



ACADIA
UNIVERSITY

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE NURSING PROGRAM
WITHIN THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

Nursing Student Handbook

Our Students... Our Program... Our Future...



Welcome to CBU BScN Program – Acadia University Nursing Campus

We welcome you to Cape Breton University and Acadia University, where you will be inspired, encouraged and supported to excel academically and personally in our unique community! Within the School of Nursing, our Faculty, Nursing Practice Educators, students and graduates are recognized globally for innovative accomplishments including academic excellence, healthcare leadership and patient advocacy. These successes contribute to Cape Breton University and Acadia University's growing reputation for excellence within the classroom – and beyond.

The CBU Nursing Program – Acadia University Nursing Campus offers three distinct entry points. They are Direct Entry (from high school), Advanced Standing (students who have completed some or all of a previous university degree) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) to BScN. The Direct Entry program runs 8 semesters over a three-year period, and the Advanced Standing program and LPN students study 6 semesters over a two-year period.

This handbook has been developed to provide you with the information you need about the Nursing Program, Cape Breton University, and Acadia University to be successful in your journey here as a valued student. We encourage you to keep your handbook available as you progress through the Nursing Program as a quick reference for key information.

We encourage you to enjoy our school and make the most of every opportunity for learning, personal and professional growth.

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Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision

The BScN Program aspires toward excellence in nursing education, practice and scholarship. Our graduates will be prepared to meet the challenges of advancing health for all in the 21st century.

Mission

Our mission is to prepare nursing students to achieve excellence in the provision of safe, competent, compassionate and ethical care. We are committed to fostering a learner-centered environment that instills values of critical inquiry, reflective practice and life-long learning. We will develop, advance and disseminate nursing knowledge, while working proactively to advocate for and work toward eliminating social inequities.

Values

Students

We value that our students become critical thinkers who are culturally sensitive and globally aware as leaders in their field.

Health

We value health as a resource for living and recognize the importance of the determinants of health and the principles of primary health care.

Nursing

We value the influence of the Baccalaureate preparation for professional nursing practice on health outcomes.

Environment

We value an academic environment that honours professional conduct, academic freedom, collaboration and integrity while respecting the diversity and unique contribution of all individuals.

Scholarship

We value advancement in nursing knowledge to improve nursing education, nursing practice and health outcomes.

Collaboration

We value working collaboratively with our partners in communities, allied health professionals and leaders in building a healthier Nova Scotia.

Philosophy

The School of Nursing believes that nursing is a rich blend of art and science that focuses on promoting good health while providing safe, ethical and compassionate care across the lifespan to individuals, families, communities and populations. Nursing has a unique body of knowledge and is evidence-based on theories, research and evaluation, yet grounded in unique interpersonal connections that requires a competent experiential learning program for nursing, health sciences, social sciences and liberal arts. Nursing is a practice discipline, directed toward health promotion, illness and injury prevention, health maintenance, health restoration, patient agency and education and the facilitation of a dignified and peaceful death.

Professional education focuses on the development of the person to be a critically reflective practitioner. Through the integration of theory and practice an environment is fostered that stimulates critical thinking, curiosity, self-direction, accountability, social responsibility and a commitment to lifelong learning. The nursing curriculum is an intentional blending of courses from many disciplines led by leaders in their fields across the care continuum.

Curriculum Core Concepts

Health for All

All nurses in Nova Scotia should have the education and skills they need to care for people safely, competently, ethically and compassionately, building the public's trust that nurses practice with public interest as their priority (NSCN 2022). Health is viewed as a resource for everyday living and is a dynamic process for the individual, family, community and population. The Determinants of Health (DOH) - which consider personal, social, economic and environmental factors - influence and impact health status. The School of Nursing recognizes an accessible healthcare system based on a primary health care approach as the key to achieving the goal of health for all.

Critical inquiry

The Nursing Program incorporates critical inquiry within class and nursing practice through academic scholarship, academic research and professional and personal reflection and evaluation. Development of critical inquiry is supported through learning experiences that incorporate questioning, discussing and active listening, grounded in evidence-based practice.

Social Justice and Equity

The program encourages a non-discriminatory approach to inclusion in the profession of nursing and care, respecting individuality and celebrating differences. Cultural awareness and culturally sensitive relationships grounded in respect and trust are cultivated. The curriculum fosters awareness of global health challenges and the need to work collaboratively with partners in health care and government to ensure fair distribution of resources that is appropriate for healthcare needs.

Nursing Knowledge

The program values baccalaureate preparation for professional nursing practice and fosters an awareness of nursing sensitive outcomes. Nursing scholarship is promoted to meet the demands of an increasingly complex health care system and the challenges for preparing nurses for their roles in the 21st century.

Professionalism

The art and science of professional nursing is incorporated throughout the program. All nursing courses include the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) Code of Ethics and Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses.

Collaboration

Collaboration is an integral component of professional nursing education. The program fosters and sustains interprofessional, interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships.

Program Goals

The BScN Program is designed to accomplish the following 12 goals:

1. To prepare professional nurses to engage in health promotion, prevention, curative, supportive and rehabilitative care, including palliation (across the life span) in a variety of settings.
2. To promote and implement the philosophy of primary health care.
3. To develop skill in ethical, moral, and legal decision-making with respect to health and health care delivery.
4. To promote accountability, responsibility and self-regulation.
5. To implement nursing practice models reflective of various nursing theories.
6. To actualize the values of social justice and equity.
7. To foster research mindedness and research utilization.
8. To promote the development and integration of evidence-informed knowledge.
9. To promote multi-sectorial and trans-disciplinary collaborative participation in health care delivery and research.
10. To promote facilitative and deliberate interaction and enactment of the advocacy role.
11. To develop leadership capacity.
12. To nurture personal and professional development.

Bachelor of Science- Nursing 2024 Curriculum Planner

Direct Entry (DE) – Terms 1-8 | Advanced Standing (AS) - Terms 3-8
Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) – Term Three – LPN Pathway, (students join in Term 4-8)

Term One – DE	Term Two – DE
BIOL 2853/2850L Physiology and Anatomy 1 CHEM 1013/1010L General Chemistry 1 ENGL 1423 Writing & Reading Critically 2 MATH 1253/1250L Statistics 1 PSYC 1013 Introductory Psychology 1 Overall Average (65 or >)	BIOL 2453/2450L Introduction to Microbiology BIOL 2863/2860L Physiology and Anatomy 2 COMM 1013 Communication for Kinesiology PHIL 1423 Freedom, Mind & Knowledge PSYC 1023 Introductory Psychology 2 Overall Average (65 or >)
Term Three – DE, AS	Term Four – DE, AS, LPN
NURS 2103 Professional Formation of Nursing 1 NURS 2203/2200L Foundations of Nursing 1 NURS 2403/2400L Health Promotion & Assessment 1 NURS 2413 Health Promotion & Assessment 2 NURS 2903/2900L Nursing Practices Integration 1 Minimum Grade – 65% per course	NURS 2303 Health & Illness 1 NURS 2213/2210L Foundations of Nursing 2 NURS 2503 Pathophysiology in Diverse Populations NURS 2513/2510L Pharmacotherapeutics, Alternative & Complementary Therapies NURS 2913 Nursing Practice Integration 2 Minimum Grade – 65% per course
Term Five – DE, AS, LPN	Term Six – DE, AS, LPN
NURS 3303 Health & Illness 2 NURS 3313 Health & Illness 3 NURS 3503 Nursing Research Methods NURS 3906 Nursing Practice Integration 3 Minimum Grade – 65% per course	NURS 3103 Professional Formation 2 NURS 3323 Health & Illness 4 NURS 3916 Nursing Practice Integration 4 NURS Elective Minimum Grade – 65% per course
Term Seven – DE, AS, LPN	Term Eight – DE, AS, LPN
NURS 4103 Professional Formation 3 NURS 4503 Nursing Theory & Practice Synthesis: Health – Illness Continuum NURS 4906 Nursing Practice Integration 5 NURS Elective Minimum Grade – 65% per course	NURS 4915 Nursing Practice Integration 6 Minimum Grade – 65% per course

Term Three – LPN
NURS 1203 Transitioning to the Role of a Professional Registered Nurse NURS 1213 The Roles of the Registered Nurse in Evidence-Informed Practice BIOL 2453/2450L Introduction to Microbiology ENGL 1423 Writing & Reading Critically 2 MATH 1253/1250L Statistics 1 Overall Average (65 or >)

September - December	January - April	May - July
Term 1 – DE	Term 2 – DE	
Term 3 – DE, AS, LPN	Term 4 – DE, AS, LPN	Term 5 – DE, AS, LPN
Term 6 – DE, AS, LPN	Term 7 – DE, AS, LPN	Term 8 – DE, AS, LPN

*Exact dates will be distributed, when available.

All course descriptions can be found in the Academic Calendar.

<https://registrar.acadiau.ca/AcademicCalendars.html>

Mandatory Documentation

All incoming Term 3 BScN program students will be required to review and submit preclinical documentation and proof of vaccination. Failure to submit required documents and related certificates on time may result in removal or a delayed start from clinical practice areas. Blank documents and related policies can be found within the School of Nursing SharePoint Welcome Portal prior to Term 3.

Students will not be able to participate in the mandatory clinical experiences as a student nurse if your immunizations are not current and complete. The School of Nursing is not responsible for keeping your records; only for ensuring that you are adequately immunized and certified therefore it is recommended that you make a copy of all your supporting documentation prior to submission to the School of Nursing.

Requirements include: vulnerable sector registry, criminal records check, immunization review, placement consent forms, confidentiality agreements, learner placement agreements, standard first aid certification, CPR certification and respiratory fit testing.

Program Related Information

Communication

As a university student, you are responsible for your success - and we are here to guide you. To support your success, we encourage you to be proactive during your academic career by attending classes, submitting assignments on time, communicating with your course professor and actively engaging with your peers.

To help facilitate this, we guarantee that each course syllabus will have specific contact information for the Course Professor and related Course Instructors/Nursing Practice Educators and will be available electronically via Acorn. Please use this information as your primary means of reaching your instructors for course and nursing practice related issues.

Email

An Acadia University (AU) email account is provided to you upon registration and managed by User Support Centre. Your AU email address will be the primary means to communicate important information about courses, campus updates and the School of Nursing, and we strongly recommend you check your AU email on a daily basis to ensure you remain informed of important information. Due to electronic privacy and security measures, only emails received from a valid AU account will be answered.

In order to facilitate efficient communication, we offer the following guidelines when formatting correspondence by email with staff and faculty within the School of Nursing:

- Include your semester of study and a specific request or question.
- Include a clear subject line that is short and communicates the topic.
- Begin with a salutation such as “Dear Professor”.
- Verify the address and re-read your email before you send it (Does it make sense? Are there spelling errors? Does it include all pertinent information?)
- For urgent matters, please seek us out in person or via telephone to help facilitate a prompt response.

Telephone

Refer to your course syllabus for telephone information for course-specific professors and Nursing Practice Educators, or to the AU website www.acadiau.ca to contact other School of Nursing staff for reasons not relating to courses. Home telephone numbers will not be given out by the university and students should not telephone faculty or staff at home. Previously or personally acquired contact information is not to be used to contact faculty or Nursing Practice Educators.

Meetings

If you are asked to meet with a faculty member, Nursing Practice Educator or other staff, it is important to arrive on time. If you are going to be late, or if you need to re-schedule the meeting, please communicate this via appropriate channels (e-mail) in a timely manner.

Nursing Uniform

Students are responsible for purchasing their own uniforms and lab coat. These uniform and lab coat must be worn for **university sanctioned** clinical practicum courses and lab classes. Refer to the Cape Breton University Professional Dress Policy for further and more specific details.

The uniform consists of a white short-sleeve scrub top, and a **hunter green** pant. Any shirts worn under the uniform must be white in colour. All students are expected to dress in a professional manner and follow the Professional Dress Policy which can be found in the policy section of this handbook. Students are responsible for purchasing their own uniforms and lab coat for university sanctioned clinical practicum courses and lab classes. Prices vary depending on the style of pant and scrub top selected.

Additional required items include:

- Stethoscope
- Pen Light & Medimeter
- Watch
- 1 Personalized Name Tag (Supplied by School)
- Manual Blood Pressure Monitor & Aneroid Sphygmomanometer
- Uniform Crest

Nursing Practice

In order to ensure that students get access to quality nursing placements, it is possible that students may need to attend practice during days, evenings and weekends. Every effort will be made to inform students of their schedule before they go into nursing practice.

Nursing Society

The CBU Nursing Society is a very active student organization on and off campus, and involves nursing students from every semester of the program. It includes social, fundraising and academic activities. Your participation in the activities of the Nursing Society will prove rewarding for you, provide an excellent opportunity for you to meet other nursing students across both nursing programs and provide opportunities for leadership development. Membership in the Society is mandatory, and the Society requires a membership fee which is included in your uniform package. Membership in your student organization will help your professional development and provides a link to other Nursing Societies across Canada. To qualify for student academic awards, membership fees must be current. The Canadian Nursing Students Association (CNSA) is the national voice of Canadian Nursing Students. Information is available at www.cnsa.ca.

Students are encouraged to act as delegates and attend conferences, as participation is seen as an educational experience that fosters leadership. By becoming active in the Nursing Society in the beginning of your program you will realize the benefits of being part of this group throughout your years of study. Nursing Students must be members of the Student Nursing Society to qualify for nursing awards. These awards are distributed annually at the Nursing Society Banquet, and there are awards allocated for each year of the program.

Canadian Black Nurses Alliance at Cape Breton University

The CBU School of Nursing is excited to have a chapter of the Canadian Black Nurses Alliance (CBNA) on campus. Founded in 2020 the CBNA is driven by the underrepresentation of Black nurses in leadership and academia. Through the CBNA organization nurses as well as nursing students are provided a safe space to network, support, and share resources that will align with having a successful academic journey and professional career. CBNA offers coaching, mentorship, and scholarship from the undergraduate level, to professionals seeking to advance in their field (Canadian Black Nurses Alliance., n.d.).

International Nursing Experience

During the senior semester of your studies, you may have the opportunity to be part of an International Nursing Experience. The programs vary each year. You will learn more about this experience as information becomes available.

Professionalism

The Nova Scotia College of Nursing is the regulatory body that governs Registered Nurses in the province of Nova Scotia. The College's mandate is to protect the public by promoting good practice within the nursing profession, preventing poor practice, and intervening when practice is unacceptable.

Nursing is a profession, and nurses are professionals. Professionalism is an attitude. It is a way of thinking that is demonstrated in your actions and appearance. Nurses are obligated to practice according to The Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) Code of Ethics. The Standards of Practice can be found at www.nscn.ca, while the Code of Ethics can be found at www.cna-aiic.ca.

The NSCN website is a resource that is available to both nursing students and practicing registered nurses. Below are links to important information for students as you begin to transition into becoming a Registered Nurse in Nova Scotia.

https://cdn1.nscn.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/Becoming_RN_RSA.pdf

<https://www.nscn.ca/professional-practice/practice-support/practice-support-tools/entry-level-competencies/entry-level-competencies-registered-nurses-nova-scotia>



NCLEX-RN

Cape Breton University's BScN degree prepares and provides graduates with a generalist undergraduate education. The application process for a temporary graduate nurse license and application for the NCLEX-RN® exam is completed through the NSCN. Resources for the NCLEX-RN can be found at <https://www.nscn.ca/registration-licensing/licensing-exams/nclex-rn-exam>.

Nursing Skills Lab and Simulation Center

Acadia University has Nursing Skills Labs; Simulation Labs and a Child Health Assessment Lab.

These areas contain books, audiovisual materials, computer software, health related equipment and supplies, as well as many other resources to enhance Nursing student learning. The labs are areas for students to practice psychomotor skills and critical thinking abilities utilizing low to high fidelity simulators.

Students who require additional learning and support with psychomotor skills, medication administration, assessments and pathophysiology, etc. can be referred to the CS&S Lead for practice and remediation.

Simulation is integrated into the Nursing curriculum to allow students to bridge theory to practice in a safe, interactive learning environment. The simulation experience consists of pre-work, clinical scenarios and debriefing sessions. The debriefing exercise is used as a reflective practice tool to promote positive learning outcomes. The patient simulators and skills trainers shape learners' capacity for timely responsiveness through mannequins that are diverse in age, gender and race, each with the capacity for behavioural, live action responses. As students progress, the simulations evolve to cover more advanced skills and promote critical inquiry.

Nursing students can also use these areas to collaborate with other health care disciplines to understand their unique roles and the importance of working and communicating together in health care to provide excellent care to all patients, families and communities. Lab space can be booked outside of scheduled class times by contacting the CS&S Lead or Technician.

Academic Support for Students

Below is a list of a few of the student services available at AU.

For a complete list please visit the AU website

www2.acadiau.ca/student-services.html

Mentoring & Student Advising

The School of Nursing strives to prepare students to achieve excellence in their education and profession. All students will be assigned a Faculty or Nursing Practice Educator (NPE) advisor upon acceptance into the BScN program. Students will receive an information package from the department with the name and contact information of their advisor. The nursing department advisor will follow the student throughout the program and will be a resource for questions or concerns. All first-year students are required to meet with an enrolment specialist in the first year advising center before registering for courses.

Library

The Acadia University Library houses, both physically and virtually, books, e-books, journals, databases, and clinical resources supporting your information needs. You'll also find comfortable study areas and seminar rooms, computer workstations, printers, copiers, and a staff willing to respond to your questions.

Services include reference and research assistance; online chat; borrowing books and articles from other libraries; and more!

See: library.acadiau.ca/home.html

Your School of Nursing Liaison Librarian is Maggie Neilson. Maggie is available to respond to your questions or to meet for research guidance and instruction.

E: maggiejean.neilson@acadiau.ca

P: 902-585-1718

Office: Room 420, Level 2

Center for Student Success

AU offers many services such as Accessible Learning, Writing Centre, Student Union Tutoring and Academic Success Coaching. Information on these resources can be found on acadiau.ca.

Health & Wellness Student Health Centre

AU offers a Health Centre on campus located in Dennis House. Information on their services can be found at www2.acadiau.ca/student-life/health-wellness/clinic.html. Acadia has a Counselling Centre located in the old SUB. Information on their services can be found at www2.acadiau.ca/student-life/health-wellness/mental-health.html.

CBU/Acadia School of Nursing

Program Regulations

1. **University Regulations:** Students are required to observe the University Regulations and Academic Regulations as described in the official academic calendar including the Student Right to Appeal, the Student Code of Conduct and the Respectful Campus and Sexual Violence policies.
2. **Aptitude and Fitness for Nursing:** BScN students are continually assessed in each year on their aptitude and fitness for nursing. Students who, in the judgment of the School, fail to attain a satisfactory standard in this assessment may be required to withdraw from the School of Nursing program.
3. **Course Registration.** Students are responsible for ensuring that they are registered in appropriate courses throughout the program. Incorrect registration, at any time, could cause conflicts in a student's year-to-year progression and/or graduation.
4. **Preclinical Requirements and Supplies:** Students in the BScN Program are responsible for (a) the purchase of uniforms including shoes and a watch with a sweep hand or a digital watch with seconds display, (b) cost of accommodation and travel while on clinical experiences. Additional expenses are incurred by students in the Basic Baccalaureate Program for field experience, learning resources and books, first aid course, CPR course, equipment, and nurse registration examinations and recommended and/or required immunizations and/or testing. Students are provided with a list pre-clinical requirement yearly.
5. **Academic Advising:** School faculty and Nursing Practice Educators assist students to plan and progress in their academic program and academic progress through the School based professional advising process.
6. **Progression and Passing Standard:** Progression in the program requires a minimum 60% in each non-nursing course and minimum 65% or Pass (P) in each nursing course (and designated by NRSG). Progression in the program requires a GPA of 65% or greater (semester to semester) for all years of the program. F and INC are failing grades. W/S and W are considered neutral.
7. **Failing Grades, Dismissal, and Readmission:** Students are permitted to repeat any course (non-nursing, core nursing courses including clinical practice and electives) in the BScN program only once. A second failure in any course (whether the second failure occurs in a previously failed course, or in a course taken for the first time in the program) will result in dismissal from the program. Students are permitted to reapply to the program. Readmission to the program is not guaranteed and the applicant must demonstrate their preparation to return to studies and suitability for the nursing profession.

8. Readmission following program removal: Students readmitted to the BScN program for a second time will be responsible for meeting all original admission requirements including assessment for aptitude and fitness for nursing. Students who have been academically dismissed twice will not be permitted to apply for re-admission.
9. Position of Trust: The profession of Nursing situates Nursing students in a position of special trust, applicants will be asked to complete and submit a recent Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Search which might affect the applicant's suitability for the practice of nursing. Students accepted into the nursing program who provide false information will be disciplined by the university. Once enrolled in the Nursing Program it is the students' continuing responsibility to inform the university of any criminal conviction or any significant personal circumstance which would adversely affect their ability to continue with their studies or which would make them ineligible for registration within the Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) upon graduation.
10. Student Disclosure of Health Information. Students registered in the School of Nursing are responsible to inform both the School and the Clinical Practice learning sites if they have a health concern that has the potential to compromise client, student and/or agency personnel safety and/or has the potential for limiting their ability to learn and perform their role as learner. For the purposes of these regulations, the term health concern refers to any cognitive, affective, and/or physical health problem, injury, or condition that may place the student and/or others at risk and/or inhibit the student's learning ability and performance.
11. Information Sharing with Affiliated Institutions: Students should be aware that such record checks or other screening procedures may be required by facilities outside the University used for clinical, fieldwork or co-op placements or experiences related to an academic class assignment, which, in some instances, may be a requirement for graduation. It is the student's responsibility to have such procedures completed. Such facilities may refuse to accept students on the basis of information contained in the record check or other screening procedures. If the student is unable to complete a clinical requirement due to a failure to meet the record check or screening requirements of the facility, or if the student is refused access to the facility on the basis of the information provided, such a student may fail the class, and as a result, in some instances, may not be eligible for progression or graduation.
12. Leave of Absence. A Cape Breton University BScN student may apply to take a leave of absence (LOA) to a maximum of 24 months over 1- 2 occurrences during their program of study.
13. Students have a maximum of 5 calendar years for program completion for Direct Entry students and 4 calendar years for Advanced Standing Students.

Guidelines for Attendance and Professional Conduct

Attendance Guidelines

As part of the University community, students play a key role within the institution. As student success is tied to regular attendance of classes, the University **strongly recommends that students attend class regularly**. The University also recognizes that students are ultimately responsible for their actions, and does not publish an institution-wide mandatory class attendance policy. Students cannot fail solely due to absence from class.

The science, practice and interpersonal dimensions of nursing are taught and learned by students in the classroom and nursing practice components of the program in a manner that supports Nova Scotia College of Nurses Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses and the Canadian Nurses Association Code of Ethics. The Standards of Practice can be found at www.nscn.ca, while the Code of Ethics can be found at www.cna-aiic.ca.

In all learning environments, students are socialized into their professional role and are thus required to demonstrate knowledge and application of professional nursing standards and ethics. In the nursing practice and classroom component of the program, the ethic of accountability is reflected in attendance. All nursing students are therefore required to attend all nursing classes, nursing practice conferences and nursing practice sessions as a demonstration of nursing practice ethics.

Students who do not demonstrate exemplary attendance may be deemed unsuitable for nursing by not meeting the standards of ethical behavior for the profession. Consistent absenteeism, which is linked to a lack of professional accountability, can result in a student being asked to withdraw from the program.

Attendance will be taken on a regular basis in all classes, nursing practice conferences and nursing practice experiences. All labs associated with nursing courses are considered Nursing Practice. Students who are absent from class/nursing practice, or any portion thereof without notifying Faculty or Nursing Practice Educator in a timely manner with a valid reason, will have their attendance record reviewed. Students' attendance records will be included in student evaluations.

Students are responsible for notifying Faculty or Nursing Practice Educator, and the nursing practice placement/agency, in advance of an absence. Students need to provide the Faculty or Nursing Practice Educator with an explanation for all absences. These notes will be included in student evaluations and in the student's file.

The following guidelines - as stated by Cape Breton University's Health & Wellness Student Health Centre - are to be followed if absence is due to health reasons. For protracted illness or illness occurring during examination periods, upon request the nurse or the physician may provide health excuses to students for whom they have direct knowledge of the illness occurring during the time in question. If an "after the fact" request is made, the physician or nurse is unable to provide an excuse, but the student is encouraged to discuss the matter with the professor concerned.

In the event of inclement weather, students need to exercise prudent judgment in relation to the decision to travel to the nursing practice area and refer to the policy on inclement weather.

CBU, AU, and School of Nursing Policies

Policies support CBU and AU goals and our goals as a School of Nursing to provide a rich experience for students and to build exemplary graduates in the profession of Nursing. Policies are governed through several processes, and in the event of a discrepancy between this document and the official policies/guidelines, the latter shall prevail.

This policy list is not exhaustive, and we encourage you to familiarize yourself with policies at the institution and School of Nursing level that apply to you during your time as a student within the BScN program.

Social Media Policy

Policy Statement

During class, lab and practice, students shall not access social media and electronic communication for personal reasons. In practice, access to use is permitted in non-client areas of the nursing unit. In the classroom and labs, access must be permitted by professor and/or practice supervisor. The following are acceptable reasons nursing students may access social media in class, lab or practice:

Research
Teaching tool
Client teaching
Accessing evidenced-informed information
Promoting awareness of credible support networks for clients

Standard

Electronic access to information and the use of technology for the purposes of communication, education, and sharing of information is guided by the 2017 Personal Health Information Act (PHIA), the Nova Scotia College of Nursing Position Statement on Social Media (2020), Nova Scotia Health Social Media/Networking Policy (2020) and Cape Breton University Code of Student Conduct for Non-Academic Infractions (2020).

Procedure

Abide by organizational policies and government legislation concerning personal and professional use of social media and electronic communication

Use the highest privacy settings and create strong passwords

Maintain privacy and confidentiality of clients, students, educators and coworkers

Do not post photos or information or discuss specific details about clients or client-based learning experiences even if unnamed

Never post unprofessional or negative comments about clients, coworkers, other students or employers. Avoid commenting on posts of this nature made by others

Maintain professional boundaries and avoid engaging in personal social media relationships with clients ex. “friending clients”

Keep work/school related social media activities separate from personal social media activity

Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action by CBU; Nursing Practice Committee, NSCN and/or Nursing Practice Organizations.





Inclement Weather Policy

Policy Statement

In addition to the policy on inclement weather found at <https://hr.acadiau.ca/files/sites/hr/Policies%20and%20Procedures/Acadia%20Campus%20Closure%20and%20Course%20Cancellation%20Policy%20Revised%20March%202024.pdf> , the School of Nursing recognizes that inclement weather can affect student's ability to get to areas of nursing practice outside of campus. The safety of students is of the utmost importance.

Guiding Principles and Values

The safety of students is of the utmost importance.

Procedures

Students in their final nursing practice integration course placement will follow the policy of the institution in which they are working.

Students are expected to use their judgement to ensure safety during inclement weather, while meeting reasonable educational requirements.

For students not in their final course, their placement will follow CBU university decision on campus closure.

Professional Dress Policy

Policy Statement

Nursing students are required to dress in a professional and well-groomed manner and wear required uniforms in specific nursing practice settings. Lack of adherence to this expectation may be noted on the Students Evaluation.

Students who do not adhere to this policy may be asked to leave the nursing practice area as determined by the Nursing Practice Supervisor. This will be noted in the Student's Evaluation.

Guiding Principles and Values

The School of Nursing requires students to adhere to the Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses (NSCN, 2017) and the Code of Ethics (CNA, 2017). The Professional Dress Policy is based on three guiding principles:

1. Infection Control
2. Safety
3. Professionalism

Students are required to adhere to the policy during all nursing practice experiences.

The Nursing Uniform consists of:

1. A white scrub top and white lab coat with the CBU logo on the left sleeve and hunter green scrub bottoms. Undershirts must be white.
2. Shoes are white or black “nurses” shoes or all-white or black running shoes.
3. Student name bar on the front, left of the uniform.
4. A watch with a second hand, stethoscope, bandage scissors and pen.

Specific consideration to individual needs must be addressed with the Nursing Practice Supervisor. Accommodation is considered as long as the request aligns with the above guiding principles.

Procedures

1. Students are expected to dress in a professional, well-groomed manner. Uniform is to be clean, wrinkle-free and properly fitted. Shoes are to be clean with a fully closed heel and toe.
2. Students are to adhere to dress policy for the agency in which they are practicing in regards to the type of dress such as uniform, professional dress or business casual. No combination of black and white or colored patterned uniform is acceptable.
3. Appropriate dress for community experiences is unique to the placement. Students therefore must consult with the Nursing Practice Supervisor and organization to discuss required dress.
4. Due to ongoing safety concerns, no: T-shirts with logo, jeans, shorts, hats, workout clothes or yoga pants, anything wrinkled, dirty, torn, stained or in need of repair, tank tops, spaghetti strap or strapless dresses, plunging or deep V-neck shirts or blouses, mini-skirts, flip flops, open toed shoes, tight-fitting, sheer clothing, sequins or glitter or leather pants are to be worn. This list may not be inclusive.
5. Religious head covers must be fastened securely and non-dangling.
6. Fingernails must be clean and short. No nail polish or acrylic nails permitted. Acceptable jewelry is limited to: stud earrings, wedding band, watch and medical alert identification.

Progression and Passing Standard

Every student must meet mandatory academic requirements to progress from one term to the next in the Nursing Program. Students' academic requirements are based on the course grades recorded on their transcript.

Guiding Principles and Values

Our mission is to prepare nursing students to achieve excellence in the provision of safe, competent, compassionate and ethical care. In an effort to achieve this, the student must meet rigorous academic standards before progressing from one term to the next.

Non-Nursing Course Standard

In each non-nursing course students must achieve a minimum grade of 60%. These include but are not limited to courses in terms 1 and 2:

BIOL 2053/2453	CHEM 1013
ENGL 1423	PSYC 1013
MATH 1253	COMM 1013
BIOL 2053	PHIL 1423
BIOL 2863	PSYC 1023

Nursing Course Standard

In each nursing course students must achieve a minimum grade of 65%.

GPA Progression Requirements

Students must achieve an overall average of 65% in each term. (Final grades for electives and transfer credits will be included and calculated in the designated semester they appear on the student' degree audit.)

Conduct During Exam Policy

Policy Statement

Nursing students are required to conduct themselves in all areas as professional future nurses. Student nurses and Registered Nurses ascribe to the Code of Ethics. This extends to the examination arena, where student aptitude is evaluated.

Guiding Principles and Values

Nursing students are expected to always comport themselves in a professional and ethical manner, including a commitment to justice and accountability. This extends to behaviour during the examinations that are intended to ensure a fair evaluation of skills, aptitude and learning.

Procedures

Rules for the Conduct of Examinations:

1. No person is allowed in an examination room during an examination except the candidates concerned and those supervising the examination.
2. Candidates must appear at the examination room for a computer exam at least ten minutes before the commencement of the examination. For a paper exam, students will wait outside the exam room until advised by the instructor to enter the room.
3. Candidates shall bring their photo identification (signed Photo ID) and place it in a conspicuous place on their desks.
4. All coats, jackets, and hats should be placed at the front of the room; all notes and books, pencil cases, electronic devices such as watches, smart glasses, turned off cell phones, laptops and other unauthorized aids - as well as purses - should also be placed at the front of the room.
5. Candidates are not allowed to reach into pockets or any part of their clothing until the exam is over. Ripped jeans cannot be worn during exams. No hoodies or tops with frontal pouch pockets are to be worn. The candidate's usage of pens, pencils, paper, and/or whiteboards during exams will be at the discretion of the professor. During computer exams, the computer calculator will be minimized, and placed in the lower left corner of the computer screen.
6. The proctor has authority to assign seats to candidates.
7. Candidates shall not communicate with one another in any manner whatsoever during the examination. Candidates may not leave the examination room unescorted for any reason, and this includes using the washroom.
8. During a computer exam, no other tabs are to be open other than the exam itself.

CBU

Nursing Students



- like branches on a tree, we all grow in different directions
yet our roots remain as one.

- Alvin Karpman





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