

**Lurleen B. Wallace
College of Nursing**

**Graduate
Student Handbook
2014-2015**

LURLEEN B. WALLACE COLLEGE OF NURSING
Graduate Student Handbook
Empowering exemplary nurses to care for anyone, anytime, anywhere

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The policies and requirements of the College of Nursing are constantly being reviewed, and are subject to revision by the College. This is necessary in the light of developing technology and changes occurring in the nursing profession. Therefore, the policies and requirements as set out in the latest catalogue and graduate handbook of the College of Nursing will be applicable to all students, regardless of what the policies were on the date of entry into the College.

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It is the intent of this handbook to reflect current academic policies and procedures of the College of Graduate Studies. In the event of changes, additions, or conflicts, the current policies of the College of Graduate Studies shall prevail.

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Background of the College of Nursing

The Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing at Jacksonville State University is one of the few memorial colleges of nursing in the United States. It was created in 1967 by the Legislature of Alabama as a memorial to Governor Lurleen B. Wallace. The first class graduated from the College in August 1972. Graduates of this program earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. The addition of a master of science degree program with a major in community health nursing was approved and implemented in Fall 1999.

Accreditation and Membership

Jacksonville State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Both the baccalaureate and master's programs of the Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education through 2015. Accreditation is an indication of public approbation, attesting to the quality of the education program and continued commitment of the sponsoring institution to support the program. The nursing program has maintained continuous accreditation and Alabama Board of Nursing approval since its inception.

For further information about the accreditation of the program, please contact the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education at the following address:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036-1120
(202) 887-6791

Mission Statement

The College of Nursing delivers evidence based teaching and learning within professional undergraduate and graduate programs to develop quality nurses prepared to engage within the global healthcare environment with emphasis on practice, service and scholarship.

Vision Statement

Empowering exemplary nurses to care for anyone, anytime, anywhere.

Core Values

Professional values serve as a foundation for nursing practice.

1. Professionalism
2. Integrity
3. Compassionate Care
4. Nursing Knowledge
5. Student-centered learning
6. Excellence
7. Communication and Collaboration
8. Diversity and Inclusion

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Definitions of Core Values

Professionalism – is inclusive of attributes, beliefs, and communication that are characterized by respect for others, integrity, responsibility, accountability, courage, humility, advocacy and an innovative spirit which demonstrate the caring nature of a nurse.

Integrity is a quality that encompasses honesty, truthfulness, and indicative of a person who displays morality and good character.

Compassionate Care – is an attribute which represents fundamental actions by all nurses, nurse faculty, and students characterized by supportive, protective quality care in all dimensions of the individual including physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual.

Nursing Knowledge – encompasses the inclusive total of the philosophies, theories, research, and practice wisdom of the discipline. As a professional discipline this knowledge is important for guiding the safe practice of nursing (Smith & Liehr, 2008).

Student-centered learning—Student-centered learning includes multiple learning experiences and instructional approaches which shift the focus from the instructor to the student. Instructors guide learning which is designed to address student learning needs, interests, goals, cultural differences, and career aspirations while effecting desired program outcomes. Student-centered learning allows the individual student to have an active role in the teaching/learning relationship.

Excellence – is reflected in evidence-based teaching and learning achieved by both faculty and students where exemplary scholarship, service, teaching, and practice are valued by all stakeholders in the academic and practice environments.

Communication and Collaboration –consist of collaborative relationships and community partnerships among students, faculty, patients, and other stakeholders to facilitate the delivery of coordinated patient-centered care. Effective communication is an essential component of professional teamwork and collaboration.

Diversity and Inclusion – compose the totality of attracting both students and faculty from a variety of backgrounds and ethnicities to create a multicultural community of learners. It is not enough to only attract but also to authentically include all cultures within the academic and practice milieus to promote delivery of culturally sensitive and compassionate care.

Smith, M. J., & Liehr, P. R. (2008). Middle range theory for nursing. New York: Springer Publishing.

8/2014 Revised

College Goals

To achieve this mission, the College will,

1. Deliver innovative quality nursing education programs at the baccalaureate and graduate levels.
2. Engage in continuous quality improvement practices to ensure relevance of the curricula in an evolving complex healthcare environment.
3. Foster faculty development that enhances the scholarship of teaching, research, and service.
4. Recruit, develop, and retain diverse students and faculty who possess knowledge, skills, and attitudes reflective of the nursing profession.
5. Develop collaborative partnerships and inter-professional relationships designed to meet the needs of internal and external communities of interest.

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6. Use technology to foster innovation in nursing practice, nursing education, and evidence-based decision making.
7. Promote scholarship, service, and practice activities that include students and faculty.

05/2014

College Learning Outcomes (CLO's):

Upon completion of the Jacksonville State University College of Nursing programs, the student will be competent in and demonstrate critical thinking, therapeutic nursing interventions, effective communication and professional behavior.

- I. Critical thinking reflects skills in reasoning, analysis, evidence based practice, and decision making relevant to the discipline of nursing. Critical thinking encompasses knowledge, skills, and values from the arts and sciences to provide safe and quality care to diverse populations. Critical thinking integrates knowledge and skills in leadership, quality improvement, and safety in providing high quality health care. Critical thinking examines the role of financial and regulatory health policies and their effects on health care systems.
- II. Therapeutic Nursing Interventions (TNI) reflect the ability to safely perform theory and/or evidence based patient centered nursing interventions reflective of professional knowledge, skills, and attitudes. TNI reflect the synthesis of evidence-based practice to improve patient outcomes and identify practice issues.
- III. Effective Communication. Effective Communication reflects the students' interpersonal relationship skills reflective of professional values/attitudes evidenced through effective written, oral and nonverbal communication, group process, use of information technology, and the ability to adapt communication to needs of the patient/family, colleagues, health care team and situation. Effective Communication reflects synthesis of communication and collaboration as an interprofessional team member to deliver high quality, safe patient centered care.
- IV. Professional behavior. The College of Nursing (CON) embraces the professional values promulgated by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the American Association of Nursing (ANA) Code of Ethics. Professional behavior expectations, in both classroom and clinical settings, include respect for all, a primary commitment to the patient, advocacy for the health, safety and rights of patients, responsibility and accountability for one's own nursing practice, duty to self to maintain integrity, competence and professional growth, ownership of a healthy work/health care environment, contributions to the advancement of the profession, interprofessional collaboration, and the articulation of nursing's values and the shaping of social policy.

Program Learning Outcomes (graduate)

1. Synthesize theories from the humanities and the natural, behavioral, and applied sciences which support advanced clinical practice and role development. (PLO's I, II, and IV; Critical Thinking, Therapeutic Nursing Interventions, and Professional Behavior); (MSN Essentials I and Essential II)
2. Develop advanced practice expertise to affect positive health care outcomes for vulnerable populations. (PLO's I and II; Critical Thinking and Therapeutic Nursing Interventions); (MSN Essential IX)

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3. Assume accountability for ethical values, principles, and personal beliefs that acknowledge human diversity and influence professional practice decisions and nursing interventions. (PLOS's I, II, III and IV; Critical Thinking, Therapeutic Nursing Interventions, Effective Communication and Professional Behavior); (MSN Essential VIII)
4. Employ effective communication and technology within the multidisciplinary collaborative context of advanced community health nursing practice. (PLO's II, III, and IV; Therapeutic Nursing Interventions, Effective Communication, and Professional Behavior); (MSN Essentials V and VII)
5. Design cost-effective interventions/strategies collaboratively with multiple disciplines for the purpose of providing quality health care within the community. (PLO's II and III; Therapeutic Nursing Interventions and Effective Communication); (MSN Essential III)
6. Evaluate research findings for the development and implementation of evidence-based practice guidelines. (PLO's II and III; Therapeutic Nursing Interventions and Effective Communication); (MSN Essential IV)
7. Evaluate health care issues, trends, and policies for application to the health status of communities. (PLOS's II, III and IV; Therapeutic Nursing Interventions, Effective Communication and Professional Behavior); (MSN Essential VI)

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Master of Science in Nursing
Major: Community Health Nursing

A total of 38 semester hours is required for this program. Full-time and part-time options are available.

All courses are delivered in an online format. Students may enter the program at the beginning of any semester-fall, spring, or summer. Full-time and part-time study options are available. A comprehensive examination is required during the final semester and is administered on campus. MSN Online Orientation is provided by the Director, Graduate Nursing Programs.

Sample Plan of Study

Semester 1 (Fall, August - December)

NU 501 MSN Online Orientation	
NU 504 Theories in Nursing	2 SH
NU 507 Health Assessment	3 SH
NU 514 Health Assessment Practicum	1 SH
NU 518 Organizational and Systems	3 SH

Semester 2 (Spring, January - April)

NU 513 Pathophysiology	3 SH
NU 527 Epidemiology	2 SH
NU 544 Statistical Methods in Healthcare	3 SH
NU 542 Transcultural Nursing and Healthcare	3 SH

Semester 3 (Summer, May - August)

NU 522 Research Methodology	3 SH
NU 540 Community Health I	6 SH

Semester 4 (Fall, August - December)

NU 545 Community Health II	6 SH
NU 520 Pharmacology	3 SH

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Master of Science in Nursing
Major: Community Health with Concentration in Nursing Education

A total of 50 semester hours is required for this program. Full-time and part-time options are available.

All courses are delivered in an online format. Students may enter the program at the beginning of any semester-fall, spring, or summer. Full-time and part-time study options are available. A comprehensive examination is required during the final semester and is administered on campus. MSN Online Orientation is provided by the Director, Graduate Nursing Programs.

Sample Plan of Study

Semester 1 (Fall)

NU 501 MSN Orientation (0 hours)

NU 504 Theories 2 SH

NU 518 Organizational Leadership and Systems Mgt in Comm Health Nur 3 SH

NU 550 Dev Inst Prog in Nurs Edu 3 SH (education course)

Semester 2 (Spring)

NU 527 Epidemiology 2 SH

NU 544 Statistical Methods in Healthcare 3 SH

NU 553 Issues & Trends in Nursing Edu 3 SH (education course)

Semester 3 (Summer)

NU 522 Research 3 SH

NU 551 Teach, Learn, Eval in Nursing 3 SH (education course)

NU 542 Transcultural Nursing and Healthcare 3 SH

Semester 4 (Fall)

NU 507 Health Assessment 3 SH

- **Co-requisite: NU 514**

NU 514 Health Assessment Practicum 1 SH (40 hour clinical requirement)

- **Co-requisite: NU 507**

NU 520 Advanced Pharmacology 3 SH

Semester 5 (Spring)

NU 513 Pathophysiology 3 SH

NU 552 Practicum in Col Nurs Ed 3 SH (education course) (100 hour clinical requirement)

- **(Prerequisites: NU 550, 551, & 553)**

Semester 6 (Summer)

NU 540 Community Health I 6 SH (234 hour clinical requirement)

- **(Prerequisites: NU 504, 507, 513, 514, 518, 527, & 544)**

Semester 7 (Fall)

NU 545 Community Health II 6 SH (234 hour clinical requirement)

- **(Prerequisite: NU 540 & NU 522)**

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Master of Science in Nursing
Major: Community Health with Concentration in Emergency Management

A total of 53 semester hours is required for this program. Full-time and part-time options are available.

All courses are delivered in an online format. Students may enter the program at the beginning of any semester-fall, spring, or summer. Full-time and part-time study options are available. A comprehensive examination is required during the final semester and is administered on campus. MSN Online Orientation is provided by the Director, Graduate Nursing Programs.

Sample Plan of Study

Semester 1 (Fall)

NU 501 MSN Orientation (0 hours)

NU 504 Theories 2 SH

NU 518 Organizational Leadership and Systems Mgt in Comm Health Nur 3 SH

EM 505 Foundations of Emergency Management 3 SH

Semester 2 (Spring)

NU 527 Epidemiology 2 SH

NU 544 Statistical Methods in Healthcare 3 SH

EM 555 Disaster Response 3 SH

Semester 3 (Summer)

NU 522 Research 3 SH

EM 545 Emergency Preparedness 3 SH

NU 542 Transcultural Nursing and Healthcare 3 SH

Semester 4 (Fall)

NU 507 Health Assessment 3 SH

- **Co-requisite: NU 514**

NU 514 Health Assessment Practicum 1 SH (40 hour clinical requirement)

- **Co-requisite: NU 507**

NU 520 Advanced Pharmacology 3 SH

EM 575 Medical Aspects of Emergency Management 3 SH

Semester 5 (Spring)

NU 513 Pathophysiology 3 SH

EM Elective – choices will be EM 570, EM 576 or EM 577 *EM 548 only taught in summer even years

Semester 6 (Summer)

NU 540 Community Health I 6 SH (234 hour clinical requirement)

- **(Prerequisites: NU 504, 507, 513, 514, 518, 527, & 544)**

Semester 7 (Fall)

NU 545 Community Health II 6 SH (234 hour clinical requirement)

- **(Prerequisite: NU 540 & NU 522)**

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Course Descriptions

NU 501. MSN Online Orientation (0) - Online orientation is designed to provide a framework for delivery of essential information designed to promote academic success of the newly enrolled graduate student; and to provide consistent introduction to online services at the university.

NU 504. Theories in Nursing (2) - Examines theories foundational to the knowledge and practice of nursing, mechanisms for theory development and critique, and analysis of essential concepts unique to nursing theory.

NU 507. Advanced Health Assessment (3) - Presents advanced theoretical concepts of health assessment including interviewing and health history processes, physical examination, documentation of findings and clinical diagnostic judgments regarding the health care needs of vulnerable populations, communities and patients across the lifespan. *Co-Requisite NU 514*

NU 513. Pathophysiology (3) – An advanced, systems-based exploration of normal human physiological function in relation to physiological changes that occur as a result of disease. Includes advances in genetics, immunology, and molecular biology.

NU 514. Health Assessment Practicum (1) - Practical application skills related to data collection and analysis essential to comprehensive health assessment of various age groups; validates knowledge to perform complete health assessment of individuals and families as they exist in the community as well as analyze collected data for indicators of health maintenance or alterations in health. *Co-Requisite NU 507*

NU 518. Organizational and Systems Leadership in Community Health Nursing (3) – Provides opportunities to review, examine, and analyze individual, family, and population based care from a community health perspective and synthesize selected issues that affect the role responsibilities of the advanced community health nurse within systems and organizations.

NU 520. Pharmacology (3) Designed to augment and support the practice of the APN. Encompasses the prescriptive role of the APN, legal statutes, general principles of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics, treatment guidelines related to evidence based practices, pharmacology concerns for special populations, and drugs most commonly used in primary care.

NU 522. Research Methodology (3) Facilitate synthesis of the research process, appraisal of research, and implementation of research for an evidence-based practice.

NU 527. Epidemiology (2) - Study of various factors as they relate to the occurrence, frequency, and distribution of disease across the lifespan; includes origin, transmission, host/environmental factors that influence the development of disease, as well as issues related to health planning, policy, and evaluation.

NU 540. Community Health I (6) – Application of advanced specialized knowledge relevant to health promotion/disease prevention issues in select populations. Clinical experiences will be designed to meet individual learning needs of the MSN student in implementing the multifaceted role of the community health clinical nurse specialist. *Prerequisites: NU 504, 507, 513, 514, 518, 527, 544.*

NU 542. Transcultural Nursing and Health Care (3) – An exploration of theoretical foundations for cultural diversity in health and illness. Assessment and analysis of selected cultures as related to nursing and health care practices will be emphasized.

NU 544. Statistical Methods in Healthcare (3) - Introduction into data management and applied statistics. Primarily for graduate nursing students with focus on probability concepts, descriptive statistics, and hypothesis testing with parametric and non-parametric procedures using Excel.

NU 545. Community Health II (6) – Application of advanced specialized knowledge relevant to implementing and evaluating programs for community health, with an emphasis on evidence-based interventions with vulnerable populations and aggregates. Clinical experiences will be designed to meet individual learning needs of the MSN student in providing care for selected aggregates and/or populations. *Prerequisite: NU 540, 522.*

NU 550. Developing Instructional Programs in Collegiate Nursing Education (3) – Development of curricular components for nursing instructional programs. Examines the relationships among philosophy, goals, and outcomes for various learning environments.

NU 551. Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation in Collegiate Nursing Education (3) – Focuses on teaching-learning theories, processes, strategies, and styles. Examines evaluation principles in the classroom and clinical setting.

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NU 552. Practicum in Collegiate Nursing Education (3) – Application of teaching-learning theories/strategies, assessment and measurement methods, curricular frameworks, and nursing knowledge in an educational context. *Prerequisite: 550,551,553*

NU 553. Issues and Trends in Collegiate Nursing Education (3) – Exploration of issues and trends influencing the role of the nursing educator. Includes analysis of technological, legal, economic, political, cultural, and ethical issues, and professional dynamics.

NU 581. Independent Study (1) – Special project in nursing/informatics studies. *Prerequisite: Permission of advisor.*

NU 582. Independent Study (2) – Special project in nursing/informatics studies. *Prerequisite: Permission of advisor.*

NU 583. Independent Study (3) – Special project in nursing/informatics studies. *Prerequisite: Permission of advisor.*

EM 505. Foundations of Emergency Management (3) - History of the profession; contemporary emergency management concepts, functions, and practices for government, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector.

EM 545. Emergency Preparedness (3) - Prerequisite: EM 505. Preparedness frameworks and strategies; techniques of emergency operations planning, exercise design and evaluation, and public education. *Prerequisite: EM 505.*

EM 548. Vulnerability and Capacity Building (3). Individual, social, economic and policy dimensions of vulnerability and client needs for disaster; service delivery strategies, coordination models, resource management and capacity building for nonprofit disaster relief organizations. *Prerequisite: EM 505.*

EM 555. Disaster Response (3) - Context of disaster response, response functions, assessment, resource mobilization and adjudication, and emergency operations center (EOC) operations. *Prerequisite: EM 505.*

EM 570. Biosecurity (3). A detailed review of global concerns for biosecurity including the history of biological warfare, bioterrorism, concerns for agroterrorism and current initiatives in bio-defense. Included will be a thorough review of specific agents, the diseases they cause, detection methodologies, and consequence management consideration.

EM 575. Medical Aspects of Emergency Management (3). Surveillance and rapid needs assessment, disaster epidemiology, disaster medical systems and approaches, and disaster mental health. *Prerequisites: EM 505 and EM 555.*

EM 576. Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualties (3). Delivered via *Homeland Security CDP.*

EM 577. Pandemic Planning and Preparedness (3). Delivered via *Homeland Security CDP.*

Academic Regulations and Procedures

Grading System

The following represents the grading system used by the University in graduate courses and the basis upon which quality points are earned. The grade point average (GPA) may be determined by dividing the quality points earned by the number of hours attempted.

- A - four quality points per hour (90-100)
- B - three quality points per hour (80-89)
- C - two quality points per hour (70-79)
- F - Failing - No quality points (Below 70).
- P - Passing. Grade given for selected courses as specified in course descriptions in the catalogue. The grade of P does not affect the G.P.A. The grade of F on a pass or fail course is computed as a regular F grade.

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I - Incomplete - no quality points. See University Graduate Bulletin for details.
NC - No Credit. See University Graduate Bulletin for details
W/P - withdraw passing. Zero quality points.
W/F - withdraw failing. Counts as an F with zero quality points.
X - Audit - no credit.

Retention Policy

In accordance with University policy, graduate students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in graduate courses attempted. An unconditionally admitted student whose GPA falls below the required minimum will be placed on probation and will receive notification of the requirements to reestablish good standing. Any student who does not attain good standing, as specified in their notification letter, will be dropped from graduate study.

Students who are granted conditional admission must achieve an overall GPA of at least 3.0 on the first 12 graduate hours attempted. Failure to comply will result in the student being dismissed from the program.

The maximum number of hours of C grades permitted to count toward a master's degree is six semester hours.

Reapplication Process

A student who has been dropped from the MSN program may appeal for readmission. Admission decisions are based on a review of the applicant's academic history as it relates to potential for satisfactory performance in graduate courses. It is the responsibility of the student to present convincing evidence of a significant improvement in potential for success to the Appeals Committee of the University Graduate Council. Procedures for the process of petitioning for readmission are available in the office of the Dean or Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies, 320 Bibb Graves Hall.

Time Limit on Degree Completion

Only approved credit, including transfer credit, earned during six (6) calendar years (from completion of the first course requirement of the program to completion of the last program requirement) will be counted toward a graduate degree. This regulation applies to credit earned at JSU and all transfer credits from other institutions.

Transfer of Graduate Credit

The maximum of 17 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred to JSU from another accredited graduate school for application to MSN degree requirements. Evaluation of transfer credit is made by the MSN graduate council and is approved by the Dean, College of Graduate Studies.

Only graduate courses with grades of A, B, P, and S may be transferred to JSU. College of Graduate Studies policies stipulate that grades of C or below will not be eligible for transfer. Transfer credit must meet the six year time limit requirement. The maximum number of hours of C grades permitted to count toward a master's degree is six semester hours.

There are two steps in the procedure for transferring credit. First, a student must complete a Transfer Credit Request Form listing the transfer course(s) and return the form to the College of Graduate Studies. Second, students should request that official transcripts from other institutions at which credit was earned be sent directly to the College of Graduate Studies at JSU. Course descriptions should also be supplied by the student for any courses in which transfer credit is requested. It is the responsibility of the student to assure that the transcript has been received.

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Participation Policy

Students are held responsible for participation in all course activities and assignments for the courses in which they register. Students are expected to notify the course faculty of an intended absence from online participation prior to the date of scheduled course activities or assignments. This policy also applies to scheduled participation in practicum experiences with a preceptor.

Dropping Courses

Students must seek advisement from the Director of Graduate Nursing Programs or the Student Services Director for Graduate Nursing Programs prior to dropping any course for which they are registered.

Comprehensive Examination

A written comprehensive examination is required of all candidates for the MSN degree. The examination will focus on a synthesis of concepts presented throughout the curriculum.

The examination will be scheduled during the semester in which the student is enrolled in the last course(s) needed to complete the degree (generally NU 545). Application for the comprehensive examination/degree must be filed in the office of the College of Graduate Studies no later than the end of the first week of the semester or term in which the student plans to complete all program requirements. Students who plan to graduate in August should complete the application for the comprehensive examination/degree by the first day of class of the May Term.

If, after applying, the student elects not to take the comprehensive examination, the student must submit a written request to the office of the College of Graduate Studies to withdraw the application for the current semester.

If the student fails the comprehensive examination, the student must petition the Dean, College of Graduate Studies, for the privilege of taking a second comprehensive examination the following semester.

The comprehensive examination is administered on campus and may be repeated only once. If the student resides outside a 150 mile radius of the JSU campus, he/she may opt to take the comprehensive exam in a proctored setting using the ProctorU program (see JSU Distance Education website). A student will be dismissed from the MSN program after two unsuccessful attempts to pass the examination.

Application for Graduation

MSN students should file an application for degree/comprehensive examination in the office of the College of Graduate Studies no later than the end of the first week for the semester the student plans to graduate. The application for degree and comprehensive examination are included on one form.

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Student Appeal and/or Grievance Procedure

An appeal challenges a decision that has been made; a grievance is a complaint seeking a resolution to a specific problem. The same procedure is followed for either.

I. Student Initiated Appeals and Grievances

The appeal and grievance procedures are each divided into two phases, an “Informal Phase” and a “Formal Phase.” The Informal Phase is intended to attempt to resolve an issue through meeting and discussion with the faculty member or members involved and the Course Coordinator. Should the student be dissatisfied with the results obtained in the Informal Phase, a formal appeal may be made. In such case, the procedures outlined in the “Formal Phase” shall be followed.

Informal Phase.

1. A student wishing to appeal a decision or discuss a grievance or complaint shall, within three (3) working days of the event/issue, arrange to speak with the faculty member(s) and Course Coordinator involved in the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved at this level, the student may initiate an appeal and the resolution procedure then enters the Formal Phase. The faculty member(s) and Course Coordinator shall compile a written report of the issue or issues presented, a summary of the facts, a summary of any attempts to resolve the issue and the ultimate decision made, and submit this report to the Program Director and Associate Dean. If delivered electronically, a paper copy of the record shall be provided forthwith.

Formal Phase.

1. Completion of the Informal Phase by a student is mandatory and shall be completed before an appeal can be made. A student wishing to file a formal appeal of a decision or grievance/complaint must contact the Program Director in writing within three working days of the meeting with the faculty/Course Coordinator. The Program Director shall ensure the student has access to the Appeal/Grievance Process.
2. The student must submit a written account of the relevant issue or issues involved to the Program Director and Associate Dean. Only information presented by the student at this time can be used in any phase of the appeal. The Program Director and Associate Dean shall thereafter meet with the student, review the appeal or grievance as well as the record of the Informal Phase, and attempt to resolve the issue. If the appeal or grievance is not resolved, the student shall be informed of his/her right to meet with the Dean. A student wishing to have an adverse decision reviewed by the Dean of the College shall deliver, within three (3) working days of being informed of the decision, a written request for review to the Office of the Dean. A summary of the proceedings before the Faculty/Course Coordinator, Program Director and Associate Dean, along with the student’s written account, shall be forwarded to the Dean. The Dean shall thereafter set a time and place to meet with the student
3. If the appeal or grievance is pursued, the student will meet with the Dean. The Dean may, but is not required to, include members of the faculty and staff of the College of Nursing and the University Attorney. Information from the student, faculty, Course Coordinator, Program Director, and Associate Dean will be reviewed. Only information provided in the student’s written account and information from the review by the Faculty/Course Coordinator, Director and Associate Dean will be allowed. The decision of the Dean shall be final.

II. Faculty Initiated Grievances

A grievance initiated by nursing faculty or administrators against a student will proceed as follows:

1. The student will be notified in writing of the allegation(s) against him/her.

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2. The student, and involved faculty member(s)/Course Coordinator shall meet to discuss the basis of the grievance/complaint. The student will be provided the opportunity to respond to the allegations.
3. After the initial meeting, the student will be allowed three (3) working days to provide, in writing, additional information relevant to the grievance/complaint.
4. Faculty Member(s)/Course Coordinator will render a decision in writing, and if the decision is adverse to the student shall therein apprise the student of the procedure to appeal the decision, as heretofore set out.
4. If the student wishes to appeal, he/she must submit a written account of the relevant issue or issues involved to the Program Director and Associate Dean. The Program Director and Associate Dean shall thereafter meet with the student, review the appeal or grievance and attempt to resolve the issue. If the appeal or grievance is not resolved, the student shall be informed of his/her right to meet with the Dean.
5. A student wishing to have an adverse decision reviewed by the Dean of the College shall deliver, within three (3) working days of being informed of the decision, a written request for review to the Office of the Dean. A summary of the proceedings before the Faculty/Course Coordinator, Program Director and Associate Dean, along with the student's written account, shall be forwarded to the Dean. The Dean shall thereafter set a time a place to meet with the student. The Dean may, but is not required to, include the faculty and staff of the College of Nursing and the University Attorney. The decision of the Dean shall be final.
6. The Dean will notify the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and the JSU University Judicial Coordinator of a sustained grievance against a student, as appropriate.

Professional Scholar's Code

The Professional Scholar's Code is an honor system adopted in an effort to promote high ethical standards within the College of Nursing. A copy of the Professional Scholar's Code is found in Appendix A.

Portfolio

Students will compile an electronic portfolio of assignments from various courses for the purposes of providing evidence of program competencies and marketing of advanced knowledge and skills to prospective employers. Specific guidelines will be presented in individual courses.

Sigma Theta Tau

Sigma Theta Tau is the International Honor Society of Nursing. The Zeta Xi Chapter of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is chartered by Sigma Theta Tau. The purposes of this organization are to recognize superior achievements and leadership, foster high professional standards, encourage creative work, and strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession.

Sigma Theta Tau endeavors to seek out and reward students in baccalaureate or higher degree nursing programs that have demonstrated ability in nursing as evidenced by superior academic achievement. Students in master's programs are required to achieve a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale and complete one-fourth of the program of study to be considered for membership.

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Student Representatives on Committees

Students are invited and encouraged to participate in the governance of the College of Nursing. Students are appointed by the Director of Graduate Nursing Programs to the College of Nursing Graduate Council.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, referred to as HIPAA, was originally enacted as a means to allow employees to maintain their healthcare coverage when changing jobs, but has grown into regulations for the healthcare industry. Certain types of patient information are referred to as Protected Health Information and are legally protected under the HIPAA Privacy Regulations and must be treated in a special way.

Protected Health Information encompasses almost anything that can be used to identify the patient such as name and address. It also includes identifiers such as birth date, social security number, medical record number, telephone number, or patient account number. Any piece of information that can be used to discover the individual identity of a specific patient or lead to access to the patient's medical information equals **protected health information**.

Under the HIPAA Privacy Regulations, agencies are required to give patients a copy of its written Notice of Privacy Practices at the time of registration for admission or for an outpatient service encounter. This document will disclose how the agency plans to access, use, and disclose the patient's protected health information.

Disciplinary action will be enforced against persons who do not follow the privacy policies and procedures that are required under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

Student Responsibilities

Health Insurance

All students in the MSN program are required to have health insurance while attending clinicals in practicum courses. At the beginning of each semester that student is enrolled in a practicum course, the student will complete and submit the "Health Insurance Form" to the College of Nursing graduate program office, along with a health insurance card or copy of the check submitted to the insurance company for verification.

Student Responsibility for Health Care

In the event of sickness or injury, students are responsible for all costs related to the provision of medical care, as needed, in the clinical setting.

Malpractice Insurance

Hospitals and health agencies cooperating with the College of Nursing require students to carry malpractice insurance. A non-refundable fee of approximately \$15.00 per year is required of graduate students engaged in clinical nursing courses/preceptorships or students must provide documentation of current professional malpractice insurance by a private insurer.

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Health Appraisal Requirements

All students in the MSN program who are involved in clinical nursing courses are required to have a physical examination on an annual basis. The findings are to be reported on the appropriate health forms. The health forms are posted on the College of Nursing website under MSN program. Participation in clinical activities is contingent upon satisfactory completion of all health requirements.

Requirements for TB Skin Test

All nursing students involved in clinical courses must present written documentation for Tuberculosis (TB) screening with negative results (or appropriate treatment if positive). Students will be required to obtain a two-step Tuberculin skin test before starting clinical rotations and are mandated to renew the Tuberculin one-step skin test once per year.* The TB skin test must be valid through the clinical semester. Acceptable documentation consists of evidence of the TB test on letterhead from the facility that provided the test.

Students testing positive will be required to comply with the current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) treatment recommendations. Failure to comply with the CDC requirements will result in dismissal from the nursing program. Students who have had a positive TB skin test in the past will be required to get a chest x-ray. Clearance from a physician reading the chest-x-ray will be required. The physician will need to make recommendations regarding the need for a chest x-ray on an annual basis, or no further need for testing unless the person becomes symptomatic

* If one verifies by supporting documentation a 2-step (14 days apart) PPD in the past with yearly PPDs thereafter, a current PPD is the only requirement. Yearly PPDs are required after admission.

Requirements for Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

All nursing students involved in clinical courses must present written documentation of immunity to Measles (Rubeola), Mumps, and Rubella.

- Students born in 1957 or later must do one of the following to be considered immune to measles, mumps, or rubella:
 - Provide documentation of (a) physician-diagnosed measles or mumps disease
 - Provide laboratory evidence of measles, mumps, or rubella immunity from a blood sample titer
 - Provide evidence of appropriate vaccination against measles, mumps, and rubella (i.e., administration on or after the first birthday of two doses of live measles and mumps vaccines separated by 28 days or more, and at least one dose of live rubella vaccine).
- Students born in 1957 or later without serologic evidence of immunity or prior vaccination should receive 2 doses of MMR, 4 weeks apart.
- Students born before 1957 should discuss the need for MMR vaccination with their health care provider if they do not have a history of physician-diagnosed measles and mumps disease (or laboratory evidence of immunity from blood sample titer) and do not have laboratory evidence of rubella immunity. These students may be particularly vulnerable in the event of a mumps outbreak.

If blood titers reveal an “indeterminate” or “equivocal” level of immunity, the student will be considered nonimmune. Further recommendations related to any of the above categories may be made by the student’s health care provider. As a result the student may be required to sign a “Low Titer Waiver”.

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Requirements for Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (TD/TDAP)

All nursing students involved in clinical courses must present written documentation for Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis. All students who have completed a primary series of a tetanus/diphtheria-containing product (DTP, TDaP, DT, Td) should receive Td boosters every 10 years.

Students should also be given a 1-time dose of Tdap as soon as feasible (give if TD booster has not been received in the last two years).

Requirements for Hepatitis B Vaccine

Healthcare personnel (HCP) who perform tasks that may involve exposure to blood or body fluids should receive vaccinations for Hepatitis B. This includes all nursing students involved in clinical courses. The following process should be followed by students of the College of Nursing:

1. Students should provide proof of a 3-dose series of hepatitis B vaccine at 0-, 1-, and 6-month intervals.
 - a. If series occurred prior to acceptance to upper division, students should provide evidence of series to designated facility.
 - b. If series has not occurred or been interrupted, the student should receive series from designated facility.

Requirements for Varicella Vaccine

All nursing students involved in clinical courses must present written documentation of immunity to varicella. All nursing students enrolled in clinical courses must present written documentation of immunity to varicella (chickenpox) through one of the following:

- Having received 2 doses of varicella vaccine given at least 28 days apart
- Having had a physician diagnosis of a history of varicella or herpes zoster or laboratory confirmation of disease
- Demonstrate laboratory evidence of immunity

Before a student can receive the varicella vaccine, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) requires a **negative varicella titer**. The ADPH guidelines state that individuals who receive their first dose of varicella vaccine after the thirteenth birthday must be given two doses at least one month apart.

If a blood titer test reveals a non-immune status, the student must follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended guidelines and receive two (2) doses of vaccine. This is also a requirement from the clinical affiliates that are used for clinical.

Pregnancy in clinical courses

Students enrolled in clinical nursing courses are expected to be fully capable of performing the various tasks required by the clinical nursing program without endangering patient or self. Therefore, the following policy regarding pregnancy will be effective.

1. Upon learning of the pregnancy, the student will provide the College with a statement from her attending health care provider concerning the expected date of delivery and her ability to perform in the clinical setting.

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2. The student will provide a copy of the statement from her attending physician to the student's clinical Course Coordinator. If enrolled in two (2) concurrent clinical courses, both clinical Course Coordinators must be notified.
3. Throughout the remainder of the pregnancy, at the beginning of every semester, the student should present a statement from her attending health care provider (dated within prior 30 days) clearing the student to participate in the clinical setting.
4. A student will not be permitted to enroll in or remain in clinical nursing courses if the pregnancy will unduly interfere with the performance of her clinical assignments. The student is responsible for immediately notifying the clinical Course Coordinator of any significant changes in her pregnancy status that might affect her ability to perform clinical assignments or might endanger herself, her expected child, or the patients in the clinical setting.
5. A more stringent policy may be put into effect if experience shows that the implementation of this announced policy is hazardous to the health of the student, her expected child, or the patients served in the clinical courses.
6. After delivery, the student must present documentation from her health care provider that she may resume clinical.

Professional Apparel

Students are responsible for wearing attire appropriate for the selected clinical setting (uniform or lab coat). Graduate students are required to wear a College of Nursing name badge in the clinical setting. Students should contact the MSN Program Office for directions on obtaining a College of Nursing name badge. The badge should include JSU College of Nursing, student's name, licensure as RN, and MSN Student.

License

Each student is required to provide proof of a current, unencumbered registered nurse licensure throughout the MSN program.

CPR Certification

Graduate students enrolled in clinical nursing courses must maintain certification in CPR of adults and children. When registering for a clinical course, students must present documentation that CPR certification will be valid throughout the semester.

Requirement for Drug Screening

All students are expected to abide by the Impairment and Substance Abuse Testing Policy and any subsequent revisions to the policy, in order to participate or continue in the Jacksonville State University College of Nursing programs. This policy requires all students enrolled in clinical courses in the College of to submit to pre-clinical testing, random testing, and mandatory drug testing based upon reasonable suspicion of substance abuse. Drug screening is conducted in accordance with the Impairment and Substance Abuse Testing Policy (see Appendix B).

Criminal Background Check for Faculty, Part Time Clinical Associates/Adjuncts and Students

All nursing faculty, part time clinical associates and adjuncts, and students must have a background check completed prior to acceptance in their respective role. In the case of faculty, clinical associates, and

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adjuncts, the University's employment process also requires one or more additional background checks. The information obtained from the College of Nursing investigation will be shared with the Dean in the College of Nursing, and with the administrative personnel at any/all assigned clinical sites or agencies as required by the policies of these agencies or institutions. The information obtained in the reports rendered to the University shall be kept confidential except to the extent necessary in making admission, employment, and clinical assignment decisions.

Policies mandating criminal background checks are congruent with The Joint Commission (TJC), (*TJC Standard HR.1.20.05 requires a criminal background check for staff and students as well as volunteers who work in the same capacity as staff who provide care, treatment, and services.*)

Faculty, clinical associates, adjuncts, and nursing students must be successfully cleared through criminal background checks, healthcare licensing or certification registries and state boards of nursing prior to engaging in patient contact.

Blood and Body Fluid Exposure

The Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing faculty, staff, and students adhere to Standard Blood and Body Fluid Precautions. One principle of these precautions is to assume that all patients are potential carriers of blood-borne disease. In addition, health care workers should assume themselves to be potential carriers. They must exercise caution so as to protect both patients and health care workers from exposure to blood and body fluids.

Students are responsible for adhering to the established accidental exposure policies, procedures of the clinical agency, and the College with respect to reporting and documentation of the incident (see Appendix D for Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Policy).

Approval to Practice As a Clinical Nurse Specialist

The Alabama Board of Nursing Administrative Code stipulates that only those registered nurses approved by the Board may practice as clinical nurse specialists, may hold themselves out to be clinical nurse specialists and/or use the title to imply that they are clinical nurse specialists. Qualifications for approval and procedure for application and approval to practice as a clinical nurse specialist may be obtained through the Board at www.abn.state.al.us/

Certification Information

Certification as a Public Health Nurse-Advanced is available through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Information regarding the certification examination, eligibility requirements and applications process may be found at the following link: <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Advanced-PublicHealthNursing>

Student Financial Aid

Jacksonville State University offers a broad program of financial aid to assist as many qualified students as possible. Since the University cannot meet the financial needs of all applicants, students are also urged to investigate outside sources of aid.

Most aid programs are based on the individual need of the applicant. Demonstrated financial need is determined by completing an independent, standardized need analysis form called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the web at www.fafsa.gov. The JSU Title IV Code is 001020.

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Those interested in detailed information on federal financial aid should request The Student Guide by writing the Federal Student Aid Information Center, P.O. Box 84, Washington DC 20044. Additional information may also be secured from the JSU Office of Student Financial Services or from the internet at www.nasfaa.org.

Loans

Specific information about loans available to eligible graduate students may be obtained in the *Graduate Bulletin* or by contacting the Office of Student Financial Services.

Alabama Board of Nursing Scholarships

The status of Alabama Board of Nursing scholarships is determined annually based on funding from the Alabama Legislature. Candidate qualifications, scholarship conditions, and other information may be obtained through the Board at (334) 293-5200 or <http://www.abn.state.al.us/Content.aspx?id=202>

Graduate Assistantships

Salaried graduate assistantships may be awarded on a semester basis to MSN students. The positions are primarily for clinical/lab assistants. In addition to a monthly stipend, the assistantship covers JSU tuition costs. Applications may be obtained in the College of Graduate Studies. Interested MSN students should contact the Director of Graduate Nursing Programs.

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Appendix A
The Professional Scholars' Code

I. Professional Scholars' Code

A. Introduction

The academic community of student, faculty and staff at the College of Nursing (CON) strives to develop, sustain and protect an environment of honesty, trust and respect. Students within the system receive the benefits of the academic pursuit of knowledge, free from the obstacles of academic dishonesty and unprofessional behavior. The Professional Scholar's Code demands that students act with integrity and professionalism in all of their endeavors. Exhibiting honesty and professionalism in academic pursuits and reporting violations of the Professional Scholar's Code will encourage others to emulate professional behavior and integrity in the nursing profession. Every student who approaches their studies with honesty and forthrightness suffers when another student attains an unfair advantage through academic dishonesty and/or unprofessional behavior. Most importantly, the safety of patients is jeopardized when students are dishonest in completing program requirements (The University of Florida, 2006, p. 5).

The nursing profession is one of highest distinction that promotes honesty and integrity. The College of Nursing requires students, faculty, and staff to comply with the standards of conduct deemed appropriate for the nursing profession by the America Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials of Baccalaureate Education, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials of Masters Education, the American Nurses Association's Code of Ethics, as well as those delineated in the Professional Scholars' Code of the College of Nursing

B. Dissemination and Clarification

1. All students, faculty, and staff in the College of Nursing shall be informed of the Professional Scholar's Code upon registration and/or employment in the college and thereby assume the responsibility of abiding by the spirit of honesty and professionalism in their academic pursuits. The establishment of a Professional Scholars' Code is not intended to be an indication that academic dishonesty and unprofessional behavior is commonplace at this institution. The Professional Scholars' Code is a method of reaffirming the existing code of honor and professionalism which has prevailed at this college since its inception.
 - a. The Scholars' Code shall be part of the Student and Faculty Handbooks. It is the responsibility of students, faculty, and staff to be familiar with this policy.
 - b. It shall be the responsibility of each faculty member to inform students of the Professional Scholars' Code as part of the course orientation at the beginning of every semester, through the course syllabus/notebook or other effective means. Faculty shall support the principles of academic integrity and fairness through course policies and procedures.
 - c. The appropriate officials and offices shall conduct an orientation for all upper division nursing students, incoming nursing faculty and staff to familiarize these individuals with the provisions of the Scholars' Code prior to attending classes or teaching.
2. **Unprofessional behavior** is the improper conduct by a student which infringes on the reasonable freedom of others or which is otherwise detrimental to the proper conduct of Jacksonville State University, The College of Nursing, and clinical agency partners. The College of Nursing is dedicated to maintaining excellence and integrity in all aspects of its professional conduct. Violations within these areas will be processed appropriately-without

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regard to the sex, race, color, religious affiliation, national or ethnic origin, age, veteran status, or disability of any of the participants.

Professional behaviors such as accountability, promptness, responsibility, honesty, and respect are expectations of all students. As representatives of the nursing profession and Jacksonville State University, students are expected to maintain these professional behaviors within the classroom, online educational platforms, clinical activities, and communities it serves. Professional decorum is expected in all interactions with administration, faculty, staff, classmates, vendors, clients, families, visitors, and all clinical healthcare partners and their associates.

Evidence of unprofessional behavior can result in verbal/written warning, prescriptive educational assignments, reduction in course grade, clinical or course failure, or dismissal from the nursing program and/or Jacksonville State University. Unprofessional behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Unsafe practice (acts of commission or omission) that places a client in serious jeopardy.
2. Falsification of records (academic, clinical medical records, records of attendance or completion of course objectives).
3. Being under the influence of any substance that impairs performance as outlined in The College of Nursing *Impairment and Substance Abuse Policy*.
4. Academic dishonesty (lying, cheating, and plagiarism).
5. Distribution (physically or verbally) of actual or summarized test questions, assignments, papers, or any graded activities.
6. Physical or verbal altercations.
7. Incivility or willful harassment, sexual harassment, abuse or intimidation (physical, non-physical, verbal) of administration, faculty, staff, classmates, vendors, clients, families, visitors, and all clinical healthcare partners and their associates.
8. Willful expressions of disrespect (physical, non-physical, verbal) of administration, faculty, staff, classmates, vendors, clients, families, visitors, and all clinical healthcare partners and their associates related to race, cultural values/practices, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, physical/mental disabilities, and socioeconomic status.
9. Violation of confidentiality as outlined by HIPPA, FERPA, and confidentiality agreements with clinical partner agencies.
10. Stealing
11. Rudeness, disruptive behavior, and/or lack of professional decorum in the classroom, online educational platforms, clinical practicum, and all communication/interaction settings that include, but are not limited to, face-to-face meetings, postal mailings, email, text messaging, facsimile (fax), social media, and video/audio recordings.
12. Unprofessional or inappropriate dress in the classroom, clinical practicum, clinical laboratory, and College of Nursing and/or University functions.

(University at Buffalo School of Nursing Undergraduate Handbook, 2012)

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II. Violation of Professional Scholar's Code

Any action by students revealing dishonesty or a lack of integrity in professional matters is considered a violation of the Professional Scholar's Code. Actions of this nature should be reported to the course faculty.

A. Violations of Academic Honesty

Though the following list does not include all of the possible violations of the Professional Scholars' Code, it is indicative of the types of actions which must be prohibited in order to maintain professionalism at this University.

1. Dishonesty on an examination, problem solution, exercise, or assignment which is offered by the student in satisfaction of course requirements or as extra credit is a violation of the Professional Scholars' Code. Dishonesty occurs when a student gives, receives, makes, or uses unauthorized assistance. Dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following: using notes or cheat sheets, copying another individual's work, having another person take an examination for the student, giving false reasons for absence or tardiness, or improper use of electronic equipment. These actions violate the principles of the Professional Scholars' Code.
2. Plagiarism is the act of passing off the ideas, works, and writings of another as one's own. Its most blatant form consists of copying verbatim the work of another without citation. This most obvious type of plagiarism requires a degree of premeditation and careful planning, but plagiarism can be the result of carelessness, negligence, or ignorance of acceptable forms of citation. An act of plagiarism includes copying of another person's ideas or words, interspersing one's own words within another's work, paraphrasing another's work (using ideas or theory but rewriting the words), fabricating sources of data, and other uses of another's ideas or words without acknowledgement (A.T. Still University, Student Handbook, 2008). It is incumbent on each student to learn the proper forms of citation and to exercise due caution in the preparation of papers and assignments. If there are questions regarding how to apply the Professional Scholars' Code in a particular situation, the student should request immediate clarification from the instructor.
3. The submission of commercially prepared papers, reports, or themes in satisfaction of course requirements is prohibited. The use of another's academic work wholly, or in part, as a means of satisfying course requirements is also prohibited. Falsifying or misrepresenting the results of a research project or study is a violation of the Professional Scholars' Code.
4. Examinations, practical exercises, and problem solutions, whether administered in the classroom or given in a take-home form should be the work of the individual who submits them. Unless it is intended to be a take home test, the exercises shall not be removed from the classroom/lab/computer lab. **STUDENTS SHALL NOT SHARE TEST INFORMATION/EXAM QUESTIONS WITH ANY OTHER STUDENTS DURING OR AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXAMINATION.**
5. Group work and other forms of collaboration may be authorized by an instructor for a specific assignment. The presumption remains, however, that unless otherwise permitted and specified by the instructor, all academic work is to be an individual effort. In this spirit, the Professional Scholars' Code prohibits both the giving and receiving of unauthorized assistance.
6. Audio or visual recording of lectures, presentations, or laboratory demonstrations by students are permissible within strict guidelines as outlined in the Audio and Visual Recording Policy (See policy III.19.00). Noncompliance with the audio/visual recording guidelines is a violation of the Professional Scholars' Code.

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A student of the College of Nursing who submits an examination or other work certifies that the work is his or her own and that he or she is unaware of any instance of violation of this code by himself/herself or others.

B. Violations of Professional Behavior

Any behavior or action by students revealing dishonesty, lack of integrity, or unprofessional behavior is considered a violation of the Professional Scholar's Code. Such violations can occur in the classroom, clinical setting or community and include, but are not limited to, breach of confidentiality; clinical tardiness; clinical absence without notification to assigned clinical faculty; violation of patient rights; disrespect of faculty, staff, or patients; clinical practices deemed unsafe by faculty; falsifying documentation; fraudulently reporting information; substance abuse or, any other act or behavior deemed unprofessional or dishonest by faculty. A student of the College of Nursing who engages in unprofessional behavior will be subject to enforcement of the Professional Scholar's Code.

C. Suspected Violations of Professional Scholar's Code

1. Students suspected of violating the Professional Scholar's Code will be notified verbally and in writing.
2. The student has the right to seek advice from his/her Academic Advisor or the Director of Student Services.
3. The student may admit the offense or refute it and offer written evidence supporting the denial. Written evidence must be provided within three (3) working days. Faculty will employ diligence in assuring due process.
4. Faculty will consider the nature of the offense, evidence presented by the student and make a decision regarding consequences.
5. Consequences for students found guilty of violation of the Professional Scholar's Code may include, but are not limited to additional assignments, zero credit for an assignment, failure of course, or dismissal from program.
6. Should the student wish to appeal the faculty decision, the student should follow the 'Student Appeal And/Or Grievance Procedure' as outlined in the student handbook.

References

University of Florida. (2006). Academic Honesty Guidelines. Retrieved from www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php

A.T. Still University (ATSU). (2009). Student Handbook. Retrieved from www.atsu.edu/student_services/handbook/pdf

University at Buffalo (2012). School of Nursing Undergraduate Student Handbook. Retrieved from <http://nursing.buffalo.edu/Portals/0/2012-2013%20BS%20Handbook.pdf>

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Professional Scholars Code Agreement

The students of the College of Nursing recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the nursing profession and this University community as evidenced by the Professional Scholar's Code. Students who enroll at the College of Nursing commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Professional Scholars Code. **Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Professional Scholars Code is bound by honor to take corrective action** (University of Florida, 2006).

We, the members of the College of Nursing, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

I hereby pledge that on all work submitted at the College of Nursing I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid in doing any or all assignments.

Student Signature

Date

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Appendix B

**Impairment and Substance Abuse Testing Policy
for Faculty and Students**

I. Philosophy

Jacksonville State University (JSU) College of Nursing (CON) is committed to maintaining a drug-free workplace and academic environment. In compliance with Federal law, the University has adopted a University Drug-Free Workplace Policy that prohibits the illegal manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance. All CON students, faculty, and staff must become familiar with and comply with this university-wide policy, which applies to behavior that not only occurs on the University campus but also on property owned or controlled by the University and/or a University-sponsored or University-supervised activity at other locations. This policy is accessible at <http://www.jsu.edu/depart/undergraduate/catalog/pdf/jsucatalogue07-09.pdf>. The JSU College of Nursing Impairment and Substance Abuse Testing Policy, as described below, is intended to compliment the University's Drug-Free Workplace Policy. This policy applies to CON students, faculty, clinical associate and adjuncts, professional staff and students at any time and in any location while in a role affiliated with JSU.

II. Alabama Board of Nursing Requirements

Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing clinical faculty and nursing students shall comply with legal, moral, and legislative standards in accordance with the Alabama Law Regulating Practice of Registered Nursing (Alabama Board of Nursing, 2009). These standards determine unacceptable behavior of the nurse which may be cause for denial of license to practice as a registered nurse and are as follows:

“The board may also deny, revoke, or suspend any license issued by it or to otherwise discipline a licensee upon proof that the licensee: is guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license; has been convicted of a felony; is guilty of a crime involving moral turpitude or of gross immorality that would tend to bring reproach upon the nursing profession; is unfit or incompetent due to the use of alcohol, or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs to such an extent as to render him or her unsafe or unreliable as a licensee; has been convicted of any violation of a federal or state law relating to controlled substances; is guilty of unprofessional conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or injure the public in matters pertaining to health or has willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this article, as defined by board rules and regulations” (Nurse Practice Act, Article 2, Section 34-21-25).

Nursing students must understand the Alabama Board of Nursing's regulations concerning candidate review of eligibility for initial and continuing licensure. Questions on the application for Licensure as a Registered Nurse by Examination include:

(1) Have you ever been arrested for, been charged with, been convicted of, entered a plea of guilty to, entered a plea of nolo contendere or no contest for, received deferred prosecution or adjudication for, had judgment withheld for, received pretrial diversion for, or pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity or mental defect to any crime other than a minor traffic violation in any state, territory, or country? Any crime related to driving while impaired or while under the influence of any substance is not a "minor traffic violation".

(2) In the past five years, have you abused alcohol, drugs (whether legal or illegal, prescribed or unauthorized), and/or other chemical substances or received treatment or been recommended for treatment for dependency to alcohol, drugs (whether legal or illegal, prescribed or unauthorized) and/or other chemical substances?

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- (3) Have you ever been arrested or convicted for driving under the influence of drugs/alcohol?
- (4) In the past five years, have you had, or do you now have, a physical or mental health problem that may impair your ability to provide safe nursing care?
- (5) Has the licensing authority of any state, territory, or country denied, revoked, suspended, reprimanded, fined, accepted your surrender of, restricted, limited, placed on probation, or in any other way disciplined your nursing and/or any other occupational license, registration, certification, or approval?
- (6) Is the Board of Nursing or other licensing authority of any state, territory, or country, including but not limited to the Alabama Board of Nursing currently investigating you?
- (7) Is disciplinary action pending against you with the Board of Nursing or other licensing authority of any state, territory, or country, including but not limited to the Alabama Board of Nursing?
- (8) Have you ever been placed on a state and/or federal abuse registry?
- (9) Has any branch of the armed services ever administratively discharged you with any characterization of service besides "Honorable" and/or court-martialed you?

The application for licensure by examination may be denied after the application has been reviewed. Each applicant is evaluated on an individual basis. The Board of Nursing cannot predetermine approval or denial of licensure until the entire application and supporting documentation has been received and reviewed.

III. Purpose

For obvious health and safety concerns, nursing students, faculty, and clinical faculty must conduct health care and educational activities fully in control of their manual dexterity and skills, mental facilities, and judgment. The presence or use of drugs or alcohol, lawful or otherwise, which interferes with the judgment or motor coordination of nursing students, faculty, and clinical faculty in a health care setting, poses an unacceptable risk for patients, colleagues, the University, and affiliating clinical agencies.

The College of Nursing recognizes its responsibility to provide a safe, efficient academic environment for students, faculty, and clinical faculty and to cooperate with clinical agencies in providing for the safe and effective care of their patients during nursing students' clinical experiences in their facilities. Therefore, the following policy has been adopted to:

1. Prevent substance abuse and/or activities or behaviors a) that are prohibited by the University's Drug-Free Workplace Policy, state or federal laws or b) which may subject the involved student, other individuals, and the University to legal penalties or consequences, or c) which may cause a deterioration of the atmosphere and circumstances under which the care of patients and the nursing educational programs are conducted;
2. Cooperate with affiliating clinical agencies by requiring nursing students, faculty, and clinical faculty reporting to such agencies to consent voluntarily a) to allow those agencies to drug test the student, faculty, or clinical faculty in accordance with their policies, and b) to disclose any drug testing results to appropriate College of Nursing officials; and
3. Require all students enrolled in clinical courses in the College of Nursing to submit to pre-clinical testing, random testing, and mandatory drug testing based upon reasonable suspicion of substance abuse.
4. Require all part time clinical faculty to submit to pre-employment testing and mandatory drug testing based upon reasonable suspicion of substance abuse.
5. Require all faculty and full time clinical faculty employed in the College of Nursing to submit to pre-employment testing, random testing, and mandatory drug testing based upon reasonable suspicion of substance abuse.

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IV. Definitions of Terms Used in Policy

Drug Testing means the scientific analysis of urine, blood, breath, saliva, hair, tissue, and other specimens of the human body for the purpose of detecting a drug or alcohol.

1. Pre-clinical testing means that all students will be tested prior to engaging in any clinical activity and/or patient care.
2. Pre-employment testing means that all faculty and full/part time clinical faculty will be tested prior to employment in the College of Nursing.
3. Random testing means that students, faculty, and full time clinical faculty will be arbitrarily selected for drug testing using a computerized system. This testing can occur at any time during employment or enrollment in upper division of the BSN or MSN program.
4. Reasonable suspicion testing means that evidence exists which forms a reasonable basis for concluding that it is more likely than not that a student, faculty, or clinical faculty has engaged in substance abuse. Facts which could give rise to reasonable suspicion include, but are not limited to: the odor of alcohol or drugs, impaired behavior such as slurred speech, decreased motor coordination, difficulty in maintaining balance, marked changes in personality or job performance, and unexplained accidents. Such evidence may come from a professional or expert opinion, layperson opinion, scientific tests, or other sources or methods.

Illegal drug means any drug which is not legally obtainable; any drug which is legally obtainable but has not been legally obtained; any prescribed drug not legally obtained; any prescribed drug not being used for the prescribed purpose or by the person for whom it was prescribed; any over-the-counter drug being used at a dosage level other than that recommended by the manufacturer, or being used for a purpose other than the purpose intended by the manufacturer; and any drug being used for a purpose or by a person not in accordance with bona fide medical therapy. Examples of illegal drugs include, but are not limited to, stimulants, depressants, narcotic or hallucinogenic drugs, cannabis substances, such as marijuana and hashish, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, phencyclidine (PCP), and so-called designer drugs and look-alike drugs.

Impaired means that a person's mental or physical capabilities are reduced below their normal levels (with or without any reasonable accommodation for a disability). An impaired student manifests deterioration in the level of function as compared to that previously observed, or the student does not function at a level normally expected under the prevailing circumstances. Impairment may exist in one or more multiple domains, including psychomotor activity and skills, conceptual or factual recall, integrative or synthetic thought processes, judgment, attentiveness, demeanor and attitudes as manifested in speech or actions. Impairment will include addiction to and/or physical dependence upon chemical substances.

Nursing student means any individual formally enrolled in the College of Nursing in pursuit of the BSN or MSN degree, including registered nurses (RN) and students taking courses via distance education, regardless of the specific location of the student.

Faculty means any person employed in the faculty role in the College of Nursing.

Clinical faculty are registered nurses employed full or part time by the College of Nursing to supervise students in clinical settings. Clinical faculty may be hired as adjuncts or clinical associates.

Substance abuse means (a) the manufacture, use, sale, purchase, distribution, transfer, or possession of an illegal drug while on University or affiliated clinical site premises or while participating in any University or affiliated clinical site-sponsored or related activity, including any nursing-related course or clinical training activity; (b) the consumption, possession, or distribution of alcohol, unless approved by the University or clinical agency, by any nursing

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student, faculty, or clinical faculty while on University or affiliated clinical site premises or while participating in any University-or affiliated clinical site-sponsored or related activity, including any nursing-related course or clinical training activity; and (c) a student, faculty, or clinical faculty's use of alcohol or any drug in such a way that their performance in any nursing course, including activities at any clinical site, is impaired.

V. Policy Requirements

A. Drug and Alcohol Prohibitions and Duty to Notify of Drug/Alcohol Convictions

1. Substance abuse as defined in this policy, or a violation of any term of the Jacksonville State University Drug-Free Workplace Policy while engaged in any University affiliated experience is strictly prohibited. All nursing students, faculty, and clinical faculty in the College of Nursing courses or programs are required to abide by these rules when reporting to nursing-related courses and clinical experiences and while at affiliating clinical agencies (including parking lots and grounds).
2. Under no circumstance should nursing students, faculty, or clinical faculty participate in nursing-related courses or clinical activities while they are impaired.
3. Nursing students who violate these rules will be deemed to be unable to meet the essential qualifications/functions of the nursing curriculum. Nursing students determined to have violated these prohibitions shall be dismissed from the College of Nursing.
4. A violation by any nursing student of any state or federal statute, or regulation established pursuant to such statute, pertaining to the manufacture, improper possession, sale, use, or distribution of a drug or alcohol is strictly prohibited. Any such violation must be reported to the Dean of the College of Nursing within five days. Such violation, if substantiated, will result in disciplinary action up to and including student's dismissal from the College of Nursing. A nursing student who fails to notify the Dean of the College of Nursing within five days of an administrative action or legal conviction for any such violation shall result in dismissal from the College of Nursing.
5. Faculty or clinical faculty determined to have violated these prohibitions shall result in termination from the College of Nursing.

B. Student, Faculty, and Clinical Faculty's Agreement to Submit to Drug Testing and to Consent to Release of Test Results to Dean of the College of Nursing

1. The student, faculty or clinical faculty must agree to submit to drug testing prior to being assigned to an affiliating agency, for random testing, and for reasonable suspicion. The individual shall sign a consent: a) to abide by the drug/alcohol policies and drug testing policies of each affiliating clinical agency in which a student is assigned; b) to submit to any drug/alcohol testing (random or reasonable suspicion) required by the College of Nursing and/or the affiliating clinical agency; and c) to release a copy of any and all drug/alcohol test results to the Dean of the College of Nursing (see Attachment A for consent). Failure to sign such consent shall be grounds for non-placement at an affiliating clinical agency and shall result in dismissal from the program in the case of the student or termination in the case of full or part time clinical faculty.
3. A nursing student, faculty, or clinical faculty's failure to submit to a required drug testing, or attempting to tamper with, contaminate, or switch a sample shall result in

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dismissal from the College of Nursing.

4. The cost of all drug/alcohol testing required shall be borne by the person or individual depending on what term we want to use being tested.

VI. Procedures for Drug Testing Requested by the College of Nursing

A. Procedure for Pre-Clinical/Pre-Employment Drug Testing Requested by the College of Nursing

1. Drug testing for pre-clinical **generic students in first semester** will be arranged by the College of Nursing. The cost of this drug testing will be assumed by the student.
2. Drug testing for pre-clinical for **MSN students** will be arranged by the student, but must be conducted in a qualified laboratory setting. The cost of this drug testing will be assumed by the student. The student will be provided a list of specific drugs for testing by the Director, Graduate Studies.
3. Drug testing for pre-employment for faculty and clinical faculty will be arranged by the faculty or clinical faculty. The cost of this drug testing will be assumed by the employee. The faculty or clinical faculty will provide a copy of the drug test to the Dean, College of Nursing.

B. Procedure for Random Drug Testing Requested by the College of Nursing

1. Drug testing for random drug testing will be arranged by the College of Nursing. The cost of this drug testing will be assumed by the nursing student. Any “non-negative” screening that requires additional testing will be paid by the individual. Failure to comply with all aspects of random testing will result in dismissal from the program or termination of employment with the College of Nursing.
2. Nursing Students in semesters two through five, faculty, and full time clinical faculty will be arbitrarily selected for random drug testing using a computerized system. Random drug testing can occur at any time. The individuals will be notified by CON faculty/staff if his/her name is selected and will be required to report immediately for testing as directed.

C. Procedure for Reasonable Suspicion Drug Testing Requested by the College of Nursing

1. Any nursing student, faculty, or full/part time clinical faculty who demonstrates behavioral changes reasonably suspected to be related to substance abuse as defined herein will be subjected to testing. A decision to drug test based on reasonable suspicion of substance abuse may be made by a faculty/staff member and/or the clinical agency. The nursing student, faculty, or full/part time clinical faculty’s request to drug test will be documented (see Attachment B) and may be based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to:
 - a. observable phenomena such as direct observation of drug use and or physical symptoms or manifestations of being under the influence of a drug;
 - b. erratic behavior, slurred speech, staggered gait, flushed face, dilated/pinpoint pupils, wide mood swings, or deterioration of work or academic performance;
 - c. information that a student has caused or contributed to an accident that resulted in injury requiring treatment by a licensed health care professional;
 - d. substance abuse-related conviction by a court, or being found guilty of a substance abuse-related offense in another administrative or quasi-legal proceeding.

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2. Drug testing for reasonable suspicion will be arranged by the College of Nursing, unless done in cooperation with the affiliating clinical agency. The cost of this drug testing will be assumed by the individual being tested.

D. Collection and verification process

1. Drug testing will be conducted by a certified collector in accordance with established methods and procedures. Confidentiality of the student, faculty, and clinical faculty as well as the validity of the sample will be protected by the testing facility. The procedure for collection as determined by the collection site, will involve a urine sample, securable urine containers, and chain of custody procedures. This procedure ensures that the samples identified to a student, faculty, or clinical faculty actually contain materials from that individual, that the samples are protected from tampering, and that the analysis of them is done in accordance with federal guidelines.
2. The test shall screen for the use of drugs whose use is either illegal, or which are prone to abuse (including alcohol), as determined at the discretion of the Medical Review Officer of the testing facility, training hospital, College of Nursing, or for the use of any drugs which are reasonably suspected of being abused or used by the nursing student, faculty, or clinical faculty.
3. Non-negative test results will be confirmed by additional testing. If the test is positive, the entirety of the relevant available evidence, including health history, will be used to determine the presence or absence of substance abuse.
4. The Medical Review Officer will notify a nursing student, faculty, or clinical faculty who has a non-negative drug test. If the results of the individual's test confirms the presence of a prescribed drug (verified negative) the person will be required to obtain a written statement from the prescribing physician or a Substance Abuse Professional (at the discretion of the College of Nursing) stating that the drug level is within prescribed limits and that the level does not indicate abuse. The prescribing physician or a Substance Abuse Professional must indicate that the drug will not interfere with safe practice in the clinical area. The Medical Review Officer will determine the final status of the drug test. Positive test results shall be communicated to the Dean and documented in the nursing students, faculty, and clinical faculty records in the College of Nursing. A positive substance abuse test shall result in dismissal from the program or termination from the College of Nursing.
5. Failure to submit to any form of required drug testing (pre-employment/pre-clinical/random/reasonable suspicion) shall result in dismissal from the program or termination from the College of Nursing.

VII. Confidentiality

All drug testing results will be treated by the College of Nursing as information that is received in confidence and shall not be disclosed to third parties unless disclosure is required by law, the information is needed by appropriate school officials to perform their job functions, disclosure is needed to override public health and safety concerns, or the nursing student, faculty, or full/part time clinical faculty has consented in writing to the release of the information. The College and the University shall have the right to use and disclose the results of drug testing required by this policy in connection with internal academic purposes and in connection with the defense of any student grievance and any claims filed by a nursing student, faculty, or full/part time clinical faculty by his/her personal representative, in any court of law or with any state or federal administrative agency.

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VII. Appeal Process

A nursing student may appeal the college's decision to dismiss or not re-admit a student through the established Student Grievance Procedure.

Used with permission from *The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing, Substance Abuse Policy/Drug/Alcohol Testing Policy.*

Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing

Consent to and Permission for Drug Screening for Nursing Students, Faculty or Clinical Faculty

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the impairment and substance abuse testing policy guidelines.

I understand that failure to submit to drug screening will result in dismissal from the nursing program or termination of employment with the College of Nursing.

I understand that a positive drug screen will result in dismissal from the nursing program or termination of employment with the College of Nursing.

I understand that results of my drug screen may be released to clinical agencies.

I hereby release the designated testing agency and its director, Jacksonville State University, and faculty of the College of Nursing from any claim in connection with the drug screening guidelines.

I understand that in the event any legal action is taken as a result of the drug screening guidelines, confidentiality may no longer be maintained.

Student or Faculty Signature

Date

Print Name

This form will be maintained by the College of Nursing and will be disclosed to appropriate clinical agencies upon their request.

Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing

Report of Reasonable Suspicion of Drug/Alcohol Use

To be completed by the nursing student, faculty, or staff member observing suspected substance abuse.

1. Name of nursing student, faculty, or clinical faculty suspected of substance abuse as defined in policy.

2. Reasons why you suspect the student, faculty, or clinical faculty of substance abuse. (Be as specific as possible, including times and dates when incidents occurred or unusual behavior was observed, the identity of any particular substance suspected of abuse, if known, and the names and whereabouts of those witnessing the incidents/behavior.) [Staple additional comments/observations to this document]

NOTE: Some types of information that should be documented if observed or known includes: speech (normal, incoherent, confused, change in speech, slurred, rambling, shouting, using profanity, slow); coordination (normal, swaying, staggering, lack of coordination, grasping for support); performance (unfair practices, unsatisfactory work); alertness (change in alertness, sleepy, confused); demeanor (change in personality, fighting, excited, combative, aggressive, violent, argumentative, indifferent, threatening, antagonistic); eyes (bloodshot, dilated); clothing (dirty, disheveled); odor of alcohol on breath); other observed actions or behaviors; unexplained absences or tardiness; whether student, faculty, or clinical faculty was found with drugs/alcohol or admitted to use of drugs/alcohol; whether other students, faculty, or staff have complained of the behavior and if so a list of witnesses to the behavior.

3. Based on the information above, it is my opinion that there is reasonable suspicion to believe that this nursing student, faculty, or clinical faculty has engaged in substance abuse as defined in the College of Nursing Impairment and Substance Abuse Testing Policy:

 Signature of Faculty/Staff Member Approving Drug Test

Date _____ Time _____

Printed Name and Title of Faculty/Staff Member: _____

Printed Name and Signature of Student: _____

To be completed by the nursing student, faculty, or clinical faculty to be tested (optional):

Are you taking any medications, or is there any other information you believe might explain your behavior or assist the Medical Review Officer and/or prescribing physician interpreting your test?

The original of this form should be given to the College of Nursing Dean for inclusion in the nursing student, faculty, or clinical faculty's confidential records. It may be disclosed on a "need to know" basis to clinical agencies and/or testing facilities.

Appendix C

Letter of Understanding Regarding Criminal Background Checks

I have read and understand the College of Nursing policies regarding the requirement for criminal background checks. I voluntarily give my consent to the obtaining of one or more necessary reports and the use thereof as outlined in the stated policy.

Print Full Name (Include Middle Name)

(Maiden Name If Applicable)

SIGNATURE

DATE

Appendix D

Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Policy

Philosophy

The Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing faculty, staff, and students adhere to Standard Blood and Body Fluid Precautions. One principle of these precautions is to assume that all patients are potential carriers of bloodborne disease. In addition, health care workers should assume themselves to be potential carriers. They must exercise caution so as to protect both patients and health care workers from exposure to blood and body fluids.

Students are responsible for adhering to the established accidental exposure policies, procedures of the clinical agency, and the College with respect to reporting and documentation of the incident.

Prevention

Students are required to receive the Hepatitis B vaccine series, as indicated in the *'Requirements for Hepatitis B Vaccine' Policy*. Students that present reactions or life threatening complications must provide written documentation from their health care provider to be exempt from this requirement.

Before entering the clinical setting, all students are instructed on Standard Blood and Body Fluid Precautions and post-exposure procedures.

Post-Exposure Protocol

When someone is directly exposed to or in contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials, the response shall be as follows:

1. If the potential exposure involves a needle stick, puncture injury, cut, or fluid contact, wash the area with soap and water for at least 15 seconds. In the case of a mucous membrane exposure, rinse the site with copious amounts of water or normal saline solution. Irrigate the eyes with commercially prepared isotonic solution in eye wash stations, if available, or with saline solution or clean water. Flush splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin with water.
2. The student must immediately consult Northeast Alabama Occupational Health Center (256-741-6464 or 256-231-0556) or their own health care provider, emergency health care provider, or infectious disease specialist regarding the advisability of post-exposure prophylaxis. **The health care provider will make the judgment as to whether the exposure warrants prophylaxis.** Coordination of the student's plan of care and follow-up will be the responsibility of the student and the student's health care provider.
3. Students must notify faculty, staff and/or preceptor of exposure. While the faculty, staff or preceptor may provide information regarding the advisability of seeking prompt medical attention, the ultimate decision as to the management of the exposure is the joint responsibility of the student and the student's health care provider.
 1. The clinical instructor or preceptor will notify the agency charge nurse or immediate supervisor. It is recommended that the clinical agency's infectious disease nurse, if available, also be notified. An incident (exposure) report should be completed. If the agency will allow, a copy of the report should be obtained and forwarded to the Course Coordinator. If the agency will not provide a copy of the report, the clinical instructor or preceptor should write a memorandum for record to the Course Coordinator, summarizing the details of the exposure.

2. Immediately after notifying the agency, the clinical instructor or preceptor should call the college secretary at 256-782-5425 or toll free at 1-800-231-JAX1, to initiate notification of the Course Coordinator. The Course Coordinator will notify the Dean within 3 days that an incident has occurred.
4. Notification of the patient (if the exposure source is known), risk screening of the patient or other diagnostic testing of the patient, if indicated, will be coordinated in accordance with agency policies.
5. Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Occupational Health Center, the student's own health care provider, emergency health care provider, or infectious disease specialist will manage the student's post-exposure baseline and follow-up laboratory tests for bloodborne pathogens. Students are responsible for coordinating the release of their initial test results to the health care provider of their choice, if needed. The College is not responsible for ensuring the student's compliance with post-exposure care.
6. Students will be responsible for all costs with regards to their post exposure medical care.

Possible Exposure to BloodBorne Pathogens
Release of Liability

I _____ am aware that the Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing requires participation in patient treatment and clinical procedures during the course of nursing classes. I am also aware that as a result of my voluntary participation, I may be exposed to infectious diseases and am participating in the clinical work voluntarily.

I have been informed by my clinical instructor/preceptor _____ that on this date I have been involved in an incident that may have resulted in my being exposed to infectious disease. I understand that it is the policy of the College of Nursing to release me from clinical practicum in order that I have the opportunity to seek medical evaluation of risk status and further treatment. It is my decision to refuse to seek medical evaluation for risk status and further treatment. By my signature below, I release Jacksonville State University, any of its employees, and the participating agency _____ from any liability for injury, illness or infection that may be contracted as a result of this incident.

I am aware that I am responsible for following the agency policies with regards to reporting and documentation of the exposure incident, regardless of my decision to seek medical attention. I understand that I am responsible for any future financial expenses resulting from my decision not to seek medical evaluation at this time, or any expenses resulting in the future should I elect to change my mind and seek care in the future.

 Student's Signature

 Date

 Clinical Instructor/Preceptor

 Date

The signed release of responsibility will be maintained in the student's permanent file.