Students are held accountable for information and policies published in official Medical University documents, including the *Bulletin of the Medical University of South Carolina* and this *College of Nursing Student Handbook*. 
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Dear Nursing Student:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Medical University of South Carolina, College of Nursing, a school with a long and distinguished history of preparing the finest professional nurses. As an institution of higher learning, the faculty and I are committed to helping you achieve your educational goals, whether they are at the undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral level. The core values of scholarliness, professionalism, diversity and caring are embraced by the faculty, and a student-centered focus and futuristic orientation guide our efforts in working with you throughout your program of study.

You have chosen an exciting and dynamic time to enter, or advance, your commitment to nursing as a profession. The outstanding faculty and rich clinical experiences available to you in the College of Nursing will ensure your educational success. We believe that you will leave enriched and well prepared to address the challenges facing us as we strive to meet the health care needs of individuals, families, and communities.

Again, welcome and congratulations. As you initiate this phase of your lifelong journey of exploration and discovery, this handbook will serve as a useful guide and resource in your current educational endeavor. The faculty and administration are here to provide you with an engaging, stimulating, and supportive environment throughout your educational experience. Also know that my door is always open to you for a light exchange or a serious dialogue. I look forward to our intersecting paths of learning and growth in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Gail W. Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean
Distinguished University Professor

GWS:emj

“An equal opportunity employer, promoting workplace diversity.”
Section I:  
College of Nursing Overview  
(Back To Table of Contents)  

History  
The College of Nursing of the Medical University of South Carolina had its origin in 1882 when the City Council of Charleston approved a request by the City Hospital for $2,000 to establish a “Training School for Nurses.” The school was opened in 1883 and continued until an earthquake destroyed the City Hospital in 1886. It was reestablished as “The Charleston Training School” in 1895. A two-year program of instruction was offered, with some lectures given by the Medical College faculty.

In 1916, the Board of Commissioners of the Roper Hospital proposed the incorporation of the Training School with the Medical College, and in 1919 the Roper Hospital Training School for Nurses became the School of Nursing of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina. Later the words “of the State” were deleted.

In September 1966, the school began the process of phasing out the three-year diploma program and establishing a four-year baccalaureate program. In 1969, when the State Legislature designated the Medical College as “The Medical University of South Carolina”, the school became one of the six colleges comprising the University.

In 1976, the College of Nursing began to offer a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program. In 1983 the College of Nursing celebrated one hundred years of nursing education and service to the citizens of South Carolina and the nation. The College of Nursing launched a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing in 2001, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree in 2009. In 2008, the College of Nursing celebrated 125 years of nursing education and excellence making it one of the oldest schools of nursing in the country.

The College of Nursing now offers programs of study leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the Master of Science in Nursing, the Doctor of Nursing Practice and the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing. The baccalaureate program is campus-based, while all graduate programs are offered entirely online. The Colleges houses a state-of-the-science clinical simulation laboratory and the Center for Community Health Partnerships. In addition, the College has a robust research portfolio and a number of faculty clinical practice sites.

Accreditation  
The College of Nursing BSN and MSN programs are accredited by The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) effective April 2010 to June 2020. The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (DNP) is accredited effective October 2010 to June 2016. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education is a resource for the information regarding the Nursing program. More information may be found on the website at http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CCNE/reports/accep prog.asp.
The Undergraduate Program is fully approved by the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Board of Nursing, [http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/)

The Pediatric Nurse Practitioner track of the masters program is fully approved by the National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Nurses, [http://www.pncb.org/ptistore/control/index](http://www.pncb.org/ptistore/control/index)

**Nondiscrimination Policy Statement**
The Medical University of South Carolina Nondiscrimination Policy can be here: [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/eeo/policies/non_discrimination.html](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/eeo/policies/non_discrimination.html).

*Wherever in this College of Nursing Student Handbook the pronouns “she” or “her” are used, the same shall be interpreted to include members of both sexes.*

**MUSC College of Nursing Vision Statement**
The College of Nursing of the Medical University of South Carolina educates nurses in an interprofessional environment to change lives, and provides proactive leadership and excellence in patient care to improve health outcomes, eliminate health disparities and advance the nursing profession.

**MUSC College of Nursing Mission Statement**
The College of Nursing supports the mission of the Medical University of South Carolina, an academic health science center, and is committed to

- Providing evidence-based nurse education in an interprofessional environment
- Developing, testing, and disseminating nursing knowledge in the health sciences
- Demonstrating excellence in nursing practice that embraces equity and culturally effective care to patients, families, and communities

in an environment that is accountable, respectful, adaptive, and innovative.

**MUSC College of Nursing Core Values**

Professionalism is represented by the adoption of core values as part of a nurse’s commitment to competency, consistency, compassion in practice, and the highest standards of care in the ethical conduct of nursing. The following are the core values shared by the faculty and reflected in the MUSC College of Nursing:

- **Scholarship**: Scholarship is the discovery, translation, application, integration, and transmission of knowledge that contributes to the development of evidence-based nursing.
- **Life-Long Learning**: Learning is a continuous, life-long process of involving, instructing, motivating, and changing students, faculty, staff, patients, and the community for the betterment of health and well being.
• **Diversity:** Diversity is the recognition and inclusion of human variation in the education and care of individuals, families, communities, and nations. Nurses strive for equity and cultural effectiveness in health service access, content, and quality of care to end discrimination and disparities in health outcomes.

• **Service:** Service is a commitment to participate in organizational activities and processes that benefit the college, university, institutions, communities, and the profession. Service is viewed as essential to developing, maintaining, and sustaining the structure and relationships that are critical to the profession.

• **Caring:** Caring is central to the health and healing processes, and is intrinsic in the therapeutic nature of person-centered care. Caring is predicated upon mutual respect and treating all persons in a just and unbiased manner.

• **Empowerment:** Empowerment emerges as individuals develop the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and other resources they need to determine their own learning and health care needs. Empowerment is recognized by active participation and progressive responsibility in organizational activities, and through advocacy for actions directed at health policies, programs, and practices to secure the highest level of care, education, and research necessary for societal health and well-being.

• **Collaboration:** Collaboration involves effective interprofessional teamwork and relationships based on trust, respect, shared resources, a commitment to joint goals, and mutual satisfaction, in which nurses work with and learn from individuals, communities, and colleagues across professions to deliver safe, quality care.

• **Integrity:** Integrity refers to the quality of being honest and ethical and having the moral strength to do the right thing. The nurse incorporates this value in every aspect of one's personal and professional life, and in the care of one's patients.

**MUSC College of Nursing Philosophy** *(Back To Table of Contents)*

The College of Nursing, one of six health science colleges of the Medical University of South Carolina, is responsible for the education, research, and practice of nurses in an interprofessional health sciences environment. The philosophy of the College of Nursing embodies the concepts of nursing, health, person, and environment, within education, research, and practice. The faculty believes that the discipline of nursing is both an art and a science.

Nursing, interpersonal and caring in nature, encompasses the promotion of health, the prevention of disease and injury, and the diagnosis, support, and treatment of human responses to actual or potential health problems. The domain of nursing is based on the synthesis of biological, behavioral, social, cultural, and nursing sciences, with the focus on populations across the life span to maximize their potential for optimal health. As a practice discipline, nursing permits its members to enter and improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities for purposes of healing, learning, and adaptation. Nursing practice is dynamic because it grows continually through interpersonal connections with health care research, education, quality improvement, and advocacy. Operating within professional value systems and ethical frameworks, nurses work independently and collaboratively and assume accountability and responsibility for the delivery of evidence-based, cost effective nursing care. Nurses incorporate the concept of diversity in practice and in relations with the communities they serve and their fellow workers. Nurses
realize human differences require continual investigation, learning, critical self-reflection, and change for people to achieve full access, inclusion, equity, and participation in human relations, education, and health care. Nurses recognize human communication as the mutual negotiation of ideas, meaning and understanding for health and human purposes. This mutual exchange can be influenced by social contexts, cultural beliefs, habitus, affiliations, and experiences.

Health is a dynamic state of being in which a person's biologic, developmental, and behavioral characteristics are maximized. Each human being possesses strengths and limitations resulting from the interaction of environmental and genetic factors, which determine the person's biological and behavioral integrity. Health promotion is the science of helping people change their lifestyle within their sociocultural contexts and environmental conditions to move toward a state of optimal health. Health promotion is an interpersonal process and an intrapersonal product. As an interpersonal process, health promotion motivates persons and communities through the provision of education to adopt positive attitudes and behaviors that will assist persons in attaining their optimal health. As an intrapersonal product, health promotion assists persons and communities to incorporate knowledge, attitudes and behaviors that maintain wellness within the cultural frameworks and social conditions in which they make decisions.

Persons are holistic, social, and culturally diverse beings with integrated body, mind, and spirit, existing within the context of families, groups, and communities. Each person is unique, has dignity and self-worth, has the potential for change, and has the right to self-determination. A person has an inherent capacity to grow and develop throughout the life cycle. As unique individuals with different capacities and vulnerabilities, each person has the potential to affect their human responses and health outcomes. A person has the right to access, fair representation, equity, respect, and participation in health services.

Environments have an impact on the health, availability of services, and quality of care of individuals, families, groups, and communities. Environments include the natural, institutional, man-made, and physical arrangements in which a being operates. Each person and community exists within an ecological balance that influences human well-being, while at the same time human decision-making affects the health of environmental systems. Nursing interventions are directed toward creating, modifying, and enhancing environments to promote optimal health.

Learning is an active, life-long process of acquiring and integrating new information and insights that build upon previous knowledge. The faculty facilitates learning environments in which students assimilate and apply scientific and humanistic knowledge and experience, and develop self-awareness, self-direction, creativity, and critical thinking. Students are accountable and assume responsibility for their own learning by engaging in ongoing independent, self-directed learning. The faculty is responsible for providing a respectful environment conducive to learning and to serve as role models of professional nursing practice. The faculty believes that collaboration with other health care professionals, consumers, and communities is essential to teaching, learning and providing health care in a changing society.

Research, a systematic process of creating, evaluating, disseminating, translating, and utilizing knowledge, is critical to the development of nursing as a scientific discipline, and includes
clinical research, epidemiology, public health, social science, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research. Nursing research focuses on “the understanding and easement of the symptoms of acute and chronic illness; prevention or delayed onset of disease or disability, or slowing the progression thereof; finding effective approaches to achieve and sustain optimal health; and, improvement of clinical settings in which care is provided (NINR, 2003).” Nurses may engage in a variety of research approaches within health and human service and human science dimensions. The integration of research into practice involves the pursuit of quality improvement in practice to improve health outcomes, the use of evidence-based guidelines and the highest level of evidence, and a systematic approach to evaluate safety, behavior change, and quality of care. Research informs practice and practice informs research.

Nursing practice involves the care of patients, families and communities. Additionally, it is the clinical laboratory for student education, faculty enrichment, and clinical research. Nursing practice occurs within multiple settings in health care institutions and the community. It encompasses the care of individuals, families, groups, and communities across the lifespan. Nursing promotes wellness, prevents illness, restores health, and facilitates adaptive coping. Professional nurses provide services independently and in teams with other health care providers and consumers of health care. Academic faculty practice fosters improvement in information management, synthesis and application of knowledge, evidence-based outcomes and changes in nursing and health care services and policy.

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Section II:
Academic Programs

Undergraduate (BSN) Education in Nursing

Purpose
The purpose of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program is to prepare graduates for professional nursing practice in a variety of health care settings. The program focuses on the knowledge, skills, and values deemed essential for professional nursing practice in today’s multifaceted health care system. The baccalaureate program also provides a foundation for graduate study in nursing.

The student who enters the nursing program is prepared for upper division course work and brings knowledge of the humanities and the natural and social sciences as a basis for study in the nursing major. Students learn to apply concepts and principles to clinical practice and gain experience doing so with individuals, families, and populations in a variety of health care systems. Opportunities to practice nursing with persons of all ages, including those who are healthy as well as those who are experiencing health alterations. The leadership role of the nurse as a contributing member of the profession and the values and behaviors that reflect professional commitment to society are emphasized throughout the program.

End of Program Objectives
Upon completion of the BSN Program, the graduate should be able to:

1. Model the values of the College of Nursing including accountability and responsibility in the practice of patient centered care.
2. Integrate best current evidence, patient/family preferences, clinical knowledge and application of patient care technologies as the basis of clinical reasoning in nursing practice.
3. Function effectively within nursing and interprofessional teams by fostering open communication, respect and shared decision-making to achieve quality outcomes in patient care.
4. Collect, analyze, and synthesize data to make judgments about evidence-based interventions and the evaluation of outcomes.
5. Assume accountability for quality and safety for one’s own practice and delegated nursing care.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the social determinants of health and lifestyle variations for interventions related to health promotion, risk reduction and disease prevention for individuals, families, groups, communities and populations across the lifespan and across the continuum of healthcare environments.
7. Apply knowledge of a liberal education, pharmacology, pathophysiology, assessment, genetic influences, management of symptoms and the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual responses of individuals and family/caregivers to disease and illness across the lifespan in order to maximize the quality of life and maintain optimal functioning.
8. Manage information and technology to: communicate, gain knowledge, support decision-making and monitor outcomes of care processes and patient care technologies.
9. Apply knowledge of ethics and ethical decision-making in nursing practice as well as professional conduct and relationships.
10. Acknowledge the influence of health care policy, finance and regulatory environments on the functioning of national and global healthcare systems while advocating on behalf of individuals, families, groups, communities and populations.
11. Provide evidence-based nursing practice using current knowledge, theory, and research, in collaboration with individuals, families, groups, populations, and other health professional across the life span within the context of cultural diversity.
12. Use knowledge of organizations and systems leadership to design, manage, coordinate, collaborate and negotiate a plan of care with the patient/family, interprofessional health care team, and to allocate physical, fiscal and human resources.
13. Develop and demonstrate goals for lifelong learning and professional development.

Graduate Education in Nursing (Back To Table of Contents)

MSN

Purpose

The purpose of the Master of Science on Nursing (MSN) degree program is to prepare students for advanced professional practice roles in selected areas of clinical specialization. The program also provides a theoretical and practical foundation for doctoral study.

Master’s education in nursing is predicated on relevant baccalaureate education and professional practice, and builds upon this foundation, expanding it in three major areas: scope of practice, role behavior, and depth and breadth of knowledge. Students focus on a specific area of clinical practice by critically assessing, planning, intervening and evaluating the health and illness experiences of clients (individuals, families, communities, and populations). Advanced practice roles include those of manager, educator, consultant, direct caregiver and leader. The student is prepared to be a knowledgeable consumer of research and to utilize research evidence-based methodology in practice.

Learning at the master’s level results from interactions among the student, teacher and environment. The student is an adult learner seeking to develop a specialized area of nursing expertise. Student characteristics include the ability to think conceptually, identify critical questions and issues related to a defined area of study, and employ creative and innovative solutions based on theory to problems identified. The teacher creates a learning environment that fosters independent, self-directed, life-long learning and serves as a role model for professional nursing practice. The purpose of the learning environment is to provide the student with the tools needed to acquire increased knowledge, which in turn influences the scope of practice and role behavior. In the process of knowledge development, the student synthesizes major theories and concepts from a variety of disciplines to formulate a unique individual nursing approach to advanced practice in a specialized area. Students consult and collaborate with a variety of people in other disciplines including those in the arts and sciences as well as those directly related to health care.
End of Program Objectives
The MUSC MSN Nurse Practitioner program enables students to:

1. Integrate scientific findings from nursing, biopsychosocial fields, genetics, public health, quality improvement, and organizational sciences for the continual improvement of nursing care across diverse settings.
2. Utilize leadership skills that are needed to emphasize ethical and critical decision-making, effective working relationships, and a systems-perspective.
3. Articulate the methods, tools, performance measures, and standards related to quality, as well as apply quality principles within an organization.
4. Apply research outcomes within the practice setting, resolve practice problems, work as a change agent, and disseminate results.
5. Use patient-care technologies to deliver and enhance care and use communication technologies to integrate and coordinate care.
6. Intervene at the system level through the policy development process and employ advocacy strategies to influence health and health care.
7. Communicate, collaborate, and consult with other health professionals to manage and coordinate care.
8. Apply and integrate broad, organizational, client-centered, and culturally appropriate concepts in the planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of evidence-based clinical prevention and population care and services.
9. Influence healthcare outcomes for individuals, populations, or systems and integrate advanced nursing knowledge into practice.

DNP (Back To Table of Contents)
Purpose
The DNP program at MUSC grew from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recommendation that all advanced nurse practitioners be prepared at the practice doctorate level by the year 2015. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program is a practice-focused doctoral program in nursing that awards the Master of Science on Nursing degree and the terminal degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Graduates will be employed in primary care settings, hospitals, public health agencies, and schools of nursing. The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates who will practice nursing at the highest clinical level.

The program has two possible entry points, post baccalaureate and post-masters. The DNP program offers a practice-focused doctoral degree. This program has two possible entry points—post baccalaureate and post masters. The post masters DNP is NOT designed to educate the individual in a new clinical specialty area.

Post-BSN to DNP Tracks include:
- Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Expected Competencies of a DNP Graduate
The competencies of a DNP graduate from MUSC follow the eight essentials of doctoral
education for advanced practice in nursing as specified by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing:

1. Scientific Underpinnings for Practice
2. Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Improvement and Systems thinking
3. Clinical Scholarship and Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based practice
4. Information Systems/Technology and Patient Care Technology for the Improvement and Transformation of Health Care
5. Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care
6. Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes
7. Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation’s Health
8. Advanced Nursing Practice

End of Program Objectives
Upon completion of the DNP program, graduates will:

1. Demonstrate expertise in advanced clinical nursing practice roles based on mastery of a specialized area of knowledge derived from a strong scientific foundation.
2. Use clinical scholarship and analytical methods to improve quality and safety in health care systems through organizational leadership, systems thinking, and practice management acumen.
3. Implement continuous quality improvement in patient care and provide leadership in practice and clinical decision-making through use of information systems and technology resources.
4. Foster interprofessional collaboration and teamwork in the improvement of population health outcomes.
5. Influence health care policy that determines the financing, regulation, access, and delivery of care.
6. Promote health equity in the provision of care to eliminate health disparities.

PhD in Nursing (Back To Table of Contents)
Purpose
The Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing’s PhD in Nursing program focuses on study of vulnerable populations. The PhD in Nursing program is designed to prepare graduates for a lifetime of intellectual inquiry that manifests itself in creative scholarship and research, often leading to careers in social, governmental, and health care organizations as well as traditional careers in university and college settings. The purpose of the PhD in Nursing program is to prepare nurse scientists to influence the quality of local, regional, national, and international health care.

Objectives
Students in the PhD in Nursing program acquire knowledge and skills to conduct research and are prepared to advance and refine nursing science as the basis for nursing practice, education, and administration.

The curriculum is designed to provide students with a core foundation in nursing theory development, research, and knowledge translation. The mentored research experience serves to strengthen skills in the conduct of disciplined inquiry. Program options build on the core
foundation and allow students to develop an individualized program of study in conjunction with a faculty advisor. The goal of the curriculum is to prepare beginning researchers in a defined area of nursing science.

The MUSC PhD Program enables students to:
1. Utilize philosophical, theoretical, and conceptual foundations to guide the generation of new knowledge in health care.
2. Develop expertise within an area of inquiry, identifying critical gaps in knowledge and reflecting a nursing and transdisciplinary perspective.
3. Conduct theory-guided research to test, generate, and extend knowledge that informs health care systems, health policy, and the evidence base for practice.
4. Demonstrate proactive leadership related to a selected area of scholarship.
5. Model values consistent with integrity in science and professional nursing.
Section III: 
Admission Policies and Requirements

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Admission Classifications
The Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee acts on applications in accordance with the criteria and policies as stated and admits students to one of the categories described below:

- **Full Status:** Students meeting all admission criteria may be offered admission by the Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee.

- **Matriculated Student:** In order to be a matriculated student, one must complete the application, be accepted, pay the appropriate fee, and provide official transcripts from all previous college course work. Accepted students pay the matriculation fee to the Office of Enrollment Services.

- **Matriculation, Delayed:** An applicant who has been admitted to any of the admission categories may delay matriculation up to one year following admission. The request to delay admission must be made in writing to the Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee in care of the Office of Student Services. After one year without enrollment, reapplication to the program is necessary. Matriculation fee must be received prior to approval to defer.

- **Non-degree Status:** Non-degree students are defined as non-matriculated students, not wishing to obtain a degree. Non-degree students who wish to enroll in a graduate nursing course must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree. BSN, MSN and DNP courses are not available for non-degree seeking students. PhD courses are available for non-degree seeking students, but fully matriculated students are given priority over non-degree seeking students.
  - A maximum of nine semester hours may be earned in non-degree status. Non-degree students may enroll in non-clinical course work on a part-time basis when space is available. To enroll full-time, permission of the associate dean for academics is required.
  - Auditors and applicants not seeking a degree must complete a “Non-degree Student Application” form each semester for each course they wish to take, available from the Office of Student Services. Written permission of the instructor and the Associate Dean for Academics, College of Nursing, must be obtained for the application.

Admission Criteria
The Admission Criteria for the BSN, MSN, DNP and PhD programs can be found on the College of Nursing website at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/prospective-students/](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/prospective-students/).

Use of Degree Credentials for Doctoral students
There is no degree credential for doctoral candidacy. Although sometimes used, the DNP (c) or PhD (c) designation is not an accepted convention to indicate doctoral candidacy. A doctoral candidate should continue to use the degree initials that have been earned. It is appropriate to state that one is a doctoral candidate in text form, i.e., in the biographical information that accompanies a published
Expected Student Expenses

Students may expect to incur the following additional expenses in addition to tuition and program fees: books and supplies, uniforms, various types of equipment (specific information provided to students by course and/or track coordinators), and travel to clinical sites. A car and travel may be necessary for some clinical agency placements.

Students seeking financial assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Financial Aid upon acceptance into the program at [http://www.musc.edu/em/financialmanagement/](http://www.musc.edu/em/financialmanagement/). The MUSC College of Nursing Schedule of Academic Charges is available at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/tuition_fees.htm](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/tuition_fees.htm).

Minimum Skills for Eligibility to Participate in Educational Programs and Activities

The following skills are needed by applicants to this all College of Nursing programs. Applicants and students should possess these abilities, or with the help of compensatory techniques and/or assistive devices, be able to demonstrate ability to become proficient. Students must be capable of successfully completing each required clinical rotation.

1. **Oral and writing ability with accuracy, clarity and efficiency.**

   *Examples:* attending; clarifying; coaching; facilitating; touching; establish rapport with patients, families, and peers; initiate health teaching and explain treatment procedures; read, write, speak, and comprehend English with sufficient skill to communicate effectively verbally and nonverbally; summarize data accurately; write or document legibly.

2. **Manual dexterity, gross and fine movements:**

   *Examples:* wrists, hands, fingers (thumb, index, and middle on both hands), arms, grasping, fingering, pinching, pushing, pulling, holding, extending, twisting (rotating), cutting, ability to maneuver in small spaces and from room to room, ability to respond to an emergency situation in a timely way

   *Examples of required physical strength:* to support another person; to position another person; to transfer/to/ambulate with walker, cane, crutches, bed, chair; to sit, stand, and walk for extended periods of time; to perform CPR; resuscitation; to lift at least 50 pounds; capable of reaching 18 inches above head; capable of pushing up to 200 pounds independently; able to stoop and bend without limitations.

   *Examples of required dexterity:* ability to use sterile techniques and universal precautions; ability to operate and maintain equipment (e.g., ventilator, electronic monitor, etc.); ability to obtain samples (specimens)

   *Examples of ability to measure:* body (height, weight, range, strength, etc.); vital signs; intake and output; outcomes, result (e.g., lab tests); psychological status (general); using a variety of monitoring modalities
3. Ability to see, hear and touch, smell and distinguish colors.

*Examples:*
- **Sight:** depth perception; distinguish color; acuity (corrected to 20/40)
- **Auditory capacity:** in patient interactions; in sterile procedures; in team meetings; in electronic voice communication; auscultation of sounds
- **Sensation:** palpation; distinguish smells; percussion; touch; temperature sensation

4. Ability to learn, think critically, analyze, solve problems, and reach judgments.

*Examples:*
- gather complete data in complex situations; identify cause effect relationships; establish priorities among several tasks; identify safe alternatives; make decisions under varying degrees of stress; read and comprehend detailed charts, journals, books; perform arithmetic functions (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, ratios, and simple algebra).

5. Emotional stability and ability to accept responsibility and accountability.

*Examples:*
- ability to be assertive; ability to delegate; ability to function (consult, negotiate, share) as part of a team; ability to participate in role-playing activities; ability for self perception and awareness.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** *(Back To Table of Contents)*

The College of Nursing values diversity among students, which encompasses attracting talented students with disabilities who, if reasonably supported, can be successful in the program. Passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 provides the legal definitions and academic responsibilities in defining policies and implementing reasonable support for students with disabilities.

Students are not required to declare a disability upon application to the College of Nursing, and admission decisions do not take disabilities into consideration. However, all applicants interested in entering the profession of nursing must be aware of the minimum functions, standards, and competencies required for success in the programs. Upon admission, a student who discloses a disability (with certification) is assured of reasonable accommodation. Students who want to disclose a disability should contact the Office of Student Services, to seek guidance on the process and initiate a “Disability Accommodation Request” form.

Examples of reasonable accommodations include assisted learning methods, modified assessment and testing conditions, alterations in programs of study, person counseling, and time management coaching. A student with a physical disability may require assistive devices or equipment adjustments in the classroom or clinical environments. The purchase of prosthetic devices is the responsibility of the student and/or the agency supporting the student. The University will assist the student with providing counseling, signers, note takers, and other learning facilitating services. Regardless of a disability and reasonable accommodations, a student must pass all course standards and master the essential clinical competencies. All students, with or without disabilities, are held accountable to the same minimum functions, standards, and competencies for successful program completion.

It is important to note that there may be physical, cognitive, or emotional impairments that
cannot be surmounted with present day technology or therapies that will preclude success in the
College of Nursing and the professional of nursing. The list of required skills considered
esential to the College of Nursing programs are detailed in the previous section.

**Criminal Background Checks** *(Back To Table of Contents)*

Upon payment of the matriculation fee, each student in the College of Nursing will have a
criminal record search completed.

If a criminal record is uncovered, the Associate Dean for Academics will advise the student of
this. The student will be counseled as to whether the nature of the offense will jeopardize the
student’s status in the program and of possible alternatives regarding completion of the
educational program and potential for obtaining licensure. The student will have the opportunity
to provide documentation regarding the offense.

After counseling with the student, the Associate Dean for Academics will prepare a summary
statement that includes recommendations for the student’s progression status in the program.
This summary will be kept on file in the office of the Associate Dean for Academics, separate
from the student record.

**Drug Screening** *(Back To Table of Contents)*

In compliance with the affiliation agreements between MUSC College of Nursing and practice
facilities/agencies, drug testing is required of all nursing students prior to beginning clinical
rotations. Thus, students selected for admission to MUSC College of Nursing are admitted
pending a negative urine drug test. Admission will be denied for a student testing positive.

**Procedure for Pre-admission Drug Testing of CON Students**

1. Students selected for admission to the College of Nursing will be notified of the
   procedure for drug testing in their orientation materials.
2. Drug testing will be completed on campus at MUSC Employee Health unless due to
distance, the student requests to have the testing done locally. Under these
   circumstances, the Office of Academics will request MUSC Risk Management to
   send information on completing the testing locally at a qualified laboratory. When a
   packet is sent, the student will receive paperwork with the location of the site for
testing and the *Chain of Custody* form to be taken to the lab. A qualified laboratory
   using MUSC policy and procedures must conduct all testing.
3. The urine sample will be screened for marijuana, cocaine, phencyclidine (PCP),
synthetic opiate, amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, methadone,
propoxyphene and methamphetamines. The drug test is considered positive if any of
   these drugs are identified.
4. Students must bring a valid drivers license and must not leave the building until the
   urine test is completed. If the test is not completed on the day of testing, it is
   considered an attempt and **CANNOT** be repeated. The test can take up to three hours
   for completion.
5. Drug testing must be completed prior to the start of classes.
6. MUSC Risk Management will report a positive drug screen to the office of the
   Associate Dean for Academics.
7. If a positive drug test is obtained, the student may request the original sample be retested at another designated lab at the student’s expense.
8. The College of Nursing will ensure confidentiality of results by releasing the information only to the student and required administrators.
9. Refusal by the student to submit to drug screening will result in denial of admission to the College of Nursing.
10. Any questions or concerns regarding pre-admission drug screening should be directed to the office of the Associate Dean for Academics.

Transfer Credit for Nursing Course(s) (Back To Table of Contents)

Undergraduate (BSN)
1. Course work completed at an accredited baccalaureate program prior to enrollment in the College of Nursing may be eligible for transfer credit. To be considered, a grade of “C” or better must have been earned in the course work and been completed within the previous three years. An official transcript and copy of the course syllabus must be submitted to the College of Nursing Director of Student Services to determine course equivalency. Transfer credit is not granted automatically and is restricted to didactic courses with no clinical component.
2. Transfer credit is not granted automatically.
3. After acceptance to the College of Nursing and no later than the drop/add date of each semester of matriculation, the student must submit a transcript and course outline/syllabus of the course to be considered for transfer to the Office of Student Services, College of Nursing. The materials will be reviewed by the appropriate course coordinator for equivalence to the appropriate College of Nursing course and a recommendation will be made to the Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee. The student will be notified in writing of the Committee’s decision and the Committee’s decision will be considered final.
4. The Office of Enrollment Management will be informed in writing regarding approved transfer course work. They will add the course to the student’s transcript with a grade of “EX”. The student will not be charged for the course and the hours will not count for the GPA but for the overall program hours.
5. If the student fails to undertake the proper steps by completing the required paperwork, the grade will automatically be 0.0.
6. At least 25% of semester credit hours applied toward a Medical University of South Carolina undergraduate degree must be earned through instruction in residence at the University.

Graduate (MSN/DNP) (Back To Table of Contents)
1. Selected graduate credits taken at other universities or colleges will be considered for acceptance toward partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Master of Science in Nursing or Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. At least 25% of semester credit hours applied toward a Medical University of South Carolina graduate degree must be earned through instruction as a matriculated student at the University. Only courses in which a grade of “B” or above (85 or greater) has been earned will be accepted for transfer. The courses must have been taken within five years of the date of matriculation.
2. After acceptance to the College of Nursing and no later than the first semester of matriculation, the student must file a written petition requesting the transfer of course work to the Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee through the Office of
Student Services. For each course, the petition should specify: (a) course number, course title, number of credits, name of the university/college where the course was taken, the semester and year, and grade earned; (b) the degree requirements the transfer credits are intended to satisfy, including course number, course title, and number of credits. The course syllabus must accompany the petition. A transcript listing the course and grade earned must be on file.

3. Transfer credit is not granted automatically and is restricted to didactic courses with no clinical component. If a transfer course is intended to replace an MUSC core, cognate, or population focus course, the petition must provide evidence that the course requested for transfer is equivalent to the College of Nursing required course.

4. The petition and materials will be reviewed by the appropriate course coordinator for equivalence to the appropriate College of Nursing course or acceptance as an elective. The course coordinator, as appropriate, will make a recommendation to the Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee. The student will be notified in writing of the Committee’s decision, which is considered final.

5. The Office of Enrollment Management will be informed in writing regarding approved transfer course work. They will add the course to the student’s transcript with a grade of “EX”. The student will not be charged for the course and the hours will not count for the GPA but for the overall program hours.

6. If the student fails to undertake the proper steps by completing the required paperwork, the coursework will not transfer.

PhD
PhD students are allowed to transfer nine didactic hours toward their degree hours. These must be approved by the Director of the PhD Program. At least 25% credits must be taken at MUSC to be eligible for graduation. Students must be accepted into the program and at that time, they may petition the PhD committee to accept coursework from other programs that may be equivalent to the courses offered at the College of Nursing. This coursework then will be reviewed by faculty teaching the course and the faculty make a decision regarding the equivalence of the coursework and number of credits accepted.

The Office of Enrollment Management will be informed in writing regarding approved transfer course work. They will add the course to the student’s transcript with a grade of “EX”. The student will not be charged for the course and the hours will not count for the GPA but for the overall program hours.

Prerequisite Computer Competencies (Back To Table of Contents)
During enrollment in the College of Nursing (CON), students complete assignments that require computing skills. In order to be successful, students are strongly encouraged to prepare themselves with basic Word processing skills. The MUSC campus supports both PC (Windows) and Macintosh systems. During the program, students will also be required to learn and demonstrate use of electronic mail and the Internet, conduct a library search, retrieve clinical information on a specific patient, use audiovisual materials in a presentation, and use a spreadsheet to enter and manipulate data.

Internet access via computer for communication. The nursing program is committed to dissemination of information through electronic media. Students must have access to a computer configured to use online network transmissions for electronic mail and the World
Wide Web. Computer access is available on campus through the University for students who do not have a computer at home with a modem and Internet service provider. Students will be held accountable for information from faculty disseminated via electronic mail.

_Moodle orientation_. Moodle is the learning management system used for both hybrid and online courses. Student orientation courses, one for undergraduate students and the other for graduate students, were created to help students learn the specific functions within Moodle that are necessary for success in the hybrid undergraduate or online graduate courses. Completion of the Moodle orientation course, which will be available one month prior to classes starting, is required of all new CON students. Students will complete the course prior to the published class start date. Students who do not comply will have their access blocked from all Moodle courses.

To find Moodle courses including the orientation course, students should log into [http://moodle.musc.edu](http://moodle.musc.edu) and sign in using the MUSC login and password. A link to Moodle can also be found on the CON website under _Quick Links_ and on the MUSC Library home page. Staff from the Nursing Technology Center (NTC) will be available during Undergraduate and Graduate orientation or residency (PhD) to answer questions.

_Platform orientation_. Moodle is the learning management system used for both hybrid and online courses. Student orientation courses, one for undergraduate students and the other for graduate students, were created to help students learn the specific functions within Moodle that are necessary for success in the hybrid undergraduate or online graduate courses. Completion of the Moodle orientation course, which will be available one month prior to classes starting, is required of all new CON students. Students will complete the course prior to the published class start date. Students who do not comply will have their access blocked from all Moodle courses.

Student orientation courses, one for undergraduate students and the other for graduate students, were created to help students learn the specific functions within Moodle that are necessary for success in the hybrid undergraduate or online graduate courses. Completion of the Moodle orientation course, which will be available one month prior to classes starting, is required of all new CON students. Students will complete the course prior to the published class start date. Students who do not comply will have their access blocked from all Moodle courses.

To find Moodle courses including the orientation course, students should log into [http://moodle.musc.edu](http://moodle.musc.edu) and sign in using the MUSC login and password. A link to Moodle can also be found on the CON website under _Quick Links_ and on the MUSC Library home page. Staff from the Nursing Technology Center (NTC) will be available during Undergraduate and Graduate orientation or residency (PhD) to answer questions.

__Software standards for the University__. Software standards ensure access for students, residents, fellows, and faculty to the University’s education and information resources, as well as enhance communications and the sharing of documents. The standards are defined by the University Education Infrastructure Committee. Many of these applications are downloadable from the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) website - [http://www.musc.edu/infoservices/software/](http://www.musc.edu/infoservices/software/)

**Minimum Computer Standards**

Although users may choose other software applications, they will not be supported. **Please visit this link for required software and hardware applications:** [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/ntc/minimum_computer.htm](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/ntc/minimum_computer.htm).

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Section IV:
College of Nursing and University Policies & Guidelines

(CON and University Handbooks)

When a student is accepted into the College, she/he accepts not only the published university academic regulations, but also all rules found in any official announcement. Each student assumes responsibility for one’s actions. The student is expected to respect constituted authority, protect private property, and exhibit conduct becoming to a student of the Medical University. This implies respect for the rights of others and freedom from control by any person other than recognized authority in accordance with established rules and regulations.

Students are responsible to have knowledge of the policies and procedures set forth in the University Student Handbook at [http://www.musc.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.musc.edu/studenthandbook) and the College of Nursing Student Handbook at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/Student-Handbook2012.pdf](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/Student-Handbook2012.pdf). Further, students engaged in research at the University are responsible for maintaining the integrity of all research projects in accordance with the policies, rules, and guidelines of the University, found outlined in the Medical University Faculty Handbook at [http://www.musc.edu/facsen/](http://www.musc.edu/facsen/). In addition, if tangible products are produced from these research endeavors, students must comply with the Intellectual Property policy of the University as it is described in the Faculty Handbook.

Academic policies, which apply to all MUSC students, may be found in the Academic Policies of the Bulletin of the Medical University of South Carolina. The online Bulletin will be updated on a regular and/or urgent basis. There is no longer a print version available. The current Web version of the Bulletin is available at this address: [http://www.musc.edu/bulletin](http://www.musc.edu/bulletin).

PhD Policies and Guidelines

Further polices and guidelines specific to the PhD program can be found at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/academics/phd/onlinephdprogramgraduationrequirements.html](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/academics/phd/onlinephdprogramgraduationrequirements.html)
Practice Improvement Project Guidelines for DNP students
All DNP students must complete a Practice Improvement Project. The proposal and the final project must be defended in person on campus on designated days determined by faculty. The student’s defense of the Practice Improvement Project proposal serves as the primary component of the qualifying examination for the DNP program. The Practice Improvement Project Guidelines contain specific information about this project and can be found at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/dnp/Practice_Improvement_Project_2012.pdf.

Residency Guidelines for DNP students
The clinical residency provides an opportunity to integrate the role of the DNP in a comprehensive real-world context that includes utilization of leadership, consultation, advocacy and collaboration competencies. Individual experiences will be developed by the student and approved by the clinical faculty or Residency Coordinator. Students will be jointly supervised by the clinical faculty and the clinical preceptor. The residency course represents a synthesis practicum with a clinical advisor/mentor in either the student’s advanced practice specialization or practice/administration focus or both. Further details are outlines in DNP Residency Guidelines found at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/dnp/Residency_Model_2012.pdf.

Code of Conduct
Enrolled students are held responsible for all aspects of the current MUSC Code of Conduct available at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/uco/code_conduct.htm

Honor Code
Enrolled students are held accountable for all aspects of the current Student Honor Code. A copy of the Student Honor Code can be found at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/honorcode/honorcode.html/

Confidentiality Policy
Students have the responsibility to maintain confidentiality in all areas of their professional practice. The right of the client to confidentiality will be honored through the following: 1) all discussions involving a client and their care will be conducted discreetly, confidentially, and respectfully and 2) client identity will not be revealed in written materials or verbal presentations. This is in accord with the HIPAA Privacy Rule (1996) that sets standards for protection of the privacy of patient’s health information. Breach of confidentiality with respect to information about clients is a violation of the MUSC Honor Code.

Plagiarism Policy
Charges of plagiarism will result if you fail to provide adequate documentation of another person’s words or ideas, whether published or unpublished. Additionally, the purchasing of a pre-written paper, having someone else write a paper or complete an assignment for you with or without payment, and submitting another person’s work as your own are other examples of plagiarism and will be referred to the College of Nursing Honor Council.
Plagiarism of a portion of any assignment, either written or verbal, may result in the grade of zero being given for the entire assignment. Additionally, the faculty member may refer the event to the College of Nursing Honor Council for further action. Suspension or dismissal from the university is an option provided for by the University’s Honor Code for cases of academic misconduct.

More information about plagiarism and how to site sources can be found here: http://www.library.musc.edu/page.php?id=1348.

**Standards of Conduct for the Treatment of Trainees**

MUSC strives to impart the values and collegial attitudes and behaviors in interactions among members of the University community. MUSC prohibits attitudes or behaviors towards students, residents, and fellows that are unfavorable to the development of mutual respect. The University has established Standards of Conduct for Treatment of Trainees which are published in the MUSC Student Handbook at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/esl/studentprograms/studenthandbook/Policies/standardsofconduct.html. The Standards of Conduct policy provides examples of misconduct and outlines procedures trainees can use to address mistreatment.

**Student Arrest Policy**

Should a student be arrested or formally charged with any infraction of the law other than minor traffic violations and misdemeanors, the offending student shall report such violation or changes to his or her respective Dean within two university/college business days of the offense. The Dean will determine an appropriate corrective or punitive action and grant the student an opportunity to be heard. After consultation of the Dean with the Provost, the decision of the Dean will be final.

**Professionalism Policy (Back To Table of Contents)**

**Definitions:**

Unprofessional or disruptive behavior is defined as any behavior that is contentious, threatening, insulting, or potentially litigious or otherwise interferes or has the potential to interfere with an individual’s or group’s professional responsibilities, self-respect, or ability to collaborate productively with others. It is behavior that creates an unsafe, intimidating, hostile, destructive or offensive work, in the academic or clinical environment. Dictates of professional behavior apply to faculty, staff, and students in the College of Nursing.

Examples of unprofessional or disruptive behavior include but are not limited to the following:

- Shouting or using vulgar, profane or abusive language
- Abusive behavior
- Uncivil behaviors (Refer to Civility policy)
- Physical assault or threat thereof
- Intimidating behavior
- Refusal to cooperate with others
- Conduct that constitutes sexual harassment
- Refusal to adhere to or not following College of Nursing policies and guidelines
- Presenting false information regarding clinical or course work
- Tardiness to clinic or not notifying clinical faculty or preceptor of change in clinical schedule
- Inappropriate comments written in official documents that impugn faculty, staff, or students of the College of Nursing
- Non-constructive criticism addressed to an individual in such a way at to intimidate, belittle or suggest incompetence
- Imposition on faculty, CON staff, preceptors, clinic staff, or fellow students of unnecessarily burdensome or idiosyncratic requirements that are generally not professionally accepted and do not result in improved efficiency
- Making or threatening reprisals for reporting disruptive or inappropriate behavior

**Civility**

*Code of Ethics: Provision 1. The nurse, in all professional relationships, practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth and uniqueness of every individual, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes or the nature of health problems.* (ANA, 2001, p.7.)

Civility consists of professional behaviors defined by the American Nurses Association’s Code of Ethics. These behaviors are expected of both students and faculty members and include politeness, courtesy and respect in interpersonal interactions. Conduct of civil communication applies to clinical, laboratory, classroom and online settings. Examples of civility are respectfully listening in class to a classmate’s question of the instructor and responding to classmate’s post with respect. Examples of incivility include verbal, nonverbal, or written communication that is disrespectful; as well as inattentiveness and lateness. Other uncivil behaviors are texting, reading emails, speaking on cell phones, being disruptive, and using the computer for non-class purposes such as posting on social media sites during an educational/clinical session. Civility is an expectation in all MUSC College of Nursing sessions and an expected behavior MUSC graduates will continue into professional practice.

Policies Regarding Unprofessional or Disruptive Behavior

Unprofessional or disruptive behavior demonstrated by a College of Nursing faculty or staff member directed towards another faculty, staff, patient, or student will be managed as defined in the Human Resources Policy 45, Disciplinary Actions. [http://www.musc.edu/hrm2/policies/policy45.html](http://www.musc.edu/hrm2/policies/policy45.html)

Unprofessional or disruptive behavior demonstrated by a College of Nursing student towards another student, patient, faculty, or staff not included in the above will be managed as follows:

1. If possible and reasonable, the complainant should first attempt to resolve the issue by asking the individual to discontinue the inappropriate behavior. The complainant should document the attempted resolution and forward to his/her immediate supervisor.
2. If behavior is repeated and deemed as an Honor Code violation, the complainant should use the procedures as referred to in the University Bulletin under the discussion of Honor Council: [http://www.musc.edu/honorcode/](http://www.musc.edu/honorcode/). The following will occur:
a. Disciplinary actions, consisting of oral and written reprimands, probation, suspensions, or dismissal may be imposed by the Honor Council in as direct proportion as possible to the identified offense.

b. Any disciplinary action of the Honor Council shall be considered as a constructive process for the purpose of correcting inappropriate professional behavior. Therefore, in most instances, disciplinary actions should consist of the least severe action to accomplish this purpose.

c. Progressive discipline starts with a reprimand, either written or oral, with or without probation. The next step can be failure of a course, suspension, and finally expulsion. Serious offenses may result in immediate suspension or expulsion. The disciplinary action of the Honor Council is administered on a uniform basis within the College, however, each offense is considered on a case by case basis. All recommendations of the Honor Council are adhered to as described in the University Bulletin: http://www.musc.edu/honorcode/.

d. If the behavior is repeated, and not deemed as an Honor Code violation, the complainant should document the issue with the Program Director of the enrolled student. The Program Director will collect all information regarding the incident. The Program Director will meet all parties involved and act as a mediator to resolve the problem and correct the behavior. A written contract defining the inappropriate behavior and plan for correcting behavior will be given to the student and documented as received by having the student sign the contract.

e. If the incident is resolved with satisfactory outcome, the process ends.

f. If the dispute remains unresolved or unprofessional behavior continues, the Associate Dean for Academics will make recommendations for further action, including dismissal, to the Dean.

Workplace Violence
MUSC has a Zero Tolerance to Workplace Violence policy that applies to faculty, staff and students and can be found at http://www.musc.edu/hrm2/policies/policy40.html.

HIV/AIDS Policy For Students and Faculty  (Back To Table of Contents)
The College of Nursing supports the position held by numerous professional nursing organizations including the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the Association for Nurses in AIDS Care, and the Oncology Nursing Society regarding students and faculty who are HIV+ or who have AIDS. Additionally, the College of Nursing HIV/AIDS policy is congruent with that of the Medical University of South Carolina and the Centers for Disease Control.

In accordance with the HIV/AIDS policy statement of the American Nursing Association, inquiry into HIV status is not a part of the student, faculty, or staff application process at the Medical University of South Carolina, College of Nursing. Qualified applicants cannot nor will not be denied admission to the College of Nursing or denied faculty appointment on the basis of HIV status. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) makes it illegal to discriminate against individuals with HIV/AIDS.

Testing for HIV status is voluntary for all students, faculty, and staff in the College of Nursing and it
is the choice of the individual to disclose HIV status to anyone. Strict confidentiality of an individual's disclosure of HIV seropositivity is observed and no reference to the HIV+ status is kept in any student, faculty, or staff record in the College of Nursing unless authorized, in writing, by the individual.

The American Nurses Association states that, “a nurse or nursing student who believes themselves to be at risk has an ethical responsibility to know their HIV status. Practitioners who perform ‘exposure prone’ procedures should know their HIV antibody status.”

Students shall have the opportunity to provide care to people who are HIV+ or who have AIDS. In accordance with the American Nurses Association, students may not refuse to care for a person who is HIV+ unless the patient would be placed in jeopardy because of an illness or condition of the student. If students who are HIV+ would be placed at risk for infection due to their compromised immune status, faculty will develop alternative clinical assignments. Students and faculty members who have reason to believe they have been exposed to HIV in the clinical setting are to immediately follow the MUSC procedure established for possible exposure by reporting the exposure to the Student or the Employee Health Service offices of MUSC.

**CON Complaint Procedure**

The University respects and protects the diverse interests of all students, faculty, and employees and promotes a philosophy of mutual respect. The University is committed to providing students with a quality learning experience in an environment where constructive feedback is encouraged and complaints are effectively addressed. It is the intent of the University to provide an open, fair, and accessible process, which encourages the prompt resolution of complaints/issues, encountered by MUSC students. The University recognizes that in spite of every effort to make the MUSC experience a positive one, students may have concerns or complaints; and, therefore, a process is in place to ensure these concerns are addressed both fairly and efficiently. The MUSC policy can be found at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/esl/bulletin/acad_policies/scc/](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/esl/bulletin/acad_policies/scc/) and the CON Policy can be found at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/con-complaint-procedure.pdf](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/con-complaint-procedure.pdf)

**Petitions for Variance from College of Nursing Policies**

The Admission, Progression and Graduation (APG) Committee acts on petitions from students who seek exceptions to any College of Nursing academic policy or regulation. A written request for an exception must be submitted to the Committee in care of the Office of Student Services with supporting rationale or documentation. The petition will be reviewed at the following APG Committee meeting. The student will receive a letter from the Committee regarding the decision on the petition. A copy of the petition and the Committee’s reply is placed in the student’s academic record.

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Section V: Student Compliance

Students must remain 100% compliant in regards to the items listed below. Students will not be permitted to attend campus classes and/or access online classes or attend clinical if the following items are not on file. It will be the responsibility of the student to arrange for any missed class or clinical time at the convenience of the course faculty and clinical preceptor. Missed classwork may result in a “0”. Any questions or concerns about this policy should be addressed to the Office of Student Services. Directions on how to upload required forms explained below into the online compliance management system can be found at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/handbook.htm under Immunization and Certifications upload information.

CON Handbook Form
All new College of Nursing Students must sign the CON Handbook prior to enrolling in courses. This form can be found at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/handbookform.pdf and should be uploaded into the online compliance management system.

Severe Weather Form
In the event of a weather emergency a one stop web resource has been created for faculty, staff, and students. The page contains policies and procedures and links to outside resources. This page also has a weather information board which is an up-to-date posting of storm status. It will tell all employees and students whether they must report to work or class. Finally, this page has links to the library and weather pages. These pages offer storm tracking, weather bulletins, satellite images and radar. This page can be found at: http://weather.library.musc.edu/ or in the event of a storm by clicking the “red weather emergency info button.” The Severe Weather Plan can also be viewed on the MUSC home page under the “Emergency Information” link http://www.musc.edu/weatheremergency/.

All new College of Nursing Students must a complete Severe Weather Form prior to enrolling in courses program. This form can be found at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/SevereWeatherforms2012.pdf, and should be uploaded into the online compliance management system.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification
All students must have a current CPR Certification while enrolled at the College of Nursing. To ensure appropriate level of safe care and professional responsibility to clinical sites, all College of Nursing students must be CPR certified from the American Heart Association (Health Care Provider). New students should provide documentation of their certification prior to enrolling in courses. Continuing students should provide documentation at the time of recertification. Students will receive electronic notification 30 days prior to their CPR expiration date that recertification is
due. Documentation should be uploaded into the online compliance management system.

**Licensure Requirements for MSN, DNP, and PhD Students**

All MSN, DNP and PhD students must have a current active RN license uploaded into the online compliance management system. Any student doing clinicals in South Carolina is **required** to provide evidence of an active South Carolina licensure to the MUSC Office of Student Services, unless they are in an eligible compact state.

If, at any time, the board of nursing issues a disciplinary sanction, current licensure restriction (including but not limited to suspension, revocation, probation, practice restrictions or other actions) or pending board action against the student, the student must notify the Associate Dean for Academics immediately.

**CATTS (Computerized Annual Training and Tracking System)**

All College of Nursing students must complete required CATTS modules upon acceptance into the program and each year thereafter while enrolled at the College of Nursing. Students will be sent an email with the link to CATTS at [www.musc.edu/catts](http://www.musc.edu/catts) when it is time to complete the assigned modules.

**Student Health Policies**

Students are expected to abide by established health services policies of the Medical University and must be in compliance with Student Health Service requirements which can be found at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/studenthealth/requirements.html#immunization](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/studenthealth/requirements.html#immunization).

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Section VI:  
Academic Coursework Guidelines and Policies  
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ATI and NCLEX-RN Preparation Policies for Undergraduate (BSN) students  
A four-semester plan has been developed to prepare the undergraduate (BSN) students for success in each nursing specialty course and the NCLEX-RN licensing exam. The plan can be found at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/undergrad/NCLEX_Preparation_Testing_Policies.pdf

Plans of Study  
All matriculated students must have a current plan of study on file prior to registration for any class. A program of study is a contract between the student and College of Nursing. Students are expected to participate and attend classes throughout the semester. Planned life events such as vacations and weddings should be planned outside of the semester. If a student elects to schedule such an event, participation and assignments are expected to be on time per the course syllabus.

The plans of study can be found on the College of Nursing website at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/academics/ under each academic program. As an accelerated program, only full-time plans of study are offered in the BSN program. The MSN, DNP, and PhD program offer full-time and part-time plans of study.

Graduate (MSN/DNP) Plans of Study  
Once students are admitted to the MSN/DNP program, a program plan is developed and signed by the student. This plan must be followed exactly. Any deviations from the plan of study may jeopardize program completion and must be approved by the Director of Graduate Programs.

Full and Part-time Financial Aid Guidelines  
The following part-time and full-time classifications are guidelines from the MUSC Office of Financial Aid in regards to students’ eligibility for financial aid.

Undergraduate (BSN) Students  
Full-time is considered 12 or more semester hours in the fall, spring and summer. Less than 6 Semester hours in the fall, spring, and summer is considered less than part-time status and results in students being ineligible for financial aid, including personal loans.

Graduate (MSN/DNP) and PhD Students  
Full-time is considered 9 or more semester hours in the fall and spring and 7 or more semester hours in the summer. Less than 5 semester hours in the fall and spring and less than 4 semester hours in the summer is considered less than part-time status and results in students being ineligible for financial aid, including personal loans.
Balancing Education and Work Responsibilities
Many students find it necessary to work while enrolled in school to help defray living and educational expenses. The nursing curriculum is demanding and requires preparation and study time in addition to scheduled classes and clinical experiences. **Students who try to balance work loads greater than 20 hours per week and a full-time academic load often place themselves at risk for academic failure and may need to adjust their plan of study.**

Certain practicum experiences involve intensive clinical work requiring the student’s full time and attention. Students should plan for such experiences in advance and it is highly recommended that students reduce or eliminate entirely other work commitments during these intensive practicum experiences.

MSN/DNP Program Curriculum
The MSN/DNP Graduate programs of study are very rigorous. Post-BSN students studying to become a nurse practitioner desire to focus on the new practical skills and responsibilities in the clinical setting, but today’s advanced nurse practitioner role demands much more than clinical knowledge and skills to manage patients. In today’s health care industry advanced nurse practitioners facilitate patients, families, and communities to manage their illnesses and health in order to promote quality of life and best outcomes at multiple levels. This program of study will provide this through classes, clinical experiences and required on campus immersions.

Changing Population Foci for APRN’s
A nurse practitioner student who wishes to change population foci after admission has been granted must petition the Director of the Graduate Program. There is no guarantee that any student will be permitted to change population foci and approval is made on a space available basis. Students desiring to change population foci must meet all prerequisites of the new population foci regardless of other courses completed.

Adding Courses for Nurse Educator (NE) Certification
Graduate Students who wish to sit for the National League of Nursing (NLN) NE certification*, are required to take three education courses (NURSM 615, NURSM 703, and NRPHD 725). The student is required to meet with his/her advisor to add these courses to the plan of study.

* To be able to sit for NLN NE certification, two years or more of full-time employment in the academic faculty role within the past five years is required. The student is responsible for reviewing the NLN requirements and meeting them to sit for certification after graduation.

Attendance Policies
1. Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes and seminars. For online courses, students are expected to check their courses on a routine basis; this should be at least three times per week.
2. In case of absence from class or seminar, it is the student’s responsibility to get announcements, handouts, lecture objectives, etc. from a fellow student.
3. Children are not permitted in class.
4. All students must attend and/or log into each course they are registered for by the 5th business day of the semester. Students failing to attend and/or log into a course within five working days from the official start date of the College of Nursing semester will be dropped from the course.

Participation Policy
A student who does not participate in a class for three consecutive weeks will be automatically dropped from the course and this may result in a failing grade for the course. Participation is defined as your presence in class, including online, and active participation as evidenced by class preparation and discussion regarding the class topic.

Written Work
1. All graded assignments must be typewritten or written in ink, as designated by course faculty, and referenced according to the American Psychological Association. (2011). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed.)*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, unless otherwise instructed.
2. Written work should be submitted to the appropriate faculty member per instructions in the course syllabus. Important written work, especially graded assignments, should not be placed in the door boxes located outside the faculty member's office unless instructed by faculty. *A copy of all written work submitted to faculty should be kept by students.*
3. All required written assignments will be considered late if received by faculty after the assigned due date and time.
4. Five points will be subtracted from the assigned grade for each day an assignment is late, based on a scale of 100. An exception to this policy will be made only if the student has made prior arrangements with the respective faculty member. The student must submit all written course requirements in order to receive a course grade.

Mandatory Campus Visits for MSN/DNP Students
The MSN/DNP program begins with a mandatory orientation that occurs in July before the fall semester begins. Certain MSN/DNP courses require mandatory campus visits towards the end of the semester. These are called Immersions and consist of 2-3 days of specialized learning content, similar to a professional conference, as well as competency examinations to build and evaluate student learning during specific coursework. **Immersions cannot be re-scheduled. If you miss your scheduled competency examination you will not pass the course.**

Attendance at Immersion requires advanced planning. Dates for the Immersion are provided by the end of the previous semester. In extenuating circumstances (e.g. death of family member, unexpected serious illness), the student must notify the course instructor and Program Director immediately if they cannot attend the scheduled Immersion. If able, the student will participate in the Immersion by use of Adobe Connect so lectures and group work can be achieved. In addition, to complete the Immersion information missed by the student, faculty may require other written assignments. The competency examination must be completed in order to pass the course. One make-up competency examination day will be scheduled at the end of the semester based upon the schedule and availability of the faculty, patient actors, and facilities needed; and the student should expect an overnight stay at minimum in Charleston. Until the immersion coursework is complete, students may be given an incomplete in the course and must follow the CON policy regarding this in
Section VII of the CON Handbook. Immersions that are missed or cannot be completed may require the student to withdraw from the course.

The DNP plan of study also requires mandatory two to three day on campus attendance for the Project Proposal as part of NRDNP 862 Practice Inquiry and IRB coursework and prior to the NRDNP 890 Residency. Following the completion of the project in NRDNP 890, the DNP students are required to attend a two to three day on campus attendance for presentation of the final DNP projects.

Evaluations: Examinations, Tests, & Quizzes
1. Students are expected to take all evaluations at the scheduled time.
2. A student arriving late for an evaluation will automatically have five (5) points based on a scale of 100 deducted from the total score. The definition for late to an evaluation is the beginning distribution of exam booklets by faculty or release of the electronic password for access to online testing. If a student in an online course does not complete the test/quiz by the due date/time, this may result in a failing grade or loss of points.
3. If a student is unable to take an evaluation at the scheduled time and would like consideration for extenuating circumstances, the student must discuss it with the course coordinator prior to scheduled test time. If unable to reach the course coordinator, students are to email and/or leave a message with the course coordinator prior to the test.
4. If an online student experiences a technological problem during the test/quiz and is unable to complete the assignment, the student must notify the course coordinator immediately. If the student cannot reach the course coordinator by phone, then the student must email the course coordinator.
5. If the student is given the option to reschedule the evaluation, it is the student’s responsibility to arrange to make-up the evaluation within 1 week of the scheduled evaluation date or the student will receive a grade of zero.
6. If at any point, there is faculty concern that cheating is occurring, the student(s) may be required to take proctored exams/tests/quizzes for the remainder of the course.
7. Faculty has the prerogative to:
   a. Determine whether a make-up evaluation will be given.
   b. Establish the date and time of any make-up evaluation.
   c. Administer an alternative form of the evaluation.

Pagers and Cell Phones (Back To Table of Contents)
To create an environment that is most conducive to learning, all College of Nursing faculty, staff and students are to place their phones and pagers on the silent mode at all times.

Clinical Policies:

Attendance and Absence Policy
1. Clinical, laboratory and immersion hours are mandatory and 100% attendance to all scheduled experiences is expected of every student. Exceptions regarding student
attendance due to extenuating circumstances will be made at the discretion of course faculty.  

2. **Clinical hours are mandatory**, however, when the student cannot attend the clinical session, the student must:
   
   a. Call the assigned unit or preceptor at least one hour prior to the start of the clinical session; and
   
   b. Call the assigned faculty member or course coordinator, either before or early in the clinical session.

   - For undergraduate students, any missed clinical/laboratory hours must be made up by the end of the semester. Depending on the timing and amount of missed clinical, a student may be charged with the cost of a clinical preceptor for the scheduled make-up.
   
   - The graduate student will have to negotiate with the preceptor to schedule the make-up. If the preceptor is unable to agree to this, the student will need to negotiate with the course coordinator as to how to make up the clinical hours. This may require coming to campus to make up the clinical hours missed.

3. Students are required to be on time to all clinical, laboratory, and immersion sessions. If the student is going to be late they are expected to call the assigned site as soon as possible. **Timeliness is considered a professional nursing behavior.**

4. The College of Nursing believes that failure to attend or arrive on time for clinical is unsafe and unprofessional practice. The first occurrence will result in a verbal warning. A second occurrence will result in a formal Academic Warning Form. The third occurrence will require that the student be dismissed from the clinical agency for that day. The student will be required to make up the missed hours at their expense. If a student is absent from or late three times to a clinical or laboratory assignment, the student may be withdrawn from the course and grading will occur according to CON Policy.

5. Students should not bring a large number of personal items to the clinical settings, as space is limited and unsecured.

6. For graduate clinical rotations, the preceptor must see all patients seen by the student. If the preceptor is absent from work, students should not assume responsibility for patient care unless assigned to another preceptor.

7. In extenuating circumstances, if a student fails to meet all clinical or laboratory hours for the course by the end of the final examination period, the student will receive a grade of “I” (Incomplete). Please see more information about Incomplete grades in Section VII.

8. MSN/DNP students create a clinical calendar that is a contract between the student, preceptor, and clinical faculty that indicates the student’s clinical schedule for the semester. This ensures the student will complete the required clinical hours during the semester. Weekly clinical hours are required for learning purposes. Students cannot start clinical hours in advance of the opening of the course, and must complete all clinical hours before the end of the semester (this date will be shared by the course faculty at the beginning of the semester). **No clinical experiences can occur in between semesters.**

**Clinical Guidelines for Graduate (MSN/DNP) students**

Clinical experiences are an important part of the learning experience for MSN/DNP students. The Guidelines for Clinical NP Experience is provided for students to understand the clinical placement
process, learning expectations, and experiences. Students should also refer to the Graduate Clinical Education Intranet site for clinical resources and information.

**Clinical Evaluations**

**Undergraduate (BSN)**

Students may request a copy of their clinical evaluation at the completion of each clinical course.

**Evaluation Criteria**

1. The student must have a satisfactory performance in each essential clinical behavior or objective by the last clinical day or the student will fail the course.
2. If the student’s performance is unsatisfactory for any given clinical day, the instructor will initiate an informal conference with the student.
3. Should the student’s performance continue to be unsatisfactory for a subsequent clinical day, the instructor will formulate a written plan explaining to the student deficient areas and behaviors necessary to correct these deficient areas. The coordinator of the course will be a participant in this conference and a copy of the written plan will be placed in the student’s record.
4. If the conditions of the written plan are not met by the student by the last clinical day, the student’s clinical performance will be unsatisfactory. If course evaluation includes quality points. The student will receive “0” quality points for course.
5. When a student’s clinical performance in a clinical nursing course indicates an inability to perform at a safe and/or professional level of practice, the clinical instructor, in consultation with the course coordinator, may assign a course grade of “0” regardless of the point in time such a decision is made. In such case, the student will be ineligible to continue in the course.

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**Graduate (MSN/DNP)**

Midterm and Final clinical evaluations are completed online by the student’s clinical preceptor. The preceptor reviews the evaluations with the student and both acknowledge the evaluation has been reviewed via Typhon. The evaluations are downloaded from Typhon after each semester and stored electronically. Evaluations are mandatory and students will not pass a clinical course without an evaluation completed and submitted by the preceptor.

**Professional Dress Code**

In recognition of the educational and professional environment of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), all individuals associated with this institution are expected to maintain a neat and clean appearance at all times. All students enrolled in the College of Nursing must project the professional image of nursing when engaged in learning experiences.

Failure to comply with the CON dress code will result in potential dismissal from the class lecture, preplanning activities, and any specified clinical and/or administrative experience. The student will receive an unsatisfactory for that day for failure to comply with the dress code. If there is a repeated classroom or clinical violations, the student will receive an Academic Warning for unprofessional behaviors. Any violation by the student after the academic warning will result in dismissal from the course.
Specific guidelines follow:

1. **Uniform:** When involved in nursing practice in hospital settings, **undergraduate** students must wear a white uniform. All uniforms should be neat, clean, without wrinkles and properly fitting with appropriate undergarments. During specific clinical rotations, the undergraduate student may be allowed to modify their uniform (khaki pants with navy blue polo or a long or short sleeved white tee shirt under the standard top for warmth). The student is to remove any outer wear i.e., fleece or jersey knit jackets prior to initiating care. The lab coat may be worn in some clinical for added warmth. For **graduate** students general professional clothes are appropriate dress. In some cases, graduate students may need to follow dress codes that are appropriate and designated for specific sites.

2. **Shoes:** While wearing the undergraduate uniform, shoes should be white and clean. Non-canvas footwear with an enclosed toe and heel are required, no heels higher than 2½ inches. The shoes can be any style of white professional or all-white athletic shoes worn exclusively in the clinical setting. In other settings, (psychiatric, community health, day care), appropriate attire will be designated by Course Faculty in accordance with agency policies. Both undergraduate and graduate students are expected to wear closed-toe and closed-heel shoes.

3. **Lab Jacket/Lab Coat:** **Undergraduate** students are required to own a white long sleeve lab jacket (hip length) with tailored hemline with the MUSC College of Nursing, in blue embroidery, over the breast pocket is worn in designated settings (preplanning activities and the health assessment/skills lab). **Graduate** students wear a white, long sleeve lab coat, if required in the clinical setting, and their College of Nursing ID badge.

4. In **designated settings**, students may be required to change to scrubs and/or gowns. In this event, the **undergraduate** uniform should be worn to and from the clinical setting (professional clothes and lab jacket are not permitted). When the **graduate** student is in the clinical area for direct patient contact or other clinical or administrative learning experiences, they must be dressed appropriately for their professional role and the specific clinical site. During class lecture, preplanning activities and specified clinical and administrative experiences, professional street clothes must be worn. Clothing must be neat, clean, in good repair, appropriate length skirts (knee) or denim (for class) trousers, professional shoes and collared shirts for men. Jeans in good repair are permitted in classroom only.

5. **Unacceptable** attire is interpreted by patients/families as unprofessional and inappropriate and includes: shorts, mini-skirts, visible cleavage, frayed or camouflaged clothing, hats, caps or other head wear (unless for medical/religious reasons) sunglasses, fish net stockings, see-through clothing, crop tops and other bare midriff tops that expose chest, back or midsection are not allowed.

6. **No chewing gum or tobacco:** Neither of these products are allowed during clinical experiences, pre-planning, or specified clinical and administrative experiences. Smoke odors embedded in clothing are as offensive as smoking.

7. **Tattoo:** A tattoo must be covered during a clinical experience. The Course Coordinator must be consulted by the student if the uniform, opaque hosiery or other cover up is unable to provide adequate coverage.

8. **Hair:** Hair must be off the shoulders, or pulled back. It is to be neat, clean and maintained so as not to contaminate the patient or the caregiver. Extreme hair colors, hairstyles and hair
ornaments should not be worn in a professional health care setting. Beards and mustaches must be well groomed and kept clean.

9. **Nails:** Nails must be kept short enough so they do not extend beyond the fingertips. Clear or light colored nail polish may be worn, as long as it is neat and without designs. As there are institutions that do not allow nail polish, the clinical faculty will advise students of the specific agency policy. Artificial nails harbor yeast and bacteria and are, therefore, not allowed.

10. **Jewelry** must be conservative and kept to a minimum. Visible pierced body jewelry is limited to one stud style earring (less than ½ inch) in each ear lobe. Visible body piercing including tongue stud/ring, clear nasal stud or brow jewelry is to be removed prior to patient care and not worn while in uniform. It is not acceptable to cover these areas with flesh-covered materials. A wristwatch may be worn in some clinical areas. An official South Carolina Student Nurse’s Association, Sigma Theta Tau or original nursing school pin may be worn.

11. **Fragrance:** Non-scented make up and hair products may be worn. No perfumes or colognes are permitted. Lotions and deodorants must be limited to those bearing a light scent.

12. **Identification:** The following identification must be worn in every clinical setting

   a) For undergraduate students: A name pin (black lettering on white background) as follows:
      - Student’s Name
      - MUSC-College of Nursing
      - BSN Student
   
   b) For all students: MUSC Student ID Badge.
   
   c) For all students: An Institutional ID Badge in any health care agency, which requires one and provides it.

**Community Health Clinical Attire Code: Undergraduate (BSN) Students**

Students are required to dress in clothing that adheres to the College of Nursing and guidelines of the agencies that students are in. Appropriate clothing consists of a collared and sleeved shirt/blouse and black, navy, or khaki slacks, or knee length or longer skirt. Students will wear closed toes and closed heeled shoes, flats or low heels, clean white or black tennis shoes for safety reasons. Scrubs are only appropriate in home health and only if it is required by the agency preceptor. Students may only wear pants that are full length, no shorts or capri style pants. No skin tight or revealing clothing. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum, as expensive or excessive jewelry is a potential barrier.

**Medication Administration: Undergraduate (BSN) Students**

All students must be supervised in all types of medication administration. In select situations, the instructor or designated clinical instructor may determine that knowledge and proficiency in medication administration has been demonstrated and, therefore, supervision may be decreased. Nursing students must be cognizant of the fact that they are personally and legally responsible for
their actions, including the administration of medications. The nursing instructor is responsible for making assignments appropriate to the student’s level of knowledge and experience and for assuring adequate supervision of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to seek and obtain this supervision. This policy has been written to more clearly describe those activities for which the student is to be held accountable and to delineate the degree of supervision needed by individual students. Institutions utilized by MUSC College of Nursing may have additional requirements related to medication administration to which students and faculty will adhere.

**Student responsibilities in giving medications at all levels of the curriculum.**
In the process of giving medications to patients each student must:
1. notify the faculty before giving the medication unless otherwise instructed
2. refuse to take verbal orders for medications
3. check the accuracy and currency of the medication sheet, care plan, or kardex against the physician’s order at the time of administration
4. be able to state indications, actions, usual dosage, route of administration, precautions and nursing implications for every medication to be administered by the student and/or for every medication the student’s assigned patients receive
5. refuse to give any medication that is not properly labeled or is outdated as indicated by the expiration date
6. adhere to the prescribed technique for administering medications as advised by the College of Nursing, including attention to the: right patient, medication, time, dose, route, referral, and right to be educated
7. promptly document that the medication has been administered.
8. adhere to hospital and governmental policies for proper documentation and signature for narcotic and controlled drugs
9. request assistance in giving medications to patients who are disoriented, hyperactive or otherwise uncooperative, or where there is reason to question one’s ability to administer medication safely

**Staff nurse responsibilities in the administration of medications by nursing students.**
The clinical faculty is responsible for being available to supervise the preparation and administration of all medications by students during clinical laboratory practice. The institutions/agencies used for clinical practice may designate, in their agreement with the MUSC College of Nursing, certain nurses or classifications of nurses (i.e., designated RN) who may assume some responsibility for supervising students in the clinical area. If an instructor cannot be accessible, she may arrange for one of those designated registered nurses to supervise a student or a group of students. The RN staff member is under no obligation to assume the responsibility for supervising a student and should do so only if she/he is comfortable with the student’s knowledge of medication, its actions, side affects, nursing implications, dosage, and appropriate route of administration. If there is any doubt regarding a student’s competency to administer medications, the nurse should notify the designated RN and not allow the student to give the drug. When an RN staff member agrees to supervise a student or group of students, she should be cognizant that she also assumes legal responsibility and liability for the supervision of the preparation and administration of the medication.
Section VII:  
Academic Progression  
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Grading Policy
All courses, except those dropped during the drop/add period, are recorded on the student's permanent record. Grades for courses taken under cross-registration policies at the following institutions (Charleston Southern University, the College of Charleston, The Citadel, and Trident Technical College) will be recorded according to the host institution's grading system.

Courses accepted for transfer from other schools carry no grade; credit hours will be recorded as credit earned only. Variable course credit must be established prior to registration and approved by the Course Coordinator/Program Director. However, credit hours will be counted only once to determine eligibility for the degree. Rank in class is calculated according to the overall grade point average within the college of the student’s enrollment.

Merit grades are assigned on an interval scale ranging from 0 to 4 points (see below). Faculty use the raw score (the percentage of correct answers) to grade examinations. Merit grades are assigned according to the table shown below. Each college curriculum committee may approve a grade reporting system of honors/pass/fail for specific courses.

Rounding of Grades
The calculation of a grade will be based on rounding a score ranging from number + 0.5 below the number to + .49 above the number to the common whole number. (Example: A grade of 75 = 74.5 through 75.49; 74 = 73.5 through 74.49, etc.).
**Grading Scale**
The College of Nursing grade scale (congruent with the Medical University of South Carolina Grading System) is as shown below:

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<th>Raw Score</th>
<th>Alphabetic</th>
<th>Merit Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;69</td>
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</table>
Dean's List
At the end of fall, spring, and summer semesters, the Dean's List is compiled. It consists of the names of all undergraduate students who carried 10 or more semester hours and who earned a GPA of 3.5 or better for the semester.

Registration

**BSN/MSN/DNP Programs:** The Office of Student Services will register students for their courses according to their plan of study on the preregistration dates determined by the Office of Enrollment Management. It is the student’s responsibility to verify they are registered for the appropriate courses by viewing the schedule posted in WebAdvisor. If there is a discrepancy, students should notify CON Student Services so changes can be made.

**PhD Program:** Each semester, at specified times, preregistration is held for the following semester. Announcements of preregistration dates are e-mailed to students. Students are advised by their assigned faculty advisor and must register online by the specified date and time. It is the students’ responsibility to contact their advisor for advisement prior to registering for the next semester. Students who deviate from the assigned Plan of Study may jeopardize their progression.

Progression

*For detailed explanation of grades, please refer to The Bulletin at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/bulletin/acad_policies/grading.html](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/bulletin/acad_policies/grading.html).*

**Undergraduate (BSN) Program**

1. A student must earn a grade of 2.0 in each nursing course. A student earning a grade of less than 2.0 or “WF”, “WP”, “WR”, or “WD” must repeat the course. If a student earns less than 2.0 or “WF”, “WP”, “WR” or “WD” in a second nursing course, the student is dismissed from the program and is ineligible for readmission into the College of Nursing. A nursing course can be repeated only one time.
2. Courses must be completed in the prescribed sequence and within 3 years of matriculation.
3. A student must achieve an average grade of 75% on all tests/examinations in order to successfully complete nursing courses. If less than a 75% average on tests/examinations is earned, the course grade will be computed on the basis of tests/examinations only (i.e., grades earned on papers, projects, etc., will not be computed in the final course grade.) If a 75% average on tests/examinations is earned, all course requirements will be computed into the final course grade.
4. When a student’s clinical performance in a clinical nursing course indicates an inability to perform at a safe level of practice, the clinical instructor, in consultation with the course coordinator, may assign a course grade of “0.0” regardless of the point in time such a decision is made. In such case, the student will be ineligible to continue in the course.

**Graduate (MSN/DNP) program**

1. A student must earn a grade of 3.0 in each nursing course. A student earning a grade of less than 3.0 or “WD” or “WP” or “WF” or “WR” must repeat the course. A nursing course
can be repeated **one time only**. If a student earns a grade of less than 3.0 in a course, the student is placed on academic probation for one semester. The student must improve the cumulative GPA to 3.0 or greater upon completion of the next semester to remain in the program. The student must successfully complete the nursing course in which a grade below 3.0 was earned. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program and is ineligible for readmission into the College of Nursing.

2. A student must receive a passing grade in the clinical portion of a course in order to pass the course, regardless of the theory grade, in courses which contain both clinical and didactic/seminar portions. In combined clinical-didactic/seminar courses, a failure in the clinical portion will result in a 0.0 and account for 50% of the course grade.

3. A failure in a clinical course that has a separate course number from the didactic/seminar course will result in a “NP”. If the clinical portion is failed a second time, it will result in dismissal from the program.

4. At any time during the semester when a student’s clinical performance in a clinical nursing course indicates an inability to demonstrate professional behaviors and/or perform at a safe level of practice, the clinical instructor, in consultation with the course coordinator, may assign a course grade of “0.0” regardless of the point in time such a decision is made. In such case the student will be ineligible to continue in the course.

**PhD Progression**

1. For any doctoral course, a merit grade of less than 3.0, a “WF”, or “F” is considered failing, and the course must be repeated with an earned grade of 3.0 or greater or “Pass”.

2. If a student earns less than a 3.0 merit grade, a “WF”, or “F” in a second doctoral course, the student is dismissed from the program and is ineligible for readmission into the College of Nursing.

**Incomplete Grade** *(Back To Table of Contents)*

An “Incomplete” (IN) is awarded when all requirements of a course have not been completed by the end of the semester due to circumstances beyond the student’s control. When the IN is given in a course that is a pre- /or co-requisite to a course in which the student enrolls in the following semester, the student has until the end of the drop/add period of that following semester to complete the work and have the IN changed to a merit grade. Students who fail to have the incomplete changed by drop/add will have to drop the prereq/coreq courses. If the student fails to remove the IN within these time limits, the IN will be converted to a merit grade of 0.0. The Director of Student Services and Program Director must approve any extension of the time period.

**PhD Doctoral Incompletes**

Doctoral students may not register for courses until an “Incomplete” grade from the previous semester is removed. The Incomplete must be addressed before the drop/add period deadline of a semester if the student plans to utilize that semester for course registration.

**Academic/Professionalism Warnings**

An Academic/Professionalism Warning will be issued when a student’s performance puts them in jeopardy for failing the course or plan of study and can occur at any time during the semester. Students registered in the College of Nursing will receive written warnings of unsatisfactory or
borderline performance in any didactic/seminar and/or clinical nursing course from the course faculty/coordinator. The “Academic/Professionalism Warning Form” indicates recommendations for improvement and students are encouraged to add or assist in the creation of the improvement plan. The form must be signed by the student and returned to the course faculty/coordinator. If a student chooses to not sign the academic warning, they are still responsible for the information and improvement plan. A copy is placed in a central file in the Office of Student Services. The student’s faculty advisor and the Program Director are notified of the Academic/Professionalism Warning. Course faculty/coordinator will follow-up with the student two weeks after the warning is issued and every two weeks thereafter until the improvement plan is completed. An Academic/Professionalism Follow-up Form will be used to document the student’s ongoing or completion of work regarding the warning every two weeks or until the warning is completed. If a student receives a second Professional Warning during the plan of study, the student will be referred to the Program Director to develop a performance improvement plan with expectations of what needs to be accomplished to be successful in the course. Please refer to the Professionalism Policy.

Dropping a Course
After the drop period, a student may withdraw from a course if permission is obtained in writing from the course instructor, the student’s faculty advisor and/or the Program Director. However, withdrawal from a course for any reason (academic, personal, health, etc.) regardless of the grade assigned (i.e., Withdraw/Passing, Withdraw/Failing, Withdrawal) constitutes one attempt in the course. A second attempt to take the same course will exhaust a student’s repeat option.

Tuition Related to Dropping a Course:
The following is the tuition reimbursement guidelines for students who drop a course after the official first day of classes for the University, not the College of Nursing: Fall and Spring semesters - 90% tuition reimbursement if course(s) dropped within the first week of the University start date; 75% tuition reimbursement within the 2nd week; 50% tuition reimbursement within the third week, and no tuition reimbursement after the forth week. Summer Semester- 75% tuition reimbursement if course(s) dropped within the first week of the University start date, and no tuition refund after the first week. Fees will not be reimbursed. Students should consult with the Office of Financial Aid to see how their aid may be affected.

Graduate Trainee/Grant/Scholarship Issues Related to Dropping a Course:
Graduate students receiving a traineeship, grant, or scholarship with a minimum amount of credit hours for the award must meet with the Associate Dean of Academics regarding payback obligations if the minimum credit hours are not met. Graduate students must meet with the Associate Dean of Academics if they are not going to meet their award obligation.

Leave of Absence (Back To Table of Contents)
A leave of absence may be granted by the Program Director upon request by the student. “University Withdrawal/Leave of Absence” forms are available online. The leave will begin immediately and will apply to the semester(s) for which it is granted. After the specified time, the student will be readmitted automatically to the College. If the student does not return before the leave of absence expires, the student will be withdrawn from the College. Only one leave of
absence, up to one year in length, will be granted during a program of study.

The College of Nursing is not obligated to hold a student slot open for students who do not return at the end of the designated time frame leave of absence agreement (1 year). The student is accountable to maintain communication with the Program Director and the Office of Student Services regarding any changes in plans during the leave time period.

Students returning from any leave of absence may be required to adjust the plan of study based upon new program requirement. Students returning from a leave of absence may not have immediate access to some courses, primarily because of student clinical placements and faculty-student ratios. Students who are unable to return after a one-year leave of absence will be withdrawn from the program and would need to re-apply.

Procedure:
Students who request a leave of absence (LOA) from the program must adhere to the following procedures:

1. Make an appointment with the Program Director to discuss reasons for the leave of absence.
2. Obtain and complete a “University Withdrawal/Leave of Absence” form from the MUSC Office of Student Services.
3. All medical leave of absences require a letter from the health care provider outlining the need for accommodation. Upon return from a medical leave of absence, the student must provide documentation from the health care provider approving the student’s return to the College of Nursing. These letters must be submitted to the Office of Student Services.

Withdrawal from the Program (Back To Table of Contents)
When withdrawing from the program, the student notifies the Program Director and completes the “University Withdrawal/Leave of Absence” form and a “Request for Course Add and/or Drop” forms available from the Office of Student Services. These completed forms are then forwarded to the Associate Dean for Academics for final approval and then placed in the student’s academic record.

Dismissal from the Program
A student who is dismissed from the program is ineligible for readmission into the College of Nursing. The Program Directors will make a recommendation to the Associate Dean for Academics of the College of Nursing that a student be dismissed from the program if the student:

For All Programs
Fails to return after a Leave of Absence (LOA) expires. Additional circumstances which may result in dismissal from the program include non-payment of fees, academic or professional misconduct, and loss of license to practice as an RN.

Undergraduate (BSN): has a GPA that indicates the student will not be able to meet the 2.0 requirement for graduation or has failed two nursing courses. Note: A student must receive a passing grade on both the theory and the clinical portions of a course in order to pass the program
OR does not complete requirements for BSN degree within a three-year time limit after initial registration.

**Graduate (MSN/DNP):** Has a GPA that indicates the student will not be able to meet the 3.0 requirement for graduation or has failed two courses OR does not complete requirements for the MSN or DNP degree within a 6 year time limit after initial registration (Post-MSN DNP Students have a 4 year limit)

**PhD:** The PhD Program Committee will recommend to the Director of the PhD Program that a student be dismissed from the program if the student has a GPA that indicates the student will not be able to meet the 3.0 requirement for graduation or has failed two courses OR does not complete requirements for the degree within an eight-year period after initial registration for the doctoral program.

**Re-admission after Voluntary Withdrawal**

Any student who withdraws from the program of study at the College of Nursing voluntarily and then would like to return should submit a new application for admission to the MUSC Office of Enrollment Management. The new application should include a typewritten letter stating the circumstance that resulted in the student’s withdrawing from the program and reason(s) that readmission to the program is justified.

**Challenge an Undergraduate (BSN) Nursing Course(s)**

It is the belief of the faculty that knowledge may be gained in a variety of ways including educational preparation, work experience, and/or life experience. Furthermore, the faculty believes that students who have a body of knowledge should be provided the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge. Therefore, opportunities to challenge nursing courses, with the exception of clinical/laboratory courses, may be offered to qualified students.

The challenge of an undergraduate nursing course consists of evaluation procedures to establish credit for the entire course. A portion of a course (e.g. theory or clinical) cannot be challenged.

A challenged course must be passed with a grade of “C” (2.0) or better. The challenge of a course may not be repeated. All prerequisites for the course must be completed in order to be eligible to challenge the course.

1. At least 25 percent of semester credit hours applied toward a Medical University undergraduate degree must be earned through instruction in residence at the University.
2. The evaluation of the theoretical portion of the course must be completed at a satisfactory level before the evaluation of the clinical portion of the course can take place.
3. Students must be matriculated to the College of Nursing before submitting the “Student Petition Form” (available in the Office of Student Services to challenge a nursing course).
4. Students must make appointments with their respective academic advisors to be counseled relative to: (a) the appropriate course coordinator to contact regarding the challenge, (b) the eligibility criteria for challenging the particular course, and (c) the application process and form for challenging the course.
5. Students must complete the “Student Petition Form” and submit it to the Director of Student

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Services on or before the date specified for the course. These dates will be posted in the Office of Student Services, College of Nursing. The Director of Student Services will forward the petition to the course coordinator. The petition must be received by the last day of drop/add.

6. The course coordinator will make an assessment of the student’s application to determine that the student has met the criteria and has a reasonable chance of success in challenging the course.

7. The course faculty is responsible for developing the criteria for challenge of a course.

8. Evaluation procedures which may be included in the challenge of a course are: (a) the completion of all unit examinations or a cumulative final examination with a grade of 75% or above (b) the completion of written assignments or other projects with a passing grade, and (c) in the case of a clinical course, the completion of a clinical evaluation (actual, simulated, or case study) in which the utilization of the nursing process is demonstrated.

9. Upon successful completion of the challenge, the student will receive a grade of “XC” for the course that will be recorded on the student’s transcript and does not affect his/her grade point average (GPA). If the student is unsuccessful, enrollment in the course in the current or a subsequent semester must occur.

Cross-Registration Policies and Procedures: Undergraduate (BSN)

After entrance into the College of Nursing Undergraduate Program, all non-nursing course work may be taken at one of the following institutions under cross-registration policies on a space available basis: The Citadel, Charleston Southern University, the College of Charleston, and Trident Technical College, or one of the other colleges of the Medical University of South Carolina. Grades earned are calculated as part of the cumulative GPA. Summer session, Maymester, and January Interterm courses are not covered under the cross-registration tuition-free policy, except for graduate students enrolled full-time during summer who are paying full-time fees to their home institution.

Students must obtain a cross-registration form in the Office of Student Services and follow the directions provided on the form.

Note: Charleston Southern University will charge additional tuition and fees for their courses because it does not receive support from the state of South Carolina.

1. Full-time undergraduate students may participate:
   a. if they are in good standing at their home institution, and
   b. if they have paid full-time tuition and fees to their home institution (and therefore will not have to pay extra tuition for credit courses taken at the host campus),
   c. if they enroll for at least 50% of their course credit load at their home institution,
   d. provided the course(s) at the host institution is/are not offered concurrently at the home institution (i.e., not offered at all or not offered at a reasonably scheduled time),
   e. if they meet the prerequisite requirements of the host institution,
   f. if the required approvals are obtained, and
   g. in graduate-level courses if “a” through “f” above are fulfilled and with the understanding that Charleston Southern University will charge additional tuition and fees for their courses because it does not receive support from the state of South
Carolina.
Section VIII:
Graduation Policies

Graduation Requirements

All Students

In addition to meeting academic requirements for graduation, all students are required to submit a degree application and are expected to attend College of Nursing Convocation and MUSC Commencement ceremonies. Permission to graduate in absentia must be requested in writing to the Dean of the College of Nursing.

A day is set-aside early in the semester of graduation to facilitate the process of completing degree applications, ordering caps and gowns, and having graduation photos taken for class composites.

All graduation requirements must be completed prior to participation in convocation and graduation. Candidates for graduation are voted on by faculty and forwarded to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

Undergraduate (BSN) Students: Requirements for graduation and for the award of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree are as follows:

1. Completion of a minimum of 121 semester credit hours, including 60 sh of prescribed prerequisite courses with a grade of “C” or above from a regionally accredited college or university and 61 sh of prescribed upper division course work within three years of initial enrollment in the College of Nursing
2. Completion of the nursing and general education courses prescribed by the faculty
3. Completion of nursing courses with a minimum grade of 2.0 in each course
4. Attainment of a 2.0 cumulative GPA
5. Completion of at least 25% of semester credit hours in residence at MUSC College of Nursing.
6. It is the student’s responsibility to assure that all prerequisite and upper division requirements are met. The College of Nursing appoints a faculty advisor for each student to assist the student with program planning and tracking of prerequisites and upper division requirements. However, the responsibility for assuring that all requirements are met rests solely with the student.

Graduate (MSN/DNP) Students:

1. To qualify for the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, candidates must meet all scholastic requirements and complete all specified courses in their prescribed program of study with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
2. Courses must be completed in the prescribed sequence and within 1.5 years times the length of the program.
3. Students are also required to complete the Exit Survey in order to graduate.
4. **It is the student’s responsibility to assure that all requirements for graduation are met.**

**DNP students must also:**
1. Completion and Presentation of the Practice Improvement Project Proposal
2. Final Poster Presentation
3. Submission of Paper for Publication: This paper submission is required as evidence of completion of the Practice Improvement Project

**PhD Students:** The PhD in Nursing is designed to be completed in three to four years of full-time study or five to six years of part-time study. The need to commute or to engage in part-time study is taken under consideration during program planning with students. All work to be applied toward the PhD must be completed within eight years of initial enrollment in the program. For more information visit: [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/academics/phd/onlinephdprogramgraduationrequirements.html](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/academics/phd/onlinephdprogramgraduationrequirements.html).

**Exit Surveys**
All College of Nursing students must complete an Exit Survey upon graduation.

**BSN Exit Survey Process**
All BSN students are required to complete the BSN EXIT SURVEY on-line in the fourth semester during their last clinical course.

**MSN/DNP Student Exit Survey Process**
1. All graduate students must complete the Student Exit Survey during their final semester
2. Final semester grades will not be released until the student has completed the survey.
3. Survey will be conducted using an online system.
4. The coordinator of the Graduate Program is responsible for insuring the exit surveys are completed.
5. Results from the survey will be analyzed using descriptive statistics and reviewed annually by Graduate Program Committee (GPC) and used for program improvement.

**PhD Student Exit Survey Process**
All PhD graduates are required to complete the PhD Program Exit Survey found online in RedCAP. After completing the survey, an exit interview should be scheduled by contacting Dr. Gail Gilden, at barbosag@musc.edu. Interviews generally require 30 minutes or less and will be accomplished via phone or video conferencing. The exit survey must be completed before clearance is given for graduation.

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**Additional Graduation Expenses for Students**
In the last semester, there are additional expenses related to graduation such as: pictures, graduation regalia, NCLEX-RN State Board Licensure examination, certification examinations,
and nursing license fees.

**NCLEX-RN Exam**
Upon successful completion of the program requirements and upon recommendation by the faculty, Accelerated BSN, graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) leading to the registered nurse (RN) license to practice nursing. There is a four-semester plan designed to facilitate first time success on the NCLEX-RN exam. This plan includes required practice and End of Course proctored exams in the clinical courses. The plan also provides for CAE referrals, test review resources, curriculum exams and diagnostic assessment of readiness to write the NCLEX-RN exam. The detailed plan is located in course materials.

Undergraduate students will complete their application to take the NCLEX-RN licensure examination (those graduates who plan to take the exam in South Carolina). Students will be notified in advance of the dates and are expected to complete these activities within the established period. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the director of student services where they plan to take the NCLEX-RN licensure examination.

**Prior Criminal Conviction**
Students who have a previous criminal conviction may not be allowed to sit for the State Board of Nursing exam (NCLEX) even if they complete the degree in nursing. Contact the South Carolina Board of Nursing for additional information prior to application to the Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing.

**Graduate Program Certification Examinations**
National certification is required for licensure, reimbursement, and professional qualification as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). It is expected that all graduates will take the appropriate national certification examination.

**A-GNP and FNP Students**
A-GNP/FNP students are eligible to take the certification examination offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP) upon graduation. Specific information concerning these examinations may be obtained at [www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org) for ANNC and at [www.aanpcert.org](http://www.aanpcert.org) for the AANPCP examination.

**PNP Students**
PNP students are strongly encouraged to take the certification examination offered by the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB) upon graduation. Specific information concerning this examination may be obtained at [www.pncb.org](http://www.pncb.org) If preferred, graduates may take the national certification examination offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Specific information concerning these examinations may be obtained at [www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org).

**Nurse Educator- Certification Requirements**
Upon completion of the required nurse educator courses students meet the education requirement.
of nine credit hours of graduate level education courses for the National League for Nursing (NLN) Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) Examination. Additionally, the student applicant must complete 2 years or more of full-time employment in the academic faculty role prior to applying for the certification exam. Additional requirements for eligibility are available at www.nln.org/facultycertification.

**Licensure of Advanced Practice Nurses in South Carolina**

If students plan to work in South Carolina then upon graduation, the student should obtain current procedures and forms from the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation Board of Nursing at [http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing). If a student plans to work in any other state, the student should contact the APRN regulatory board for that state.

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Section IX: 
College of Nursing Facilities & Services

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Wireless Access
Wireless network access is available in the College of Nursing and in most locations throughout the MUSC campus.

E-Mail
All College of Nursing students are assigned an MUSC e-mail address upon enrollment. These e-mail messages may be retrieved from any campus or appropriately equipped home computer. Students are responsible for any message sent to them by email by faculty and should check e-mails daily. Mail will only be sent to a MUSC e-mail address. Many people have more than one e-mail address. Students can have their MUSC email automatically forwarded to another email address.


Email accounts are kept for 60 days after graduation. Students who would like MUSC email forwarding for life can visit http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/alumni/.

Advisement

Undergraduate (BSN) and PhD students
Upon enrollment, each student is assigned a faculty advisor. The faculty advisor assists the student with academic advising, registration, referral to College and University resources and services, and in general, serves as a student advocate. Any student who is anticipating a change in plans for completing the program (e.g., add/drop, leave of absence, withdrawal, etc.) must see the faculty advisor prior to initiating the appropriate paperwork to effect the change. Faculty advisors are also available to assist students with career advisement, clarify College and University policies and procedures, counsel regarding academic problems, and facilitate adjustment to College and University life. Students should contact their faculty advisor at the faculty member’s office (see faculty listing on the web at: http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/faculty/ or by e-mail. Students are expected to meet with their faculty advisor at least once each semester for preregistration and general advisement.

Graduate (MSN/DNP) Students
Each entering student is academically advised by the Director of Graduate Programs with the assistance of the Graduate Program Coordinator and the Director of Student Services. The Director of Graduate Programs provides guidance in registration and developing a plan of study, and monitors the student’s progress. The advisor, along with faculty, mentors the student, and provide advice and academic support as needed. Students should contact the Graduate Program Director or Coordinator with any questions during the registration period each semester. The Graduate Program Director or Coordinator will work with the student if there is any request to modify the program of
study. If a student is full-time and needs to change to a part-time plan of study, they must contact the Graduate Program Director or Coordinator so that a new part-time plan of study can be developed and signed. The Graduate Program Director and Coordinator will have open office hours when students are on campus for advisement needs.

Students also have practice improvement faculty who will assist in the selection of the practice improvement project topic and plan. The role of the practice improvement faculty is to meet or talk with students to identify an appropriate topic for the process improvement project (if the student does not identify a project in the first semester of the program for MSN-DNP students and early in the fourth semester for BSN-DNP students). The Director of the Graduate Program meets with all post-MSN DNP students during orientation to assist them in focusing in on their project. The project should reflect the student’s career goals. The practice improvement faculty will also assist the student in selecting members for the project committee.

Students who are in the nurse practitioner tracks will have a clinical faculty member assigned to them during their clinical courses who is familiar with that area of specialty (ANP, PNP, FNP). The clinical faculty will work with the student and the clinical preceptor during clinical courses reviewing the online logs and clinical evaluations.

During DNP residency students will also be assigned a clinical faculty member to work with and the clinical faculty member will communicate with the clinical preceptor to insure the student successfully completes the clinical residency contracts. In some cases the Residency Coordinator may fulfill this role. The Residency Coordinator will insure all students have DNP clinical contracts approved and in place and insure a minimum of 1,000 clinical/mentored hours are verified in patient care areas or administration as appropriate. Students will work with the Residency Coordinator to insure that final poster presentations and papers for publication are completed, presented and submitted during the last residency.

**Office of Student Services** *(Back To Table of Contents)*
The College of Nursing Office of Student Services can be contacted at 843-792-8515 and 843-792-3815. This office assists with recruitment, admission, and progression of students. It is the primary point of contact for prospective and current students seeking information about the College of Nursing and Medical University of South Carolina resources. In addition, this office provides students with information and application forms for the Federal Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship and Nurse Faculty Loan Program awards.

Forms for registration, courses add/drop, and requests for university withdrawal/leave of absence are available in this office. Students seeking information about the Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee and variances from policy should also contact this office. Students submitting their nursing license and CPR validation forms should also contact this office.

Information about College of Nursing scholarships and fellowships (when available) is available from the Director of Student and Alumni Relations and can be found online at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/financial-aid-scholarships.htm](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/financial-aid-scholarships.htm)
Also part of the Office of Student Services is the Office of Student Records. This office is responsible for coordinating registration and maintaining student records. It is also responsible for informing students about requirements for graduation and preparing endorsements for BSN students seeking licensure as a registered nurse.

**Emergency Contact**
Students should *not* provide any College of Nursing telephone number for routine emergency contacts (e.g., sick child). Students may inform a close relative or friend to contact the College of Nursing in case of a true emergency.

**Dissemination of Information to Students**
Communication of changes in College documents and publications is disseminated in a variety of methods. First, a mass e-mail is sent to all CON students by the Associate Dean for Academics. Second, policy changes are published in e-CONnections, the CON monthly electronic newsletter. Information of interest to undergraduate students is posted on the bulletin board in the student resource room (CON 304). Additional student bulletin boards are located on the third floor of the College. Specific course information is located online in the assigned Moodle course.

**College of Nursing Projected Calendar**
The College of Nursing calendar is available at the following Website:
http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/schedules.htm

**Faculty and Staff Listing**
Faculty Directory at: http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/faculty/

Staff Directory at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/staff/

**College of Nursing Student Booklist**
The booklist is available to students one month prior to classes beginning at this link:

The Matthews MUSC Bookstore is located on the MUSC campus at 158 Ashley Ave. You can access the Matthews MUSC Bookstore on-line at this website:
http://webmedbooks.com/musc/default.aspx, or by calling 843-792-1900.

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Section X:
University Facilities & Student Services

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The University Student Handbook contains a complete list of available Student Services. http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/studenthandbook/

Campus Safety
The Department of Public Safety provides for the safety and welfare of the students, faculty, and staff through protection, preventive measures, enforcement of rules, regulations and laws, traffic regulation, and supervision of University property.

Students may contact the department at 792-4196 for security/escort service. In emergency cases, students may contact the department for transportation to Student Health Services if no other transportation is available.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
This service provides an integral component of professional development by addressing the personal issues of university students. The professional staff offers services that include individual counseling, educational and study skill development, couples and group counseling, and referral for other services as needed. Services are available to full-time students who are actively enrolled in semester course work and part-time students who have paid the student services fee. Students’ rights to confidentiality are strictly safeguarded. The office is located at 30 Bee Street. For more information, call 792-4930 or check their website at http://www.musc.edu/caps/caps/indexcaps.html.

Enrollment Management
The Office of Enrollment Management process admission applications, manages matriculation, handles registration and academic records (grade recording and transcripts), schedules classrooms, prepares the Bulletin of the Medical University of South Carolina, conducts degree audits for graduation, and manages commencement. The office located is 41 Bee Street, the phone number is 792-5396. For more information, please visit: http://www.musc.edu/em/.

Financial Assistance
The Medical University of South Carolina may provide financial assistance to any qualified student who would otherwise be unable to attend college because of lack of funds. Financial Aid is available through loans, scholarships, grants, veteran's benefits, social security benefits, college work-study program's institutional employment, vocational rehabilitation, and other sources.
All financial assistance forms are administered through the University Office for Financial Aid. The Financial Aid Office is located on the third floor of the Harper Student Center (corner of Doughty Street and Courtenay Drive). The mailing address is: Office of Financial Aid, Medical University of South Carolina, 45 Courtenay Drive, P.O. Box 250176, Charleston, SC 29425. The telephone numbers are 792-2536 or 792-2537. Further information on financial assistance may be found in the Bulletin of the Medical University of South Carolina, or at their website: http://www.musc.edu/financialmanagement/

Harper Student Center
The Harper Student Center, located at the corner of Doughty Street and Courtenay Drive, is available to all full-time students and to part-time students who pay the optional Student Services fee. The Offices of Financial Aid, Student Programs and Activities, Student Health, Off-Campus Housing, and CAPS are located in the Student Center. The Harper Student Center also provides a fully equipped and staffed fitness center and offers classes in aerobics, dance, and other wellness activities. For more information, or visit the website at: http://www.musc.edu/hsc/

Learning Skills Activities/Assistance
Several activities are held throughout the year which focus on helping students develop or improve their learning skills, including study skills, test-taking strategies, and writing abilities. Announcements of these sessions are posted on the College’s bulletin boards.

Library
The MUSC Library/Learning Resource Center is located in the Administration/Library Building on the second, third, and fourth floors. The main circulation desk is on the second floor and the telephone number is 792-2371 or for more information visit http://www.library.musc.edu/.

MUSC Healthcare Simulation Center
The MUSC Healthcare Simulation Center is utilized as the skills and health assessment laboratory in addition to being a site for clinical equivalent simulated learning. This state of the art facility provides the student with opportunities to learn and practice skills related to health assessment and nursing practice. The students manage care for a variety of manikins programmed to mimic patient needs. The setting is fully equipped with state of the art tools and equipment to facilitate learning.

Office of Diversity
The Office of Diversity seeks to increase minority applications at the Medical University of South Carolina through formal and informal outreach programs. The Office is also involved in helping enrolled students make the transition from undergraduate to a graduate-level institution, recognizing the special problems encountered by minorities in a major institution.

For information on services offered by the Office of Diversity visit the website at: http://www.musc.edu/diversity/definition.html

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Photocopy Services
There are three copy machines located in the MUSC Library for which copy cards can be purchased at the main desk. Kinko's, at Calhoun and King Streets, can do large jobs quickly, and also offers self-service machines. Computer printing in the Library is available, please see the library website for more information: http://www.library.musc.edu/page.php?id=1013

Professional Liability Insurance
The Medical University of South Carolina maintains professional liability insurance for all fully matriculated and duly enrolled students. **This insurance covers students only while in the student role and for the enrolled course.** Pre-licensure students who practice outside the scope of the student role may jeopardize their future eligibility to become licensed as a registered nurse. Students employed in an agency should refuse to assume responsibility for activities which they are not legally licensed to perform, such as medication administration, initiating IV therapy, charge nurse duties, etc. **The Medical University and the College of Nursing assume no responsibility for activities which students undertake as an employee of an agency or as a volunteer.**

Please note that some clinical sites for nurse practitioner students require students to carry more liability insurance than the amount that the Medical University of South Carolina provides through the South Carolina Budget and Control Board. Students in clinical sites that are requiring additional insurance will be expected to pay the difference. The Nurses Service Organization provides professional liability insurance options through their website at http://www.nso.com/professional-liability-insurance/nurse-coverage.jsp?refID=iiWW1GWi&gclid=CKzqu6Ds6acCFQxI7AodJWkrdQ.

Reserved Parking for Students
Students in the BSN program can apply for parking. For further information check the Parking Management website at:

Students in the online MSN/DNP and PhD program who are required to visit campus for scheduled program activities will be offered a parking pass for the Hagood Parking Lot. Information will be communicated with students at the time of the scheduled visit.

Student Accounting
Students should consult with Student Accounting regarding payment of tuition and fees at http://www.musc.edu/studentaccounting

(Student Health Services)
Student Health Services, located at 30-A Bee Street, provides ambulatory health care to all University students. Services include outpatient treatment for acute and chronic illnesses, preventive health care, and health education. Services are available to all full-time students who are actively enrolled in semester course work and part-time students who have paid the student
All free services end on the day that you take your last exam for the semester. For more information, call 792-3664 or visit their website at: http://www.musc.edu/studenthealth/indexsh.html

The Center for Academic Excellence
The Center for Academic Excellence, located at the second floor of the Education building. The Writing Center, offers academic support through one-on-one course-specific instruction, study group sessions, and critical thinking/study/test-taking skills workshops to students in all six colleges at MUSC. With an assigned course-specific instructor, students can discuss key concepts, extract important information from the text, review class notes, prepare for exams, and compose essays or papers assigned in the course syllabus. In study group sessions or workshops, students can learn skills for improving time management, taking notes more effectively, remembering what they read in the textbook, and preparing for exams more efficiently. For more information, call 792-6390 or visit their website at: http://www.musc.edu/cae/index.htm

The Writing Center
The Writing Center is located on the second floor of the Education building. The Writing Center offers assistance in writing through use of constructive dialogue and one-on-one collaboration. Computers and educational materials, as well as trained personnel experienced in teaching composition and rhetoric, are available at no charge to all MUSC students. Macintosh and IBM computers are available for student use. For more information, call 792-6390 or see the website at: http://www.musc.edu/cae/index.htm

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Section XI:
Student Life
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College Of Nursing Student Organization Officers and Committee Representatives
The Committee Representatives for the Student Government Association, Student Nurses' Association, Multicultural Student Nurses Association and Honor Council can be found on the College of Nursing website at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/organizations.htm

College of Nursing Faculty Committees with Student Representation
Student Representatives for the Doctoral Program Committee Evaluation and Program, Effectiveness Committee, Graduate Program Committee, and Undergraduate Program Committee can be found on the College of Nursing website at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/organizations.htm

Student Organizations and Bylaws
See University Wide Student Organizations and College Related Student Organizations in University Student Handbook at: http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/studenthandbook/organizations/index.html

Student Government Association (MUSC and CON)
The MUSC Student Government Association represents students in all of the six colleges: Dental Medicine, Health Professions, Graduate Studies, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy. The Student Government Association works to integrate student opinion into University planning and policymaking. SGA members represent MUSC students on most university wide committees and the president represents students at semimonthly meetings of the University Board of Trustees.

Members of the MUSC Student Government Association work on the behalf of the students by performing the following services:
1. Facilitating the exchange of information and ideas between the six colleges and all students attending the Medical University of South Carolina.
2. Serving as a liaison between MUSC students and the University administration to represent student opinions, needs, interests, and disseminating and promoting the exchange of information from the administration to students.
3. Taking action to increase the quality of student services and academic programs to further enhance the education of MUSC students.
4. Planning and executing a variety of social, cultural, and recreational events to promote fellowship, personal growth, and interaction with MUSC students and the University community.
5. Maintaining a budget, within the allocated funds, to most effectively serve the MUSC student body.

The College of Nursing Student Government has the same purpose, but at the college level. There is a College of Nursing Student Government Association Constitution and bylaws at: [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/SGACostitutionandBylaws.pdf](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/SGACostitutionandBylaws.pdf)

For complete Student Nursing Association Bylaws go to: [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/StudentNursesAssociationofSCByLaws.pdf](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/documents/StudentNursesAssociationofSCByLaws.pdf)

**Sigma Theta Tau International (Σθ T)**
Gamma Omicron Chapter at Large of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing was established at MUSC in 1978. For membership requirements please visit [http://www.nursingsociety.org/Membership/ApplyNow/Pages/mem_criteria.aspx](http://www.nursingsociety.org/Membership/ApplyNow/Pages/mem_criteria.aspx)

**Student Awards**
Student awards and scholarships can be found on the College of Nursing website at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/financial-aid-scholarships.htm](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/nursing/administration/studentservices/financial-aid-scholarships.htm)

**Student Professional Leadership**
Nursing students enrolled in any of the MUSC College of Nursing programs are expected to demonstrate professional leadership activities as part of their learning experience. Professional leadership is defined as active participation and progressive responsibility in organized activities related to nursing, health care, or education. This implies more than membership in organizations and students are expected to serve on committees, seek elected office, participate in scholarly activities, or take active roles on task forces.

**Examples of Professional Leadership Activities:**

- Serve as elected officer (president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, etc.) of student organizations such as Graduate Student Association, Student Nurses Association, etc.
- Serve as elected officer for professional organizations such as American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), American Nurses Association (ANA), American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE), etc.
- Serve as committee member or chair of the above organizations.
- Selected and participate in the Presidential Scholars program.
- Selected and participate in Research Honors Practicum or other college or university educational honors programs.
- Selected for induction in the Nursing Honor Society, Sigma Theta Tau.
• Act as student liaison to faculty undergraduate or graduate program committees or other College of Nursing or University committees.
• Present posters or lectures at local, regional, national, or international conferences.
• Contribute to ongoing faculty or staff initiated research and scholarly publication of findings.
• Participate in curriculum development, class lectures, or other educations activities beyond individual course requirements.
• Engage in policy development or political activities designed to support specific health or nursing initiatives, laws, regulations, etc.
• Facilitate or implement clinically oriented programs or services to underserved communities beyond course requirements, such as volunteer at rural clinical, medical missionary work in an impoverished country, support disaster relief work, etc.