

# Graduate Academic Policy

## ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT AND PROGRESSION

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In order to be fully admitted to the graduate program, the student must provide proof of a current license as a registered nurse (RN). Professional liability insurance is provided for all students through the College; however students may secure additional insurance if they wish.

Students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment until the program is completed. Students in good academic standing who interrupt their continuous enrollment for more than two (2) semesters will be evaluated in regard to their status in the program.

### Practicum Course Requirements

In order to participate in practicum courses, students in all tracks of the graduate program must hold a license as an RN in the state in which the practicum experience is based. In addition, students in practicum courses must meet the clinical requirements of the agency in which the practicum experiences occur. Requirements vary according to the type of agency but often include those listed below.

All students must complete the following clinical requirements before starting their clinical experiences. Documentation that these requirements have been met must be current and on file in the office of the Academic Registrar before students can register for clinical courses.

- 1) Measles/mumps. For students born on or after 1/1/57, provide adequate documentation of diagnosed disease, laboratory evidence of immunity, or documentation of adequate vaccination. (2 vaccinations)
- 2) Varicella (Chickenpox). Adequate vaccination, diagnosed disease or, for those with a negative or uncertain history of varicella, serologic screening.
- 3) Rubella. For students born on or after 1/1/57, provide laboratory evidence of immunity or documentation of adequate vaccination. All women, regardless of birth date, should have proof of rubella immunity or prior vaccination.(2 vaccinations)\
- 4) Incoming students who are due for a TD booster must have TDAP which includes acellosis pertussis. TDAP will be required for students at the time of their next TD booster .
- 5) Tuberculin Testing. Based on current CDC recommendations:
  - A. Current TB skin test (less than 12 months old) on admission to the nursing program (or most current CDC recommendation)
  - B. If TB skin test is older than 12 months, complete a two-step tuberculin test upon admission to the nursing program.

C. Annual tuberculin skin test is required each year the student is enrolled in clinical nursing courses.

D. If the TB skin test is positive or cannot be completed, a chest x-ray must be completed followed by annual documentation of tuberculosis clearance by an approved health care provider.

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7) Hepatitis B immunization. The series of three immunizations or a signed waiver declining the immunizations is required.

8) Color Blindness. An assessment for color blindness must be completed before the beginning of clinical practicum courses. This can be done in the Learning Resource Center at Research College of Nursing.

9) Basic Life Support (BLS) certification for Health Care Providers. Students must maintain current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification throughout the clinical practicum courses. The Basic Life Support (BLS) course for Healthcare Providers includes CPR skills for helping victims of all ages (including doing ventilation with a barrier device, a bag-mask device, and oxygen); use of automated external defibrillator (AED); and relief of foreign body airway obstruction (FBAO). The CPR course MUST include CPR for infants, children and adults (one and two-person).

The CPR certification course must include evidence of satisfactory performance in both cognitive knowledge (written test) and skills (hands-on skills check-off).

CPR certification/recertification should be completed at a time when it will be valid for an entire academic year.

10) Criminal Background Check. All students must have a criminal background check completed prior to initial enrollment in nursing courses. A single negative check does not preclude the requirement of additional checks at a future time. Students should be aware that any affirmative results from a criminal background check may result in an inability to participate in required clinical activities and therefore may result in the student's inability to complete degree requirements. In the event that a student's criminal background check is reported "affirmatively" the student will have the opportunity to request an additional criminal background check. The rationale and policy related to repetition of criminal background checks is found in the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

11) Clinical Orientation Competency Exam. Students must satisfactorily complete the competency exam annually. This exam is available on WebCT: *Clinical Orientation Requirements*.

12) HIPAA Competency. All students must satisfactorily complete an exam (WebCT: *Clinical Orientation Requirements*) annually based on requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Additional HIPAA testing may be required by specific clinical agencies.

13) Confidentiality Statement. A signed statement completed annually regarding the confidentiality of information about patients, their families and clinical facilities. (WebCT: *Clinical Orientation Requirements*).

- 14) Proof of Health Insurance. Contracts with clinical agencies require that all students provide evidence of health insurance coverage. Students should be aware that if illness or injury occurs during a clinical experience, they may be required to seek appropriate medical care at a health care facility and assume the cost of any required testing or treatment. Evidence of health insurance or a waiver must be documented annually. Students who do not provide evidence of health insurance must sign a waiver stating that they assume personal responsibility for all costs of any medical care required due to illness or injury.
- 15) Absence of any infectious disease. A student with an infectious disease shall promptly disclose this information to the appropriate faculty member so that a determination can be made concerning whether the student's condition poses a direct threat of harm to the student's own health or safety, or to the health or safety of others. This determination will be made in consultation with appropriate medical personnel.
- 16) If for some reason a student cannot be immunized or otherwise satisfactorily meet the requirements of paragraphs 1-6 above, Research College of Nursing will consider appropriate options on a case-by-case basis.