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WELCOME!

We are delighted to welcome you to the Undergraduate programs at the University of West Georgia Tanner Health System School of Nursing. You have selected this university and School of Nursing to pursue your education, and we are confident you will find the programs of study both challenging and rewarding.

This handbook has been developed to provide university and school information concerning various policies and guidelines. Please seek clarification from faculty members as necessary.

One of the strong points of these programs is the cadre of committed faculty. We believe you will find the faculty to be caring, competent, and empathetic individuals willing to assist you in every way possible. Please feel free to call on any of us at any time. Our doors are always open, and we welcome your input and suggestions concerning the program.

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Rights clause of the SON Undergraduate handbook:
The Tanner Health System School of Nursing reserves the right to amend, modify, add to, or delete our rules, policies, and procedures.
MISSION

The University of West Georgia, Tanner Health System School of Nursing exemplifies academic excellence in a caring environment by providing quality undergraduate and graduate education to meet current and evolving health care needs within the global community (Approved 4/5/2010).

VISION

The University of West Georgia, Tanner Health System School of Nursing will be a leader in the scholarship of teaching and learning through the empowerment of graduates and colleagues who exhibit the ability and courage to create quality caring in health care and educational systems (Approved 5/7/12).

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND ASSUMPTIONS (Revised 4/23/12)

The faculty of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing believe and support the mission, purpose, and goals of the University of West Georgia. While offering both undergraduate and graduate academic programs, the School of Nursing frames its philosophy within the theoretical structure of caring as the essence of nursing. The faculty are committed to creating a milieu for learning that fosters quality caring and believe that all persons are inherently worthy and deserve respect, justice, and equality regardless of gender, race, culture, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status. In pursuit of these beliefs, the faculty declare the following statements of our beliefs and assumptions:

PERSONS

Persons, including individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations, are unique and dynamic as thinking, caring, feeling contributors to society with the right to make choices and assume responsibility for their choices. Persons are holistic, representing an integration of mind, body, and spirit. They have spiritual-social-cultural-ethical beliefs and values that influence the perception of self, others, and the world.

ENVIRONMENT

People construct meaning and develop knowledge through being in the world and interacting with the world. Environment includes persons, cultures, the health-care system, and other aspects of the constructed and natural world. A concern for the environment is essential due to the social, political, and economic influences on health and the health-care system.

HEALTH

Health is a dynamic and contextual state of being in which there is a balance of relationships, choices, and human potential. The person’s perception of health is unique and self-determined within psychological, biophysical, socio-cultural, developmental, and spiritual dimensions.
NURSING

Nursing is a distinct discipline focused on promoting optimal health through the formation of caring relationships across the lifespan while recognizing and respecting the uniqueness of recipients of care. Quality caring provides the foundation for nurses to deliver safe and person-centered care in a rapidly changing health care environment (Duffy, 2009).

TEACHING-LEARNING

Teaching-learning is a dynamic, reciprocal, lifelong process that nurtures and facilitates growth in all participants. Learning occurs through meaningful relationships characterized by connectedness, openness, and creativity. Teachers and learners share the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment that nurtures these relationships (Duffy, 2009).

NURSING EDUCATION

The undergraduate program prepares graduates for professional nursing practice, future leadership roles, and advanced education. Education at the graduate level is designed to foster utilization of theoretical and empirical knowledge in advanced nursing practice. (Approved 11/22/2010)

References

QUALITY CARING FRAMEWORK

The philosophy of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing (THS SON) is based on the belief that caring collaborative relationships are the center of creating a culture of quality caring in nursing education and practice. Caring collaborative relationships occur among teachers and learners, clients and nurses, and inter-professional healthcare team members. The process of living a caring science curriculum leads to achievement of program outcome goals centered on educating practitioners who can provide safe and person-centered care in a rapidly changing health care environment (Duffy, 2009).

The philosophy of the THS SON is based on an integration of Duffy’s (2009) Quality Caring Model and Hills and Watson’s (2011) Caring Science Curriculum Model. Both of these models place caring collaborative relationships at the center of the process of nursing education and practice and provide the framework for implementation of a curriculum based on caring.

The Quality Caring Model explicates the relationship-centered and multi-dimensional aspects associated with providing quality health care (Duffy, 2009). Within this model, “relationships are at the heart of the health care process” (Duffy, 2009, p. 33) in order to promote positive outcomes for persons who are recipients of healthcare, for provider, and within the health care system. Adapted for the curriculum in the THS SON, Duffy’s model provides a framework for caring as the center of a Process in which students are taught concepts relevant to nursing practice (Structure) resulting in achievement of the program goals (Outcomes). The
The construct of *structure* includes the key concepts within the curriculum related to Person, Nurse, Systems, and Profession. The construct *process of care* describes the caring collaborative relationships, the primary focus of the model. Relationship centered professional encounters occur between/among clients and nurses; between/among nurses and other members of the health care team; and in education, between/among teachers and learners. Caring relationships promote the intermediate outcome of *feeling cared for*. The construct of *program goals* demonstrates the achievement of positive outcomes for the educational programs, the person (student), and the nursing profession and healthcare system.

The Caring Science curriculum model, integrated into the THS SON curriculum framework (Hills & Watson, 2011), places caring collaborative relationships at the center of a curriculum designed to create a culture of caring within a nursing education program. The focus of the caring science curriculum model is on the development of caring relationships with students and the use of emancipatory pedagogy (student centered learning). According to Hills and Watson (2011), nurse educators must “nurture this culture of caring if students are to graduate as competent caring nurses” (p. 129). In education, the caring relationship between teachers and learners fosters a sense of caring professionalism and acquisition of the crucial knowledge, skills, and attitudes for nursing practice in the healthcare system. This is congruent with Duffy’s (2009) emphasis on the significance of relationships to quality nursing practice (UWG/THS SON Philosophy, 2012).

**References**


BSN Quality Caring Framework: A Caring Science Curriculum

**Structure**
- **Person/Health**
  - Client (PG 1, 2) (BSN I, IX) (ANA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
  - Lifespan (PG 1, 8) (BSN VII, IX) (ANA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
  - Health, Wellness, & Illness (PG 1, 8) (BSN VIII) (ANA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
  - Biophysical Concepts (PG 1, 3) (BSN I, III) (ANA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
  - Social Function (PG 1, 3) (BSN I, VIII) (ANA 1, 3, 4)
  - Psychological Concepts (PG 1) (BSN I) (ANA 1, 3, 4, 5)
  - Communication (PG 1, 4) (BSN I, II, IV, IX) (ANA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
  - Critical Thinking (PG 1, 3) (BSN I, II, IX) (ANA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
  - Caring (PG 1, 2) (BSN VIII, IX) (ANA 1, 4, 5)
  - Holism (PG 1, 2) (BSN VIII, IX) (ANA 1, 4, 5)
  - Culture (PG 1, 2) (BSN I, VIII) (ANA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
  - Human Diversity (PG 1, 2) (BSN I, VIII) (ANA 1, 2, 3, 4)
  - Education (PG 1, 8) (BSN I, III) (ANA 4, 5, 6)

- **Nurse/Nursing/Provider**
  - Clinical Reasoning (PG 3) (BSN II, III, IX) (ANA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
  - Teamwork & Collaboration (PG 4, 8) (BSN I, VI, VII) (ANA 3, 4, 5)
  - Empowerment (6, 8) (BSN VIII) (ANA 5, 6)
  - Theory (PG 1, 3) (BSN III, VI) (ANA 3, 4, 5)

- **Systems/Environment**
  - Healthcare Systems (PG 4, 5) (BSN I, II, III, V) (ANA 4, 5)
  - Regulatory Systems (PG 4, 5) (BSN I, II, III, IV, V) (ANA 4, 5)
  - Legal Systems (PG 5) (BSN I, II, III, IV, V) (ANA 4, 5)
  - Economic Systems (PG 5) (BSN I, II, III, V) (ANA 4, 5)
  - Informatics Systems (PG 4, 5) (BSN I, IV, V) (ANA 4, 5)
  - Healthcare Quality Systems (PG 2, 3) (BSN II, III, IV, V) (ANA 3, 4, 5)
  - Safety Systems (PG 3) (BSN II, III, IV) (ANA 3, 4, 5)

- **Profession**
  - Management (PG 5, 6) (BSN I, II, IV, V, VI) (ANA 4, 5, 6)
  - Leadership (PG 6) (BSN II, III, IV, V) (ANA 4, 5, 6)
  - Policy (PG 5, 6) (BSN V, VIII) (ANA 3, 4, 5)
  - Professionalism (PG 2, 5, 7) (BSN V, VIII) (ANA 5, 6)

**Process**

**Creating a Culture of Quality Caring**

**Program Goals**

1. Provide holistic nursing care to persons (individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations) across the continuum of healthcare in a variety of settings at local and global levels, focusing on health promotion and disease and injury prevention across the lifespan.

2. Practice quality caring as the essence of nursing for persons of diverse cultures, values, beliefs, and lifestyles.

3. Utilize critical thinking and clinical reasoning based on theoretical, empirical, and experiential knowledge from the liberal arts and sciences to provide safe, competent, evidence-based care.

4. Communicate and collaborate effectively within inter-professional teams utilizing technology and information systems to improve health outcomes and healthcare systems.

5. Participate in analysis, critique, and reform of healthcare regulatory, policy, and financial systems that influence nursing and healthcare environments.

6. Apply leadership and management principles to empower nurses and achieve high standards of quality and safety in the delivery of person-centered care.

7. Assume altruistic legal and ethical responsibility and accountability for personal and professional behavior.

8. Utilize effective teaching strategies to empower persons to achieve healthcare goals.

**Essence of Nursing Practice and Education**

**Intermediate Outcomes**

Feel “cared for”
BSN PROGRAM GOALS
The purpose of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program is to prepare individuals for basic registered nurse practice roles in diverse health care settings. Graduates of the program will be able to:

1. Provide holistic nursing care to persons (individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations) across the continuum of healthcare in a variety of settings at local and global levels, focusing on health promotion and disease and injury prevention across the lifespan.
2. Practice quality caring as the essence of nursing for persons of diverse cultures, values, beliefs, and lifestyles.
3. Utilize critical thinking and clinical reasoning based on theoretical, empirical, and experiential knowledge from the liberal arts and sciences to provide safe, competent, evidence-based care.
4. Communicate and collaborate effectively within inter-professional teams utilizing technology and information systems to improve health outcomes and healthcare systems.
5. Participate in analysis, critique, and reform of healthcare regulatory, policy, and financial systems that influence nursing and healthcare environments.
6. Apply leadership and management principles to empower nurses and achieve high standards of quality and safety in the delivery of person-centered care.
7. Assume altruistic legal and ethical responsibility and accountability for personal and professional behavior.
8. Utilize effective teaching strategies to empower persons to achieve healthcare goals.

(Approved 2/28/2011; 4/6/12)

CARING GROUPS
“If caring is an idea that nursing practice and nursing education communities consistently use in describing the nature and function of nursing, then it would seem that caring would be a key area of study in nursing curricula…”
(Schoenhofer, 2001)

Purpose of Caring Groups
The purpose of Caring Groups is to create a culture for experiencing, learning, and applying the science of caring for nursing students in the University of West Georgia (UWG), THS SON. Opportunities are provided for students to participate in Caring Groups in classroom and/or clinical settings. In some classroom settings, for both undergraduate and graduate students, students may be randomly assigned to small groups to work together on in-class learning activities and also to experience and learn caring through online activities outside of class. For undergraduate students, the caring group experience is a component of various classroom and/or clinical courses.

- Caring has been a central focus of the curriculum in the nursing program at UWG for the past 20 years. The UWG, THS SON implemented caring groups in 1994 as an experiential teaching/learning activity, providing the opportunity for students to experience and learn caring. Caring Groups are designed to be small group sessions in which students learn how to care for themselves, colleagues, patients, and the environment.
• Goals of Caring Groups include: Learn to care for self and others, Identify caring and non-caring behaviors, Strengthen coping and group problem solving skills, and Have fun.

• Caring groups provide the opportunity for: Sharing personal experiences, Learning about self, Building relationships, and Becoming part of a team. This creates an atmosphere of support for students as they progress through the educational program.

BSN Undergraduate Caring Groups

Introduction to Caring Groups
During the undergraduate program orientation, there will be an introduction to the caring philosophy and the Caring Group experience in the UWG, THS SON. The history of Caring Groups will be described to help beginning students understand the value faculty members place on creating a climate of caring and the rationale for the importance of Caring Groups. This orientation will provide the context for students’ participation in Caring Groups.

For Prelicensure undergraduate students, Caring Groups will be a component of classroom and clinical experiences, providing the opportunity for students to experience Caring Groups each semester of the program. For students in the RN-BSN track, Caring Groups will be focused on the online classroom experience and be a component of one course in the fall semester and one course in the spring semester.

GENERAL INFORMATION

In addition to this handbook, there are other resources that will assist you in a successful journey through this program and the University of West Georgia (UWG).

UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG

The University of West Georgia Undergraduate Catalog contains a complete statement of academic policies and procedures, courses required for each program of study, retention and graduation requirements, and other essential items of information. It is a very important book to study and follow. Students can access the catalog via the following link: UWG Catalog. Students should keep a copy of the Catalog saved as a link for reference during their entire stay at the University of West Georgia.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA STUDENT HANDBOOK

The University of West Georgia Student Handbook contains information concerning academics, student services, organizations and activities, and a campus directory. It also includes very important policies about student rights and responsibilities, conduct and discipline, grievance and appeals procedures, and financial aid requirements. Students can access the handbook at https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/ocs/assets/docs/2016_2017_UWG_Student_Planner.pdf or via this link: UWG Student Handbook.
THE SCOOP

The Registrar’s office no longer publishes a course bulletin. Information about registration and course offerings is available to every student via Banweb at http://banweb.westga.edu/. The Scoop is a UWG publication that provides basic information regarding registration each semester. The Scoop can be located via this link: The Scoop

PROFESSIONAL NURSING ASSOCIATIONS

Georgia Association of Nursing Students/National Student Nurses' Association (GANS/NSNA)

All nursing students at the University of West Georgia are encouraged to participate in the campus chapter of the Student Nurses’ Association (SNA), an organization that meets regularly to promote student interaction and professionalism, to identify specific student needs that may be present, and to meet those needs whenever possible. It is run by and for student nurses at the University of West Georgia. Participation in the local SNA organization requires membership in the national organization (National Student Nurses Association/NSNA). The NSNA is the largest independent student health professional organization in the country and the national organization for nursing students. Any student in a state-approved nursing education program or any RN who is enrolled in a baccalaureate nursing program is eligible for membership in NSNA. Membership offers many benefits including scholarship and loan opportunities, reduced malpractice insurance rates, career planning assistance, a national convention, reduced rates and discounts, as well as opportunities to meet and network with nursing students from other institutions. For further information regarding membership and dues, please see a faculty member.

Georgia Nurses Association (GNA)/American Nurses Association (ANA)

RN-BSN students are encouraged to join and participate in the professional nursing organizations of ANA and GNA. Through these organizations, nursing professionals deal with issues of concern such as improving standards of health care. ANA and GNA also foster high standards for nursing and promote professional development and economic welfare for nurses. The following are links to these organizations:
Georgia Nurses Association
American Nurses Association

PI NU CHAPTER OF THE HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING, SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL

The Pi Nu Chapter of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International was chartered in 2000 at the University of West Georgia to recognize superior academic achievement, academic integrity, and professional leadership potential. Eligible students should also foster high professional standards, encourage creative work, and strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession. BSN students are eligible for membership when they meet the following criteria:

1. Have completed at least one-half of the required nursing components of the baccalaureate curriculum.
2. Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and are in the top 35% of their cohort.

The Pi Nu Chapter Executive Board reviews student candidates and inducts new members each spring by
invitation. The Tanner Health System School of Nursing encourages students to reach for academic excellence and participate in the advancement of nursing scholarship, leadership, and professionalism through membership in this organization. Please contact nursing faculty members for additional information or visit the Sigma Theta Tau website at: The Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**

The University of West Georgia, Tanner Health System School of Nursing maintains advising hours each semester to serve Nursing majors and students with a declared major of Undecided Health - Nursing Interest. Advisement is by appointment except during the add/drop period. Prospective students must schedule a visit through UWG Admissions “Transfer Tuesday” program. Students may find detailed advising information at nursing.westga.edu

Academic Advising for students enrolled in the BSN and RN-BSN programs will be conducted by the Academic Coordinator(s)/Advisor(s) and/or Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education. The Academic Coordinator(s)/Advisor(s) are responsible for reviewing the student’s academic record in Wolf Watch at the beginning of the first semester for Prelicensure BSN students and RN-BSN students. This review clarifies graduation requirements and the student’s progress toward meeting them. Any questions regarding the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Plan, transfer equivalencies, credit by exam, and substitutions should be addressed at this time. Students may also request additional evaluations during their progression in the Prelicensure BSN or RN-BSN program.

As a courtesy, the Academic Coordinator(s)/Advisor(s) will review senior graduation status in Wolf Watch at least two semesters prior to graduation and during the final semester, but it is ultimately the students’ responsibility to apply for graduation and meet graduation requirements. Students will be notified of any deficiencies and emails will be sent to their UWG email account by their Advisor or by the Graduation Team in the Registrar’s Office. Issues and concerns with senior students not meeting graduation requirements must be reported to the THS SON Dean. As stated in the UWG Undergraduate Catalog, “Academic Advising is considered an important element in a student’s program of study, and West Georgia makes every effort to provide the service; however, students must ultimately be responsible for their own choices, their own course and program selections, and their own deadlines.”

**TRANSFER OF NURSING COURSES**

Considering the rapidly changing nature of art, science, and technology in the nursing profession, undergraduate students with transfer credit for upper division nursing courses must have completed these courses within the last five years. Eligible courses are awarded on an individual basis at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education. Transfer of lower division nursing credit for RN-BSN students is granted according to the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Plan. Transfer credit for upper division required nursing courses in the RN-BSN program is limited to NURS 4521 (Holistic Health Assessment for RNs). RN-BSN students must complete all other upper division nursing requirements at UWG.

**CREDIT BY EXAMINATION FOR NURSING COURSES**

Credit by examination for ASN/ADN and Diploma nursing courses is awarded to RN-BSN students according
to the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Plan. Students will receive information regarding forms, processing fees ($6 per credit hour), and administrative procedures after completion of their first semester in the nursing program.

**LIBRARY RESOURCES**

The home page for the library can be accessed via this link: https://www.westga.edu/library/

Contact information for the Tanner Health System School of Nursing Library Liaison can be found here: http://libguides.westga.edu/nursing

The following library support services are available to all UWG students:

1. Individualized research consultation by phone, email or in person from the Ingram Library Reference Desk: 678-839-6495 or AskAL@westga.edu
2. Assistance with connecting to online databases available through Ingram Library or GALILEO, the statewide virtual library
3. Borrowing of materials from other libraries (at no charge to student) if UWG does not have what is needed, either through GIL Express System (USG libraries) or Interlibrary Loan (all other libraries)
4. Borrowing privileges at other USG Libraries upon presentation of valid UWG ID or other acceptable photo ID

In addition, special services are available to off-campus nursing students:

1. Direct delivery of articles and books from Ingram Library (for students who cannot reasonably access a library adequate for their needs).
2. Reserve reading materials placed either online or at a library convenient to the off-campus class site.
3. Nursing library resources are also available at the Coweta County Public Library for students in the Newnan Program.

**GRADUATION CELEBRATION**

Each year the Tanner Health System School of Nursing hosts a reception on or near the day of spring and fall commencement. The ceremony is held to honor graduating nursing students of all levels and their families. This event is organized by the Tanner Health System School of Nursing faculty members. Information regarding time, location, and tickets is sent to students by the Tanner Health System School of Nursing staff a month or two prior to the reception.

**TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM SCHOOL OF NURSING COMMITTEES**

The Tanner Health System School of Nursing requests student representation on all standing committees. Students serve as associate members and enjoy all the privileges of faculty committee members except that of voting. The student body shall elect student representatives from each of the various program levels to serve on the standing committees during the Fall semester of each academic year. A representative from the Prelicensure BSN*, RN-BSN, MSN, and EdD programs will be selected for each of the following committees:
Undergraduate Program Committee (UPC) (1 BSN and 1 RN-BSN student)
Graduate Program Committee (GPC) (1 MSN and 1 EdD student)
Caring for Students Committee (CSC)
Caring for Faculty Committee (CFC)
Evaluation Committee (EC)
Technology Committee (TC)

*A student representative from both the junior and senior Prelicensure BSN classes in Carrollton and in Newnan are recommended for these committees.

**CLASS PRESIDENT/LIAISON**

At the beginning of each Fall semester, the Junior and Senior level Prelicensure BSN students in Carrollton and Newnan elect a president/liaison to represent the class to the faculty. These representatives meet with the Dean of the THS SON as needed, provide advocacy for student concerns, and serve as a communication link between students and faculty.

**STUDENT GOVERNANCE**

BSN students are encouraged to elect officers as needed to provide leadership and conduct/facilitate student business. The Tanner Health System School of Nursing suggests the senior class of the Prelicensure BSN programs in Carrollton and Newnan each elect a president and a faculty advisor to assist in planning the Graduation Celebration.

**HONORS PROGRAM** (updated 9/14/2015)

The University of West Georgia, Tanner Health System School of Nursing encourages Prelicensure BSN students enrolled in the University Honors College to graduate with Honors College distinction. The goal of the Nursing Honors Program is to stimulate critical thinking and provide students with additional learning opportunities in research, publication, and the practice of nursing. Undergraduate students in the THS SON wishing to receive honors credit for courses taken while enrolled in the nursing program must first meet all requirements for the Honors Program as outlined by the UWG Honors College. Students earning credit for nursing honors courses or completing honors theses or projects will remain in regular nursing classes with other students.

To receive honors credit for courses in the undergraduate nursing program, students must be committed to engaging in undergraduate research under the direction of a THS SON faculty. Students will be paired with faculty and, possibly, other students in developing and executing a basic research study. Work on this research study will commence during the junior year of the nursing program and will continue over the course of the student’s time in the program.

Students must follow the policies outlined by the UWG Honors College for converting non-honors sections of courses to honors courses (See the UWG Honors College website for these policies). Students enrolled in the UWG Honors College will be responsible for contacting the THS SON Undergraduate Research Coordinator prior to or during the first week of each semester to establish which courses they plan to convert for honors
credit during the ensuing semester. The Undergraduate Research Coordinator will ensure that students are seeking conversion of appropriately designated courses for honors credit. It will be the student’s responsibility to contact course faculty for the designated courses to obtain the approval and signatures required by the UWG Honors College for the transformation of courses to honors courses.

Students can only receive honors credit for courses that are designated as non-clinical courses within the THS SON undergraduate curriculum. These courses include:

NURS 3101 Professional Nursing Concepts I
NURS 3201 Health Care of the Client I
NURS 3102 Professional Nursing Concepts II
NURS 3202 Health Care of the Client II
NURS 3400 Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice **
NURS 4101 Professional Nursing Concepts III
NURS 4201 Health Care of the Client III
NURS 4102 Professional Nursing Concepts IV
NURS 4202 Health Care of the Client IV

**Students are required to include NURS 3400 as one of their courses designated for honors credit.

The THS SON Undergraduate Research Coordinator will assist each student in connecting him or her to a faculty member who is willing to work with the student on a research study. It will be the student’s responsibility to follow up with the designated faculty member to develop a plan for the research study and to decide what work will need to be completed by the student each semester to meet requirements for awarding honors credit in the designated courses. Faculty will communicate these requirements to the Undergraduate Research Coordinator who will forward the information to appropriate course faculty.

The transformation of non-honors courses to honors courses does not require the awarding of extra credit or points to student grades by faculty. The transforming of the course to an honors credit course is sufficient to meet the requirements for such credit as outlined by the UWG Honors College.

Upon completion of the semester, the Undergraduate Research Coordinator will forward information to course faculty as to whether or not students have completed the required work on their research projects that semester and have met the designated criteria for awarding of honors credit. A report will be compiled and remitted to the UWG Honors College by the Undergraduate Research Coordinator indicating which students have and have not fulfilled the designated requirements. Honors credit will be awarded or not awarded accordingly.

All students wishing to receive honors credit will be required to participate in the THS SON Research/Scholarship Day, held during the Spring semester, as part of the requirements for honors credit. Faculty will assist students in preparing presentations (poster or oral) for this event. This will serve as the project or paper required for the spring semester for all students seeking honors credit in the THS SON.

Upon completion of the undergraduate research study, students will be required to compose an honors thesis which will serve as the thesis requirement for the UWG Honors College for conferral of honors status at graduation. The faculty member working with the student on the research study will be responsible for grading of all work related to the study and the grading of the final thesis. Students are responsible for forwarding a
copy of the final thesis to the appropriate individual in the UWG Honors College for approval and acceptance as the culminating criteria for awarding of honors status at graduation.

**ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR THE BSN PROGRAM**

The following list of estimated costs has been compiled to make students aware of them and, thereby, allow students to anticipate and plan for program expenses in a timely manner. We hope this information will be helpful.

**Prelicensure BSN Track**

1. **Travel to clinical activities:** Students are individually responsible for obtaining transportation to and from clinical activities. At times, this may require travel to cities other than Carrollton or Newnan. Students are reminded this is an additional expense, and they must arrange their own transportation to these distant facilities. Please keep in mind that carpooling is a cost-effective option.

2. **Books:** Textbooks are purchased as a bundle upon entering the first semester of the program (e-books) through UWG’s Campus Bookstore. The textbook bundle is an out-of-pocket expense for newly accepted nursing students and can cost approximately $900.00-$1,500.00. This bundle provides e-books and resources for the entire duration of the program.

3. **Uniforms, name tag, stethoscope, scissors, etc.** - Approximately $200.00-$500.00

4. **Liability insurance:** Varies by provider; approximately $30-$100 per year (certificate due with the Health & Professionals Requirements Checklist)

5. **NSNA membership:** (optional) - $30/year for new members and $40/year for renewals

6. **ATI Nursing Test Fee:** - $515.00 (paid upon registration for NURS 2102). This fee pays for a set of ATI books and testing program needed to complete the BSN program.

7. **Graduation pictures:** (optional) - Varies per individual order

8. **Nursing pin:** (optional): Ranges from $40.00 - >$200.00 (due at graduation)

9. **Licensure expenses:** Application fee to Georgia Board of Nursing and NCLEX registration fee (due at graduation)

10. **Clinical/Lab Fees:** A $75.00 Practicum Fee will be charged for all clinical courses and a $35.00 Lab Fee will be charged for all skills courses and the Health Assessment course. These fees are payable with tuition.

11. **Nursing NCLEX Review Fee:** A customized NCLEX review is scheduled for students in their final semester of the BSN Program. Approximately $350.00 (paid upon registration for NURS 4000).

12. **Wireless mobile device:** Students will be required to purchase a mobile device with internet capability prior to the start of their clinical coursework. The device may have phone capabilities but that is not required. Students are not required to purchase a particular brand, however we recommend Apple® products.

13. **Application for Graduation:** Students should follow the graduation guidelines for application available on the Registrar’s Office website where the current application fee is posted (https://www.westga.edu/student-services/registrar/general-graduation-and-ceremony-information.php).

14. **I-Clicker 2:** Students may be required to purchase the latest version of this device for classroom activities. Cost varies by retailer, however, this device can cost around $40-$50 (new).

**RN-BSN Track**

1. **Travel to clinical activities:** Students are individually responsible for obtaining transportation to and from
clinical activities.
2. **Books:** The cost of textbooks varies from semester to semester and is difficult to forecast. In general, the cost of textbooks for the RN-BSN courses is significantly less than for the Prelicensure BSN program.
3. **Professional liability insurance:** Varies by provider, generally <$100.00 per year; (see the Health & Professionals Requirements Checklist for more information)
4. **Nursing pin (optional):** Ranges from $40.00 - $200.00
5. **Clinical/Skills Fees:** A $75.00 Practicum Fee will be charged for all clinical courses and a $35.00 Lab Fee will be charged for the Health Assessment course. These fees are payable with tuition.
6. **Credit by Examination Fees:** Fees are assessed at a rate of $6 per hour for upper division credit awarded for previous ASN/ADN coursework (22-43hrs, varies by student).
7. **Application for Graduation:** Students should follow the graduation guidelines for application available on the Registrar’s Office website where the current application fee is posted (https://www.westga.edu/student-services/registrar/general-graduation-and-ceremony-information.php).

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Scholarship and other financial aid information for nursing students is available on the Tanner Health System School of Nursing website at [www.westga.edu/nursing](http://www.westga.edu/nursing). Financial assistance is available through the University of West Georgia Financial Aid Office at 678-839-6421 or [https://www.westga.edu/finaid/](https://www.westga.edu/finaid/). All students needing assistance must complete a Financial Aid Form (FAFSA). This form is available online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) starting in January of each year. Please note deadlines posted by the Financial Aid Office for completed applications to ensure full eligibility. The university is notified regarding students who meet requirements for federal and state monies in the spring of each year. The Financial Aid Office notifies students eligible for federal/state money.

Academic scholarship forms are also available in the Financial Aid Office in January for the following academic year’s distribution of funds. The UWG Scholarship Committee meets in March/April to allocate the available academic scholarship funds for the following academic year.

Specific funds allocated for nursing scholarships are also available on the basis of need. Students wishing to apply for these scholarships should complete a nursing scholarship form available through the Tanner Health System School of Nursing website at [https://www.westga.edu/academics/nursing/student-scholarships.php](https://www.westga.edu/academics/nursing/student-scholarships.php). The Tanner Health System School of Nursing Scholarship Committee meets in the summer to allocate funds for the following academic year. Awards are not disbursed until after the add/drop period.

There are limited funds available for special emergency situations. Students needing this type of assistance should send a letter of explanation to the UWG Development Office regarding their circumstances and make an appointment with the Director in that department. Emergency funds may also be available through the Tanner Health System School of Nursing. For more information regarding these funds, please call 678-839-6552.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND ASSISTANCE**

The Tanner Health System School of Nursing values the use of technology. All of the nursing courses are supported by [Brightspace by D2L](https://www.westga.edu), the learning management system (LMS) used by University System
Brightspace is called CourseDen here at the UWG. CourseDen will be used for posting course materials, receiving and returning assignments, e-mail regarding course matters, and online testing. Some courses use computerized testing and others are taught as online distance classes. Upon admission, students are expected to have minimal computer skills including word processing, ability to perform computerized literature searches, email, and use of browser software to search the internet. They are also expected to have access to computers compatible with the UWG. The student Microsoft campus agreement enables students to obtain free copies of the latest versions of specific Microsoft software. Computer laboratories are available on both Carrollton and Newnan campuses for all students.

1. Students should contact UWG Online for assistance with CourseDen/D2L and other online learning specific questions. The link for more information is https://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php
2. Student technology requirements, general computer usage, and information and tutorials about e-mail and BanWeb are available online at the Information Technology Services (ITS) homepage, https://www.westga.edu/its/index.php
3. Students and faculty should use assigned UWG email addresses for all correspondence. E-mail communication regarding specific courses must be done via CourseDen/D2L.

For technical issues, please refer to this list:

1. Desire to Learn (D2L) & other distance education help:
   8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., call 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933UWGO (8946) or access https://uwgonline.westga.edu/ or online@westga.edu
2. 24-Hour Help – 1-855-772-0423 or https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/
3. My UWG help: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 678-839-9587. For assistance with email: Call 678-839-6248 or email servicedesk@westga.edu

Online learning may be a new experience for some students, especially those in the RN-BSN Track. Please review the information on “How to be a Successful Online Student” (eLearners.com, 1999-2007) at the following link: http://www.westga.edu/assetsNursing/msn/how-to-be-a-successful-online-student.pdf
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAMS

The BSN Program requires 120 semester credit hours for graduation and combines a rich and liberal foundation in the arts, sciences, and humanities with a unique program emphasizing the art and science of nursing.

The Tanner Health System School of Nursing offers a BSN degree with two tracks. The first track, for prelicensure students with programs in Carrollton and Newnan, prepares graduates who are eligible to apply to take the NCLEX-RN, the national licensing examination to become a registered nurse (RN). The second track, the RN-BSN track, is for individuals who are licensed registered nurses with associate degrees or diplomas in nursing. The RN-BSN program is offered 100% online.

PRELICENSURE BSN TRACK

In addition to the Core Curriculum requirements (54 semester hours) as specified in the UWG Undergraduate Catalog, Prelicensure BSN students must complete the following nursing courses (66 semester hours):

CARROLLTON PRELICENSURE BSN PROGRAM: Six (6) semesters – 66 credit hours

First Semester (Summer – 6 semester hours for students entering prior to Summer 2014)
   NURS 2101 – Pathophysiology/Pharmacology I (3-0-3)
   NURS 3101 – Professional Nursing Concepts I (3-0-3)

*First Semester (Summer – 6 semester hours for students entering Summer 2014 and after)
   NURS 2101 – Pathophysiology/Pharmacology I (3-0-3)
   NURS 3000 – Holistic Health Assessment (2-2-3)

Second Semester (Fall – 15 semester hours for students entering prior to Summer 2014)
   NURS 2102 – Pathophysiology/Pharmacology II (3-0-3)
   NURS 3000 – Holistic Health Assessment (2-2-3)
   NURS 3201 – Health Care of the Client I (3-0-3)
   NURS 3301 – Clinical Practice I (0-12-6)

*Second Semester (Fall – 15 semester hours for students entering Summer 2014 and after)
   NURS 2102 – Pathophysiology/Pharmacology II (3-0-3)
   NURS 3101 – Professional Nursing Concepts I (3-0-3)
   NURS 3201 – Health Care of the Client I (3-0-3)
   NURS 3301 – Clinical Practice I (0-12-6)

Third Semester (Spring – 16 semester hours)
   NURS 3102 – Professional Nursing Concepts II (2-0-2)
   NURS 3202 – Health Care of the Client II (4-0-4)
   NURS 3302 – Clinical Practice II (0-12-6)
   NURS 3400 – Nursing Research & EBP (3-0-3)

Fourth Semester (Summer – 1 semester hour)
   NURS 3303 – Competency Based Clinical Performance (0-2-1)

Fifth Semester (Fall – 14 semester hours)
   NURS 4101 – Professional Nursing Concepts III (2-0-2)
NURS 4201 – Health Care of the Client III (4-0-4)
NURS 4300 – Clinical Specialty Practice (0-6-3)
NURS 4301 – Clinical Practice III (0-10-5)

Sixth Semester (Spring – 15 semester hours)
NURS 4102 – Professional Nursing Concepts IV (2-0-2)
NURS 4204 – Health Care of the Client IV (4-0-4)
NURS 4302 – Clinical Practice IV (1-16-8)
NURS 4000 – Preparation for Professional Licensure (1-0-1)

NEWNAN PRELICENSURE BSN PROGRAM: Eight (8) semesters – 66 credit hours

First Semester (Summer – 6 semester hours)
NURS 2101 – Pathophysiology/Pharmacology I (3-0-3)
NURS 3101 – Professional Nursing Concepts I (3-0-3)

Second Semester (Fall – 8 semester hours)
NURS 2102 – Pathophysiology/Pharmacology II (3-0-3)
NURS 3000 – Holistic Health Assessment (2-2-3)
NURS 3102 – Professional Nursing Concepts II (2-0-2)

Third Semester (Spring – 9 semester hours)
NURS 3201 – Health Care of the Client I (3-0-3)
NURS 3301 – Clinical Practice I (0-12-6)

Fourth Semester (Summer – 5 semester hour)
NURS 3400 – Nursing Research & EBP (3-0-3)
NURS 4101 – Professional Nursing Concepts III (2-0-2)

Fifth Semester (Fall – 10 semester hours)
NURS 3202 – Health Care of the Client II (4-0-4)
NURS 3302 – Clinical Practice II (0-12-6)

Sixth Semester (Spring – 10 semester hours)
NURS 3303 – Competency Based Clinical Performance (0-2-1)
NURS 4201 – Health Care of the Client III (4-0-4)
NURS 4301 – Clinical Practice III (0-10-5)

Seventh Semester (Summer – 10 semester hours)
NURS 4102 – Professional Nursing Concepts IV (2-0-2)
NURS 4300 – Clinical Specialty Practice (0-6-3)

Eighth Semester (Fall – 13 semester hours)
NURS 4204 – Health Care of the Client IV (4-0-4)
NURS 4302 – Clinical Practice IV (1-16-8)
NURS 4000 – Preparation for Professional Licensure (1-0-1)

The Prelicensure BSN Program is offered on the Carrollton campus as a 6-semester program only. The program is offered on the Newnan campus as an 8-semester program only.
RN-BSN TRACK

In addition to the Core Curriculum requirements (60 semester hours) as specified in the UWG Undergraduate Catalog, RN-BSN students must complete the following nursing courses (17 semester hours):

NURS 4521 – Holistic Health Assessment for RNs (3-0-3)
NURS 4523 – Nursing Research & Evidence-Based Practice for RN’s (3-0-3)
NURS 4525 – Professional Practice Issues and Concepts (3-0-3)
NURS 4527 – Nursing Leadership in Healthcare Communities (4-8-8)

These courses are offered 100% online.

The 2-semester sequence (does not include summer) of nursing courses is as follows:

First Semester – Fall (9 semester hours)
   NURS 4521 – Holistic Health Assessment for RNs (3-0-3)
   NURS 4523 – Nursing Research & Evidence-Based Practice for RNs (3-0-3)
   NURS 4525 – Professional Practice Issues and Concepts (3-0-3)

Second Semester – Spring (8 semester hours)
   NURS 4527 – Nursing Leadership in Healthcare Communities (4-8-8)
   (Includes 120 hours of clinical with a preceptor)

Clinical experiences may be scheduled during daytime and evening hours and/or on weekends.

GEORGIA RN-BSN ARTICULATION PLAN

The University of West Georgia participates in the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Plan. The plan was developed through the collaborative efforts of faculty of the ASN/ADN and BSN nursing programs in Georgia and the Georgia Board of Nursing, and is designed to facilitate the educational mobility of registered nurses seeking a bachelor’s degree in nursing. To be eligible for the plan, a student must meet the following criteria:

A. Graduation from an ASN/ADN or Diploma program within 0-4 years.
   OR
   Graduation from an ASN/ADN or Diploma program greater than 4 years ago with documentation of 1000 hours of practice in the previous 3 years.

B. Hold a current and valid license to practice as an RN in Georgia. Graduates of ASN/ADN programs who meet the above criteria will be granted credit by transfer for 21 semester hours and “credit by exam” for 22 semester hours. Graduates of Diploma programs who meet the above criteria will be granted “credit by exam” for up to 43 semester hours. The “credit by exam” hours will be earned by satisfactorily completing NURS 4525 – Professional Practice Issues and Concepts.

The following steps outline the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Plan:

Step 1 Students enrolled in NURS 4525 (Professional Practice Issues and Concepts) will be asked to complete and sign the “Documentation for RN-BSN Articulation Agreement Form” to indicate eligibility for transfer by articulation. The completed form will be filed in each student’s folder.
Step 2  After successful completion of NURS 4525 (Professional Practice Issues and Concepts), each student will receive the “Credit by Examination Form” signed by the School of Nursing Dean. The student will then take the form to the Cashier’s Office where the necessary fees will be paid. The student will then take the form to the Registrar’s Office.

The following students will not be eligible for participation in the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Plan:

Graduates of ASN/ADN and Diploma programs greater than 4 years ago with less than 1000 clinical practice hours in the previous 3 years.

Please note: Falsification of student information related to the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Plan will result in dismissal from the UWG RN-BSN Program.

For students who do not hold licensure as a Registered Nurse in the state of Georgia but are currently licensed as a Registered Nursing in another state, awarding of credits for previous course work in an ASN/ADN or Diploma program will follow similar guidelines as those outlined above for the articulation plan.

COURSE DESIGNATIONS FOR CARING GROUPS

Prelicensure BSN Program

The following courses are designated as caring group courses: Professional Nursing Concepts I (NURS 3101) and II (NURS 3102) and Clinical I, (NURS 3301) II, (NURS 3302) III (NURS 4301) and IV (NURS 4302). Students will be introduced to caring groups during Professional Nursing Concepts I (NURS 3101). Students will have classroom learning activities related to the concept of caring. Students will be placed into caring groups for classroom experiences and online support. Students will continue with caring groups in Professional Nursing Concepts II (NURS 3102). Conceptual frameworks for caring will be incorporated into the classroom to provide an opportunity to explore and learn the concepts of caring from a theoretical basis. The theoretical basis learned in NURS 3101 and NURS 3102 will be applied in the clinical courses.

NURS 3301 Clinical Practice I and NURS 3302 Clinical Practice II

Research indicates that Caring Groups are most helpful in the first year of a nursing program. Placement into caring groups early in the program can help students bond through the common need to succeed in the first clinical semester of the nursing program (Wilson & Grams, 2013). Guidance in self-care as a tool for success as well as sharing thoughts on learning to study and manage time could be topics incorporated into caring groups. Within the first two clinical courses, a focus should be on learning self-care strategies and team building. Activities that promote group bonding are essential. Students also typically need academic and emotional support.

Introduction to Coming to Know Self as a Caring Person: Learning to Care for Self and Others:

Examples of possible caring group activities could include:

- Team building exercises
- Check-in
- Relaxation techniques
Study Skills
Survival Strategies
Time Management
Identifying Caring Versus Non Caring

Nursing 4301 Clinical Practice III

While students at this point have advanced to the senior level, there may still be conversations around the difference between caring and non-caring. Students may not require assistance in navigating the system of the program and clinical facility, but may still need academic and personal assistance. At this point, students may be open to learning more about caring and the importance to nursing practice. The whole notion of learning to know oneself as a caring person (Boykin & Schoenhofer, 2001) and being able to call forth caring during a “transpersonal caring occasion” (Watson, 2002) hopefully will begin to emerge.

Expanding Coming to Know Self as a Caring Person: Caring for Self and Others:

- Making a commitment to Caring
- Continue with self-care and group support activities
- Emphasis on learning to care for patients and work colleagues

Nursing 4302 Clinical Practice IV

Transition to Caring in Practice
This course requires demonstration of a synthesis of all students have learned in the program. Research on Caring Groups (Boykin & Schoenhofer, 2001) indicates that, while caring groups may be less important in this phase, they are still needed. Students need support with getting ready for graduation and facing the fears of the NCLEX as well as saying good-bye when leaving the security of the program and transitioning to professional practice.

Refining Coming to Know Self as a Caring Person: Caring for Self and Others Through Implementation of Caring Science with Clients, the Nursing Profession, and Other Disciplines:

- Continued support activities

RN-BSN Program

Students in the RN-BSN program will participate in Caring Groups focused on the online classroom experience. During the NURS 4525 Professional Practice Issues and Concepts course, students will be introduced to the concept of Caring Groups and the history of Caring Groups at the Tanner Health System School of Nursing. In one course each semester, NURS 4525 Professional Practice Issues and Concepts in fall and NURS 4527 Nursing Leadership in Healthcare Communities in spring, students will be assigned to a Caring Group consisting of a small group of their colleagues. These students will communicate with each other online with the purpose of learning caring for self, colleagues, and others. If there is a workgroup in the online course, the workgroup will also function as the caring group for the course. (Updated 5/7/17)

References

**ACADEMIC POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

**GRADING SYSTEM FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN THS SON**

The following grading scale is standard for all BSN nursing courses:

- **A** = 90-100%
- **B** = 80-89%
- **C** = 75-79%
- **F** = Less than 75%

At a minimum, student clinical performance will be evaluated by the clinical instructor bi-weekly except in precepted clinical courses. In some courses, student clinical performance may be evaluated weekly. Clinical performance that is less than satisfactory will result in more frequent clinical evaluations at the discretion of the clinical instructor and/or the clinical course coordinator. Please see the clinical course syllabus for further details on clinical performance evaluation. In precepted clinical courses, student clinical performance is evaluated by the clinical preceptor and clinical faculty member at a minimum of midterm and final.

Students must satisfactorily complete all clinical learning activities and associated written assignments to pass any course with a clinical component. Students with unsatisfactory clinical performance will receive an “F” or “U” in the course (as appropriate for the particular course), regardless of grades earned on exams. Students are required to “make up” clinical absences that compromise their ability to meet learning goals (See Clinical Attendance Policy). Grades on written assignments may be calculated into the final course grade for Prelicensure BSN clinical courses only if the student has an examination average of 75.00% or above. The examination average will be calculated based on any examinations given in a course which includes, but is not limited to, the ATI Proctored Content Mastery Series (CMS) exams. If no ATI Proctored CMS examination is assigned for course credit in a particular course as part of the ATI Testing Policy, the examination average will be calculated based on course examinations, including the final exam. Cumulative examinations are recommended, but are at the discretion of the instructor.

All BSN students must have an overall course grade of 75.00% to earn a “C” in any course. Numerical averages below 75.00 may not be rounded up.

**GUIDELINES FOR TEST DEVELOPMENT/ADMINISTRATION** (Revised 2/15/16)

Nursing faculty will develop examinations to measure student knowledge and progress toward meeting course learning outcomes. The following guidelines facilitate the development of examinations that are valid and reliable measures of student achievement.

**Purpose**

The Guidelines for Test Development/Administration are developed to enhance quality of testing used to evaluate student learning, as appropriate, and will serve to assist faculty in the development and analysis of
quality test items. Test items in courses can include multiple choice and alternate item format questions.

**Key Guidelines**

1. Faculty will be responsible for creating and archiving exams.
2. Faculty members preparing test items should be certain that content/learning goals being tested have been reviewed in class and/or in the assigned readings and learning activities. It is recommended exams be reviewed by more than one faculty member prior to administration.
3. Students will be allowed 1 minute for each multiple choice item on an exam and up to 2 minutes for each alternate format item. Total time for exams over 100 items should allow for a student break. Special testing accommodations will be made for students requiring such, as outlined in the UWG policies related to accessibility.
4. Occasionally, technical problems may delay starting, restarting, or continuing examinations. If a delay greater than 30 minutes occurs, course faculty may choose to continue the exam, restart it, or continue testing at a later date. All exam results obtained when a testing delay of less than 30 minutes has occurred are considered final.
5. The quality of multiple-choice and alternate format item questions will be analyzed by considering the following statistical information. This information, however, will not be used to definitively determine test item validity:
   a. Item difficulty – describes the percentage of correct responses to a question. An optimal difficulty level is 0.30-0.70. Items are considered easy at a difficulty level of 0.80 and above. Items at a level of difficulty of 0.20 and below are considered difficult.
   b. Discrimination index – indicates test item quality. A positive discrimination value indicates the item was answered correctly by more students who scored high on the exam. A negative value indicates more students who did poorly on the exam answered the item correctly.
      - >0.39 – very good
      - 0.30-0.39 – good
      - 0.20-0.29 – reasonably good
      - 0.10-0.19 – marginal, consider review
      - <0.09 – needs revision
   c. Response frequencies – the number of students who chose each response to an item. Ideally, all distractors or responses should be plausible and should be chosen by at least one student.
6. The faculty member and/or course coordinator will review all statistical results of exams.
7. Students will have an opportunity to review examinations in a method determined to be appropriate for the course and level of student. The purpose of the review is to provide an opportunity for students to examine their thought processes and develop critical thinking skills. Students are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors during exam review. The privilege of exam review may be revoked in the event that professionalism is not maintained by students.
8. Exams in the following level courses should include test items at the application/analysis level of difficulty:
   - **3000 level courses** – a minimum of 50% – 65%
   - **4000 level courses** - a minimum of 75% - 80%

**References**

ATI TESTING

Prelicensure BSN students participate in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing Testing Program. This program is provided by Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) and is designed to assess the development of knowledge and decision making skills required to practice professional nursing. Testing fees are $515.00 for the entire program and include all required assessment and Content Mastery Exams, access to unsecured exams for assessment and remediation, an NCLEX-RN preparation and predictor diagnostic exam, and review modules. Testing fees comprise a component of registration for NURS 2102, Pathophysiology/Pharmacology II.

ATI POLICY (updated 4/11/2016)

The following policy describes the use of the Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) Comprehensive Assessment and Review Plan (CARP) as a component of admission, progression, and graduation in the Prelicensure BSN program at the University of West Georgia. This policy has been developed to promote student success by assisting students to gain knowledge required to demonstrate entry level competence on the NCLEX-RN. A key component of this policy is to identify students who have a higher probability of being academically unsuccessful, and to establish a review and remediation process to promote success.

ATI Exams (updated 4/11/2016)

Students must complete all required, ungraded ATI exams by the dates set forth in the corresponding course calendar at the beginning of each semester. Students who do not meet these requirements by the assigned dates will be given an “F” in the course. Potential ungraded ATI exams may include, but are not limited to:

1. The ATI Critical Thinking Entrance Exam in NURS 3101, Professional Concepts I
2. The ATI Self-Assessment Inventory in NURS 3101, Professional Concepts I
3. The ATI Critical Thinking Exit Exam in NURS 4102, Professional Concepts IV
4. Various ATI Content Mastery Series Non-Proctored (practice) Exams may be used throughout the curriculum as a component of designated courses to promote student success.

Proctored ATI Exams (updated 4/11/2016)

Students will be provided with the test score that must be achieved on the first attempt of the corresponding ATI exam at the beginning of the semester and the score required for the second attempt, as needed. The first and second attempts must be completed by the scheduled dates available on the corresponding course calendar at the beginning of the semester.

1. The following ATI Content Mastery Series Proctored Exams are used as a component of designated courses to promote student success:
   a. The proctored ATI Pharmacology and Parenteral Therapies Assessment will be taken in NURS 2102, Pathophysiology/Pharmacology II, and will count 10% of the course grade.
b. The proctored **ATI Fundamentals Assessment** will be taken in NURS 3202, Health Care of the Client II, and will count 20% of the course grade.

c. The proctored **ATI Medical Surgical Assessment** will be taken in NURS 4201, Health Care of the Client III, and will count 30% of course grade.

2. Grading for the **ATI Pharmacology and Parenteral Therapies Assessment** will be based on the achievement of levels of proficiency as indicated by ATI. Students will have two (2) opportunities to take the **ATI Pharmacology and Parenteral Therapies Assessment**. The highest score earned will count 10% of the student’s course grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATI Proficiency Levels for the ATI Pharmacology and Parenteral Therapies Assessment</th>
<th>Earned Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;Level 1</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Grading for the **ATI Content Mastery Series Proctored Exams** of **ATI Fundamentals and ATI Medical Surgical Assessments** will be based on the achievement of levels of proficiency as indicated by ATI. The required scores will be indicated on the relevant course syllabi.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATI Proficiency Levels for the ATI Fundamentals and ATI Medical Surgical Assessments</th>
<th>First Attempt Earned Grade</th>
<th>Second Attempt Earned Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Zero (0) until second attempt*</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;Level 1</td>
<td>Zero (0) until second attempt*</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Any student who scores less than Level 2 on the first attempt on these exams will be required to complete an extensive content specific remediation program based on his or her focused reviewed from ATI. Remediation will be included within the associated course, but may extend throughout the curriculum in order to promote student success on successive exams. Students who achieve a Level 2 or higher on the first attempt may choose to repeat the exam on the assigned testing date for the second attempt for practice purposes; however, the score in the gradebook will reflect the first attempt grade.

4. The proctored **ATI RN Comprehensive Predictor Exam** will be taken in NURS 4000, Preparation for Professional Licensure. Students must pass the examination (within two attempts) during this course with a score commensurate with a 94-95% chance of passing the NCLEX-RN on the first attempt. The score earned on the proctored ATI RN Comprehensive Predictor Exam counts 50% of the course grade.
Students who are unable to achieve a predictive probability of passing the NCLEX-RN with a 94% on the second attempt of the ATI Comprehensive Predictor Exam will earn an “F” in the course (See NURS 4000 course syllabus for assigned points). Students will be allowed to repeat the NURS 4000 Preparation for Professional Licensure course once, regardless of previous failures in nursing courses.

**Success Plan for ATI Exams** (updated 4/11/2016)

**Practice ATI**
Students are required to take and submit their score on the assigned ATI practice assessments and will be required to complete ATI’s focused remediation plan.

**Proctored ATI**
Students scoring less than the assigned benchmark on the first attempt of any ATI Proctored Exam will be required to complete a Structured Plan for Success Form and meet with the Course Coordinator to develop a remediation plan. The Course Coordinator will determine when the student is ready for re-testing.

**MEDICATION CALCULATIONS**

Students in the prelicensure BSN track will take three medication calculation exams in each Clinical Practice course. Any student who does not receive a 100% grade on any one of the medication calculation exams given within a specific course is expected to remediate himself/herself using the Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) testing resources as well as the Elsevier book bundle resources between attempts. Failure to obtain at least 100% on one medication calculation exam within a specific course will result in an average grade for this skills component of that course of 0% (which constitutes 10% of the course grade).

Medication Calculation Guidelines

1. **Round medication calculation answers to the tenth place.** (Five or above in the hundredths place goes to next number. Four or less is dropped.)
   Examples: 1.07 = 1.1; 0.97 = 1

2. **Round decimals to the hundredth place if the amount is less than one ml.** (Five or above in the thousandths place goes to next number. Four or less is dropped.)
   Examples: 0.683 = 0.68; 0.937 = 0.94
   **For drops, round to a whole number.**
   Example: 6.7 = 7 gtts

For intravenous fluids without medication additives, round to a whole number as a standard IV pump delivers volume in whole numbers.
   Examples: 75.5 = 76 ml/hr; 75.4 = 75 ml/hr

High-alert, high-risk medications such as insulin, heparin, antineoplastic, and vasoactive medications (eg. digoxin 0.125 mg, or dopamine 5 mcg/kg/min) require an exact amount as prescribed and any rounding should be in accordance with institutional policies or as directed in the test item.
3. For medication calculation problems with more than one-step, do not round until the final answer has been obtained. Exception: Body Surface Area calculations are rounded to the hundredth place before use as meters squared (m²) in the calculation of individualized dosages.
4. Use the conversion factors as listed in the current required pharmacology course textbook.
5. Avoid trailing zeros (such as 1.020 ml).
6. Add leading zeros when less than one ml (0.25 ml).

TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM SCHOOL OF NURSING DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC WRITING POLICY
(Approved 04/14/14)

I. Purpose and Definitions
The Tanner Health System School of Nursing (THSSON) defines discipline specific writing (DSW) as: 
*writing which reflects evidence based literature related to health care and professional nursing concepts and ultimately enables the writer to assume membership in the profession of nursing (Based on work by Carter & Rukholm, 2008, p. 134.)*

One of the goals of the BSN program is that graduates will be able to “communicate and collaborate effectively within inter-professional teams using technology and information systems to improve health outcomes and healthcare systems.” A major skill necessary to meet this goal and to be competent registered nurses is the ability to communicate clearly verbally and in writing. Discipline specific writing in nursing includes technical writing, personal writing, and scholarly writing. Technical writing occurs most often in the clinical arena. This writing documents moment-to-moment nursing care, patient status and interventions that are routine as well as emergent. This written communication may or may not adhere to the usual rules of Standard English. For example, most entries in a patient’s chart may not have a noun because it is assumed that all the documentation is about the patient.

Personal writing includes reflective journaling, telling stories, exploration of ethical and value conflicts in health care and sharing feelings, thoughts, and reactions. This writing may also include creative writing such as poetry and essays.

Scholarly writing is writing which supports and extends the knowledge of the discipline of nursing. This writing includes critiques of research and current writing, summaries of literature, reviews, patient case studies, concept overviews, and other forms of scientific writing.

II. Guidelines
A. Scholarly Writing: Although four courses in the program of study for Prelicensure BSN students have been designated as courses which will emphasize the scholarly portion of DSW, only two of those courses are designed to emphasize DSW and are considered scholarly writing courses. Two courses within the RN-BSN program are designated as scholarly writing courses. These courses below are identified with an * and are to include learning activities with a write-rewrite component, meaning a draft and final version of a scholarly paper are required.
B. Technical and Personal Writing: All six Clinical Practice Courses, NURS 3301, 3302, 3303, 4300, 4301, and 4302, in the Prelicensure BSN program will include technical writing and may include aspects of personal writing.
C. Outcomes:
   a. Students will demonstrate ability to write a scholarly paper documented in APA style.
   b. Students will demonstrate ability to effectively communicate electronically and in discipline specific writing within the healthcare system.

D. Assessment: Specific rubrics have been developed for each writing activity referred to in the Table. Faculty in specific courses will be responsible for assessing writing ability throughout the curriculum.

E. Faculty teaching courses with scholarly writing will meet to coordinate learning activities to address student workload.

F. Faculty teaching courses with assigned activities requiring scholarly writing are encouraged to require students to use a program to check originality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursing Course</th>
<th>Type of Writing</th>
<th>Writing Activity</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 3101 Professional Concepts I</td>
<td>Scholarly</td>
<td>Individual writing assignment, max 3 pages/APA</td>
<td>Grading Rubric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 3102 Professional Concepts II</td>
<td>Scholarly</td>
<td>Individual writing assignment, max 3 pages/APA</td>
<td>Grading Rubric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 3301 Clinical Practice I</td>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>Clinical documentation, Reflective Writing</td>
<td>Clinical Performance Assessment, Grading Rubric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 3302 Clinical Practice II</td>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>Clinical documentation, Reflective Writing</td>
<td>Clinical Performance Assessment, Grading Rubric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 3303 Comp Based Clinical</td>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>Clinical Documentation</td>
<td>Simulation and Skills Lab Performance Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 3400 Nursing Research &amp; EBP</td>
<td>Scholarly</td>
<td>Research Report Paper, max 8 pages/APA</td>
<td>Grading Rubric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 4300 Clinical Specialty Prac.</td>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>Clinical documentation, Reflective Writing</td>
<td>Grading Rubric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 4301 Clinical Practice III</td>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>Clinical documentation, Reflective Writing</td>
<td>Clinical Performance Assessment, Grading Rubric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 4302 Clinical Practice IV</td>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>Clinical documentation, Reflective Writing</td>
<td>Clinical Performance Assessment, Grading Rubric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 4101* Professional Concepts III</td>
<td>Scholarly</td>
<td>Scholarly Paper</td>
<td>Grading Rubric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 4102* Professional Concepts IV</td>
<td>Scholarly</td>
<td>Senior Capstone QSEN Competency Paper</td>
<td>Grading Rubric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURSE 4525* Professional Practice Issues and Concepts</td>
<td>Scholarly</td>
<td>Scholarly Paper with APA</td>
<td>Grading Rubric</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOLISTIC ENHANCEMENT LEARNING PLAN (HELP)

The nursing program at the University of West Georgia has a philosophical commitment to view students holistically within a caring environment supportive of success. A caring environment is one in which students are encouraged to pursue self-awareness and responsibility for learning. Based on the philosophy of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing, caring also “includes maintaining academic and practice standards to ensure the quality of the profession.” While it is recognized by faculty that there are often external factors that interfere with academic success, it is also noted that there are some students who may not be successful, regardless of faculty intervention.

The purpose of this document is to describe a Holistic Enhancement and Learning Plan (HELP) designed to identify students at academic risk, and to implement interventions designed to reduce the risk of failure. As the standards for success on the NCLEX-RN are slowly but continuously rising, faculty recognize a need for assessment and intervention to promote success for students. The plan for academic enhancement was instituted for early identification of potential obstacles to academic success in the BSN programs and for intervention with students who are not reaching their potential.

The Holistic Enhancement Learning Plan (HELP) provides a comprehensive description of policies and procedures in place to promote student success. The plan will serve as a mechanism of communication between students and faculty to provide structure and consistency in evaluation, counseling, and remediation of students experiencing academic difficulty.

Faculty are committed to engaging students in a process that gives them the tools needed to experience academic success.

Description of the Plan

The major components of the HELP are listed below, followed by a detailed explanation.

1. ATI’s Comprehensive Assessment and Review Program (for Prelicensure BSN students)
2. Caring Groups
3. Structured Problem Solving Policy
4. Referral to University resources
   a. Counseling Center or Health Services
   b. Center for Academic Success
   c. School of Nursing Student Success Specialist (if available)
5. Mid-term Performance Reports
6. **NURS 4000 – Preparation for Professional Licensure (for Prelicensure BSN students)**

1. **Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI)** is an assessment company that provides services to schools of nursing. After admission to the program, Prelicensure BSN students participate in a total testing program that includes review books, unsecured and secured online subject testing with focused review for remediation, and a Comprehensive Predictor exam at the end of the program that is similar to the NCLEX-RN. Students take a series of Content Mastery Examinations throughout the program. These are scheduled with the appropriate content courses (See ATI policy for details).

2. **Caring Groups** provide the opportunity for peer group support. Students engage in Caring Group activities as a component of designated courses in the program. Learning experiences are designed to promote learning caring for self and each other. Research indicates students perceive the Caring Group experience to be a positive one that may promote success in the nursing program (Grams, Kosowski, & Wilson, 1997).

   During Caring Groups activities, students may disclose personal issues that may be interfering with academic success. Faculty facilitators frequently discuss personal barriers to academic success with students and provide appropriate referrals to services on the University campus, such as referrals to the Patient Advocate in Health Services or a counselor in the Counseling Center, which both offer free counseling to students.

3. **The Structured Problem Solving Conference Policy** was developed and implemented in the Fall of 2002 to assist students experiencing academic and/or clinical practice difficulty. The faculty in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing believe, “students are responsible for their own learning.” Embedded in this belief is a strong commitment to “facilitate learning and create an environment that empowers students to take responsibility for learning.” This plan provides documentation (Structured Plan for Success form) regarding counseling when students are experiencing difficulty in achievement in the nursing program related to grades in courses, clinical performance, or other factors that might interfere with the student’s success in the program.

   **Guidelines:**

   a. A student or faculty may initiate the Structured Plan for Success form at any time during the semester. Indications that students are experiencing difficulty include, but are not limited to, a failing grade on any test or written assignment, an unsatisfactory rating in clinical practice, multiple absences, and consistent tardiness.

   b. A student failing the first exam in any course is asked to meet with the faculty teaching the course and is offered the opportunity for counseling and assistance in developing remediation interventions. The Structured Plan for Success form should be implemented whenever a student fails the first test in a course. Documentation of action and signature by the faculty should occur using the form as well. Documentation should also be initiated when students do not take advantage of the offer for counseling and assistance.

   c. The Structured Problem Solving Conference may include assisting the student to identify factors interfering with success, suggestions for interventions to solve identified problems, and methods to evaluate effectiveness of the plan. The student may be referred to services available at the University such as financial aid, counseling, student health, etc.
d. A faculty member may offer the Structured Problem Solving Conference to any student experiencing difficulty; however, the student retains the right to decide whether to participate or not. Follow-up conferences may be scheduled based on the student’s decision to continue the process.

e. Assessment of the problem, plan for addressing it, and methods for evaluation should be documented on the Structured Plan for Success form and placed in the student’s file.

*The student and faculty should sign the record and a copy should be given to the student.*

4. Referral to University resources
   a. Counseling Center or Health Services – should students require physical or mental health needs
   b. Center for Academic Success – workshops/mentoring

5. Mid-term Performance Reports
   Students failing a course at mid-term are reported to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing, who sends a midterm report to the student. This report serves as a notice to students and a reminder that academic assistance is available through course instructors and University services. Students are encouraged to seek assistance. Copies of the mid-term reports are sent to faculty teaching the corresponding courses.

6. Preparation for Professional Licensure: In the last semester of the Prelicensure BSN program, a comprehensive course is offered to senior level students which includes assessment of learning styles and test-taking strategies related to the NCLEX-RN. In addition, guidance is provided for an independent and comprehensive review of nursing knowledge needed for success on the NCLEX-RN. Intensive practice in taking NCLEX-type questions is provided, along with review and critique of test-taking ability. (Approved 03/04/04; Revised 5/1/07)

**PROGRESSION**

All students in the BSN programs must achieve an overall course grade of 75.00% to earn a “C” in any course. Numerical averages below 75.00 may not be rounded up. Grades on non-examination learning activities may be calculated into the final course grade for the courses below only if the student has an examination average of 75.00% or above. Prelicensure BSN students must review the ATI policy as well to understand how the exams from ATI’s Content Mastery Series affect progression.

- NURS 2101 Pathopharmacology I
- NURS 2102 Pathopharmacology II
- NURS 3000 Holistic Health Assessment
- NURS 3201 Healthcare of the Client I
- NURS 3202 Healthcare of the Client II
- NURS 4201 Healthcare of the Client III
- NURS 4202 Healthcare of the Client IV
- NURS 3303 Competency-Based Clinical Performance

Students in the Prelicensure BSN and RN-BSN programs should review the Holistic Enhancement Learning Plan (HELP) in the BSN Student Handbook as well as schedule an appointment with an instructor if they have
concerns about being successful in any coursework (didactic or clinical/lab). Students must maintain a semester grade point average of 2.0 (“C”) or above to progress in the BSN programs. A minimum grade of “C” is required in all major courses. Major courses are defined as all required nursing courses plus Anatomy and Physiology I and II and Microbiology. Undergraduate students must complete the nursing sequence within four academic years. Students who receive a “F”, “W”, “WF” or “U” in any nursing course may repeat that course one time only. Students who receive any two of the following in nursing courses, “F”, “W”, “WF”, or “U” may not continue in the program. Students who fail a course in the first semester of the Prelicensure BSN or RN-BSN program must compete for readmission with the next applicant pool.

A student's continued enrollment in the nursing program is based on physical as well as emotional health. If the student demonstrates evidence of a physical or emotional illness, he/she may be referred to the Patient Advocate in Health Services or a counselor in the Counseling Center for additional care, as needed. If, in the assessment by faculty, the student's illness impairs his/her ability to implement nursing responsibilities safely, the student will be asked to withdraw from the program.

**PROGRESSION AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS**

As part of the Health and Professional Requirements for the Tanner Health System School of Nursing, students must complete a mandatory criminal background check and drug screen each year. Students complete this process through the THS SON’s approved vendor. The student will be required to give access to the results of the background check and/or drug screen to clinical facilities as required to gain required clinical placement. In the event a student is denied clinical placement for any reason relating to the facility’s review of the background check and drug screen, the THS SON faculty member will make one attempt to place the student in another facility. If the student is denied placement by the second facility, the student cannot progress in the nursing program. (See Health and Professional Requirements Checklist).

**PROGRESSION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act of 1990 are federal statutes that guarantee protection to individuals with disabilities. The University’s Office of Accessibility Services is charged with the responsibility of assisting students with disabilities by providing reasonable accommodations to ensure success in academic endeavors.

The Tanner Health System School of Nursing supports the University’s commitment to supporting students with disabilities, while recognizing the uniqueness of the nursing profession.

Nursing as a profession has a responsibility to assist individuals in achieving the highest level of healthy functioning possible. At the same time, the profession also has a responsibility to educate nurses who are able to provide safe and competent care.

The ADA (1990) defines a *qualified individual with a disability* as “an individual who both has a substantial impairment and meets the skills, experience, and education requirements of the position held or desired and who can perform the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodations…regardless of the disability, the individual must be able to perform the essential functions of the job”.

The goal of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing is to eliminate barriers to nursing for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who can meet the criteria for standard nursing practice with “reasonable accommodations” (ADA, 1990) will not be excluded on the basis of the disability.

Students admitted to the nursing program must be able to meet the Southern Regional Education Board’s (SREB) Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing’s (2004) core performance standards for admission and progression. A student applying to the nursing program with an identified or perceived disability should contact the Office of Accessibility Services for evaluation. Official identification of a disability and assessment by the Office of Accessibility Services provides information to the faculty helpful in providing assistance to the student in meeting educational goals. Applicants must give permission for the Office of Accessibility Services to share assessment and recommendation information with the Tanner Health System School of Nursing. Accommodations for practice in the clinical setting will be made based on information from the assessment made by the Office of Accessibility Services for identification of “reasonable accommodations” (ADA, 1990).

Core performance standards for admission and progression:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Examples of necessary activities (not all-inclusive)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical thinking</td>
<td>Critical-thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment</td>
<td>Identify cause/effect relationships in clinical situations, develop nursing care plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Interpersonal abilities sufficient for interaction with individuals, families and groups from various social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds</td>
<td>Establish rapport with patients/clients and colleagues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Communication abilities sufficient for verbal and written interaction with others</td>
<td>Explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, and document and interpret nursing actions and patient/client responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>Physical abilities sufficient for movement from room to room and in small spaces</td>
<td>Move around in patient’s room, work spaces, and treatment areas; administer cardiopulmonary procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor skills</td>
<td>Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient for providing safe, effective nursing care</td>
<td>Calibrate and use equipment; position patients/clients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>Auditory ability sufficient for monitoring and assessing health needs</td>
<td>Hear monitor alarm, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, and cries for help</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Taking into consideration the University’s policies related to students with disabilities, as well as the SREB’s (2004) current guidelines, the following guidelines regarding students with disabilities are suggested. Students admitted to the nursing program must demonstrate, with “reasonable accommodations,” the following functional abilities and performance standards:

1. Ability to see, hear and touch, smell, and distinguish colors

   **Vision (with or without corrective lenses):**
   - Visual acuity that enables students to assess changes in patient’s skin tone for cyanosis and alterations in respiratory status
   - Ability to read physicians orders, small print on medication containers, and monitoring equipment

   **Hearing (with or without aids):**
   - Ability to hear normal speaking voice, monitors alarms, assessment equipment, and telephone conversations

   **Touch:**
   - Ability to assess skin temperature, pulses, respiratory patterns via sensation in fingertips

   **Smell:**
   - Ability to distinguish odors during assessment such as wound odors, abnormal breath odors

   **Colors:**
   - Ability to distinguish changes in skin color, wound appearance

2. Oral and writing ability with accuracy, clarity, and efficiency

   - Ability to communicate effectively orally through clear verbal speech during communications with patients and members of the healthcare team

3. Manual dexterity, gross and fine movements

   - Use of fine motor movements necessary for performing procedures such as insertion of intravenous catheter and gross motor movements required for physical assessment

4. Ability to learn, think critically, analyze, assess, solve problems, reach judgment

   - Ability to assess patients using five senses, analyze data, identify problems, plan and implement appropriate interventions, and evaluate results

5. Emotional stability and ability to accept responsibility and accountability

   - Ability to provide safe and competent patient care, and respond to rapidly changing conditions
Students who are not able to demonstrate ability to meet the above functional abilities and performance standards may not be able to meet learning objectives related to the clinical component of nursing courses and may be denied progression in the program. In addition, graduates of the BSN program unable to meet the required functional abilities and performance standards may be denied licensure by a state board of nursing. (Approved 5/2005)

STATE LICENSURE TO PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED NURSE

The Georgia Board of Nursing has the sole authority to grant or deny licensure to practice as a Registered Nurse in Georgia. Licensure may be denied due to prior criminal convictions (either before or during a nursing program) and is at the discretion of the Board. Cases are considered on an individual basis. Completion of a degree program in nursing does not imply approval by the Board or any other board of nursing for licensure. The University of West Georgia and the Tanner Health System School of Nursing assume no responsibility for approval or denial of licensure by any state board of nursing. The opportunity to reveal prior criminal arrests/convictions or actions against other licenses held by applicants is provided on the Tanner Health System School of Nursing application form. Self-reporting of any arrests/criminal convictions/actions against licenses occurring during the BSN program is mandatory. Students with such occurrences must schedule a consultation with the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education. Information shared during the consultation will remain confidential.

PROCEDURES FOR NURSING COURSE WITHDRAWAL OR FAILURE

First Semester Failure
Students who fail a course in the first semester of the program must compete for readmission with the next applicant pool.

First Withdrawal or Failure (beyond the first semester in the program)
The Tanner Health System School of Nursing will send the student a formal letter and email with their updated plan of study. The student is responsible for changing their schedule for the upcoming semester before the end of the add/drop period. A new plan of study may involve taking one or more semesters off from Nursing coursework or, for Prelicensure BSN students, changing from one campus to another. In some cases, Prelicensure BSN students may spend one semester taking classes in both Carrollton and Newnan in order to stay on track for a timely graduation. Students should meet with their advisor regarding any questions as to how they should proceed in their new plan of study.

Second Withdrawal or Failure
If a student has withdrawn or failed a second NURS course, they may not continue in the BSN program. The School of Nursing will send the student a formal letter and email to confirm the dismissal. The student is responsible for dropping NURS courses from their schedule for the upcoming semester before the end of the add/drop period. Students are encouraged to meet with their advisor to discuss career path options.

PROGRAM DISMISSAL

In accordance with the policies of the University of West Georgia, the faculty of the Tanner Health System
School of Nursing reserve the right to dismiss, at any time, a student whose health, conduct (academic dishonesty, professional conduct), general attitude, clinical performance, or scholastic standing make it inadvisable to retain the student in the program. Students are expected to display qualities that are desirable in professional persons as described in the NSNA Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct and the Code of Professional Conduct (available online at http://www.nsna.org/).

GRADE APPEAL POLICY AND PROCESS

Students have the right to appeal a course grade. Before filing an appeal, students need to review the Grade Appeal policy and review/decision process in the UWG Undergraduate Catalog. Students who have filed their appeal, meaning the Tanner Health System School of Nursing has their paperwork, are tentatively permitted to enroll in their next semester of NURS coursework until a final decision has been made. If the appeal is granted, it is the faculty member’s responsibility to ensure that the grade is changed by the Registrar’s Office. If the appeal is denied, students must withdraw from the current semester if it is past the add/drop period. Withdrawals that are a result of a denied appeal do not count in the student’s progression.

TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM SCHOOL OF NURSING GRIEVANCE POLICY

The faculty in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing at the University of West Georgia recognizes there are a variety of situations not related to grades that may occur during the educational process. Misunderstandings and disagreements may arise regarding issues such as academic matters, policies, conditions, teaching-learning activities, course content, and faculty decisions. The grievance policy is an orderly process that provides effective and timely resolution of issues.

Students are encouraged to meet informally with the faculty member to discuss their concerns directly in an attempt to resolve the issue without further action. Often, with open and honest communication, problems can be clarified and resolved. If a resolution satisfactory to the student does not result from this direct discussion, and if the student perceives that an unfair, unreasonable, arbitrary, or capricious action has occurred, a formal grievance may be initiated.

The following steps outline the procedure to be followed in filing a formal grievance within the Tanner Health System School of Nursing. Once the process is started (student-instructor discussion), the student has 2 business days to initiate a meeting within each step of the grievance policy. The time limits are intended to ensure that the matter is resolved as quickly as possible. The time limits may be altered by mutual consent of the parties at any step of the procedure.

1. Student – Faculty Discussion

If the initial informal meeting with the faculty member results in an outcome that is unsatisfactory from the student’s perspective, the student may then initiate a formal grievance by submitting in writing documentation regarding the issue to the faculty member and requesting a meeting. The student or the faculty member may request another faculty member be present during this meeting. The outcome of the meeting must be documented. Copies of the grievance letter by the student and the faculty member’s response must be provided to the student and placed in the student’s academic file.
2. Course Coordinator Meeting with Student and Faculty Member

If a student – instructor discussion does not resolve the issue, the student may contact the course coordinator (in courses with designated coordinators) to seek a resolution. This meeting and its outcome are to be shared with the involved faculty member. Copies of the documentation related to the outcome of this meeting must also be provided to the student and placed in the student’s academic file. If a satisfactory resolution is achieved, no further action is needed.

3. BSN or RN-BSN Program Director Meeting with Student and Faculty Member

If the issue is not resolved to the student’s satisfaction after the meeting with the course coordinator, or if there is not a designated course coordinator, the student may request a meeting with the BSN or RN-BSN Program Director (whichever is most appropriate). The BSN or RN-BSN Program Director will arrange a meeting with the student and the involved faculty member. Within one week of the date the grievance is filed, the BSN or RN-BSN Program Director will provide a written summary of the meeting, including the outcome, to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing. The student and the faculty member must receive a copy and a copy must be placed in the student’s academic file.

4. Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing Meeting with Student

If the student does not feel the issue has been resolved satisfactorily after meeting with the BSN or RN-BSN Program Director, the student may present a formal request for a meeting with the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing. The request must include copies of the original grievance letter, copies of documentation of meetings with the course coordinator and/or program coordinator, and/or BSN or RN-BSN Program Director along with a detailed letter describing the student’s perception of why previous efforts did not result in satisfactory resolution of the problem. The Associate Dean will arrange a meeting with the student and the involved faculty member. Within one week of the date the grievance is filed, the Associate Dean will provide a written summary of the meeting, including the outcome, to the Dean of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing. The student and the faculty member must receive a copy and a copy must be placed in the student’s academic file.

5. Dean of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing Meeting with Student

If the student does not feel the issue has been resolved satisfactorily after meeting with the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, the student may present a formal request for a meeting with the Dean of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing. The request must include copies of the original grievance letter, copies of documentation of meetings with the course coordinator and/or program coordinator, and/or BSN or RN-BSN Program Director, and the Associate Dean along with a detailed letter describing the student’s perception of why previous efforts did not result in satisfactory resolution of the problem. The Dean is responsible to review the written materials regarding the student’s grievance and make a decision. If the solution is unacceptable to the student, or if the student wishes to further appeal the concern, the procedure for appeal should be followed as outlined in the UWG Student Handbook.
CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS (for Prelicensure BSN Students)

Through class attendance and participation, each student has an opportunity to acquire and share knowledge, communicate with faculty and other students, and take intellectual initiative. Students are expected to display respect for self and others in the classroom environment by turning cell phones and beepers off or to vibrate mode. Children may not be present in the classroom or left unattended in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing building. Lectures may be taped only with permission of the faculty. Students who violate these expectations may be asked to leave the classroom.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

Utilize time efficiently.
- Conduct personal business outside established times for face-to-face classes, labs, or clinical experiences/training, unless authorized
- Demonstrate good organizational skills
- Prioritize responsibilities in carrying out assignments
- Demonstrate ability to multi-task

Demonstrate self-direction in completing assignments.
- Seek assistance from faculty, TA’s, GRA’s, or preceptors to clarify assignments or directions
- Maintain focus in completing assignments
- Demonstrate ability to work independently

Demonstrate accountability for decisions.
- Accept responsibility for personal, academic, and patient-care decisions
- Provide rationale for decisions in a professional manner
- Document actions and outcomes of decisions

Demonstrate characteristics of lifelong learning.
- Keep abreast of changes in nursing practice
- Keep abreast of changes in laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to nursing practice
- Take initiative to research questions or problems independently
- Critically evaluate the accuracy and validity of information related to patient care

Modify dress appropriate to classroom, lab, clinical, and professional settings.
- Adhere to established guidelines in BSN Student Handbook
- Recognize and respect authority of faculty and preceptors with regard to determining appropriateness of dress
- Value the importance of the dress code for conducting effective, professional patient interactions

Maintain personal hygiene and grooming appropriate to the academic or professional environment.
- Follow established guidelines regarding personal hygiene and grooming
- Consider health implications of others with regard to personal hygiene (e.g. handwashing, cologne, tobacco products)
- Value the importance of personal hygiene and grooming for effective interpersonal communications
Comply with student health requirements for working with patients in various health care environments.

- Demonstrate awareness of various health requirements regarding personal and patient health and safety
- Comply with requirements for routine medical tests (e.g. drug screening, PPD) needed for working in various health care settings
- Comply with deadlines for fulfilling student health requirements

Maintain appropriate records (e.g. intern license, CPR certification, immunization, insurance, skills) to demonstrate professional competence.

- Produce records upon request from authorized faculty, staff, preceptors, or health care facilities
- Maintain appropriate renewals of credentials and licenses

Comply with federal, state, University of West Georgia, Tanner Health System School of Nursing, and institutional requirements regarding confidentiality of information.

- Complete required training related to confidentiality of information.
- State regulations regarding confidentiality of patient information (HIPAA)
- State requirements for maintaining confidentiality of institutional data

Produce quality work in academic and professional settings.

- Take initiative to have standard of work defined
- Respond to constructive criticism to improve quality of work
- Take initiative to prepare adequately for classes, labs, meetings, or experience training
- Demonstrate completeness in carrying out assignments

Demonstrate punctuality in academic and professional environments.

- Arrive prepared and on time for required classes, labs, and other face-to-face experiences
- Notify instructor/preceptor in advance, or at earliest possible time, with regard to absence or tardiness

Adhere to established times for classes, labs, and meetings.

- Acknowledge academic priorities over personal commitments
- Show respect for professors’, preceptors’, and staff responsibilities/time commitments outside the established class/meeting times/office hours
- Perform throughout the allotted times for class, labs, and experiences
- Ask permission from the professor or preceptor to alter established schedule and accept their final decisions

Comply with established verbal and written deadlines.

- Keep up-to-date on deadlines for the institution and the Tanner Health System School of Nursing
- Show responsibility for maintaining information regarding assignments
- Complete assignments without reminders

Respond to requests (written requests, verbal questions, e-mails, telephone calls) in a timely fashion.

- Demonstrate responsibility to check mail, course e-mail and institution e-mail, voicemail, and other forms of communication on a regular basis in order to receive requests/assignments.
- Acknowledge established deadlines or set deadlines appropriate to request
- Complete assignments on time or within an acceptable time frame
Maintain a professional appearance when representing the Tanner Health System School of Nursing.  
- Take into account perceptions and values of patients and other health professionals when determining one’s professional appearance  
- Follow established guidelines in classroom, lab, and patient care settings regarding appearance  
- Take initiative to identify appropriate appearance when guidelines are unclear or not specified.

Demonstrate professional interactions with patients.  
- Demonstrate concern, empathy, and respect for patients  
- Demonstrate willingness and ability to listen to patients  
- Recognize and respect patients’ needs for personal space  
- Ask appropriate questions and provide factual information

Describe the covenantal relationship between nurse and patient.  
- Maintain nonjudgmental demeanor with patients  
- Show respect for patient confidentiality  
- Adhere to rules, regulations, and laws governing patient confidentiality  
- Demonstrate tolerance of diversity

Identify instances when one’s values and motivation are in conflict with those of the patient.  
- Consider cost, benefit, risk, and side effects in relation to the patient’s health care needs  
- Consider patient’s cultural, religious, socioeconomic status, and lifestyle needs when making recommendations

Relate to patients in a caring and compassionate manner.  
- Show concern for patients  
- Show respect for patients’ culture, religion, socioeconomic status, and lifestyle  
- Formulate empathetic responses to patients

Demonstrate ethical standards related to nursing practice.  
- Identify references/sources containing ethical standards related to nursing practice  
- Develop an acceptable basis for formulating personal ethical standards

Exhibit fitting behavior when representing the University of West Georgia, Tanner Health System School of Nursing in extracurricular activities and professional meetings outside the School of Nursing.  
- Adhere to UWG student conduct regulations  
- Dress in an appropriate professional manner  
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect to others in meetings and programs

Demonstrate regard for differing values and abilities among peers, other health care professionals, and patients.  
- Show respect for others belief’s, opinions, choices, values, and socioeconomic status  
- Demonstrate tolerance of others’ physical, mental, and social limitations

Act with honesty and integrity in academic matters and professional relationships.  
- Demonstrate high moral and ethical standards  
- Encourage honesty and integrity from peers
• Show willingness to admit mistakes
• Show willingness to admit deficiencies in knowledge and/or practice skills
• Show willingness to seek corrective action for mistakes

Demonstrate attitude of service by putting other’s needs above one’s own.
• Demonstrate sense of commitment
• Demonstrate commitment to the profession and its special needs
• Show sensitivity to others’ requests/needs
• Demonstrate willingness to accommodate others’ needs or seek alternative solutions
• Show empathy toward others

Demonstrate desire to exceed expectations.
• Demonstrate pride in accomplishments
• Demonstrate professional involvement
• Demonstrate initiative to take on additional tasks without expectation of compensation
• Show willingness to follow up after completing a task or assignment

Display positive attitude when receiving constructive criticism and refrain from abusive criticism to peers, faculty, and staff.
• Acknowledge criticism and determine validity
• Formulate a plan for corrective action

Formulate written communications with professional content and tone.
• Use clear, concise, professional, and appropriate language
• Differentiate the appropriate use and legality of various types of written communication (e.g., e-mail, letter, memo, chart)

Demonstrate confidence in actions and communications.
• Take initiative when appropriate
• Identify situations where assistance is needed
• Defend ideas/positions when appropriate
• Demonstrate poise/demeanor appropriate to one’s experience level
• Respond quickly, accurately, and decisively under pressure

Show regard for persons in authority in the classroom, lab, and clinical settings.
• Challenge authority in an appropriate time, place, and manner
• Demonstrate regard for other person’s position, responsibilities, time commitments, knowledge, and accomplishments
• Accept decisions of persons in authority
• Differentiate decisions for which the other person has final authority

Demonstrate dependability to carry out responsibilities.
• Complete assigned tasks in a timely manner
• Complete tasks/assignments independently without supervision
• Complete tasks/assignments without reminders or interventions
• Acknowledge, clarify, and carry out assignments and responsibilities

Differentiate appropriate interpersonal interactions with respect to culture, race, religion, ethnic origin, and gender.
• Demonstrate sensitivity toward others with choice of language, tone, and inflection
• Demonstrate sensitivity in tone of written and verbal communications
• Demonstrate appropriate physical interactions, including body language
• Demonstrate tolerance of diversity

COMMUNICATION POLICY

THS SON Website:
The Tanner Health System School of Nursing maintains a website at www.westga.edu/nursing.

1. The BSN Handbook is located on the website and students are responsible for reading this information.
2. Students are expected to retrieve course syllabi from CourseDen/D2L and print copies prior to the first day of classes. Students are expected to access other course materials as directed by faculty.
3. Students are advised to check MyUWG email accounts weekly (even between semesters) for important announcements and reminders.

E-Mail:

1. Students are expected to communicate with faculty using myUWG and CourseDen/D2L e-mail. Faculty e-mail addresses are published in course syllabi and on the THS SON website. Faculty members are responsible for checking the UWG and CourseDen/D2L e-mail frequently. Emails regarding Academic Advisement and Clinical Documents must come from the MyUWG email account.

2. All students are provided with a UWG e-mail address and access to e-mail messages via the student portal (MyUWG).

3. Communication outside the classroom and clinical setting between faculty and Prelicensure BSN students and between faculty and RN-BSN students during a course will be conducted primarily via e-mail. Students are expected to check e-mail messages routinely for information from faculty. Students are expected to check the e-mail within CourseDen/D2L supported courses on a regular basis for information about specific courses. Email and other computer-based activities will be required in all nursing courses.

HONOR CODE
An honor code is essential to the University of West Georgia as an agreement between students and the University to promote commitment to academic integrity. It is expected that undergraduate nursing students will follow this honor code. Academic and personal integrity is based upon values such as honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.
Please refer to the University of West Georgia Student Code of Conduct which is a section of the University of West Georgia Student Handbook. The link to the handbook is [http://www.westga.edu/handbook/](http://www.westga.edu/handbook/)

**THSSON HONOR CODE**

As a student of the University of West Georgia in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing, I am a person of integrity, veracity, and honesty. I will uphold the moral and ethical principles of the University of West Georgia’s Tanner Health System School of Nursing, habitually engage in truthful speech, statements and actions, and be honorable in intentions and actions. I am a person of respect. I respect human dignity, worth, and the uniqueness of every individual. I will respect persons of all backgrounds without prejudice. I will strive to promote, advocate for, and protect the health, safety, and rights of those under my care. I am accountable for my own judgment and action, and responsible for my role as a student of the University of West Georgia’s Tanner Health System School of Nursing. I lead by example and I will never settle for achieving merely what is expected, but will strive for a standard of excellence that reflects dedication to the profession of nursing.

**Breaches of Academic Integrity**

Students are admitted to the University of West Georgia and the BSN Program with the expectation of acceptable personal standards of conduct and ethics. The Tanner Health System School of Nursing expects students to behave in a manner congruent with the NSNA Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct and the Code of Professional Conduct (available online at [http://www.nsna.org/](http://www.nsna.org/)).

**UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**STANDARDS OF PROCEDURES FOR BREACHES OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forms of Misconduct</th>
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<th>Identification</th>
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| Cheating            | -Unauthorized access to unauthorized materials  
-Use of another student’s work  
-Taking an exam for another student OR having another student take an exam for a student  
-Using, attempting to use or aiding others in using unauthorized materials | -Course faculty sends documentation to program director and undergraduate dean  
-Review student file for past Breach of Academic Integrity reports  
-Student is notified via course email | -Verbal warning  
-Lower grade or failing paper, project, test grade  
-Lower overall course grade  
-Failure of the course  
-Suspension or expulsion from the program | -Written Academic Integrity Violation Investigation report by course faculty  
-Report sent to student  
-Consider referral of student to UWG Office of Student Conduct |
| Fabrication | -Padding reference list  
-Direct quotation without citation  
-Use of thesaurus to change author’s words, with or without citation  
-Falsification of records  
-Fabrication of research or other results | -Course faculty sends documentation to program director and undergraduate dean  
-Review student file for past Breach of Academic Integrity reports  
-Student is notified via course email | -Verbal warning  
-Lower grade or failing paper, project, test grade  
-Lower overall course grade  
-Failure of the course  
-Suspension or expulsion from the program | -Written Academic Integrity Violation Investigation report by course faculty  
-Report sent to student  
-Consider referral of student to UWG Office of Student Conduct |
|---|---|---|---|
| Plagiarism | -Direct quotation without quotation marks  
-Paraphrasing without citation  
-Self-plagiarism  
-Representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own | -Course faculty sends documentation to program director and undergraduate dean  
-Review student file for past Breach of Academic Integrity reports  
-Student is notified via course email | -Verbal warning  
-Lower grade or failing paper, project, test grade  
-Lower overall course grade  
-Failure of the course  
-Suspension or expulsion from the program | -Written Academic Integrity Violation Investigation report by course faculty  
-Report sent to student  
-Consider referral of student to UWG Office of Student Conduct |
| Excessive Collaboration | -Sharing student work  
-Solicitation of others to complete an individual assignment | -Course faculty sends documentation to program director and undergraduate dean  
-Review student file for past Breach of Academic Integrity reports  
-Student is notified via course email | -Verbal warning  
-Lower grade or failing paper, project, test grade  
-Lower overall course grade  
-Failure of the course  
-Suspension or expulsion from the program | -Written Academic Integrity Violation Investigation report by course faculty  
-Report sent to student  
-Consider referral of student to UWG Office of Student Conduct |
I. POLICY
The University of West Georgia Honor Code policy is located within the University of West Georgia Student Handbook. This policy does contain Penalties for Breach of Academic Integrity.

II. CONTEXT/SCOPE
This procedure applies to all UWG THS SON undergraduate faculty regarding the Standards of Procedure for Breaches of Academic Integrity.

III. PURPOSE
The UWG THS SON values academic integrity and the purpose of this Standards of Procedure is to provide a systematic approach regarding the penalties for breaches of academic integrity. The University of West Georgia Student Handbook Penalties for Breach of Academic Integrity states:

Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to failing the assignment and/or failing the course. The instructor will notify the Assistant or Associate Dean of the College/School or Library in which the alleged incident took place. The instructor is strongly encouraged to refer the alleged student to the Office of Student Conduct for review and possible student conduct sanctions per the process of adjudicating student conduct cases. Student Conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student’s conduct record at UWG. Academic penalties imposed by instructors may be appealed through a Grade Appeal. Sanction(s) imposed by the Office of Student Conduct may be appealed through the Student Conduct Appeals process (UWG Student Handbook, 2016, p. 7).

IV. PROCEDURES
All UWG THS SON undergraduate faculty will use the Standards of Procedure for Breaches of Academic Integrity in all undergraduate courses. Forms of Academic Dishonesty as identified by section 2.00 under Conduct Regulations of the University of West Georgia Student Handbook include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and excessive collaboration. All UWG THS SON undergraduate faculty will complete a written Breach of Academic Integrity report for any student breach of academic integrity.

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM SCHOOL OF NURSING
TURNITIN POLICY & PROCEDURE

I. POLICY
The UWG THS SON values academic integrity and therefore all undergraduate faculty will use Turnitin for all written assignments in all undergraduate courses. Additionally, a Turnitin Syllabus Statement will be placed within each individual course syllabus.

II. CONTEXT/SCOPE
This policy applies to all UWG THS SON undergraduate faculty regarding the use of the originality tool, Turnitin.
III. PURPOSE
The UWG THS SON values academic integrity and the purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for undergraduate faculty regarding the use of Turnitin, an originality tool that can be used to detect and prevent plagiarism in student assignments.

IV. DEFINITION
Turnitin - For the purposes of this policy Turnitin is an originality tool that recognizes text that has been identified as closely matching other online resources, including student-submitted work and published articles; displays possible sources where that text is located; and indicates the percentage of a paper that is attributable to other sources. The tool will reduce accidental plagiarism by helping students understand quotation attribution and citations.

V. PROCEDURES
All undergraduate faculty will use Turnitin for all major written assignments in all graduate courses. Use of Turnitin for minor assignments are up to the discretion of the individual undergraduate faculty member. In addition, the following statement must appear on all undergraduate course syllabi within the THS SON BSN programs:

TURNITIN SYLLABUS STATEMENT
In an effort to ensure academic integrity, the Tanner Health System School of Nursing vigorously affirms the importance of an Honor Code as defined by the THS SON BSN Student Handbook. Therefore, in an effort to detect and prevent plagiarism, undergraduate faculty members at THS SON now use an originality tool called Turnitin to compare a student’s work with multiple online sources. Turnitin reports a percentage of similarity with multiple online sources and provides links to those specific sources. The tool itself does not determine whether or not a paper has been plagiarized. Instead, the individual faculty member must make that judgment.

Selected assignments in this course will be checked for originality using Turnitin.com. A Turnitin Draft Dropbox will be available for the submission of all assignments in this course so you may practice your scholarly writing over the course of the semester. Also, you may submit to the Turnitin Draft Dropbox as many times as possible and please review the originality report with each draft submission. According to the Turnitin site, when multiple submissions are submitted, only one Originality Report will be processed in a 24-hour period; reports "for second or subsequent submissions will require a 24 hour delay before the Originality Report begins processing." Lastly, once you submit your final assignment to the assigned Dropbox (not the Draft Dropbox), your paper will be reviewed through Turnitin and an Originality Report will be generated with no resubmission/revisions allowed.

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM SCHOOL OF NURSING
TURNITIN STUDENT INFORMATION FOR BSN STUDENT HANDBOOK
Turnitin is an originality tool that recognizes text that has been identified as closely matching other online resources, including student-submitted work and published articles; displays possible sources where that text is located; and indicates the percentage of a paper that is attributable to other sources. The tool will reduce accidental plagiarism by helping students understand quotation attribution and citations.
Course professors will set up Turnitin assignments in their CourseDen courses to let students submit assignments. The instructions below are intended to help students use this resource within CourseDen.
Each undergraduate course will inform students of the use of Turnitin via a statement included in the course syllabus. Students are encouraged to submit to Turnitin prior to the assignment due date in order to receive the Originality Report as these reports can take up to 24 hours and an additional 24 hours for subsequent reports.

**SUBMITTING TURNITIN ASSIGNMENTS**

To submit a Turnitin assignment.

1. Complete the assignment and save the file.
2. Navigate to the section of the CourseDen course where the Turnitin assignment has been created by the instructor (i.e. Assignments, Course Materials, etc.)
3. Click the **View/Complete** link.
4. Once the Turnitin page opens, read the user agreement, acknowledge you are at least 13 years of age, and click on the **I agree--continue** button. (1st time only)
5. Choose the "submission method," enter a "submission title," click the **Browse** button in the "browse for the file to upload" area to select the file on the local or external drive, and then click the **upload** button. An acknowledgement that the paper has been successfully uploaded will be generated. A new screen will open showing a preview of the paper. Click on the **submit** button on the "Step 2 of 2" screen to complete the submission process.
6. A confirmation screen will appear including a unique paper ID.

Course professors will set up a Turnitin Draft Dropbox allowing students to submit their papers multiple times prior to their final paper submission. This process offers students the opportunity to improve their scholarly writing before the final paper submission. According to the Turnitin site, when multiple submissions are permitted, only one Originality Report will be processed in a 24-hour period; reports "for second or subsequent submissions will require a 24 hour delay before the Originality Report begins processing." Once the final assignment is submitted, it will be stored in Turnitin global student paper repository.

**VIEWING A TURNITIN ORIGINALITY REPORT**

The course professor will make the Originality Report accessible to students and they will be able to view it through the same link used to submit the Turnitin assignment. Be aware that it might take some time for a report to be generated; it is not instantly available for review as soon as a paper is submitted. If a student's paper has matching text in the Originality Report, it does not necessarily indicate plagiarism. Turnitin will flag quotes that the student has correctly referenced. Students need to review the report carefully and if the report was based on a draft, make the corrections before submitting the final assignment. Please consult this tutorial for additional information on how to view a Turnitin Originality Report: [Turnitin HelpDirect Center Video: Viewing an Originality Report](#)

**TRAINING MATERIALS FOR STUDENTS**

[UWG Online Turnitin Training resources](#). These UWG Online resources will cover reviewing the originality report and Grademark feedback through CourseDen and Turnitin.

[Turnitin Blackboard Integration Student User Manual](#). Detailed instructions and screenshots on how to submit a paper, view an originality report, and more.
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

I. Purpose

The UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing (THSSON) values, supports, and recognizes that social media sites have become an important and influential means for positive communication and professional development. Social networking sites are, in essence, broad communities with a public audience. Therefore, the intent of this policy is to communicate clearly the expectations of all UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing faculty, staff, and students regarding the appropriate use of social media.

II. Scope

These guidelines provide “best practices” and apply to all UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing faculty, staff, and students regarding social media use, while affiliated with the Tanner Health System School of Nursing. To the extent it conflicts with minimum requirements set forth in UWG Procedure 10.2.3, UWG-Related Social Media Guidelines, UWG Procedure 10.2.3 shall prevail.

III. Policy

These guidelines apply to all UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing faculty, staff, and students who engage in social networking. These guidelines also apply to UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing faculty, staff, and students who participate in social media sites for school related purposes, such as didactic and clinical interactions.

THSSON shall have one official social media account (registered with UWG) whose purpose is to promote an official presence of UWG. This account cannot speak on behalf of the entire university but represents THSSON.

A link to the following statement shall be posted on all THSSON social media accounts:

“The University of West Georgia (UWG) welcomes the exchange of ideas about university programs, issues, events, and activities on social media websites. The material posted, however, does not necessarily represent the views or policies of the university. The university reserves the right to remove pages, posts, comments, or other content from UWG social media sites that do not adhere to the university’s standards. The university may remove content that is deemed a violation of intellectual property rights or privacy laws, commercial or promotion of organizations or programs not related to or affiliated with the university, or otherwise in violation of applicable policy or law. By submitting content to any UWG social media site, users understand and acknowledge that this information is available to the public and that UWG may use this information for internal and external promotional purposes. Links to content or other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the organizations, entities, views, or content contained therein. UWG is not responsible for the content of those external websites. Also be aware that other participants may use posted information beyond the control of UWG. Users who do not wish to have information they have made available via these sites used, published, copied, and/or reprinted, should not post on the social media sites.” (UWG Procedure 10.2.3., UWG-Related Social Media Guidelines)

IV. Definitions

The definitions found in UWG Procedure 10.2.3 apply to these guidelines. For ease of reference, “Social Media” is defined as “forms of electronic communication (such as web sites for social networking and blogging) through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, photos, personal messages, and other content. Examples include but are not limited to: Blogs, Facebook, Flickr, Linkedin, My Space, Podcasts, RSS Feeds, Second Life,
Twitter, YouTube, Tumblr, Periscope, Yik Yak, Snapchat.

V. Official UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing Communication

UWG official School of Nursing communication, including correspondence between faculty, staff, and students, regarding classes, schedules, and events, must be conducted within school of nursing sanctioned communication channels such as the following:

1. MyUWG email for official university communication between the university and the student
2. Course management system for academic and clinical coursework between the professor and the student

Any correspondence or activity conducted outside these channels is not endorsed by UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing.

VI. Guidelines for UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing Social Media

A. Professionalism:

1. Be aware of your association with UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing in social media sites as personal and professional lines are blurred.
2. It is recommended for THSSON faculty and staff to avoid initiating or accepting friend requests with currently enrolled students.
3. Ensure your profile and posted content is consistent with how you wish to present UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing and yourself to colleagues, patients, and potential future employers. Maintain professional language and content at all times. It may be useful and necessary to block individuals who post unprofessional content.
4. Postings on social media sites are NEVER private and will be treated as if you verbally made the statement in a public place.
5. Refrain from stating personal opinions as being endorsed by UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing. For your personal media site, you must use your personal email address, not your university email, as your means of identification.
6. If a faculty member, staff, or student acknowledges an association with UWG and/or THSSON in a personal online community, a disclaimer must be included that advises that they are not speaking officially on behalf of the school or university. Sample disclaimer: “The views and opinions expressed here are my own and do not represent the views of Tanner Health System School of Nursing or the University of West Georgia.”
7. Copyrighted or trademarked material should not be used without written consent from its owner before using these items on any social media site.
8. Use of UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing logos on social media sites for sanctioned events must be approved by Tanner Health System School of Nursing administration.
9. Understand the legal ramifications and liability for what you post on social media sites as you can be sued for libel or slander. You are legally liable and responsible for what you post on your own social media site and the social media sites of others.
10. Know that taking pictures, audio taping, and/or videotaping of professors, staff, and/or students for social media use without written permission of the individual is prohibited, and may even be protected from disclosure by federal or state laws.
11. Do not develop a social media site that appears to represent the UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing without administration approval from the Tanner Health System School of
Nursing. Unprofessional or abusive language may also result in disciplinary action if it is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it denies or limits an individual’s ability to work, or to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity at UWG.

B. Privacy & Safety:

1. Understand that postings on social media sites are NEVER private.
2. Do set your privacy settings as high as possible; do not settle with just the standard settings. Due to continuous changes within social media sites, it is advisable to monitor closely your privacy settings to optimize your privacy and safety.
3. Be aware that confidential, sensitive, and proprietary information must be protected at all times. Avoid sharing any identification numbers on your social media sites (ex. address, telephone numbers, date of birth, etc.)
4. Never post confidential, sensitive, or proprietary information about UWG THSSON faculty, staff, students, or anyone with whom one has contact with in their role as a UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing faculty, staff, or student.
5. Be cognizant of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) on social media sites as violators are subject to prosecution as with any other HIPAA violation.

C. Social Media in Clinical Settings/Patient Contact:

1. At NO time shall patients and/or family members be photographed, audiotaped, or videotaped for ANY reason.
2. Do not post any information on social media about clinical experiences or about a clinical agency or its employees.
3. Maintain professional boundaries with patients and their families at all times while associated with the UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing.

D. ALL nursing faculty, staff, and students are responsible for regularly reviewing the terms of this Social Media policy and for monitoring their own social media site(s).

VII. Violation of Social Media Policy

Violation of this Social Media Policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the school or termination of employment. Administration of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing will provide guidelines for the resolution of problems, conflicts, and consequences regarding violation of this policy.

Resources:

UWG Procedure 10.2.3., UWG-Related Social Media Guidelines.
IMPAIRED STUDENT NURSE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The purpose of this policy is to assist in the identification of and offer assistance to the chemically impaired student, while sending a strong message that all students enrolled in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing at The University of West Georgia are strictly prohibited from possessing or being under the influence of chemically impairing drugs or substances while engaged in any THS SON classroom or clinical activity.

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
   a) Students enrolled in the THS SON at the undergraduate and graduate levels engage in the THS SON, classroom, as well as clinical activities that involve training on campus in the skills and simulation labs (Experiential Learning Center) and off campus at various types of health care facilities, including, but not limited to, hospitals, private practice offices, clinics, long-term care facilities, schools, conferences, other university and college settings, and community agencies.
   b) Chemical impairment can adversely affect the learning process and the quality of care provided by the student in the above listed activities. It may also pose legal ramifications to the THS SON as well as safety and health risks to the student, his/her patient(s), classmates, clinical instructors, and others.
   c) This policy has been adapted in accordance with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (1998) position statement on the subject of substance abuse in nursing education.

II. DEFINITIONS

The THS SON faculty defines the chemically impaired student as a person who, while participating in a THS SON, classroom, or clinical activity, is under the influence of, separately or in combination, mind or function-altering substances, including alcohol, illegal street or prescription drugs, inhalants or synthetic designer drugs (see Appendix A & B for Drug List and Symptoms/Indicators of Chemical Impairment). *Exceptions include legally prescribed drugs taken as ordered by a Health Care Provider by the student and over-the-counter drugs, provided that the use of these drugs does not interfere with safe and competent performance by the student during THS SON class and clinical activities.*

Prevention and Education

Faculty members will distribute and review the Impaired Student Nurse Policy along with information on services and programs offered by the University of West Georgia Counseling Center (counseling) and Health Services.

Protocol for Faculty Intervention with the Impaired Student Nurse

1. All student nurses will be required, upon admission to the Tanner Health System School of Nursing, to sign a consent form allowing random drug and alcohol panel testing. The consent (Appendix C) will be filed in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing.
2. If signs and symptoms, as listed in Appendix B, are suspected by or reported to the faculty member during any THS SON, classroom, or clinical activity, the faculty member will be responsible to meet with the student, with a neutral party present (i.e., physician, clinical manager, charge nurse, or another UWG THS SON faculty) in private to discuss the behavior(s) and signs observed, and allow the student to provide a
brief verbal explanation. The faculty member will specifically inquire whether the student has used drugs or alcohol and, if so, the details of what, when, how much, and by what route it was consumed.

3. The faculty member is advised to keep detailed notes using the THS SON Structured Plan for Success Form to describe the incident and the behaviors involving the student.

4. If the faculty member believes the student nurse to be impaired based on altered behaviors, the faculty member will inform the student that she/he is suspected to be in violation of the THS SON Impaired Student Nurse Policy. When possible, suspicion needs to be validated by another faculty member, charge nurse, manager, or physician. The student will be suspended from all THS SON, classroom, and clinical activities until further notice pending results of an alcohol and drug panel. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange safe transportation from the clinical activity site and/or classroom to LabCorp for drug testing. **For THS SON, classroom, and clinical activities occurring during the evening, the student is responsible for arranging safe transportation home and will be required to submit to screening within 12 hours.** The faculty member will stay with the student until safe transportation arrives to pick up the student and document when the student actually left the activity location.

5. Cost of transportation and the drug and alcohol panel will be at the student’s expense.

6. If the student refuses drug and alcohol panel testing, he/she will be subject to dismissal from the nursing program.

7. A urine drug and alcohol panel will be deemed positive if any of the drugs listed in Appendix A are identified. A second test will be conducted for verification on the original urine specimen. Results from the testing laboratory will be reported to the appropriate Associate Dean at the Tanner Health System School of Nursing. The THS SON will ensure confidentiality of the results only to the student, appropriate THS SON administrators, and faculty.

8. **A positive drug and/or alcohol screen will result in dismissal from the nursing program. The student may request for reinstatement the next semester if applicable (see #10 c).**

9. A negative panel will not necessitate further testing and no further action will be taken. The student will be notified that he/she can return to THS SON, classroom, and clinical activities, and will be allowed to make up any missed opportunities during said activities.

10. If the panel is positive for the presence of drugs or alcohol, or if the student nurse refused to submit to screening, the following steps will be initiated:

    a. A conference will be held, within five business days, with the student, involved faculty member(s), THS SON Associate Dean, and a counselor from the Counseling and Career Development Center at UWG to discuss the incident in a caring environment. Concerns about the student and his/her well-being, behavior, and performance, and academic consequences will be discussed.

    b. A written agreement (Appendix D) will be executed by the student to seek an initial substance abuse evaluation and counseling with a UWG Patient Advocate or Counselor, or with a certified or licensed professional capable of providing this service. The student must sign an informed consent form from the consulting agency/provider to allow release of the evaluation results to be provided to the appropriate Associate Dean of the THS SON. The student is required to follow any treatment plan which may be recommended as a result of the substance abuse screening and evaluation. Refusal of the student to sign the agreement or failure to comply with any recommended treatment following substance abuse evaluation and counseling will result in dismissal from the nursing program.

    c. Reinstatement of the student to the Tanner Health System School of Nursing will be contingent upon:

    - Accordance with current THS SON Progression Policy
• Written documentation of successful completion of all substance abuse services recommended or any other services recommended by UWG Counseling and Career Development Center or Licensed Professional Provider
• Negative drug and alcohol panel at an approved laboratory prior to reinstatement
• Agreement to voluntarily participate in random drug or alcohol screening, at the expense of the student
• Participate in on-going support qualified program as recommended by the Counseling & Career Development Center or Licensed Professional Provider

Other

1. In accordance with the UWG Students and Drugs statement in the University of West Georgia Student Handbook, students may be subject to a formal judicial review by the Judicial Affairs Office.
2. Students must be aware that a state examining board has the right to refuse to grant authorization to test for NCLEX and/or RN licensure to any individual regardless of educational qualifications based on reportable offenses found on a background check, falsification of application for licensure, felony convictions, and other moral and legal violations specified by that state board of nursing.

CLINICAL PRACTICE INFORMATION

PARTICIPATION IN CLINICAL COURSES

• Clinical placement is determined by the THS SON and will be finalized as soon as possible after the start of the semester.
• Proof of all health and professional requirements must be on file in the UWG, Tanner Health System School of Nursing prior to participation in any clinical/practicum activity.
• It is the student’s responsibility to provide the required clinical documents to the THS SON by the stated deadlines.
• It is the student’s responsibility to meet any additional credentialing requirements for participation at an assigned facility. Please note that, in some instances, there may be associated costs (i.e. badges, additional screenings, liability upgrades) for which the student is responsible.
• Clinical experiences may be scheduled on any day of the week, during any shift, and therefore requires student flexibility. The THS SON cannot be responsible for accommodating child care, work schedules, or any other personal responsibility when scheduling students for their clinical experiences.
• Transportation to and from clinical sites is the responsibility of the student (see Health and Professional Requirements Checklist).

Clinical Placement and Documentation

• In addition to the Health and Professional Requirements, clinical agencies require additional documentation and orientation materials for student clearance. Completion of these required materials may take place outside of the scheduled class dates for a given semester. Non-compliance may delay start times for students or entire clinical groups.
Failure of students to complete all items on the Health and Professional Requirements Checklist for the following courses: NURS 3301, NURS 3302, NURS 4300, NURS 4301, NURS 4302, NURS 4485, and NURS 4527, will result in a penalty of 10% of the total possible course grade if the items are not completed by the following due dates: March 1st for summer semester, July 1st for fall semester, and October 1st for spring semester. There will be an additional penalty of another 10% of the total possible course grade if the items on the Health and Professional Requirements Checklist are not completed before the first day of each semester, as designated on the University of West Georgia academic calendar.

(Approved 4/10/2017)

**CLINICAL ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The clinical experience for Prelicensure BSN students is the sum of time spent in skills, simulation, and/or clinical sites. Attendance and punctuality are required for all clinical courses. Any unexcused absence (including skills, simulation, or clinical) will result in a “0” for the day. All students must provide appropriate documentation for any clinical absence. This would include, but is not limited to, health care provider excuse, legal documents, or professional documents. Determination of an excused absence is at the discretion of the faculty. The specific number of required attendance days will be designated in the course syllabus by the Clinical Course coordinator. A pattern of tardiness and/or leaving early may also result in a “0” for the day (i.e., 3 unexcused tardies = 1 absence). Students are required to “make up” clinical absences that compromise their ability to meet clinical objectives as determined by the Clinical Course coordinator. It is expected that each student will attend all scheduled clinical experiences, arrive on time, and not leave until dismissal by the faculty or preceptor. (Approved 4/10/2017)

**PRELICENSURE BSN STUDENT EMPLOYMENT POSITION STATEMENT**

The Faculty of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing neither encourage nor discourage prelicensure BSN students from seeking employment either in the health care setting or elsewhere. Some students find this beneficial; others do not. The amount of time spent at work is the prerogative of the student. Class and clinical schedules will not be arranged to "fit" student needs because of employment. The faculty assumes NO RESPONSIBILITY for students working as a paid employee of any institution. Students should be certain the responsibilities they assume are in line with the responsibilities of other unlicensed personnel in that institution. At no time should students assume any responsibility designated for licensed personnel, i.e., LPNs or RNs, unless they hold the appropriate valid license in Georgia. Students should never wear the student uniform or name pin while working as an employee. Likewise, the student should never administer any kind of medications, take physician's orders, be "in charge," or do any other activity usually assumed by a licensed person. The student should chart only if other unlicensed personnel chart or if the job description explicitly states this is expected. When charting, the student should never sign the chart as "SN."

Students contracted to work as “nurse externs” may not use hours worked as part of this externship to satisfy clinical course requirements.

**EVALUATION OF STUDENT CLINICAL PERFORMANCE** (Revised 4/2105)

Faculty evaluate the clinical performance of each prelicensure BSN student enrolled in the nursing course with a clinical component as follows:
1. Faculty utilize the approved Clinical Evaluation Tool (CET) and guidelines to rate student performance on clinical learning goals that relate to course learning goals. All CETs will be identified by student name, semester/year, course, faculty, and clinical agency.

2. Faculty conduct clinical evaluation with each student to document progress.

3. CET and supporting documents will be placed in the student’s official school record within one week of the final student conference. It is the responsibility of the Course Coordinator to ensure forms are completed and filed.
   a. A document recording clinical hours and completed activities for all students being supervised by preceptors will be signed and dated by the student, the preceptor, and the faculty member.

4. Evaluation of student clinical performance will occur as follows:
   - NURS 3301 Clinical Practice I – Weekly
   - NURS 3302 Clinical Practice II – Every other week (minimum of 5 times)
   - NURS 4301 Clinical Practice III – Every other week (minimum of 5 times)
   - NURS 4302 Clinical Practice IV – Monthly
   - Specialty Practice (Study Abroad) – Weekly

5. Evaluation of student clinical performance for RN-BSN students will occur as follows:
   - NURS 4527 Nursing Leadership in Healthcare Communities – End of clinical experience by nursing preceptor

PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE

The nursing student's attire influences the public's image of nursing and the University of West Georgia, Tanner Health System School of Nursing. The public's image of nursing may influence the effectiveness of nursing practice and should be considered as the nurse provides care. Likewise, the student's image of nursing is positively influenced when the student takes pride in her/his appearance. The responsibility for establishing guidelines for the nursing student's professional attire rests with the faculty of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing with suggestions from the clinical agencies. A student name pin should be worn any time a student is participating in a clinical activity. Nursing faculty will provide information regarding the name pin or the order form can be located online at https://www.westga.edu/academics/nursing/bsn.php under “Students,” then “Current Students,” then “Forms and Handbooks.”

I. Guidelines for Prelicensure BSN Students

A. Clinical instructors will provide specific guidelines for professional attire for clinical activities in community settings.

B. The following guidelines apply to professional attire when the student is in the clinical setting to obtain clinical assignments or participating in clinical or other activities outside the hospital setting.

1. Students must wear either an approved student uniform as discussed below or a white lab coat over appropriate street clothes. The UWG nursing student name pin must be visible.

2. For skills lab and simulation activities on campus, students will be required to wear royal blue scrubs with all-white shoes, as specified in item #3 below, as well as student name pin.

3. Students must wear clothing that is neat, clean and professional in appearance. Inappropriate attire includes, but is not limited to, jogging suits, sweatshirts, jeans, shorts, or clothing that exposes any
portion of the breasts or midriff. Shoes must enclose both the toes and heel. Heels must be no greater than 2” and no platform shoes may be worn. Skirts must be no shorter than 4” above the middle of the knee.

4. Students inappropriately attired will not be allowed access to patients or medical records. Clinical faculty or staff members at clinical facilities may ask students to leave the clinical area if, in their judgment, the student is dressed inappropriately.

5. The following guidelines apply to the student uniform that is worn during on campus clinical activities:

Students are required to wear Cherokee Unisex Workwear Scrubs in royal blue, item numbers CK4100 and CK4876; or Cherokee Unisex Workwear Core Stretch Scrubs in royal blue, item numbers CK4043 and CK4725, while attending on-campus skills or simulation labs. Consideration may be given for students needing maternity uniforms, and equivalent uniforms can be purchased. Standards of appearance remain the same for on-campus uniforms as are currently stated in the Undergraduate BSN Handbook, and students are required to wear the UWG nursing student name pin. Professional white shoes that enclose the heel and toes must be worn, which may include solid white athletic shoes (THHSON BSN Handbook, I.C.2, 2015). The blue uniform is not to be worn in the community or hospital setting.

C. The following guidelines apply to the student uniform that is worn during clinical activities in the hospital setting:

1. Standardized white dress or pants/shirt style uniform with colored trim as selected by the UWG THS SON, properly fitted, freshly laundered, and ironed. Information regarding ordering uniforms will be provided during the first semester of the program. The UWG nursing student name pin must be visible.

2. White, non-designed hosiery is required for uniforms with skirts; white socks (without logo) may be worn with a pants style uniform. Support hose are recommended for comfort. Professional white shoes must enclose the toes and heel and may include all-white athletic shoes. Shoes and laces must be clean.

3. Undergarments, including bra, panties, briefs, or shorts must be solid white or skin-toned and without logos.

   a. A white lab coat may be worn with the uniform in the clinical area.

D. General Dress Code:

1. Students should not wear any perfumes, colognes, or fragrances.

2. Long hair must be worn off the neck and collar. Facial hair must be clean and conservatively trimmed. Jewelry may include a watch with a second hand, a wedding ring and/or engagement ring, and small, conservative stud earrings. Makeup should be conservative. Nails should be trimmed no longer than the ends of the fingers and nail polish should not be worn. No artificial nails are permitted. No chewing gum or oral tobacco permitted while in the clinical setting.

3. No visible body piercing with ornamentation is permitted with the exception of one pair of stud
earrings.

4. Students may be asked to cover visible tattoos.

II. Guidelines for RN-BSN Students

A. For management/leadership clinical experiences, unless specific guidelines are provided by supervising faculty or the clinical facility, the student should wear professional attire with UWG name tag and/or school ID.

B. For additional guidelines, see the “General Dress Code” section under “Guidelines for Prelicensure BSN Students”.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EVALUATION AND TREATMENT FOLLOWING CLINICAL EXPOSURE TO BLOOD OR BODY FLUIDS

Students who sustain exposure to blood and/or body fluids while participating in university-related clinical activities should immediately notify the staff nurse responsible for the patient and the clinical instructor. The student is expected to follow the policies and procedures for the institution in which the incident occurs regarding reporting and necessary follow-up procedures. The student may choose to receive treatment in the Emergency Department of the institution or a nearby institution at their own expense. Faculty must initiate a Post-Exposure Counseling Checklist for the student. A representative from the healthcare facility should communicate clearly to the student the post-exposure policy and necessary follow-up treatment. Reporting, treatment, and follow-up procedures should be documented in the student’s record by the instructor.

CLINICAL PRACTICE COURSE EVALUATION (EC Approved 4/20/15)

Clinical Practice Course Evaluations will be completed every semester by clinical instructors and students which will include faculty and student preceptor, facility, and simulation evaluations. This form is located in Qualtrics Software. This process is required in order to be in compliance with the Georgia Board of Nursing Rule “Educational Facilities, Resources, and Practice Settings.”
APPENDIX A

LIST OF DRUGS INCLUDED IN URINE DRUG PANEL

1. ALCOHOL
2. AMPHETAMINES
3. BARBITURATES
4. BENZODIAZEPINES
5. CANNABINOIDS
6. COCAINE
7. METHADONE
8. METHAMPHETAMINES
9. OPIATES
10. PCP
11. TCA

Other drugs: ketamine, buprenorphine, ecstasy, propoxyphene, and phencyclidine
COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CHEMICAL IMPAIRMENT

Physiological:

- Slurred or rapid speech
- Fine motor tremors
- Pupil dilation or constriction
- Glassy or bloodshot eyes
- Odor of alcohol
- Unsteady gait
- Changes in mental status and/or cognition
- Nausea or vomiting, or sweating without known cause

Behavioral:

- Repetitive tardiness and/or absenteeism
- Difficulty turning in assignments on time
- Frequent disappearance from clinical/classroom without explanation
- Isolates self from groups
- Avoids eye contact
- Inconsistent performance in clinical and/or classroom setting, sudden changes in usual behavior
- Lapses in memory, incongruent responses, difficulty recalling instruction
- Sleepiness or dozes off in clinical/classroom
- Elaborate excuses and apologies for behaviors
- Blaming others for problems/issues
- Complaints from fellow students, nursing staff, preceptors, patients, family members
- Self-disclosure of drug or alcohol abuse
- Other behaviors or symptoms of impairment not listed
APPENDIX C

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM
SCHOOL OF NURSING
CONSENT FOR RANDOM DRUG SCREENING

I understand that I will be subject to random drug screens, at my expense, while enrolled in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing as indicated in the Impaired Student Nurse Policy and Procedures. A positive drug and alcohol panel will result in clinical failure and subsequent withdrawal from the program.

Refusal to submit to drug and alcohol screening will result in dismissal from the Tanner Health System School of Nursing program.

BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, I INDICATE THAT I HAVE READ, I UNDERSTAND, AND I AGREE TO THE TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM SCHOOL OF NURSING IMPAIRED STUDENT NURSE POLICY AND PROCEDURES. IT ALSO CONSTITUTES CONSENT FOR THE DESIGNATED LABORATORY TO RELEASE RESULTS OF THE DRUG SCREEN TO THE APPROPRIATE ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE DEAN AT THE THS SON.

____________________________
Student’s Printed Name

____________________________
Student’s Signature

____________________________
Date
APPENDIX D

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM
SCHOOL OF NURSING

AGREEMENT FOR THE CHEMICALLY IMPAIRED STUDENT NURSE

I, ___________________________________________________, consent to obtain a comprehensive substance abuse evaluation and counseling for the purpose of professional evaluation of chemical impairment/abuse status and determination of an appropriate treatment plan.

I understand and acknowledge that the admission of chemical impairment at this point may have academic consequences.

I understand that I am responsible for the cost, if indicated, of the substance abuse evaluation and counseling and any prescribed treatment, and additional drug and alcohol panel screening.

I understand that failure to abide by the stipulations of my recommended treatment plan and monitoring of my progress will result in my dismissal from the program.

Signature of Student __________________________________________________________

Signature of Witness __________________________________________________________

Date ______________________________
Proof of all health and professional requirements listed must be uploaded to the Verified Credentials website or submitted and kept on file in the UWG, Tanner Health System School of Nursing prior to participation in all clinical/practicum activity. These records are required by clinical agencies with which the University of West Georgia has binding contracts. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE CLINICAL SITES WITHOUT A COMPLETE CLINICAL FILE.**

The Tanner Health System School of Nursing will not make copies of any record for students. It is the student’s responsibility to keep a copy of their documents for future use.

**Effective for Fall 2017 Clinical Courses in the Pre-Licensure BSN and RN-BSN programs:**

“Failure of students to complete all items on the ‘Health and Professional Requirements Checklist’ for the following courses: NURS 3301, NURS 3302, NURS 4300, NURS 4301, NURS 4302, NURS 4485, and NURS 4527, will result in a penalty of 10% of the total possible course grade if the items are not completed by the following due dates: March 1st for summer semester, July 1st for fall semester, and October 1st for spring semester. There will be an additional penalty of another 10% of the total possible course grade if the items on the ‘Health and Professional Requirements Checklist’ are not completed before the first day of each semester, as designated by the University of West Georgia academic calendar.”

**INITIAL** documentation for students entering the Prelicensure BSN program and the RN-BSN program are due as a completed packet.

Thereafter, student clinical files will be checked each month for upcoming expiring documents and students will be notified one month in advance via their MyUWG emails by the THS School of Nursing. Any document that is set to expire during a given month must be updated and uploaded to the Verified Credentials website and/or with the THS School of Nursing no later than the first day of the month the document is set to expire. **Example:** Expiring document July 22nd (document will be due by July 1st). At no time should these documents be allowed to expire. These documents must stay active during your program of study within Nursing, even if you are not in a clinical course. Students are responsible for uploading documents to the Verified Credentials website and for seeing that their file is complete and current with the School of Nursing for each semester of enrollment in clinical coursework.

All students are responsible for checking their MyUWG emails periodically for notifications from the THS School of Nursing about clinical documents. Failure to check or respond to your UWG email does not constitute an excuse for not having an updated clinical file at all times. Students will not be allowed in a clinical setting if their clinical documents are not up to date. Also, a clinical hold will be placed on the student’s record. The clinical hold will be removed when the clinical file is complete.

1. **ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED COPY OF THIS CHECKLIST**
   You must review this health requirement checklist in its entirety and upload all documents required. Submit an electronically signed copy of this checklist to the Verified Credentials website.

2. **ANNUAL PHYSICAL ABILITY FORM:**
   This verifies the student’s physical ability to perform clinical activities. A physical must be renewed EVERY YEAR and must not expire during the clinical experience. A Physical Ability Form can be downloaded and
3. **TUBERCULOSIS SKIN TEST (PPD):**

   A Two-Step TB Skin Test* (PPD) must be obtained by all students for initial documentation purposes. Each year thereafter, a One-Step TB Skin Test is all that is required. Proof of a negative TB Skin Test must be obtained EVERY YEAR with no lapses in currency of this proof being allowed to occur while in the nursing program. Students with positive TB Skin Tests must receive a follow-up assessment and treatment as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). **Initial documentation for students with a positive TB Skin Test (PPD) must include:** Dated verification of most recent positive TB Skin Test, most recent chest x-ray report, and current and/or past record of treatment for TB. **Written documentation from a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or medical doctor stating the student is free and clear of all signs and symptoms of TB is required in order for the student to participate in any clinical activity. THIS DOCUMENTATION MUST BE OBTAINED AND SUBMITTED YEARLY FOR STUDENTS WITH A RECORD OF A POSITIVE TB SKIN TEST (PPD).**

   All students who have paid their health service fees may have the TB Skin Test (PPD) completed at the University Health Services Center. TB Skin Tests are only available on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday due to the need for reading of the results within 48-72 hours from the time the test is administered.

   *The Two-Step TB Skin Test Process and Timeline Explained*

   1. **First Visit:** The First TB Skin Test is administered.
   2. **Second Visit:** Two to three days (48 to 72 hours) after the First Visit, you must return to have the TB Skin Test read and receive the results. This is to determine if the First Test is positive or negative. Results should be recorded in millimeters (mm) on the TB Skin Test form.
   3. **Third Visit:** 7 to 14 days after the first TB Skin Test, you must return for your Second TB Skin Test.
   4. **Fourth (Final Visit):** Two to three days (48 to 72 hours) after the Third Visit, you must return to get the Second TB Skin Test read and receive the results. This is to determine if the Second Test is positive or negative. Results of the Second Test should be recorded in millimeters (mm) on the same form used for the First TB Skin Test.

   **Note of Caution:** A typical TB Skin Test has two (2) components: the TB Skin test, and Reading of the TB Skin test with documentation of results in millimeters (mm); **but, this does not fulfill the Two-Step TB Skin Test requirement. You must actually receive two (2) separate TB Skin Tests and have them read with results documented in millimeters on the TB Skin Test form.**

4. **MMR (MEASLES, MUMPS, & RUBELLA):**

   MUST PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION FROM ONE OF THE FOLLOWING - EITHER “A”, “B”, or “C”:

   A. MMR Immunizations – 2 doses *(date must be after 1970)*;
   OR
   B. Measles Immunization – 2 doses *(date must be after March 4, 1962)*; **and** Mumps Immunization – 2 doses *(date must be after April 22, 1971)*; **and** Rubella Immunization – 2 doses *(date must be after June 9, 1969)*; **OR**
   C. MMR (MEASLES, MUMPS, & RUBELLA) Titer showing immunity for all three of these, which **MUST** include lab results and date lab was performed.

5. **HEPATITIS B IMMUNIZATION:**

   The Tanner Health System School of Nursing’s contracted clinical agencies require all students to provide documentation of Hepatitis B Immunization. **The documents for Hepatitis B immunizations must be submitted to the School of Nursing and NOT to the Verified Credentials website.**
SCENARIO “A”: If you have received the 3-step vaccination and your Hepatitis B Titer is POSITIVE: You must provide supporting documentation from a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, medical doctor, or health department that includes:
1. The date of the titer;
2. The actual lab results of the titer; and
3. Clear indication of immunity

SCENARIO “B”: If you have never received the 3-step vaccination, you will need to begin the process in the following order and provide documentation of each step:
1. 1st dose prior to beginning nursing course work;
2. 2nd dose should be received one month after the 1st dose;
3. 3rd dose should be received 5 months after the 2nd dose (the series must be completed 6 months after the first injection in order to continue in clinical activities).
4. Titer 1 – 2 months after dose #3 (If POSITIVE, see SCENARIO “A”; if NEGATIVE, see SCENARIO “C”)

SCENARIO “C”: If you have received the 3-step vaccination and your Hepatitis B Titer is NEGATIVE:
1. Get a Hepatitis B booster;
2. Then obtain a Hepatitis B Titer 4-6 weeks later (If POSITIVE, see SCENARIO “A”; If NEGATIVE, continue to next step)
3. Get a 2nd Hepatitis B booster;
4. In 5 months, get a 3rd Hepatitis B booster;
5. 1-2 months after the 3rd booster, obtain a Hepatitis B Titer (If POSTIVE, see SCENARIO “A”; If NEGATIVE, see SCENARIO “D”)

SCENARIO “D”: Per CDC guidelines, if your titer remains negative after repeating the 3-step series, you may be a “NON-responder.” In this case, provide documentation from your healthcare provider identifying you as a non-responder and include all supporting documentation.

6. VARICELLA (CHICKEN POX): STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
   1. Documentation of two doses of Varicella vaccine, four (4) weeks apart.
      • Dose 1 – Need date of immunization
      • Dose 2 – Need date of immunization
   2. Date of positive titer (including lab results and date performed) stating “immune,” signed by a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, medical doctor, or health department.

7. TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, & PERTUSSIS (Tdap): Student MUST provide proof of a one-time immunization for Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap). The document submitted for the Tdap MUST be clearly marked as a Tdap and listed alone without any other possible vaccination choices. If the document you submit is not clearly marked as a Tdap, it will not be accepted by THS SON. In addition to the initial immunizations, students are required to have a tetanus booster if their last one is more than 10 years old. Verification of tetanus immunization should be provided by a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, medical doctor, or health department.

8. FLU SHOT: A mandatory flu shot is due annually as soon as available at the beginning of flu season, which is typically around September for the following year. This is a mandate by our contracted clinical facilities.

9. HEALTH INSURANCE: BOTH documents below are required.
   A. Student must upload a front and back copy of a medical insurance card to the Verified Credentials website as proof of current health insurance coverage to remain active and on file throughout the time you are in the nursing program.
B. Student must sign a health insurance waiver in the event a lapse occurs with insurance coverage. The health insurance waivers must be submitted to the School of Nursing and NOT to the Verified Credentials website. This form can be found in the BSN Student handbook.

Please be aware: Each student is personally responsible for any and all expenses incurred for treatment of an injury or illness, whether it is has occurred during a scheduled clinical activity in a facility or during a class activity on campus, regardless of whether the student has medical insurance or not. The student can be seen at the nearest emergency room if warranted. All students who have paid their student activity fees are eligible to be seen and treated in the University Health Center.

☐ 10. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE: Proof of current professional liability insurance in the minimum amount of $1,000,000/3,000,000 is required. Documentation must be a CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE that includes the amount and dates of coverage. All licensures (Examples: CNA, LPN, RN, etc.) must be made known to the insurance company at the time of policy application and be listed on the Certificate of Insurance, along with registered nurse student. Also, the certificate of insurance must indicate “full-time status” in order to be covered at school and clinical sites. One such organization from which liability insurance can be purchased is “Nurses Service Organization” (NSO). The cost is usually around $30.00 a year for generic students, but cost for licensed Registered Nurses may be higher and additional licensure may incur additional costs. You can access this information at www.nso.com, or call them at 1-800-247-1500. Students may purchase insurance coverage from other sources as long as coverage limits are met. Policies purchased from insurance carriers other than NSO MUST be occurrence based coverage policies (which means you are protected by your policy for any event that occurs during your time of policy coverage). If you do not use NSO for your liability policy, you will have to include on your CERTIFICATE of INSURANCE proof/information that states the policy is an occurrence based policy.

☐ 11. CPR (CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION): Proof of current certification from the American Heart Association for “Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers.” No other CPR course or certification association will be accepted. A front and back copy of your signed CPR card MUST be uploaded to the Verified Credentials website. Check with the School of Nursing for dates of CPR classes. If the Tanner Health System School of Nursing is not able to offer a CPR class before you enter your first semester of classes, you MUST attain CPR certification from a certified American Heart Association trainer (www.americanheart.org). The Heart Saver Card WILL NOT be accepted.

☐ 12. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK & DRUG SCREENS:

A Criminal Background Check/Drug screen is required of all students prior to enrollment in the first nursing course and yearly until the student successfully graduates from the nursing program. This requirement is based on: 1) recommendations from the Georgia Hospital Association, 2) concern by the clinical agencies regarding the safety of patients and the liability risk if a student harms a patient in a clinical setting, and 3) nursing students being denied initial licensure or delayed licensure by the Board of Nursing because of offenses that have occurred during nursing school.

Ordering an Updated Background Check and Drug Screen through Infomart Advantage Student
All students are responsible for ordering and payment of the criminal background check and drug screen through Advantage Students at www.advantagestudents.com. Please turn in confirmation receipt from Advantage Students for proof of purchase to THS School of Nursing.

**If you have not moved out of state since your last background check, only list your current address on the application. If you list previous addresses on the application, you will be charged additional fees and we cannot have those waived for you.

Package Pricing - $78.50
Background Check
2. Click on Students, and then select “University of West Georgia - Nursing Students”
3. Select the Student Package
4. Select method of payment
5. Enter all required information

You will need to enter the **exact same email address and password** you entered on your initial order. This is the only way your account will show multiple checks. If you do not remember what email address and password you used for your first order, call Natalie at 770-984-2727 ext. 1376. She can quickly locate this information on your behalf.

**Drug Screen**
Once the order has been processed and payment has been received, an email will be sent to you with a link that will direct you to a site to schedule your drug test. Once you are directed to the site, choose a collection facility convenient to you. This will be where you must go for your drug test. If asked for an address, complete the appropriate fields; the search results will identify clinics in close proximity to the address you provide. From the clinics list, select the one you want to use; then confirm your selection. Finally, print the “ePassport.” Take this with you to the clinic along with a photo ID. It is imperative that you report to the clinic as soon as possible. This link will also be made available on the confirmation page and your Advantage Students account profile.

Students who cannot meet the clinical requirement components of a nursing course due to issues in the background check or drug screen will receive a failing grade for the course. The THS School of Nursing cannot be responsible for any information in a student's criminal background check or drug screen due to legal constraints by the University System of Georgia and the limitations of involvement with obtaining and evaluating the background checks. Faculty members and staff are not allowed to view student criminal background checks or drug screen information, except to be informed of its completion.

If you think there could be a problem with your background check and drug screen due to previous incidents that are significant in your past history that will keep you from progressing in the Nursing program or becoming licensed by the Georgia Board of Nursing, you should make an appointment to talk with the BSN Director (Amy Farmer at 678-839-5632 or amgood@westga.edu) or the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education (Linda Mason Barber at 678-839-5626 or lbarber@westga.edu).

☐ **13. LICENSURE**: Any student who is currently licensed by any Board in the State of Georgia must upload the official document received which bears the official name under which he/she is licensed and area of licensure to the Verified Credentials website. (For example: CNA, LPN, RN, Respiratory Therapy, etc.). **If the licensure has front and back sides, i.e. CNA certification cards, you must sign the back of the card and upload both front and back copies. If a card is not issued, please print and upload a copy of proof of licensure from the Georgia Board of Nursing site or the Georgia Nurses Aide site to the Verified Credentials website.**

☐ **14. CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY FORM**: This form can be found in your BSN Student Handbook. Please read the confidentiality policy in its entirety, then sign and submit it in along with other forms listed on this checklist. Please be aware that your signature indicates you understand all confidentiality rules, policies, and procedures contained in your BSN Student Handbook and will abide by them.

☐ **15. HANDBOOK STATEMENT FORM**: This form can be found in your BSN Student Handbook. **Please be aware that your signature indicates you understand the policies and procedures contained in your BSN Student Handbook.**

☐ **16. MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) FORMS**: Please print, sign, and date the MOU forms located in the back of the BSN Student Handbook. Have someone witness your signature as required. These forms are required by all THS School of Nursing clinical contracted agencies per Board of Regents requirements.

Individual contracting clinical agencies may impose additional health and professional requirements the student must meet before participating in clinical activities in that clinical agency. The student’s clinical instructor will inform the
student of any additional requirements and will provide instructions as to how to complete these requirements. Students must meet any additional requirements by the appropriate deadlines and at their own expense. The absence of any required document may prevent the student from progressing in the nursing program and may result in the student losing his/her placement in the program. Students will submit evidence for all required health and professional documents to the Verified Credentials website except those specified to be turned in to the School of Nursing. If you have questions, please feel free to call 678-839-6552.

All forms needed on this checklist can be found in the back of the BSN Student Handbook.

**BY SIGNING YOUR NAME, YOU ARE STATING THAT YOU HAVE ATTACHED ALL OF THE DOCUMENTATION LISTED ON THIS CHECKLIST, IN ITS ENTIRETY.**

Student’s Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Revised 5/16/17 lmb; 6/15/17 lmb
Student Name: ____________________________________________________________________________

Proof of a negative TB skin test must be obtained **EVERY YEAR** and must not expire during the clinical experience. **A Two Step Skin Test is only required of students that have just been admitted to the BSN pre-licensure program. Returning students should receive the traditional single step skin test.**

All fields must be completed for this form to be valid. *(Front & Back)*

**TUBERCULOSIS**

Tuberculosis Skin Test, Mantoux, Purified Protein Derivative (PPD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single Step Skin Test</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of Injection</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of Reading (48-72 hours later)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>mm</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Two Step Skin Test (ONLY required for newly admitted BSN pre-licensure students)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of Injection</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of Reading (48-72 hours later)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>mm</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If student has a history of a positive PPD or Bacilli Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine then the following should apply:

**Initial documentation for students with a positive PPD must include: Most recent positive PPD, most recent chest x-ray summary, current and/or past treatment record. A letter from a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or medical doctor stating that the student is free and clear of all signs and symptoms of TB to participate in clinical activities. THIS LETTER MUST BE OBTAINED EVERY YEAR FOR STUDENTS WITH A POSITIVE PPD RECORD.**

** Students with positive TB skin tests must receive follow-up assessment and treatment as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

All students who take 5 or more credit hours per semester on the main Carrollton campus who have paid health fees at UWG may have the TB Skin test completed at University Health Services for no charge. However, there will be a charge if other tests are ordered. TB tests at UWG Health Services can only be done on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays due to the fact they have to be read within 48 to 72 hours.

**Signature of Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, or Medical Doctor:** _____________________________________________________________

Provider’s Signature: _______________________________________________________________________

Date: ______________________________________________________________________________________

Facility Address: __________________________________________________________________________

Provider Telephone #: _________________________________________________________________________

Updated: 4/29/2014jh
Physical Ability Form

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER: I have performed a complete health examination on

(Print Student’s Name)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>Abnormal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

Blood Pressure:____________________________ Pulse:____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>Abnormal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Head
Eyes
Ear, Nose, Throat
Neck
Skin
Respiratory
Heart
Abdomen
G/U
Other

Physicians Comments:___________________________________________________________________

OVERALL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RESULTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Check One</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PASSED WITHOUT LIMITATIONS:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PASSED PENDING THE FOLLOWING:</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAILED DUE TO THE FOLLOWING:</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of this date, I can find no physical or medical abnormality that would deter this student from fully participating and/or performing patient care activities in the clinical setting (extensive walking, bending, and lifting).

Signature of Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, or Medical Doctor:

______________________________________________________________________________Date of Physical Examination: ___/___/____

Provider’s Signature

Facility Address:

Provider Telephone Number: (____)____________________
University of West Georgia
Tanner Health System School of Nursing
Health Insurance Waiver

Student name: ______________________________________________________________
(Print name)

Health Insurance – evidence of personal health insurance coverage is optional.

Should an injury or illness occur to a nursing student during a scheduled clinical or class activity, the student is responsible for all expenses incurred for medical care or treatment of the injury or illness. All students who have paid their student activity fees are eligible to be seen and treated in the University Health Center. If an injury should occur in a clinical facility during a clinical activity, the student can be seen in the nearest emergency room. The student is responsible for any expenses incurred for treatment received in a clinical facility.

Your signature on this document indicates that you understand the above statement.

Signatures:

Student:_________________________________________ Date: ________________

Witness: ________________________________ Date: ____________________
TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM SCHOOL OF NURSING
BSN PROGRAM
CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

PURPOSE

Nursing students and faculty are frequently privy to confidential information during clinical and classroom experiences. Students and faculty have access to medical records, obtain personal information from patients and families, and participate in formational assessments, personnel issues, continuous quality improvement, and financial or strategic planning. Faculty members are often privileged to personal information about students during advisement, Caring Groups, and journaling. Because confidentiality is a legal and ethical expectation of students and faculty, the Tanner Health System School of Nursing at the University of West Georgia has developed the following policy to clarify the scope and significance of maintaining confidentiality.

GUIDELINES

All nursing students and faculty in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing at the University of West Georgia are expected to abide by the following guidelines:

1. All written, verbal, and electronic information regarding a patient or institution is to be kept in strict confidence.

2. Verbal or written disclosure of information about patients or agencies to any unauthorized person is prohibited.

3. Any written information about a patient must only contain the patient’s initials and should be secured and shared only with students and faculty participating in the care of the patient.

4. The reporting of information specific to agencies may include the school or individual titles; however, it may not include the names of agencies or persons involved. Data must be summarized and reported collectively to ensure confidentiality for the participants.

5. Any written communication (proposal or report) between the student and preceptor/agency must be approved by the faculty before it is presented to the preceptor.

6. Any verbal or written communication whether in the classroom, seminar, lab, or clinical settings is for the sole purpose of learning and is also considered under this confidentiality policy.

7. Students and faculty participating in teaching/learning activities (Caring Groups, counseling, etc.) are expected to maintain confidentiality regarding personal information shared. Relevant academic information regarding a student may be shared on an “as needed” basis within the School of Nursing in order to provide the support and assistance to enhance the student’s potential for success in the program.

8. Students and faculty should continue to keep all privileged information obtained during enrollment or employment at the University of West Georgia confidential, even after graduation or termination.

9. Students in violation of this policy will be reviewed by the faculty and the School Dean and may receive a failing course grade. Faculty in violation of the policy will be reviewed by other faculty and the School Dean and a plan of action will be decided at that time.

10. Students will sign this upon admission to the BSN Program and are expected to review it annually.

________________________________________  __________________________  __________________________
Student Signature                        Date                          Student Name (Print)

________________________________________  __________________________  __________________________
Witness Signature                       Date                          Witness Name (Print)
AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF RECORDS AND INFORMATION
for Generic Facilities

Student Name: ______________________________________________________

TO: The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia or any of its member Institutions (hereinafter referred to as the "Institution"), and any Facility where I participate in or request to participate in an applied learning experience (hereinafter referred to as the "Facility").

As a condition of my participation in an applied learning experience and with respect thereto, I grant my permission and authorize The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia or any of its member institutions to release my educational records and information in its possession, as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Institution, including but not limited to academic record and health information to any Facility where I participate in or request to participate in an applied learning experience, including but not limited to the Facility (hereinafter referred to as the "Facility"). I further authorize the release of any information relative to my health to the Facility for purposes of verifying the information provided by me and determining my ability to perform my assignments in the applied learning experience. I also grant my permission to and authorize the Facility to release the above information to the Institution. The purpose of this release and disclosure is to allow the Facility and the Institution to exchange information about my medical history and about my performance in an applied learning experience.

I further understand that I may revoke this authorization at any time by providing written notice to the above stated person(s)/entities, except to the extent of any action(s) that has already been taken in accordance with this "Authorization for Release of Confidential Records and Information".

I further agree that this authorization will be valid throughout my participation in the applied learning experience. I further request that you not disclose any information to any other person or entity without prior written authority from me to do so, unless disclosure is authorized or required by law. I understand that this authorization shall continue in force until revoked by me by providing written notice to the Institution and the Facility, except to the extent of any action(s) that has already been taken in accordance with this "Authorization for Release of Records and Information".

In order to protect my privacy rights and interests, other than those specifically released above, I may elect not to have a witness to my signature below. However, if there is no witness to my signature below, I hereby waive and forfeit any right I might have to contest this release on the basis that there is no witness to my signature below. Further, a copy or facsimile of this "Authorization for Release of Records and Information" may be accepted in lieu of the original.

I have read, or have had read to me, the above statements, and understand them as they apply to me. I hereby certify that I am eighteen (18) years of age or older, or my parent or guardian has signed below; that I am legally competent to execute this "Authorization for Release of Records and Information"; and that I, or my parent and/or guardian, have read carefully and understand the above "Authorization for Release of Records and Information"; and that I have freely and voluntarily signed this "Authorization for Release of Records and Information".

This the ____________________ day of ____________________.

__________________________________________
Student Signature

__________________________________________
Witness Signature

__________________________________________
Print Name

__________________________________________
Print Name

(Board of Regents Generic Facilities Memorandum of Understanding)
STUDENT APPLIED LEARNING EXPERIENCE AGREEMENT
for Generic Facilities

Student Name: __________________________________________________

In consideration for participating in an applied learning experience (hereinafter referred to as the "A.L.E.") at any Facility where I may participate in such an A.L.E. (hereinafter referred to as the "Facility"), I hereby agree to the following:

1. To follow the administrative policies, standards and practices of the Facility when in the Facility.
2. To report to the Facility on time and to follow all established regulations of the Facility.
3. To keep in confidence all medical, health, financial and social information (including mental health) pertaining to particular clients or patients.
4. To not publish any material related to my A.L.E. that identifies or uses the name of the Institution, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Facility or its members, clients, students, faculty or staff, directly or indirectly, unless I have received written permission from the Institution, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, and the Facility. However, the Facility hereby grants to the Institution the right to publish Institution administrative materials such as catalogs, course syllabi, A.L.E. reports, etc. that identify or uses the name of the Facility or its members, staff, directly or indirectly.
5. To comply with all federal, state and local laws regarding the use, possession, manufacture or distribution of alcohol and controlled substances.
7. To arrange for and be solely responsible for my living accommodations while at the Facility.
8. To provide the necessary and appropriate uniforms and supplies required where not provided by the Facility.
9. To wear a name tag that clearly identifies me as a student.

Further, I understand and agree, unless otherwise agreed to in writing, that I will not receive any monetary compensation from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Institution or the Facility for any services I provide to the Facility or its clients, students, faculty or staff as a part of my A.L.E.

Unless otherwise agreed upon in writing, I also understand and agree that I shall not be deemed to be employed by or an agent or a servant of the Institution, the Regents or the Facility; that the Institution, Regents and Facility assumes no responsibilities as to me as may be imposed upon an employer under any law, regulation or ordinance; that I am not entitled to any benefits available to employees; and, therefore, I agree not to in any way to hold myself out as an employee of the Institution, the Regents or the Facility.

I understand and agree that I may be immediately withdrawn from the A.L.E. based upon a lack of competency on my part, my failure to comply with the rules and policies of the Institution or Facility, if I pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others or, for any other reason the Institution or the Facility reasonably believes that it is not in the best interest of the Institution, the Facility or the Facility's patients or clients for me to continue. Such party shall provide the other party and the student with immediate notice of the withdrawal and written reasons for the withdrawal.

I understand and agree to show proof of professional liability insurance in amounts satisfactory to the Facility and the Institution, and covering my activities at the Facility, and to provide evidence of such insurance upon request of the Facility.

I further understand that all medical or health care (emergency or otherwise) that I receive at the Facility will be my sole responsibility and expense.

I have read, or have had read to me, the above statements, and understand them as they apply to me. I hereby certify that I am eighteen (18) years of age or older, or my parent or guardian has signed below; that I am legally competent to execute this Applied Learning Agreement; and that I, or my parent and/or guardian, have read carefully and understand the above Applied Learning Experience Agreement; and that I have freely and voluntarily signed this "Applied Learning Experience Agreement".

This the ____________________ day of ____________________.

________________________  ____________________________
Signature                Witness Signature

________________________  ____________________________
Print Name                Print Name

(Board of Regents Generic Facilities Memorandum of Understanding)
Authorization for Release of Records and Information
for Georgia Hospital Association facilities

TO: The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia or any of its member Institutions (hereinafter referred to as the "Institution"), and any Facility where I may participate in an educational training program, including but not limited to any Georgia Hospital Association member Facility (hereinafter referred to as the "Facility")

RE:

(Print Name of Student)

As a condition of my participation in an educational training program and with respect thereto, I hereby waive my privacy rights, including but not limited to any rights pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g(b)(2)(B), and grant my permission and authorize The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia or any of its member institutions to release any and all of my records and information in its possession, including but not limited to academic record and health information to any Facility where I may participate in an educational training program, including but not limited to any Georgia Hospital Association member Facility (hereinafter referred to as the "Facility"). I further authorize the release of any information relative to my medical history, physical and mental condition to the Facility for purposes of verifying the information provided by me and determining my ability to perform my assignments in the educational training program. I also grant my permission to and authorize the Facility to release the above information to the Institution. The purpose of this release and disclosure is to allow the Facility and the Institution to exchange information about my medical history and about -my performance in an educational training program.

I further agree that this authorization will be valid throughout my educational training program. I further request that you do not disclose any information to any other person or entity without prior written authority from me to do so, unless disclosure is authorized or required by law. I understand that this authorization shall continue in force until revoked by me by providing written notice to the Institution and the Facility, except to the extent of any action(s) that has already been taken in accordance with this "Authorization for Release of Records and Information".

In order to protect my privacy rights and interests, other than those specifically released above, I may elect to not have a witness to my signature below. However, if there is no witness to my signature below, I hereby waive and forfeit any right I might have to contest this release on the basis that there is no witness to my signature below. Further, a copy or facsimile of this "Authorization for Release of Records and Information" may be accepted in lieu of the original.

By signing this "Authorization for Release of Records and Information", I hereby indemnify and hold harmless The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, its members, agents, servants and employees, The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia member institutions and their respective members, agents, servants and employees, and the Facility and its members, agents, servants and employees (each of the foregoing being hereinafter referred to individually as the "Indemnified Party") against all claims, demands, causes of action, actions, judgments, or other liability including attorney's fees (other than liability solely the fault of the Indemnified Party) arising out of or in connection with this "Authorization for Release of Records and Information".

I have read, or have had read to me, the above statements, and understand them as they apply to me. I hereby certify that I am eighteen (18) years of age or older, suffer under no legal disabilities, and that I have freely and voluntarily signed this "Authorization for Release of Records and Information".

This the _____________ day of _____________ , ____________ .

__________________________________________  ______________________________________
Student Signature                                Witness Signature

Name:                                          Name:
(Please print)                                 (Please print)
Educational Training Program Agreement for Georgia Hospital Association facilities

Student Name: ____________________________________________

In consideration for participating in an educational training Program at any Georgia Hospital Association member Facility or any other Facility where I may participate in such a program (hereinafter referred to as the "Facility"), I hereby agree to the following:

1. To follow the administrative policies, standards and practices of the Facility when in the Facility.

2. To report to the Facility on time and to follow all established regulations of the Facility.

3. To keep in confidence all medical, health, financial and social information (including mental health) pertaining to particular clients or patients.

4. To not publish any material related to my educational training program that identifies or uses the name of the Institution, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Georgia Hospital Association, the Facility or its members, clients, students, faculty or staff, directly or indirectly, unless I have received written permission from the institution, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Georgia Hospital Association and the Facility.

5. To comply with all federal, state and local laws regarding the use, possession, manufacture or distribution of alcohol and controlled substances.


7. To arrange for and be solely responsible for my living accommodations while at the Facility.

8. To provide the necessary and appropriate uniforms and supplies required where not provided by the Facility.

9. To wear a name tag that clearly identifies me as a student or faculty member.

Further, I understand and agree that I will not receive any monetary compensation from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Institution or the Facility for any services I provide to the Facility or its clients, students, faculty or staff as a part of my educational training program.

I also understand and agree that I shall not be deemed to be employed by or an agent or a servant of the Institution, the Regents or the Facility; that the Institution, Regents and Facility assumes no responsibilities as to me as may be imposed upon an employer under any law, regulation or ordinance; and that I am not entitled to any benefits available to employees. Therefore, I agree not to in any way to hold myself out as an employee of the Institution, the Regents or the Facility.

I understand and agree that I may be immediately withdrawn from the Facility's educational training program based upon a perceived lack of competency on my part, my failure to comply with the rules and policies of the Institution or Facility, if I pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others or, for any other reason the Institution or the Facility reasonably believes that it is not in the best interest of the Institution, the Facility or the Facility's patients or clients for me to continue.

I understand and agree to show proof of liability insurance in amounts satisfactory to the Facility, and covering my activities at the Facility, and to provide evidence of such insurance upon request of the Facility.

I further understand that all medical or health care (emergency or otherwise) that I receive at the Facility will be my sole responsibility and expense. I have read, or have had read to me, the above statements, and understand them as they apply to me. I hereby certify that I am eighteen (18) years of age or older, suffer under no legal disabilities, and that I have freely and voluntarily signed this "Educational Training Program Agreement".

This the _____________ day of _____________, ____________.

________________________________________________________________________
Signature

________________________________________________________________________
Witness Signature

________________________________________________________________________
Name: (Please print)

________________________________________________________________________
Name: (Please print)
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM
SCHOOL OF NURSING
Post-Exposure Counseling Checklist

Name ____________________________ Social Security Number _______________________

Date of exposure _________________ Clinical site ________________________________

I have read and understand the information provided by the clinical facility regarding recommendations for evaluation and treatment following clinical exposure to blood or body fluids. The risks and benefits of HBV, HCV, and HIV testing and prophylaxis have been explained to me.

1. _____ I want my blood tested for HBV.
2. _____ I do not want my blood tested for HBV.
3. _____ I want my blood tested for HCV.
4. _____ I do not want my blood tested for HCV.
5. _____ I want my blood tested for HIV (agency must provide HIV counseling and obtain written consent before blood may be drawn).
6. _____ I do not want my blood tested for HIV.
7. _____ I want to have a sample of my blood drawn and stored for 90 days, but not tested at this time. I understand that I may request HBV, HCV, and/or HIV testing of this blood sample at any time within 90 days.
8. _____ I have been offered and accepted HBV prophylaxis.
9. _____ I have been offered and do not want HBV prophylaxis.
10. _____ I have been offered and accepted HIV prophylaxis (women: To the best of my knowledge, I am not currently pregnant).
11. _____ I have been offered and do not want HIV prophylaxis.

To prevent the possible transmission of HBV, HCV, and HIV, I agree to abstain from sexual relations, or if I choose to have sexual relations, to inform my partner of my possible exposure and use barrier precautions (latex condom with spermicide) until I know the results of the 6 month follow-up. I will not donate blood semen or organs until completion of the follow-up period. (Women: I agree to avoid pregnancy for a minimum of 6 months. If currently breast-feeding, I will cease for a minimum of 6 months).

I accept responsibility for all fees associated with postexposure testing and prophylaxis. I understand that extended postexposure testing and prophylaxis may be completed at the UWG Health Center or a personal health care provider of my choice. I understand that I should report any acute illness causing fever, rash,
lymphadenopathy, persistent cough, or diarrhea within the next 3 months to my health care provider. If participating in the HBV and/or HIV prophylaxis, I agree to adhere to the monitoring requirements.

I understand that the results of my testing will remain confidential. I will not disclose the name and infectious status of the source patient.

__________________________________________  ________________________
UWG Student Signature  Date

____________________________________________
UWG Faculty Signature  Date
Documentation for Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Plan

Each student in the RN-BSN program must complete either part A or part B of this form in order to be eligible for transfer of credit through the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Agreement.

**Part A – To be completed by RN students who have graduated within 4 years**

Student Name ____________________________________________

(Please Print)

I graduated from ________________________________________ on ____________ and received the following degree or diploma ____________________________________________.

A copy of the transcript indicating this degree is on file in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing.

Signature ________________________________________________

Date signed ________________

**Part B – To be completed by RN student who graduated more than 4 years ago.**

Student Name ____________________________________________

(Please Print)

I have practiced as a registered nurse for at least 1000 hours (approximately 6 months) during the past three years at ____________________________________________________

(Name of Institution)

This information can be verified by:

Name and title ________________________________

Phone Number ________________________________

Signature ________________________________ Date signed ________________
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM
SCHOOL OF NURSING
BSN PROGRAM

Request for Independent Study – NURS 4481

Students may request permission to enroll in an Independent Study (NURS 4481) under the direction of Tanner Health System School of Nursing faculty. Please complete this form and submit it for approval to the faculty member(s) who will be directing the study. The request must be approved before the student may register for independent study hours. This form will serve as a contract between the student and the faculty.

Student Name:

Number of Hours of Credit (1-3):

Description: Brief description of the topic selected for study

Objectives: List of learning objectives appropriate to the area of study, the learner, and the number of semester hours to be earned

Learning Resources: Identify what resources (textbooks, audio-visual materials, journals, professional nurses, etc.) will be utilized to meet the objectives

Learning Activities: Identify what activities you will engage in to meet the objectives

Methods of Evaluation: Discuss what methods will be used to determine the quality of your work

Signature of Student/Date ________________________________

Signature of Faculty/Date ________________________________
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM
SCHOOL OF NURSING
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM

Structured Plan for Success Form

Student: __________________________________________________________

Date: 

Assessment: 

Plan: 

Evaluation: 

I have received a copy of this form:

____________________________________________________________________

Student signature  Faculty Signature
Grievance Document

Student Name __________________________________   ID Number ____________________

Students are encouraged to meet informally with the faculty member to discuss concerns directly in an attempt to resolve the issue without further action. Has this meeting occurred between student and faculty member?  NO  YES  DATE ________________________

If a resolution satisfactory to the student does not result from this direct discussion, and if the student perceives that an unfair, unreasonable, or arbitrary action has occurred, a formal grievance may be initiated. Completion and submission of this document indicates the student wishes to begin the formal grievance policy. Once the process is started, the student has 48 hours to initiate a meeting within each step of the grievance policy.

Student Description of Issue

1. Student – Faculty Discussion
   Scheduled Meeting Date:
   Actual Meeting Date:
   Outcome:

   Signature____________________________   Signature____________________________
   Faculty                     Student

2. Course Coordinator Meeting with Student and Faculty Member
   Scheduled Meeting Date:
   Actual Meeting Date:
   Outcome:

   Signature____________________________   Signature____________________________
   Course Coordinator                     Student

3. BSN Program Director Meeting with Student and Faculty Member
   Scheduled Meeting Date:
   Actual Meeting Date:
   Outcome:
4. Associate Dean, Tanner Health System School of Nursing Meeting with the Student
   Scheduled Meeting Date:
   Actual Meeting Date:
   Outcome:

Signature____________________________ Signature____________________________
BSN Program Director Student

Signature____________________________ Signature____________________________
Associate Dean, THS School of Nursing Student

5. Dean, Tanner Health System School of Nursing Meeting with the Student
   Scheduled Meeting Date:
   Actual Meeting Date:
   Outcome:

Signature____________________________ Signature____________________________
Dean, Tanner Health System School of Nursing Student
I have read the University of West Georgia, Tanner Health System School of Nursing BSN Handbook and understand that it is my responsibility to follow the policies and procedures while in the Nursing Program.

The current BSN Student Handbook can be accessed at the Tanner Health System School of Nursing website, www.westga.edu/nursing. This document will be placed in my student folder.

*I understand that it is my responsibility to read the BSN handbook at the beginning of each academic year (Summer) and to be aware of any changes or revisions to policies therein.*

**Signatures**

Student Signature __________________________ Date __________________________

Student Name Printed __________________________________________________________

Witness __________________________ Date __________________________