No

Name of Provider (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Provider \_\_\_\_\_, MD, DO, NP, PA



## **Substance Abuse Policy**

### **Substance Abuse Policy:**

Students are expected to perform unimpaired. Prior to progressing to the nursing courses (NSG/NSL 311/312/411/412/381/383/385), a student must have a negative substance abuse result. Students suspected of substance abuse as evidenced by documented impaired behavior are also subject to further testing. This policy is in addition to the West Chester University of PA Student Code of Conduct and the Drug-Free campus policy. (Section III, Ram's Eye View).

### **Substance Testing:**

Students must have a test performed at the designated laboratory (annually) during the stated testing period before progressing to each of the following courses: NSG/NSL 311/312/381 and NSG/NSL 411/412. Tests are performed by a qualified agency or laboratory using standard procedures for maintaining chain of custody. Tested substances include amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids, cocaine, opiates and phencyclidine. Students are responsible for all costs associated with these tests. Students' results are sent to American Data Bank and reviewed by select University Personnel. Students with a positive result will be dismissed from the Nursing major. A Refusal to test will result in dismissal from the Nursing major.

### **Drug Testing**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, *(print name)*, understand that as a requirement for progression in the West Chester University, Department of Nursing, I must submit to a urine drug test at the designated laboratory, which will provide the results of the test to the Ch. I understand that if the test is positive, I will be dismissed from the Nursing program.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



Department of Nursing  
**Student Health Physical Form**

**SECTION I (to be completed by student):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name First Name MI

\_\_\_\_\_  
 WCU ID # Date of Birth Phone #

\*\*\*The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, "Pennsylvania Code" Title 28; Tuberculin Testing of School Personnel, states that the tuberculin skin test needs to be administered within 3 months prior to the date the school receives the form.\*\*\*

**SECTION II (to be completed by Health Care Professional - see instructions):**

Name of Provider Providing Services \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

1. QuantitFERON gold titer preferred - result: \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional 2 Step TST Listed in box below:**

**Guidelines:** <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm>

<b><u>Tuberculosis Screening (PPD)</u></b>		
Date Given: _____	Time: _____	Arm: L R
Manufacturer: _____		
Lot #: _____	Expiration Date: _____	
Dosage: _____	Route: _____	
Signature/Title: _____		
Date Read: _____	Time: _____	
Result: _____ mm induration		
Signature/Title: _____		

**SECTION III (if 10 mm or greater – see instructions):**

- Was BCG given?
  - No
  - YES If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Attach copy of Chest X-ray Report
3. Is applicant free of infectious Tuberculosis Disease?
  - No
  - YES
4. Was the applicant referred for treatment?
  - No
  - YES If yes, When, Where and What is treatment?  
**\*Please attach documentation.**



**Department of Nursing**

***Guidance for Students Prior to Participation in Clinical Rotations***

- (1) West Chester University does not mandate that any student be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- (2) The health care facilities where students complete their clinical requirements (and “affiliation site” or “clinical agency” set their own rules for employees as well as students who work in clinical placements. The decision to require vaccination – along with all other participation requirements – is made by each clinical agency.
- (3) As of the date of this Guidance, the majority of clinical agencies require the COVID-19 vaccination (and in some cases, a booster) to participate in clinical placements within their sites.
- (4) As of the date of this Guidance, most clinical agencies are not considering exemption requests from students, directly or through the placing institutions (that is, West Chester University).
- (5) One clinical agency allows religious or medical exemptions to be considered by WCU.
- (6) No other clinical agencies currently have a process for the consideration of an exemption request. Of the clinical agencies that consider exemption requests, currently all but one review the request directly, and therefore, West Chester University is not involved in the exemption review process.

If a clinical agency is allowing for student exemptions that it will review, the agency’s point of contact information will be posted on the departmental D2L resource page.

- (7) Students enrolled in the nursing curriculum must complete didactic (NSG) and clinical (NSL) courses concurrently in a sequential manner that has been approved by the State Board of Nursing and the specialized accreditation body. Since most clinical agencies are requiring the COVID-19 vaccination, it is very likely that students who are not vaccinated will not be able to complete the curriculum with their cohort (or at all).
  - For example, even if an unvaccinated student completes one rotation at a site that allows for an exemption, the student might not be able to progress within the program (*i.e.*, next rotation) if the agency for their next rotation is requiring the COVID-19 vaccination.
- (8) If there are no clinical agencies who will accept a student who has not received a COVID-19 vaccination or a students’ request for an exemption from a vaccination requirement has been denied, and the student would not be able to continue with their program, WCU will seek to locate an alternative clinical placement. But because WCU cannot control the conditions established by clinical agencies, WCU cannot guarantee clinical placements – in specific clinical rotations required for a Nursing degree – for unvaccinated students. As a result, it may be necessary for a student to pause their nursing curriculum for an undetermined time period.



**Department of Nursing**

***Guidance for Students Prior to Participation in Clinical Rotations***

- a. The establishment of new agreements with clinical agencies can take up to six months. In addition, even if WCU would enter into an affiliation agreement with a clinical agency that either does not require students to have a COVID-19 vaccine or it permits exemptions from such a requirement, there is no guarantee that the clinical agency would not change its vaccination requirement in the future. Therefore, West Chester University may not be able to create new affiliation site agreements to allow unvaccinated students to continue in the program.
  - b. Per specialized accreditation standards, students are not permitted to find their own clinical placements.
  - c. Per specialized accreditation standards, students are not permitted to participate in clinical experiences that contain 100% simulation or lab.
- (9) Should a student elect to pursue COVID-19 vaccination, their vaccination records must be updated into the department platform for records by July 1, 2022. This will ensure the Department of Nursing will be able to onboard a student within the clinical agency in time for the Fall semester, preventing a program progression delay.

**STUDENT ATTESTATION**

By signing this form, you acknowledge all the foregoing conditions, restrictions, and limitations that maybe present if you have not received a COVID-19 vaccination.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Department of Nursing  
Student Health Form and Immunization Record

To be completed by student. All information is strictly confidential. No information will be released without the student's consent. *Please print clearly.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name                                      First Name                                      MI

\_\_\_\_\_  
WCU ID #                                      Gender                                      Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone #                                      Cell #

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**

Name and Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_      Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_      Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION**

Name and Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Plan: \_\_\_\_\_      Policy ID #: \_\_\_\_\_      Group #: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscriber's Name: \_\_\_\_\_      Phone # to call for authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

**HEALTH INFORMATION**

**ALLERGIES:** List medication allergies and any other allergies, including foods, insects, latex.

Name of drug or other allergy	Type of reaction

Name of Drug or other Allergy	Type of Reaction

**MEDICATIONS:** List medications taken regularly – include contraceptives, over-the-counter drugs.

Name of Drug	Strength/Dosage	Name of Drug	Strength/Dosage

Please tell us about any chronic health conditions, disabilities, chronic/serious illnesses that may impact your health status while at West Chester University:

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### **REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED IMMUNIZATIONS**

The following immunizations are **REQUIRED**:

**1. MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)**

(Two doses required at least 28 days apart for students born after 1956.)

- Dose #1 given at age 12 months or later: #1  $\frac{\quad}{M} / \frac{\quad}{D} / \frac{\quad}{Y}$
- Dose #2: given at least 28 days after the first dose #2  $\frac{\quad}{M} / \frac{\quad}{D} / \frac{\quad}{Y}$

**OR**

Date Measles titer drawn:  $\frac{\quad}{M} / \frac{\quad}{D} / \frac{\quad}{Y}$       Reactive  Non-reactive

Date Mumps titer drawn:  $\frac{\quad}{M} / \frac{\quad}{D} / \frac{\quad}{Y}$       Reactive  Non-reactive

Date Rubella titer drawn:  $\frac{\quad}{M} / \frac{\quad}{D} / \frac{\quad}{Y}$       Reactive  Non-reactive

**2. TETANUS** – Within 10 years of admission. Provide most recent date.

Booster: Tdap      Date:  $\frac{\quad}{M} / \frac{\quad}{D} / \frac{\quad}{Y}$



### 3. MENINGITIS (Meningococcal) (Required if living on campus)

Pennsylvania state law requires all students who live in university housing, to provide either proof of vaccination for meningitis or a signed waiver requesting exemption after having received information on the risks associated with meningococcal disease and the availability and effectiveness of the vaccine. Refer to CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/public/index.html>

Please check one: Living on Campus

Living off campus

- Tetravalent Conjugate Vaccine (Menactra) Date:      /      /      **OR**  
M D Y
- Tetravalent Polysaccharide (Menomune) Date:      /      /      **OR**  
M D Y
- Complete "**Immunization Waiver**" at end of document.

### 4. VARICELLA (Chicken Pox)

(A history of chicken pox, a reactive varicella antibody titer, or two doses of vaccine for students born in the United States in or after 1980 meets this requirement.)

History of disease: Date:      /      /      **OR**  
M D Y

- Varicella antibody titer drawn:

Date:      /      /      Reactive  Non-Reactive  **OR**  
M D Y

- Immunization:

Dose #1:      /      /       
M D Y

Dose #2: (Given at least 12 weeks after the first dose ages 1-12 years, and at least 4 weeks after first dose if age 13 years or older)      /      /       
M D Y

### 5. HEPATITIS B

(Three doses of vaccine or two doses of adult vaccine in adolescents 11-15 years of age, or a positive Hepatitis B surface antibody)

- Immunization (Hepatitis B)

#1      /      /      #2      /      /      #3      /      /      **OR**  
M D Y M D Y M D Y

- Immunization (Combined Hepatitis A and B vaccine)

#1      /      /      #2      /      /      #3      /      /      **OR**  
M D Y M D Y M D Y

- Date of Hepatitis B surface antibody:

     /      /      Reactive  Non-Reactive   
M D Y

