

**FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL  
SCIENCES**

**~DEPARTMENT OF NURSING~  
UNDERGRADUATE  
NURSING STUDENT  
HANDBOOK**



**2026-2027**

*\*Every effort is made to provide information that is current and accurate.*

The Department of Nursing reserves the right to make changes whenever such action is deemed appropriate or necessary. Any changes made are approved according to DON policies and procedures.

Fort Hays State University  
College of Health and Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Nursing  
**Undergraduate Nursing Program**

Welcome to the Undergraduate Nursing Program at Fort Hays State University!

As an undergraduate nursing student, your current knowledge, experiences, and skills will be incorporated into the new knowledge, experiences, and skills you will develop as you prepare for a career in nursing. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program prepares you to be a nurse generalist.

As you review this handbook, be aware that it is applicable to both on-campus and off-campus (RN-BSN outreach) students. Any questions concerning content within this handbook should be directed to your advisor.

I am confident that you will find our faculty and staff to be well qualified, personable, and sincerely interested in you and your progress in the program. Please feel free to contact me at any time as you progress in the program with questions or concerns you may have. It is our goal to make this the highest quality educational experience you will have in your lifetime.

The faculty wishes you much success in the Undergraduate Nursing Program.

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**NOTE: This edition of the Undergraduate Nursing Student Handbook takes precedence over editions previously printed.**

**Notice of Non-Discrimination**--Fort Hays State University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, race, color, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or veteran or veteran disability status in admission or access to or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. Interested persons should contact the Director of Affirmative Action, Officer of Title IX, Title VI, Section 504, and ADA Regulations, Office of the President, 312 Sheridan Hall, (785) 628-4033.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Department of Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program is approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program at FHSU is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791. The program offers study for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

### Acronyms

AA	Associate of Arts
AACN:	American Association of Colleges of Nursing
AAS	Associate of Applied Science
ANA:	American Nurses Association
ANCC:	American Nurses Credentialing Center
APA:	American Psychological Association
AS	Associate of Science-Nursing
BSN:	Bachelor of Science in Nursing
CCNE:	Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
DON:	Department of Nursing
FHANS	Fort Hays Association of Nursing Students
FHSU:	Fort Hays State University
GPA:	Grade point average
HIPAA:	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
KSBN:	Kansas State Board of Nursing
LOA	Leave of Absence
NGAP	Nursing Guaranteed Admission Program
RN to BSN	Registered Nurse to Bachelors of Science in Nursing
SGA:	Student Government Association
TAA	Transfer Articulation Agreement

## **MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT**

The mission of the Department of Nursing is to provide high quality based undergraduate and graduate education utilizing the standards of professional nursing.

The department focuses on innovative health care delivery and instruction utilizing advanced information technology, which connects Kansas to the nation and the world.

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE OF NURSING MISSION**

The mission of the Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN) program within the Department of Nursing is to develop professional nurse generalists who provide and coordinate safe, high quality, and evidence-based healthcare to individuals, communities, and global populations.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

A nursing education program of excellence and distinction in this region of the US with graduates who are capable of caring for and changing the world.

This is accomplished through the work of a magnet faculty unit which fosters teamwork, empowerment, and shared discovery.

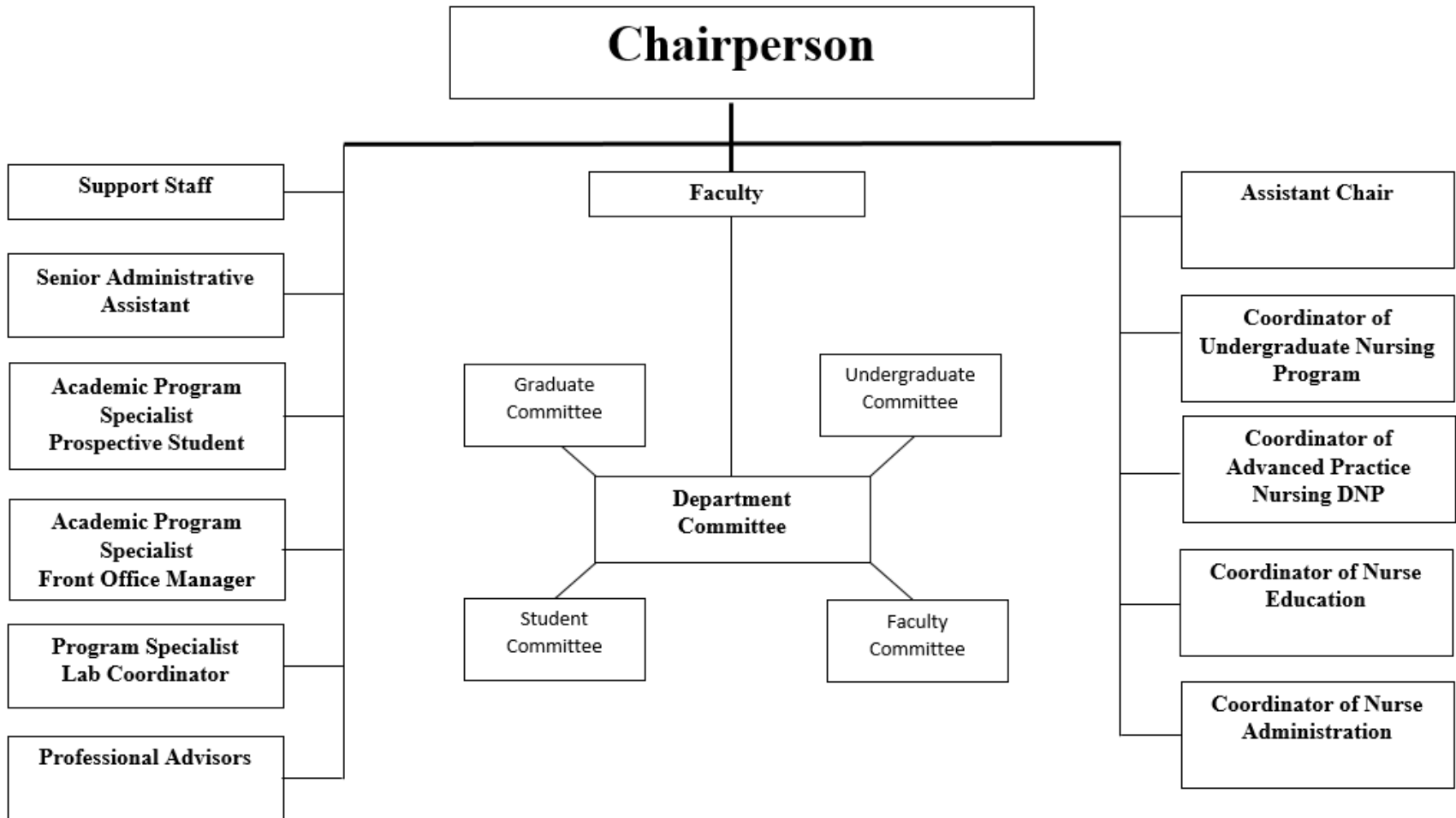
## **Departmental Goals**

The overall goals of the Department of Nursing reflect the commitment to the mission of the department and are congruent with the mission statements of the university and college. The ordering of the goals does not indicate a hierarchical priority. Goals are viewed as being important for actualizing the mission of the department.

1. To prepare professional nurse generalists at the undergraduate level who are capable of practicing in various settings, and who possess the foundation for graduate study.
2. To prepare competent graduate level nurses in advanced nursing.
3. To prepare nurses at the doctoral level to become healthcare leaders.
4. To offer a nursing curriculum using advanced informational technology.
5. To improve health care delivery.
6. To prepare faculty and graduates for the future needs of a global society, while integrating a humanistic understanding of diverse populations.
7. To use the expertise of faculty and students in providing public service activities.
8. To engage faculty and students in scholarly activities and to disseminate research findings for the benefit of society and the nursing discipline.

### **FHSU BSN Program Outcomes**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A. Graduates will integrate knowledge for nursing practice and from other disciplines to develop clinical judgment for safe, quality, compassionate, person-centered care.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• B. Graduates will demonstrate leadership and personal characteristics to enhance their professional identity and developing nursing expertise.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• C. Graduates will use information and communication technologies to inform evidence-based practice decisions for safe and equitable care to diverse populations.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• D. Graduates will analyze legislative, regulatory, and organizational health policy processes in systems-based practice.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• E. Graduates will plan and deliver safe, ethical, quality patient care for individuals and populations respecting diversity and inclusion.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• F. Graduates will apply ethical nursing scholarship to compassionate person-centered care while ensuring safety and quality.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• G. Graduates will collaborate with interdisciplinary partners to construct evidence-based, equitable, quality care for individuals and populations recognizing social determinants of health within the community.</li></ul>



## **NURSING PROGRAM PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENTS**

The Department of Nursing has adopted the following core philosophy. This Core Philosophy provides a basis for the undergraduate nursing and the graduate nursing philosophical statements.

**Human:** The human is the focus of interest for the discipline of nursing. Humans are considered as individuals and as aggregates or groups within a holistic framework.

**Environment:** Environment is a dynamic interplay among political, economical, technological, societal, and other influences in which a human, aggregates and/or groups interact concerning health care, health care delivery and/or systems.

**Health:** Health is a dynamic pandimensional state of being uniquely defined within a cultural context by individuals, aggregates, or society. Health is a focus of nursing attention, not as an end in itself, but as a means to life that is meaningful and manageable.

**Nursing:** Nursing is a unique body of science influencing the health of humans. The implementation of nursing science and the art of nursing is nursing practice. Therefore, nursing is a blend of both science and art.

**Learning:** Learning is a uniquely active process of lifelong growth that endures over time and includes multiple ways of knowing. The learner uses personal motivation and accepts responsibility to continue inquiry and develop competence.

**Baccalaureate Nursing Education** combines courses in the liberal arts along with courses in nursing theory and practice to prepare students to become an entry level professional nurse generalist.

## UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

Nursing, as a professional discipline, is based on knowledge from the natural and social sciences, and humanities. A background in these related disciplines is required for entry into the nursing curriculum.

The foundation of nursing curricula is provided by the concepts of nursing theories; nursing process; professional role; trends; ethics/legal process; critical thinking; decision-making; communication; human health potential; and therapeutic nursing interventions for health promotion, maintenance and restoration across the lifespan. Learning progresses from simple to complex.

Throughout all aspects of the curriculum, undergraduate students examine value systems, legal and ethical concerns, and nursing research findings to improve professional nursing practice. Undergraduate nursing students study leadership qualities and practice management administrative functions in clinical settings with nurse managers. The faculty believes that the theory and practicum components of the curriculum provide the base for the beginning practice of professional nursing and the foundation for graduate study nursing.

### **Domains for Nursing** <http://www.aacnursing.org>

Domain 1: Knowledge for Nursing Practice

Domain 2: Person-Centered Care

Domain 3: Population Health

Domain 4: Scholarship for Nursing Discipline

Domain 5: Quality and Safety

Domain 6: Interprofessional Partnerships

Domain 7: Systems-Based Practice

Domain 8: Informatics and Healthcare Technologies

Domain 9: Professionalism

Domain 10: Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development

### **QSEN Competencies:** [www.qsen.org](http://www.qsen.org)

Patient Centered Care

Teamwork and Collaboration

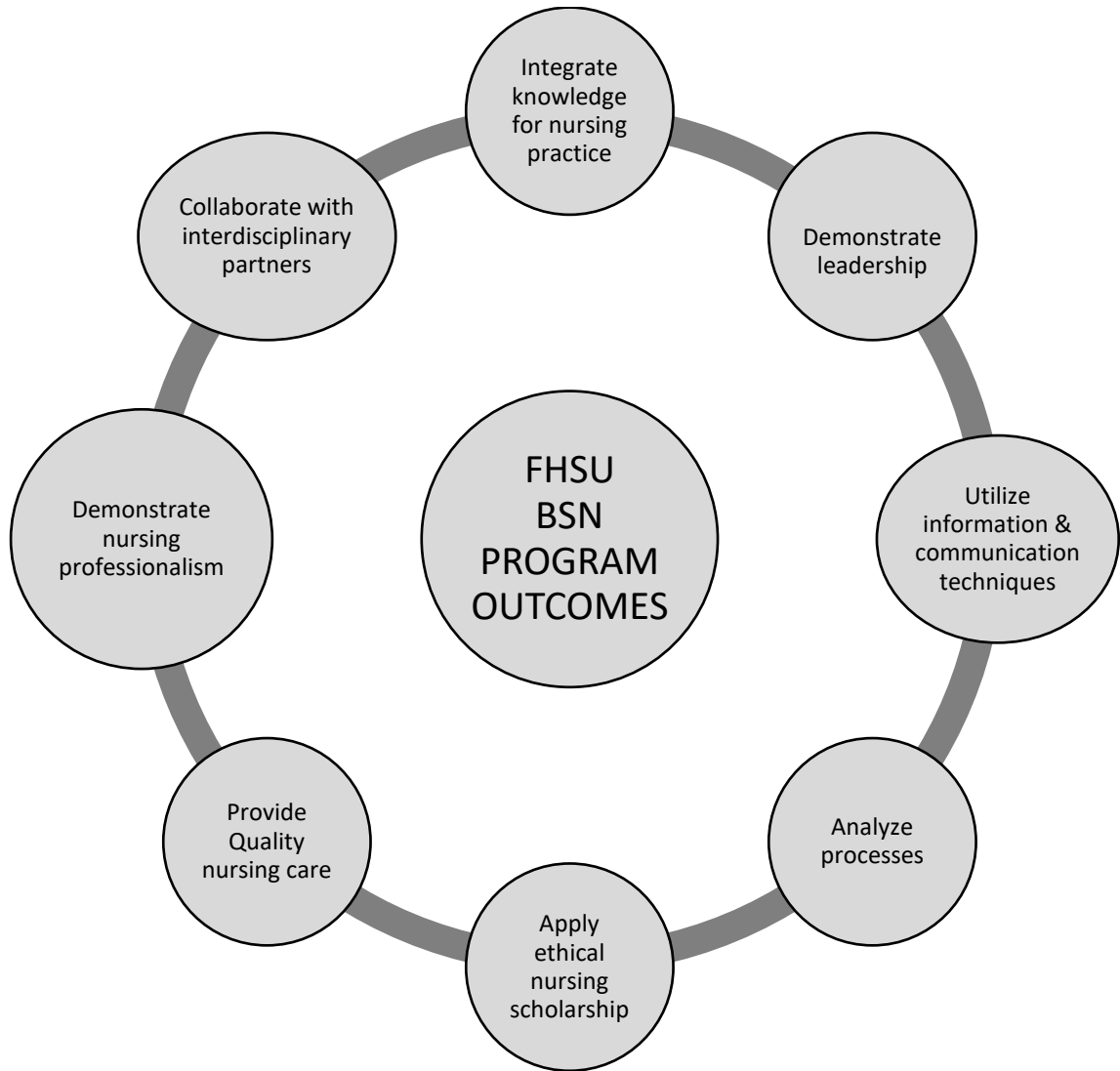
Evidence-Based Practice

Quality Improvement

Safety

Informatics

**FHSU BSN SCHEMATIC MODEL BASED ON THE FHSU BSN PROGRAM OUTCOMES**



## UNDERGRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM INFORMATION

### A. **BSN ON-CAMPUS/HYBRID ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

#### 1. **Undergraduate Requirements**

For all courses taken prior to and during the course of study, the student will provide an official transcript(s) to the Office of the Registrar.

#### 2. **Academic Progress**

Each student is responsible for verifying their academic progress in WorkDay. The advisor and student are to review the academic progress each semester.

#### 3. **On-Campus Admission Requirements**

- a. Submit application for admission by appropriate due date. Students may only apply to either the on-campus or hybrid pathway, not both.
- b. Complete pre-requisites with a grade of 'C' or higher (may be currently registered in pre-requisite courses at the time of application).
- c. application).
- d. Achieve a major grade point average (GPA) of at least a 3.00 on a 4.0 scale in WorkDay. The GPA at the time of application will be used for ranking. GPA check will occur on January 1 (spring start) and August 1 (fall start). All transcripts must be received. If necessary, a review of the cumulative GPA of prerequisite math and science courses will be conducted.
- e. A clear background check in CastleBranch. (Information to be provided upon conditional admission)
- f. A clear drug screening test in CastleBranch. (Information to be provided upon conditional admission)
- h. Clinical clearance requirements in CastleBranch including current immunizations, nursing student liability & personal, commercial health insurance, American Heart Association BLS for healthcare providers (CPR), physical exam, student information release form, and confidentiality statement form. (Information to be provided upon conditional admission). Conditional admission will be rescinded if clinical clearance is not met by the due date. Students will be permitted to enroll in program courses after clinical clearance is met.

#### 4. **Hybrid Admission Requirements**

- a. Submit application for admission by appropriate due date. Students may only apply to either the on-campus or hybrid pathway, not both.
- b. Complete pre-requisites with a grade of 'C' or higher (may be currently registered in pre-requisite courses at the time of application).
- c. Achieve a major grade point average (GPA) of at least a 3.00 on a 4.0 scale in WorkDay. The GPA at the time of application will be used

for ranking. GPA check will occur on August 1 (fall start). All transcripts must be received.

- d. Current resume including healthcare experience. Healthcare experience can include work as a CNA, phlebotomist, unit coordinator, pharmacy technician, EMT, etc. Please ask your advisor about work that would count as healthcare experience.
- e. Short video (5 minutes or less) with video and sound explaining why the hybrid pre-licensure BSN nursing program would be a good fit for you, what makes you a good candidate for this type of learning, and how you plan to be successful in the hybrid learning format.
- f. Applications may be scored using resume and video. Interviews may be required.
- g. A clear background check in CastleBranch. (Information to be provided upon conditional admission)
- h. A clear drug screening test in CastleBranch. (Information to be provided upon conditional admission)
- h. Clinical clearance requirements in CastleBranch including current immunizations, nursing student liability & personal, commercial health insurance, American Heart Association BLS for healthcare providers (CPR), physical exam, student information release form, and confidentiality statement form. (Information to be provided upon conditional admission). Conditional admission will be rescinded if clinical clearance is not met by the due date. Students will be permitted to enroll in program courses after clinical clearance is met.

**5. Admission Status**

- a. Full admission is offered when admission requirements above have been met pending space and competitive status.
- b. Conditional admission may be offered to a student who has not completed all pre-requisites or clinical clearance through CastleBranch.
- c. Guaranteed admission status (NGAP does not require application process). NGAP is for the first time program entrance only. NGAP is for on-campus only.
- d. Conditional waiting.

**B. ADMISSION EXPECTATIONS**

**1. Sensory and Motor Coordination or Function Skills**

Students must be able to execute gross and fine motor movements required to provide assessment, general care, and emergency treatment of clients. Some examples of the necessary skills include the following: (not all inclusive)

Ability to:

- a. Administer CPR.
- b. Use the assessment skills of palpation, auscultation, and percussion.
- c. Assist in moving and lifting clients using proper body mechanics.

- d. Perform clinical skills, such as initiating intravenous therapy and catheter insertion.
- e. Determine changes in skin temperature.

## **2. Observational Skills**

Students must be able to perform observational skills necessary to assess the health needs of clients through auditory, visual, and tactile abilities. Some examples of the necessary skills include the following: (not all inclusive)

Ability to:

- a. Auscultate with stethoscope to assess blood pressure and to assess heart, lung, and abdominal sounds. See color changes in the skin; changes in pupil reaction.
- b. Accurately read calibrations on a syringe.

## **3. Communications Skills**

Students must be able to speak, to hear, and to observe clients in order to do complete and accurate assessments of client status. Communication includes verbal, reading, writing, and non-verbal behaviors that reflect sensitivity, clarity, and mutual comprehension. Some examples of the necessary skills include the following:

Ability to:

- a. Initiate, maintain, and terminate a therapeutic nurse/client relationship.
- b. Share pertinent client assessment and other information with colleagues inter-professional health care team.
- c. Give verbal and written reports with clarity.
- d. Document accurately and clearly in written and electronic format.
- e. Perform client/family teaching that results in reciprocal comprehension.

## **4. Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities**

Students must have sufficient critical reasoning-skills in the practice of nursing. The students will problem solve clinical issues and situations by synthesizing information in an analytical, deliberative, evaluative, and decisive manner. Examples of needed cognitive skills include but are not limited to the following:

Ability to:

- a. Accurately identify nursing problems from all assessment client data.
- b. Analyze data to formulate client health care needs and nursing diagnoses.
- c. Utilize critical reasoning to develop a plan of care and implement nursing
- d. Interventions relevant to client needs.
- e. Synthesize assessment findings to evaluate the effectiveness of actions in meeting client needs for nursing care.
- f. Create an alternative plan of care, if the current plan is ineffective.

**5. Behavioral and Social Attributes**

Students must possess the emotional stability to enable them to develop therapeutic relationships and successfully communicate with individuals and aggregates from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and developmental levels. Students should possess the qualities of self awareness, emotional maturity, objectivity, flexibility, empathy, and integrity. Adherence to academic honesty is an expectation of all students in the nursing program. Students should be emotionally able to handle demanding workloads and to function effectively under stress.

**6. English Competency**

Students whose native language is not English are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Log onto <https://www.fhsu.edu/future-international/Language-Requirements/> for more information.

**7. Student versus Employee Role**

Students who are employed in the workforce during their schooling may work and utilize their skills only in the capacity of which they have been hired. Students may not perform skills at their workplace that are being taught as part of their program.

**C. BSN ON-CAMPUS/HYBRID PROGRESSION**

**\*Admission to the Department of Nursing does not guarantee progression or graduation.**

**1. Progression Requirements**

Throughout the nursing program, students must maintain or secure:

- a. A grade of C or better in all courses required for the nursing major.
- b. A 2.75 cumulative grade point average. Failure to do so may lead to academic probation or dismissal from the nursing program.
- c. Clinical clearance must be maintained throughout the program. (CPR certification, health insurance, professional liability insurance, immunizations as required including annual TB skin test).
- d. Students found to be under the influence of habit-forming drugs and/or alcohol during the program of study may be subject to immediate dismissal from the Department of Nursing.
- e. LPNs complete the courses with junior and senior level content and practice, along with traditional students, using the same clinical laboratories and clinical supervision.

**2. Student Success Plan**

If assessment of a student's work in a nursing course shows a lack of academic progress, the faculty and student will initiate a **written student success plan (plan of improvement)**.

- a. A midterm/midpoint grade of less than a C will require a student success plan. Any student that falls below a 75% testing average or a 70% course average must attend 2 hours of Student Success Lab weekly until their testing average and/or course grade is passing per the course syllabus. Hybrid students will meet with the hybrid Student Success Lab coach for remediation plan and implementation.

### 3. Failure to Maintain Required GPA and Course Grades

- a. Cumulative GPA - At the end of any semester in which the student's cumulative GPA in Undergraduate work is below 2.75, the student will be placed on probation and given one semester to raise the cumulative GPA to 2.75 or better. Should a student's cumulative GPA remain below 2.75 the student will be dismissed from the nursing program.
- b. Failed courses - A final nursing course grade of D or U, the student will contact the course instructor and his/her advisor/mentor to schedule a meeting to discuss the unsatisfactory grade. The student, instructor, and advisor/mentor will discuss strategies for the student to implement that may enhance performance when repeating the course. Refer to the progression policy.
- c. Re-entry Process - A student who earns a D or a U from either a nursing theory course or its respective practicum, lab or application course must submit a detailed letter stating the student's plan of improvement including the student's study habits, time management plan, and desire to continue in the nursing program (see rubric Appendix D). The letter is submitted to the Department Chair. The Undergraduate Committee will review the continuance request and the student's course grade history during the semester of the failed course. The committee will recommend to the Department Chair continuation within the program or dismissal from the program. If continuation is granted, the student will repeat the course and corresponding co-requisite even if the student earned a passing grade in one of the courses. When a course is repeated, the student must re-enroll and pay the necessary fees. Upon successful completion of a repeated nursing course, students may progress in the nursing program provided that the overall GPA is 2.75 or higher and there is available space for the student in the progression of courses. If, after repeating the nursing course (excluding any nursing elective course), the student earns a second failing grade or withdrawal, the student will be dismissed from the program. *Failure of any **three** nursing courses, D, or U, following admission to the nursing program, will result in dismissal from the program* (See Reasons for Dismissal). Students may follow the University Appeal Process.
- d. Withdraw Process –Junior 1, Junior 2, Senior 1, and Senior 2 students may withdraw from all nursing courses by the withdraw date and ask for permission to be placed in the next available cohort. Readmission is not guaranteed. Continuation in the program is based on pending space and competitive placement. A single course withdrawal is not allowed. If the student is unable to be placed within one year from the withdraw due to cohort space, the student is dismissed and must reapply for the program

starting at the Junior 1 semester. Any student who withdraws from nursing courses and returns as a nursing program student is required to meet weekly for the 1<sup>st</sup> month with their mentor during the first semester upon return for time management & studying tips. Students withdrawing from the nursing program and not desiring to return must submit a letter to their advisor/mentor acknowledging the student's removal from the program.

#### **4. Course Sequencing**

- a. Once admitted, students must successfully complete all courses for each semester before progressing to the next semester of nursing courses.
- b. Students are expected to complete any "Incomplete" nursing courses before progressing in the nursing curriculum.

#### **5. Leave of Absence from Nursing Program**

For on-campus/hybrid admitted nursing students, a Leave of Absence (LOA) form is submitted to the Chair indicating the need to "stop out" with plans to continue in the program in the future. To be considered for a LOA, students must be in good standing and currently passing all courses. Students must consider that returning to the program is dependent upon space being available as class size is limited.

Students requesting a leave of absence need to discuss the reason for this request with their advisor/mentor. The LOA form can be obtained from their advisor. The completed LOA form is submitted to the Department of Nursing Chair. LOA terms are determined by the Department of Nursing Chair. (Refer to University Student Handbook – Policies and Procedures). Readmission following a LOA requires appropriate documentation by the student as determined by the advisor with a letter requesting readmission.

### **D. ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

The course instructor will indicate the criteria for successful completion of the course, this will be published in the course syllabus at the beginning of each semester. Additional course specific requirements related to testing may also apply.

#### **1. Grade of Incomplete**

A grade of Incomplete (I) is assigned at the discretion of the instructor when work is of otherwise passing quality but incomplete, usually for reasons beyond the student's control. A student may request a grade of Incomplete from the instructor prior to the end of the course. The student must be doing satisfactory work (as indicated in course syllabus) for the request to be considered.

#### **2. Grade Appeal**

A grade appeal refers to the final grade in a course, not to individual assignments within a course. Students may start the informal grade appeal

process even though the final grade has not been posted (Refer to University Student Handbook – Policies and Procedures)

3. **Grading Scale**

Grading Scale per instructor syllabi.

4. **Testing Process**

Each course will have its own schedule for testing/evaluation. The course instructor will provide specific information regarding testing/evaluation process including the policy on make-up testing. When taking a test, the rules are as follows:

- a. No books or papers may be left on the desktop or taken into a testing room. (Paper necessary for calculating problems may be obtained from and returned to the instructor.)
- b. Students are to allow as much space as possible between themselves and other students in the room.
- c. No talking or signals between students are permitted. No PDAs, cell phones, camera phones etc. are allowed in the testing area.
- d. Students may not consult dictionaries or other sources of information (e.g. internet) without the permission of the instructor.
- e. Permission must be obtained to leave a testing room once the test is in progress.
- f. Student violation of the above rules may result in the student receiving a 0% for the test being taken during the time the infraction occurred.
- g. Violation of the Academic Honesty Policy will not be tolerated. (See section on Academic Honesty and the section on Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct.)
- h. Violation of instructor's directives for computer testing will not be tolerated.

It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor prior to missing a test. If a make-up test is permitted, it must be taken on the day assigned by the instructor.

5. **Written Assignments**

All written work must be legible, well organized, and shall follow the current American Psychological Association (APA) writing style.

The course instructor will indicate what the written assignments are, what guidelines to follow, the grading process, the due date, and the consequences for late papers. Quality written work is required with attention to neatness, format, grammar, and punctuation as well as content. Papers shall be computer generated following APA style unless the instructor indicates otherwise.

All papers submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements of each course are the property of the Department of Nursing as evidence of student

achievement. Random samples are retained in student files and are reviewed by accrediting teams. Therefore, it is a student's responsibility to make copies of all work he/she wishes to retain prior to submitting the work to the instructor.

## **6. Lecture and Practicum Attendance**

The Department of Nursing follows the policies on class attendance which is in the University Student Handbook. Academic obligations take precedence over other scheduled occurrences including, but not limited to: work, extra-curricular activities, childcare, travel, vacation, etc. It is the student's responsibility (both on-campus and off-campus students) to notify the instructor prior to missing a class or on-line assignment and to arrange for work missed, if approved.

Students are responsible for attending all clinical activities as scheduled. If clinical activity cannot be attended (planned or unplanned), it is the student's responsibility to trade with another student. Students need to be aware that nursing program clinical activity can occur at hours outside typical classroom hours. As clinical experiences are difficult to arrange and make up, any student missing clinical activity must meet with the instructor prior to the absence. The instructor and student will work together to create a plan for the absence. The plan may result in an Incomplete grade with clinical activity to be completed after the semester has ended. It is not the instructor's responsibility to conduct individual clinical activity. Excessive tardies or absences (planned or unplanned) may result in a referral to the Department Chair and may be unable to be made up.

A course grade of U (unsatisfactory) may be given for excessive absences. Each instructor will provide criteria to define what is meant by "excessive absences".

The Office of Student Affairs requires that the course instructor report any student with 3 or more absences when the instructor does not know the cause of the absences.

In consideration of the developmental norms of children, the confinement of a classroom setting, the purpose for the classes, and the difficulties that may arise for the child, parent, students and teacher, students are asked not to bring their children to classes or to the learning laboratory.

Students are to follow university policy on class attendance as found in the University Student Handbook. Students may be dismissed from class, lab, or practicum at the instructor's discretion. Students will contact the Chair to seek readmission to the course.

## **7. Policy on Academic Honesty**

Students who compromise the integrity of the academic process are subject to disciplinary action at the discretion of the instructor which could, ultimately, result in a failing grade for the course. This behavior could ultimately result in immediate dismissal from the program as evaluated by the Undergraduate Committee and the Chair of the Department. The student is assured of due process and right of appeal as established by the University-level appeals procedures.

#### **8. Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct**

Students who submit materials containing another person's work without giving the proper credit are committing plagiarism. Students who are cheating on assignments/tests are committing academic dishonesty. This action may result in a zero for the assignment, failure of a course, and/or grounds for dismissal from the nursing program (see University Student Handbook).

### **E. REASONS FOR DISMISSAL**

Grounds for dismissal from the Undergraduate Nursing Program include **but are not limited to:**

1. Falsifying documents.
2. Cheating and/or plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty.
3. Inability to meet psychomotor requirements of the program.
4. Failure to meet nursing program/course objectives/outcomes.
5. Being under the influence of illegal/habit forming drugs or alcohol during course activities.
6. Failure to maintain confidentiality.
7. Failure to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.75.
8. Unsafe professional or clinical practice.
9. Failure (D or U) of **three** required nursing program courses.
10. Failure to maintain a clear background check while in the nursing program.
11. Failure to maintain clinical clearance through the program.

### **F. LABORATORY/PRACTICUM REQUISITES**

#### **1. Requirements Prior to Beginning Clinical Practicum**

Prior to beginning each clinical nursing course and throughout the nursing program, the student must obtain and submit verification of:

- a. American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers certification (continuous)
- b. Personal commercial health insurance (continuous)
- c. Professional liability insurance (continuous)
- d. A yearly negative TB skin test or chest x-ray for a positive TB skin test every year. If history of a positive TB skin test, student will also complete a yearly TB assessment form. If a TB skin test is positive, the student will follow the protocol recommended by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide proof that compliance to treatment has been followed.

- e. Physical exam on admission
- f. Immunizations as required by the clinical site; physician signed or site approved waiver.

The Department of Nursing requires each student to provide proof of the requirements listed above. Students are not allowed to participate in the clinical rotations until the above items are met.

## **2. Health Requirements**

Students are required to comply with the health requirements of the health agencies in which they have clinical experiences, which may include requirements beyond those listed above. The student may be asked to present proof of compliance and must do so in order to participate in the agency experience. Failure to comply could jeopardize continuance in the nursing program. Students are responsible for any additional costs that may incur with these clinical experiences.

Students with an illness are required to contact the instructor prior to the clinical rotations. A statement of release from a physician or Student Health may be necessary before returning to the clinical setting. If a leave of absence (LOA) is required, contact your advisor.

## **3. Policy on Confidentiality**

Students are required to maintain confidentiality in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regarding all clinical experiences and assignments. Failure to do so may result in IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE NURSING PROGRAM. Each student will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement form. Separate confidentiality forms may be required by the clinical agencies. HIPAA violations will be reported to the applicable clinical agency.

## **4. Practicum Preparation**

Preparation for clinical practicum is mandatory. If unprepared, the student will be asked to leave the clinical area and not return until adequately prepared and deemed safe by the instructor to give client care. At the beginning of the practicum course the instructor will indicate what constitutes adequate preparation.

## **5. Transportation to Clinical Agencies**

Students need to make their own arrangements for transportation and lodging to health care agencies for clinical experiences. Students will sign a travel waiver every semester.

## **6. Clinical Signature**

All on campus BSN students will use FHSU/NS, and RNs will use FHSU/RN or following their name when signing client documents. Additional requirements related to clinical signatures may apply to some clinical facilities, and must

be followed.

**7. Sensitivity to Products Used in Clinical Practice/Labs**

Each semester, students must inform instructors if they have allergies to any product they might come into contact with during their program of study, *e.g.* latex, powder, antibiotics, etc.

**8. Clinical Make-Ups**

Clinical make-up days are at the discretion of the instructor. Refer to each individual course syllabus.

**9. Practicum Performance Evaluation Process**

In the laboratory/clinical setting, the student will be evaluated by practicum instructors and preceptors as indicated in the course syllabus.

**10. Misconduct During Clinical Experiences**

Misconduct during clinical/laboratory experiences is not acceptable and is subject to penalties up to and including dismissal from the nursing program. See Appendix C *Behavior Point Referral Policy*. Misconduct would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. Failure to adhere to client safety standards.
- b. Failure to adhere to safe medication administration standards.
- c. Failure to report to the instructor or other health care member an error made when providing client care.
- d. Failure to report to the instructor an observed error by another student made while providing client care.
- e. Performing a first-time nursing action without seeking supervision from the instructor or staff nurse.
- f. Documentation on the client record of nursing actions not performed by the student.
- g. Breaking confidentiality of client information/records from any theory course or clinical experience. This includes all forms of social media, such as, but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.
- h. Printing off or making photocopies of clients medical records (such as for assignments).
- i. Fabricating write-ups, such as clinical experience and activities, journaling or assignments.
- j. Inappropriate cell phone use.

**11. Unsafe Nursing Practice**

Students must maintain a safe clinical practice based on their previous nursing knowledge. Failure to meet professional or clinical agency standards resulting in client injury or reasonable probability of injury, may result in disciplinary action or dismissal from the nursing program.

**12. Infection Control Guidelines**

Students will comply with the following recommendations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that "Universal blood and body fluid precautions should be consistently used in the care of all clients."

**Needlestick Policy:** In the event of a needlestick injury, Fort Hays State University will generally defer to the clinical site needlestick policy/protocol where the event occurred. Students are asked to notify the clinical site if a needlestick occurs and to follow the site's needlestick protocol. Students in the Department of Nursing are required to have personal health insurance to attend clinicals. If either an injury or needlestick occurred, students would generally be expected to utilize their personal health insurance.

**Injury Policy:** Students in the Department of Nursing are required to have personal, commercial health insurance to attend clinicals. If an injury would occur, students would generally be expected to utilize their personal health insurance.

**13. Clinical Contracts**

Students must verify that the Department of Nursing has a clinical contract with an agency of choice for any preceptorship experience. No clinical activity is to be initiated until the student has obtained instructor approval to use the agency.

**14. Smoking**

Students are not permitted to smoke while in uniform or during a clinical day.

**15. Clinical Observation Activities**

Only the student is to attend the clinical observation, practicum, client data collection or preceptorship. No visitors, friends, or children are to be in the clinical agency with the student.

The student in a designated clinical observation is to only observe. Students can use their "five senses" during the observation to assess a client, but in NO CASE is the assessment by students to direct nursing care or implementation. The nurse in charge must make his/her own independent assessment and then intervene accordingly.

**16. FHSU Nursing Inclement Weather Policy**

In the event that FHSU classes are canceled for inclement weather and students are already at a clinical site In the Hays area, students will be given the choice to either go home and do a make-up day at a later time or finish the day. If FHSU classes are canceled the evening prior to clinicals, the Hays sites' clinical time will be cancelled and rescheduled. Precepted and observation clinicals not in Hays may be attended if the student chooses to do so and travel is safe. Students should always use good judgment when traveling.

## **G. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **1. Licensure**

Please be advised that nursing licenses may be denied or disciplined by the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN). Possible grounds for such action may include being guilty of any felony or being guilty of a misdemeanor that involves an illegal drug offense or a felony crime against a person. Also considered are patterns of practice and other behaviors exhibiting an apparent incapacity to practice nursing. All criminal history must be revealed to and will be evaluated by the KSBN **BEFORE** licensure is granted or denied.

### **2. Civility**

All students seeking services in the department of nursing will communicate respectfully with faculty and staff. This includes verbal and written communication. Students will address faculty with proper honorifics (Dr. or Professor). Only if the faculty member indicates otherwise will the faculty member be addressed differently. Inappropriate remarks will be reported to the Department Chair.

### **3. Students with Disabilities**

Disabled students requiring accommodations must notify the Disability Student Services Coordinator to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

### **4. Laboratories**

The Department of Nursing laboratories are used by students during assigned class sessions, by sign-up appointment, and during supervised free lab times. During instructional and practice laboratory sessions, students will perform fundamental nursing procedures on each other and/or on simulators as directed by the instructor.

### **5. Change in Student's contact information**

When a student's name, address, or phone number changes, the student is required to notify instructors, the Front Office (STH 104), and update WorkDay. While in the nursing program, all students must be accessible by telephone or some other acceptable means of telecommunication in case the instructor needs to reach them quickly.

### **6. Employment while in Nursing Program**

Unlicensed students who seek employment in health agencies while pursuing their education in nursing will work within the employing institution's guidelines for unlicensed personnel. The Nurse Practice Act for the State of Kansas does not hold any legal classification for employed nursing students. Students who are working in health agencies should not wear any part of the student uniform identifiable with FHSU Department of Nursing.

It is recommended that a full-time student in the nursing program not exceed 20 hours of any kind of employment per week. Excess work hours could dramatically impact school performance.

**7. Alcohol and Drug Policy**

In keeping with the nursing profession's responsibility for protecting the public from harm while providing nursing care; clinical agencies, and/or the Department of Nursing are requiring on-campus BSN & RN to BSN students undergo drug testing. Students may be required to have a drug or alcohol screening if they appear impaired while in the nursing program (classroom and/or practicum). Students will pay all fees for such screening. If a student does not comply upon request, program dismissal may be recommended. (See Appendix B)

**8. Background Checks**

In keeping with the nursing profession's responsibility for protecting the public from harm while providing nursing care; clinical agencies, and/or the Department of Nursing require that all nursing students obtain a background check as directed by the Department of Nursing. If necessary, additional background checks may be submitted after admission to the program. If upon request the student does not comply, immediate dismissal may occur.

**9. Requirements for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)**

LPN students are required to complete all nursing program pre-requisites and program courses.

**10. University Catalog and Departmental Handbook**

It is the responsibility of nursing students to obtain the University Student Handbook and the most current Department of Nursing Undergraduate Nursing Student Handbook through the FHSU website. Students are responsible for the information contained in these documents and any changes posted at the beginning of each semester.

**11. Departmental Committees**

Students volunteers are chosen to serve on Department of Nursing Committees. Students are allowed to participate in general discussion, but are excluded from specific student information discussion and voting on agenda items. On-campus BSN cohort representatives are also responsible for the maintenance of the student lounge:

- a. Check the student lounge each Friday afternoon at 4:00 pm during the semester. Any food or drink that is not marked, outdated, or partially eaten is to be thrown away. Make sure the area is clean and trash picked up. Any (clean) unclaimed or unmarked dishes and containers sitting on the counter need to be placed in the lost and found tote. The lost and found tote will be cleaned out at the end of the semester or sooner if needed.

b. Submit to the Chair's office (each semester) a schedule outlining who will be responsible for checking the student lounge each Friday. This function is to be shared between the 4 assigned student reps (you may also include peers) and submitted before the first Department of Nursing meeting. Student reps for Jr 1, Jr 2, Sr 1 will continue to monitor the student lounge on Fridays during the spring semester until new student reps are designated.

**12. Student Advising/Mentoring**

Pre-nursing and admitted nursing students are assigned a professional advisor. Student/advisor contact is very important for registration in classes and for advising student progress in the program. Students are expected to participate in the advising process. Students are assigned a faculty mentor. The mentor can provide guidance to the student regarding the nursing profession and academic progress.

**13. Grievance Procedure**

An undergraduate student who believes that a course grade, a professional disposition decision, the result of a learning experience (e.g., academic dishonesty allegation or penalty, comprehensive examination, fieldwork, etc.), or an admission decision has been assigned in an arbitrary and capricious manner by the instructor or program may pursue a resolution of the dispute by submitting an appeal. Student problems, concerns, or questions should initially be addressed to the course instructor or the advisor. If no resolution occurs, the next step is to contact the Chair of the Nursing Department. See University Student Handbook for process.

**14. Undergraduate Nursing Program Honors and Awards (Leora B. Stroup and Sigma Theta Tau)**

The Leora B. Stroup Award is presented at the pinning ceremony each semester to qualified recipients. The Leora B. Stroup Award is presented to three graduates including an Undergraduate Nursing Program on-campus student, a Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) student, and a graduate nursing student. Candidates must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher to be considered. In addition, the candidates submit evidence of their achievement in the following areas: professional, honors/awards, community involvement, and contributions in the clinical setting. The recipient's name is added to a plaque in the foyer of Stroup Hall.

Sigma Theta Tau International, Nu Zeta chapter, is the international honor society that recognizes superior achievements in nursing, encourages leadership development, fosters high nursing standards and strengthens the commitment to ideals of the profession. Membership is by invitation only. Undergraduate nursing students must be seniors with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and be in the top 35% of their class. On-campus nursing students are considered a class, as are the students in the Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN).

### 15. Special Nursing Fees (Approximate)

Students in nursing programs have expenses in addition to the usual University costs. Some of these approximate costs are:

CastleBranch clinical tracking system includes background check and drug testing fees:  
\$142.73

Liability Insurance: Upon admission .....\$30-35/yr

FHANS & NCF dues (optional)..... \$5 each/semester

Immunizations if not completed: .....\$100-250/yr  
(Proof verification required.)

Physical Exam..... \$45-up

CPR Certification..... \$25-35/2 yrs  
(AHA Healthcare Provider Certification required)

Program lab fee includes..... \$550  
2 sets of scrubs; hemostat/scissors; lab supplies for program; photo badge

Other Supplies provided by the student:

Scrub Jacket (optional)..... \$30-40

Closed toed shoes..... \$30-50

Watch with second hand ..... \$10-50

Stethoscope ..... \$100 +

Textbooks:

first semester of nursing courses ..... \$1200-1500

other semesters of nursing courses..... \$200 +

Kaplan Fees..... \$175 + per semester

Graduation Fees: (Senior Year)

Pictures..... \$10 +

School Pin.....\$25 +

KSBN Application ..... \$75

NCLEX Fee ..... \$275 +

Outside travel and hotel expenses will apply in some courses..... \$150 +

### 16. Financial Aid/Scholarships

Financial Aid and Scholarship opportunities may be found at:

<http://www.fhsu.edu/admissions/Scholarships-and-Financial-Aid/>

### 17. Student Lounge Guidelines

It is the student's responsibility to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Identify and date all drink/food items that are placed in the refrigerator. At the end of the day on Fridays, leftover, outdated or unmarked food will be thrown away. Please mark if you want saved.

2. Clean up any spills in the refrigerator. Any food in the freezer must be removed at the end of the semester.
3. Do not place any paper, magnets or notices on the refrigerator door.
4. Cover all food in the microwave. Clean up any spills immediately. Reminder: no metal, tin foil or Styrofoam containers are to be used.
5. If a coffee maker is utilized, only a Keurig is allowed.
6. Wipe down counter and table tops daily. Take your food dishes home with you to wash. The Department of Nursing and FHSU will not be responsible for lost or disposed dishes.
7. Keep area clean and place trash in receptacles as marked.
8. Be sure to take home any items you bring (crock pot, food containers) the same day.
9. Any personal item left after 4:00 on Friday will be taken to the front office (lost and found).
10. Student lounge use is a privilege so please be respectful of others including personal items.

\*Student lounge cleanliness will be monitored by the student representatives from each cohort. The student representative will sign off the cleanliness check each week.

## **H. DRESS CODE POLICY**

A nursing student should portray a positive self-image within the professional role as a nurse.

### **1. Uniforms for Admitted Students During Practicum (clinical/simulation) Experiences**

- a. Black scrub pants, that do not extend below the sole of one's shoes or Black skirts may also be worn with appropriate hose and shoes are also acceptable (pants provided with nursing program lab fee)
- b. Black scrub tops with FHSU Nursing Department embroidered on the left upper chest. (provided with nursing program lab fee)
- c. Black lab jackets with FHSU Nursing Department embroidered logo on upper left chest (optional). Sweatshirts, hoodies, and fleece jackets are not to be worn.
- d. A clean, fresh uniform is to be worn each clinical day. Good personal hygiene is required.
- e. If it is necessary to wear a long-sleeved shirt under the scrub top for warmth, the color should be white, gold, grey, or black.
- f. Clean close-toed shoes worn with socks.
- g. When at the clinical agency preparing for a clinical experience, the uniform is to be worn (no jeans, shorts, sweats, or tee shirts.)
- h. FHSU nursing program scrubs are to be worn only for FHSU nursing program activities.
- i. Student photo ID badge is required. Access to client records will be denied if the student is not in proper dress attire.

## **2. Professional Dress Code**

Students attending meetings or presentations should be dressed appropriately. Males are to wear nice pants and an appropriate shirt; no jeans. Females are to wear nice pants and an appropriate top; dresses; no jeans. Inappropriate tops include deep v-cut or open backs. Dresses should not be tight, form fitting, or deep v-cut. Dresses are to be no more than 2 inches above the kneecap in a standing position. Dresses greater than 2 inches above the kneecap will require tights or leggings. Noncompliance with the professional dress code will result in dismissal from the nursing program event. Assignments associated with the event will not be completed and will result in a zero.

## **3. Jewelry/Tattoos**

- a. FHSU Department of Nursing photo ID badge is to be worn only while at the clinical agencies
- b. Jewelry items allowed include watches and body piercing as described: Earrings will be conservative and professional in appearance; May wear small non-dangling earrings; Ear gauges/plugs can be no larger than ¼” in diameter and must be replaced by skin tone colored plugs; Nose piercings must be clear or skin tone colored studs only; Industrial piercings (bars or chains) are not allowed; No other visible body piercing will be permitted including but not limited to eye brow, lip, and tongue rings. Specialty units such as Labor and Delivery, PICU, and NICU may have additional dress code requirements. These requirements will be communicated to students prior to the clinical experience. Tattoos must be covered per clinical site policy. If there is a question concerning a visible tattoo, see course instructor for appropriate measures.
- c. Refer to course syllabus for further requirements relating to professional appearance.

## **4. Hair**

- a. Hair, beards, and mustaches are to be clean and neat. If a groomed beard and/or mustache is not worn by males; face should be clean shaven.
- b. Long hair must be pulled back so it does not fall forward into the face.
- c. Hair must meet the requirements and policies of each clinical site prior to beginning the clinical placement. This includes, but is not limited to, clinical site requirements that hair be of a natural color.

## **5. Cosmetics**

- a. No heavy makeup is to be worn.
- b. No cologne, scented deodorant, scented after-shave, or other strongly scented body products are permitted.
- c. Fingernails are to be trimmed, no longer than one quarter inch beyond the end of the finger, rounded and clean. No artificial nails are to be worn. Finger polish must not be chipping.

## **6. Cellular Phones**

- a. All cell phones are to be turned off and/or on silent or vibrate mode while attending classes, unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor or as dictated by course syllabus.
- b. Clinical agency policies for cell phones must be followed in the clinical setting.

## **I. DEPARTMENT OF NURSING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Fort Hays Association of Nursing Students (FHANS)**

The Fort Hays Association of Nursing Students (FHANS) is the official student nurse group in the Undergraduate Nursing Program. FHANS is affiliated with the Kansas Association of Nursing Students (KANS) and the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA). Any pre-nursing student or nursing student requesting more information should contact the FHANS advisor.

### **Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF)**

Begun in 1948, Nursing Christian Fellowship (NCF) is both a professional organization and a ministry of and for nurses and nursing students. Fort Hays NCF's goal is to provide Christian-based support for nursing and pre-nursing students. The group meets every other week to learn, share, support, and pray with one another.

## **J. GRADUATION INFORMATION FOR SENIORS**

The following items/activities need to be completed by Senior nursing students prior to graduating. Students should check off the following items as completed.

### **1. Application for Program Completion**

- a. Application for Program Completion Form must be completed in WorkDay during the semester of intended graduation.
- c. Make sure academic progress in WorkDay is up-to-date and accurate.

### **2. Kansas State Board of Nursing Application**

In order to secure licensure, nursing students must pass the State Board Licensure Examination. The testing is conducted by appointment under the auspices of the Kansas State Board of Nursing.

- a. Applications: Applications and forms will be provided to the student during the Senior II semester.
- b. NCLEX application: Must be completed online one month prior to graduation.
- c. KSBN form: Must be submitted online submitted one month prior to graduation.
- d. Request for Transcript: KSBN requires a completed, official student transcript.

Student must complete a transcript request form and submit it to the Registrar's Office. <https://www.fhsu.edu/registrar/transcripts/>

### **3. Checklist for Completing State Board Application**

Refer to KSBN website: <http://www.ksbn.org/forms/Initiallicense.pdf>

**4. Department of Nursing Pin**

Prior to graduation, students are provided the opportunity to purchase FHSU nursing pins.

Graduating students are responsible for ordering and paying for the Department of Nursing pin.

**5. Recognition Ceremony**

Graduating candidates will be honored at a recognition ceremony held at the end of each semester and sponsored by the Department of Nursing.

Professional dress is required (see Professional Dress Code). Further information may be obtained from the Office of the Department Chair.

**6. Graduation Requirements**

a. Early in the semester of graduation, all graduating students must contact the Office of the Registrar to complete and verify all requirements for graduation.

Check with advisor and at Registrar's Office to verify all course requirements have been met.

b. For graduation, students must have a minimum of a 2.75 GPA in the nursing major and a 2.0 for the University.

c. Incomplete grades must be removed; check with your advisor and/or Registrar's Office, if necessary.

d. Library books must be returned to the library and all library fees, if any, paid.

e. Traffic tickets, if any, paid.

f. All university and departmental fees must be paid.

**K. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR VIRTUAL RN TO BSN PROGRAM STUDENTS**

**1. Admission**

**NURS Courses that may be taken prior to Admission:**

1. Courses NURS 440, NURS 441, NURS 442, NURS 445 and NURS 447 may be taken prior to admission to the RN to BSN program.
2. Students must earn a C or better in NURS 440, NURS 441, NURS 442, NURS 445 and NURS 447. Students receiving a D or U in these courses prior to applying to the RN to BSN program, must retake the course in which the D or U was obtained.
3. Courses NURS 440, NURS 441, NURS 442, NURS 445 and NURS 447 will not count as a failed course which lead towards a recommendation for dismissal if a D or U is earned.

**To apply for the RN to BSN program:**

1. An unencumbered active RN license issued in the United States

2. Cumulative GPA or Associate in Nursing Degree GPA  $\geq 2.5$ . Students that do not meet the Cumulative GPA or Associate in Nursing Degree GPA  $\geq 2.5$  may be admitted on probation if their cumulative GPA and Associate in Nursing Degree is 2.0-2.49.
3. Must have earned a “C” or better in any FHSU RN to BSN course that was taken prior to applying.
4. International students with an F1 or F2 visa do not qualify for this program.
5. Must meet university requirements for any transfer credits.
6. We do not accept applications from students residing in Tennessee, Washington, and Alabama.

**RN to BSN Program Guaranteed Admission Requirements for the following Kansas Community Colleges:** Barton County, Butler, Coffeyville, Cloud County, Colby, Dodge City, Fort Scott, Garden City, Highland, Hutchinson, Johnson County, Kansas City Kansas, Labette, Neosha County, Seward County

1. An unencumbered active RN license issued in the United States.
2. Cumulative GPA or Associate in Nursing Degree GPA  $\geq 2.5$ . Students that do not meet the Cumulative GPA or Associate in Nursing Degree GPA  $\geq 2.5$  may be admitted on probation if their cumulative GPA and Associate in Nursing Degree is 2.0-2.49.
3. Must have earned a “C” or better in any FHSU RN to BSN course and have a  $\geq 2.5$  FHSU Major GPA that was taken prior to applying.
4. International students with an F1 or F2 visa do not qualify for this program.
5. Must meet university requirements for any transfer credits.
6. We do not accept applications from students residing in Tennessee, Washington, and Alabama.

### **RN to BSN Program Probation Guidelines**

1. Students admitted on probation must achieve a GPA of  $\geq 2.5$  in the first semester to receive full admission.
2. Students may be dismissed if they fail to achieve a GPA of  $\geq 2.5$  in the first semester.

### **RN to BSN Program Requisites**

The following courses are program requisites and must be completed before the RN-BSN student is eligible for BSN graduation. These courses are not required before admission to the RN-BSN program.

English Composition I (3 credit hours)  
 English Composition II (3 credit hours)  
 College Algebra or Liberal Arts Math (3 credit hours)  
 Human Anatomy & Physiology + lab (5-8 credit hours)  
 Microbiology + lab (4 - 5 credit hours)  
 Chemistry (2-3 credit hours)  
 General Psychology (3 credit hours)  
 Speech Communication (3 credit hours)

Official Transcripts from **ALL** schools must be sent to FHSU Registrar’s Office:

Registrar's Office  
Fort Hays State University  
600 Park Street, Hays, KS 67601  
E-mail: [registrar@fhsu.edu](mailto:registrar@fhsu.edu)  
Fax: 785-628-4085

**2. Clinical Clearance**

The Clinical Clearance Requirements must be met prior to enrollment of course NURS 449. Students will use the CastleBranch system to upload documents. *(Clinical site & preceptor establishment also required prior to enrollment of NURS 449)*

- Background Check Do not wait to start this process as it does require some time to complete
- Drug Test
- Immunizations records
- Student Information Release Form
- Confidentiality Statement Form
- RN Licensure
- CPR Certification
- Health Insurance (individual, commercial)
- Name badge receipt
- Preceptor/site documents
- Professional Liability Insurance

**3. Registered Nurse Licensure**

Must have attended and graduated from an accredited nursing program. Said nursing program must have accreditation from CCNE, ACEN, or NLN at time of student graduation. Prior to being admitted to the Department of Nursing, the nursing student must have a current U.S. registered nurse (RN) license. Such license must remain fully endorsed by the in-state board of nursing during the program of study.

**4. RN-BSN Program Progression**

Students must pass all RN-BSN program courses with a C or better. Grades resulting in a D or U are considered failing. Courses NURS 440, NURS 441, NURS 442, NURS 445, or NURS 447 will not count as a failed course if a D or U is earned, however grades of C or better in NURS 440, NURS 442, NURS 442, NURS 445, and NURS 447 are required to graduate. Two failed RN-BSN courses will result in a dismissal recommendation. Students may follow the University Appeal guidelines. RN-BSN students may withdraw from program courses according to the university withdraw deadlines. Students must maintain a cumulative or FHSU major GPA of  $\geq 2.5$  to continue in the program. Students receiving a cumulative and FHSU major GPA of  $< 2.5$  may be dismissed.

**5. Advanced Standing Credit**

As a Registered Nurse, Advanced Standing Credit (ASC) will be placed on your transcript counting towards your BSN degree due to successful

completion of the NCLEX-RN national exam. The University requires 45 upper division hours and 60 hours from a four-year institution. ASC will help you achieve these requirements. Students who qualify for ASC can be granted up to a total of 36 credit hours. Course credit earned by ASC will be posted to the student's transcript during the final semester a student is enrolled in the nursing program. Below are the courses that will be credited.

NURS 310L Skills Lab

NURS 311 Acute Nursing Care

NURS 311L Acute Nursing Care Practicum

NURS 328 Mental Health Nursing

NURS 328L Mental Health Nursing Practicum

NURS 330 Chronic Nursing Care

NURS 330L Chronic Nursing Care Practicum

NURS 340 Pharmacology I

NURS 341 Pharmacology II

NURS 420 Maternal, Infant, & Pediatric Nursing Care

NURS 420L Maternal, Infant, & Pediatric Practicum

NURS 422 Pediatrics

NURS 422L Pediatrics Practicum

NURS 423 Concepts of Gerontology

NURS 430 Complex Nursing Care

NURS 430L Complex Nursing Care Practicum

**6. Financial Aid/Scholarships**

Financial Aid and Scholarship opportunities may be found at:

<http://www.fhsu.edu/finaid/>

**7. RN to BSN Program Clinical Hours**

The direct hour clinical internship course (NURS 449) in the curriculum for RNs may be completed in agencies close to the RN's place of residence. The RN student's uniform is whatever is professionally appropriate in the particular agency where he/she is doing the practicum. The FHSU ID photo badge is required with all clinical nursing course activities. An ID photo badge that has been altered with tape, etc. is not an acceptable name pin. Information regarding purchase of the FHSU nametag will be provided during the appropriate course.

NURS 449 Leadership and Management for the RN with Practicum will be completed with FHSU faculty and the use of a BSN prepared preceptor. All RNs are responsible for compliance with HIPAA guidelines for agencies utilized during the course. Students are also responsible for being current with all immunizations as well as any other requirements needed for clinical practice in the health care agency used for the course. All preceptors are arranged by the RN student and must be cleared with the Department of Nursing. **Students may not attend any clinical agencies until the instructor of record has approved the student to begin the clinical experience.** Violation of this may jeopardize not only the course grade but

also the RN's status as an admitted student in the Department of Nursing. The preceptor agreement form must be returned.

Incompletes are granted at the discretion of the instructor and follow university policy.

## 8. Degree Requirements

- 120 credit hours or above required for a BSN degree, 30 taken directly through FHSU. 45 credit hours must be upper division and 60 credit hours must be from a 4-year school.
- Transfer students from KBOR institutions who have completed an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) program at a Kansas community college will have fulfilled all FHSU general education requirements. Those with other Associate's degrees will complete the KBOR system-wide general education program.
- Transfer students from outside Kansas who have completed an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) program from a regionally-accredited institution outside of Kansas must complete the **KBOR system-wide general education program requirements**.
- Diploma Nurses (without 36 transferable credit hours) will have a few more general-education classes to complete. More information is located here: **General Education Program**
- International Students: The RN to BSN Program is an on-line program. It does not meet the requirements for International students who require on-campus courses.
- Students who have a current U.S. RN license with transcripts from outside the United States must have two evaluations completed on his/her transcripts: **WES+** and **CGFNS**.

## 9. Transfer of RN to BSN courses

Students may transfer in up to 6 credit hours for nursing program courses. Course transfer request is obtained through the student's advisor.

## 10. Graduation

All potential graduates must file an Application for program completion in WorkDay before the first day of classes, the last semester the student is in the program. For graduation, students must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA and 2.50 GPA in the nursing major.

## 11. Academic Information

The residency requirement requires that a student must take a minimum of 30 credit hours from FHSU. Student can view an unofficial transcript via WorkDay.

**12. On-line Educational Learning Environment**

There are several items that a RN should keep in mind regarding distance education.

- a. Students are responsible for checking their FHSU email on a regular basis. (At least once a week)
- b. RN students are encouraged to plan clinical activities & clinical clearance early.

**13. International Students: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) for Registered Nurses**

- a. Prior to coming to the United States:
  1. Contact the Registrar's Office at 785-628-4223 for university application information.
  2. If not already licensed in the United States, request the "Instructions for Professional Nurses Educated in Countries other than the United States" from the Kansas State Board of Nursing at the following address:  
Executive Administrator, Kansas State Board of Nursing  
Landon State Office Building Room Suite 1051  
900 SW Jackson, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1256 USA  
Telephone: 785-296-2967 or 785-296-5752;
  3. Apply for Registered Nurse licensure examination (NCLEX-RN) that will be administered in the United States and some foreign countries by computer application.
- b. Prior to admission to the Department of Nursing:
  1. All out of country transcripts must be evaluated by the Commission of Graduates of Foreign Schools of Nursing (CGFNS). CGFNS also evaluates the general Education courses, but students must request the Full Education Course-by-Course Report for CGFNS. Contact CGFNS at [www.cgfns.org](http://www.cgfns.org).
  2. Have license to practice in the United States of America (USA). This means you have already passed NCLEX-RN and received a license to practice as a RN.
  3. While living outside the USA, international students can take at least 2 years to complete requirements for Kansas RN licensure. If an international student plans to complete the BSN inside the USA, a student should plan on spending at least one year completing deficiencies after arrival in the United States. During this time period prior to licensure, international students may take general education courses but may NOT take nursing courses.

## **APPENDIX A SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

### **PURPOSE:**

Fort Hays State University Department of Nursing supports the use of social media to reach audiences important to the University such as students, prospective students, faculty and staff. The University presence or participation on social media sites is guided by university policy (<http://www.fhsu.edu/socialmedia/guidelines/>). This policy applies to Department of Nursing students who engage in internet conversations for school related purposes or school-related activities such as interactions in or about clinical and didactic course activities. Distribution of sensitive and confidential information is protected under HIPAA and FERPA whether discussed through traditional communication channels or through social media.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

Social media in this context is defined as web-based and mobile platforms for user generated content that create interactive and highly accessible, and often public, dialogues (National Student Nurses Association, n.d.). Kaplan and Haenlein (2010) define social media as “a group of Internet-based applications that build on the ideological and technological foundations of Web 2.0, and that allow the creation and exchange of user-generated content” (p 61). Merriam-Webster dictionary (2015) defines social media as: forms of electronic communication (as Web sites for social networking and microblogging) through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content (as videos).

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Social media are defined as mechanisms for communication designed to be disseminated through social interaction, created using highly accessible and scalable publishing techniques. Social media is commonly thought of as a group of Internet-based applications that are built on the ideological and technological foundations of the web that allows the creation and exchange of user-generated content. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Blogging – Blogger, LiveJournal, Xanga
- Microblogging – Dailybooth, Foursquare, Boogle Buzz, Posterous, Tumblr, Twitter
- Podcasting – Blubrry
- Social Networking – Bedo, Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn, MySpace, Orkut, Snapchat
- Social News Sharing – Digg, Reddit
- Social Bookmarking/Social Tagging – Delicious, Diigo, Google Reader, StumbleUpon
- Video Hosting – Vimeo, YouTube

While this policy may need to be modified as new technologies and social networking tools emerge, the spirit of the policy will remain the protection of sensitive and confidential information. Social media often spans traditional boundaries between professional and personal relationships and thus takes additional vigilance to make sure that one is protecting personal, professional, and university reputations.

As students you will want to represent the University and the Department in a fair, accurate and legal manner while protecting the brand and reputation of the institution.

When publishing information on social media sites remain aware that information may be public for anyone to see and can be traced back to you as an individual. Since social media typically enables two-way communications with your audience, you have less control about how materials you post will be used by others.

#### **POLICY:**

- It is expected that during clinical use of PDAs and other devices employed for social media will be used only as authorized by faculty or facility. If a PDA is combined with a cell phone, it is expected that the cell phone aspect of the device is silenced.
- No personal phone conversations or texting are allowed at any time while in client areas or in the classroom. If the student needs to respond to an emergency text or phone call during class, the student is asked to leave the classroom and respond as deemed necessary.
- Use of computers (PDAs, Notebooks, etc.) during class shall be restricted to note taking and classroom activities at the instructor's discretion. Use otherwise is distracting for not only the student involved in the activity but those in the immediate area/vicinity.
- No student shall videotape professors or fellow students for personal or social media use without the express written permission of the faculty or fellow student. At NO time shall clients/clients be videotaped or photographed without written permission of the client and of the facility.
- Be aware of your association with Fort Hays State University in online social networks. If you identify yourself as a student, ensure your profile and related content is consistent with how you wish to present yourself to colleagues, clients, and potential employers. Identify your views as your own. When posting your point of view, you should neither claim nor imply you are speaking on Fort Hays's behalf, unless you are authorized to do so in writing.
- HIPPA guidelines must be followed at all times. Identifiable information concerning clients/clinical rotations must not be posted in any online forum or webpage.
- **You have sole responsibility** for what you post. Be smart about protecting yourself, your and others privacy, and confidential information.
- Inadvertently or intentionally breaching client confidentiality/privacy can occur through a variety of situations and circumstances. Nursing students breach confidentiality or privacy by posting information through social media tool, such as: commenting on someone else's post that displays any information that may identify a client; referring to clients or their care; or posting videos or photos of client or anything that may identify a client. (NSNA)

### **PROCEDURE/CONSIDERATIONS:**

- There is no such thing as a “private” social media site. Search engines can turn up posts years after the publication date. Comments can be forwarded or copied. Archival systems save information, including deleted postings. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it’s wise to delay posting until you are calm and clearheaded. Think twice before posting. If you are unsure about posting something or responding to a comment, ask your faculty. If you are about to publish something that makes you even the slightest bit uncertain, review the suggestions in this policy and seek guidance.
- Future employers hold you to a high standard of behavior. By identifying yourself as a Fort Hays State University student through postings and personal web pages, you are connected to your colleagues, clinical agencies, and even clients/clients. Ensure that content associated with you is consistent with your professional goals.
- Nursing students are preparing for a profession which provides services to a public that also expects high standards of behavior.
- Respect your audience.
- Adhere to all applicable university privacy and confidentiality policies <http://www.fhsu.edu/policies/>
- You are legally liable for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others. Individual bloggers have been held liable for commentary deemed to be proprietary, copyrighted, defamatory, libelous or obscene.
- Employers are increasingly conducting Web searches on job candidates before extending offers. Be sure that what you post today will not come back to haunt you.
- Monitor comments. You can set your site so that you can review and approve comments before they appear. This allows you to respond in a timely way to comments. It also allows you to delete spam comments and to block any individuals who repeatedly post offensive or frivolous comments.
- Don’t use ethnic slurs, personal insults, obscenity, pornographic images, or engage in any conduct that would not be acceptable in the professional workplace.
- You are responsible for regularly reviewing the terms of this policy.

### **CONSEQUENCES:**

- Violations of client privacy with an electronic device will be subject to HIPAA procedures/guidelines and consequences.
- Students who share confidential or unprofessional information do so at the risk of disciplinary action including failure in a course and/or dismissal from the program.
- Each student is legally responsible for individual postings and may be subject to liability if individual postings are found defamatory, harassing, or in violation of any other applicable law. Students may also be liable if individual postings include confidential or copyrighted information (music, videos, text, etc.).
- Protect confidential, sensitive, and proprietary information: Do not post confidential or proprietary information about the university, staff, students, clinical

facilities, clients/clients, or others with whom one has contact in the role of a FHSU Department of Nursing student.

### **EXAMPLES:**

#### **Scenario 1: Student Nurse on Facebook®**

A case where there was no original intent to harm (NCSBN, 2011e), a nursing student wanted to remember the 3-year-old pediatric client she had been caring for, who had been receiving chemotherapy for leukemia at a children's hospital. She took his photo, with his room number visible in the background. She then posted his photo on her Facebook® wall for friends to see, writing about how brave her client was and how proud she was to be a nursing student. This student, like many who are naïve about social networks, did not realize that others can access posts even when appropriate privacy settings are in place. In this case, someone forwarded the information to a nurse at the children's hospital who then contacted her supervisor. Since the nursing program had a clear policy about student's not breaching confidentiality and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) violations (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2012), the student was expelled from the program. Further, the nursing program was not allowed to utilize the children's hospital for pediatric clinical experiences and the hospital faced HIPAA violations.

#### **Scenario 1: Student Nurse on Facebook**

In one case (NCSBN, 2011e) nurses arrived on their unit to find a picture of a client, in her hospital gown with her backside exposed, in their emails. The staff who received this email did not know the source, so the nurse forwarded it to others who had not received it to find out who might have sent it. In the course of the morning, this email was the subject of conversation with some nurses airing their concerns, but others finding it funny. No one reported it to the supervisor. By midday, hospital management became aware of the photo and began investigating because of their concern that the client's rights may have been violated. The local media found out and the story was covered so extensively that it made national news. Law enforcement became involved investigating whether sexual exploitation occurred. Hospital management placed the nurses on administrative leave while they reviewed the facility's rules that emphasize client rights, dignity, and protection. Management also reported the incident to the Board of Nursing (BON), which opened an investigation to determine whether state or federal regulations enforceable by the BON, such as confidentiality of health records, were violated. Eventually the client was identified and the hospital faced possible legal consequences. Had the nurses acted as professionals and reported the incident, this entire situation could have been avoided.

### **REFERENCES**

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## **APPENDIX B**

### **FHSU NURSING STUDENT DRUG SCREENING POLICY**

The FHSU Department of Nursing enforces a zero tolerance for impairment due to alcohol and/or drug use while on campus or in clinical affiliation experiences. Infringement of this policy will cancel the offer of admission. Those admitted to the nursing program will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including academic dismissal.

- 1.** On-campus BSN student admission to the nursing program is contingent upon a drug screening test result indicating no evidence of drug use. A drug screening result indicating dilution of the sample will require a repeat drug test. RN-BSN students are required to complete the drug screening prior to the clinical course NURS 449.
- 2.** The drug screening will be part of the CastleBranch clinical clearance process. The screening will be announced for a random date. Information regarding testing will be provided at the announcement.
- 3.** In the event of a positive drug screening result, student admission to the on-campus BSN nursing program will be denied.
- 4.** Positive drug screening results of currently enrolled nursing program students will result in suspension from the program pending review by the Chair/Dean/Provost/President.
- 5.** Students may be permitted to take legally prescribed and/or over-the-counter medications consistent with appropriate medical treatment plans while on duty. However, when such prescribed or over-the-counter medications affect clinical judgment, the student's safety or the safety of others, the student will be removed from clinical. The Chair will be consulted to determine if the student is capable of continuing to participate in academic and clinical programs.
- 6.** After admission to the nursing program, students suspected of drug or alcohol impairment while in the clinical or classroom areas will be removed from the area and required to undergo immediate drug and alcohol testing. Testing is at the student's expense. Impaired students will not be permitted to drive. The student will be suspended from all clinical/classroom activities until the investigation is complete.
- 7.** In the event of medication administration/handling discrepancy (i.e., in the case of the improper documentation of narcotics) or in the event of a medical error, accident or injury, testing will be conducted according to the policy of the clinical agency.
- 8.** Referrals for evaluation and counseling for drug and/or alcohol use will be a part of a plan for a student with a positive screening or incident related to drug or alcohol use.

**APPENDIX C**  
**FHSU NURSING DEPARTMENT**  
**PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITION REFERRAL SYSTEM IN RELATION TO**  
**CLASS/PRACTICUM COURSES**

Policy:

- All violations are reported to the Department Chair. The Department Chair meets with the student regarding the violation.
- Violations are documented on plan of improvement form. Copy to student, advisor, & file.
- Levels may change depending on severity of violation. (HIPAA, misconduct, unsafe practice, academic dishonesty)
- Points accumulated throughout program. Multiple offenses may result in dismissal recommendation.

<b>LEVEL I</b>	<b>LEVEL II</b>	<b>LEVEL III</b>	<b>LEVEL IV</b>	
<b>2 Points</b>	<b>4 Points</b>	<b>6 Points</b>	<b>10 Points</b>	
Dress Code Violation	Conflict with Students and/or Staff	Threats / Verbal Abuse	Non-Compliance with FHSU Laws	Misuse of University Documents
Practicum Preparedness Violation	Class Disturbance	Tobacco Possession and/or Use in practicum/class	Vandalism/Damage of Property	Fraud
Profanity / Vulgarity	Practicum Attendance Violation	Academic Dishonesty	Unauthorized use of Firearms and Other Deadly Weapons	Unauthorized Use of FHSU Facilities and/or Keys
Electronic Device Violation	Forging Documents (plagiarism, fabrication)	Inappropriate Technology Use (cheat sites, social media, confidentiality, etc.)	Unauthorized Use of Flammable Materials and Fireworks/ Arson	Non-Consensual Interaction with Students, Staff, Clients/Families
Preceptor concern with student	Inappropriate Drawings, Words or Gestures.	Instructor Referral for Excessive Absences	Client Abuse (verbal and/or physical)	Misuse of FHSU and/or Field-Experience Computer Equipment
	Invasion of Personal Space	Lying and/or misrepresentation of facts	Tampering with Fire Alarms and Equipment	Alcohol/Drug Violation

	Practicum Clearance Violation	HIPAA Violation	Theft or Misappropriation of equipment	Fighting or Overtly Aggressive Behavior
		Misconduct during practicum *	Disorderly Conduct involving Security during school activities	
		Confidentiality		
	Failure to report unethical behavior.	Conduct Unbecoming of a Professional Nurse according to the ANA Code of Ethics.		
	<b>Repetitive Level 1 Referrals</b>	<b>Repetitive Level 1 &amp; 2 Referrals</b>	<b>Dismissal Recommendation to Student Affairs</b>	

Appendix D  
 Progression Letter of Appeal Rubric  
**Grading Rubric: Letter of Appeal for Continuation in the BSN Program**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Excellent (25 points)</b>	<b>Satisfactory (18.75 points)</b>	<b>Needs Improvement (0 points)</b>
<b>Areas of Weakness</b>  What personal traits could hinder success?	Through self-reflection identifies and thoroughly describes areas of personal weakness that contributed to the student's inability to pass the course.	Through self-reflection, identifies and minimally describes areas of personal weakness that contributed to the student's inability to pass the course.	Does not identify and/or does not describe areas of personal weakness that contributed to the student's inability to pass the course.
<b>Areas of Strength</b>  What personal traits can promote success?	Through self-reflection identifies and thoroughly describes areas of personal strengths that will support the student's ability to pass the course if allowed to proceed.	Through self-reflection identifies and loosely describes areas of personal strengths that will support the student's ability to pass the course if allowed to proceed.	Does not identify and/or does not describe areas of personal strengths that will support the student's ability to pass the course if allowed to proceed.
<b>Plan for Improvement</b>  What actions will be taken to ensure success?	A detailed plan of improvement describing multiple changes that will be made to promote student success is included in the letter.	A basic plan of improvement is included in the letter, but does not provide sufficient details about changes that will be made to promote student success.	A plan for performance improvement is not included in the letter.
<b>Overall Quality of Letter</b>	The letter is professionally written and provides a convincing argument in favor of allowing the student to continue in the program.	The letter is professionally written and provides a satisfactory argument in favor of allowing the student to continue in the program.	The letter is not professionally written and/or does not provide an adequate argument in favor of allowing the student to continue in the program.
<b>Total</b>			

**Undergraduate Faculty will score letters individually and an average rubric score of 75/100 (75%) or higher is required for continuation in the BSN program.**