NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK
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MISSION, VISION AND PHILOSOPHY
PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

MISSION STATEMENT

Palm Beach State College's mission is to create and sustain a dynamic teaching and learning environment that provides a high-quality, accessible, affordable education preparing students to contribute and compete ethically and successfully in a diverse global community.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision a College of diverse, active learners engaged in intellectual, social and personal growth that enriches and transforms our community.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe
- Student success is our first priority, and all students can succeed.
- Ethical standards are integral to the educational experience.
- Faculty and instructors should use instructional methods and technology that meet the diverse learning styles of students.
- The College curriculum and its operations should demonstrate a commitment to ecological sustainability.
- The College must anticipate and respond to evolving community needs by reaching out to all potential partners and establishing programs and courses that will meet those needs.
- Quality education is a worthwhile investment.
- An educated workforce has a positive impact on our community and economic health.
- Faculty/staff development is integral to quality education.
- A safe, secure and supportive College climate is essential.
- Diversity reflects society and enhances the educational process.
- Equity and equality of opportunity are essential.
- Lifelong learning enhances the quality of life.
- Collaboration enhances the quality of decision-making.
MISSION, VISION AND PHILOSOPHY
Palm Beach State College ADN Program

MISSION STATEMENT

The Palm Beach State Nursing Program mission is to create a learning environment which integrates innovative technology and evidence based educational practices. Graduates, upon licensure, will be collaborative, integral members of a dynamic health care system. Their uniqueness will be evidenced by leadership in the profession as they provide and coordinate ethical and holistic care to our diverse community.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision a nursing program of diverse students who are engaged in dynamic learning environments, in intellectual, social and personal growth, thereby enhancing the health outcomes of our community.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe

- Nursing is a caring and humanistic discipline. Nursing encompasses evidenced based practice, the use of critical thinking and commitment to life-long learning. The goals are to improve the overall health and wellness, to enhance the quality of life, and to meet the needs of our diverse community.
- Core values of the art and science of nursing encompass caring, compassion, diversity, ethics, excellence, holism, integrity, and patient-centeredness.
- Nursing education is a systematic and continuous process based on scientific knowledge. The nursing curriculum consists of the following integrated concepts, which are woven throughout the nursing program: Context and Environment
  - Knowledge and Science
  - Personal and professional Development
  - Quality and Safety
  - Relationship-centered care
  - Teamwork
- Nursing practice incorporates professional identity, spirit of inquiry, nursing judgment, and human flourishing.
- In a culture of excellence that provides individualized, safe care for patients, families and communities.
Upon completion of the program of learning, the graduate will:

1. Advocate for patients and families in ways that promote their self-determination, integrity and ongoing growth as human beings.
2. Make judgments in practice, substantiated with evidence, that integrate nursing science in the provision of safe, quality care and that promote the health of patients within a family and community context.
3. Implement one’s role as a nurse in ways that reflect integrity, responsibility, ethical practices, and an evolving identity as a nurse committed to evidence-based practice, caring, advocacy, and safe, quality care for diverse patients within a family and community context.
4. Examine the evidence that underlies clinical nursing practice to challenge the status quo, question underlying assumptions, and offer new insights to improve the quality of care for patients, families, and communities.

Adopted from National League for Nursing. (2010). *Outcomes and Competencies for Graduates of Practical/Vocational, Diploma, Associate Degree, Baccalaureate, Master’s, Practice Doctorate, and Research Doctorate Programs in Nursing*. New York: Author

**NURSING PROGRAM OUTCOME STATEMENTS**

1. Palm Beach State College Nursing graduates will achieve an NCLEX passing rate equal to or above the national average.
2. A minimum of eighty (80) percent of students matriculated into the Nursing program will graduate.
3. A minimum of eighty-five (85) percent of graduates will be employed 6-9 months post graduation.
4. A minimum of eighty (80) percent of current graduates and alumni (6-12 months) will rate program satisfaction as a 4 or 5 on a 5 point Likert Scale.
5. A minimum of eighty (80) percent of employers will rate satisfaction with program graduates (6-12 months post graduation) as a 4 or 5 on a 5 point Likert Scale.
The ADN Program at Palm Beach State College has adopted the National League for Nursing (NLN, 2010) *Education Competencies Model* as its conceptual curriculum framework (see Figure 1). At the foundation are the seven core-values that are central to nursing education: caring, diversity, ethics, excellence, holism, integrity and patient-centeredness. The throughputs are the integrated concepts as identified by the NLN: Context and environment; knowledge and science; personal/professional development; quality and safety; relationship-centered care; and spirit of inquiry. These integrating concepts are woven through the curriculum and increase in complexity as the student accrues knowledge. The outputs of the NLN model are the four outcomes essential for ADN graduates: human flourishing, nursing judgment, professional identity, and spirit of inquiry, which represent the “skills, knowledge, and attitudes that graduates should have achieved upon successful completion of a program of nursing” (NLN, 2010, p. 5).

Figure 1 NLN Education Competencies Model

Definitions as outlined by the NLN (2010) for core values, integrated concepts, and program outcomes are explained in the following section.
CURRICULUM DEFINITIONS

Six Core Values

Caring: Means promoting health, healing, and hope in response to human condition.

Diversity: Means recognizing differences among persons, ideas, values, and ethnicities, while affirming the uniqueness of each.

Ethics: Involves reflective consideration of personal, societal, and professional values, principles, and codes that shape nursing practice.

Excellence: Means creating and implementing transformative strategies with daring ingenuity.

Holism: Affirms the human person as the synergy of unique and complex attributes, values, and behaviors.

Integrity: Means respecting the dignity and moral wholeness of every person without condition or limitation.

Patient-centeredness: Orientation to care that incorporates and reflects the uniqueness of individual patient’s background, personal preferences, culture, values, traditions, and family.

Six Integrating Concepts

Context and Environment: is the setting in which something happens. In relation to organizations, refers to the conditions or social system within the organization’s members act to achieve specific goals. In health care it encompasses organizational structure, leadership styles, patient characteristics, safety climate, ethical climate, teamwork, continuous quality improvement, and effectiveness.

Knowledge and science: Refers to the foundations that serve as a basis for nursing practice, which in turn, deepen, extend and help generate new knowledge and new theories that continue to build the science and further practice. These foundations include:

a) Integrating knowledge from other disciplines that provide insight into physical, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural functioning of human beings.

b) Integrating knowledge from nursing science to design and implement plans of patient-centered care for individuals, families, and communities.

c) Understanding how knowledge and science develop.

d) Understanding how all members of a discipline have responsibility for contributing to the development of that disciplines evolving science.

e) Understanding the nature of evidence-based practice.

Personal and professional development: is a lifelong process of learning, refining, and integrating values and behaviors.

Quality and safety: is the degree to which health care services:

a) Are provided in a way consistent with current professional knowledge

b) Minimize the risk of harm to individuals, populations, and providers

c) Increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes

d) Are operationalized from an individual, unit, and systems perspective.

Relationship-centered care: positions caring, therapeutic relationships, and professional relationships at the core of nursing practice.

Teamwork: means to function effectively within nursing and interprofessional tams, fostering open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision making to achieve quality patient care.
Program Outcomes

**Human Flourishing:** A professional (AD) nurse advocates for patients and families in ways that promote their self-determination, integrity and ongoing growth as human beings.

**Nursing Judgment:** The professional (AD) nurse makes judgments in practice, substantiated with evidence, that integrate nursing science in the provision of safe, quality care and that promote the health of patients within a family and community context.

**Professional Identity:** The professional (AD) nurse implements one’s role as a nurse in ways that reflect integrity, responsibility, ethical practices, and an evolving identity as a nurse committed to evidence-based practice, caring, advocacy, and safe, quality care for diverse patients within a family and community context.

**Spirit of Inquiry:** The professional (AD) nurse examines the evidence that underlies clinical nursing practice to challenge the status quo, question underlying assumptions, and offer new insights to improve the quality of care for patients, families, and communities.
**Course Sequencing for Full-time Course of Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1 (fall/spring)</th>
<th>Semester 2 (fall/spring)</th>
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<th>Semester 4 (fall/spring)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUR 1023 - Introduction to Concepts for Nursing Practice I</td>
<td>NUR 1213 - Concepts for Nursing Practice II</td>
<td>NUR 2261 - Concepts for Nursing Practice III</td>
<td>NUR 2712C - Concepts for Nursing Practice IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 1023L - Introduction to Concepts for Nursing Practice I Clinical</td>
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<td>NUR 2261L - Concepts for Nursing Practice III Clinical</td>
<td>NUR 2943L – Preceptorship Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 1022L - Introduction to Concepts for Nursing Practice I Skills</td>
<td>NUR 1214L - Concepts for Nursing Practice II Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 1141 - Introduction to Pharmacotherapeutics</td>
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**Course Sequencing for Evening/Weekend Course of Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1 (spring start)</th>
<th>Semester 2 (summer)</th>
<th>Semester 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUR 1023 - Introduction to Concepts for Nursing Practice I</td>
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<tr>
<th>Semester 4</th>
<th>Semester 5 (summer)</th>
<th>Semester 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUR 1213L - Concepts for Nursing Practice II Clinical</td>
<td>NUR 2261 - Concepts for Nursing Practice III</td>
<td>NUR 2261L - Concepts for Nursing Practice III Clinical</td>
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<tr>
<th>Semester 7</th>
<th>Semester 8 (summer)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUR 2712C - Concepts for Nursing Practice IV</td>
<td>NUR 2943L – Preceptorship Experience</td>
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## Course Sequencing for Accelerated Course of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1 (summer)</th>
<th>Semester 2 (fall)</th>
<th>Semester 3 (spring)</th>
<th>Semester 4 (summer)</th>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 1023 - Introduction to Concepts for Nursing Practice I</td>
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## TRANSITION STUDENTS

**ALL** students transitioning into the Palm Beach State College Nursing Program are required to take an additional one-credit course, NUR 2000L, Introduction to Professional Nursing. This must be taken before the first nursing course. A clinical competency lab exam and/or the student’s competency check list is required prior to admission. **Students will complete these identified skills in the Palm Beach State College Nursing Lab prior to admission.**

Transition students entering in Semester 2 will enter into the current curriculum under one of the following entrance options:

1. At semester 1 with a score of less than 75 on the NLN Ace Book Fundamentals of Nursing.
2. At semester II with successful completion (*score of 75) of the NLN ACE Book Fundamentals of Nursing and competency of skills.

## Transitions within the Nursing Program

Transitions within the nursing program will be considered on an individual basis by the Nursing Program Director.
NUR 1023 - Introduction to Concepts for Nursing Practice I
Prerequisite: Admittance to the ADN program
Co-requisite: NUR 1023L, NUR 1022L, NUR 1141
This course introduces the concepts for nursing practice. The focus is on assessment and wellness across the lifespan, as well as on roles of the professional nurse. The emphasis is on concepts such as development, culture, nutrition, elimination, mobility, health promotion, professionalism, evidence, safety, ethics, patient education, and technology/informatics. At the completion of this course the student should be able to think conceptually and provide safe nursing care through integration of the concepts introduced in this course. Special fee required.

NUR 1023L - Introduction to Concepts for Nursing Practice I Clinical
Prerequisite: Admittance to the ADN program
Co-requisite: NUR 1023, NUR 1022L, NUR 1141
This course provides opportunities for students to integrate classroom learning, skills lab practice, and client care incorporating three types of apprenticeships—knowledge, practice, and ethical comportment. Care will be provided to selected clients across the lifespan in a variety of settings. The focus is on assessment and wellness. Special fee required.

NUR 1022L - Introduction to Concepts for Nursing Practice I Skills
Prerequisite: Admittance to the ADN program
Co-requisite: NUR 1023, NUR 1022L, NUR 1141
This course provides opportunities for students to develop basic client care skills. Students gain competency by practicing skills in a supportive and supervised environment. Special fee required.

NUR 1141 - Introduction to Pharmacotherapeutics
Co-requisite: NUR 1023, NUR 1023L, NUR 1022L
This course introduces the beginning level nursing student to the concepts of pharmacotherapeutics. At the completion of this course the student will have an understanding of the major drug classifications as they relate to selected concepts of nursing practice.

NUR 1213 – Concepts for Nursing Practice II
Prerequisite: NUR 1023, NUR 1023L, NUR 1022L, NUR 1141
Co-requisite: NUR 1213L, NUR 1214L
This course further develops the concepts for nursing practice. The emphasis is on concepts such as adherence, fluid and electrolytes, perfusion, glucose regulation, cellular regulation, reproduction, stress/coping, anxiety, mood and affect, infection, clinical judgment, communication, and health care organizations. The concepts are presented from a lifespan and health-continuum viewpoint. At the completion of the course the student should be able to identify situations that place persons at risk for alterations, recognize common alterations, and plan interventions for promoting and restoring health across patient populations in a variety of settings.

NUR 1213L – Concepts for Nursing Practice II Clinical
Prerequisite: NUR 1023, NUR 1023L, NUR 1022L, NUR 1141
Co-requisite: NUR 1213, NUR 1214L
This course provides opportunities for the student to apply concepts integrating classroom learning, skills lab practice, and client care in a variety of settings incorporating three types of
apprenticeships—knowledge, practice, and ethical comportment. Care will be provided to selected clients across the lifespan in a variety of settings. The focus is on planning interventions for promoting restoration of health across client populations. Special fee required.

NUR 1214L – Concepts for Nursing Practice II Skills
Prerequisite: NUR 1023, NUR 1023L, NUR 1022L, NUR 1141
Co-requisite: NUR 1213, NUR 1213L
This course provides the opportunity for the student to develop advanced client care skills. Students gain competency by practicing skills in a supportive environment. Special fee is required.

NUR 2261 – Concepts for Nursing Practice III
Prerequisite: NUR 1213, NUR 1213L, NUR 1214L, NUR 1141
Co-requisite: NUR 2261L
This course continues to advance the concepts for nursing practice. Through the integrated approach of classroom learning and client care across the lifespan, in a variety of settings, the student progresses in the application of nursing concepts and skills. The emphasis is on concepts such as family dynamics, gas exchange, interpersonal violence, addiction, intracranial regulation, cognition, collaboration, care coordination, and care giving.

NUR 2261L – Concepts for Nursing Practice III Clinical
Prerequisite: NUR 1023, NUR 1023L, NUR 1022L, NUR 1213, NUR 1213L, NUR 1214L, NUR 1141
Co-requisite: NUR 2261
This course provides the opportunity for the student to be able to make situated clinical judgments and provide safe nursing care to diverse populations. The three types of apprenticeships—knowledge, practice, and ethical comportment support the knowledge and skills that students need as they progress in their learning. Special fee required.

NUR 2712C – Concepts for Nursing Practice IV
Prerequisite: NUR 1023, NUR 1023L, NUR 1022L, NUR 1213, NUR 1213L, NUR 1214L, NUR 1141, NUR 2261, NUR 2261L
This course is designed to assimilate the concepts for nursing practice. Through the integrated approach of classroom learning and client care in a variety of settings, the student moves from simple to complex in the synthesis of nursing concepts and skills. The emphasis is on concepts such as motivation, functional ability, tissue integrity, infection, sensory perception, clotting, psychosis, anxiety, sexuality, health care quality, care coordination, and health policy. Special fee required.

NUR 2943L – Preceptorship Experience
Prerequisite: NUR 1023, NUR 1023L, NUR 1022L, NUR 1213, NUR 1213L, NUR 1214L, NUR 1141, NUR 2261, NUR 2261L, NUR 2712C
This course provides the opportunity for the student to synthesize the knowledge, skills, and attitudes achieved from prior courses in the ADN program. The emphasis is on the integration of concepts for nursing practice with a focus on leadership, collaboration, communication, health policy, clinical judgment, health care economics, and professionalism. At the completion of this course, the student should be able to advocate for patients and families, make judgments in practice, implement one’s role as a nurse, and approach all issues with a spirit of inquiry. Special fee required.
GRADING SCALE AND POLICIES FOR ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Nursing Department Grading Criteria
All nursing courses at Palm Beach State College use the following grading criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75 – 82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>BELOW 75</td>
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</table>

The nursing course grade is determined by exam scores and points earned for papers and/or assignments. Progression to the next nursing course is dependent upon achievement of a 75% average on all exams including the final exam. Projects and papers will be added only if the 75% has been met. Lab/Clinical courses are graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis according to validation of competencies as signified on the clinical evaluation form.

Make-up tests will be given at the discretion of the instructor. Make-up tests will be given in the Testing Center at the expense of the student and will be in essay format.

PROGRESSION, RETENTION, and GRADUATION

For progression and completion in the nursing program, the academic faculty will evaluate the following areas of competency: emotional, perceptual, cognitive, functional, and physical areas of competency.

*1. The student must successfully complete all 1st semester nursing courses: NUR 1022L, NUR 1023, NUR 1023L, NUR 2140 (3 credits) or NUR 1141 (2 credits), in order to proceed to the next semester.

*2. The student must successfully complete all 2nd semester nursing courses: NUR 1213, NUR 1213L, and NUR 1214L, in order to proceed to the second year.

*3. The student must successfully complete all 3rd semester courses: NUR 2261, NUR 2261L in order to proceed to the 4th semester.

*4. The student must successfully complete NUR 2712C in order to proceed to the final nursing course (2943L) of the Palm Beach State College Nursing Program.

*5. Any student who receives an “F” in a nursing course must repeat that course and pass it with a “C” or above.

*6. A student will not remain in the nursing program if any of the following occur:
   If the student receives:
   a. 2 “F’s” in any NUR courses excluding NUR 2140, NUR 1141, and/or NUR 1024, or
   b. 2 “WF’s” in any NUR courses excluding NUR 2140, NUR 1141, and/or NUR 1024, or
   c. 1 “F” and 1 “WF” in any NUR courses excluding NUR 2140, NUR 1141, and/or NUR 1024

A withdrawal for medical purposes will not be included in the above.

NOTE: For the above policy, “W” is defined as a withdrawal from any nursing course. If the student is failing at the time of withdrawal, the “W” will be viewed as a “WF” (withdrawal failing) within the Nursing Program.

7. Students who withdraw, fail, or decide to take a semester off must complete the following protocol:
   a. Notify the Program Director in writing of desired return date to the program. Written notification must occur two months prior to start of the new semester.
   b. Re-admittance will be based on space availability and after careful review of the student’s academic file by the Program Director and/or Department Chair(s).

8. a. To obtain a medical withdrawal the students must provide the Program Director a statement including dates of treatment on Healthcare Provider letterhead.
   b. When the student wishes to return to the Nursing Program, a medical release from the
Healthcare Provider must be submitted to the Program Director.

9. Students who withdraw from a theory class during the semester must also withdraw from concurrent clinical and skills classes.

10. When a student is unsuccessful in passing a nursing prerequisite course or nursing course via the on campus or online venue, it is strongly recommended that the course be retaken in an on campus class. Experience has demonstrated that the student, when repeating a course, has greater success mastering the material in this venue.

**IMPORTANCE OF THE SPECIALTY EXAM (HESI/EVOLVE TESTING)**

The Palm Beach State College Nursing Program utilizes several methods to evaluate student achievement. One method is administering a nationally normed exam that is given to many nursing students across the country. This benchmark is known as the HESI Specialty Exam. Research studies have shown that success on the HESI Specialty exam correlates with success on the NCLEX exam. Remember that the goal of this Nursing program is to assist students to be successful in the program, on NCLEX scores and as a professional nurse. HESI testing is a valuable piece of the process.

The HESI Specialty Exam is administered at specific intervals during the Palm Beach State College Nursing Program curriculum as outlined below:

- Semester 1 – Fundamentals
- Semester 2 – Medical- Surgical
- Semester 3 – Pediatrics
  Maternal/Child
- Semester 4 – Mental Health
  Exit Exam

**Scoring:** HESI scores range from 0 to 1500. An acceptable level of performance is 850; the recommended level of performance is 900 or above for all HESI scores.

**Results:** At the completion of the exam, the student will receive a detailed printed exam result via email.

**Using HESI Remediation Plan: Student Responsibility**

1. Place the remediation plan in the portfolio, and bring these to their mentoring appointment scheduled as directed with their faculty mentor. It is highly recommended that the student begin working on the remediation plan as soon as possible and not wait until seen by their mentor.
2. If the student achieves a HESI score below 850, the student must make an appointment with their assigned mentor before the Semester’s second exam to review the student’s portfolio, including the HESI Exam results with the completed HESI remediation plan.
3. Students who scored 850 or greater will review the remediation plan with their mentor during the required mentor visit.

This remediation monitoring process continues throughout the program. Any additional requirements by the specific semester faculty will be highlighted during course orientation.
CRITERIA FOR GRADUATION

All course requirements must be completed with a minimum grade of “C” (either through the challenge/transfer process or in residence) to be considered for graduation. (See College Catalog for specifics.)

The HESI Outcome Exam will be during Preceptorship. If the student does not achieve the minimum passing score (as published in the course syllabus), the student will remediate during the course and retake the exam during Preceptorship. The student must pay the cost for retesting to retake the exam. If the student does not score the minimum passing score on the second attempt they will receive an incomplete for NUR2943L Clinical Preceptorship, and must remediate and retake the exam. The student must again pay the cost for retesting to retake the exam. (All students will attend Pinning and Graduation upon successful completion of clinical requirements but will receive an Incomplete for NUR2943L).

The student must achieve the minimum passing score (as published in the syllabus) on the third attempt in order to change the grade of Incomplete to Satisfactory. At that time, the student may apply to the Board of Nursing as a candidate for the NCLEX, which will require the individual student to submit an official transcript with their application.

If the student never achieves the minimum passing score on all 3 attempts, then the grade of Incomplete will be changed to Unsatisfactory and the student will repeat NUR2943L Clinical Preceptorship. A personalized remediation plan will be developed for the student to remediate while waiting for the next NUR2943L course to begin.

These criteria meet the requirements of Palm Beach State College and the State of Florida Board of Nursing for the Associate of Science Degree in Nursing.
TERMINATION, RE-ADMISSION AND HEALTH SCIENCES APPEALS PROCESS
NURSING COURSE ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

Attendance
Students are expected to attend all classes and activities for courses in which they are registered. Attendance on all clinical days is required. Frontloading of skills and hospital orientation are mandatory. Attendance will be taken on all clinical days and college wide policies related to attendance will be followed. Any class meeting missed, regardless of cause, reduces the opportunity for learning and may adversely affect a student’s achievement in the course. Failure to meet the clinical requirements of the course (even if related to absence) will result in a clinical failure for the course.

Students who become ill are required to notify their clinical instructor. Calls should be placed directly to the clinical instructor ASAP before the clinical experience. It is the student’s responsibility to discuss absence with the clinical instructor and contact the semester team leader for make-up opportunity. Absences from clinical that are not made-up will result in course failure due to inability meet course objectives.

Class attendance policies are set by individual instructors and/or departments following college guidelines. An accurate record of attendance will be kept for each class. Students are expected to adhere to the policies set by each instructor. (See syllabi for each course)

Students, when officially representing the College, such as NSA Conference, shall not be counted absent, provided their instructors are given prior notification and any missed assignments are subsequently completed to each instructor’s satisfaction. Attendance at college sponsored organizational activities is contingent upon a passing grade for the currently enrolled courses.

Students who do not attend the first day of class may be dropped from the course, if no attempt has been made by the student to contact the faculty, or otherwise as mandated in the class syllabus, such as mandatory orientation. It is the student’s responsibility to read the course schedule notes and/or visit the course web site for clarification.

The college policy of reinstating students who have been dropped due to College or Financial Aid error supersedes Nursing Program attendance policies.

Withdrawal
In order to withdraw from a course, a student must properly complete class withdrawal procedures. A student shall not be permitted to avoid a failing grade given because of academic failure by withdrawing from the course.

Academic Dishonesty
The Nursing Program adheres to the college’s student disciplinary and academic dishonesty and appeals procedures as set forth in the Palm Beach State College Student Handbook.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not necessarily limited to:
1. Unauthorized assistance, communication to another through written, visual, technological, or oral means. The presentation of material, which has not been studied/learned, but obtained through someone else’s efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment or project constitutes cheating.

2. When another’s work is deliberately used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student’s own. Any student failing to properly credit ideas or material taken from another is plagiarizing.

3. Presenting work done in one course to fulfill requirements in another course against the stated policy of an instructor.
4. **Having knowledge of another student’s violation of this policy also constitutes a violation.**

5. Removal of test material from the classroom.

6. Talking during an exam.

7. Any student who knowingly helps or is present when another student violates academic behavior standards is also in violation of this policy.

8. Unauthorized technology, including cell phones are prohibited in the Testing Lab. Possession of a cell phone constitutes cheating.

**Initial/General Academic Dishonesty Procedures**

1. Students accused of an academic honesty infraction will be subject to the following procedure:
   a. The instructor has the obligation to make sure that there is clear evidence of academic dishonesty before any sanction is imposed against any student. If there is suspicion of wrongdoing without corroborating evidence, the instructor should discuss the matter with the student and issue a verbal warning where such is warranted.
   b. Academic departments have established policies on academic dishonesty. Students should contact their instructor, department chair or dean of student services if there are questions about this policy beyond what is established within this Student Handbook.
   c. A student shall not be permitted to avoid a failing grade because of academic dishonesty by withdrawing from the course.

**Health Science Appeal Process**

Health Science students are subject to the following procedure whenever an appeal is warranted (except for issues involving tuition/refunds). This entire process must be completed in no more than **fifteen** (15) business days.

Depending on appeal issue, the student may or may not be allowed to attend class/clinical during appeal process. In addition, absences incurred during the appeal process may or may not be excused by the manager/director or the program/designee.

**Receipt of Gifts**

**Students are not permitted to accept gifts, including monetary gifts, from patients or families. Non adherence to this policy may result in consequences such as a referral to Academic Standards for unprofessional behavior.**

**RE-ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION POLICY**

Students who have been unsuccessful in Palm Beach State College’s Nursing Program may return after completing an LPN program, obtaining a valid Florida LPN license, and meeting the transitional program admission requirements. After re-entry, progression and graduation is dependent upon completing and passing all nursing courses attempted. Any withdrawal for academic jeopardy or failure will constitute an administrative withdrawal from the program without further re-admission.
CREDENTIALING AND PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

Approved by the Florida Board of Nursing (FBON)

THE FLORIDA BOARD OF NURSING contact information:

Florida Board of Nursing
Florida Department of Health
4052 Cypress Way, Bin #C02
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: 850-245-4125

http://floridanursing.gov

Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), formerly known as the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC)

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) contact information:

ACEN
3343 Peachtree Road NE
Suite 850
Atlanta, GA 30326
Phone: (404) 975-5000
Fax: (404) 975-5020

http://wwwacenursing.org/
CLINICAL SAFETY STANDARD PRECAUTIONS
BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS – EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

Purpose:
To fulfill the College requirement that each Department has an Occupational Exposure in Bloodborne Pathogens plan. This plan includes, as a minimum, the element defined in the Federal register 29C FR 1910.1030.

Objective:
The faculty of the Palm Beach State College Nursing Program is committed to limit occupational exposures to blood and other potential infectious materials to students and faculty.

Authority and Responsibility:
The Nursing Program Exposure Control Plan is considered to be an extension of the Palm Beach State College Exposure Control Plan. The Program Coordinator/Director of Nursing has the responsibility for the assurance of a comprehensive exposure Control Plan within the Nursing Program. All faculty members are responsible for assuring compliance regarding OSHA requirements for bloodborne pathogens.

Scope:
This plan covers all faculty and students who could be “reasonably anticipated” as the result of performing their job/educational requirements to have direct contact with blood and other potentially infectious material.

Definitions:

Bloodborne Pathogens: Pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Contaminated: The presence or reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other potentially infectious material on an item or surface.

Contaminated Sharp: Any contaminated object with the potential ability to penetrate or lacerate the skin, including but not limited to, needles, scalpels, broken or intact glass and broken or intact hard plastics.

Engineering Controls: Means to isolate or remove the blood-borne pathogens from the work place, (e.g., sharps, disposal containers, self-sheathing needles).

Occupational Exposure: Reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee’s duties.

Personal Protective Equipment: Specialized clothing or equipment worn by faculty and/or students for protection against a hazard. General work clothes, (e.g., uniforms, pant, shirts, lab coats, scrubs) not intended to function as protection against a hazard is not considered to be personal protective equipment.
POST-EXPOSURE EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

POLICY: All students and faculty will appropriately report incidents, be treated and obtain follow-up care as necessary (according to Palm Beach State College Nursing Program Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan).

PROCEDURE:

The student will:

1. Notify incident to instructor. If instructor is not available on site, report to nursing unit supervisor.
3. Notify appropriate agency representatives.
4. Contact personal health care provider for any additional evaluation, testing, counseling, treatment, and follow-up for exposure incident.
5. Obtain and maintain any and all documents relating to health care services received.
6. Follow-up with the Nursing Program Director regarding insurance billing consultation.

The instructor will:

1. Direct student to emergency care in accordance with Agency policies and procedures.
2. Notify Agency's appropriate personnel of exposure incident.
3. Review with student the college's procedures for post-exposure evaluation and testing i.e.: the student will follow-up with private physician.
4. Notify Palm Beach State College security within 24 hours as required.
5. Notify Nursing Program Director of exposure incident.
6. If victim of exposure, receive emergency treatment and follow-up with private physicians.
Palm Beach State College students who are enrolled in classes that may result in injury during training or clinical experience situations (e.g., in certain Criminal Justice, Allied Health, Public Safety and Trade & Industry programs) are responsible for all medical and/or personal expenses resulting from treatment of any such injury. However, to assist with this expense, all students in covered programs are covered by Student Accident (Education Training) Insurance coordinated by the College and paid for by the student as part of the course registration fee. This insurance coverage is in excess of any private insurance the student may have and is in effect only during classwork and/or training. If the student has their own private health insurance coverage, the College’s policy will pay for any out-of-pocket expenses not covered by the student’s own insurance, e.g., any deductible or co-payment. If the student has no private health insurance, the College’s policy will cover an accident fully up to its limit of $15,000. However, students returning to the College for agility tests, re-certifications, etc. are not eligible for this insurance.

If you are a student in a covered program who becomes injured while participating in classwork or training under that program, you should immediately inform your class supervisor or instructor of the accident. Your supervisor/instructor will then contact Security in order for them to complete a formal Accident – Incident Report. If you need any medical treatment for your injury, our policy allows for the first expense for treatment of the injury to be incurred up to 26 weeks after the accident. Upon deciding that you need medical treatment, or as soon as possible thereafter, you must inform your supervisor/instructor, who is responsible for obtaining and submitting the claim form, which both of you must complete and sign. The completed claim form must be submitted within 30 days of your first treatment to Fringe Benefit Coordinators, Inc., the administrator for the College’s program (address is shown at the top of the claim form). Be sure that you keep a copy of the completed claim form for your records. Following any medical treatment, your medical insurance carrier (if you have one) will send you an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) outlining what they have paid or will pay and what they will not pay. You must send the EOB to Fringe Benefit Coordinators, along with any bill you may receive from the medical service provider. A copy of the Accident – Incident Report prepared by Security must accompany the claim. You may contact Ginny Rizzo at rizzov@palmbeachstate.edu or (561) 868-4014 to obtain a copy of this report to send to Fringe Benefit Coordinators.

Details and other information regarding the College’s Student Accident (Education Training) Insurance program may be found at [http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/safety/student-accident-insurance.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/safety/student-accident-insurance.aspx), including links to a Summary of Coverage, a Q & A and Claims Procedure, a listing of programs covered by this policy, the Hartford Insurance Company’s Certificate of Insurance and an Accident Claim Form. The Claim Form can also be accessed at [http://www.fbc-inc.com](http://www.fbc-inc.com). If you have any questions or comments regarding the Student Accident (Education Training) Insurance program, please contact Ginny Rizzo at rizzov@palmbeachstate.edu or (561) 868-4014. If you have any questions regarding the status of a claim, please contact Fringe Benefit Coordinators at (800) 654-1452.
ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS

For students who become ill, find themselves hospitalized or challenged due to an accident, course faculty will attempt to develop with the student a plan for course/clinical completion. In some situations the options may include an incomplete (“I”) or a course withdrawal (“W”). In all cases, physician’s documentation will be required for the student’s return to class and/or clinical. This documentation must be presented to the course faculty upon return to class/clinical.

PREGNANCY

Any change in health status must be reported immediately to the clinical instructor in written format. A clinical agency’s policy/protocol concerning pregnancy must be adhered to by all students and faculty.

1. Students who have declared pregnancy during clinical portions of their program must have written documentation from their primary health care provider to remain in clinical without restriction every 3 months, during the course of their pregnancy.
2. Students are responsible for obtaining this documentation and providing it to the program Specialist.
3. Practitioner directed limitations must be clearly delineated and may require student withdrawal from the course if clinical course objectives cannot be met. Agency policies concerning pregnant students in their clinical facility and measures to avoid potential hazards to mother and/or unborn fetus may supersede the statement above.
The Health Science/EMS Safety Disciplinary Procedure will apply to all students who have been accepted, including provisional acceptance into the following programs:

- Dental Assisting (DA)
- Dental Hygiene (DH)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Health Information Management (HIM)
- Massage Therapy (MT)
- Medical Assisting (MA)
- Medical Information Coder/Biller (MC/B)
- Medical Transcription (MT)
- Nursing (RN)
- Paramedic (EMT-P)
- Patient Care Assistant (PCA)
- Practical Nursing (PN)
- Radiography (RT)
- Respiratory Care (RRT)
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS)
- Surgical Technology (ST)

All Health Sciences Advanced Technical Certificate and Continuing Education programs

At the time of admission to the program, the student must sign an acknowledgement of receipt of the Health Science/EMS Disciplinary Process. Students will receive copy of signed acknowledgement. Disciplinary action shall be progressive in nature. Upon the first violation, the student may receive a documented verbal warning unless the violation is serious enough to warrant more serious discipline at the first occurrence. Violations of the program’s code of conduct are categorized as either Group 1, 2, or 3 Offenses with Group 1 Offenses being less serious in nature resulting in corrective counseling to Group 3 Offenses may in certain cases warrant dismissal from the program. The Health Science/EMS disciplinary/due process/appeal process governs for program violations rather than the Palm Beach State College general student handbook disciplinary procedures. By signing this document, the student acknowledges s/he has read and agrees to abide by the process.

Student’s signature_________________________________________________________ Date_________________

Print Name__________________________________________________________________________

Effective: 11/ 7/ 2006 Reviewed: 7/07 Revised: 1/08, 4/09 Approved By: College attorney, April 28, 2009
DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

Each Palm Beach State College student must follow the student code of conduct as published in the Palm Beach State College Student Handbook. In addition, all students enrolled in Health Sciences/EMS Programs must also follow the code of conduct and policies and procedures, as attached in this handbook. The Disciplinary Process is a measure taken to develop and train Health Sciences and EMS students of the expectations while enrolled in the program and those which are expected in the employment setting. Disciplinary action will provide fair treatment for the student while protecting and maintaining the effective operations and academic integrity of the Health Sciences and EMS Programs.

1. Health Science and EMS students will be counseled or disciplined when he/she has violated the program rules, regulations or code of conduct or has demonstrated behavior and/or performance that do not meet the high standards expected of the program.

2. All counseling and discipline actions will be documented in writing by the responsible staff member(s) and the student. A copy of the documentation will be kept in the student’s file.

3. Any violation may result in dismissal from the Health Science or EMS program. A summary of the outcome of program violations will be provided to the Dean of Student Services for student record.

**Group 1 Offenses:**
1. Use of inappropriate, indecent, and/or obscene language, use of any lewd, racial, ethnic or sexual statement or innuendo, and/or indecent gestures or conduct.

2. Non-observance of the Program Dress Code and required personal grooming standards. Any debate over appropriateness of the student’s attire shall be decided by the authorized instructor/preceptor, not the student.

3. Failure to follow chain of command.

4. Failure to act in a professional manner in all settings.

5. Absences without notification for designated lecture, lab, or clinical.

6. Arrive late to lecture, lab or clinical without prior notification.

7. Arrive late to any scheduled test/exam.

8. Smoke or chew tobacco while in classroom, lab, or clinical assignment.

9. Any conduct by act or omission deemed unacceptable or inappropriate to good order and discipline.

**Group 2 Offenses:**
1. Receive three separate documented verbal warnings from Group 1 or two documented verbal warnings of the same Group 1 offense.

2. Commit academic dishonesty by cheating, submission of fraudulent documentation, forgery, plagiarism or falsified reports.
3. Failure to report student(s) who knowingly help or are present when another student violates academic behavior standards.

4. Behave with intent to detract, disrupt, endanger or harass the education of another student or students.

5. Leave assigned area to include classroom, lab, or clinical setting without notifying instructor.

6. Perform duties and/or skills outside the scope of practice as student.

7. Unauthorized examination of a patient without an instructor or preceptor present.

8. Failure to adhere to OSHA Guidelines by not properly maintaining Body Substance Isolation (BSI) and/or proper utilization of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

9. Disrespectful, insolent, or abusive conduct directed at staff, instructors, guest speakers, visitors, or clinical staff. Any dispute between a student and clinical staff will be settled by program staff, not the student.

10. Use of electronic devices to include, but not limited to cellular telephones, IPOD, MP3 while in classroom, lab, or clinical without prior consent on an instructor. All mobile phones and pagers must be set in the “off” mode.

**Group 3 Offenses:**

1. Receive three separate written reprimands from Group 1 or Group 2 or two written reprimands of the same offense in either group.

2. Fail to notify program director/manager within 72 hours of any arrests while enrolled in the program.

3. Fail to notify program director/manager of any status change in licensure required during enrollment in the program.

4. Possess, or be under the influence of, any controlled substances or alcohol while in the classroom, lab, or clinical settings, except for those substances prescribed by a physician and documented by prescription.

5. Failure to submit to drug screen by given deadline while enrolled in program.

6. Possess any guns, illegal knives, or other lethal weapons while in the classroom, lab, or clinical rescue settings.

7. Fraudulent and/or unauthorized use of the college name/logo.

8. Unauthorized use of college property.

9. Perform skills on which s/he has not yet be designated competent in skills lab and signed-off by instructor.

10. Failure to comply with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

11. Be dismissed from a clinical site without immediate notification to program clinical coordinator/director or program director/manager.
12. Dismissal from clinical site due to one following but not limited to:
13. Failure to adhere to program accreditation standards or state statute requirements.
14. Any conduct perceived to be sexual harassment or hostile work/learning environment.
15. Conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of others, assault, threat, extortion and physical altercation (fighting).
16. Misuse of college/program property to include intentional damage or destruction of property.
DUE PROCESS

1. A student’s violation of the program’s policies and procedures will be referred to the program director/manager or designee for review and subsequent action.

2. A careful investigation will be conducted by the director/manager or designee. This investigation can include but is not limited to gathering additional written documentation and/or conferring with appropriate College personnel or witnesses.

3. If after careful investigation, the director/manager or designee determines that the violation is not supported by the evidence presented, the violation will be deemed unfounded. No further action taken.

4. If the investigation reveals that a violation occurred, and the student accused will be notified in writing, via return receipt PBSC email, of the charges and advised that s/he is required to attend an informal hearing with the program director/manager/designee.

5. During the informal hearing, the charges are read and explained to the student; the student will be asked to respond to the charges and whether s/he has questions.

6. If the student admits responsibility, the program director/manager or designee notifies the student of the sanctions. The student can either accept or reject the sanctions (documented verbal or written reprimands may not be rejected). If the student rejects the sanctions, a formal disciplinary hearing will be convened by the program director/manager or designee per the Health Sciences/EMS Appeal process. If the student accepts the sanction, s/he signs waiver accepting sanctions and waiving right to formal hearing.

7. If the student denies responsibility, written notice informing the student of time and place of formal hearing will be sent by certified letter to the address of record with return receipt.

8. All disciplinary proceedings are confidential to the extent allowable by law.

9. In the case of more than one student involved in the incident, the program director/manager or designee will determine if separate hearings will be held.

10. Pending the disciplinary hearing, the student may attend class and/or lab except in the case of temporary suspension.

11. The Program burden of proof shall be based on a preponderance of the evidence.

12. Resolution of any situation not outlined in this process will be at the discretion of the director/manager/or designee.
NOTICE OF FORMAL DISCIPLINARY HEARING

1. The notice of a formal hearing shall be provided in writing to student three (3) business days in advance of the hearing by written notification either in person or return receipt PBSC email.

2. The notice of a formal hearing to provide the student with notice of charges filed along with:

   The results of the student’s informal hearing (student’s rejection of charges of violating program code of conduct, or rejection of sanctions for accepted charges of violation);

   Hearings are open only to those involved in the process as determined by the program director/manager or designee;

   The right to face accusers at the formal hearing and direct questions to witnesses through the committee chair, and the right to present witnesses on his/her own behalf;

   The right to not testify against himself/herself; this right shall not be regarded as admission of responsibility. Should the student choose to ask questions of witnesses or otherwise pursue a defense, this will not equate to the student’s forfeiture of right to remain silent. Offering personal testimony in defense does negate the right to further remain silent;

   The right to admit or deny responsibility for the charges or accept sanctions at any point prior to the hearing;

   The hearing may be recorded and the College will notify all parties at the beginning of the hearing.

   **Temporary Suspension** A temporary suspension may be imposed when the program director/manager or designee determines that the student’s continued presence on campus or any college related activity or class constitutes an on-going danger to persons or property or ongoing disruption or threat to the educational process. A suspension will be imposed for all students who have been dismissed from their clinical site pending the outcome of the informal or formal hearing. Notice of temporary suspension will be provided to the student verbally in order to become immediately effective. Within one business day of verbal notification, written notification will be delivered to the student’s college email address and within three (3) business days to the address of record.

   **Formal Discipline Committee**

   Upon rejection of charge of violating the program code of conduct or accepting violation but rejection of the sanction to be imposed, the formal discipline committee will hear the case.

   The program director/manager or designee presents the charges, evidence and witnesses.

   The student accused provides their perspective, witnesses or documentation.

   At the conclusion of the fact-finding portion of the hearing, the participants are excused and in closed session, a decision is rendered by majority vote.

   Committee’s recommendation is provided to the program’s associate dean.
The student is notified of final decision initially by student’s college email address within two (2) business days and in writing within seven (7) business days to the address of record by certified letter with return receipt.

**Discipline Committee composition**
The Health Sciences/ EMS Discipline Committee may be formed whenever there is a case to be heard or a standing committee for the academic year. The committee shall be composed of two (2) Health Science/EMS faculty, two (2) Health Science/EMS students and one (1) Health Science/EMS administrator not directly involved with the program.

**Registered Nursing (RN) Professional Conduct**: The Professional Conduct Committee will be convened by the nursing director or designee for resolution of a student violation. The committee shall be composed of minimum (2) RN faculty and (1) nursing student. **Sanctions that may be imposed by the Health Sciences/EMS Programs include, but are not limited to:**

- **Dismissal**—mandatory, immediate separation from the program with no promise for future readmission
- **Suspension**—mandatory immediate suspension from the program for a period of time as specified in the sanctions
- **Disciplinary probation**—notice that behavior in violation of code of conduct; subsequent violation may result in suspension or dismissal
- **Disciplinary warning**—notice the behavior is inappropriate and further issues will result in more permanent and formal sanctions
- **Restitution**—imposed for offenses involving damage to, destruction of, or misappropriation of property in which the student agrees to restitution which may mitigate further action
- **Other**—written apologies, revocation of privileges, counseling or community service

**Appealing the Outcome of a Formal Hearing**
A student who wishes to appeal the outcome of a formal disciplinary hearing should contact the supervising office of the Dean (Dean of Health Sciences for Lake Worth, Belle Glade programs and EMT at Palm Beach Gardens campus; Dean of Academic Affairs at Boca Raton and Palm Beach Gardens). Appeals will only be heard if the student can provide additional documentation or evidence that the hearing committee did not hear or see at the time of the hearing. **The Dean of Health Sciences or Deans of Academic Affairs act as the President’s designee. The decision of the Dean is final and exhausts the student’s academic remedies.**
NURSING PROGRAM HEALTH POLICIES

Medical/Accident Insurance Policy
Students will be held responsible for any medical and/or personal expenses that they may incur as a result of an injury, accident, or a condition of infirmity that is acquired as a result of being a student in the Palm Beach State College Nursing Program. To assist with this expense, all students purchase an accident insurance policy as part of the course registration fees. Information regarding this policy is given to students during orientation to NUR1023 and NUR2000L and is available in the Nursing Office.

Liability (Malpractice) Insurance*
All Nursing students are required to have liability insurance to protect them in the event of a malpractice suit. This is charged once a year with course fees. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor this yearly charge.

Immunization Policy*

Tetanus/Diphtheria*
Following the initial 3 doses of any tetanus and diphtheria vaccine (DTP, DTaP or DT) a student should receive a booster every 10 years all through life, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Varicella/Rubella*
All students are required to have Varicella/Rubella Titer screening upon admission. Students who are not immune to Rubella or Varicella are required to receive the vaccine. Immunization records are incorporated into the yearly physical. Students are advised to keep a copy of the test results for future use. The College will not keep these records after the student graduates.

Hepatitis B*
Hepatitis B Immunization or a completed declination form is required for all students. Documentation of the series of 3 immunizations must be in the student’s file. The first immunization must be administered prior to entering the clinical area.

Students may elect to refuse immunizations, providing a declination statement is signed releasing Palm Beach State College and/or the clinical facility of any responsibility. The statement must be completed prior to entering a clinical area.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification*
Current American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers (CPR & AED) is required prior to beginning the nursing program and must be ACTIVELY maintained throughout the program. When documentation is not current, the student will NOT be permitted in clinical, resulting in failure to meet course objectives. This will necessitate immediate withdrawal from the course and constitute a clinical failure.

PPD*
PPD must be obtained annually or a Chest x-ray bi-annually. An initial chest x-ray report (taken within a year is required as a follow up for positive PPD results. When documentation is not current, the student will NOT be permitted in clinical, resulting in failure to meet course objectives. This will necessitate immediate withdrawal from the course and constitute a clinical failure.

Students who do not meet the standards of good physical and mental health, as required by clinical facilities for safe patient care, may reapply and be considered for admission to or continuation in the
nursing program after resolution of the health problem. An updated health record, verified by a licensed physician or health care provider must be submitted.

**Requirement:**
*When documentation is not current, the student WILL NOT be permitted into a clinical facility.* This will necessitate a withdrawal from all nursing courses.
HEALTH SCIENCES
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND,
DRUG AND HEALTH SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

Introduction
The allied health professions are committed to providing excellence in patient care and services in a safe, productive and quality conscious environment. As such, clinical and community agencies require students to meet standards, similar to employees, for criminal offenses and use of illegal substances.

Therefore, allied health students are required to be screened through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) or comparable checks from State(s) of prior residence. In addition, a completed Palm Beach State College health form must be submitted. The health record will contain results from the physical exam, and laboratory tests. An independent drug screen is also required.

Criminal Offenses
Most Florida Professional Boards under the Florida Department of Health and national registries perform computerized background checks on all applicants to determine eligibility for licensure. This background check may include the record for all arrests, not merely convictions. Therefore, students will be held to the same standard(s) as set for employment in nursing homes in Florida Statutes 400.211. Judgments of guilty or pleas of nolo contendere to the following crimes will disqualify students from entering health programs:

- murder;
- manslaughter;
- vehicular homicide;
- killing of an unborn child by injury to the mother;
- assault, if battery;
- kidnapping; false imprisonment;
- sexual battery;
- prohibited acts by persons in familial or custodial authority;
- prostitution; lewd and lascivious behavior; lewdness and indecent exposure;
- arson; theft; robbery; and related crimes, if offense was felony;
- fraudulent sale of controlled substances, only if the offense is a felony;
- incest;
- abuse or neglect of a disabled adult or elderly person; exploitation of a disabled adult or elderly person;
- aggravated child abuse;
- child abuse;
- negligent treatment of children;
- procuring sexual performance by a child;
- sale, possession or use of obscene literature;
- violation of drug abuse prevention and control laws, only if offense was a felony or if any other person involved was a minor; has not been judicially determined to have committed abuse or neglect against a child as defined in F.S. 3901(2) and (47); does not have confirmed report of abuse, neglect, or exploitation as defined in F.S. 415.102 (6), or abuse or neglect as defined in F.S. 415.503(6), which has been uncontested or upheld under F.S. 415.1075 or F.S. 415.504; does not have a proposed confirmed report that remains unserved and is maintained in the central abuse registry and tracking system pursuant to F.S. 415.106 (2)(c); and has not committed an act that constitutes domestic violence as defined in F.S. 741.128.

The background screenings will be completed at the student’s expense. All records will be sent directly to the Program Director and will be kept in a confidential file. These files will not be part of the
student’s college records. No faculty or staff will have access to the records without the written permission of the student. These records will become the property of the college when submitted and will not be available for copying or for use to meet the requirements of outside employers.

Any applicant whose FDLE screening shows evidence of substance abuse history may be required to be evaluated by the Intervention Project for Nurses (IPN) as a condition for entry into Nursing Programs. These students must provide documentation of compliance with IPN recommendations. Failure to do so could result in dismissal from the Practical or Registered Nursing Program.

The student is responsible for notifying the Health Sciences Program Administrator of any arrests, regardless of adjudication, that occur after being admitted to the program. Failure to promptly notify the program director shall be grounds for dismissal from the program. After acceptance into the program, the student must not be found guilty, regardless of adjudication, of an offense that would disqualify the student under the above stated standard(s). If this occurs, the student will be subject to dismissal from the program. (FS 400.211)

If a criminal offense deems a student ineligible for admission to or continuation in a health occupations program, an appeal can be filed. The appeals process may follow the college grievance process. The appeals committee will follow the industry standard for employment in the profession as the guide for considering the grievance.

**Drug Screening**

A. *After Selection but prior to Acceptance and Admission*

   Area health care agencies and Palm Beach State College are drug free environments. Palm Beach State College has been asked by area health care affiliates to require a drug screening for students who will be placed in area health agencies for clinical rotations. Therefore, students are required to obtain a *ten-panel substance abuse drug screen* at their own expense. These results are essential for clinical rotations, and subsequent entrance into the program. Students with a positive test result will be given a reasonable opportunity to explain the confirmed test result and submit for retest. If the explanation is unacceptable and cannot be satisfactorily documented by the students’ physician, and the second test is positive, the student will not be considered for admission into the program.

The student may reapply and be considered for application to a health occupations program after positive reference from a treatment team who has followed the student for two (2) years or current industry standard, and has dealt directly with the student’s chemical dependency problem.

B. *While in the Nursing Program*

   All students enrolled in the health occupations programs are required to be drug and/or alcohol free when reporting to the college and while at affiliating agencies (including parking lots and campus grounds.) For all affiliating agencies which require students to follow their drug testing policy, including, but not limited to, when there is reasonable suspicion that a student may be impaired, or is using, or has used illegal drugs and/or alcohol, the student may be tested in accordance with the affiliating agency’s policies.

   If tested by an affiliating agency, the student shall provide his/her clinical faculty member with a copy of any test results. Failure to promptly do so shall be grounds for dismissal from the program. A positive drug or alcohol test shall be grounds for the student to withdraw from the program. Re-admission to the program can occur only after re-application that includes an advisement in writing, by a professional counselor that the student is drug free and it is documented through testing. The student must continue to be monitored by the counseling service while completing the program or he/she will be dismissed from the program.

   If a positive drug screening deems a student ineligible for admission to or continuation in a health occupations program, an appeal can be filed. The appeal process follows the college grievance
process. The appeals committee will follow the industry standard for employment in the profession as the guide for considering the grievance.

Effective September 25, 2000
STUDENT MENTORING PROCESS

Each student is assigned a faculty mentor for each semester they are in the nursing program.

Each **student** will:

- Be responsible for developing and updating a portfolio.
- Bring the portfolio to each meeting with their faculty mentor.
- Meet with faculty mentor a minimum of one time per semester. It is recommended that the first visit occur within the first month of the semester.
- Will be required to place a copy of the HESI Specialty Exam reports and the related Remediation Plan (obtained from the Evolve site) into their Student Portfolio. **It is expected that the student will complete the remediation independently.**

- All students are required to make an appointment with their faculty mentor prior to the semester date specified or they will be denied access to the next exam.
- **At Risk Students**: Students who do not meet the acceptable level of performance (HESI Composite Score of 850) for the Specialty Exam will be required to make an appointment with their assigned faculty mentor BEFORE their second exam. Assigned faculty mentors will review the completed remediation plan with the student, which will be documented on the mentor meeting form as well as a time for a follow-up meeting.

The **faculty mentor** will:

- Keep a mentor file for all students assigned.
- Maintain a completed mentor checklist.
- File the student information in the Student’s Academic folder at the end of the semester.
- Ensure all information is in place in the file prior to the last day of the semester.
- Review the completed remediation plan for the previous semester.
STUDENT PORTFOLIO

Nursing Program- Portfolio Requirements:
Students are responsible to compile a professional portfolio by the second week of classes and to maintain their portfolio throughout the program.

Review:
The portfolio will be reviewed by a faculty mentor once per semester and by clinical instructor upon request.

Sensitive Information:
Student is to keep results readily available during all clinical rotations. Readily available is defined as being able to produce information immediately upon request by clinical facility.

Directions:
Students are to purchase a 1 ½ ” three ring binder with a set of dividers.
Items are to be categorized as noted:

I. Personal/ Medical Information Divider
   Resume’
   Personal Definition of Nursing
   Current: AHA CPR card/ PPD or Chest x-ray/ Titers, Flu inoculation
   Ethical Agreement
   Disciplinary Agreement
   Unofficial Transcript (updated as needed)
   Degree Audit (updated every semester)

II. Orientation Divider
    Documentation of attendance at orientations
    For clinical sites

III. Clinical/Skills Info Divider
     Individual Skills Checklist (semester 1 or 2 as applicable)

IV. Samples of Work Divider
    IPR
    Wellness Paper
    HESI/Evolve specialty exams reports and remediation plan with completion report.

V. NSA Activities/Volunteer Activities Divider

VI. Awards/ Letters of Commendation/Scholarships Divider
STUDENT RESOURCES

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students in need of assistance may find it useful to explore the support services which are available on campus. These include the Student Learning Center (SLC); Media Technology and Instructional Services; Counseling Services; the Crossroads Program, and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. (Refer to the Palm Beach State College Handbook & Catalog for details).

FINANCIAL AID


NURSING RESOURCES

When searching for articles, web sites, media and other resources, please refer to the Nursing Resource page found on Blackboard or at the link below:

http://www.palmbeachstate.libguides.com/content.php?pid=28521

FACULTY GIFT POLICY

Nursing faculty is not permitted to accept gifts from students.

CRITERIA FOR PAPERS SUBMITTED TO NURSING FACULTY

1. All papers must be typed word processed on white paper. The original copy (not a photo copy) must be submitted.
2. Any references used must be appropriately documented or referenced according to the current American Psychological Association (APA) Manual. Refer to LLRC web page at: http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/library/default.aspx
3. Correct spelling, grammar and punctuation are considered to be essential components of all clinical papers, nursing progress notes, and email communications. Papers which do not meet acceptable standards will be returned as unsatisfactory and graded accordingly.
4. If not submitted electronically, staple pages in upper left-hand corner or use a folder.
5. All papers must be submitted by required dates unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor. No clinical papers will be accepted after the due date indicated on your course/clinical schedule (calendar).
PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE NURSING DEPARTMENT
COMPUTER TESTING LAB POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AGREEMENT

Testing Lab Entrance Policy:
1. Testing begins on time.
   a. Any student who arrives late for a test, as evidenced by the faculty cell phone will be denied entry into the testing lab and the test.
   b. The student maybe permitted to take an essay make-up exam at their instructor’s discretion. Make-up exam, if permitted will be in essay format, and will take place in the Campus Student Testing Center with any fees to be paid by the student.

2. Students MUST have their Palm Beach State College Student ID in order to sit for an exam.
   a. Any student who arrives to the testing lab without their Palm Beach State College Student ID card will be denied entry into the testing lab and the test.
   b. The above holds true even if the student arrives on time.
   c. The student may be permitted to take an essay make-up exam at their instructor’s discretion.

Testing Lab Protocol:
1. ONLY A PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE STUDENT ID and car keys are ALLOWED IN THE TESTING LAB AT ANY TIME.

2. Be punctual. On-time means arriving before the start of the test, late is arriving after the door is closed to the testing center. If you arrive after the door is closed, please do not enter the lab. You should discuss the matter with your professor who may or may not, at their sole discretion, allow you to take a make-up test at another time. You will not be permitted to enter the lab for testing at this time.

3. You must start your test immediately upon sitting at your chosen lab work-station, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Note-dumping, meditation, prayer or any other permitted time-consuming practice must be performed after you have begun your test.

4. You may not talk to or otherwise communicate with any other student for any reason during a testing period. If you need assistance, please raise your hand to attract the attention of lab staff. If students are seen talking, they may be asked to leave the room and forfeit their test.

5. You may not leave your seat or the lab during a test for any reason. Make sure you are comfortable before sitting for the test.

6. A student May Not assist their fellow students, even if it is computer assistance or to share a writing utensil:
   a. Doing any of the above constitutes cheating and if caught, both students will be subject to the college academic dishonesty policy.
   b. Do Not reach into the cubicle of a fellow student for any reason

7. Students should complete the following information on the testing paper every time they take a test.
   a. Clearly print first and last name, sign the confidentiality statement, any notes to instructor should, of course, be done in a respectful and professional tone.

8. Students should push their chairs in before exiting the testing lab.

9. All papers, including scratch papers, must be submitted to the instructor before you leave the testing lab. No materials may be removed from the testing lab.
Important to note:

1. Any student observed cheating will have the exam and/or document removed or computer turned off and referred to the Nursing Director. Further action will be at the discretion of the Nursing Director.

2. Any student found to have a cell phone, camera, recording device or any other electronic device will be referred to the nursing director.

3. A faculty member can end the testing session for a student if they are found talking for any reason.
CLINICAL UNIFORM CODE

Nursing students must adhere to the Nursing Department Uniform Code.

1. **Hygiene**
   a. no cologne/perfume/aftershave
   b. no offensive body odors
   c. clean appearance
   d. Smokers must refresh their breath before entering the clinical area and make sure their uniform does not smell of tobacco.

2. **Make-Up**
   a. None to moderate

3. **Hair**
   a. Off collar - away from face, bangs no longer than eyebrow length
   b. Clean and well-groomed
   c. Ponytails must be secured above collar
   d. Hair must not touch the uniform (including collar) and must be a naturally born color.
   e. Mustache and/or beard permissible providing it is well trimmed

4. **Nails**
   a. Length is to finger tips only
   b. Polish: none
   c. Artificial nails are not permitted

5. **Underwear**
   a. To be worn and should not be visible at any time.
   b. Females must wear bra and 1/2 or full length slip for those wearing dress uniforms.

6. **Uniform**
   a. Navy slacks or skirt with navy scrub top with the Palm Beach State College logo in white.
   b. Clean and wrinkle free
   c. Skirt length - knees to be covered (Pants uniform optional)
   d. Variances from the uniform policy may occur during specific clinical experiences. Students will be informed of these changes on the first day of class.
   e. Name pin - first and last name and school affiliation and SN designation
   f. Worn only on duty and to and from hospital or agency. May wear uniform to campus after hospital experience, provided clean (i.e., not worn in the hospital) and lab coat is worn over the uniform.
   g. **Optional:** A clean white lab coat with the Palm Beach State College logo or Palm Beach State College sweater cardigan may be worn at the instructor's discretion or hospital policy.
   h. No visible undershirts, unless sleeves are used to cover a tattoo.

7. **Shoes**
   a. Clean comfortable professional, white shoes (**clean, all white, leather**, athletic shoes will be permitted)

8. **Jewelry that may be worn**
   a. Plain wedding band
   b. Wristwatch with second hand or digital read out (must be worn)
   c. Visible jewelry will be limited to one stud earring per earlobe
d. No tongue or facial jewelry

9. **Tattoos**
   a. Visible tattoos are not permitted and students will be asked to cover them.

10. **Other required equipment**
   a. Stethoscope
   b. Penlight
   c. Black ballpoint pen
   d. Personal Protective Equipment: goggles, masks
   e. Bandage scissors
REVIEW OF STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

Potentially Infectious Material:

1. The following fluids: blood, semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluids (CSF), synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, and any body fluids that are visibly contaminated with blood and in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.

2. Any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from human (living or dead).

3. HIV or HBV containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and culture medium or other solutions.

Regulated Waste: Liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials; contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed; items that are caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling; contaminated sharps and pathological and micro biological waste containing blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Universal Precautions: An approach to infection control that treats all human blood and certain human body fluids as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV or other blood borne pathogens.

Work Practice Controls: Controls that reduce the likelihood of exposure by altering the manner in which a task is performed (e.g., prohibiting recapping of needles by a two-handed technique).

Implementation Procedures:

1. Faculty and students will practice Standard Precautions to prevent or minimize contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.

2. Students and faculty will have on hand the following supplies at all times during a clinical rotation: gloves, goggle, masks, gown and aprons.
   a. Aprons and goggles will be worn when potential for splash exists.
   b. Resuscitation equipment will be available and will be utilized in accordance with guidelines of the Agency in which clinical experience occurs.
   c. In areas where blood spills may occur, bleach will be available (to be diluted to 1:9 at time of use) and gloves used for clean-up will follow the guidelines of the Agency in which clinical experience occurs.

3. Faculty members are responsible for ensuring that education is provided for each student during orientation and annually thereafter.

4. Faculty will routinely monitor student compliance with Standard Precautions while in the clinical area.
Clinical Practices:

Specific practices will be adhered to so that faculty/student exposure can be eliminated or minimized:

1. Eating, drinking, and applying cosmetics or lip balm and handling contact lenses are prohibited where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials.

2. Food or beverages will be consumed only in designated areas. No gum chewing in clinical.

3. Students and Faculty will wash hands immediately or as soon as feasible, after the removal of gloves or other personal protective equipment.

4. The mucous membranes (eyes, nose and mouth) will be protected when there is a likelihood of spatters or splashes from blood or body fluids. All procedures involving blood or other potentially infectious materials will be performed in a manner, which minimizes splashing, spraying, spattering and the generation of droplets of these substances.

5. Contaminated needles or other contaminated sharps will not be bent, recapped, sheared, broken or removed. Immediately, or as soon as possible after use, contaminated sharps will be placed in containers which are puncture-resistant, leak-resistant and properly labeled or color-coded.

6. **In the event that an exposure occurs**, Faculty and/or Student will wash exposed areas of the body with soap and water; or flush the mucous membranes with water immediately, or as soon as possible following contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.
**CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

- Students are strongly discouraged from working a shift during the hours preceding a clinical experience. The faculty believes that students must be rested and alert to perform at their optimum level.

- Students may be asked to leave a clinical experience if the instructor interprets the student behavior as evidence of sleep deprivation and/or detrimental to learning or patient safety.

**CHAIN OF COMMAND**

Faculty believes that every attempt should be made to resolve conflict at the lowest level possible. The Health Sciences Division requires that all students adhere to the following chain of command/sequence when dealing with issues or concerns.

**Clinical**: Student Issues → Clinical Faculty → Team Faculty Representative → Department Chair → Nursing Program Director

**Classroom**: Student Issues → Faculty → Department Chair → Nursing Program Director

**Skills Lab**: Student Issues → Skills Lab Faculty → Skills Lab Coordinator Representative → Department Chair → Nursing Program Director

*Faculty reserves the right to bring in another faculty member to a counseling session. Likewise, students may elect to invite a third party to listen during any grievance levels.*
MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR PRE-PROFESSIONAL NURSING ORGANIZATION

National Student Nurses Association (NSNA), Florida Nursing Student Association (FNSA), and Palm Beach State College Nursing Student Association (NSA)

All nursing students are automatically members of the NSNA, FSNA and the PBSC NSA Chapter. Upon completion of the NSNA’s membership form. The cost of the membership to these organizations is included in the program fees, paid upon admission. Students complete the membership form and officially join the National Students’ Nurses Association (NSNA) at the beginning of the first semester. Membership of the NSNA also means that the nursing student is a member of the constituent association, FNSA and the college club NSA.

NSNA

As the pre-professional organization for nursing students across the nation, the NSNA’s mission is to mentor the professional development of future registered nurses and facilitate their entrance into the profession by providing educational resources, leadership opportunities, and career guidance. Our students have the opportunity to represent Florida at the NSNA Convention held each spring. There are other benefits to belonging to this association which can be found at www.nsna.org

FNSA

Membership in the Florida Nursing Student Association also provides opportunities to network with other nursing students in the state during the convention held each fall and opportunities to develop leadership skills by serving on the Executive Board of FNSA. Palm Beach State College Nursing has a long and rich history of participation in the leadership of the FNSA. More information on this organization can be found at www.fnsa.net

NSA

The NSA is recognized as a college club and thus eligible for Student Activity funding, which is allocated each fall to support attendance at the state (FNSA) and national (NSNA) conventions. In return, membership in the NSA requires support of college wide and community activities. The Carol Alexander NSA Day, a student-organized and facilitated event, is planned each spring term. Other activities include Adopt a School, Adopt a Building, fundraising, and support is governed by elected nursing students to the Executive Board. The Executive Board’s contact information and the NSA Chapter Bylaws can be found at: www.palmbeachstate.eduprogramsnursing
CODE OF ACADEMIC AND CLINICAL CONDUCT

PREAMBLE

Students of nursing have a responsibility to society in learning the academic theory and clinical skills needed to provide nursing care. The clinical setting presents unique challenges and responsibilities in actively practicing that care while caring for human beings in a variety of health care environments. The Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct is based on an understanding that to practice nursing as a student is an agreement to uphold the trust with which society has placed in us. The statements of the Code provide guidance for the nursing student in the personal developments of an ethical foundation and need not be limited strictly to the academic or clinical environment but can assist in the holistic development of the person.

A CODE FOR NURSING STUDENTS

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

1. Advocate for the rights of all clients.

2. Maintain client confidentiality

3. Take appropriate action to ensure the safety of clients, self and others.

4. Provide care for the client in a timely, compassionate and professional manner.

5. Communicate client care in a truthful, timely and accurate manner.

6. Actively promote the highest level of moral and ethical principles and accept responsibility for our actions.

7. Promote excellence in nursing by encouraging lifelong learning and professional development.

8. Actively promote the highest level of moral and ethical principles and accept responsibility for our actions.

9. Treat others with respect and promote an environment that respects human rights, values and choice of cultural and spiritual beliefs.

10. Collaborate in every reasonable manner with academic faculty and clinical staff to ensure the highest quality of client care.

11. Use every opportunity to improve faculty and clinical staff understanding of the learning needs of nursing students.

12. Encourage faculty, clinical staff, and peers to mentor nursing students.

13. Refrain from any deliberate action or omission of care in the academic or clinical setting that creates unnecessary risk of injury to the client, self or others.

14. Assist the staff nurse or preceptor in ensuring that there is full disclosure and that proper authorizations are obtained from clients regarding any form of treatment or research.

15. Abstain from the use of substances in the academic and clinical setting that impair judgment.

16. Strive to achieve and maintain an optimal level of personal health.
17. Support access to treatment and rehabilitation for students who are experiencing impairments related to substance abuse and mental or physical health issues.

18. Uphold school policies and regulations related to academic and clinical performance, reserving the right to challenge and critique rules and regulations as per school grievance policy.

ETHICAL AGREEMENT
PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE
NURSING PROGRAM

This agreement is both a contract and a code of conduct for the nursing student while in the clinical setting, lecture, skills lab, and any other time the nursing student is under the auspices of Palm Beach State College. These rules are designed to benefit Palm Beach State College Nursing Program and its students and faculty, as well as patients, hospital staff, and other individuals who are exposed to students during the course of their enrollment.

Because the nursing program is unlike any other program at Palm Beach State College, expectations for behavior and attitude are higher and more stringent. Acceptance into this program does not automatically guarantee that each student will be able to perform in a manner befitting the nursing profession, because the nursing program involves the education and an evaluation of a student's behavior and attitude under a variety of circumstances.

By signing this contract, the student agrees to its conditions and restraints on the student's behavior. All students, while under the auspices of Palm Beach State College Nursing Program, will behave in such a manner so that no person(s) shall be embarrassed, harassed, endangered or upset by the student's behavior.

The appropriate communication channel for students always begins with the immediate faculty member, followed by the chain of command. If a resolution is not reached within the Nursing Program, then Due Process at the College-wide Level as stated in the Palm Beach State College Student Handbook, will be initiated.

In a question or conflict between an instructor or staff member and the student, regarding a student's behavior or attitude, the benefit of the doubt will always go to the instructor.

This Ethical Agreement is made in accordance with the section entitled, "Student's Rights and Responsibilities" as set forth in the Palm Beach State College Student Handbook. All such provisions of the Palm Beach State College Student Handbook are hereby incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this agreement.

1. Sexual harassment. No student shall engage in sexual harassment, i.e., no flirtation, propositions, innuendos, or inappropriate comments shall occur while in the laboratory or clinical setting or during lecture.
2. Inappropriate language. No student shall use foul or vulgar language while in the lab, clinical setting or during class.
3. Illicit substances. No student shall have in their possession, or be under the influences of any controlled substance or alcohol while in the lab, clinical setting or during lecture, except for those substances prescribed by a physician. Students shall not consume intoxicants to the extent that evidence of such consumption is apparent when attending clinical, lecture, or lab. Students who appear intoxicated will be excused from the clinical, lecture, or lab setting and sent immediately for drug testing. Student may not return to class until negative drug test is obtained.
4. Weapons. No student shall have in their possession any knives, guns, or other lethal weapon while in the lab, clinical setting, or during lecture. Personal protective devices, such as MACE, must be stored according to facility policy and restricted from clinical units.
5. Leaving the clinical area. No student will leave their assigned area unless authorized by the instructor.
6. Patient assessments. Students will assess patients of the opposite sex within the scope of the course and clinical objectives, and at the discretion of the clinical instructor.
7. Inappropriate behavior. Students will not direct disrespectful or abusive behavior toward any college guest, faculty, Palm Beach State College employee, Palm Beach State College student, or employee of any hospital or other health care facility. Instructors and health care facility employees will be treated with the respect their positions deserve and the student will abide by any rules governing a
facility's staff. “Inappropriate Behavior” includes both written and oral false representation with respect to student behavior.

8. **Disputes.** In the event of a dispute or observed incident between a student and a facility employee, students are to contact the clinical instructor, who is the first link in the chain of command. The clinical instructor will attempt to resolve the problem. Students are not to become involved in or attempt to resolve such conflicts independently.

9. **Practicing nursing.** Florida Statutes 464.022(3) allows nursing students to practice nursing while enrolled in approved schools of nursing. Nursing students may not practice nursing outside the clinical setting and without an instructor available. Observational experiences do not constitute nursing practice.

10. **Confidentiality.** The undersigned hereby acknowledges his or her responsibility under HIPPA to keep confidential the identities and identifying information regarding any and all clients encountered in the clinical area. No student shall divulge the names of any patient or client, orally, or in writing, during group discussions, presentations, seminar projects, or other activities related to clinical experiences. The undersigned further agrees not to reveal to any person or persons, except authorized clinical staff, and associated personnel, any identifying information regarding any such patient or client.

11. **Medical records.** The Palm Beach State College Nursing Program Confidentiality Document Agreement, as set forth in the preceding paragraph, extends to all patient records. In addition, photocopying of medical records, audio-taping and removing medical records from any hospital department are strictly prohibited.

12. The undersigned hereby agrees to follow the policies as stated in “Palm Beach State College Nursing Department Computer Testing Lab Policies and Procedures Agreement.”

13. **Violations of this Agreement.** Any violation of the foregoing Ethical Agreement will result in the student's dismissal from the clinical, lecture, or laboratory setting and referral to the appropriate person in accordance to the chain of command as set forth in the Nursing Student Handbook. In addition, the student may receive a failing grade based on the clinical evaluation and a failure to meet course requirements. If a student violates the “Ethics Agreement” of the Nursing Program the situation in question will come before the Nursing Professional Conduct Committee (Exception: A severe infraction that requires immediate attention). The Professional Conduct Committee will make recommendations for disciplinary action to the appropriate college administrator.

14. **Disciplinary action by the college.** If a student is suspended or otherwise formally disciplined by Palm Beach State College, the student is subject to permanent dismissal from the nursing program. At the termination of the disciplinary period, however, the student may petition the Nursing Program for re-admission.
PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE
NURSING PROGRAM
POLICY and ETHICAL AGREEMENT STATEMENT

I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and will adhere to the policies and procedures as stated in the Nursing Student Handbook dated ________________________.

I have read the "Ethical Agreement" and agree to adhere to the code of conduct for the Nursing Program of Palm Beach State College.

Agreed to this __________ day of ____________________ 20________

(Print) Student Name ___________________________ Student Signature ___________________________

Witness Signature

Once you have signed and had it witnessed, make a copy to place in your portfolio. Give the original to your instructor to place in your academic file.