College of Nursing

Undergraduate Program

Student Handbook

2018-19
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This handbook includes pertinent information important to your progression in the professional major.
Welcome to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Nursing! It is a tremendous accomplishment to be admitted to the professional major and you should feel very proud of yourself. I am truly delighted to welcome you as you begin your journey to become a professional nurse.

Our curriculum is built on a set of competencies that identify the knowledge, skills and attitudes that are needed by the professional nurse. Our approach to teaching and learning is concept-based and student-centered. Concept-based teaching emphasizes learning the processes of thinking rather than memorizing facts and focuses on conceptual understandings that are transferable to a variety of patient situations. The term student-centered means that we use a wide variety of experiences, instructional approaches, and academic support strategies to address the learning needs, interests, and cultural backgrounds of our students.

Active learning in the classroom and opportunities to apply knowledge in a variety of clinical and simulation experiences also play an important role in student learning and formation as a professional nurse. You will be challenged to apply previously attained knowledge, to think critically, and to make clinical judgments based on evidence as you provide care for patients, families, and populations.

What happens in college is not exactly the same as a career in nursing but the knowledge, skills, and attributes we aim to help you develop are essential to your success as a professional nurse. The academic and classroom policies in nursing, though they may at times annoy you, provide the opportunity to practice meeting the expectations for your career in nursing.

This handbook has been designed to orient you to important information about the College and the nursing program. It includes important procedures and policies. Take time to read through the handbook and become familiar with it. Ask questions if something is unclear.

Nursing is one of the most challenging majors at UW-Milwaukee. Feel proud that you are here and know that we are committed to facilitating your success. Reach out to faculty, your curriculum coordinator, and/or your advisor when you need help. Get to know your classmates—they will be your nursing colleagues. Make time to take care of yourself.

The faculty and I look forward to working with you!

Warm regards,

Kay R. Jansen, DNP, PMHCNS-BC, RN, CNE
Clinical Professor and Undergraduate Program Director
Philosophy of the College of Nursing

Consistent with and evolving from the core values the following principles about human beings, environment, health, nursing, learning, and teaching guide the educational programs of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Nursing (UWM-Milwaukee, CON)¹.

Professional nurses are educated at a variety of curricular levels for generation, application, and evaluation of knowledge. The teaching-learning process is interactive. Learning requires active student participation and is enhanced when the instructional environment is respectful and supports personal worth, dignity, and self-identity in the teacher and the student and encourages each person to grow and discover meaning.

Each human is a unique, dynamic, integral being. Human beings exist within physical and social environments. These environments are shaped by dynamic events in socio-cultural, natural, local and global political milieus. Actions of individuals and groups also shape these environments that provide the context within which health and nursing systems operate. Nursing is committed to social justice, challenges existing paradigms when appropriate and creates innovative solutions for health care problems.

Nursing is a socially derived profession whose members assist person, families, groups and the larger society to pursue the goal of optimum health. Health is a dynamic state influenced by the constant interaction of internal and external factors. Health status is reflective of the well-being of individuals and aggregates within environments and encompasses wellness, risks, problems, and needs that may be or have the potential to be present.

Through the use of the nursing process, dynamic interactions between the nurse and the client facilitate the promotion, maintenance, or restoration of health. The knowledge base of nursing must be continually developed and evaluated in response to changing environmental health needs. Nursing care is guided by professional standards and requires personal and professional integrity.

Nursing, as a human interaction, is most effective when nurses reflect the population that it serves. The CON seeks to admit and educate a diverse student body in order to enrich the students’ educational experience and to prepare them to meet the health needs of a diverse society. Therefore, a holistic review of applicants to the CON includes an evaluation of academic achievement, work and leadership experiences, personal and professional accomplishments, skills, abilities and personal qualities. Consideration of these factors as well as a wide range of economic, social, racial/ethnic and geographic backgrounds will enhance diversity within the CON and the nursing profession.
Vision, Mission, Core Values and Guiding Principles

Vision Statement
As an innovative, academic, nursing community, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Nursing faculty, staff, students, and alumni are renowned leaders in creating bold and effective solutions for advancing local, national and global health.2

Core Values

Accountability  Collaboration  Creativity  Diversity  Excellence
Integrity  Human Dignity  Social Justice

We, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Nursing community, embrace and demonstrate these core values in our learning, teaching, research, practice, and service.

Guiding Principles
As a diverse Community of Scholars that values passionate, academic discourse and debate in a climate of civility, we live our core values and create opportunities to embrace, welcome, respect, and strive to understand the perspectives of others – colleagues, students, patients/clients, and community partners.
As a CON community, we:

- live our core values;
- exhibit respectful, transparent and clear communication;
- expect and embrace shared accountability;
- appreciate and foster innovation; and
- seek collaboration in teaching, research, practice and service.

Mission Statement
The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Nursing is a premier, urban, academic, collegial, nursing community that acts collaboratively with partners to:

- Prepare a diverse population of students to become science based, compassionate, nurse leaders through innovative, quality, educational programs for all settings and levels of practice;
- Conduct research and scholarship that advance science in nursing and health;
- Address emerging health needs through evidence based practice and consultation; and
- Develop leaders who transform health care delivery and health policy.

1School of Nursing Faculty approved Faculty Document #(87-04)093 on April 3, 1987; 09/13/02 (ed.) CON Faculty approved Faculty Document #(87-04)083A on November 17, 2006.
2Faculty Document #(96-09) 100 B, Revised May, 2012
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee College of Nursing
Organizational Chart for 2018-2019

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Jennifer Doering

Academic Affairs Support Staff
- Chris Peters - Admin. Prog. Specialist
- Kristen Swanson - Preceptor Coordinator
- Ray MacDonald - Sr. Admin. Specialistn

Secretory
- Susan Wolff - Admin. Prog. Specialist

Academic Affairs Educational Design & Technology Support
- Don Pardee - Media Specialist (Info. Processing Consultant)
- Laura Bennett - Assoc. Information Processing Consultant

Student Affairs
Consortial Nursing Programs
Nursing Programs
Nursing Learning Resource Center (NLRC)
**Undergraduate Nursing Program and Level Outcomes**

The graduate of the UWM College of Nursing is prepared to practice as a beginning generalist in a variety of settings. In addition, the graduate will possess knowledge and skills that qualify her or him to pursue life-long learning and advanced study. The UWM College of Nursing undergraduate and graduate programs are directed toward enhancing the health of those who live and work in urban communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competencies/Program Outcomes</th>
<th>Level Objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em><em>Patient</em>-centered Care</em>*</td>
<td><strong>Foundations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Determines patient preferences, values, and needs and their impact on care.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Delivers nursing care based on patient preferences and values while recognizing one’s own values.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Independently incorporates the multiple dimensions of patient-centered care to provide holistic nursing care to individuals, families, groups, and communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professionalism</strong></td>
<td>Comprehends the guiding principles and standards of the professional nursing role.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Applies principles of professionalism in one’s nursing practice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Asterisk denotes individuals, families, groups, and communities.
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<th>Competencies/Program Outcomes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leadership</strong>: The graduate will influence the behavior of individuals or groups of individuals within the environment in a way that will facilitate the establishment and acquisition/achievement of shared goals.</td>
<td><strong>Foundations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identifies personal and professional beliefs and values regarding leadership.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Systems-based Practice</strong>: The graduate will demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context of the health care system, and will demonstrate the ability to effectively call on microsystem resources to provide care that is of optimal quality and value (Adapted from ACGME, n.d.).</td>
<td>Relates the concepts of micro/macro systems to the delivery of health care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Informatics and Technology</strong>: The graduate will use information and technology to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error, and support decision making (QSEN, 2007).</td>
<td>Describes how technology and information management are related to the quality and safety of health care. Navigates the health record to retrieve and enter pertinent data and information while maintaining privacy and confidentiality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competencies/Program Outcomes</td>
<td>Level Objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communication:</strong> The graduate will interact effectively with patients, families, and colleagues, fostering mutual respect and shared decision making, to enhance patient satisfaction and health outcomes.</td>
<td><strong>Foundations</strong> Uses clear, concise, and professional written, electronic, verbal, and non-verbal communication. <strong>Integration</strong> Adapts communication based on individual, family, community, and colleague responses and needs. <strong>Synthesis</strong> Critically evaluates communication with individuals, families, communities, and colleagues to promote collaboration and to achieve optimum health outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teamwork and Collaboration:</strong> The graduate will function within nursing and interdisciplinary teams, fostering open communication, mutual respect, shared decision making, team learning, and development (Adapted from QSEN, 2007).</td>
<td><strong>Foundations</strong> Explains the essential components of nursing and interdisciplinary teams including communication, ethics, collaboration, and self-awareness. <strong>Integration</strong> Begins to function as a member of nursing and interdisciplinary teams, recognizing roles and contributions of self and others as well as relevant system factors. <strong>Synthesis</strong> Critically evaluates nursing and interdisciplinary teams to identify ways to enhance collaborative efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Safety:</strong> The graduate will minimize risk of harm to patients and providers through both system effectiveness and individual performance (QSEN, 2007).</td>
<td><strong>Foundations</strong> Articulates the essential role of nurses in providing safe care environments. <strong>Integration</strong> Promotes a culture of safety through communication strategies, technology, and standardized practices. <strong>Synthesis</strong> Advances strategies to improve safety in health care settings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quality Improvement:</strong> The graduate uses data to monitor the outcomes of care processes, and uses improvement methods to design and test changes to continuously improve the quality and safety of health care systems (QSEN, 2007).</td>
<td><strong>Foundations</strong> Describes the basic processes of quality improvement and how they relate to nursing practice. <strong>Integration</strong> Examines quality improvement data and initiatives that are relevant in nursing practice settings. <strong>Synthesis</strong> Applies quality improvement tools and processes in a process improvement project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Competencies/Program Outcomes

**Evidence-based Practice:** The graduate will identify, evaluate, and use the best current evidence coupled with clinical expertise and consideration of patients’ preferences, experience and values to make practice decisions (Adapted from QSEN, 2007).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competencies/Program Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Foundations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Describes the concept of evidence based practice (EBP) including the components of research evidence, clinical expertise, and patient values and preferences.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Demonstrates the ability to locate reliable research, evidence, and clinical practice guidelines.</td>
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## Sample UWM Undergraduate Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Pre-Nursing</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSYCH 101: Intro to Psychology</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENGLISH 102: College Writing and Research</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 102: Perspectives on Health Care Systems</td>
<td>2 cr</td>
<td>NURS 101: Cultural Diversity in Healthcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 103: Freshman Seminar in Nursing</td>
<td>1 cr</td>
<td>SOC: Any Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total 16 cr</td>
<td>Social Science Elective</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Pre-Nursing</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 cr</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 101: Chemical Science</td>
<td>BIOSCI 101: Survey of Microbiology</td>
<td>CHEM 103: Survey of Biochemistry</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 203: Growth and Development</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 251: Genetics and Genomics</td>
<td>2 cr</td>
<td>BIOSCI 101: Survey of Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History/Humanities Elective</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>BMS 332: Clinical Nutrition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Humanities Elective</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td>Total 16 cr</td>
<td>Art Elective</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Professional Major</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 351: Professional Role I: Foundations of Professional Practice</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NURS 420: Professional Role II: Provider of Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 359: Concepts of Pathophysiology and Pharmacotherapeutics I</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
<td>NURS 400: Concepts of Pathophysiology and Pharmacotherapeutics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 352: Health and Illness Concepts I: Introduction</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NURS 421: Health &amp; Illness Concepts II: Acute and Chronic Conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 358: Health Assessment and Promotion in Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NURS 419: Concepts of Evidence-based Nursing Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 353: Clinical Practicum I: Foundations</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NURS 422 Clinical Practicum II: Acute &amp; Chronic Conditions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total 16 cr</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Professional Major</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 430: Professional Role III: Interprofessional Practice</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NURS 476: Professional Role IV: Leading in Complex Situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 431: Health &amp; Illness Concepts IV: Lifespan</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NURS 477: Health &amp; Illness Concepts V: Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 432: Health &amp; Illness Concepts III: Population Health</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NURS 480: Transition to Professional Practice</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NURS 434: Nursing Informatics and Technology</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NURS 478: Clinical Practicum IV: Clinical Intensive</td>
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<tr>
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<td>NURS 433: Clinical Practicum III: Population Health</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NURS 479: Clinical Practicum V: Capstone</td>
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<td>Total 15 cr</td>
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# Sample UWP Consortial Nursing Undergraduate Curriculum

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<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Nursing</td>
<td>MATH 105: Intermediate Algebra 3 cr</td>
<td>CHEM 100: Chemical Science 4 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIOSCI 202: Anatomy and Physiology 4 cr</td>
<td>BIO SCI 203: Anatomy and Physiology II 4 cr</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSYCH 101: Intro to Psychology 3 cr</td>
<td>NURS 101: Cultural Diversity in Healthcare 3 cr</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 102: College Writing and Research 3 cr</td>
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<td>Social Science Elective 3 cr</td>
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<td>NURS 103: Freshman Seminar in Nursing 1 cr</td>
<td>Total 16 cr</td>
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<td>Total 15 cr</td>
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</table>
Undergraduate Curriculum

Admission to these courses is based on satisfactory placement scores. Without a satisfactory score, the student must complete prerequisite course work. Degree credit will not be granted for Math 90, 95; English 90, 95. % Chem 103 is a prerequisite for BMS 332. This course should be completed in summer.

6 credits are required in the humanities and 3 credits in the arts. If the history course is approved for GER humanities credit, then only 3 more credits in the humanities are needed to meet the GER humanities distribution requirement.

Required only of new freshmen: A foreign language requirement went into effect September 1999. This is a graduation requirement. See the GER section of the Schedule of Classes for details. (Updated January 3, 2015)

Individual course plans may vary. Consult with your academic advisor before applying to professional major to confirm eligibility.
Independent Study in Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
College of Nursing

I. Overview
Independent Study in Nursing provides the student with an opportunity to pursue a topic or project under the guidance of a College of Nursing faculty member. The student enrolled in an Independent Study course is expected to assume primary responsibility for learning. The faculty member’s role is to stimulate and guide the student in intellectual efforts.

II. Student’s Role
The student may select any area for independent study in nursing which meets the individual’s overall learning goals. In addition, the student is responsible for establishing a contract with a College of Nursing faculty member. The student performing effectively in an independent study course is one who:
- Is intrinsically motivated.
- Makes use of human and material resources.
- Is searching for knowledge.
- Can define her/his own learning needs.
- Can formulate and articulate a set of learning objectives.
- Is able to produce results.
- Can learn to evaluate her/his learning achievement; and strives for improvement.

III. Faculty Member’s Role
The faculty member is a facilitator in helping the student arrange learning opportunities rather than providing and/or dispensing what is to be learned. The faculty member and student establish a written contract in which the faculty member agrees to:

a. Provide time for individual conferences and other forms of supervision.
b. Help the student critically plan learning experiences.
c. Challenge and assist the student to think critically.
d. Help the student integrate learning experiences with overall learning objectives; relate knowledge and see new relationship.
e. Support the student’s independence and creativity.
f. Assist the student in evaluating whether the objectives of the independent study are met.
g. Prepare a written evaluation for the student’s file.

The faculty member must accept the premise that the student is capable of learning apart from regularly established classroom and clinical settings. In addition, the faculty member must be flexible in allowing for innovative and creative learning experiences both within and without the university setting and must determine whether he/she has prerequisite expertise and time to assist the student in the independent study course.
IV. Process
The student may apply credit earned in Independent Study in Nursing under the “free elective” designation. The number of independent study credits applied to degree requirements may not exceed the total number of electives identified in the 124-credit curriculum.

1. Prior to registration, the student desiring to register for independent study in nursing confers with a faculty member selected by the student. If the faculty member believes the student can achieve the objectives which the student has identified, the teacher agrees to act as mentor.

2. Prior to registering for the course, the student completes the attached College of Nursing Application form.* On this form, the student is expected to:

   Identify the title of study,
   State the objectives,
   Outline the plan for action and evaluation,
   Obtain the Application for Independent Study and obtain the faculty member’s signature on the Faculty Member Agreement form and forward both original forms to the Director of the Undergraduate Program.

The completed application form and faculty consent form are submitted to the Director of the Undergraduate Program. Upon receiving the faculty member’s approval, the student may register for the course using the current class schedule.

See your advisor for assistance with course numbers. Students taking multiple semesters of Independent study should not duplicate course numbers, as degree credit is not granted for multiple semesters of the same course.

3. All work for an independent study course must be completed within the semester. Independent Study that requires more than one semester to complete must be divided into two or more semesters. Plans must be agreed upon by the faculty member and the student. In such cases, a separate grade will be awarded for each semesters’ work.

4. The student is responsible for scheduling regular conferences with the faculty member.

5. Both the student and the faculty member are responsible for submitting the Evaluation Form (evaluation of the learning experience and of the learning achievement).

6. The faculty member is responsible for submitting a grade for a special studies course in accord with UWM Policies and Procedures.
Application for Independent Study in Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
College of Nursing

Name ______________________________ # of credits assigned to study

________

Address __________________________________________________________________________________

Telephone # _________________________ Student #

____________________________

Semester & Year of Independent Study __________________________

NURS - __________ - __________
  3-digit course # - instructor code #

Graduate Students  Master’s_____ CNS_____ FNP_____ HPEC_____ PhD _____

Undergraduate Students  Level in Nursing program:

  Traditional Student_____  Pre-Clinical _____

  Accelerated Student_____  IIIA _____ IIIB _____

  RN Student _____  IVA _____ IVB_____  

  Cumulative Grade Point Average ________

  Faculty Member Selected _________________________________

  Did s/he agree to work with you?  Yes_____  No_____
TITLE of Independent Study:

OBJECTIVES

PLAN FOR MEETING THE OBJECTIVES (brief explanation):

EVALUATION PLAN (brief explanation):

Please discuss your plans for Independent Study with the faculty member you selected. When you and the faculty member have reached agreement and this form is complete, return with the Faculty Member Agreement form, to the Director of the Undergraduate Program. The original will be placed in your file.

**Make a copy for yourself, instructor, and forward original to Director of the Undergraduate Program for final signature**

To be completed by the Director of the Undergraduate Program:

__________________       _______________________________________________
Date                                     Director of the Undergraduate Program’s signature
Faculty Member Agreement Form

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
College of Nursing

For Independent Study in Nursing  NURS - ____________-___________

3-digit course # - instructor code #

Semester/Year_____________

I have discussed the proposed independent study with ____________________________

And am willing to supervise this student’s work. We shall arrange for regular conferences and will submit an evaluation of this learning experience at the end of the semester.

________________________   ______________________________

Date          Faculty member’s signature

Please forward this form with the Application for Independent Study to the Director of the Undergraduate Program. The original will be placed in the student’s file.

**Make a copy for yourself, instructor, and forward original to Director of the Undergraduate Program for final signature**

To be completed by the Director of the Undergraduate Program:

________________________

Date          Director of the Undergraduate Program’s signature
Evaluation Summary for Independent Study

Directions: To be completed upon completion of the Independent Study course as stated below. Supervising professor should complete the form below to evaluate student’s performance. A copy of this completed form should then be sent to the Student Affairs Office for placement in the student’s file.

_________________________________      ______________________________________
Name of Student                        Name of Professor

Semester/Year ____________  Number of Credits____________

Evaluation/Summary of Independent Study (to be filled out by the faculty member):

**Make a copy, and forward original to the Student Affairs Office**

To be completed by the faculty member:

Grade Earned__________________  Signature of Professor___________________________
Travel. Students are responsible for arranging transportation to and from all agencies or clients’ homes used to provide clinical experience for the program. They are also responsible for any related liability. Students are expected to carry insurance on their vehicles.

Supplies. Students are expected to provide their own uniforms, books, supplies, equipment and other learning resources for practice experience as deemed necessary to meet course objectives. Students are required to purchase the books, learning package and an electronic device to participate in the program. An electronic device is essential to completing learning activities in the classroom and off campus.

Attendance. Student attendance is expected at every class/clinical. All information and activities in class/clinical are important. In the event, you miss a class/clinical you will be responsible for obtaining information from the instructor, handouts, and notes from another student. Students must notify the instructor by email or phone prior to missing class/clinical.

An absence may be excused for the following reasons: (1) serious illness or death in the immediate family, (2) Religious observances, (3) Military duty or veteran status, (4) Required University related absences, including but not limited to athletic match, presentation of research at a conference, (5) Pregnancy or childbirth, and (6) Legally mandated absences such as jury duty or court subpoena. For an absence to be excused, the student must provide verification (e.g., note from physician, etc.) Faculty members have the discretion to determine what constitutes an appropriate assignment for make-up work. If an absence is not excused, the student will not have the opportunity to make up the work missed and will lose the points for that work.

Illness or Prolonged Absence. Students are expected to be present at all scheduled classes and clinical laboratory experiences. Absence impacts students’ ability to meet required course objectives. As a result, frequent or prolonged absences from scheduled classes and/or clinical experiences may necessitate that the student drop a nursing course. Any planned interruption in course work should be discussed with the student’s advisor at the earliest possible date.

Professional Expectations of Students. Please refer to ‘Professional Expectations of Students in Academic and Clinical Settings’ (Policy CP #05-01-17).
HEALTH, SAFETY, AND CLINICAL PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

The following requirements must be met by all students, including those who are entering the clinical major and those who are in the clinical nursing major.

The non-negotiable due dates for all students are:

- August 1st for Fall semester (all students going into any level in Fall)
- January 2nd for Spring semester (all students going into any level in Spring)

For students who are entering the clinical major, failure to complete these requirements by the due date will result in the student losing the clinical placement. Rationale: If a student is not motivated to complete the requirements for admission, we have students on the wait list who could take the spot. There will be no consequences beyond this for the CON, the student admitted from the wait list, or the faculty/staff.

For students already in the clinical nurse major, failure to complete these requirements by due dates noted above will result in a 10% deduction off of the final clinical grade (first offense) and loss of clinical placement (with readmission only on a space available basis).

Detailed information related to these expectations:

**Health and Accident Insurance** Students are required to have personal health insurance that is in effect at the time of entry into the clinical portion of the nursing program. This insurance must cover you while you are on location at a facility or institution. STUDENTS ARE NOT COVERED BY HEALTH OR ACCIDENT INSURANCE BY EITHER THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE NOR THE PRACTICUM FACILITY NOR PRACTICUM INSTITUTION. In addition, WORKER’S COMPENSATION INSURANCE DOES NOT COVER STUDENTS. IF YOU BECOME ILL OR INJURED AS A RESULT OF THE FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM, THERE IS NO COVERAGE FOR YOUR COSTS OF MEDICAL TREATMENT. If you suffer a needle stick or are hurt while in practicum, you need personal health insurance to cover your medical bills. You are not covered by any policy from the University nor the practicum site.

**Health: Physical Exam Requirements, including Health Record and Proof of Immunizations.** Good physical and mental health is essential for study and practice in professional nursing. The faculty of the College of Nursing reserves the responsibility for retaining only those students who demonstrate qualities of physical and mental health generally considered to be imperative for professional nursing practice.

Every student admitted to the professional nursing major must complete a physical examination and specific immunizations and tests. Written proof of completion of these requirements must be on file at the College of Nursing Student Affairs Office no later than January 2nd for students entering the nursing major in January and by August 1st for students entering the major in September. Students must have completed the first two (of three)
Hepatitis B immunizations before the semester deadline, with the third immunization due shortly after the semester starts.

a. **Physical Exam.** Evidence of a physical examination upon admission to the major. This is to be completed by a nurse practitioner or physician of the student’s choice. It must be uploaded to Castlebranch as instructed by the College of Nursing Student Affairs Office on a date specified. The examination must be completed within 3 months before the date on which the student begins clinical nurse course work.

b. **Immunizations.** In order to maintain the health and safety of College of Nursing staff, students and the clients whom they care for, the specific diagnostic tests and/or immunizations are required of all students. Students must submit immunization records and/or proof of immunity in the form of laboratory reports within Castlebranch by the appropriate deadline. See Table 4 for immunization requirements.

**Health and Vaccination Service Availability**

The Norris Health Center is available, by appointment, to assist students in meeting the physical exam and immunization requirements. Students are asked to bring evidence of recent immunizations to their appointments. A health history will be taken and a physical examination will be performed by a physician or nurse practitioner. There is no fee for the physical examination provided through the Norris Health Center for matriculated students. IF the exam is completed prior to the date designated each semester by the Norris Health Center. After the designated date, nursing students will be charged per the fee schedule.

Students who choose to go to their personal physical or nurse practitioner to fulfill the health requirements must bring documentation of the physical exam and immunization and/or diagnostic tests to Castlebranch.

Consortial Nurse Program students may use the UWM Norris Health Center on a payment-for-services basis as per the current Norris Health Center fee schedule.

**Table 4: Immunization Requirements** - due by August 1 prior to starting the program in fall and January 2 prior to starting the program in Spring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Primary Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>Annual PPD skin test using Mantoux method two-step process or Quantiferon Gold. For those persons with a history of positive PPD-test reaction, a chest x-ray is required. If results of the initial chest x-ray are negative, repeat x-rays are not required. (this requirement is to be met within 3 months prior to starting the course NURS 353 and kept current through graduation) Results must be turned in by stated deadlines showing compliance through the semester and cannot lapse during the semester.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Infection and Blood-borne Pathogen In-Service. The annual mandatory in-service will be conducted by the College of Nursing.

CPR Certification. Current BLS or Level 3 Health Professional certification is required to be kept current throughout the professional major. This cannot lapse during a semester – if so, it must be renewed prior to the start of the semester.

Caregiver Background Check. Chapters 48 and 50 of the WI State Statutes make it a requirement for the College of Nursing to perform rigorous background checks on all students who are required to complete internships or clinical training at a WI Department of Health and Family Services covered facility. Students admitted to the CON Clinical Major are required to have a completed Background Information Disclosure form (BID/HFS-64) and an Authorization and Release form through CastleBranch. Cost is @$38.

It is the responsibility of the student to fully disclose pertinent information at time of program admission and to update that information as needed throughout the program. Failure to fully disclose or update information related to background check, criminal history, drug tested, or health status may result in denial of student participation by a clinical site. All requirements must be met by published deadlines or students risk loss of their eligibility.

Should a background check reveal that a student has a history of one of the crimes that are listed as a permanent bar or bar with rehabilitation, they will be asked to make an appointment to see the Associate Dean to discuss the implications of this finding on their educational plan. For other crimes, the decision about whether a student will be able to complete a practice experience will be made by the clinical agency. More information on Caregiver Background Check Laws is

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>Hepatitis B vaccine series (3 doses; 0, 1 &amp; 6 months apart)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus</td>
<td>There must be documentation of a Tetanus &amp; Diphtheria toxoids &amp; acellular pertussis (Tdap) followed by Tetanus and Diphtheria (Td) booster within the past 10 years. Additional Td booster only required if 10 years since Tdap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubeola (measles)</td>
<td>Serologic evidence of immunity or documentation of 2 MMRs. In the absence of the above records, 1 dose MMR followed by a second dose at least 1 month after the first dose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubella</td>
<td>Serologic evidence of immunity or documentation of 1 MMR. In the absence of the above records, 1 dose MMR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>Serologic evidence of immunity or documentation of 1 MMR. In the absence of the above records, 1 dose MMR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella (chicken pox)</td>
<td>Serologic evidence of immunity. If no immunity shown, two 0.5 ml doses 4-8 weeks apart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>Influenza inoculation required annually due by 11/1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
available at: [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/caregiver/index.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/caregiver/index.htm). Should a clinical agency request additional information regarding an item in a student’s criminal background check, refusal to satisfy the request may result in ineligibility to participate in clinical experiences and program completion.

You must check your UWM email regularly (even between semesters). You will receive important emails about these clinical requirements. You are responsible for completing them by the due dates noted above.

**Drug Test.** Southeast WI health care agencies that provide clinical experiences require pre-placement urine drug screening for all assigned nursing students. This is done prior to the first semester of the major at which time more information will be given, due by August 1 for Fall and January 2 for Spring. This 10-panel drug test will cost @$34 at the time of sign-up.
Additional Safety Information

**Liability Protection.** General, professional and medical malpractice is extended to UWM nursing students while participating at a facility/institution, as afforded by Wisconsin State Statutes under the following conditions:

- The program must be sanctioned by the Dean of the College.
- Liability protection is extended only for the time specified by the agreement between the affiliate and the School or College.
- The program provides credit and is a requirement for your graduation.
- You are a registered student in good standing.
- If an accident occurs, you were acting within the scope of the program at the time of the incident.
- You report any incident which may give rise to a claim to the Program Coordinator or Dean of your School or College. (The Coordinator or Dean will advise UWM’s Risk Manager).
- Should the incident result in a claim or legal action naming you or UWM staff, you must cooperate fully and follow instructions given to you by the UWM’s Legal Affairs or Risk Management staff. (If legal action is needed, legal representation will be assigned by the State of Wisconsin Attorney General.)

Personal Property Insurance. The University does not provide insurance for personal property, which may be damaged or stolen while you are at a practicum facility or institution. Students should verify what types of personal property protection they might have under a homeowner’s, renter’s or automobile policy.

Student should leave all valuable property at home, including jewelry, large sums of money, and electronic and computer equipment.
Undergraduate Student Uniform and Dress Code Policy

The principle behind this statement is to provide guidance for current acceptable professional appearance, as well as, appropriate identification of professional nursing students for others in clinical areas. Students enrolled in clinical nursing courses must select their clinical uniforms using these guidelines. Students should be aware that specific learning experiences may dictate a need for modification of the uniform as described here. Any differences will be communicated by the course faculty. Individual clinical faculty are responsible for ensuring adherence to this policy in the clinical site and according to clinical site policy. Faculty may dismiss any student who is not dressed appropriately from the clinical setting.

I. Uniforms must be purchased through the College of Nursing. The uniform includes matched blue top and pants with the words “UWM College of Nursing Student” embroidered on the left upper area of the uniform top. A matching color skirt may be worn for religious reasons.

II. UWM College of Nursing photo identification name badges are to be worn at shoulder level while in the clinical agency. The identification photo badges are available through the Office of Academic Affairs.

III. Additional uniform items:
   A. Any style mostly white, navy or black professional or athletic shoes. A small logo (as part of a designer brand no more than a 1”x1”) is acceptable. Shoes with any open areas are not acceptable.
   B. Hose of a neutral shade or navy or white socks with slacks.
   C. If sweaters are worn, they are to be either white or navy blue. No fleece jackets nor sweatshirts are permitted.
   D. White or blue turtleneck sweater or white round-neck or turtleneck shirt may be worn under professional top. No words, logos, or other designs may show through the uniform top.
   E. White lab coat, at least ¾ length, is optional. Lab coats must have the words “UWM College of Nursing Student” embroidered on the front of the lab coat.

IV. Appearance
   A. A student nurse’s appearance should never compromise the UWM College of Nursing’s mission, vision, and values. Among other things this means that a student nurse’s appearance should not interfere with the patient’s perception of the nurse’s competence nor interfere with the patient experience in any way.
   B. Personal hygiene must be maintained. A clean and well-groomed appearance is the expectation.
   C. Students are always to be appropriately and professionally attired when engaged in clinical practica activities. Hair must be neat, clean, and controlled. Long hair must be pulled back away from the face. Hair cannot fall forward across the face. Only naturally-occurring hair colors are acceptable.
D. Mustaches and beards must be neatly trimmed and/or styled so as not to come in contact with patients or interfere with care.
E. Jewelry should be conservative, i.e., simple rings, one pair of stud earrings. Loose, dangling jewelry is prohibited.
   • Aside from earrings, jewelry may not be worn in any visible body piercings including but not limited to, piercings in the tongue, nose or eyebrow. Methods to conceal unacceptable jewelry in a piercing, such as using a bandage, are not permitted. Clear or flesh-colored spacers are permitted only if permitted according to individual clinical agency policy.
F. Tattoos and body art must be covered unless the individual clinical agency permits these to be visible.
G. Natural nail tips must be kept less than ¼ inch long. Only clear nail polish is permitted and must be intact with no chips or cracks. Artificial fingernails, overlays, extenders, and nail ornaments are not permitted.
H. Perfumes, colognes, and other scents may not be worn. Odors or scents that can trigger a respiratory or allergic response are not permitted.
I. Head coverings, except for those worn for religious reasons, are not permitted.
J. Students are encouraged not to smoke while in uniform.
Policy on Essential Abilities

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee College of Nursing
Policy on the essential abilities of prospective and current nursing students in undergraduate and graduate professional programs

The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee (UWM) College of Nursing generally represents that the recipient of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a professional nursing program has been educated to competently practice nursing in all healthcare settings and to apply for RN licensure in the State of Wisconsin. In light of this, UWM’s College of Nursing’s programs leading to licensure or advanced practice in nursing require students to engage in a variety of complex and specific experiences. The successful completion of these experiences is necessary for the nursing student to demonstrate the integration and application of a broad body of knowledge and suite of skills necessary to deliver safe and effective professional nursing practice across the spectrum of health and illness experienced by patients.

To this end, nursing requires a combination of physical abilities and motor skills, sensory abilities, affective, interpersonal, and communicative skills, cognitive abilities, behavioral and emotional sensitivity, and professionalism in order to satisfactorily practice. These abilities and skills are essential not only to deliver safe and effective professional nursing to patients, but also to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the nursing student, fellow nursing students, faculty, other healthcare providers, and the community. As such, nursing students must possess the following essential abilities, which are necessary to possess and demonstrate competence in professional nursing, in order to be admitted to, continue, and successfully complete professional programs at the UWM College of Nursing:

Physical Abilities and Motor Skills
Nursing students should have sufficient physical abilities and motor function so that they are able to execute movements required to provide general care and treatment to patients in all health care settings. For example: For the safety and protection of individuals, the nursing student must be able to perform basic life support, including CPR, and function physically in an emergency situation. The nursing student must have the ability, within reasonable limits, to safely assist an individual in moving, for example, from a chair to a bed, or from a wheelchair to a commode, using appropriate bioengineering equipment consistent with national guidelines (e.g., the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) and to hold or otherwise care for infants and small children to meet their healthcare, emotional, and developmental needs. Fine motor skills and other psychomotor skills, including the use of one or both upper extremities, hands, and fingers, are needed for some essential tasks.

Sensory Abilities
The nursing student must have sufficient: visual acuity to see details near and at a distance, as well as be able to discriminate colors accurately; auditory acuity to hear conversation and other sounds in order to assess and protect the health and safety of individual patients and others in
the vicinity; and intact tactile sensation to assess (e.g., hot/cold; rough/smooth) and perform appropriate professional nursing functions. Sight and hearing are also necessary to communicate accurately and effectively. Auditory-visual-tactile perception and integration are needed to perform most essential nursing functions.

**Situation-Appropriate Affect, Communication, and Interpersonal Skills**

A nursing student must be able to communicate effectively with others, and effective communication requires consistency of message, integration of information, and synchrony with circumstances and other data. Situation-appropriate affect is necessary to convey emotions appropriate for the circumstances, and at the same time, to engage in interpersonal communication effectively and sensitively with others. The nursing student must express his or her ideas clearly and appropriately. (See also Behavioral/Emotional section below.) A nursing student must be able to convey or exchange information to conduct an appropriate health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative solutions; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment. The nursing student must be able to communicate effectively in oral and written forms and interpret non-verbal communication. He or she must be able to process and communicate information on the patient’s status with accuracy in a timely manner to other members of the healthcare team.

**Cognitive**

A nursing student must have sufficient cognitive abilities to be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize in the classroom and a variety of nursing practicum settings. The nursing student must be able to quickly read and comprehend extensive written material, as well as comprehend oral communication. He or she must also be able to effectively gather information to assess and evaluate individuals, families, groups, and community/environmental situations, and act in a timely fashion using critical thinking. Likewise, the nursing student must be able to select from a plethora of existing information to assess and evaluate the same and take action that shows evidence of integrative functions and critical thinking. Clinical judgment requires the integration of information that results in rational, timely, and informed action, and the anticipation of consequences associated with those actions (or inactions). He or She must be able to engage in critical self-evaluation, including demonstrating a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback and to make a correct judgment in seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner.

**Behavioral/Emotional Sensitivity**

A nursing student must have the emotional ability required to fully use his or her cognitive abilities, employ good judgment and carry out all responsibilities in a timely manner with respect to his/her professional nursing functions. In addition, the nursing student must be able to develop and maintain professional, sensitive, and effective relationships with individual patients, families, students, and others with whom he or she has professional contact, regardless of the circumstances, which frequently can be stressful. The nursing student must be able to control impulsive behaviors and act in a socially responsible way regarding his/her own behavior and recognize the same in others and take appropriate action as warranted. The nursing student must have the emotional stability to function effectively under stress and to
adapt to the environment, which can change rapidly and unpredictably. The nursing student must be able to experience empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and effectively communicate that empathy. The nursing student must be cognizant of his or her values, attitudes, beliefs, affect, and experiences and how these things may influence his/her own perceptions, behaviors, and relationships with others. The nursing student must be able and willing to examine and change his or her behavior when it interferes with relationships with others so that he or she can function effectively and collaboratively in diverse academic and work environments.

**Professional Conduct**

The nursing student must be able to practice nursing in an ethical and professional manner adhering to the professional code of ethics and professional standards. S/he must possess characteristics including integrity, honesty, compassion, empathy, altruism, responsibility, and acceptance of differences. Nursing students must be able to engage in healthcare delivery in all settings and be able to deliver care to all client populations including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults of all ages, developmentally disabled persons, medically compromised individuals, individuals from all socioeconomic strata, and other vulnerable populations. Professional conduct is expected in both the academic and clinical/community environments. A nursing student must meet UWM’s attendance requirements in all didactic courses and clinical activities.

**Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities**

UWM provides reasonable accommodation to qualified students with a disability. Upon admission, a nursing student who discloses a disability and requests accommodation may be asked to provide documentation of his or her disability for the purpose of determining appropriate accommodations, including modification to the program. The UWM College of Nursing will provide reasonable accommodations but is not required to make modifications that would substantially alter the nature or requirements of the program or provide auxiliary aids that present an undue burden. To matriculate or continue in the curriculum, the nursing student must be able to perform all the essential functions either with or without accommodation. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty of accommodations identified by the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) before the end of the third week of the semester, or, as soon as possible after a disability has occurred or been recognized. Disability information is confidential and is protected under FERPA.
Requests for accommodation should be directed to:
UWM Accessibility Resource Center
http://uwm.edu/arc/
Phone: (414) 229-6287

Acknowledgements and References

The aforementioned policy has been significantly modified from Katz, J.R., Woods, S. L., Cameron, C.A., & Millam, S. (2004). Essential qualifications for nursing students. Nursing Outlook, 52, 277-288, as well as informed by these other key sources:


Academic Requirements for Continued Progression

**Required Grade Point Average.** Every nursing student is required to maintain a minimum of a “C” average (cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale) on all work attempted in each semester or summer session. Failure to meet this minimum GPA will automatically result in a status of academic probation.

In addition to maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.0, a student must earn at least a “C” (2.0) in each required nursing course. In a practicum nursing course, a student must meet all of the criteria on the clinical evaluation form and must earn at least a “C” in the written assignment component of the course in order to pass the clinical course. Any student who earns a grade below “C” (2.0) in a required nursing course is automatically dropped from the nursing major. Such a student must appeal to the Undergraduate Program Committee for readmission and permission to repeat the course in which a minimum grade of “C” was not earned.

In a nursing course with limited enrollment or a waiting list, qualified students who have not taken the course previously will have enrollment priority. Progression to the next level of courses is not permitted until all courses of the previous level have been successfully completed.

**Grade Ranges.**

| 95-100 | A    | 79-82  | C    |
| 93-94  | A-   | 77-78  | C-   |
| 91-92  | B+   | 75-76  | D+   |
| 87-90  | B    | 72-74  | D    |
| 85-86  | B-   | 70-71  | D-   |
| 83-84  | C+   | Below 70 | F |

**Course Progression.** Students are expected to complete courses in the sequence shown in the Undergraduate Curriculum (see page 10). The student’s advisor and the Undergraduate Program Director must approve any changes in course sequencing.

**Dropping Courses.** Students should refer to a current class schedule for information concerning existing UWM drop policy guidelines and any exceptions for individual courses.

Following admission to the nursing major, a student who wishes to drop from a required or elective clinical nursing course or to withdraw must discuss the matter with the instructor and the curriculum or course coordinator. In addition, the student must discuss the matter with an academic advisor in the Student Affairs Office. Written approval to drop must be secured from the instructor and the Undergraduate Program Director irrespective of the week of the semester. Any such interruption in the sequence of courses following acceptance into the major requires readmission to the clinical major. Information about applying for readmission is
available in the College of Nursing’s Student Affairs Office.

**Appeals Procedure.** The Undergraduate Program Committee defines an appeal as either a request for exemption from the stated policies and/or regulations of the College of Nursing or a request for an academic grievance/grade change. Student appeals are reviewed by the College of Nursing’s Undergraduate Program Committee, which recommends the disposition of the appeal to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. There are very specific deadlines for each step of the Appeals Procedure so it’s extremely important for any students interested in filing a Grievance to work closely with their advisor.

**Part-time Study.** Once admitted to the major, students are expected to complete the professional nursing courses. Approval for any change of plan or course sequence must be obtained from the Undergraduate Program Director. Students should see their nursing advisor for assistance in completing the “Request for Part-time Study” form.

**Undergraduate Program Clinical Placement Policy**

Purpose: To provide clinical learning experiences that support student learning and success and comply with College policies and procedures. The College of Nursing has final approval of all clinical placements.

1. A student will not be permitted to have a clinical course assignment on the same unit that the student is employed.

2. Students who are directly related to each other will not be permitted to have the same clinical course assignment at the same time. This includes students related to each other through blood or marriage.

3. Students will be reminded of these policies each semester when registration for clinical courses takes place and are expected to self-disclose if any of these conditions exist.

4. Before each semester students must disclose what units, they are currently working on or will be working on during the upcoming semester, state anyone they are related to in the professional major, and if they are related to any faculty/instructors in the College of Nursing.

5. In the case that a preceptor is used for clinical, the student may not recruit or recommend their own preceptor. Preceptors will be vetted by the college and assigned as appropriate.
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

College of Nursing

I. The Undergraduate Program Committee Policy Statement Faculty Document (79-03)047B states what constitutes an appeal (see text box below).

Policy Statement for Undergraduate Appeals

The Undergraduate Program Committee defines an appeal as either a request for exemption from the stated policies and/or regulations of the College of Nursing or a request for an academic grievance/grade change.

A student may appeal to the Undergraduate Program Committee only once for a specific matter. Students are expected to identify the unique circumstances that led to requesting an appeal and solutions for moving forward. A student has the right to be present when their appeal is being considered by the UPC Appeals & Progression subcommittee.

Recommendations of the Undergraduate Program Committee are submitted to the Associate Dean of the College of Nursing.

II. The Undergraduate Program Committee schedules meetings throughout the year.

III. Student Requests to Appeal

Written appeals must be in the Committee’s possession no later than the published deadline date. Deadline and committee meeting dates will be determined by the Undergraduate Program Committee Chairperson and Student Affairs. Deadlines will be published by Student Affairs via email. Appeals received after the deadline date will not be heard except by Committee action.

A. Requests to Appeal must include:

1. The policy or regulation being appealed. See your Undergraduate Student Handbook for list of policies/procedures.

2. The unique circumstances that led to the request.

3. The actions and efforts taken and planned to correct the situation.

B. Student Request to Appeal College of Nursing Policy or Regulation forms are available in the UW-M or UW-Parkside Student Affairs Office, on the SharePoint Undergraduate Program folder, and in your student handbook. All completed forms will be held in the student file.
IV. The student has the right to be present when her/his appeal is being considered. The student requests in advance to have her/his appeal considered in an open or a closed session. The Committee makes the final determination if the appeal is heard in open or closed session.

A. In a closed session, attendance is limited to the student involved in the appeal. Recommendations concerning the disposition of the appeal are made following the appeal presentations with only committee members present.

B. In an open session attendance is not limited and is open to any interested person. Recommendations concerning the disposition of the appeal are made following the appeal with all interested persons present.

C. The open session of each meeting precedes the closed session of the meeting.

V. Any appeal shall be settled in accordance with the following procedure.

Step 1: The student’s appeal is received in the Student Affairs Office (UWM-Cunningham 135, UWP-180 Tallent Hall) and placed on the agenda of the next scheduled meeting.

Step 2: The Chairperson of the Undergraduate Program Committee informs the student by letter of the scheduled date, time and location of the meeting.

Step 3: The student is given the opportunity to present material related to her/his appeal. If the student is present, this student should be prepared to answer questions related to her/his appeal. If the student is not present, the committee will make their decision based on the student’s written documentation.

Step 4: Within ten (10) working days following the Committee meeting, the student will be notified by letter of the Committee’s recommendation and the subsequent decision of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

VI. Recommendations of the Undergraduate Program Committee are final. The decision of the Associate Dean may be appealed to the Dean of the College of Nursing as a final step within the College of Nursing.

Approved Baccalaureate Curriculum Committee 8/31/1983
Revised BCC 7/20/1987
Revised UPC 10/31/1989
Revised UPC 9/13/2002
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
College of Nursing

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT REQUEST TO APPEAL

College of Nursing Policy or Regulation
Please complete and add your signature to the forms in this packet. The Undergraduate Program Committee will be influenced by the information you provide on this request. The Committee’s recommendations on your appeal is forwarded to Associate Dean of Academic Affairs who will notify you of the action taken.

Name __________________________________________ Date __________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________________

Phone number __________________________ Student ID ________________

1. State what policy or regulation is being appealed. Complete a Request to Appeal for each policy you appeal. (See the Undergraduate Student Handbook for a list of policies)

2. Provide an explanation of the unique circumstances that led to requesting the appeal.
3. Describe the desired outcome of this appeal.

4. Describe what will you do or what you have done to remedy the problems stated in Question #2. Please be specific.

Student Signature

Return to: Chairperson, Undergraduate Program Committee
c/o Student Affairs Office
UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing
P.O. Box 413, Cunningham Hall 135
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE  
College of Nursing

To comply with the State’s Open Meeting Law, your desire for an open or closed session when your Request to Appeal is considered must be determined.

You have a right to be present at either an open or closed session. If you decide to be present, you may be asked some questions related to your appeal by Committee members. You will be given an opportunity to present material related to your request to appeal.

In a closed session, attendance at the meeting is limited to members of the Committee and the student whose appeal is being heard. Following presentation of the appeal, the student leaves and the Committee makes recommendations on the appeal to the Associate Dean.

In an open session, attendance at the meeting is not limited and is open to any interested persons. Following presentation of the appeal, Committee recommendations on the appeal are made to the Associate Dean, in the presence of anyone attending the session.

Please check the appropriate answer, sign you name and return this form with your Request to Appeal.

I will be present when my appeal is considered.  ___  ___

I request an open session at the meeting.  ___  ___

I request a closed session at the meeting.  ___  ___

Student’s Signature

______________________________

Date __________________________

Return to: Chairperson, Undergraduate Program Committee

UW-Milwaukee
College of Nursing
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201
PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Students will demonstrate patterns of professional behaviors which follow the legal and ethical codes of nursing; promote the actual or potential well-being of clients, health care workers, and self in the biological, psychological, sociological and cultural realms; demonstrate accountability in preparation, documentation, communication and continuity of care; and show respect for human rights of individuals.

Professional Expectations of Students in Academic and Clinical Settings
(Policy CP # 05-01-17)

All students in the College of Nursing programs (or taking program courses) are expected to demonstrate that they are prepared to practice nursing. This preparation results from the combination of successful completion of university coursework and the demonstration of important human characteristics and dispositions that all nursing professionals should possess. Students will demonstrate patterns of professional behavior consistent with the UWM College of Nursing Core Values which include accountability, collaboration, human dignity, integrity and diversity.

Throughout this document there are references to “others”, which can include peers, faculty, staff, clients and their families.

1. General Requirements
   A. Attends all classes and clinical (includes skills lab and simulation) experiences as required. Preparedness and punctuality are expected at all times for class and clinical experiences.
   B. Completes assignments according to timelines designated by the course instructor.
   C. Scholastic Integrity - Demonstrates honesty and integrity by being truthful about doing one’s own work; giving credit for ideas and work of others; and providing proper citation of source materials.
   D. Communication Skills - Demonstrates the written and oral skills expected of a nursing professional and demonstrates the ability to comprehend information and communicate ideas and feelings appropriately.
      • **Written:** Writes clearly, uses correct grammar and spelling. Demonstrates professional level skills in written English to convey content presented in the program and to adequately complete all written assignments.
      • **Oral:** Communicates effectively with others. Expresses ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrates a willingness and an ability to listen to others. Demonstrates professional level skills in spoken English to understand content presented in the program and to adequately complete all written assignments.
      • **Inappropriate Communication:** Refrains from inappropriate communication with others including verbal, written or electronic communications by cell phone, text messaging, email, instant messaging, blogging, “Facebooking”, and other social media.
2. Personal and Professional Requirements
   A. Synthesizes previously learned knowledge, new knowledge, and safety and quality principles into the care of all clients.
   B. Does not reveal confidential information concerning others unless disclosure is consistent with the law and serves professional purposes or is required by law.
   C. Meets the needs of the client from a biological, psychological, sociological and cultural standpoint.
   D. Practices within the boundaries of the Wisconsin Nurse Practice Act, the guidelines set forth in the course syllabus, the UWM College of Nursing Student Handbook, and the rules and regulations of the health care agency or agencies that are the site(s) of the clinical practicum.
   E. Practices according to the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics and the Standards of Practice.
   F. Demonstrates behaviors that are congruent with the ANA Position Statement on Incivility, Bullying, and Workplace Violence in all class related interactions.
   G. Demonstrates consistency in the responsible preparation, documentation, communication, and promotion of continuity in the care of clients.
   H. Demonstrates interpersonal skills that are required for successful nursing practice. These skills include the abilities to:
      • seek, accept and act upon constructive feedback.
      • participate thoughtfully in the self-evaluation process.
      • recognize own limitations and seek appropriate assistance.
      • respect individuals, families and communities’ perspectives about health care.
      • separate personal and professional issues in the classroom and in the clinical setting.
      • work collegially with others in the classroom (individually or in groups) and within teams in the clinical setting in a manner that demonstrates civility and respect.
      • act always for the benefit of clients by advocating for equitable care.
   I. The student maintains professional relationships with others and does not abuse or bully others in physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual ways or otherwise cause physical or emotional harm.
   J. The students demonstrate good personal hygiene habits and dresses appropriately for professional contexts.

3. Cultural and Social Attitudes and Behavior
   A. Exhibits respect for people in all settings.
   B. Understands and appreciates the value of diversity and looks beyond themselves in interactions with others; respect differences of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, social class, national origin, and disability.
   C. Works productively with their peers.
   D. Speaks in a manner appropriate to the context of all settings.
   E. Demonstrates positive social skills in professional and social interactions with others.
4. Social, Emotional, Cognitive and Physical Skills
   A. Stress Management
      The student demonstrates the ability to deal with life stressors through the
      use of appropriate coping mechanisms. The student handles stress effectively by using
      appropriate self-care and developing supportive relationships with peers, and others,
      seeking assistance as necessary.
   B. Emotional, Physical and Cognitive Capabilities
      • Uses sound judgment.
      • Demonstrates the emotional, physical and mental health required to function
        effectively as a nursing student.
      • Is not impaired by the use of any substances (e.g. alcohol and drugs).
      • Thinks critically about patient centered care, professional nursing practice and
        evidence-based practice.
      • Demonstrate reflective practice.
      • Is flexible, open to new ideas, and willing and able to modify their beliefs and
        practices based on in the classroom and clinical settings.

Student Review Process for Unprofessional Behavior
Students exhibiting unprofessional and/or disruptive behaviors may be asked to leave the
classroom by faculty and later referred for further assessment and intervention. This may
include referral to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action per the UWS
Chapter 17.

Additionally, academic misconduct (i.e. plagiarism, etc.) will be handled in accordance with
UWM policies and procedures. These are specified in UWS Chapter
14 and the UWM implementation provisions of Faculty Document 1686. These provisions can
be found at: http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

All students referred for review are expected to participate in the review process. These are
elements of the process:
• There are three different levels of review that are not necessarily progressive in
  nature. (Informal, Level I and Level II).
• An informal review may not go beyond the informal review
• If students refuse to participate in the review, it will proceed without the benefit of
  their input.
• The level of review will depend on factors such as the nature, severity,
• frequency of the incident or concern. For example, serious repeated violations may
  result in immediate Level II review.
• Any behavior that is clinically unsafe and endangers patients, staff or others can
  result in immediate removal from clinical and Level II Review. Behavior
• that endangers the ongoing UWM partnership with a clinical site will result in
  immediate Level II Review.
1. Informal Review
An informal review involves a faculty/teaching staff member and a student. When a faculty/teaching staff member has concerns about a student meeting any of the professional expectations criteria, the faculty/teaching staff member will:
   A. discuss the concerns directly with the student and seek to work with the candidate to resolve difficulties;
   B. advise the program director in order to identify potential patterns and issues related to the student;
   C. document dates and content of meetings with student using the Informal Review Summary form;
   D. provide the student with a copy of the Informal Review Summary form and place a copy of the form in the student’s program file. Informal reviews of students in pre-nursing courses will be referred to the Dean of Students office.

2. Formal Review: Level I
When a faculty/teaching staff member is sufficiently concerned about a student’s behavior, s/he will fill out the Formal Review - Level I form. These forms are to be turned in to the appropriate Program Director or his or her designee.

A three-way conference will then be scheduled with the faculty/staff member, the student and the appropriate Program Director or his or her designee. During this conference, a plan for remediation will be developed using the Remediation Plan form. The nature and content of the plan will depend on the specific situation. However, all remediation plans will be stated in measurable, objective terms, include a reasonable timeline, and be signed by all parties involved. If the student fails to meet the requirements of the remediation plan(s) he/she will be placed on Level II Formal Review. If the student successfully completes the remediation plan, probationary/remedial status will be removed. The remediation plan may continue for more than one semester, depending on the individual circumstances.

3. Formal Review: Level II
If a second incident or concern is reported involving the same student, the student has failed a remediation plan during the Level I Review, or the seriousness of the incident or concern warrant it, the appropriate Program Director, the faculty/teaching staff member and/or the Level Coordinator will be convened. This group will meet to:
   A. review the paperwork,
   B. interview the faculty/staff members who have instructed/had contract with the student,
   C. interview the student, and
   D. make a determination regarding the student’s ability to continue in the program.
   E. document the review using the Formal Review – Level II form
   F. provide student with a copy of the Formal Review – Level II form, and place a copy of the form in the student’s program file.
The **Student Advisor** assists the student in preparing an appeal with the appropriate forms and logistics for an appeals meeting directing students to the appropriate resources throughout the process. The student is afforded due process throughout these proceedings. Following a Level II review, an appeal may be requested using the procedure established by the appropriate program committee (**UPC or GPC**) using a sub-committee for student appeals from the appropriate committee.
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

HIPAA stands for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and involves legislation protecting patient privacy and records security. Nursing students are expected to comply with their assigned clinical agency HIPAA privacy policies. Based on agency policies, students may be required to sign confidentiality agreements that describe their responsibilities pertaining to patient information and medical records. Students should raise any questions about HIPAA issues or agency agreements with their clinical agency instructor.

Significant points for students related to HIPAA include:

1. In accordance with the UWM College of Nursing Undergraduate Program Standards of Professional Conduct, students are expected to “observe all institutional, ethical and legal parameters regarding privacy and confidentiality when dealing with clients and families, their records and all information relating to them and their care.”

2. Generally, as nursing students, any medical or other confidential information or knowledge acquired or received during the course of clinical experiences, including, but not limited to, patient data and patient care information, business affairs, methods of operations, and computer-processing systems is confidential. Students agree to maintain this confidentiality and not to disclose or use this information during and after clinical assignments, without the agency’s prior written consent.

3. Clinical information and/or activities essential to students’ preparation as professional nurses, under the supervision of their instructors, are provided for under the HIPAA Privacy Rule. Clinical pre- and post-conference discussions between students and their instructors, who have participated in the nursing care of patients on their assigned units, are examples of activities necessary to the clinical education of nursing students.

4. Students must take specific steps to protect the privacy and confidentiality of patients in their care. These steps include, but are not limited to, limiting any written and/or verbal discussions of patients to facts that do not make patients easily identifiable. Discussion of patients outside of students’ clinical practice settings or instruction is not allowed.

5. Students are to keep any notes, files, diskettes, or electronic files that involve patient information in a secure place. Information provided in coursework should not make the patient identifiable. Clinical assignments or coursework should not be submitted or exchanged via e-mail.

6. Students should return or destroy any patient health information received in the clinical setting at the completion of the clinical course. Course instructors may collect this information to facilitate its destruction.

Invasive Procedures

UWM nursing students may not practice invasive procedures on each other in the Cunningham Building, Tallent Hall, nor in clinical facilities. Invasive may be interpreted as breaking of skin integrity or entering body orifices with the hands or with objects, with the exception of orifices in the head (i.e., assessment of eyes, ears). Students in the clinical setting may conduct invasive procedures with patients when the student is under the direction of a clinical instructor.
HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

Guidelines on Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS)
1. Students and faculty with HIV/AIDS should contact the UWM Norris Health Center for an individual analysis and response based upon the particular facts of each situation.
2. Students who come in contact with patients/clients/co-workers who have HIV/AIDS should follow the policies and procedures of the appropriate agency.
3. It is usually recommended that persons who are pregnant or are immunosuppressed due to a chronic debilitating disease, such as cancer, should not care for patients/clients with HIV/AIDS due to the high incidence of viral infections in such patients/clients.
4. Students with known exposure to persons with HIV/AIDS may contact the UWM Norris Health Center for appropriate screening and testing.
5. The UWM Norris Health Center is a screening site for HIV/AIDS. Therefore, there is no charge for these tests. These tests will be examined anonymously and the results returned with a code.
6. Students who have concerns caused by contact with patients or other persons with HIV/AIDS may contact the UWM Norris Health Center for confidential information, advising and possible testing for this disease. As a screening site, the Health Center makes no charge for these services.
7. UW-Parkside Consortial students may contact the UW-Parkside Health Services for information and/or services.

Additional information on HIV/AIDS is available in a file in the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Please direct any concerns or question to the Associate Dean.

Note: At UW-Parkside, students should contact the UW-Parkside Health Services, whose protocol and procedures are extremely similar to the UWM Norris Health Center’s protocol and procedures.

Protocol for Percutaneous Exposure to Body Fluids

Universal Precautions. To protect all persons against exposure to human blood-borne pathogenic disease, “universal precautions” will be observed to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious body fluids or tissues. These precautions make the assumption that all human blood and certain body fluids are to be handled as if known to be infectious for Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and other blood-borne pathogens. “High risk body fluids” as defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are blood, semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, amniotic fluid, blood products, menstrual discharge, and inflammatory exudates. Saliva, sputum, tears, nasal secretions, urine, feces, sweat and vomitus are not considered high risk fluids unless visibly contaminated with blood. However, non-blood-borne pathogens may be present in these fluids, and the Exposure Protocol should be initiated whenever a biohazardous injury results in exposure to one of these substances.

Injury. If the Exposed Person is a UWM student, please note that the student, not the College of
Nursing or UWM, is responsible for costs incurred during the emergency post injury evaluation/intervention if done outside of the Norris Health Center.

**Biohazardous injury.** 1) a puncture or laceration caused by a needle or sharp object contaminated with blood or other body fluids; 2) blood or blood-tinged secretions which contaminate the mouth, eyes, nasal mucosa, or open skin lesions; or 3) human bites.

**Exposure incident.** The direct contact of non-intact skin (e.g. puncture, abrasion, rash) and/or any mucous membrane to the “high risk body fluid” of another person.

**A. Initial Injury Management/First Aid (Immediately upon injury)**

1) Percutaneous injury 5-minute betadine scrub
2) Mucosal/ocular splash-irrigate with normal saline; if the eye involved, lift eyelids to ensure thorough irrigation
3) Report injury to facility infection control officer

**B. Exposure Evaluation and Management (Within 30 minutes of injury)**

1) Exposed Person (EP) should go to ER of facility where exposure occurred;

    **IF**

    the initial facility ER declines to serve EP

    **and/or is not covered by his/her insurance provider;**

    **THEN**

2) EP to go to ER facility covered by his/her health insurance provider

    **OR**

3) EP to go to Norris Health Center (If Norris Health Center is closed, this is not an option for emergency exposure evaluation). If EP is UWP consortial student, go to Student Health Services (If Health Services is closed, this is not an option for emergency exposure evaluation)

**C. Post-Exposure Counseling (Within 24-48 hours of injury)**

1) EP to contact Norris Health Center or UWP Health Services to make arrangements for follow-up counseling/guidance

    **OR**

2) EP to contact counseling/support services covered by his/her insurance provider
SUMMARY OF UWM POLICIES

**Academic Misconduct.** The University has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others’ academic endeavors. (UWM Faculty Document #1686) [http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/](http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/)

Instructors may require (it will be noted in the syllabus) students to add the following statement to written work submitted to meet course requirements:

"By submitting this paper for grading I am certifying that it is entirely my own work, with any words and/or ideas from other sources properly indicated (words with quotation marks), cited in text, and referenced. I have not submitted this paper to satisfy the requirements of any other course."

**Accommodation for Religious Observances.** Students will be allowed to complete examinations or other requirements that are missed because of a religious observance. (UWM Faculty Document #1853)

**Complaint Procedure.** Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific University policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaining occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. *All complaints should be directed to the Professor first. If you are unsatisfied with results of this meeting, then the next step is to go to the Professor’s program director.*

**Discriminatory Conduct Policy.** The University will not tolerate discriminatory conduct as defined: 1) intentional conduct, either verbal or physical by a member of the faculty, staff or student body, which 2) occurs on property under the jurisdiction of the Regents or under circumstances where an affiliation with UWM is significant in the occurrence; and 3) is predicated on considerations of any of the following: race, color, national origin, creed, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, or other status protected under the law; and 4) which has the purpose and effect of adversely affecting any aspect or condition of an individual’s education, employment, housing or participation in a university activity. (UWM Faculty Document #1670) *Please be respectful of yourself, your peers, and the Professor.* *Disciplinary action for Non-Academic misconduct will be filed for anyone violating this policy.*

**Financial Obligation.** The submission of your registration form and your subsequent assignment to classes obligates you to pay the fee-tuition for those classes or to withdraw your registration in writing no later than the date specified in the Schedule of Classes. It is important to both you and the University to make payment on time. A complete description of UWM Fee Facts may be obtained from the Department of Enrollment Services.
Grade Appeal Procedure. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides. These procedures are available in writing from the respective program director or the Academic Dean of the School. (UWM Faculty Document #1243)

Inclement Weather. UWM students should contact the University at 414-229-4444 (UW-Parkside, 262-595-2345) to ascertain the status of class cancellation due to inclement weather. Even when classes are canceled, University offices and services remain available, unless the entire University is closed by the Governor.

Incompletes. A notation of “Incomplete” may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester, but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student’s control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing course requirements for just cause as indicated above. (UWM Faculty Document #1558 and #1602)

Participation by Students with Disabilities. If you need special accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of a course, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Sexual Harassment. Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the University. It subverts the mission of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. The University will not tolerate behavior between or among members of the University community, which creates an unacceptable working environment. (UWM Faculty Document #1605)
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Accessibility Resource Center
The Accessibility Resource Center (nee: Student Accessibility Center) is located in Mitchell Hall, Room 112. Assistance is available to students who have challenges in learning caused by physical, psychological or learning disabilities. Contact this office at 229-6287 if you would like to check out their services.

Academic Enrichment Center
The Academic Enrichment Center (AEC) is located in Cunningham Hall, Room 139, across from the large lecture hall. The Center provides mentoring services and academic support in science and other nursing classes for all nursing students who desire to achieve academic success. The AEC Coordinator is Carrie von Bohlen; she may be contacted by phone (414-229-3749), fax (414-229-5554) or e-mail (cvb@uwm.edu).

E-mail
You have been given a university e-mail account and the faculty and staff of the Nursing Program expect you to use it, since the College of Nursing relies on this method of communication to inform you of important events, such as changes in class meetings, class timings and assignments. It is mandatory that you check your e-mail on a consistent basis to stay informed. If you have problems with your email account, contact your campus Help Desk immediately. If you do not have a computer at home, there is a computer lab available in the nursing building for your use.

Scholarships for Nursing Students
Information about any scholarships that are being offered will be posted on student bulletin boards. The scholarship binder in the Student Affairs Office also contains a listing of all current scholarships available.

Student Affairs Office
You are assigned to an academic advisor in the College of Nursing who is available to assist you personally and academically.

University Student Services
Although many of your hours will be spent at the clinical site, remember that you still are entitled to use the student services provided by the University. Please refer to the campus website for details.

Nursing Learning Resource Center (NLRC)
The Nursing Learning Resource Center provides learning and teaching resources for students, faculty, and staff. Learning in the NLRC occurs through a variety of strategies with simulation as one of the major tools. Simulation provides an environment for the student to experience an
aspect of patient care without fear of harm to a real patient. Simulation includes the use of models, manikins, medical equipment, and also human patient simulators that are run with computer software.

NLRC resources for students include:

- Practice labs where students learn, practice, and test-off on basic to advanced psychomotor skills.
- Media/resource library for textbooks, reference books, video/audio/DVD resources, and all books that have been purchased by Black & Gold that are loaned to students during semesters 2-4.
- Audiovisual equipment for student viewing of media and digital video recording
- Equipment for clinical activities, such as audiometers and vision screening, BP cuffs, and patient/client teaching materials.
- Human patient simulators, both adult and infant

**Computer Lab**

The Computer Lab which is located on the Ground Floor has computers for student use. It is also used for testing, course-related activities, and faculty/staff instruction. There is also a printer available for student use.

**Technology Use and Electronic Media Policy**

Electronic communications as well as online social media platforms allow UWM nursing students to engage in both professional and personal conversations. The ability to connect, collaborate, and communicate with the learning community is important for professional growth. The goal of this policy is to protect both UWM nursing students as well as the College of Nursing by providing standards of conduct which must be followed when nursing students use social media platforms.

Social media platforms are technology and online spaces for integrating and sharing user-generated content that allow individuals to engage in conversations with others and to participate in content creation. Examples of social media platforms include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Flickr, blogs and e-mail.

Students are personally responsible for the content they publish on blogs, wikis, social networks, forum boards, or any other form of user-generated media. It’s important to remember that all content contributed on online platforms becomes immediately searchable and is immediately shared. This content may leave the contributing individual’s control forever and may be traced back to the individual after long periods of time.

**Standards for Online Professional or Personal Activity:** The below technology use and social media standards apply to all students affiliated with the College of Nursing:

1. **Protect confidential information!** Students must follow University and UW System policies and procedures and state and federal laws, including the Health Insurance
Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and state privacy laws.

Nursing students are prohibited from publishing or otherwise disclosing any confidential information including patient health information without first obtaining written authorized consent from the patient, written permission from the clinical agency’s designated officer, and written permission from the College of Nursing clinical instructor. This includes, but is not limited to, patient records, conversations, photographs of clients, and/or videos. Do not post any information about your clinical rotations or clients in any online forum or webpage.

2. **Maintain academic integrity!** A variety of web-based technologies are used to facilitate and evaluate your learning. In order to provide a fair evaluation for all students, do not share any details of competency evaluation scenarios and/or course examinations including test questions with other students. Do not post any performance evaluation or simulation scenario videos in any online forum or webpage. Failure to maintain this confidentiality standard will be considered cheating.

3. **Do not speak on behalf of UWM or the College of Nursing!** In your communications, you need to ensure that it is clear that you are not speaking for UWM, and what you say represents your own individual personal views and opinions and not necessarily the views and opinions of UWM. Whenever you identify yourself on social media and/or the web as a UWM nursing student or use a UWM email address, your postings and personal web pages may be viewed by your colleagues, clinical agencies, and even clients/patients.

4. **Use good judgment!** As a UWM nursing student, you are preparing for a career providing services to the public. The College and future employers hold you to a high standard of behavior. Ensure that any content associated with you is consistent with your professional goals.

5. **Be civil and respectful!** Civility is an important component of online communication. There is great value in sharing and communicating one’s opinion. The College of Nursing is an organization whose students, faculty, and clients have a diverse set of customs, values, and points of view. Don’t be afraid to be yourself, but respect others. This includes not only the obvious (no ethnic slurs, personal insults, obscenity, pornographic images, etc.) but also proper consideration of privacy and of topics that may be considered objectionable or inflammatory.

Failure to abide by this policy, other University and UW System policies and procedures, including UWM’s Acceptable Computer Use Policy, state and federal laws, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and state privacy laws could lead to discipline or other adverse action.
STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Students are encouraged to participate actively as individuals and/or as a group to enhance their professional development and the progress of the College of Nursing. This is your school and the faculty and administration desire to hear from you to continue to meet the needs of students. Some of the ways you can become involved are described below, including feedback to faculty regarding courses and faculty teaching methods; student representation on College of Nursing committees; student organizations; and attendance at social events.

College of Nursing - Student Representation on Standing Committees. Undergraduate nursing students may be appointed to serve as voting members on the Undergraduate Program Committee. Interested students should obtain the necessary application from the UWM Student Association and also alert the Academic Affairs Office of your intent.

Student Organizations

Black and Gold. Students, faculty and staff work together to share information and make decisions affecting the undergraduate program. The College of Nursing’s Black and Gold Committee strives to 1) promote and maintain an open environment for the exchange of information between students, faculty, and staff, 2) improve student satisfaction and success through the identification and reduction of stressors within the boundaries of the CON's Black and Gold committee, and 3) Enhance the respect for a diverse population within the CON.

Wisconsin Student Nurse Association (WSNA) and the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA). There are chapters at both UWM and UW-Parkside. At UWM, students belong to the Nursing Students Association (NSA) and at UW-Parkside, the Students Nurses Association at UW-Parkside- UWM Consortial Program (SNAP-UWM). Membership is open to all nursing students whether or not they are yet enrolled in the nursing major. Membership in NSA and SNAP-UWM provides students with opportunities to share concerns, ideas, and information among themselves, as well as with nursing students throughout the state and the nation. The affiliation with the state and national associations provides students with a broad perspective of political and legislative issues and actions.

Sigma Theta Tau. The Eta Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society was established in fall of 1983. The purpose of the honor society is to recognize superior achievement, leadership qualities, foster high professional standards, encourage creative work, and strengthen commitment to the ideals of the profession. This prestigious membership is by invitation only, based on criteria established on the international level. Undergraduate students are invited to join at the end of either their junior or senior year.

Nursing Alumni Association (NAA). All graduates of the CON are encouraged to become members of the Nursing Alumni Association, a constituent association of the UWM Alumni Association. The purposes of the NAA are to: stimulate the continue interest of graduates and other nurses in the community in the UWM College of Nursing, Support and assist fund raising efforts for the College of Nursing, promote the continued emphasis on high standards in the education, research, and service functions of the College, promote the professional interest of
nurses and to cooperate with other professional nursing organizations in promoting a high standard of professional practice through such means as newsletters, educational functions, and social functions, and provide an opportunity for communication between alumni, faculty, and students of the CON about educational trends and developments in nursing.