



Graduate Nursing Student Handbook

2026-2027

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Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information regarding the guidelines, policies and procedures for the Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences Master of Science in Nursing programs. This information supplements the College Catalog. Students are expected to review and follow all policies in the Catalog including both college-wide policies and Nursing department specific policies.

This document serves as a reference for all graduate nursing program students. Please make an appointment with your academic advisor or Program Chair for further clarification.

Nursing Philosophy

Faculty believe that nursing education enables the student to acquire the knowledge and competencies necessary to meet the changing needs of diverse populations. Faculty embrace the tenets of culturally sensitive nursing care. Caring is the unifying and dominant essence of nursing. Faculty believe in life-long learning.

Both faculty and students are responsible for educational outcomes. Faculty facilitate learning by designing learning methods and environments that are challenging and increasingly complex. Students are responsible for the quality and quantity of effort expended in their educational endeavor. Learning takes place both in formal curriculum-based experiences and informal co-curricular experiences.

Faculty believe that nursing education enables the student to use the nursing process, evidence-based practice, critical thinking skills, clinical judgment, technology, and communication to manage safe, quality patient care across the health-illness continuum. Health includes the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations.

Faculty believe that the focus of professional nursing care is wellness, health promotion, disease prevention, and quality of life across the lifespan. Faculty believe that nursing education enables the student to exhibit leadership and integrity across all healthcare settings and integrate ethical principles from professional codes.

Program Goals

The Graduate Program Goals provide the basis for the course outcomes that will be delineated in each nursing course of the curriculum. Course requirements and assignments are developed to measure a students' ability to meet the course outcomes and program goals. The program goals are listed under the three Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences domains of learning:

Intellectual Curiosity, Professional Practice, and Caring for Self and Others.

There are two program options of study in the Masters' program: Nurse Educator and Direct Entry Generalist option.

The Master of Science in Nursing degree in Nursing Education prepares licensed, registered nurses who have completed baccalaureate nursing studies for a successful career as a nurse educator in a clinic, hospital, or college/university setting. The on-line program offers flexibility needed to pursue graduate education and continue the responsibilities of home and work.

The Master of Science in Direct Entry Generalist prepares students who hold a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing discipline, and after 24 consecutive months of study, may apply for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

Intellectual Curiosity

1. Apply knowledge of the concepts and theories from nursing, education, and related disciplines to guide nursing practice. (ED* 1 Knowledge for Nursing Practice)
2. Apply knowledge of information systems and effective communication skills to promote optimal patient outcomes (ED 8 Informatics and Healthcare Technologies; ED 6 Interprofessional Partnerships)

Professional Practice

3. Provide leadership in clinical practice, education, research utilization, and service (ED 10 Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development)
4. Use the process of scientific inquiry to foster best practices, validate and translate evidence into practice, and promote life-long learning (ED 4 Scholarship for the Nursing Discipline, ED 10 Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development)
5. Evaluate quality and safety initiatives to assure optimum individual and population health outcomes (ED 5 Quality and Safety, ED 4 Population Health)

Caring for Self and Others

6. Demonstrate caring that recognizes the uniqueness and cultural diversity among individuals, families, communities, and the population (ED 2 Person Centered Care, ED 3 Population Health)
7. Practice evidence-based nursing within the framework of professional standards, values and codes, with ethical and legal considerations (ED 5 Quality and Safety, ED 9 Professionalism)

*ED refers to Essentials Domain(s) from *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* (AACN, 2026).

Critical Objectives

Critical objectives are professionalism standards that integrate competencies from *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* (AACN, 2026), Domain 9 (Professionalism). These objectives are applicable throughout all educational experiences on campus, online and in clinical settings. The *Corrective Action Policy* guides faculty and students in addressing non-adherence to the Critical Objectives (see College Catalog and Policies and

Procedures page of the College website).

To meet the Critical Objectives, the student:

1. **Demonstrates Ethical Behaviors (E9.1)***
 - o Safeguards privacy, confidentiality, and autonomy in all interactions.
 - o Reflect on one's actions and their consequences.
2. **Communicates Accurately and Honestly (E9.2)**
 - o Uses clear, honest, and accurate verbal and written communication in documentation, assignments, and interactions with clients, interprofessional team members, peers, and faculty.
3. **Prepares for Clinical and Educational Experiences (E9.3)**
 - o Completes classroom and clinical assignments punctually and communicates effectively with peers, instructors and preceptors.
 - o Arrives at clinical prepared to provide, safe, person-centered nursing care.
 - o Adheres to the dress code as outlined in the *Student Dress Code Policy*.
4. **Demonstrates Accountability and Reliability (E9.3)**
 - o Takes accountability for preparing for learning experiences in the classroom, clinical, lab and online learning environments.
 - o Follows college and program policies regarding absences as outlined in the *College Catalog* and *Graduate Nursing Student Handbook*.
5. **Prioritizes Patient Safety (E9.3)**
 - o Provides nursing care within the scope of knowledge and skills while considering the client's physical and psychological condition, age, developmental level, and environment.
 - o Maintains emotional and physical stability to ensure safe and effective learning environments while conducting nursing care.
6. **Practices Within Legal and Ethical Standards (E9.4)**
 - o Adheres to the legal scope of nursing practice as defined by the Illinois and Iowa Nursing Practice Acts, clinical site policies, TCONHS clinical guidelines, and recognized professional standards.
 - o Demonstrates integrity and confidentiality by adhering to the [*Code of Ethics for Nurses*](#) (American Nurses Association, 2025).
7. **Demonstrates the Professional Identity of Nursing (E9.5)**
 - o Adheres to the *General Standards of Behavior Policy* and demonstrates a respectful attitude and professional actions when interacting with clients, families, interprofessional team members, peers, faculty, and others.
8. **Provides Culturally Competent Care (E9.6)**
 - o Recognizes and respects cultural identities, accommodating diverse values, beliefs, and practices in nursing care.

*(E 9.x) denotes related competencies in Domain 9 (Professionalism) of [*The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education*](#) (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2026).

Professionalism Points

In courses with a clinical component, professionalism points represent the expectations of these Critical Objectives and will be weighted at 3% of the total grade. To maintain the integrity of overall course grade, a student must be passing the course with a 80% weighted total grade before professionalism points will be included in the final weighted total course grade. Faculty will follow the Corrective Action Policy to address repeat infractions and/or safety concerns. Refer to the College Catalog and Policies and Procedures webpage.

College E-mail, MyPortal, & Learning Management System (LMS)

Students are issued a Trinity College e-mail and a MyPortal account after acceptance into the nursing program. Students are **required** to use these electronic services to facilitate communication with faculty and staff at the College. Students are expected to check College email daily when classes are in session. Nursing courses also use the LMS, which uses the College email address as the username.

A full review of all electronic services will be held for students during orientation. Students must maintain active use of the College email system. For problems logging into e-mail or course LMS, contact Mat Oles, Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm for assistance at (309) 779-7814 or Mathew.Oles@trinitycollegeqc.edu.

Trinity College makes every effort to maintain excellent communication with our student body and expects students to maintain all their electronic accounts to assist in this process.

E-Learning Requirements

Students are assigned to complete various e-learning modules for clinical partner sites. Students will be informed via email regarding new module assignments. Students must complete the assignment before the designated deadline, as these modules are required for compliance with College and clinical site policies. Failure to complete the assigned e-learning modules will be addressed through the Corrective Action process. See “**Corrective Action Process**” in the College Catalog.

Class Attendance

Students are required to attend all class sessions unless the student meets the criteria for an approved absence. An approved absence may be granted for jury duty, medical care, or bereavement as explained in the college-wide Attendance Policy found in the annual College Catalog.

MSN Program-Specific Attendance Policy for Synchronous Class Meetings

A student who misses a synchronous class meeting without an approved absence must contact faculty as soon as possible to discuss any learning activities to be made up. Assigned make-up learning activities must be submitted via the course Drop Box no later than one week (7 days) following the date of the

absence. The unapproved absence will stand if the student fails to submit the make-up work before the deadline. A student may use this process only once per course for a course of three or fewer credit hours, and twice for a course with four or more credits.

Clinical and Lab Absence Policy

Attendance in clinical and lab is required. A student may be absent one clinical or lab date during each semester for emergency situations only. The clinical/lab faculty must be notified prior to any clinical or lab absence. Failure to notify the instructor prior to clinical/lab absence will be addressed through the Clinical Evaluation Tool. The Corrective Action process will be used to address subsequent failure to notify faculty as required. Ongoing failure to notify faculty may result in failure of clinical.

For the purpose of determining the need for clinical make up, a student who is more than 1 hour (sixty minutes) tardy will be considered absent for the clinical day. Lab time missed due to an emergency day absence must be made up as determined by the lab faculty. Recurring tardiness to clinical or lab will be addressed using the Corrective Action process.

If the student is absent on any clinical or lab dates after the emergency day has been used, the student must make up those missed dates, up to a maximum of two make up dates per semester. The student will be enrolled into a clinical make up unit course, CMU 500, for each date that must be made up. The financial responsibility belongs to the student, (see “Tuition and Fees”, and CMU 500 course description, in the College Catalog). Clinical make-up will take place on any unit appropriate to the clinical requirements of the course, with any qualified clinical faculty member, and only on the dates and times designated on each course calendar. Depending on the circumstances, clinical make-up may also include simulation and/or virtual assignments that have been approved for clinical hours. Course faculty will determine the type of clinical make-up experiences, considering that all clinical objectives must be met for the student to pass clinical. If a student fails to complete all required make-up, including any clinical assignments and the clinical evaluation tool, the student will fail the course.

Students must follow the Health and Safety Requirements policy, which states, in part, “Trinity College will abide by the medical center policy regarding whether a student can be on clinical with a medical device/restriction such as a cast. Generally, such devices prohibit ability to perform direct patient care and are therefore not permitted. See the full policy in the College Catalog or the Policies and Procedures section of the College website.

Course Accommodations Related to Short Term Military Service

The purpose of this nursing program policy is to provide consistent academic accommodation for nursing students who are required to be absent from the program for military service of 14 days or less. Please also refer to the college-wide policy, *Active Duty/Reservists/National Guard Service Members Called to Extended Active Duty*, found in the College Catalog. Students who have military orders will provide a copy to the Nursing Chair as soon as possible upon receipt. The Chair will communicate the dates of service to faculty. The student is responsible for balancing military service with academic obligations and will provide the coordinator of each

course with a proposed make-up plan no later than one week prior to the planned absence or as soon as possible after receiving the orders. The course coordinator will respond to the plan as soon as possible but no later than 2 business days. Requests outside the scope of this policy must be submitted to the Nursing Chair. The Chair will respond to the student and the course coordinator(s) with a decision. Course coordinators will provide the following standard accommodations as listed below.

Exams: Missed exams will be taken on the date noted on the course calendar for make-up exams. Missed exams are not counted as such under the *Testing Administration and Review Policy* in the Student Handbook.

Proctored Quizzes: The student may take a missed quiz at a date arranged with the course coordinator no later than 14 days following the last day of military service.

In-class Assignments: The student may complete missed in-class assignments no later than 14 days following the last day of military service.

Other assignments: Submission deadlines for assignments occurring during military service are extended to 14 days following the last day of military service. The *Late Assignment Policy* will be applied for work submitted after the extended due date. See the *Late Assignment Policy* in the Student Handbook. Assignments due prior to military service will follow the *Late Assignment Policy*; however, the period of military service will be excluded when calculating deduction of points resulting from late submission.

Lab/Clinical: Missed lab/clinical experiences are eligible for clinical makeup (CMU) without charge equal to the number of days missed due to service-related absence. The student may use an available emergency day in lieu of making up a missed clinical day, if the student chooses. See the *Clinical and Lab Absence Policy* in the Student Handbook.

Evaluation of Student Work

Faculty are responsible for 100% of student evaluation. In courses using a Nurse Educator MSN student, the student Nurse Educator's faculty mentor reviews all Nurse Educator student grading. The mentor ensures that student Nurse Educator evaluation of student work is appropriate and/or provides feedback and correction if the mentor believes the Nurse Educator student's grading is inaccurate, prior to the graded work being made visible to the student. In courses using Clinical Preceptors, faculty are responsible for evaluation of student work submissions and clinical performance, as stated in the Preceptor guidelines.

Test Administration and Review Policy

The purpose of the Test Administration and Review Policy is to provide for a consistent, orderly, and fair test administration and review process. Implementation of these procedures supports academic integrity and provides for an optimal testing environment to promote student success. The testing procedure is modeled after the NCLEX-RN® exam testing procedure.

Electronic Testing

Tests will be administered electronically unless otherwise noted at the instructor's discretion. Tests are given on the date published on the course calendar. Students may not take a test prior to the scheduled date and time. Students are advised to arrive 15 minutes prior to the published start time of the test but will not be allowed to enter the test room until 5 minutes prior to the published start time. The door will be locked just prior to giving exam instructions. Any student arriving after the door has been locked will be required to take the makeup exam, if eligible.

On the test date, students should bring a fully charged laptop computer meeting the requirements outlined in the College Catalog and the Bring Your Own Device policy of the nursing program. Students with laptop computers who experience technical difficulties at the time of the test will be provided a paper test and are expected to provide a replacement laptop as outlined in the Bring Your Own Device Policy. Students given a paper test should allow two business days for faculty to grade the test and follow up with the student regarding test review.

Students may wear comfortable clothing suitable for the classroom environment to a test. Students may bring coats into the room but must put them on the back of the chair. Students wearing hooded apparel must leave the hood down and students may not wear hats or scarves.

Students may not bring any personal items into the testing room including, but not limited to food, drink, books, bags, sunglasses, supplies, and electronic devices including smart watches, cell phones, tablets, recording devices or any other electronic devices. Students may not leave belongings unattended at the college. Students may place belongings inside the storage cabinets provided in the Study Rooms. Alternatively, students may leave belongings in their car. Keys may be brought into the testing room and must be placed in the area designated by the proctor.

No questions may be asked or answered during the test. All test supplies are provided by the College. If additional supplies are needed, the student should raise their hand to receive assistance.

Students are expected to care for their personal needs prior to entering the testing room. A student may not leave the testing room unless it is an emergency. Students may provide the College phone number as an emergency contact number. A staff member will give all emergency messages to the proctor who will deliver the message to the student. If a student must leave the testing room for an emergency, the student must submit the test electronically at that time and may elect to have the completed test items graded or may elect to take the make-up test if eligible. Any student requiring an accommodation due to a disability must contact the Dean of Enrollment Management/ADA Coordinator.

ATI Proctored Exams

Per ATI policy, students must present a photo ID to the proctor prior to testing. Students with a photo ID on file at the college have met this requirement. Students must be seated at the computer and viewing the Instructions screen prior to the exam. A student arriving after the door has been locked must reschedule the ATI exam.

Paper/Pencil Testing

Paper/Pencil tests may be given in certain circumstances, and students will be notified that the test will be paper/pencil. The policy is the same for both electronic and paper/pencil testing with the following exceptions:

- If the student must leave the room for an emergency, the student will submit the test to the proctor and may not return to the testing room.
- The proctor will notify the student when there are 10 minutes remaining in the testing period. Students must submit their test to the proctor when the end time is announced.

Posting of Exam Grades

For electronic testing, students will be able to see the raw score upon submission. Faculty will review the test analysis and make any adjustments to the score within 48 hours. For paper/pencil tests, grades will be posted to the electronic course grade book no earlier than 48 hours unless circumstances warrant an earlier posting.

Academic Integrity and Exams

Each student is responsible for the authenticity of their own work. Should an exam proctor observe suspected cheating during an exam, the proctor will document the observed behavior, speak with the student, and report the incident to the Chair of Nursing. A student who has taken the exam may not communicate any information about the exam to any students who were absent. Sharing information about exam question(s) in any form is cheating. Cheating may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the College. (See “Academic Honesty and Integrity” and “Corrective Action” policies.)

Missed Exams

Students are expected to take exams at the times scheduled on the course calendar. Students may make up a **maximum** of four missed exams during the nursing program. A student who must be absent from the exam **must notify faculty by email or office phone prior to the start time of the exam**. Failure to notify faculty by one of the acceptable methods will result in a 10% reduction in the make-up exam score. The make-up exam will be an alternate equivalent form of the original exam and will be administered near the end of the semester as published on the course calendar. Failure to take the make-up exam on the date and time scheduled will result in a grade of zero (0) for the exam.

Exam Review

Exam review is a learning opportunity. For electronic exams given in ExamSoft, students may review the exam immediately after completing the test. The exam review will last no longer than 30 minutes. Students may address questions on the Exam Review sheet provided. Faculty will review and consider student questions as well as relevant assigned course material and will communicate with the class regarding any changes made in scoring the exam.

If a student is unable to review the exam at the scheduled time, the student may make an appointment with the faculty librarian for an individual review during the period of 7 business days following the scheduled exam review. Weekends and holidays included on the College academic calendar are not considered as business days. This applies to students taking either an electronic exam or a paper exam.

Proctored Quizzes

Many courses include proctored quizzes (scheduled or unscheduled) during face-to-face course meetings as an assessment strategy. Students absent for any reason during a quiz may not make it up. Faculty will allow 1.5 minutes per question for quizzes.

Bring Your Own Device Policy for Pre-Licensure Nursing Students

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to delineate the use of the ExamSoft electronic test administration and analysis platform for administration of proctored examinations in the pre-licensure nursing programs.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE:

Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences is a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) campus. Students are responsible for providing a personal laptop computer that meets the current minimum requirements of Examsoft® and Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) ®. They are responsible for bringing this device fully charged with a minimum battery life of three hours and/or a suitable power cord to classes on announced days for Examsoft® and ATI®.

Procedures

1. Students will provide a laptop computer meeting these specifications:
 - Up-to-date personal computer or laptop (2 years or younger)
 - Wi-Fi Internet connection capable
 - Microsoft Office 365 Software (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote)
 - Meets Exemplify minimum system requirements <https://examsoft.com/es-exemplify-minimum-system-requirements/>
2. As a student you will have access to five free downloads of Office 365
 - Speaker to hear recorded lectures
 - Internet browser
 - Firefox, Google Chrome, Internet Explorer for PC
 - Safari for Mac
3. Nursing students have access to Examsoft/Exemplify® and ATI® testing as part of their fees at Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences.
4. Students are required to bring the laptop to class in an operational status with a fully charged battery that will last a minimum of three hours and/or a power cord.
5. Examinations must be completed as scheduled using the designated testing platform (e.g. Examsoft®, ATI®, etc.).
6. Students must download an assigned Examsoft® examination prior to the beginning of the exam start time. Students who download an exam immediately prior to the scheduled time for the examination may encounter complications that could impact their ability to test electronically.
7. When students complete the examination, the exam will upload automatically, or they should contact IT for support.

8. It is recommended that students turn off their antivirus protection *during testing* on ExamSoft. Compatible antivirus software programs are Microsoft Defender, Norton, MacAfee, Kaspersky. Students may contact IT for support with antivirus software.
9. In the event of a student's personal computer failure on the day of an examination, faculty will provide a paper copy of the exam. The paper exam may be a different format than the exam being given through Examplify®. See the Undergraduate or Graduate Nursing Student Handbook for policies related to tests and test review. The student is required to call Examsoft® for technical support and if the problem cannot be resolved, to provide an Examsoft® compliant laptop within 4 weeks.

Written Assignments Policy

Written instructions and grading criteria will be provided for all assignments in the nursing program. Students should seek faculty guidance for further clarification as needed. Students may request faculty to review a rough draft for guidance, up to one week before the assignment is due. General feedback and guidance will be given as faculty time permits. Each course syllabus will specify the policy for submitting work after the deadline including any grading penalty for late submissions. All assignments designated as meeting a clinical objective must be completed at a minimum of 80 % level prior to the end of the course in order to meet the corresponding clinical objective(s). Only one additional submission opportunity will be offered. The original grade will stand in the gradebook.

Late Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments must be submitted in the correct location in a format accessible to faculty before the assignment deadline posted on the Course Calendar. It is the student's responsibility to verify that each submission has uploaded correctly to the course drop box. When the assignment deadline has passed, missing submissions or those not viewable by faculty will be considered late. The earned assignment grade will be reduced by 10% for each day or partial day an assignment is late. Assignments that are 7 or more days late will receive a zero (0) but must be submitted to meet the related clinical or course objective(s). Failure to submit assignments on time may result in failure of the course. Assignments noted on the Clinical Evaluation Tool must be completed to a passing score (80 %) prior to deduction of points due to late submission, to meet the related clinical objective(s).

ATI Comprehensive Assessment and Review Program Implementation Policy

The Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) Content Mastery Series is an assessment- driven approach to assist nursing programs in preparing students for successful matriculation through the nursing curriculum. The Content Mastery Series is aligned with the MSN Direct Entry curriculum to assist students in nursing content mastery. Students in the MSN Direct Entry curriculum must complete the ATI Content Mastery Series as assigned.

Each Content Mastery area in the Series includes an electronic textbook with multimedia supplements, tutorials, two practice assessments, and a proctored assessment. Students are assigned to complete Content Mastery review material prior to or concurrent with the course in which the proctored assessment is given.

The score achieved on each proctored Content Mastery assessment will receive a course grade within the designated course, weighted at no greater than 1% of the final course grade. Grades will be awarded as follows: Level III-100%, Level II-89%, Level I-79%, below Level I-69%. A proctored Content Mastery assessment may only be attempted once.

In the NUR 532 course, prior to beginning the Content Mastery Series, students will complete an Orientation to ATI. Students will complete the ATI Nurse Logic tutorials and Beginning Assessment in NUR 532 and will review the Nurse Logic tutorials and complete the Advanced Assessment in NUR 520/625 as part of ATI Capstone. Nurse Logic tutorials and the Assessments will be weighted at no greater than 1% of the course grade in NUR 532.

ATI Content Mastery assessments are administered during the courses listed in the following table.

Diagnostic Assessment	Placement in Curriculum*
Fundamentals of Nursing	NUR 540
Mental Health Nursing	NUR 552
Pharmacology for Nursing Practice	NUR 522/610
Maternal-Newborn Nursing Care	NUR 554
Nursing Care of Children	NUR 522/556
Adult-Medical Surgical Nursing	NUR 522/610
Leadership/Management	NUR 531/618
Community Health Nursing	NUR 541/609
ATI Capstone/Comprehensive Predictor	NUR 520/625

*Where a second course number is given, refer to the MSN revised course listings found in the 2026-2027 College Catalog

Preparation Plan Prior to Content Mastery Assessments

Prior to each Content Mastery proctored assessment, students will complete a Preparation Plan. The Preparation Plan includes Practice Assessments A and B and a minimum of one hour of content review on the ATI site following each Practice Assessment. The Practice Assessments should be taken without reference to notes or other assistance in order to obtain maximum benefit. Students are not required to obtain a minimum score on Practice Assessments. Full credit will be given to students who complete the Assessment and Focused Review in full before the assignment deadline. Students will use the *Topics to Review* feature of ATI to guide the content review process. The Preparation Plan assignment will be weighted at no greater than 1% of the final course grade. If a student submits components of the preparation plan after the due date, the Late Assignment policy will be enforced. The Preparation Plan must be completed prior to taking the Content Mastery proctored assessment. If a proctored assessment is cancelled by the nursing program, the portion of the final grade carried by the exam will be distributed equally to all other grade categories. The Preparation Plan process is outlined in the following table.

Complete Practice Assessment A. Faculty will not enable rationales for Practice Assessment A.	Complete at least 1 hour (60 minutes) of focused review on the ATI site using the individualized Topics to Review feature of ATI. Following Focused Review, complete the Post-Study Quiz.	Complete Practice Assessment B. Practice Assessment B will be made available a minimum of 72 hours after Practice Assessment A is due. Faculty will enable rationales for Practice Assessment B.	Complete at least 1 hour (60 minutes) of focused review on the ATI site using the Topics to Review feature of ATI. Faculty will verify submission time and completeness in the ATI system.
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Remediation Plan following Proctored Assessments

A Remediation Plan is completed following each Proctored Assessment. The purpose of a Remediation Plan is individualized review of content areas based on the student's Proctored Assessment performance. The Remediation Plan assignment will be weighted at no greater than 4% of the final course grade. If a student submits components of the remediation plan after the due date, the Late Assignment policy will be enforced. The Remediation Plan must be completed prior to the end of the course. If a proctored assessment is cancelled by the nursing program, the percentage allotted to the Remediation Plan will be distributed equally to all other grade categories. The Remediation Plan process is outlined in the following table.

Complete the Proctored Assessment	For topics listed in the Topics to Review feature of ATI, the student will complete a required minimum number of legibly handwritten Active Learning Templates and will spend a required minimum remediation time in content review on the ATI site based on the Proctored Assessment score. Use the correct Active Learning Template specified in the Individual Performance Profile, Topics to Review section. Level III-1 hour minimum/3 Active Learning Templates Level II-2 hours minimum/6 Active Learning Templates Level I-3 hours minimum/9 Active Learning Templates Below Level I-4 hours minimum/12 Active Learning Templates	Submit a copy of each of the required Active Learning Templates and the Individual Performance Profile report prior to the deadline on the course calendar. Faculty will verify submission time, time spent in Focused Review, and completion in full of the correct Active Learning Templates.
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ATI Capstone and Virtual ATI

Students in the MSN Direct Entry program option will be enrolled in ATI Capstone Content Review and Virtual ATI review during their last semester as a course requirement of NUR

520/625 Graduate Seminar. During the review, all students will be enrolled in the ATI Capstone Content Review + Virtual-ATI Product and required to complete all assigned components of the review. The ATI Capstone Content Review will include two proctored ATI Capstone Comprehensive Assessments and 7 weeks of content review. The ATI Capstone Comprehensive Assessment Form A will be administered before the content review, and the ATI Capstone Comprehensive Assessment Form B will be administered after the review.

ATI Comprehensive Predictor Assessment

The ATI Comprehensive Predictor® will be administered during the final semester of the program following the completion of the ATI Capstone Content Review. Virtual-ATI pre-graduation review work will include the NCLEX® Strategies module, Fundamentals module, Pharmacology module, and beginning Medical Surgical module to the 50% stage of the review. A student who does not achieve a 95% or greater Predicted Probability of Passing NCLEX® score on the initial attempt will have a second opportunity to attempt the ATI Comprehensive Predictor assessment. In order to be eligible for a second attempt, completion of the 50% level of the Virtual ATI NCLEX-RN Review® program is required. The score achieved on the first attempt of the ATI Comprehensive Predictor assessment will be recorded as a course grade within NUR 520/625 Graduate Seminar, based on national norms determined by ATI, and will be weighted at no greater than 10% of the final course grade.

If a student does not earn a Predicted Probability of Passing NCLEX® score of 95% or higher on the ATI Comprehensive Predictor® by the second attempt, the student is strongly recommended to complete the entire Virtual ATI NCLEX Review® program post-graduation to full completion prior to attempting the NCLEX-RN® exam.

ATI Dosage Calculation and Safe Administration Modules and Assessments

Elaboration: Nurses must be able to perform dosage calculations accurately and consistently to ensure patient safety. The program has adopted the **ATI Dosage Calculation and Safe Administration 4.0** learning modules, practice and proctored assessments to assure that nursing students build the necessary skills throughout the nursing program. Modules will be assigned, assessments given, and remediation work required, during the courses shown below. See individual course syllabi for further information.

Module/Assessment	Placement in the Curriculum*
Medication Administration Module	NUR 532 Fundamentals of Nursing for the MSN
Safe Dosage Module	NUR 540 Adult Health Nursing I for the MSN
Oral Medication Module	NUR 540 Adult Health Nursing I for the MSN

Powdered Medications Module	NUR 540 Adult Health Nursing I for the MSN
Parenteral (IV) Medications Module	NUR 540 Adult Health Nursing I for the MSN
Injectable Medications Module	NUR 540 Adult Health Nursing I for the MSN
Dosage Calculation RN Fundamentals Practice and Proctored Assessments	NUR 540 Adult Health Nursing I for the MSN
Pediatric Medications Module	NUR 556 Pediatric Nursing for the MSN
Dosage by Weight Module	NUR 556 Pediatric Nursing for the MSN
Critical Care Medications Module	NUR 522 Lifespan Nursing II for the MSN/NUR 610 Adult Health Nursing II for the MSN
Dosage Calculation RN Nursing Care of Children Practice and Proctored Assessments	NUR 556 Pediatric Nursing for the MSN
Dosage Calculation RN Adult Medical Surgical Practice and Proctored Assessments	NUR 522 Lifespan Nursing II for the MSN/NUR 610 Adult Health Nursing II for the MSN
Dosage Calculation RN Critical Care Practice and Proctored Assessments	NUR 522 Lifespan Nursing II for the MSN/NUR 610 Adult Health Nursing II for the MSN
Dosage Calculation RN Maternal Newborn Practice and Proctored Assessments	NUR 523 Maternal Newborn Nursing/NUR 554 Perinatal Nursing for the MSN

*Where a second course number is given, refer to the MSN revised course listings found in the 2026-2027 College Catalog

Nursing Clinical Skills Policy

Students must follow the guidelines for use of the Learning Laboratory found in the College Catalog under “Computer, Health Assessment, and Learning Laboratories “.

Purpose: The purpose of the Nursing Programs Clinical Skills Policy is to describe an efficient and fair process for clinical skills teaching and assessment of clinical skill performance in the nursing lab. This policy is applicable to nursing courses with a clinical skills requirement.

1. For consistency in instruction, faculty will follow the faculty guidelines developed by the course/clinical coordinator for teaching the skill. Faculty Guidelines will describe the faculty

role in verifying any preparation requirements to be completed by the student prior to the lab and information to be reviewed with students during the lab.

2. Some skills are designated as basic essential clinical skills. Basic essential clinical skills are required of all students entering the clinical setting. For courses in which basic essential clinical skills are taught each student must successfully complete a return demonstration on **all** skills designated as basic essential clinical skills prior to the first scheduled clinical experience and may not attend the clinical setting until the student has successfully completed the return demonstration for **all** basic essential clinical skills.

3. **Basic essential clinical skills** include all the following:

- Positioning and transfer
- Basic care and hygiene
- Vital Signs
- Inpatient Nursing Assessment

Additional skills to be taught in the nursing program include:

- Medication Administration
- Intravenous therapy
- GI skills (NG tube, enema, ostomy care)
- Urinary catheterization
- Care of client with a central line
- Blood administration
- Sterile Dressing care
- Advanced Airway/Ventilator Management/Tracheostomy Care with Suctioning
- Complete Health Assessment of an Adult Client

4. The course syllabus will describe the lab component of the course including a list of clinical skills that must be successfully demonstrated by the student in order to attend clinical and pass the course.
5. For each clinical skill, a Skills Checklist will be provided to students. The Skills Checklist will be based on the nursing skills reference adopted by the nursing program. The Skills Checklist will identify critical elements of the skill that must be performed, which if omitted or performed incorrectly, will result in a mark of “non-pass” for the skills return demonstration by the student.
6. Students and faculty will use the Skills Checklists consistently when teaching/reviewing/practicing clinical skills.
7. The Skills Checklist will be used during the return demonstration and must include the student’s name, the date of the return demonstration, steps of the clinical skill with critical elements designated, and an area to indicate whether the step was or was not successfully performed. The Skills Checklist will indicate whether a repeat return demonstration must be completed. The completed Skills Checklist for each student will be maintained in a locked file with the Nursing Chair for a period of three (3) years.
8. Nursing students must demonstrate basic competency of all assigned clinical skills in the skills lab prior to performing the skill on a client. Basic competency is determined if a

student has successfully performed all the critical elements of the clinical skill to receive a mark of “pass”.

9. Students are required to complete pre-lab preparatory work as designated in the course syllabus for each lab session. Faculty will verify proof of completion prior to the skills lab. A student who has not completed the pre-lab preparation work may not participate in the lab practice until all preparation is completed. The student will be directed to complete the pre-lab preparatory work. The student must make up the missed lab time if unable to complete sufficient lab practice to prepare for the return demonstration during the designated lab practice session. This determination is made by the faculty member.
10. During lab practice sessions nursing faculty will observe each student and provide formative feedback to assist each student to improve skill performance. Ample practice and faculty observation or tutoring may be assigned to help a student master each clinical skill.
11. Students are required to attend all scheduled lab sessions for the entire time period published on the course calendar and as assigned by faculty to provide sufficient opportunities for skill mastery.
12. Return demonstrations will take place in the lab and ample time will be allowed as designated on the Skills Checklist provided to students.
13. Faculty will observe the student during skill performance throughout the return demonstration, without providing any coaching or feedback. The faculty will provide the student with any clinical information needed for clinical decision making required during the return demonstration.
14. The faculty will indicate the student’s performance on the Skills Checklist for each step of the clinical skill. All elements of the skill designated as critical elements must be performed correctly in order to pass the return demonstration. If the student is unable to complete the critical elements of the skill during the allotted time, the attempt will be marked as “non-pass”.
15. A written record will be maintained by the course clinical coordinator of all skills demonstrated by the student during the course. The faculty conducting the return demonstration and the nursing student must both sign and date the skills record.
16. If a student is unsuccessful in a return demonstration for a nursing skill, the student will be assigned to review the preparatory work, complete additional skill practice in the lab, and schedule a second attempt for the return demonstration with the clinical faculty a minimum of 48 hours following the first attempt.
17. If unsuccessful on the second attempt, the student will again be assigned to review the preparatory work, complete additional skill practice in the lab, and schedule a third return demonstration attempt with the clinical faculty a minimum of 48 hours after the second attempt.
18. Failure of the third attempt of a return demonstration for any skill constitutes a clinical failure for the course.

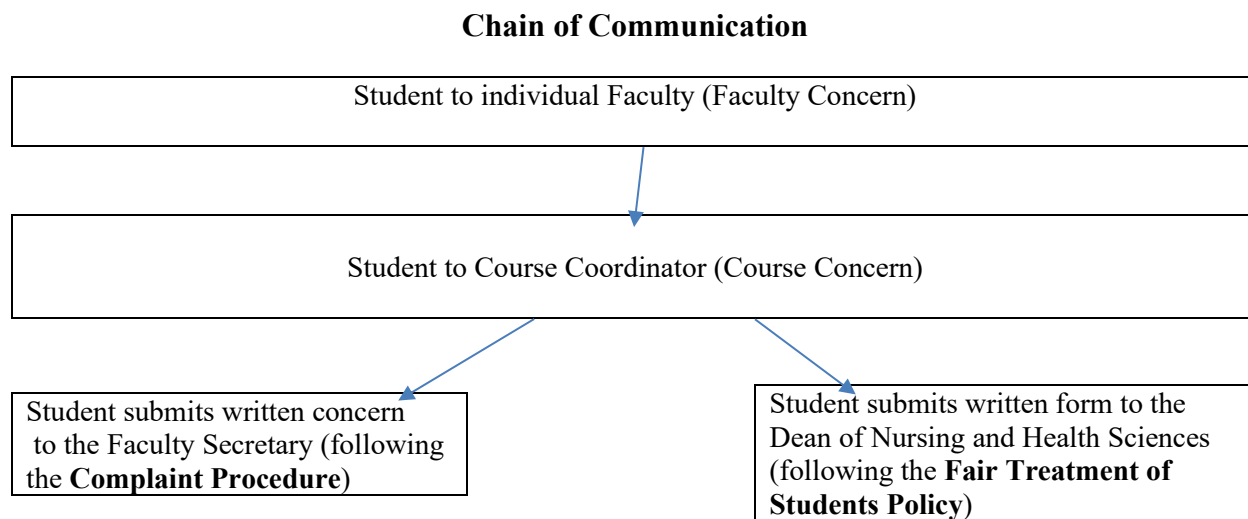
Communicating Student Concerns

Faculty are committed to directly hearing student concerns respectfully with the goal of resolving the concern in a mutually agreeable manner. Students should refrain from discussing the matter with other faculty or staff not directly involved.

In the event a student has concerns about or dissatisfaction with an aspect of their experience in the nursing program, the student should follow established policy to communicate the matter to the appropriate person. If a student wishes to express their concerns regarding existing policies, procedures, or practices they should follow the **Complaint Procedure** found within the College Catalog. The **Fair Treatment of Students** policy, found within the College Catalog, is in place to provide a means to address a student's claim of unfair and/or non-equitable treatment regarding established policies, procedures, rules and regulations.

The first step listed in both policies is to meet individually with the appropriate person and discuss the concern. At the course level, discuss the concern directly with the involved faculty member. For a general course concern in a course with multiple faculty members, the student should speak with the course coordinator. The course coordinator's contact information is listed in the course syllabus.

Follow the **Chain of Communication**, below. Students are expected to follow the General Standards of Behavior and Critical Objectives, when bringing a concern to the faculty. If the concern is not resolved, faculty will assist the student if desired, to proceed as specified within the Complaint or Fair Treatment policy as applicable.



Student Counseling Services

Please see the Augustana College website for various Student Counseling Services available to students: <https://www.augustana.edu/student-life/student-counseling-service>

Student Practicum Responsibilities (Nurse Educator Option)

- A. Students shall provide their own transportation to and from the Clinical Site as well as any meals or lodging required during the clinical experience.

- B. Students shall agree to abide by the rules, regulations, policies and procedures of the Clinical Site as provided to Students by the Clinical Site during their orientation at the Clinical Site.
- C. Students shall agree to comply with the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information (the "Privacy Rule") issued under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), which govern the use and/or disclosure of individually identifiable health information.
- D. Students shall arrange for and provide to Clinical Site any required information including, but not limited to, criminal background checks, health information, verification of certification and/or licensure, insurance information and information relating to participation in federally funded insurance programs.

Mutual Responsibilities

- A. Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the Clinical Site has access to the Student's records and is required to keep this knowledge confidential.
- B. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and any regulations and official guidance promulgated thereunder (collectively, "HIPAA"), as the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act ("HITECH") (together referred to as the "HIPAA Privacy Regulations") needs to be followed. Students shall be considered part of the Clinical Site's workforce for HIPAA compliance.
- C. Students shall receive training by the Clinical Site and are subject to compliance on all Clinical Site's privacy policies.
- D. Students participating in the Clinical Practicum are at all times acting as independent contractors and no Student in the Clinical Practicum will be deemed to be an employee of the Clinical Site.