



Nursing Student Handbook

Revised January 2026



NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK

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WELCOME

Nursing is an honored and trusted profession that the Frederick Community College Nursing Program Faculty and Staff are passionate about. We want to pass that same passion on to the next generation of nurses. As nursing students, you will gain knowledge, build your skills and grow your compassion in a profession that needs you. As you progress through the program, we want to provide you with meaningful experiences that will prepare you for your role as a graduate nurse. Student safety guides the design of the nursing program and our partner clinical sites. The policies and procedures in this handbook focus on student safety and success through the progression of the nursing program. Please review this handbook every semester. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out. We are here to support you and want you to have a great nursing school experience that builds you into a professional nurse.

Stephanie Harrison MS, RN, PCCN
Interim Director of Nursing
Education



FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM

MISSION

In partnership with the community, and to meet the needs of a diverse community, the nursing program strives to provide an environment of academic excellence in which to prepare students as nurse generalists for entry-level practice in the profession of nursing.

Philosophy

The discipline of nursing is often described as both a science and art. The science of nursing is the knowledge base that is required for and provides support to the care that is given. The art of nursing is the caring and creative application of this knowledge. As a nursing faculty, we are committed to the development of students who provide excellent nursing care. Nurses are tasked with providing quality health care to diverse clients across the lifespan. Health care includes the promotion of health, the prevention of illness, the restoration of health, and the facilitation of coping with chronic illness, disability, and death. Clients are individuals, family units, and/or communities who receive nursing services.

Core Values

The Nursing Faculty at Frederick Community College have identified five core values which are central to the profession of nursing. These include the following along with their descriptions:

Holistic Care- Care which recognizes the client or designee as the source of control and full partner in the relationship, and which is based on respect for the client's preferences, values, and needs.

The nurse and client engage in a therapeutic alliance in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. Central to this relationship is recognition of the client's individuality, with consideration for the interconnectedness of the physiological, psychological, sociocultural, environmental, developmental, and spiritual influences. In this collaborative relationship, the nurse provides encouragement, hope, support, and compassion to help achieve positive outcomes. The nurse uses teaching and learning principles to assist the client in participating in care and decision-making.

Communication- Quality communication within nursing and with inter-professional members of the health care team which leads to the provision of excellent care. The nurse utilizes verbal and non-verbal skills, information systems, and technology to achieve effective communication.

The goals of communication are to establish and maintain a therapeutic relationship, to provide and coordinate client-centered care, to collaborate with the health care team, to mitigate errors, and to support decision-making.

Critical Thinking- The integration of the best current evidence, clinical expertise, client data, and client preferences, for the delivery of optimal health care.

The nurse utilizes an evidence-based, problem-solving approach to safe client care that incorporates critical thinking and therapeutic interventions to assess, (nursing) diagnose, plan, implement and evaluate a unique plan of care for each client.

Safety- Minimization of risk of harm to clients and providers; ethical and legal practice. The nurse provides safe and effective care that is based on accepted principles and standards of nursing practice.

The nurse engages in strategies to reduce risk of harm to self or others and contributes to a culture of safety. The nurse is personally accountable, and practices within legal, ethical, and regulatory frameworks.

Professionalism- The implementation of one's role as a nurse in ways that reflect integrity and responsibility and reflect a spirit of inquiry.

The goals of professional practice are to maintain competence with continual learning and maintain a professional image that reflects a core of professional values: respect, confidence, trust, responsiveness, integrity, and compassion.

These values provide the basis for the Nursing Program's philosophical framework and the foundation for our curriculum.

Associate's in Science Degree Nursing Program Student Learning Outcomes

With the guidance of the Mission, Philosophy & Core Values, the graduates of the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Frederick Community College will:

1. Provide client-centered care which addresses the interrelated dimensions of the client's health, and is based on respect for the client's preferences, values, and needs.
2. Effectively utilize appropriate and available modes for organizing information and communicating within nursing and the inter-professional members of the health care team.
3. Utilize critical thinking and integrate best current evidence and clinical expertise into the nursing process, for the delivery of optimal care throughout the lifespan in a variety of settings.
4. Provides care that minimizes the risk of harm to clients and providers, and is based on accepted ethical and legal principles and standards of nursing practice
5. Develop a professional identity, integrating values and behaviors that are consistent with the profession of nursing.

Associate's in Science Degree Nursing Program Goals

1. The program will maintain a minimum pass rate of 80% first-time test-taker, as established by program accrediting body, during the same 12-month period. Or the program will meet or exceed the annual licensure examination pass rate for the ADN national average for all first-time test-takers during the same 12-month period.
2. 70% of FCC nursing program students will complete the program in no more than 100% of stated program length (for each cohort) beginning with enrollment in the first nursing course and 80% of students will complete the program in no more than 150% of the stated program length (for each cohort) beginning with enrollment in the first nursing course.
3. At least 95% of graduates will be employed in nursing within 1 year of graduation.



FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nursing Student Handbook

Nursing Program

Section 1

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Frederick Community College prohibits discrimination against any person based on age, ancestry, citizenship status, color, creed, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, national origin, race, religious affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status in its activities, admissions, educational programs, and employment.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Frederick Community College Associate Degree Nursing program requires 70 credit hours and is approved by the Maryland Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Upon successful completion of the program, the graduate is granted an Associate in Science Degree and is eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) for registered nurse licensure. As an integral part of the health care team, graduates are prepared to give safe and competent nursing care to clients in hospitals, nursing homes, and other comparable health care agencies.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Information on graduation requirements can be found at <http://frederick.edu/degrees-certificates/nursing.aspx>

CURRICULUM PATHWAY

The Curriculum Pathway provides students with a suggested guide for completing an Associate Degree in Nursing in four years. Students who choose to take less than 15 credits per semester or who require Developmental English and/or Math will need additional semesters to complete their degrees. Taking classes in the Summer and/or January terms allow students to catch up and stay on target. It is recommended all students meet with an advisor each semester to carefully select and sequence courses based on their specific interests and needs. Using the Curriculum Pathway along with the PeopleSoft Degree Plan allows students to track their progress towards graduation. Two curriculum pathway options are available: day option or evening/weekend option.

Major: Nursing (Day Option)

Catalog Year: 2025-2026

Course Number	Course	Credit	Complete
First Year – First Semester - Summer			
ENGL 101	English Composition General Education CORE	3	
MATH	Mathematics General Education CORE	3	
SOCY 101	Introduction to Sociology General Education CORE	3	
Science Pre-req	BSCI55 (recommended) OR BSCI100 OR CHEM101	¾	
	Semester Total	12	
First Year – Second Semester – Fall			
HUMN	Humanities General Education CORE	3	
PSYC 101	General Psychology General Education CORE	3	
EDPS 208	Human Growth and Development General Education CORE	3	
BSCI 201	Anatomy and Physiology I General Education CORE	4	
COMM 101/103/105/107	Intro to Comm Studies, Public Speaking, Small Group Comm. OR Career Comm General Education CORE	3	
	Semester Total	16	
Second Year – First Semester – Spring			
BSCI 202	Anatomy and Physiology II General Education CORE	4	
BSCI 223	Microbiology for Allied Health General Education CORE	4	
ARTT	Arts elective General Education CORE	3	
PHED	PE/Health Requirement (NUTR102 or NUTR 200 recommended)	1	
	Semester Total	12	
Third Year – First Semester – Fall (Admitted to Nursing Day Option)			
NURS 101	Introduction to Clinical Nursing	6	
NURS 105	Pharmacology for Nurses	2	
	Semester Total	8	
Third Year – Second Semester – Spring			
NURS 211	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	7	
NURS 214	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	3	
	Semester Total	10	
Fourth Year – First Semester – Fall			
NURS 212	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	4	
NURS 218	Maternal Child & Family Nursing	5	
	Semester Total	9	
Fourth Year – First Semester – Spring			
NURS 231	Medical-Surgical Nursing III	4	
NURS 261	Preparation for Practice	2	
	Semester Total	6	
Total Credits:			70

Students must complete their credit English and Mathematics within the first 24 credits.

General Education Electives can be taken in the semester that works best for the student's schedule.

Students are strongly recommended to consult an FCC advisor and to use ARTSYS, the Maryland Articulation System, <http://artsys.usmd.edu/> to select elective courses needed for transfer based on their intended major at their four-year college/university.

Developmental courses must be completed prior to enrolling into college-level courses in the major. See an advisor for further information, if needed.

Major: Nursing (Evening-Weekend Option)

Catalog Year: 2025-2026

Course Number	Course	Credit	Complete
First Year – First Semester – Fall			
ENGL 101	English Composition General Education CORE	3	
MATH	Mathematics General Education CORE	3	
SOCY 101	Introduction to Sociology General Education CORE	3	
COMM 101/103/105/107	Intro to Comm Studies, Public Speaking, Small Group Comm. OR Career Comm General Education CORE	3	
Science Pre-req	BSCI 55 (recommended) OR BSCI 100 OR CHEM101	3/4	
	Semester Total	15/16	
First Year – Second Semester - Spring			
HUMN	Humanities General Education CORE	3	
PSYC 101	General Psychology General Education CORE	3	
EDPS 208	Human Growth and Development General Education CORE	3	
BSCI 201	Anatomy and Physiology I General Education CORE	4	
	Semester Total	13	
Second Year – First Semester – Fall			
BSCI 202	Anatomy and Physiology II General Education CORE	4	
BSCI 223	Microbiology for Allied Health General Education CORE	4	
ARTT	Art General Education CORE	3	
PHED	PE/Health Requirement (NUTR102 or NUTR200 recommended)	1	
	Semester Total	12	
Second Year – Second Semester (Admitted to Nursing-Evening-Weekend Option)			
NURS 101	Introduction to Clinical Nursing	6	
NURS 105	Pharmacology for Nurses	2	
	Semester Total	8	
Third Year – First Semester – Fall			
NURS 211	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	7	
NURS 214	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	3	
	Semester Total	10	
Third Year – Second Semester - Spring			
NURS 212	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	4	
NURS 218	Maternal Child & Family Nursing	5	
	Semester Total	9	
Fourth Year – First Semester – Fall			
NURS 231	Medical-Surgical Nursing III	4	
NURS 261	Preparation for Practice	2	
	Semester Total	6	
Total Credits:		70	

Students must complete their credit English and Mathematics within the first 24 credits.

General Education Electives can be taken in the semester that works best for the student's schedule.

Students are strongly recommended to consult an FCC advisor and to use ARTSYS, the Maryland Articulation System, <http://artsys.usmd.edu/> to select elective courses needed for transfer based on their intended major at their four-year college/university.

Developmental courses must be completed prior to enrolling into college-level courses in the major. See an advisor for further information, if needed.

PROGRAM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NURS 50 Preparation for Nursing (0 credits)

Serves as a basis for developing proficiency and accuracy in dosage calculation. Includes computations for oral, parenteral, and intravenous routes of administration for adults and children using the apothecaries, metric, and household systems of measurement.

NURS 101 Introduction to Clinical Nursing (6.0 credits)

Introduces concepts of professional nursing. The emphasis is on the acquisition and application of basic knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors needed for the delivery of comprehensive care to the adult client. *This course fulfills the FCC Cultural Competence requirement for graduation.

NURS 105 Pharmacology for Nurses (2.0 credits)

Provides instruction in basic pharmacology necessary for providing safe and effective medication administration. Content includes essential drug knowledge needed to adequately assess, administer, and evaluate drug effects in clients. Emphasis is on the acquisition and application of basic knowledge needed for the delivery of comprehensive care to clients in all healthcare settings.

NURS 211 Medical-Surgical Nursing I (7.0 credits)

Introduces the study of the adult client with acute and chronic alterations in wellness. Emphasis is on assimilation of knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors needed for the delivery of comprehensive care.

NURS 212 Medical-Surgical Nursing II (4.0 credits)

Continued study of the adult client with increasingly complex acute and chronic alterations in health. Emphasis is on assimilation of knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors needed for the delivery of comprehensive care.

NURS 214 Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing (3.0 credits)

Examines the impact of mental illness on the individual, family, and community. Explores treatment options and issues and reviews the evidenced-based principles and practice of psychiatric-mental health nursing. Emphasis is placed on the adaptation of knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to caring for clients with alterations in mental health.

NURS 218 Maternal Child & Family Nursing (5.0 credits)

Introduces maternal, child, and family nursing. Focuses on the reproductive phase of family life, the specific health needs of women from adolescence to menopause, the healthy newborn, and pediatric clients with acute alterations in health. Emphasis is on assimilation of knowledge,



skills, and professional behaviors needed for the delivery of family-centered, comprehensive care.

NURS 231 Medical-Surgical Nursing III (4.0 credits)

Continues study of the adult client with acute, complex, and critical alterations in health. The emphasis is on the adaptation of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for the delivery of comprehensive care.

NURS 261 Preparation for Practice (2.0 credits)

Facilitates the student's adaptation into professional nursing practice. Explores current trends in nursing and concepts related to the nurse as a professional, a member of the health care team, and manager of client care.

NURSING PROGRAM PROGRESSION POLICIES

- ✱ The nursing curriculum concepts build on previous material and require orderly, sequential progression. Students must pass all courses in each semester to progress to the next semester courses.
- ✱ A break in progression due to any reason (withdrawal or failure of a required course) is treated as a failure of progression. A student is permitted one course failure and retake, or one withdrawal and retake.
- ✱ Any break in progression will require a written request and consultation for course re-enrollment with the Director of Nursing Education.
- ✱ A student may be allowed to repeat a course once on the conditions they have not restarted or repeated another course, and there is an opening in the cohort.
- ✱ A student in NURS 101 Introduction to Clinical Nursing who has a course failure, withdraw, or has a clinical failure will be dismissed from the nursing program. The student will not be permitted to attend lectures, labs, or clinical experiences.
- ✱ A student with a second course failure (including course failure or withdrawal) will result in the student being dismissed from the program.
- ✱ Readmission after dismissal from the FCC or any nursing program is case-by-case after director and nursing faculty committee review.
- ✱ A student who has a clinical failure will have all relevant documentation reviewed by a nursing faculty committee. A clinical failure in any nursing course will result in a course failure and a letter grade of F entered on the transcript.
- ✱ The committee will determine if the clinical failure results in dismissal from the nursing program or if the student may repeat with a course failure on record. Assuming this is the student's first failure and it is not Nurs 101. If the committee determines dismissal from the nursing program, the student will be administratively withdrawn from all nursing courses and not permitted to attend lectures, labs, or clinical experiences.
- ✱ A student may be immediately dismissed from the nursing program if a behavior is demonstrated that: jeopardizes the safety of others, violates confidentiality, shows evidence of academic dishonesty, is deemed unprofessional behavior, violates HIPAA regulations, and/or does not meet safe standards of care of nursing practice.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are required to read the policy on academic integrity in the College Catalog and FCC Student Handbook.

All assignments are expected to be original work completed by the student for their current course. Resubmission of a student's own previous assignments will be considered plagiarism.

Exam questions and/or answers should not be reproduced in any format or shared outside of the exam setting.

Any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action including course failure and expulsion from the program. (See Student Rights and Responsibilities section for specifics regarding this topic.)

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS

The nursing program follows the academic appeal process of the College regarding complaint procedures see <http://www.frederick.edu/jobs-hr/policies-and-procedures/policyproceduredocuments/complaint-policy-procedure-for-students.aspx>

SCHEDULING COURSES

The program does not accept requests for placement into clinical, labs and simulation assignments. Only students accepted in the nursing program may register for courses. The registration process for courses in the nursing program differs from the college, students will be cleared for enrollment and must wait for enrollment permission to be set before they can register. Successful completion of one semester impacts registration for the following semester. Students should be prepared for all possible schedules available for their designated courses each semester.

Nursing Faculty and Staff Contact Information

Name	Telephone Number	Office	Email
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FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nursing Student Handbook

Academic Policies and Guidelines

Section 2

Professionalism in the Classroom

Students are expected to behave in a professional manner. This includes the classroom, clinical environment, or anytime the student is wearing the school uniform and/or name tag.

Inappropriate behavior in any instructional setting could result in the student being asked to leave the activity and meet with the course coordinator or Director of Nursing Education. Students exhibiting unprofessional behavior in classroom, clinical, or on campus may be at risk of dismissal from the program.

Professional behavior is expected in social media posts. Social media posts should not reference Frederick Community College or the nursing program unless approved by the Marketing Department at the college.

Professional behavior includes, but is not limited to, phones put away during instruction, not eating during instruction, participation in classroom activities, following assigned/randomized seating as instructed by the faculty member, speaking to peers and faculty with respect, arriving to class on time and remaining for the duration.

Students are expected to follow the Frederick Community College [Code of Student Conduct Policy and Procedures](#). The Code of Student Conduct outlines disruptive behavior in the classroom and other learning environments:

Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom and other Learning Environments

1. Faculty members have the right and responsibility to maintain an environment conducive to learning where discussion and expression of all views relevant to the subject matter of the class are recognized as necessary to the educational process. However, disruptive classroom behavior in the academic setting hinders the Code of Student Conduct Policy and Procedures 11 educational process. Accordingly, faculty members should establish, communicate, and enforce reasonable rules of classroom behavior and decorum via the syllabus and class discussion.
2. Disruptive Behavior is failure to comply with a directive from a College official or faculty member acting in performance of assigned duties or conduct that substantially interferes with or obstructs the teaching or learning process in the context of a classroom or educational setting.
 - a. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - i. Inappropriate use of electronic devices including cell phones, laptops, tablets, electronic pads, video, or recording devices, etc.
 - ii. Inappropriate comments or personal insults, conveyed orally or in writing, including communications within emails, and online course venues.
 - iii. Persistent speaking without being recognized or interrupting other speakers.
 - iv. Behavior that distracts the class, such as sleeping, holding

private conversations, frequent leaving and entering the classroom, etc.

- v. Conduct that intimidates others in a manner that interferes with instructional activities, including acts of hate-bias.
 - vi. Refusal to comply with the directives of a faculty/or staff member.
 - vii. Failure to comply with campus health and safety protocols.
- b. Civil expression of disagreement with the faculty member or other students during times when the faculty member permits discussion is not in itself disruptive behavior and is not prohibited.

CLASSROOM DRESS CODE

Scrubs are the professional attire for clinical nurses and will be the expected attire for students in lectures. To reduce the financial impact on students, any color scrubs are acceptable for lectures. FCC Nursing T-shirts and sweatshirts may be worn in place of scrub shirts. Scrubs with graphic images must be professional without offensive images or words.

Students who do not follow the professional attire policy for lecture will be placed on a Student Success and Action Plan for professional behavior that could impact progression in the program.

ATTENDANCE

Prompt and regular attendance of all classes is expected. For satisfactory progression, students must meet all course objectives in each course. Students should arrange for personal appointments outside of class, lab, and clinical hours. Attendance for exams is mandatory.

Absence is excused in the nursing program in four circumstances only:

- Illness of student or dependent: course coordinator must be contacted to schedule make-up exam; a medical provider note may be required to schedule the exam on a different day.
- Death in the immediate family: notice should be provided to course coordinator as early as possible.
- Court order: notification to course coordinator must be at least 1 week in advance, documentation must be provided.
- Recognized religious holiday: course coordinator must be notified at the beginning of the semester.

Exams

Exams will be held on campus. Lectures may follow exams and attendance is expected in lecture. Exam reviews are at the discretion of the course coordinator.

- Students absent or arriving after the exam has started will not be allowed into the examination area unless the course instructor has had prior notification and approved of the student's late arrival.
- Students absent or late to exams without prior instructor notification and approval will not be allowed to take the exam with the class. A reduction in points may be applied on the exam, see course syllabus. The student must self-schedule taking their exams in the testing center within 24 hours of the original exam date/time or receive a "zero" for the exam.



- Exams taken in the Testing Center should not be scheduled during any scheduled lecture or class time.

Exams and Exam Review:

Faculty will actively proctor all exams.

- All books, notebooks, backpacks, purses, bulky outerwear (including but not limited to winter coats, oversized sweatshirts, etc.), and other belongings will be placed at the front of the classroom.
- All electronic devices, including cellphones, smart watches, smart glasses, and air (ear) pods, must be turned off and secured in the area designated by the course instructor. Earplugs may be worn during the exam if desired and will be provided by the instructor.
- The course instructor will assign seats for the exam.
- At the beginning of the exam, each student will receive a half sheet of scratch paper and should write their name in the top corner. All students must return the sheet to the instructor upon leaving the exam room.
- Students will be provided with calculators via Exam Master.
- The instructor will not answer any content-related questions once the exam begins.
- No food or drink (including gum chewing and candy) will be allowed while taking the exam.
- No hats, ball caps, or visors will be allowed during the exam.
- Students will not be allowed to leave the room during the exam or exam review. A student leaving the exam in progress will not be readmitted. The earned grade will be entered in the gradebook.
- One small, non-electric, quiet "fidget" item may be allowed with faculty approval, except ATI proctored exams.
- Students with disruptive or distracting behavior during exams will be asked to control their behavior. Lack of self-control may lead to termination of their exam, leaving the examination area, and a meeting with the director. The student leaving the exam in progress will not be readmitted. The earned grade will be entered in the gradebook.
- Time for lecture and exam review is limited. Faculty will not debate or answer questions about content during the review. If you have a question about an exam question, please make an appointment with the instructor.

Student Honesty Agreement for Course Exams

Students are expected to display academic integrity in all assignments and exams. The Honesty Agreement will be included in all Exam Master exams. Students will be asked to agree before an exam begins. Students who are not willing to agree to academic honesty will not take the exam and will meet with the Director of Nursing Education.

Honesty Agreement

"By clicking and moving forward with this exam, I pledge that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination. I acknowledge that I will perform to the best of my ability without cheating, plagiarizing, or receiving outside assistance. I will not remove the exam from this room, either on test day or the day it is reviewed in class. I will not discuss the exam contents or questions following the exam, including discussing the exam with students in another section of the course. I acknowledge that this exam belongs to Frederick Community College. Removing exam material from the classroom without express permission is considered academic misconduct."

STUDENT EVALUATION/GRADING

A numerical point grading system is used to determine course grades. See the table below.

A	89.5%-100%
B	79.5%-89.4%
C	74.5%-79.4%
D	69.5%-74.4%
F	69.4% or below

Course Passing Requirements:

- A grade of "C" ($\geq 74.5\%$) is required as passing grade criteria for all courses in the nursing program. Any grade below a "C" ($< 74.4\%$) is considered a failing grade.
- To successfully pass a course, students must meet both of the following criteria:
 - Achieve a minimum average of 75% (74.5% or higher) on course examinations, as outlined in the course syllabus.
 - Earn a passing overall course grade, calculated by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of points possible in the course.

If a student does not meet the required exam average of 75% (74.5% or higher), they will not pass the course. In such cases, the student's final course grade will reflect their exam average, regardless of their overall point total in the course.

Students must pass both theory and all "pass/fail" components of the course (i.e., clinical, lab, simulation, OCCP, RQI, and ATI assessments) to receive a passing grade for all nursing courses.

Students will have ten (10) workdays after the posting of each exam grade in a course to request re-evaluation of their exam grade. All requests should be made in writing to the course professor (email acceptable).

ATI ASSESSMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS

FCC nursing programs utilize a nursing education product Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI). ATI products help students build strength in knowledge and clinical reasoning. ATI offers online and textbook student learning resources, skills modules, targeted and practice assessments, strategies for answering test items, content mastery assessments and comprehensive program predictor assessments. ATI provides individual student feedback which the student can utilize to identify strengths and potential knowledge deficits. Focused review tools are available to enhance mastery of content.

In some courses, ATI practice assessments and content mastery assessments are required course assessments. Refer to individual course syllabi for specific details related to ATI.



MATH FOR MEDICATION SAFETY

Math for Medication Safety Exam (MMSE) tests the ability to correctly calculate doses of medication prior to administration. You must prove competence in this area at the beginning of every semester.

- * MMSE practice test will be through Exam Master, available remotely.
- * The proctored exam will be given on campus before the semester begins.
- * Exam opportunities will be through Sign-Up Genius.
- * The first attempt of the exam requires 95% to pass.
- * The second attempt requires 100% to pass.
- * The third and final attempt requires 100% to pass.
- * Students must pass the MMSE before starting clinical experiences.

Students failing to achieve a passing score on the MMSE will be dismissed from the program.

FAILURE/WITHDRAWAL/AUDITING POLICIES

Students in jeopardy of academic failure will be notified of their status. Methods of notification may include the following: Navigate, instructor email via the FCC email account, and/or meeting with the instructor. If failure or withdrawal from the program occurs, students are required to meet with the Director of Nursing Education or designee. The purpose of this meeting is to assist the student in decision-making and documentation of the process.

Failure in a course may occur for any of the following reasons:

- * Failure in theory and/or clinical.
- * Failure to complete the course required clinical hours results in clinical failure.
- * Absence from clinical experience without instructor notification and/or absences which are not made up.
- * Leaving the clinical facility without clinical instructor's permission or knowledge.
- * Unethical conduct as outlined in the Maryland Nurse Practice Act.
- * Academic dishonesty in any form.
- * Failure to pay financial obligations to the college or program within a reasonable period.

Students may not audit Nursing courses.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones and all other electronic devices must be in the "off position" or on silent mode during class times (See FCC Code of Student Conduct Policy and Procedures). During exams and reviews, cell phones and other electronic devices (smart watches, headphones) must be in the "off position" and placed with belongings along the wall.

Sound recording, videos, and photographs during lectures are at the discretion of the faculty members. Recorded lectures, videos, and photographs should never be reproduced, shared, or published without permission from the faculty member.

Students found violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.



DRUG/ALCOHOL POLICY

The Nursing Program follows the FCC Code of Student Conduct Policy and Procedures prohibiting the illegal possession, use, or distribution of drugs and/or alcohol by students on college property or as part of any college activity.

FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLOSURES

The FCC website has specific information on the schedule. FCC does not follow the same schedule as Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) or county government. When FCC is closed due to inclement weather, hazardous road conditions, emergencies or on-campus incidents, FCC is committed to notifying all students and employees as quickly as possible. The best way to receive up-to-date information about college closings, or emergencies, is to subscribe to FCC Alerts – users will receive a text message or email notification. Register at www.frederick.edu/fccalert.

Weather conditions can deteriorate unexpectedly; therefore, students and staff should check the FCC website www.frederick.edu for the latest information prior to coming to the campus. If FCC needs to close the campus during the day, FCC will notify students through all communication channels as quickly as possible (see appendix).

Changes to nursing program schedules for clinical experiences and scheduled meetings will be communicated through Blackboard.

Clinical experiences may continue through different weather events. Clinical instructors and faculty will communicate changes to the schedule due to weather.

FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE DELAYED OPENINGS

FCC may open late if conditions are expected to improve. Due to class scheduling, late openings will occur at 11:00 am or 5 pm. Buildings will be unlocked half an hour before the announced start time.

EXPECTATIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY USE

- ✱ Please do not share your FCC account information (username and password) with anyone. You will be held responsible if you share your FCC account information and someone else uses your account. Note that using someone else's identity is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct (Section V.I - Misuse of Information Technology Resources. Irresponsible, unethical, unauthorized, or illegal use of, or entry to college information technology resources, including its network, email system, and databases is strictly prohibited) and IT Policies and Procedures Sections III.E and V on unauthorized access to email, voice mail, or other communications intended for others and password security.
- ✱ Remember to close all programs and log out when finished using the computer. FCC cannot be held responsible for the protection of data or account information when logged onto the computer.

- ★ To prevent damage to the computer equipment and avoid equipment replacement costs, no food or drinks are allowed on the computer desk. Food particles and liquid spills may damage computers and keyboards and contribute to insect and rodent infestations.
- ★ Please treat the computer equipment with respect, e.g., hands off the monitor, gentle use of the keyboard and mouse, etc. Do not make any adjustments to the computer monitor or screen saver or desktop background.
- ★ In classrooms with computers in the desks, if you leave the computers **ON**, please leave them up and on the desks. If they need to be placed inside the desks, please power the computers **OFF**.
- ★ Please remember that the computer at the classroom podium is for instructor use only.

Student Success and Action Plans

Students may need support in achieving success in lectures, labs, simulations, and clinical experiences. If an area of concern is identified, the student will meet with their course coordinator and possibly the director to plan for success. All areas of development can be addressed in a learning contract including, but not limited to, professional behaviors, academic performance, clinical skills, communication, and safety.

Students on a learning contract are expected to meet the requirements of the contract for successful completion of the course or program. Failure to successfully complete or abide by the contract may result in failure of the course or program.



FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nursing Student Handbook

Clinical Policies

Section 3

Each semester of the nursing program includes a clinical component. Students apply their knowledge and skills in the care of clients in the clinical setting. All clinical learning is supervised and evaluated by FCC nursing faculty (either full or part-time); preceptors are not used. All nursing faculty hold current, unencumbered RN licensures, and that role-required certifications are verified prior to assignment and annually, with records maintained on file. Clinical policies are designed to socialize students into the role and responsibilities of the professional nurse and to promote safe client care. Clinical placement is determined by nursing faculty. The program does not accept requests from students for placement into clinical assignments.

Appearance and grooming requirements are designed to facilitate student identity, client safety and comfort, and infection control. Students are expected to maintain personal hygiene standards. Students are expected to abide by the Clinical Attire Policy and any additional requirements of a clinical facility. Specifics of these policies are explained below.

CLINICAL ATTIRE POLICY

The purpose of the clinical attire policy is to maintain standards of dress, appearance, and hygiene. Based on generally accepted standards this is to promote a high level of confidence and trust on the part of the patient, community, and other members of the healthcare team. It ensures safe working conditions and practices.

It is the responsibility of each student to maintain the official Frederick Community College nursing student uniform. Any student who fails to meet the following standards may be dismissed from the clinical agency and time lost will be considered an unexcused absence.

- ★ **Infection Control:** Due to infection control measures changing with isolation concerns, clinical attire will be subject to site guidelines. Consult with your course coordinator, blackboard notices, and specific unit guidelines. There may be required masking or additional personal protective equipment required during clinical experiences.
- ★ **Uniform:** Students are required to wear the designated FCC Nursing Student uniform, which is purchased through the FCC bookstore or online, except as noted below.
 - The new uniform will be started in Spring 2025, however the old uniform will be acceptable for use until December 2027.
 - Students may wear a solid black or white shirt under their uniform. Long sleeves may be worn except if it becomes an infection control hazard. If it is deemed an infection control hazard by the clinical coordinator, the student will be notified to take corrective action, if the student does not correct the hazard they can be dismissed from the clinical site and must meet with the director.
 - Shirts could be crew or v-neck design. No turtlenecks shirts are allowed. Scrub jackets may be worn if they are the FCC scrub jacket.
 - Uniforms must bear the school badge on the left shoulder or the new front facing logo.
 - Name pin and institutionally required ID must always be worn in the clinical facility. A

- watch with a second hand is required, except when infection control policies prohibit its wearing. The uniform will be neat, clean, and well-fitting.
- The uniform should be laundered after each clinical experience. Uniforms should only be worn for school or clinical activities. Uniforms are to be worn for clinical experiences, skills, simulations, and lab unless otherwise directed by the course coordinator.
 - The Psychiatric/Mental Health clinical settings have distinct dress codes. See course requirements for dress code.
- ★ **Jewelry:** Students are encouraged not to wear any jewelry; however, limited jewelry (for example wedding band, a necklace under the shirt) will be permitted if safe working conditions and practices are not jeopardized. Only a watch may be worn on the wrist, bracelets will not be permitted.
- ★ **Shoes/Socks:** Black, closed-toe, closed-heel shoes, sneakers, or clogs are required. Shoes must be without perforations, holes, or pins. Shoes should have an impermeable, wipe-able surface. Minimal decorations or accents are acceptable. **Shoes worn at the clinical sites should not be worn on campus for class/skills/simulations.** Shoes for skills lab/simulations can be any color, but must be unadorned, clean, closed toe, closed heel and appropriate for skills lab or simulations room. No slippers or sandals should be worn in the lab.
- ★ **Piercings:** Visible body piercing must be limited to stud style earrings (no more than two in each ear) and one small nose stud (nose septum jewelry/rings are not permitted). All other visible body piercings (tongue, eyebrow, lip rings, etc.) must be removed in the hospital environment. Piercings under clothes should be minimized in appearance.
- ★ **Nails:** Nails must be neatly trimmed to one-quarter (1/4) inch length from fingertip.
- No artificial nails- including but not limited to tips, wraps, gels, overlays, extenders, acrylics, shellacs, tapes, appliques, nail piercings, and jewelry. In general, nail treatments are not allowed if they are meant to grow out with the nail, require more than air drying to set and/or more than simple wiping with nail polish remover to remove.
 - Polish is to be fresh and not chipped and only clear nail polish permitted. Some clinical experience sites do not allow any nail polish, please ask your clinical instructor, and adhere to site policy. Obstetrics and Family Center do not allow nail polish.
- ★ **Hair:** Hair is to be well groomed, clean, free of glitter, of a safe length, and of a natural color (which is defined as a color a human being can be born with). Hair must be worn away from the face and off the collar. Hair must be well secured as an infection control practice.
- Hair coverings are permitted but must be solid black or solid hunter green with no adornments or patterns. Hair coverings should be laundered after each clinical experience. Religious head coverings must be solid black or solid hunter green and secured under the uniform top and not hang loose around shoulders.

Facial hair must be clean shaven for the use of N95 masks, for those fitted for an N95.

- ★ **Makeup:** Make-up must be kept in moderation.
- ★ **Tattoos:** Reasonable attempts should be made to cover tattoos. It is understood that tattoos above the collar or on hands may still be visible even with long-sleeved shirts. In procedural areas, tattoos below the elbow may be exposed to ensure appropriate hand hygiene. Tattoos containing inappropriate or offensive images or messaging must be fully covered.
- ★ **Fragrances:** Students should avoid excessive use of fragrance, perfume, scented body lotion, aftershave, hair spray and scents that may be offensive to patients, visitors, and staff of clinical sites. Offensive scents may include but are not limited to personal odors, tobacco products, marijuana, other inhalants, and food odors. Maintain a scent-neutral environment.
- ★ **Hygiene:** Students are expected to exhibit and maintain a well-groomed personal appearance, including cleanliness and proper hygiene. Clothing is to be neatly laundered, in good repair, and free of odors and stains.

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS

Students are expected to behave professionally. This includes the classroom, clinical environment, or anytime the student is wearing the school uniform and/or name tag.

Inappropriate behavior in any instructional setting could result in the student being asked to leave the activity and meet with the course coordinator or Director of Nursing Education. Students exhibiting unprofessional behavior in classroom, clinical, or on campus may be at risk of dismissal from the program.

Tardiness is included in professional behavior.

Inappropriate or unprofessional behavior in the clinical environment will result in “Needs Improvement” or “Unsatisfactory” in all relevant categories for the day. (See CLINICAL GRADING POLICY below).

Professional behavior is expected in social media posts. Social media posts should not reference Frederick Community College or the nursing program unless approved by the Marketing Department at the college.

CLINICAL HEALTH AND CPR REQUIREMENTS

Any change of name, address or telephone number must be updated with the college admissions office immediately through Navigate. All students admitted into nursing clinicals courses must submit proof of clinical requirements to DISA Healthcare Technology/myCB or EXXAT/EXXAT Prism, a tracking and screening services company. Students must be cleared through DISA Healthcare Technology/myCB or EXXAT/EXXAT Prism two weeks prior to the first day of class to participate in the clinical rotation. The following are required:

★ **Health Form/Vaccine Records:**

The following immunizations/positive titers are required for the nursing program:

- Yearly QuantiFERON Gold TB test/two-step PPD/Chest Xray with interpretation of no active Tuberculosis disease
- Updated Covid vaccination
- Yearly Influenza vaccination (new year starts September)
- Polio primary series or polio booster
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Varicella vaccination and titer
- Hepatitis B, 3 vaccinations plus a positive titer

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS, CLINICAL ELIGIBILITY, AND LICENSURE

- ★ Students must complete a criminal background check through DISA Healthcare Technology/myCB or EXXAT/EXXAT Prism each year of the program. All nursing students are required to maintain eligibility for clinical placement and licensure throughout the program. Clinical site partners reserve the right to deny or revoke student placement based on criminal background findings. A determination by a clinical site to bar a student from participation will prevent completion of the nursing program, regardless of Frederick Community College's (FCC) position.
- ★ Although a student may be cleared at the time of admission, any subsequent criminal background re-check or other reportable finding that returns as "positive" will result in removal from the program unless the issue is successfully cleared. Students can work with agencies to clear reports. Students will pay for repeated check if needed. A positive background finding at any point during enrollment may therefore prevent program completion.
- ★ In accordance with COMAR 10.27.03.14, nursing programs are required to notify applicants prior to admission that certain criminal convictions may result in denial of licensure. Additionally, under Maryland Health Occupations § 8-316(a), the Maryland Board of Nursing has the authority to deny, suspend, revoke, or otherwise discipline a nursing license based on criminal convictions, including felonies or crimes involving moral turpitude, as well as violations of professional standards. Pursuant to § 8-308(c), the Board reviews criminal history record information when making licensure determinations and considers factors such as the nature of the offense, time elapsed, age at the time of the offense, and work history.
- ★ Completion of nursing coursework or graduation from the program does not guarantee eligibility for licensure. Final licensure decisions rest solely with the Maryland Board of Nursing.
- ★ **Drug Screening:** Students must complete a urine drug screening through DISA

Healthcare Technology/myCB or EXXAT/EXXAT Prism each year of the program. A student who has a positive drug screening will not be allowed to complete the nursing program.

- * **CPR:** Students will be required to complete American Heart Association Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI) four times a year (every quarter). Completion of RQI twice a semester will be required in each course. Proof of CPR certification (American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Professionals) must be submitted to DISA Healthcare Technology/myCB or EXXAT/EXXAT Prism. Failure to complete RQI twice a semester will result in a course failure unless excused by the Director of Nursing prior to the deadline.

CLINICAL ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory for all simulation, skills labs, skills assessment labs (SAL), on-campus clinical preparation (OCCP), clinical rotations, and computer training classes. An unexcused absence in any of these areas will result in an unsatisfactory in “professional behaviors” category for the day and two “U” will lead to course failure. (See CLINICAL GRADING POLICY below). Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the Course Coordinator in advance.

- * **Excused Absences:** Students can make-up 2 absences per semester.
 - If a student is in more than one clinical course a semester and have two absences in one course, they will meet with the course coordinator and may need to meet with the Director of Nursing Education for a program to outline a Student Success and Action Plan related to clinical absence.
If they miss any additional clinical days due to excused or unexcused reasons, they will fail the course.
 - Clinical absences must be made up and will be arranged by the clinical coordinator.
 - In the event of an excused absence, the student is responsible for prior notification, as outlined below.
 - Failure to make up any absence or noncompliance with the makeup schedule will result in course failure (see CLINICAL GRADING POLICY and the statement regarding Medical Release for Return to Clinical below).
 - Absences greater than 2 calendar days are considered unexcused and will result in a U on the clinical evaluation tool.
 - Absences from simulation, skills lab, SAL, OCCP, clinical rotations, hospital computer training and exams are excused in four circumstances only:
 - Illness of student or dependent – the clinical instructor, course coordinator, and clinical coordinator must be contacted **in advance** of scheduled activity to avoid a “U” for unexcused absence. Failure to contact the clinical instructor, course coordinator, and/or clinical coordinator prior to the start of the clinical experiences will receive a U on the clinical evaluation tool.
 - Death in the immediate family- notice should be provided to clinical instructor, course coordinator, and schedule coordinator as early as possible.

- Court order – notification to clinical instructor, course coordinator, and schedule coordinator must be at least 1 week in advance of scheduled absence to avoid a “U” for unexcused absence; earlier if possible.
- Recognized religious holiday- clinical instructor, course coordinator, and schedule coordinator must be notified 2 weeks in advance; earlier if possible.

○ **Note: Medical Release Requirements for Return to Clinical**

Healthcare Provider Statement: To ensure the student is not placing themselves or the client at risk, a medical release or healthcare provider statement **may** be required for return to clinical for any student who has been excused from the clinical due to medical reasons. This includes but is not limited to childbirth, surgery, injury, or hospitalization. The student must return to the clinical experience at full capacity without restrictions. The medical release and/or healthcare provider statement must be presented to the Course Coordinator prior to the student’s return to the clinical area. If the student cannot obtain the statement from the health care provider, then the student will be required to withdraw from the course. And may not return until a medical release can be provided by the student.

- ★ **Unexcused Absences:** An unexcused clinical absence will result in an Unsatisfactory (U) on the clinical evaluation tool (see clinical grading policy below). Students receiving two “U” on CET will result in a clinical failure and therefore course failure. A student who has a clinical failure will have all relevant documentation reviewed by a nursing faculty committee to determine the outcome of course failure.

COVID: Follow current recommendations from the clinical site and college.

CLINICAL GRADING POLICY

- ★ Students must pass both theory and clinical component (clinical, SAL, OCCP, simulation: as assigned in course) to receive a passing grade for all nursing courses.
 - A pass/fail criterion is utilized for the clinical component (i.e., clinical, SAL, OCCP, Simulation). To receive a passing grade in clinical, specific behaviors must be demonstrated. See individual course Clinical Evaluation Tool.
- ★ Clinical behaviors are evaluated according to the following criteria:
 - **U** = Unsatisfactory
 - **N** = Needs improvement
 - **S** = Satisfactory
 - Note: Two "Needs improvements" will be the equivalent of one "Unsatisfactory" for the purposes of the actions described below.
- ★ All behaviors on the Clinical Evaluation Tool are expected. However, some behaviors are deemed *non-critical*, others *critical*.

- **Noncritical Behaviors:** After receiving two “Unsatisfactory” grades (two “N” s equal

one “U”) in a noncritical behavior, a meeting will be arranged within ten working days of the documented offense with the Director of Nursing Education (or designee), Clinical Coordinator/Course Coordinator/Clinical Instructor, and the student. The student will be placed on probation, and a remediation plan will be developed for the student by the Course Coordinator and Clinical Instructor. A third “Unsatisfactory” grade in the same noncritical behavior and/or failure to meet the remediation plan will result in course failure.

- **Critical Behaviors:** After receiving one “Unsatisfactory” grade (two “N” s equal one “U”) in a critical behavior, a meeting will be arranged within ten working days of the documented offense with the Director of Nursing Education (or designee), Clinical Coordinator/Course Coordinator/Clinical Instructor, and the student. The student will either be placed on probation or immediately receive a failing grade. If placed on probation, a Student Success and Action Plan will be developed for the student by the Course Coordinator and Clinical Instructor. A second “unsatisfactory” grade in the same critical behavior and/or failure to meet the remediation plan will result in course failure.
- ✱ Students who receive an "Unsatisfactory" or "Needs improvement" in behaviors in the clinical setting will be notified by the Clinical Instructor. The Course Coordinator will also be notified.
- ✱ Students will be advised weekly of his/her progress in clinical by the clinical instructor via the Clinical Evaluation Tool. Students must sign and date the weekly clinical evaluation.
- ✱ A written final clinical evaluation which includes a student self-evaluation will be completed by each clinical instructor. The student must sign the evaluation form indicating that the evaluation has been read. Students can make written comments related to their final evaluation. Final course grades will be withheld for student sign-off.
- ✱ The final course grade, including clinical grade is determined by the course coordinator.

CLINICAL SAFETY ISSUES AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✱ **Client Safety:** The student will be held to the same standards of professionalism and competence required by a registered nurse. These standards have been set by the Nurse Practice Act of Maryland. Each person is liable for his/her own actions. Consequently, the student is responsible for seeking clinical instructor guidance if he/she needs assistance.
 - Students are expected to be adequately prepared to care for assigned clients.
 - Students must attend an orientation in the clinical area.
 - The student is to immediately report any unexpected changes in the client status to the clinical instructor/primary nurse.
 - See the Maryland Nurse Practice Act (Comar 10, Title 27, Subtitle 11, Section 03) for state regulations (<http://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/nurse-practice-act.aspx>)
- ✱ **Substance Use and Abuse:** The Nursing Program follows the FCC Drug and Alcohol Policy (<http://www.frederick.edu/jobs-hr/policies-and->

[procedures/policyproceduredocuments/atoda.aspx](#))

- Students may be terminated from the program if they provide nursing care or come to the clinical/lab/simulation setting while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, any mood, behavior altering, or controlled substances with or without valid medical authorization.
- The clinical instructor who suspects the student of being under the influence will immediately dismiss the student from the setting, encourage the student to seek immediate medical care, and to contact someone for transport home.
- The student will receive a “U” under Professional Behaviors. The clinical instructor will immediately notify the course coordinator and Director of Nursing Education, and document the behaviors observed, response of the student, and actions taken.
- Final disposition regarding the incident will be at the discretion of the Director of Nursing Education and FCC administration, up to and including termination from the Nursing Program and the College.

- ✱ **Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Compliance:** All students are required to complete the mandatory OSHA/HIPAA training prior to participation in clinical. Under no circumstances may client information be taken from the client care unit. This includes any document that contains client identification. Failure to comply will result in immediate clinical failure.
- ✱ **Legal Documentation:** A student may not serve as a witness to any legal document in the clinical setting, e.g., permission for surgery or any other invasive procedure, wills, etc.

CRITICAL INCIDENTS

The practice of nursing involves risks including exposure to infectious diseases and susceptibility to injury. Students are responsible for following FCC, nursing course guidelines, and clinical agency policies and procedures to minimize their chance of illness or injury. Medical insurance coverage is required.

- ✱ **Incident Reporting Procedure:** When a nursing student is involved in an error or a mishap in the clinical area, the incident is to be immediately reported to the clinical instructor who will then guide the student to follow the protocol of the clinical agency in filing the appropriate documentation and follow-up. An FCC incident report must also be completed and submitted to the Director of Nursing Education.
- ✱ **Student Illness:** If a student is injured in the clinical area, the Clinical Instructor will assess the injury and contact the appropriate parties. If the injury occurs while in clinical at Frederick Health Hospital, the hospital will afford the cost of medical care. If an injury occurs while in the clinical areas outside of Frederick Health Hospital, the student is responsible for seeking medical care at his/her own expense. The clinical agencies have no responsibility for the medical care of students.
 - FCC is not responsible for medical bills incurred because of a critical incident or



student illness. Injury at the clinical site must be reported to Employee Health for their internal reporting and evaluation. Students may be sent to the employee health for patient care related events or the emergency department for personal illness.

MISCELLANEOUS CLINICAL INFORMATION

Smoking: Smoking is not permitted in college buildings or clinical facilities. Smoking breaks during clinical hours are not permitted. Students are required to adhere to the clinical facility policies. Smoking is not permitted on the healthcare campus. Smoke odors are not acceptable on clinical attire.

Clinical Scheduling: Students should be prepared for all possible clinical schedules available for their designated course(s) each semester.

Clinical hours will vary greatly depending on the site and type of experience and could occur on days, evenings, nights, weekdays, and/or weekends.

The nursing program does not accept student requests for clinical placement.

Evening/weekend students will be scheduled for weekday clinicals for specific experiences and site availability.

Day students may have clinical experiences in the evening or on weekends for specific experiences and site availability.

Transportation and Parking: Students are responsible for transportation to and from clinical or observational sites. Expenses incurred for transportation to clinical or observational sites or parking must be met by the student. Carpooling is at the student's own risk. Students are responsible for adhering to the agencies' parking requirements. FCC Nursing program prioritizes experiences in Frederick County and recognizes traveling outside of Frederick County could be an undue burden on students.

Clinical Agency Property: Students are responsible for the return of all clinical agency property such as badges. Students may be billed for items not returned. Final grades will be withheld until items are returned or the bill is paid.

Login IDs/Passwords: All computer login IDs are the property of the affiliating clinical agency. Login IDs and passwords are not to be shared or given to anyone under any circumstances. An FHH login ID issued to a student will remain their login for the entire time the student is in the nursing program. Any observation of unauthorized use or misuse of computer login IDs or passwords should be reported immediately to the clinical nursing faculty member.

Personal Electronic Devices: No personal electronic devices are permitted on client care units unless approved by FCC clinical instructor. Cell phones in the clinical area are for emergency use only. Phones should not be out in patient care areas and only used on breaks authorized by the clinical instructor when patient care has been completed and handoff given to appropriate personnel.



Social Media Guidelines: The Nursing Program at Frederick Community College recognizes the widespread use of social networking websites as a means of communication. Although the nursing program does not wish to become involved in the students' personal social activities and communication, students are expected to adhere to the following National Council of State Board of Nursing guidelines (2011). Nurses {nursing students} must:

- ✱ Recognize that they have an ethical and legal obligation to always maintain client privacy and confidentiality.
- ✱ Not transmit by way of any electronic media any client-related information or image that is reasonably anticipated to violate client rights to confidentiality or privacy or to otherwise degrade or embarrass the client.
- ✱ Not share, post, or otherwise disseminate any information (including images) about a client or information gained in the nurse-client relationship with anyone, unless there is a care-related need to disclose the information or other legal obligation to do so.
- ✱ Not identify clients by name or post or publish information that may lead to the identification of a client. Limiting access to postings through privacy settings is not sufficient to ensure privacy.
- ✱ Not take photos or videos of clients on personal devices, including mobile devices
- ✱ Maintain professional boundaries in the use of electronic media.
- ✱ Consult employer policies or an appropriate leader within the organization for guidance regarding work-related postings.
- ✱ Promptly report any identified breach of confidentiality or privacy
- ✱ Be aware of and comply with employer policies regarding the use of employer-owned computers, cameras, and other electronic devices and the use of personal devices in the workplace.

SIMULATION LAB EXPECTATIONS/PROCEDURES

Simulation activities provide an educational opportunity to obtain practical experience in a simulated client environment. Just as in clinical, confidentiality with respect to information concerning the simulation scenarios, the simulated clients, and fellow students must be maintained. Active participation in the simulation scenarios is part of the course requirements and is mandatory. Simulation scenarios may be recorded and used for debriefing, professional development, and/or post-simulation learning purposes. Completing the Nursing Program Handbook test in Blackboard signifies your permission for this videotaping.

- Student Expectations and Responsibilities:
 - The simulation manikins are to be treated with respect and in the same manner you would treat a real client.
 - All simulation and lab spaces are learning environments. All students are expected to demonstrate behaviors that maintain this respectful and supportive learning environment. All simulation experiences should be treated in a professional manner.
 - All information related to simulation experiences including scenario details, prebriefing and debriefing conversations, and peer performance will be held in confidence and will not be communicated in any form.



- Personal recording of any component of this session is strictly forbidden.
- Attendance and punctuality are mandatory for all simulation scenarios. Late and/or unprepared participants may not be permitted to participate in scheduled simulations.
- Makeup assignments for missed simulations will be determined by the course coordinator and/or Director of Simulation.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the simulation lab at any time.
- Cell phones must be switched off or silent.
- Dress code and professional behaviors for simulations match that of clinical rotations.

CLINICAL PROCEDURES FOR CANCELLATIONS/DELAYS (INCLEMENT WEATHER):

In the absence of an announcement, Frederick Community College (FCC) is open and operating under normal schedule. FCC does not follow the same schedule as Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) or county government. When FCC is closed due to inclement weather, hazardous road conditions, emergencies or on-campus incidents, FCC is committed to notifying all students and employees as quickly as possible. The best way to receive up-to-date information about college closings, or emergencies, is to subscribe to FCC Alerts – users will receive a text message or email notification. Register at www.frederick.edu/fccalert. See <http://www.frederick.edu/jobs-hr/policies-and-procedures/policyproceduredocuments/inclement-weather.aspx> for more information and the appendix for the list of places to check for closures.

★ NOTE: When the main campus is closed due to inclement weather, experiences may be canceled and rescheduled, or a virtual experience offered. Clinical instructors and/or course coordinators will contact students through email or text message with clinical experience change.



FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nursing Student Handbook

Student Support Services

Section 4

Multiple support services are available to students. A complete list is available in the current FCC Catalogue and in the FCC Student Handbook.

DISABILITIES ACCESS SERVICES (DAS):

Students seeking services should contact DAS Staff at 301-846-2408. All class, clinical or exam accommodation must originate from the DAS Office. The accommodation or changes to existing accommodation must be given to the Course Coordinator by the student before the accommodation(s) can be implemented.

- * If a student determines they are unable to do any of the skills listed and has a documented disability, the student is responsible for contacting Disabilities Access Services (DAS) at 301-846-2408 to discuss the need for reasonable accommodations. See Section 6: Professional and Technical Standards for skills list.
- * Reasonable accommodation for qualified students with a disability may include but is not limited to academic adjustments or auxiliary aids.
- * Accommodations that fundamentally alter the nature of the academic program or could jeopardize the health and safety of others are not considered reasonable accommodations.
- * All information shared with Disability Access Services will be held in confidence.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT RESOURCES

- * **The Learning Commons:** For more information on the available resources available in the Learning Commons, refer to <https://www.frederick.edu/student-resources/gladhill-learning-commons/library.aspx>
- * **Student Success Coaches:** Students may be referred to the student success coaches, it is recommended students keep appointments with the coaches to support their success in the semester. Coaches can help with note-taking strategies, test taking, and calendar planning.

FINANCIAL AID

Frederick Community College works to ensure that all students have equal access to financial assistance that will help them attend college. FCC participates in a wide range of federal, state, and local financial aid programs that include grants, loans, employment, and scholarships. More information can be found at <http://www.frederick.edu/cost-financial-aid.aspx?cid=fa-top-link>

Many scholarships are available to students enrolled in the clinical component of nursing programs. Scholarships are generally based on need, academic ability, or both. All students are encouraged to apply. Some scholarship applications are available on the College web site. More information is available in the Nursing Program web site Nursing Fees and Scholarships section (<https://www.frederick.edu/degrees-certificates/nursing-fees-and-scholarships.aspx>)



Frederick Community College

Nursing Student Handbook

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Section 5

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Frederick Community College Policy on code of student conduct can be found at <http://www.frederick.edu/jobs-hr/policies-and-procedures/policyproceduredocuments/code-of-student-conduct.aspx>

PROGRAM/COURSE EVALUATIONS

Evaluation is a professional responsibility and data collected is utilized to evaluate and make improvements to the program. Students will evaluate the instructors (class and clinical), courses and the program. In addition, graduates will be contacted to complete a follow-up survey.

FEDERAL TITLE IV FUNDS (FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID)

All students have an ethical responsibility to repay all funding received from any Title IV Program.



FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nursing Student Handbook

Professional Code of Ethics

Section 6

The American Nurses Association Code of Ethics

Nursing Students are expected to uphold the same code of ethics as a graduate nurse. The American Nurses Association provides a Code of Ethics to empower nurses. Please visit their site to read the Code of Ethics and subscribe as a nursing student. <https://www.nursingworld.org/ana/>

- PROVISION 1: Dignity and Respect The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.
- PROVISION 2: Primary Commitment A nurse's primary commitment is to the recipient(s) of nursing care, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.
- PROVISION 3: Trust and Advocacy The nurse establishes a trusting relationship and advocates for the rights, health, and safety of recipient(s) of nursing care.
- PROVISION 4: Responsibility and Accountability for Practice Nurses have authority over nursing practice and are responsible and accountable for their practice consistent with their obligations to promote health, prevent illness, and provide optimal care.
- PROVISION 5: Duties to Self The nurse has moral duties to self as a person of inherent dignity and worth including an expectation of a safe place to work that fosters flourishing, authenticity of self at work, and self-respect through integrity and professional competence.
- PROVISION 6: Ethical Work Environments Nurses, through individual and collective effort, establish, maintain, and improve the ethical environment of the work setting that affects nursing care and the well-being of nurses.
- PROVISION 7: Knowledge Development and Social Policy Nurses advance the profession through multiple approaches to knowledge development, professional standards, and the generation of policies for nursing, health, and social concerns.
- PROVISION 8: Collaborative Relationships Nurses build collaborative relationships and networks with nurses, other healthcare and nonhealthcare disciplines, and the public to achieve greater ends.
- PROVISION 9: Commitment to Society and Social Justice Nurses and their professional organizations work to enact and resource practices, policies, and legislation to promote social justice, eliminate health inequities, and facilitate human flourishing.
- PROVISION 10: NEW! A Global Nursing Community Nursing, through organizations and associations, participates in the global nursing and health community to promote human and environmental health, well-being, and flourishing. Let the Code of Ethics for Nurses inspire and guide your journey in nursing as you contribute to the health and dignity of individuals and communities.

NATIONAL STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION Code of Ethics

The National Student Nurses Association has identified a code of ethics specific for nursing students. Visit their website to read the full code of ethics. <https://www.nsna.org/>

Students of nursing have a responsibility to society in learning the academic theory and clinical skills needed to provide nursing care. The clinical setting presents unique challenges and responsibilities while caring for human beings in a variety of healthcare environments.

The Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct is based on an understanding that to practice nursing as a student is an agreement to uphold the trust which society has placed in us. The statements of the code provide guidance for the nursing student in the personal development of an ethical foundation and need not be limited strictly to the academic or clinical environment but can assist in the holistic development of the person.



As students are involved in clinical and academic environments, we believe that ethical principles are a necessary guide to professional development. Therefore, within these environments we:

- * Advocate for the rights of all clients.
- * Maintain client confidentiality.
- * Take appropriate action to ensure the safety of clients, self, and others.
- * Provide care for the client in a timely, compassionate, and professional manner.
- * Communicate client care in a truthful, timely, and accurate manner.
- * Actively promotes the highest level of moral and ethical principles and accept responsibility for our actions.
- * Promote excellence in nursing by encouraging lifelong learning and professional development.
- * Treat others with respect and promote an environment that respects human rights, values, and choice of cultural and spiritual beliefs.
- * Collaborate in every reasonable manner with the academic faculty and clinical staff to ensure the highest quality of client care.
- * Use every opportunity to improve faculty and clinical staff understanding of the learning needs of nursing students.
- * Encourage faculty, clinical staff, and peers to mentor nursing students.
- * Refrain from performing any technique or procedure for which the student has not been adequately trained.
- * Refrain from any deliberate action or omission of care in the academic or clinical setting that creates unnecessary risk of injury to the client, self, or others.
- * Assist the staff nurse or clinical instructor in ensuring that there is full disclosure, and that proper authorization is obtained from clients regarding any form of treatment or research.
- * Abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages or any substances in the academic and clinical setting that impair judgment.
- * Strive to achieve and maintain an optimal level of personal health.
- * Support access to treatment and rehabilitation for students who are experiencing impairments related to substance abuse and mental or physical health issues.
- * Uphold school policies and regulations related to academic and clinical performance, reserving the right to challenge and critique rules and regulations as per school grievance policy.

FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nursing Student Handbook

Student Participation in College Life

Section 7

COLLEGE COMMITTEES

Many college committees have student representatives. Nursing student representation in college-wide committees is encouraged. Student representatives are selected by the College's Student Government Association (SGA). Nursing students who are interested in serving as student representatives should contact their class officers or any SGA officer.

Nursing Student Association

The club is dependent on student leadership and participation. It consists of an executive board of select admission health sciences students, interested students, and faculty advisors. Activities and events will be planned and implemented under the Student Engagement and SGA structures. Activities and events will be open to all FCC students interested in exploring or pursuing health professions.

NURSING COMMITTEES

Student representation on committees is essential for program improvement. Any student wishing to serve on a committee should contact the faculty class advisor or the Director of Nursing Education. Nursing committees with student involvement include the following:

- ✱ Nursing Program Advisory Committee: One representative from the program is invited to attend meetings. This committee meets once each fall and spring semester to discuss the nursing program and report progress toward goals.
- ✱ Student/Faculty Council: Two student representatives per section are invited to participate. This committee meets twice per semester to discuss the student experience.
 - The purpose of the Student Council is to:
 - Provide structured communication between students and faculty.
 - Promote leadership, professionalism, and advocacy within the nursing program.
 - Support quality improvement across academic, clinical, and student-life experiences.
 - Align all communication with the ANA Code of Ethics, QSEN Competencies, and the mission of the Frederick Community College Nursing Program.

Role of Student Representatives

Student representatives are expected to:

- Gather feedback from peers—not only personal opinions.
- Present concerns along with at least one realistic solution.
- Maintain confidentiality and professionalism.
- Submit written summaries when required.
- Represent the nursing program with civility, integrity, and accountability.

Role of Faculty Advisors

Faculty advisors will:

- Facilitate (not dominate) discussions.



- Uphold standards of respect, civility, and solution-based communication.
- Protect student voices while preventing gossip, blame, or unprofessional conduct.
- Document themes, follow-up actions, and communicate outcomes to leadership when appropriate.
- Maintain Student Council records to ensure continuity for future faculty.

FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nursing Student Handbook

Appendix

Section 9

COLLEGE COMMUNICATION METHODS

Blackboard course site: www.frederick.blackboard.com

College Information Center: 301-846-2400

FCC Alert text message (you must register @www.frederick.edu)

Comcast Cable: FCC TV Channel 23

FCC Web Site: www.frederick.edu

Other sites: www.schoolsout.com

Broadcast and Social Media:

RADIO	TV	
WFMD (AM 930)	NEWS4 (Ch. 4)	WTTG FOX – 5 (Ch. 5)
WFRE (FM 99.9)	ABC (Ch. 7)	News Channel 8
WAFY (FM 103.1)	WUSA – TV (Ch. 9)	WBAL (Ch. 11)
WARX (FM 106.9)	WJZ-TV (Ch. 13)	WHAG-TV (Ch. 25)
Facebook: FCC's official Facebook page		

AWARDS AND HONORS

- ✱ Five awards are presented to graduating ADN students. These awards are presented at the Pinning Ceremonies.
 - The Frederick Health Hospital Board of Trustees Award is given to the ADN student with the highest academic average.
 - The Nursing Excellence Award is presented to the ADN student who demonstrates outstanding clinical skills.
 - The Director's Award is presented to the ADN student who has demonstrated perseverance in achieving his or her goal of becoming a professional nurse.
 - The Jane Garvin Leadership Award is presented to the ADN student who has exemplified leadership qualities essential for nursing practice.
 - The Nightengale Award is presented to the student who embodies the qualities of caring and compassion in the care of clients in the community.
- ✱ **Phi Theta Kappa:** Students seeking their ADN who excel academically may be eligible for nomination to the Phi Theta Kappa, the national junior and community college honor society.
- ✱ **Dean's List:** Full-time and part-time students who have completed 12 credits or more and who have a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher with no C's are eligible to be named to the Dean's List



FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nursing Student Handbook

Signature Page

Section 10



STUDENT SIGNATURE SHEET *(see electronic acknowledgement required in Blackboard every semester)*

1. I verify that I have read the Frederick Community College Nursing Programs Student Handbook in its entirety and understand the information contained within.
2. I agree to meet and adhere to all program requirements as identified in the Student Handbook.
3. I agree to follow the policies and procedures as identified in the Student Handbook.
4. I understand my rights and responsibilities as a student as identified in the Student Handbook.

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Date