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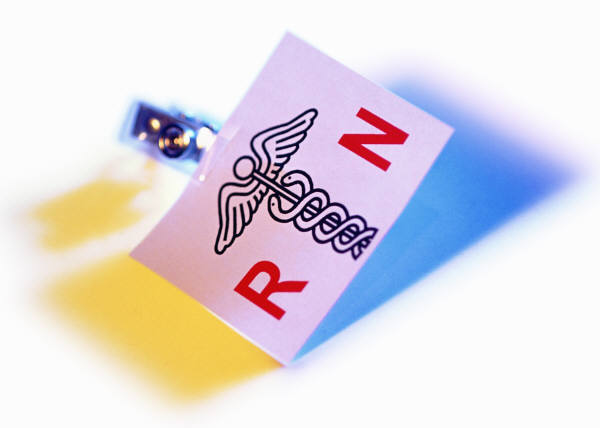
**The Associate in applied science**

**nursing transfer Degree Program**

**Student Handbook**

**Fall Quarter 2017-2018**

**Revised 9.18.17**

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# *Welcome Message from the Associate Dean for Nursing*

*Nursing is a dynamic and exciting profession. As nurses, we comprise the largest number of healthcare professionals in the United States. We are in an era of provider shortages and the role of the nurse is more important than ever before. As people in our society ask for more and better health services, the nursing profession is assuming an increasingly important role. Nurse professionals are members of interdisciplinary teams in clinics, hospitals, long-term care, and community settings. Nurse practitioners are filling critical healthcare needs in both urban and rural settings for portions of the population who have not received adequate health care. Greater technical care requires more nursing expertise at the bedside. The future possibilities for nurses in the health care field are limitless.*

*At Tacoma Community College, we are in step with the needs of the community. We offer quality education, and we produce competent, skilled nurses who excel in all facets of healthcare delivery. We are proud of our graduates and are working to bring our NCLEX-RN first time pass rates (State Boards) back to 90% or better.*

*You will have many opportunities to study and work with people in a variety of healthcare settings, such as nursing homes, hospitals, clinics, and emerging types of health facilities. You will be an active participant in sharing responsibilities for your own learning needs and evaluating your progress.* ***You do own your future*** *as well as the future of the nursing profession.*

*Tacoma Community College's Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer Degree(AAS-T) is an excellent program. We are glad you chose to study here. We hope you have a rewarding and satisfying experience with us, and we wish you much success during your course of instruction as well as in your future profession.*

*Julie Benson, MHA, MN, CNE, ARNP*

*Associate Dean for Nursing*

*Tacoma Community College*

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### The Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer DegreeProgram

**Student Responsibilities**

The materials in the Handbook for the students of the Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer Degree (AAS-T) Program have been prepared to enhance the understanding of the principles and guidelines of the Tacoma Community College Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer Degreeprogram. These materials link both faculty and student responsibilities that promote educational growth and development for successful course completion. (See Appendix I for TCC Code of Students Rights & Responsibilities.)

**Tacoma Community College Faculty shall:**

1. Promote an educational process that allows for individual differences and needs within the limitations of the program.
2. Provide a learning environment that links theory and practice concurrently as much as possible, thus strengthening the educational process.
3. Provide a curriculum that allows students to progressively build knowledge on previous concepts, as well as to link concepts together to provide holistic patient/client care.
4. Provide feedback and guidance throughout the program in the form of an assigned advisor, progress notes, and class evaluations, which enables students to become competent practitioners who are legally and ethically qualified to obtain and maintain a license to practice.

**The Student shall:**

1. Assume responsibility for motivation and self-direction necessary for successful course completion.
2. Progress in a predetermined or defined sequence of learning with the assistance of an instructor.
3. Achieve outcomes, as outlined in the course syllabi, through successful theory testing and clinical practice.
4. Set aside differences, appreciate varying perspectives, and work together for the mutual goal of patient safety.
5. Adhere to all policies and processes outlined in the program pre-orientation manual, orientation manual/session, and this student handbook.

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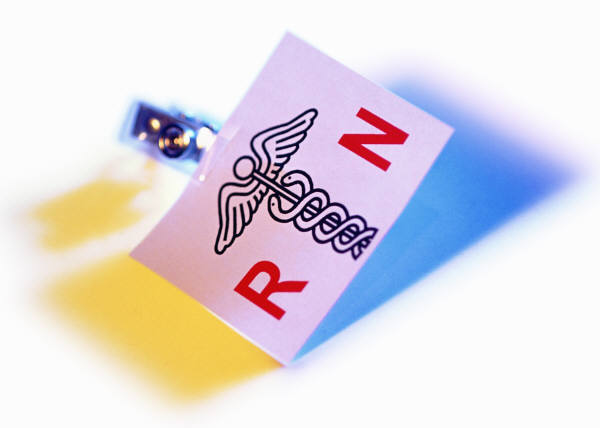
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### GENERAL INFORMATION

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### MISSION STATEMENT

To produce innovative Associate Degree nurses who provide safe quality care to diverse populations and inspire others in the profession of nursing. The nursing faculty will accomplish this through evidenced based nursing education in an environment that promotes caring, diversity, ethics, excellence, holism, integrity and patient centered care.

### VALUES

***Caring***: Caring is an essential part of nursing practice and is characterized by empathy and verbal/nonverbal actions that promote optimal health and well-being in response to the patient’s condition.

***Diversity***: Nursing practice embraces the uniqueness and diversity of the local and global community and respects the patient’s personal characteristics, ideas, values, and practices across the lifespan. Our students’ individuality and experiential knowledge is respected and valued.

***Ethics***: Ethics encompass the moral values and professional conduct inherent to nursing. Ethical decision making requires distinguishing right from wrong as well as considering personal, societal, and professional values, principles, and beliefs that shape nursing practice.

***Excellence***: Excellence requires a commitment to lifelong learning and continuous transformation grounded in evidence-based research and best practices.

***Holism***: Each person is a unique individual whose health encompasses physical, psychological, spiritual, and social elements.

***Integrity***: Integrity is a conscious behavior demonstrated by being honest, having strong moral principles, and practicing in the best interests of the patient for the right reasons.

***Patient Centered Care***: Patient centered care is a core component of quality health care and acknowledges that the client is in control of all aspects of health care decision making in collaboration with the health care team and health systems and facilities. The nurse respects and advocates for the client’s right to participate in health care based on reliable information provided from a variety of sources and in accordance with his or her own cultural and societal norms.

### j0337245PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The nursing program at Tacoma Community College (TCC) supports the vision and principles of the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the mission and outcomes of Tacoma Community College. The philosophy of the nursing program is derived from the nursing metaparadigms of the patient, the nurse & nursing, the environment, and health care. These are underpinned by the National League for Nursing (NLN) Education competency model for Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program outcomes. These outcomes support the nursing program concepts and the College’s Degree Learning Outcomes and provide the curriculum framework for the ADN program with student learning and success at its core.

The purpose of the nursing education program at Tacoma Community College is to prepare the graduating student to be successful in the National Council Licensure Examination – Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) exam, be competent to practice as a generalist registered nurse (RN) in the community, and to continue their nursing education.

**PATIENT/CLIENT**

The patient/client is a holistic being, possessing uniqueness, dignity, and human worth, who has the right to self-determination, respect, optimum health and access to health care. In nursing practice, the patient/client may refer to an individual, a family, or a group of people within a community who constantly interact and react to the environment.

**THE NURSING STUDENT & NURSING**

Nursing is a caring, interactive experience between the nurse as a provider of care, and the patient/client participating in health care behaviors. Nursing care is characterized by empathy and action and practiced holistically.

Nursing studentsat TCC are at the core of the nursing program and are as diverse as the community that the college serves. These students are adult learners, and are self-motivated, committed individuals who gain knowledge in part from experiential learning. They are independent, self-directed, hold themselves accountable for their own learning, and value participation in planning their educational experiences. Our students' commitment to nursing excellence is evident in the transfer of knowledge and the development of critical thinking skills within the profession. This commitment is supported by life-long learning.

The ADN nursing education program is based upon the nursing knowledge, skills and attributes required for a generalist nurse entering the profession. Its foundation is in theory and clinical practice which are grounded in evidence based research, safety, and quality of care standards. By progression through the program, the student develops the core competencies that are central to the practice of nursing.

**ENVIRONMENT**

The patient/client is influenced by both the local and global environment, which is constantly changing due to internal and external forces. These forces have the potential to alter health and wellness based on the patient/client’s beliefs, practices and perceptions. The student nurse is able to provide nursing care within the confines of environmental change.

Internal and external forces such as development in educational practice and evolving professional standards, as well as personal forces such as financial, family and employment factors also influence the nursing student’s environment. These forces can impact the student’s health and wellness, and therefore success in the educational setting. As the environment influences the patient/client, the nursing program faculty and staff recognize that his or her own environment also influences the student.

**HEALTHCARE**

Health care is defined as the provision of care for the patient/client in order to achieve the desired level of health. It is not defined as being the absence of disease or injury, but as the ability to function and contribute to society and the community, and having a quality of life that is desirable and achievable as defined by the patient/client.

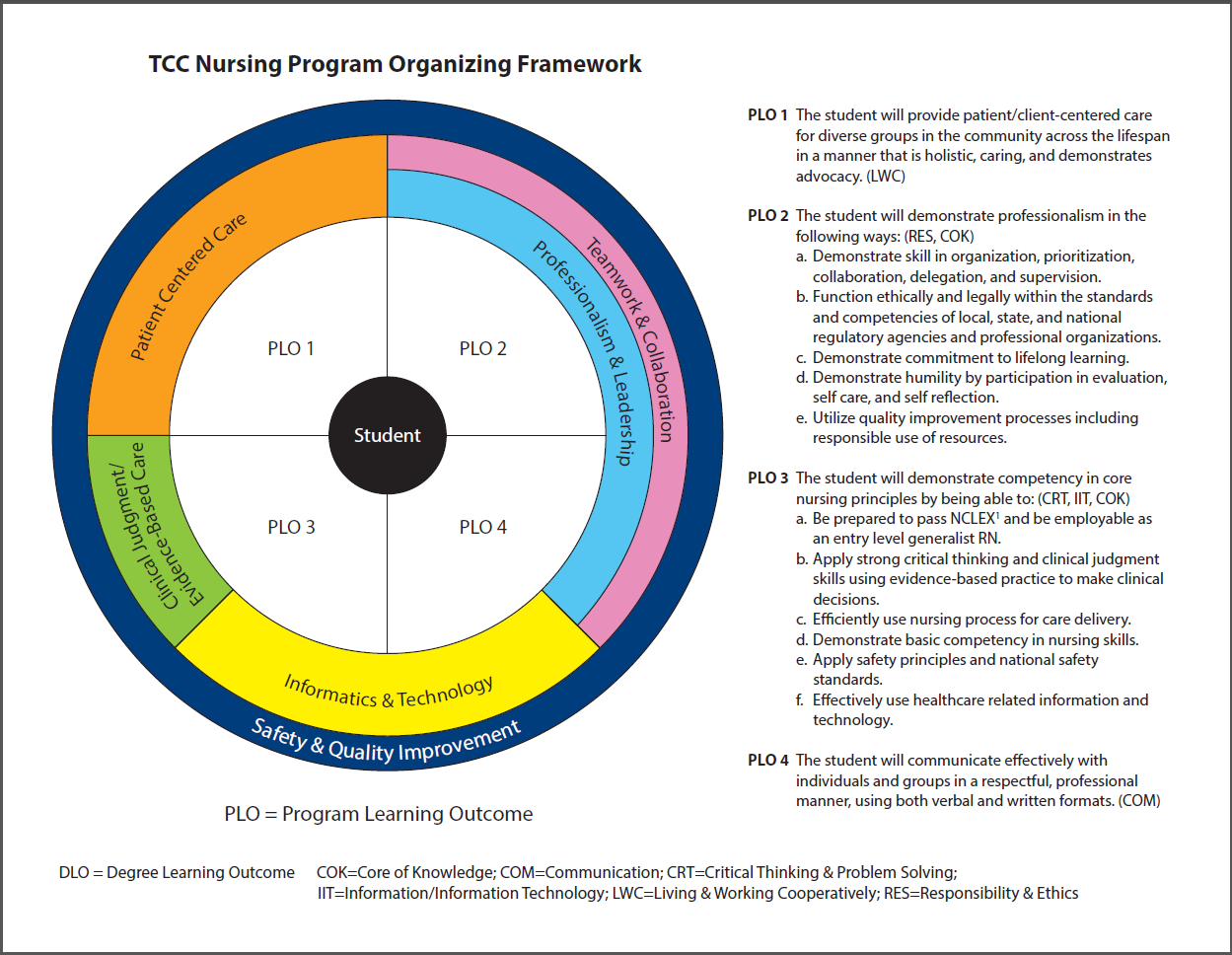
The health care system is a macro system that operates in the community to provide access to health services for the patient/client based on quality, safety standards and research based evidence. The nursing program supports the student’s practice and integration into the local and global health care system by incorporating the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the Quality Safety and Education for Nurses (QSEN) Institutes’ health care competencies.

### j0337245CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Tacoma Community College Nursing Program's organizing framework supports the college's mission and core themes to: create meaningful and relevant learning, inspire greater equity, and celebrate success in the lives of our communities.

As the role of the nurse in today's healthcare has become more complex, nursing education has become overburdened with content. The Nursing Program’s concept-based curriculum is defined by core concepts which help the student to shape and organize the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to provide high quality, safe nursing care in today's healthcare environment. The result is that the nursing program produces graduate nurses who are critical thinkers capable of high quality, safe patient care and are ready to join the workforce and serve the diverse local and global communities.

The following model is a visual representation of the nursing program curriculum's organizing framework. The nursing student is at the center of the model, and ensures that student-centered learning is always driving curriculum development. The student's educational journey is defined by the program learning outcomes which are grounded in the college degree learning outcomes and state and national nursing accreditation standards. The program is supported throughout by six curriculum themes that incorporate the Quality, Safety and Education for Nurses (QSEN) Institute core competencies for pre-licensure nursing programs. These themes are inherent in the nursing care of the patient/client at every stage of the lifespan, and are threaded through out the curriculum. The importance of continuously addressing these themes in the nursing program is represented by their presence in the model encircling the student and the outcomes.



### *Themes*

**Informatics & Technology**

The collection of patient/client and healthcare information is an essential component for the delivery of nursing care. Data collection and utilization is supported by high quality technology and information retrieval systems that enhance patient safety, impact clinical decision making and enhance health care outcomes.

The use of recognized electronic sources of health care information that is reliable, accurate and reflects evidence based practice and quality health indicators are utilized by the nurse to support the nursing process and provide safe, high quality nursing care.

**Safety & Quality Improvement**

Safety is an essential element in the delivery of nursing care and can refer directly to the protection of the patient/client, or the physical and technological environment that supports that care. The nurse promotes risk reduction through the use of established standards of care, supporting systems to include enhanced technology, and the use of recognized strategies for root cause analysis to identify and reduce errors.

The nurse has an obligation to promote and support individual and group safety in order to provide a healthy work environment that enhances patient/client care. This includes demonstrating professional behaviors, modelling open communication, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and conflict resolution.

Quality improvement is a tool used to gather and evaluate patient/client care data which drives improvement in the quality of health care delivery and health care systems. Evaluation of the data establishes recommendations and best practices in the healthcare profession at the national, organizational and individual level. Implementation of these recommendations in the form of evidence based practice, national patient safety standards, policies and procedures, and scopes and standards of professional practice can increase safety and improve patient/client health outcomes.

**Professionalism and Leadership**

Professionalism in nursing is driven by societal, organizational and regulatory acceptable norms. It is a set of standards, principles and guidelines that underpins the knowledge, behavior and attitudes of nurses whether in clinical, non clinical, managerial positions, or in academia. It reflects practice when interacting with vulnerable populations, members of the community or work colleagues. The nurse exhibits professionalism both on and off duty. The American Nurses Association scope and standards of practice addresses standards of professional performance in ethics, education, evidence based practice and research, quality of practice, communication, leadership, collaboration, professional practice evaluation, resource utilization and environmental health. Professionalism and professional behavior are fundamental concepts in QSEN competencies.

Leadership is a process of influence that compels others towards the achievement of a goal. In healthcare the goal is often quality driven, evidence based safe nursing care that results in positive patient/client outcomes. Rather than directing, leaders empower others to achieve their highest professional and career competence and potential.

**Teamwork and Collaboration**

The nurse routinely collaborates with others as a member of various interdisciplinary teams to promote the health and welfare of the organization, its staff, the patient/client and the work environment. He or she participates in decision making, planning and delegating care, within his or her scope of practice identifying the most efficient and effective means of accomplishing desired outcomes. To achieve this, effective communication skills are essential. The nursing student is exposed to various teamwork, collaboration and communication strategies while in the nursing program and is provided the opportunity to utilize these strategies in health care settings.

**Patient-Centered Care**

The nurse acknowledges that the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual well-being of the person/client is central to nursing care. Optimal healthcare outcomes are achieved when the patient/client is recognized as the source of control in decision making and delivery of care. Patient-centered care acknowledges individual differences, and respects the patient/client’s values, preferences and needs.

**Clinical Judgment/Evidence-Based Practice**

Clinical judgment is the ability to provide nursing care to a patient/client based on individual assessment and knowledge of evidence based practice that has been demonstrated to improve health care outcomes. In order to provide safe high-quality nursing care, the nurse must possess core knowledge, must apply that knowledge to patient/client care, and appreciate the importance of evidence based research to guide his or her practice. The nurse understands the necessity for lifelong learning in the nursing profession to maintain safe care using appropriate clinical judgment.

Evidence based practice grounded in nursing research is more likely to result in optimal patient/client outcomes in health care. Evidence based nursing research defines best practices for care and supports optimal clinical judgment and individualized effective care that remains patient-centered. By integrating and utilizing evidence the nurse improves on core knowledge and ensures lifelong learning and professional growth and development.

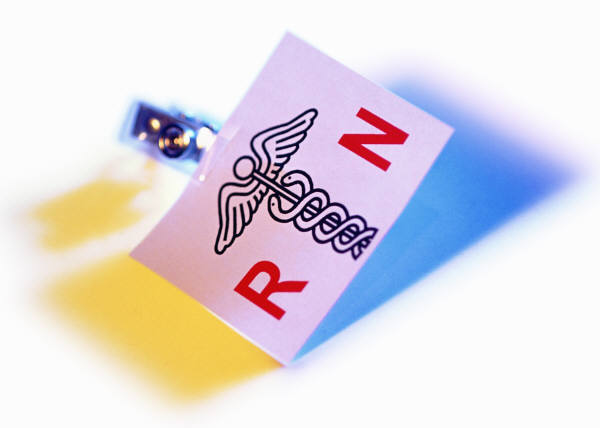
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### PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLO)

The themes of the organizing framework are aligned with the Program Learning Outcomes as demonstrated in the organizing framework model.

Upon successful completion of the Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer Degree:

1. The student will provide patient/client-centered care for diverse groups in the community across the lifespan in a manner that is holistic, caring, and demonstrates advocacy. (LWC)
2. The student will demonstrate professionalism in the following ways: (RES, COK)
   1. Demonstrate skill in organization, prioritization, collaboration, delegation, and supervision
   2. Function ethically and legally within the standards and competencies of local, state, and national regulatory agencies and professional organizations
   3. Demonstrate commitment to lifelong learning
   4. Demonstrate humility by participation in evaluation, self -are, and self-reflection
   5. Utilize quality improvement processes including responsible use of resources
3. The student will demonstrate competency in core nursing principles by being able to: (CRT, IIT, COK)
4. Be prepared to pass NCLEX and be employable as an entry level generalist RN
5. Apply strong critical thinking and clinical judgment skills, using evidence-based practice to make clinical decisions
6. Efficiently use nursing process for care delivery
7. Demonstrate basic competency in nursing skills
8. Apply safety principles and national safety standards
9. Effectively use healthcare related information and technology
10. Communicate effectively with individuals and groups in a respectful, professional manner, using both verbal and written formats. (COM)



### DEGREE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Tacoma Community College (TCC) has a responsibility to the larger community to guide its students toward becoming thoughtful, skilled, contributing citizens. To that end, we have developed outcomes (listed below) that we expect every degree recipient to meet. Yet much of what we hope students learn is not easily measurable, nor is it necessarily completed when they acquire a degree here. Intellectual curiosity and creativity, appreciation for a broad education, respect for self and others, a strong ethical conscience, resourcefulness in the face of change - these are qualities that may take time to develop, and may be attained beyond TCC in communities, workplaces, and other institutions of higher learning. We take seriously our role in nurturing these qualities while students are here and we try to cultivate in our graduates an awareness that the degree they earn here is not the end of their learning, but a beginning.

Upon completing a degree at Tacoma Community College, students will be able to:

**Degree Learning Outcomes**

* **Core of Knowledge (COK):** Demonstrate a basic knowledge of each of the distribution areas (Written Communication, Humanities, Quantitative Skills, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences) or, as applicable, specific professional/technical content, and program-level content and apply
* **Communication (COM):** Listen, speak, read, and write effectively and use nonverbal and technological means to make connections between self and others.
* **Critical Thinking & Problem Solving (CRT):** Compare, analyze, and evaluate information and ideas, and use sound thinking skills to solve problems.
* **Information & Information Technology (IIT):** Locate, evaluate, retrieve, and ethically use relevant and current information of appropriate authority for academic or, as applicable, specific professional/technical applications.
* **Intercultural Collaboration & Diversity (ICD):** Demonstrate successful application of an interdependent, diverse, and multicultural worldview through collaborative engagement.
* **Responsibility & Ethics (RES):** Demonstrate an understanding of what constitutes responsible and ethical behavior toward individuals, the community, and the environment.

### j0337245Concept-Based Learning in the flipped classroom

The nursing program utilizes a flipped classroom approach to learning. Flipped Classrom is defined as follows:

A collaborative instructional tool and educational technique between the educator and the learner in which:

* + The educator facilitates and guides student learning as they apply and reinforce concepts by providing relevant and concise student learning opportunities.
  + The student will take ownership and responsibility for his or her learning by engaging in independent study outside of the classroom and actively participating in dynamic and interactive learning activities in the classroom.
  + The learning environment departs from traditional face-to-face lecture and constructed with student-centered activities such as discussions, group activities, case students, and other active learning strategies.

Curriculum content is organized by concept. Students will learn nursing related concepts in each course and progressively build knowledge on previous concepts, as well as learn to link concepts together to provide holistic patient/client care. The following are the concepts included in the curriculum:

Communication

Culture and Diversity

Family

Spirituality

Caring Interventions

Assessment

Health, Wellness, and Illness

Nutrition

Sexuality

Reproduction

Development

Stress and Coping

Comfort

Self

Grief and Loss

Mobility

Sensory Perception

Fluid and Electrolytes

Acid Base

Inflammation

Tissue Integrity

Infection

Cellular Regulation

Metabolism

Immunity

Elimination

Oxygenation

Perfusion

Thermoregulation

Cognition

Violence

Mood and Affect

Neuroprotection

Behavior

Professional Behaviors

Advocacy

Clinical Decision Making

Legal

Health Care Systems

Informatics

Teaching and Learning

Safety

Evidence Based Practice

Collaboration

Managing Care

Health Policy

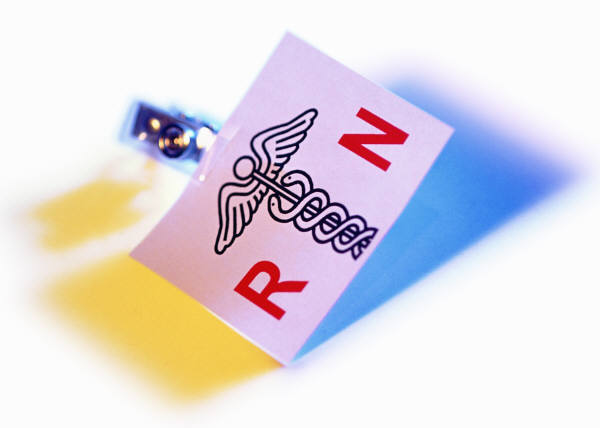
Ethics

Quality Improvement

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### AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS FOR NURSES

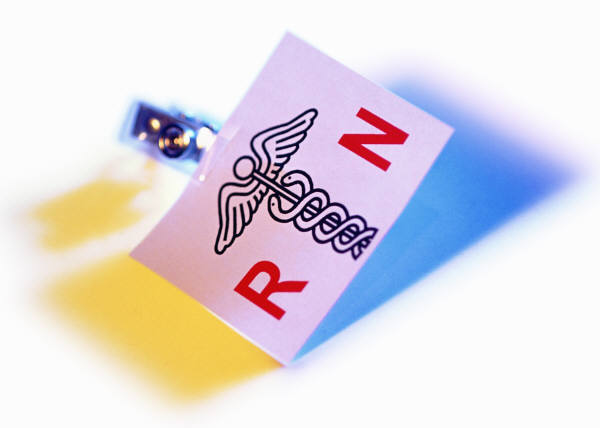
1. The nurse in all professional relationships, practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth and uniqueness of every individual, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes or the nature of health problems.
2. The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group or community.
3. The nurse promotes, advocates for and strives to protect the health, safety and rights of the patient.
4. The nurse is responsible and accountable for individual nursing practice and determines the appropriate delegation of tasks consistent with the nurse's obligation to provide optimum patient care.
5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to preserve integrity and safety, to maintain competence and to continue personal and professional growth.
6. The nurse participates in establishing, maintaining, and improving healthcare environments and conditions of employment conducive to the provision of quality healthcare and consistent with the values of the profession through individual and collective action.
7. The nurse participates in the advancement of the profession through contributions to practice, education, administration, and knowledge development.
8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public in promoting community, national, and international efforts to meet health needs.
9. The profession of nursing, as represented by associations and their members, is responsible for articulating nursing values, for maintaining the integrity of the profession and its practice and for shaping social policy.



# <http://www.nursingworld.org/default.aspx>

### ACADEMIC INFORMATION,

### POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

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### Promoting student success

The success of the Tacoma Community College Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer DegreeProgram revolves around faculty committed to quality education and students committed to the program curriculum. Developing a supportive atmosphere that promotes learning during the transition into an intense nursing program is a challenging task that requires constant nurturing. TCC assists students in this transition through a variety of on-campus programs and organizations. The ability to meet the needs of students is the key to retention and reflects the overall success of the Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer Degreeprogram. The faculty at TCC has carefully designed courses which enhance individual growth and promote academic success. By integrating nursing students into the educational community through orientation, tutoring, advisement, and mentoring, TCC promotes quality education and quality nursing care. These programs include:

**ORIENTATION**

A mandatory new student orientation (with family/significant others) is provided prior to the first quarter of the program to explain and answer questions. In this "open" atmosphere information is shared, program curriculum is explained, and students are welcomed into the program.

**PEER MENTORING**

Second-year nursing students are encouraged to offer assistance and support to first-year students as new students’ transition into the Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer Degree Program. Peer support has long been proven beneficial to ease concerns and stress associated with intense academic programs. Networking between peers helps promote student academic success.

**COUNSELING AND REFERRALS**

Specialty counselors available through referrals, including self-referrals, provide a myriad of services, including workshops designed to reduce test anxiety and stress as well as workshops to improve one's assertiveness. Counselors are available for confidential counseling to all students free of charge. Referrals are based on student needs and individual desires. Stress management focuses not only on the academic difficulty, but on the student's social integration as well. By integrating student needs and academic requirements, the success rate for students is enhanced.

**ADVISEMENT**

Each student is assigned a particular advisor as a pre-nursing student which continues through the entire program. Clinical instructors meet with each individual student at least two times per quarter to discuss and monitor performance. Classroom, clinical, and lab instructors are available during office hours or by appointment.

**TEACHING PLATFORM**

A variety of teaching platforms are used in the program. These include: face to face, web enhanced (a learning management system used to enhance the classroom experience), hybrid (at least 50% of the class is online), online (100% of the class is taught online.)

**STANDARDIZED TESTING**

The nursing program uses standardized testing as a means of providing both the student and the program, information about student and cohort learning and progress, as well as assisting in preparing the student for the licensing examination.  Standardized testing (NLN) is integrated throughout the curriculum and will contribute to student grades.

**NCLEX SUCCESS**

The program has an entire course dedicated to the preparation of students for success on the NCLEX. The course,

NURS 244, is a lab class that includes practice exams, two proctored exams, and two days of face-to-face review in a classroom setting. Students will be required to meet the designated score on all the exams and complete assigned remediation to pass the course as with all other courses.

**TUTORING**

Nursing tutoring is available free of charge for all students in the program during scheduled times. General tutoring is also available through the tutoring and writing center and MARC lab.

**STUDY/SUPPORT GROUPS**

Independent study with a small group of peers is recommended. This permits a student to repeat a particular experience or to master content in order to achieve learning at the same level as classmates. Group study with peers is recommended to reinforce material learned in class and to provide a support network, as well as to connect with the college.

**LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

Generally speaking, students proceed through the Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer DegreeProgram with a cohort of students. This group of students takes their courses together and creates a learning community of support.

**STUDENT COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION**

In order to meet the needs of students as much as possible, student participation in faculty meeting/committees is highly encouraged. Faculty solicit student volunteers via Student Nurse Organization and general announcements.

**STUDENT NURSE ORGANIZATION**

SNO is a TCC-sponsored club for nursing and pre-nursing students. Educational and recreational activities are organized by the group. Students are encouraged to participate in SNO activities, student government, and activities on campus.

**SUPPORT PERSON**

A student may opt to have another student or support person present for any scheduled student-instructor conferences if the student so desires. The support person must maintain confidentiality.

**CLASS MEETING WITH THE ASSOCIATE DEAN**

The Associate Dean of the Nursing Program occasionally meets with each cohort to discuss program issues and activities. The Associate Dean for Nursing holds open meetings with students periodically to allow students an opportunity to share concerns, provide feedback, and obtain answers to questions.

**STUDENT PROGRESS NOTE**

Faculty use the Student Progress Note form to provide students with helpful feedback on their progress in meeting course objectives so students can maximize their opportunities for learning and work toward success.

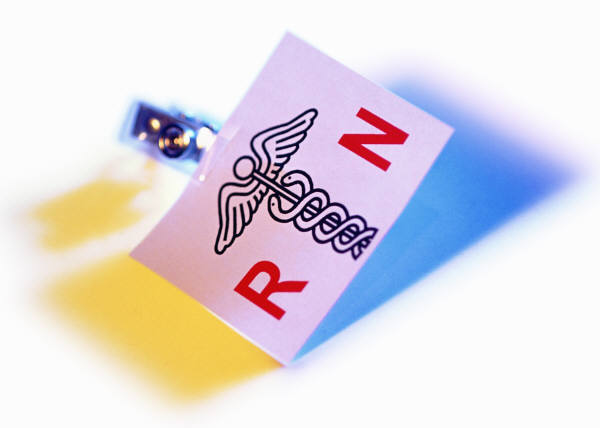
**EMPLOYMENT**

It is not recommended for a student to work more than 20 hours per week while a full-time nursing student. Some students may not be able to work even half-time and still keep up with their studies. The typical nursing student commits 60 hours per week to nursing school activities. Working outside of school may contribute to unsafe practices.

**TCC CAMPUS SUPPORT SERVICES**

A variety of college-wide support services are available to all TCC students.

[*http://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/*](http://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/)



### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

**Nursing Courses**

Most levels consist of a combination of theory, lab, simulation, and/or clinical courses. Theory courses include Health and Illness courses, Professional Concepts courses, and Pharmacology courses. Hereafter these will be referred to collectively as “theory courses”. In order to progress to the next level of the program, the student must achieve a minimum grade in all courses within a given level. This minimum grade is achieved by **ALL** of the following:

* A grade of "C" or better in each theory course. This is achieved by both a 79% minimum test average, and at least 79% overall course point average. In addition, items from the Professional Behaviors Rubric must meet the standard set in the syllabus.
* A grade of "C" or better in each clinical and simulation course. This is achieved by 79% of the course points available through assignments and the Clinical Evaluation Tool. In addition, items from the Professional Behaviors Rubric must meet requirements indicated in the syllabus.
* A score of 90% on the dosage calculation test within two attempts is required to pass each Pharmacology course.
* A "pass" in skills laboratory classes.
* A grade of “C-,” "D,” "E”, “U”, or "incomplete" is not acceptable in order to progress to subsequent levels of the program.

**A. Program Policy/Procedure**

* 1. Theory Classes - The nursing program schedule can be complex with classes being offered on many different days and at times that are not consistent from week to week. Students are expected to arrange their personal schedules to attend all theory classes.

2. Lab, Simulation, and Clinical Courses - There are multiple sections of these courses. Students are assigned to specific groups and/or specific preceptor experiences at the discretion of the Associate Dean, clinical placement coordinator, and full time faculty. Due to the high volume of preparation for these courses, section assignments are fixed and students are not permitted to change their assignments.

**B. Methods Utilized to Meet Objectives**

The following learning experiences will be used in relation to the course and unit objectives:

1. Assigned readings, utilization of multimedia, computer assisted instruction, internet instruction, and activities.

2. Lectures, seminars, group discussions, role-playing with instructors and various other resource people, case

study, group activities, student presentations and projects, journaling, game playing, peer evaluation, guided

problem solving, and simulations.

3. Supervised clinical experience with related pre- and post-conferences, walking rounds, skills practice and acquisition, observation of RNs and other health care providers.

4. Written assignments such as research papers, and clinical assignments.

5. Supervised skills laboratory experience, return demonstration videos, skills practice and acquisition. Students are expected to practice nursing skills on each other and serve as the “patient” for fellow students. The skills commonly practiced are: physical assessment, basic care, vital signs, safe patient handling/ transfers, and bandaging. All students are required to participate in these activities. Invasive procedures on a classmate such as IV starts, lab draws are optional practice opportunities, with consent.

6. Evaluation methods, such as peer and self-evaluation, practice tests, tests and test reviews. The nursing program uses standardized testing as a means of providing both the student and the program information about student and cohort learning and progress, as well as assisting in preparing the student for the licensing examination. Standardized testing is integrated throughout the curriculum and may contribute to student grades. A comprehensive standardized test will be administered during the final level of the program and students may be required to meet a designated score to pass the course and thereby complete the program.

**C. Methods Utilized in Evaluation**

Theory, clinical, and simulation courses are evaluated with a letter grade while lab courses are evaluated using a “Pass” or “Fail” grade which reads as a satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U) on the transcript. In order to pass a theory or clinical course, the test scores must be at least a 79% average, as well as the course overall average being at least 79%. The grade will be based on the average of quizzes, tests, and papers, or other assignments. However, if the test score average is less than 79%, the final grade will be based on the test average only, as compared with total possible course points, and will be less than a C (2.0) grade. In addition, Professional Behaviors Rubric standards must be met according to the criteria in the syllabus for each course.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A 4.0 = 95 – 100%  A- 3.7 = 92 – 94%  B+ 3.3 = 90 – 91%  B 3.0 = 87 – 89%  B- 2.7 = 85 – 86% | C+ 2.3 = 82 – 84%  C 2.0 = 79 – 81%  D 1.0 = 74 – 78%  E 0.0 = 73% or below |

* 1. **Theory Courses:** If a student does not pass a theory course, but is successful in the clinical course, they cannot move to the next level. The student must successfully complete all courses in a level before they can move to the next level.

The program has two 5-week theory courses in levels 1-5 that are sequential. If a student is not successful in the first health and illness course for their level this will result in the student not being able to continue into the second Health and Illness course. In addition, they will not have the content to be able to continue in their clinical course and must withdrawal at the time of failure of the first Health and Illness course. The clinical withdraw will not count as a failure. However, the course failure and the withdrawal may drop a student below the number of credits needed to maintain financial aid support. The student must repeat the failed Health & Illness course and the clinical course before moving to the next level of the program. Students will be strongly encouraged to take a N299 clinical elective should they need to repeat theory and have passed clinical.

* 1. **Skills Laboratory:** The skills laboratory grade will be based on observation of student performance. Students will be asked to demonstrate skills to peers and/or instructors using competency-based checklists and/or return demonstration videos. A student is expected to be competent and must meet the required standard before performing the skill in the clinical agency. The skill laboratory grade is a “Pass” or “Fail” grade (satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U)).
  2. **Simulation Courses:** The simulation course grade will be based on instructor observation of student performance, standardized rubrics, peer and self-evaluation, written assignments, and participation.
  3. **Clinical Evaluation:** The clinical grade will be based on instructor observation of students’ clinical performance as related to course learning outcomes, participation in clinical conferences, and written assignments. If the student does not pass the clinical course but is successful in the theory course, they cannot move to the next level. The student must successfully complete all courses in a level before they can move to the next level. The clinical course is numerically graded.

a. The student must successfully meet minimum standards of evaluation in both the clinical evaluation tool and other coursework as described in the course syllabus.

b. The student will be prepared for clinical experiences as outlined by the performance guidelines.

1) Adequate preparation includes:

* Performance of safe nursing practice at the appropriate level of competency.
* Application of previously taught nursing skills and concepts.
* Background information for planned activities.

2) Any student not prepared for clinical may be dismissed from the clinical area for the day, and the day

will be counted as an absence.

c. The student will be prepared for participation in related clinical conferences.

d. Regardless of previous passing grades on any given course learning outcome (objective), if a student is observed by an instructor practicing in an unsatisfactory manner at a later date, as determined by the clinical instructor, s/he may be asked to review and demonstrate competence in the expected outcome (objective). Repeated performance of this kind (i.e., passing an expected outcome – objective – but being unable to maintain clinical competence) will result in clinical failure and dismissal from the program.

e. All clinical courses include the course learning outcome “Apply principles of safety in the application of all clinical skills.” This critical outcome must be met at all times in order to maintain safe practice. Any student not meeting this outcome will receive a less than satisfactory grade at the end of the course and not be eligible to continue to the next level.

f. A student who misses scheduled clinical experiences may find it impossible to meet course learning outcomes. Absences for routine reasons will not be approved by instructors. Absences due to unforeseen circumstances will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

g. If unable to report for clinical experience, the student must follow directions given by the instructor for the particular agency. The instructor and clinical agency must be notified in advance if an absence is to occur. If the student does not follow the program procedure, the student may be required to withdraw or receive an unsatisfactory grade.

h. Students will wear the uniform of the school in the clinical setting except as directed by the course instructor. (See Dress Code.)

i. Tardiness (late arrival) and early departure from the clinical area are not acceptable and will be considered an absence. The student’s record will reflect missing the entire clinical day.

j. The clinical instructor may choose to remove a student from the clinical area if that student is unable to perform safely.

k. Documented dishonesty, chemical abuse, breach of client confidentiality, inappropriate or bizarre behavior will result in failure and/or removal from the nursing program.

l. If any clinical facility chooses to deny privileges to rotate through their facility due to the lack of any requirements, withdrawal from the nursing program will be required, or an unsatisfactory grade will be given.

* 1. **Level 6 NCLEX Prep Course -** NURS 244: The program has an entire course dedicated to the preparation of students for success on the NCLEX. The course, NURS 244, is a lab class that includes two practice exams, two proctored exams, and two days of face-to-face review in a classroom setting. Students will be required to meet the designated score on all the exams and complete assigned remediation activities to pass the course as with all other courses.

**D. Evaluation in Nursing Courses**

1. All nursing courses and/or clinical examinations or evaluations must be taken at the designated time and place. Exceptional circumstances may be considered at the discretion of the instructor or Associate Dean for Nursing. See course syllabus for course specific policies.
2. Any student who receives a final grade of a “C-“, "D", "E", “U” or “Incomplete” in a nursing course has not met the requirements of the course. Any student who fails a second course has not met the requirements of the program.
3. Any student who is achieving at a “C-“, "D", "E", “U” or “Incomplete” in a nursing course at mid-term or final, will be notified in writing.

**E. Official Withdrawal**

Students may officially withdraw from class(es) before the 30th calendar day of the quarter following the procedures listed below:

1. Through the 10th instructional day of the quarter, students must complete an "Add-Drop" form and submit it to the Registration Center. These courses will not appear on the transcript.
2. Between the 11th instructional day and the 30th calendar day of the quarter – Students must complete an "Add-Drop" form, obtain their instructor's signature, and submit the form to the Registration Center. A "W" will appear on the transcript.
3. A student can withdraw from a class with the letter grade of W up through the 55th calendar day of the quarter for fall, winter, and spring. In summer, a student can withdraw from a class with the letter grade of W up through the 31st calendar day of the quarter. If the student requests to withdraw from the quarter after that time, it is at the discretion of the instructor whether to give an "instructor withdrawal" (WI) or to give the earned grade at the end of the quarter.
4. Medical Withdrawal: Students who must withdraw from the college after the 30th calendar day of the quarter due to illness or a medical emergency must complete the appropriate form (available in the Registration and Records Center) and provide written medical documentation.
5. The student may return to the course on a space available basis, within 1 year, according to the policy as described below. There is no guarantee of a space being available.

***NOTE:*** *Students who are physically unable to come to campus to process an "Add-Drop" form must notify the Registrar in writing of their intent to officially withdraw. This notification must be postmarked by the 30th calendar day of the quarter.*

**F. Leave of Absence**

The nursing program is designed as a series of courses, which must be completed in sequence. Once a student is accepted into the program, it is assumed s/he will continue from quarter to quarter without a break, except summers and holidays. However, a student may request a “leave of absence” from the program. In order to not have it count as a withdrawal, a leave must be requested in writing no less than two weeks before the first day of instruction of the quarter for which the leave is requested.

**G. Readmission**

1. Any student who has failed one nursing course or has withdrawn from the nursing program may seek readmission to that course within one year of the quarter of withdrawal. Readmission to a course requires repeating the entire course.

2. Any student is permitted to repeat only ONE COURSE within the nursing program, regardless of whether the student failed or withdrew from the original course. Readmission to the program is **permitted only once** and is on a first come, first served basis according to the reapplication date. No further program reentries will be permitted beyond the one reentry to any nursing course.

3. If the reason for a student not passing a nursing course is due to academic dishonesty or other issues of misconduct, the student risks denial of a reentry option. The program may deny reentry to the program.

1. Timelines for Readmission: Any student seeking readmission or transfer into a quarter should contact the Associate Dean for Nursing, in writing, at least one quarter preceding that quarter. Reentries into the program must occur within one year of the quarter of withdrawal; provided that there is space available.

**H. Nursing Program Disciplinary Process**

###### **Program Disciplinary Actions:**

Failure to adhere to academic or clinical policies and standards of conduct, as outlined in program guidelines or handbook, will result in disciplinary action. Disciplinary matters not covered by this program policy will be dealt with according to college policy, Washington State Law, or TCC Student Code of Conduct. The sequence of program disciplinary actions is as follows:

1.**Program Warning**

a. A formal verbal warning will be given on the first offense at a clinical site or on campus. Evidence of this warning may be documented in the student program record.

b. A second offense (same or different), or a more serious initial offense, will result in a written warning. This will result in mandatory counseling by the program faculty, and may result in more serious disciplinary action.

2. **Program Probation**

a. Students may be placed on program probation as part of the disciplinary process.

b. Program probation involves a period of time with performance expectations specified in a contract during which the student's performance, in either the didactic or clinical setting, will be closely monitored. This will be through either the Clinical Evaluation Tool or the Student Progress Form. If the student has not met the performance expectations by the end of the probationary period, the student may be dismissed from the program.

3. **Program Suspension**

a. The student may be suspended from the clinical site or from classes for investigatory purposes following an alleged breach of program policies. Notice of this suspension may be oral, but will be confirmed in writing.

b. Suspension from attendance at the clinical affiliate for any reason will be reported to the Associate Dean for Nursing and the student in writing. This suspension from the clinical affiliate does not necessarily exclude the student from attending classes at the college.

c. Program suspension from the clinical site or classroom may result in the inability of the student to complete the course expected outcomes and possibly the program, and may be grounds for dismissal.

4. **Program Dismissal**

Students will be notified in writing of their dismissal from the program. Students may be dismissed from the program for any of the following reasons:

a. Failing two courses as a result of receiving a "C-,” "D,” "E” "U" (unsatisfactory) grade in a program course.

b. Failure to register for a given quarter during the appropriate time frame as established by the college.

c. Disclosure of confidential information.

d. Suspension or termination from any clinical site.

e. Failure to uphold attendance or other program policies.

f. Act of dishonesty including but not limited to the following:

1. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, academic misconduct or other forms of academic dishonesty.
2. Withholding information or furnishing false information to any college official, faculty member or office.
3. Forgery, alteration or misuse of any college or clinical site document, record, or instrument of identification.

5. **Appeals Procedure for Discipline and Final Grades**

If the student disagrees with the disciplinary action, the student has the right to appeal. Only the final course grade may be appealed. The student should understand that the process is time-consuming. Continuation into subsequent courses is not allowed during the appeal process if the course being appealed is a prerequisite to the subsequent course. Appeal of disciplinary actions will follow WAC 132V-121-070. Student grievance procedure for final course grades will follow WAC 132V-123.

**I. Student Records**

1. **Personal information:**

Students are required to inform their clinical instructor in writing (email, fax, letters, but no texting) and the nursing secretary of changes in name, address, email or telephone number in a timely manner. The student is entirely responsible for course or program information missed as a result of not updating their records in a timely fashion. Neither TCC nor the nursing program will be held responsible for any consequences that occur as a result of the student not providing this information in a timely manner.

2. **Summary record and release of information:**

a. A final summary record written by the last clinical instructor will be kept in each student's file for reference requests by potential employers.

b. A written request for release of information must be on file prior to releasing any information from the student's file to prospective employers.

**J. Essential Requirements for Nursing Students**

It is the belief of the nursing faculty that the profession of nursing is a highly respected one. The reasons for this are many, but a great deal of it has to do with the fact that clients put their lives in our hands. Clients place their trust in nurses and we, in turn, must be worthy of that trust.

In order to become a member of this trustworthy profession, there are several requirements that are essential. These have to do with responsibility, accountability, knowledge, skill, and safety. The Nursing Program has the responsibility to the public to assure that its students and graduates are competent in all of these areas at the appropriate level.

An important characteristic of all nursing professionals deals with responsibility. The Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission states in WAC 246-840-700, “Each individual, upon entering the practice of nursing, assumes a measure of responsibility and public trust and the corresponding obligation to adhere to the standards of nursing practice. The nurse shall be responsible and accountable for the quality of nursing care given to clients. This responsibility cannot be avoided by accepting the orders or directions of another person.” Nursing students as well as graduates are held to this standard.

The profession of registered nursing also requires the acquisition of nursing science knowledge and technical skills. The educational process to achieve the Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer Degreerequires assimilation of these, as well as the development of judgment for appropriate decision making.

Students and graduates must be able to function as safe practitioners. Patient/Client safety is a major concern for establishing requirements for capabilities of students. In order to safely function in the role of a student and/or registered nurse, one must exhibit physical, cognitive and behavioral abilities which are required for satisfactory completion of all aspects of the nursing program. In addition, there are professional attributes which are required by the profession. All of these are every bit as important as the knowledge and skills.

The Nursing Faculty believes it is important for students to thoroughly understand the essential elements of the profession. This begins at the point of entering the program. Students will be held to all the items listed below in “The Nursing Curriculum’s Essential Requirements”.

**THE NURSING CURRICULUM’S ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

**1. Observation**

1. Use of the physical senses (e.g., ability to visualize color changes in the skin, hear the heart and lung, feel masses, etc.).
2. **Intellectual, Conceptual**
3. Information acquisition
4. Data organization and coming to an appropriate conclusion
5. Measuring, calculating, reasoning, prioritizing
6. Demonstration of comprehension, memorization, analyzing and synthesizing material
7. Problem solving
8. Making a correct judgment in seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner
9. Following directions consistently and accurately
10. **Behavioral/Social**
11. Integrity, honesty
12. Empathy, compassion
13. Responsibility
14. Civility
15. Sensitivity to cultural differences, tolerance
16. Humanitarian concern, altruism
17. Functioning effectively under stress
18. Flexibility, adaptation to an unpredictable environment
19. Functioning as a team member
20. **Communication**
21. Effective communication (reading, writing, speaking) including the ability to process and communicate information in a timely, succinct, yet comprehensive manner.
22. Demonstration of responsive, empathetic listening to establish rapport, recognition of the significance of non-verbal responses, etc.
23. Fluency in the English language (as it is the only language used in this program).
24. **Motor**

In order to be successful in the TCC Nursing Program, a student must be able to consistently perform certain physical and mental tasks in a variety of settings. See Appendix II for a general job analysis for a nursing student which has been developed\* to assist in outlining these basic requirements. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation and to present supporting documentation.   
Access Services reviews all accommodation requests to determine reasonableness of the accommodations and to make necessary arrangements. Using the link below, please see Access Services for additional details: <https://www.tacomacc.edu/resourcesandservices/accessservices/>.

A temporary disability will be handled in the same way as a permanent one. A written release from a primary care provider may be required clearing the student to perform all tasks.

*\* Developed by private consulting firm in cooperation with Peninsula Community College and Shoreline Community College, 1995.*

**K. Background Check**

A check of student's background by Verified Credentials and the WA Access To Criminal History (WATCH) for criminal history Information will be required at the time of admission. In addition, a Disclosure Statement to grant TCC a limited agency must be signed prior to beginning the nursing program. Certain crimes on the record may hinder the student's ability to achieve course expected outcomes. The clinical agency may not allow a student to enter their facility due to the results of the background inquiry. If this occurs, the Associate Dean for Nursing will inform the student of their options. See Students with Positive Background Checks Policy in Appendix XIV.

**L. Drug Testing**

Drug testing is an expectation in various healthcare facilities. Students who enter the TCC nursing program should be aware that at any time they may be expected to undergo drug testing to meet clinical requirements. See “Substance Abuse – General Policy Statement” and “Drug Screening Policy” in this handbook for specific requirements.

**M. Nursing Law**

All students must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Regulation of Health Professions – Uniform Disciplinary Act, Chapter 18.130 RCW. The Law Relating to Nursing Care: Chapter 18.79 RCW and Chapter 246-840 WAC Practical and Registered Nursing.

The Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission has the authority to grant or deny licenses based on the conditions established in the Disciplinary Code. One basis for denying licenses is unprofessional conduct, which is described in RCW 18.130.180 and includes current misuse of alcohol, controlled substances or legend drugs. Upon graduation from the Nursing Program, the law allows for the voluntary Substance Abuse monitoring program in lieu of disciplinary action for nurses who have a history of substance abuse, in addition to not engaging in the conduct described in RCW 18.130.180.

**Therefore, the following conditions are required while in the nursing program:**

1. Abstinence from being under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages while at college facilities, college-sponsored events, or clinical sites. Behaviors that could indicate noncompliance would include: arriving on campus or clinical with alcohol on the breath, erratic or unsafe nursing practices due to use of drugs and/or alcohol, possessing any illegal drug while on clinical time, using any intoxicating liquor/legal substance or illegal substance within 24 hours prior to or while on clinical time, removing any drug from the institution or patient supply for any reason.

**N. Preceptorship**

1. The preceptorship experience is intended to round out the student preparing to graduate. Upon completion of this experience, the student is expected to meet all of the Program Learning Outcomes (page 12). Preceptor assignments are made by the faculty. Under no circumstances is the student to recruit a preceptor.

2. Special Costs for Students in the Final Nursing Quarter:

Students must plan ahead to cover their financial obligations during the quarter in which they have their preceptor experience. The preceptor experience occurs in the last quarter and is a 32+ hour work week. Students will work the schedule that their assigned preceptor works which could be 8, 10, or 12 hour shifts. Students cannot work full-time and carry out their school assignment during their preceptor experience. It is even difficult to work part-time! Additional child care provisions may also need to be made. Students will not be allowed to have a schedule which would require overlapping shifts between their student assignment and work assignment.

**O. Graduation**

1. **Approximate Costs at Graduation & Registered Nurse Licensing:**

NCLEX Review Course (optional) Variable

Graduation Regalia (optional) $36

Graduation Pin (optional) $70 – $200

NCLEX Exam $200

Washington State Licensing Fee $88

2. **Graduation Requirements:**

An Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer Degree (AAS-T)is awarded to the graduating student who has met the requirements of the nursing program. The student is responsible for ensuring that all necessary

classes are successfully completed prior to graduation.

The required courses are as follows:

* BIOL& 241 and BIOL& 242 (Anatomy and Physiology)
* BIOL& 260 (Microbiology)
* Bio&160 (General Biology)\*
* CHEM& 121 (Inorganic Chemistry)
* ENGL& 101 **or** ENGL& 102 (English) **or** ENGL& 103
* Psych&100 (Introduction to Psychology)\*
* PSYC& 200 (Lifespan Psychology)
* CMST& 101 – Introduction to Communication

**or** CMST 110 - Multicultural Communication

**or** CMST 210 - Interpersonal Communication

* MATH& 146 – Introduction to Statistics
* All Nursing courses in sequence.

\* BIOL& 160 and PSYC& 100 are required prerequisites for other TCC Nursing Program prerequisites. If these courses are not required at other institutions where prerequisites are taken, these courses may be waived.

**3. Graduation with Honors/High Honors:**

Refer to TCC Catalog for the college policy on graduation with honors and high honors.

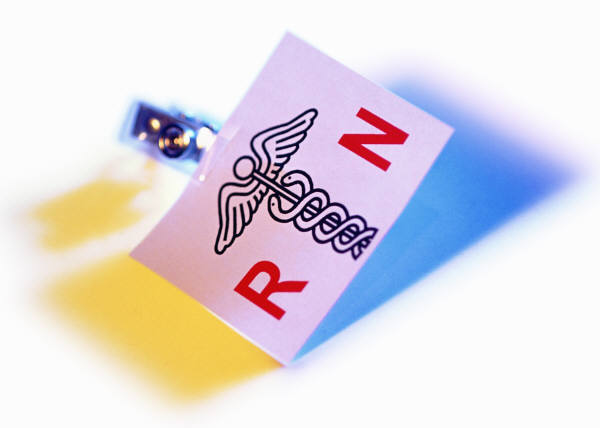
**P. NCLEX Registered Nurse Examination Application**

Students who successfully complete the nursing program are eligible to take the NCLEX (National Council Licensing Exam) for Registered Nursing. When instructed to do so, the student is responsible for filing the application and the paying the fee for the NCLEX exam. The application can be found at <https://www.ncsbn.org/nclex-application-and-registration.htm>. The exam is given year round after verification of completion of the Nursing Program.

**Application for Licensure as a Registered Nurse**

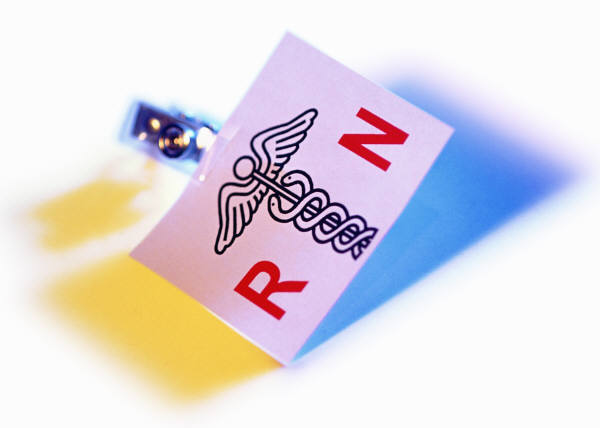
Graduating students must answer the questions on the State of Washington application. This can be found at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/NursingCommission/NurseLicensing/RegisteredNurse>.

If you answer "yes" to any of the questions, please make an appointment with the Associate Dean for Nursing so that any questions/concerns may be addressed immediately. Please refer to Appendix III.



### PERSONAL INFORMATION,

### POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

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#### APA PUBLICATION MANUAL

Students in the nursing program will use the American Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association to guide them in citations and formatting of their written work.  Faculty will also use these standards when grading papers and determining potential plagiarism.

**ATTENDANCE**

TCC’s Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer Degree (AAS-T)Program is a rigorous academic program of study that follows a linear curriculum plan. Scheduling of course sections and planning for lab and simulation experiences, and clinical site placements often occurs up to a year in advance.

Routine absences by the student in any theory, lab, or clinical courses can impact learning and, as such, affect a student’s ability to be successful in the course and/or program. The nursing program faculty recognizes that students are adults and often need make choices that may impact class attendance. The nursing student is expected to prioritize personal, work, and school requirements appropriately so that success is not impacted by routine absences. Routine reasons include, but are not limited to:

* Car maintenance
* Picking up extra shifts or hours at work
* Routine medical or dental appointments and exams
* Vacation
* Orientation or start to a new job
* Routinely picking up children from school/caregivers
* Attendance at events

Nursing faculty, clinical instructors, and administrative staff are unable to give permission for absences in any course for routine reasons. A student who decides to miss one or more classes in a course for routine reasons should weigh the benefits and consequences of such a decision carefully.

Nursing faculty and clinical instructors are under no obligation to provide a make-up session for any missed course exams, graded assignments, lab, simulations, or clinical opportunities in the event a student choses to be absent. This also applies if the student has communicated to the instructor, ahead of time, of their intent to be absent.

Medical illness or medical and family emergencies are often unanticipated/unforeseen and absence as a result of these is considered on a case-by-case basis. A student who misses class, lab, or clinical experiences due to unforeseen circumstances may not be able to meet the course learning outcomes and may receive a lower or failing course grade.

Due to scheduling constraints there are no make-up days for missed off campus clinical experiences, even in the event of an unforeseen emergency or medical illness.

**AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE STUDENT INFORMATION**

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the college will not provide information contained in student records in response to inquiries unless the student has given written consent to the college. This would include, but is not limited, to the following requests for:

* Letters of reference from faculty or the associate dean
* Release of academic information
* Letters for prospective employers
* Letters for scholarships

All students will be provided with a release form upon entering the program. Please see Appendix IV for an optional form to be used for specific student requests for release of information.

#### AUTOMATED DRUG DISTRIBUTION DEVICES (ADDD) (RX Station, Pyxis, etc.) – STUDENT USE

Many health care facilities utilize drug dispensing devices. These devices are regulated by the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission (WAC 246-872-030(5)(a). Organizations and educational institutions must assure safe medication administration by students using ADDD’s.

* All students will receive orientation to the use of ADDD’s, in the lab setting, as part of their medication administration training and validation.
* All students will receive orientation to the use of ADDD’s in the clinical setting as part of their clinical orientation. The clinical instructor is responsible for ensuring that the orientation has been completed before access by the student.
* Students will be given individual access codes to the ADDDs or must work with their instructor, preceptor, or staff RN to access these devices according to agency policy.
* Errors related to the use of ADDD’s will be reported using the “Just culture” rubric and program progress report.

#### CALCULATOR USE

Calculators may be used for class exercises and examinations to expedite your math calculations. Because calculators have limited use during the NCLEX examination, we suggest that you become familiar with the ability to perform simple mathematics calculations for medication and other formulas by hand.

#### CELL PHONE USE

Cell phones are strongly prohibited in the classroom, labs, and clinicals. If you have children or family members who have an emergency and need to get ahold of you while you are on campus in the classroom, they can contact the Nursing office staff via phone at 253.566.5085 or through email at [tstach@tacomacc.edu](mailto:tstach@tacomacc.edu) and we will find you and give you the urgent message. If you are in a clinical, give your loved ones your clinical instructor’s contact information from your syllabus and they can then get in touch with you through your instructor.

**CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY**

Chemical and/or latex sensitivity is a concern for anyone entering a healthcare profession since latex products are commonly used in these environments. While the nursing program uses non-latex products whenever possible, it cannot provide a latex-free environment to students in either the lab courses or in clinical placement sites off campus. Those with sensitivities can wear alternative vinyl or nitrile gloves, however they can still be exposed to latex residue of others working in the area or to latex present in equipment, models, supplies, or mannequins. Therefore, it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the hazards within the environment where they plan to study or work and to take appropriate precautions. Students will inform the nursing program of their allergy through the Point of Entry Survey, which is emailed to them after being accepted into the program. In addition, students should notify their lab and clinical instructors before their first class or clinical rotation has begun. The student shall also be responsible for sharing information about themselves regarding latex or other chemical sensitivities with the respective clinical agency.

**CHILDREN ON CAMPUS**

Children are welcome in most areas of Tacoma Community College and its off-campus centers. To protect children and to preserve the quality of the learning environment for all students, the college asks that adults observe the following guidelines when bringing children to the college:

1. Children must be closely supervised at all times by a responsible adult except when enrolled in special programs or classes.
2. Children may be allowed in classrooms at the instructor’s discretion. Some course materials discussed are not appropriate for children. The instructor has the right to refrain from permitting children in the classroom. Please check with instructors before bringing children to class.

The following areas contain specific hazards to children (chemicals and equipment) or require a quiet learning atmosphere for students. For these reasons, please do not bring children into:

1. Science laboratories
2. Computer laboratories
3. Laboratories in Building 13
4. Art studios

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

The quarterly schedule for the nursing program does **NOT** match the College schedule. The course number, title, and Item number is the same but the days, times, and rooms are not the same. Do not register for your nursing classes prior to being notified that the Associate Dean for Nursing has posted the final schedule in the Associate Dean’s Communication Group in Canvas. **The posted schedule is final with no changes.** This applies to each quarter in the nursing program.Staff will try their best to get the schedule out as early as possible because they understand your need to plan childcare, work, etc. But we cannot accommodate students’ special requests.

If you need to register for classes before the schedule is available due to financial aid requirements, register for the appropriate classes. Then, when the schedule is finalized, you may need to switch to a different class section. In that case you will just drop/add classes so that you get into the sections assigned to you by nursing program staff.

Should you need to register for co-requisite classes, please do so as soon as you receive your registration date. Then, go back into the registration process to complete registration for your nursing classes.

DO NOT follow the schedule in the online catalog. This information is NOT correct. **The quarterly schedule provided by the Nursing program will reflect accurate dates, rooms, and times.**

**New students:**If you have not registered for classes at TCC during the last two quarters, you should report to Enrollment Services in Building 7 and request to recode your status as an in-program nursing student in order for you to register.

We encourage students to register for their courses ONLINE, and it should be done after orientation. However, if you have questions you can also consult with Enrollment Services in Building 7. You will use your birth date as your PIN for class registration.

**Theory Classes**

The nursing program schedule can be complex with classes being offered on many different days and at times that are not consistent from week to week. Students are expected to arrange their personal schedules to attend all theory classes.

**CLINICAL ASSIGNMENTS**

There are multiple sections of required clinicals and labs. Students are assigned to specific clinical groups and/or specific preceptor experiences at the discretion of the Associate Dean, Clinical Placement Coordinator, and full-time faculty. Due to the high volume of pre-clinical preparation, clinical and lab assignments are fixed and students are not permitted to change their assignments.

No student will seek, solicit, explore, or network for their own clinical or preceptor experiences. Any student who engages in this activity is at risk of failing the quarter and potentially being dismissed from the program.

**CLINICAL EVENTS**

Washington Administrative Code 246-840-513 requires that any event resulting in patient harm, unreasonable risk of patient harm, or diversion of legend drugs or controlled substances be reported to the Washington State Nursing Commission within two business days and that all events are logged and tracked by the program. Therefore, when any adverse clinical event occurs, the student’s clinical instructor will complete the Student Practice Event Evaluation Tool (SPEET) (Appendix VII). This tool will be used to evaluate student practice events with consistency and fairness, while providing the opportunity to learn from mistakes and enhance patient safety.  See the “Just Culture” section in this manual for more details on this form. The student also will evaluate their actions by completing the SPEET form.  The instructor and student will discuss the event and any corrective actions needed.  A copy of the form will be given to the student, instructor, team leader, and the Associate Dean for Nursing.  The instructor will also place a copy in the student’s file.  If the event resulted in patient harm, unreasonable risk of patient harm, or diversion of legend drugs or controlled substances, as described in WAC 246-840-513, the Associate Dean will report the event to the Washington State Nursing Commission using the appropriate reporting forms. If a student has an active license with the Washington State Nursing Commission, the Commission may take action against the active license.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY**

All health occupations students are required to provide written documentation of immunity (either by antibody titers or documented immunizations) to Tetanus (Tdap), Measles (Rubeola), Mumps, and Rubella (MMR), Varicella, Hepatitis B, PPD (TB) skin test, Influenza.

Students who cannot comply with this requirement may be unable to meet the clinical requirements of the program since clinical affiliates require the College to document immunity of students assigned at that site. Therefore, failure to meet this requirement may well jeopardize the student's ability to complete clinical requirements.

Health occupations students may be assigned to care for patients who are immuno-compromised. Certain non-reportable diseases may be life threatening to those individuals; therefore, contagious students and faculty will be excluded from clinical and classes.

#### CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLIENT/PATIENT MATERIALS

During this course of study, you will have access to confidential client records. We insist that you identify all materials using client initials only. Any data collected as part of pre-clinical research or during the clinical experience must not have any identifiable data included. This includes, but is not limited to name, social security or other client identification numbers. Under **NO** circumstance may a student reproduce, in any way, a portion of a client record. It is not to be photocopied, printed, or photographed.

#### COSTS

The student is required to pay Tacoma Community College tuition and course fees and must also provide the following:

* Uniforms, including regulation shoes, laboratory coat, name pin, and Tacoma Community College patch for uniform and laboratory coat
* Wristwatch with sweep second-hand (can use a digital watch but it is not recommended)
* Stethoscope (with bell and diaphragm)
* Pen light
* Sphygmomanometer (with Large cuff)
* Tablet/e-reader
* Nursing license application fees
* Transportation to and from clinical facilities not located on campus
* Textbooks/resource packages

A cost estimate list may be obtained from Nursing Program Secretary.

### Discrimination - Title IX

Tacoma Community College is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment (sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and gender or sex-based bullying and stalking). If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, know that help and support are available. Tacoma Community College has trained counselors to support students. 253-566-5122.

Please be aware that all Tacoma Community employees, other than designated confidential resources, are required to report credible evidence of prohibited discrimination including sexual harassment and sexual violence. This means that if you tell a faculty or staff member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence that may have violated college policy or state or federal law, they have to share the information with their supervisor or the Title IX Coordinator of the college.

Students who wish to speak to someone confidentially should contact Beth Brooks, Title IX Coordinator, Building 14,

253-566-5054.

#### DRESS CODE

The first, and perhaps the most lasting, impression a nurse makes is their appearance. As a professional, you will want to wear your uniform with pride and confidence, with special consideration for dignity, cleanliness, efficiency, and modesty. The way you look will tell your client something about you and how you feel about your job and responsibili­ties. With this in mind, the following dress code has been established at Tacoma Community College.

**Uniform**

Students will wear a Navy blue outfit with a white collar to indicate they are students from Tacoma Community College. Students may choose their own uniform *style*, as long as the following criteria are met:

* Students may wear one-piece navy pantsuit or navy blue pants with a navy top and white shirt. A one-piece dress or nursing skirt/skort in navy is acceptable.
* The pants may be scrub pants without cuffs, or uniform pants. Jeans, jersey, and stretch pants are not acceptable.
* Both dresses and pant suits should have short or 3/4 length sleeves. Washable material is required. Sheer, tight, or see-through fabrics are not appropriate.
* Skirt hem lines shall be appropriate to the work environment.
* All uniforms should fit to allow for comfortable sitting, bending, stretching, etc. Large pockets are recommended. All materials must be washable.
* A white polo shirt or mock/turtle neck with **only** the collar showing will be worn under the top of the uniform. **A tunic, open down the front, with white showing the full length is unacceptable**.
* White or natural tones of hosiery are required.
* White professional shoes with closed toes and heels shall be worn; clogs with closed toe and back strap are acceptable.
* Clean white professional-looking tennis shoes are allowed. The shoes should have no colored adornments; commercial logos should be non-distracting.
* Students finding a double-layer top uncomfortable may substitute a white dickey or false collar for the white shirt.

**Identification**

The regulation school identification patch is worn on the left upper chest. If a sweater/tunic is worn in the clinical area, it should be solid white and washable, with the regulation patch worn on the left upper chest. It is acceptable to pin the patch to the outer layer if this is done without the pins being visible. The regulation school identification patch shall be worn on all layers that may be worn uncovered.

The name tag is worn on the left side of uniform, sweater, or lab coat. The name tag should include Name, Nursing Student, (photo identification may be required by facility). These must be ordered through the campus student services.

**Hair**

Hair should be clean, out of the face, and either pulled back or off the collar during labs and clinical (neat pony tails, braids, and buns are acceptable). Hair should be worn in such a way that it does not enter the client environment. Facial hair must be clean and neatly trimmed.

**Nails**

Nails should be clean and short. Clear, unchipped polish is acceptable. Artificial nails are not acceptable.

**Wrist Watch**

Watch should have a metal or plastic band and have a second hand. Digital watches are not recommended.

**Jewelry**

Ring without a stone (plain band), a fine gold or silver chain necklace and/or small stud (non-dangling) earrings. Ornate jewelry is **NOT** acceptable with the uniform. No bracelets of any kind are to be worn.

**Cologne/Perfume**

Cologne/perfume should not be used. Unscented personal care items are recommended. All students must wear deodorant (unscented only).

Should a student appear at clinicals or simulation courses in inappropriate attire or with poor personal hygiene, the instructors have been authorized to ask the student to leave the clinical area until the condition(s) is/are corrected and this time will be marked as an absence.

Some of the clinical facilities where you will practice will have additional uniforms and/or appearance requirements. You will be informed of these special requirements as you are oriented or as they are adopted. In all instances you must adhere to the policies for dress and appearance in the agencies where we are guests.

**Tattoo/Body Piercing**

No visible tattoo – all tattoos that would be visible in the TCC nursing uniform must be covered with a natural colored bandage at all times during clinical. No visible body piercing is allowed (earrings exception stated above). No tongue piercing is allowed.

#### DRUG SCREENING POLICY

**General Information:**

All TCC nursing students will be participating in clinical courses at local medical facilities where they will work directly with patients and practice their nursing skills. Some of these facilities may require students to complete a drug screening before being allowed to begin this clinical requirement.

Tacoma Community College, as a State of Washington employer, must uphold the US Constitution. The fourth amendment protects citizens from “suspicion-less searches.” A suspicion-less search is one conducted without any reason to suspect evidence of a crime. Doing drug testing of all students attending a specific hospital for their clinical would mean conducting suspicion-less searches. Therefore, this puts the Nursing School in a direct conflict with any medical facility that has this requirement. And, we cannot legally ask our students to complete a drug screening. To resolve this issue, the nursing program communicates to students the requirements of each facility, making it very clear that these are healthcare facility requirements and not those of TCC.

#### Purpose

The TCC nursing school works very closely with local medical facilities who allow our nursing students to practice clinical skills by working with their facility’s patients or residents. This is done under the close supervision of TCC nursing faculty and is a mandatory component of our nursing educational program. It is critical to the success of students. Therefore, it is very important that the nursing school create and maintain a positive working relationship with these facilities. We need to abide by their clinical placement requirements. However, we also must uphold the US Constitution. This drug screening policy enables the nursing school to satisfy both of these requirements.

#### Definition

A drug screening is a tool used by the medical community to determine what chemical substances are present in an individual’s bloodstream. It involves one or more analytical techniques and can be general in nature, or very selective and looking for commonly abused substances that may negatively impact an individual’s judgment, behavior, or motor skills.

#### Policy

1. Notify all nursing students, at the time of their nursing orientation, that they may be required to complete a drug screening as part of eligibility requirements for attending clinical rotations at certain local medical facilities.
2. Inform the students that, if asked to submit a drug screening, it is the requirement of a medical facility and not the nursing school.
3. At no time does the nursing program want to know the results of any drug screening for a student or faculty member.
4. No drug screening result is ever to be sent to the school; it is to be sent directly to the clinical placement coordinator of the medical facility who is requesting the screen.
5. If a clinical facility alerts the program that a student cannot come to the facility, they cannot report the reason, if it is related to a drug screening. The TCC nursing program will then place the student in another facility.
6. Should a student be assessed as impaired by the faculty, the college policy on Substance Abuse will be initiated.
7. Any expenses for testing or treatment will be incurred by the student.

#### EDUCATIONAL PLANNING DAY

Because you are in a sequential program of study, you may receive information for registration for each subsequent course during the prior quarter. Although formal classes are not held on these Educational Planning days, you will be held accountable for preceptor assignments and pre-clinical research if it is your normal assignment day.

#### FINANCIAL AID

The Financial Aid Office is located in Building 14. If you are unable to afford the cost of your education, the staff of this office will help you obtain loans, grants, and scholarships. Short-term, interest-free loans are occasionally available to help with unplanned expenses. Several Nursing scholarships are given each year; check with the Financial Aid Office as to the appropriate times to fill out forms and these other scholarships. (They must be done in advance when seeking a scholarship for the entire school year.) There are some scholarships for each quarter, so again, check with the Financial Aid Office about deadlines.

#### HIV-INFECTED STUDENTS

There is no evidence that healthcare personnel infected with HIV virus have transmitted this infection to patients while performing their routine job responsibilities. Precautions to prevent transmission of HIV infection from possibly infected students to patients are necessary. However, these recommendations will apply to all students, not just those identified as having HIV infection.

1. All students must perform adequate handwashing before and after patient contact.
2. All students must wear gloves for direct contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin of all patients.
3. Students who have exudative lesions or weeping dermatitis will refrain from direct patient care and from handling patient care equipment until the condition resolves.
4. Students infected with HIV who perform invasive patient care procedures will double glove.
5. Students infected with HIV will be counseled about the potential risk associated with taking care of patients with transmissible infections. The student's personal physician should determine whether the individual can safely perform patient care duties as a student.
6. If a patient is exposed to blood or body fluids of a student with HIV infection, the patient will be informed of the incident. The student will abide by the hospital and/or clinical policies in effect in this situation.

**Tacoma Community College will comply with AIDS omnibus legislation, which requires AIDS education of health professionals.**

**HONOR SOCIETY**

The nursing program has a nursing honor society in conjunction with the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN) As an Honor Society Chapter, the program has established the Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society which recognizes the academic excellence of students in the study of Associate Degree Nursing. The society shall encourage the pursuit of advanced degrees in the profession of nursing as well as continuing education as a life-long professional responsibility. Students become eligible after meeting specified GPA requirements, professional and ethical behavior standards and completing designated projects. For more information see the nursing program Administrative Assistant.

#### IMMUNIZATIONS/HEALTH CLEARANCE

Completion of Health Records: Every student in the Associate in Applied Science Nursing Transfer DegreeProgram is required to obtain and maintain current documentation of specific immunizations and health clearance information. Each clinical facility that the student may participate in during the course of the program requires the TCC Nursing Program to verify and keep this documentation on file. Each facility has the authorization to audit students’ files for accuracy. If a student is not in compliance, the nursing program may be in jeopardy of being refused admittance into that clinical site due to patient safety.

Specific immunizations/health clearance requirements are sent to each student at the time of acceptance into the program. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure all records are current and up-to-date during their active participation in the nursing program. A current list of immunizations/health clearance requirements may also be obtained from the Nursing Program secretary.

The TCC nursing program utilizes an external company to track and confirm student compliance with maintaining required clinical documents. Students are expected to meet the program requirements by using the CertifiedBackground.com or VerifiedCredentials.com websites and follow the specified procedure to upload and maintain immunization records. All required clinical documents for clinical placement are due by the deadline published each quarter on the clinical deadline document in the Associate Dean’s Communication site on Canvas. In addition, all Verified Credentials documents that expire before the start of the quarter or are due within 60 days after the first day of the quarter, must be submitted/uploaded by 5:00 pm on the first day of the quarter.

If the student does not comply with updating his or her file with current documentation by the first day of the academic quarter, he or she will not be allowed to attend clinical for the entire quarter, must un-enroll from the clinical course, and this will count as a course failure. The TCC Nursing Program is a sequential program and students must attend and pass all courses, including the clinical rotation, each quarter to progress to the next quarter/level. If a student is not permitted to attend a clinical rotation due to noncompliance with required clinical documentation, he or she will not progress to the next quarter/level, until the clinical course has been completed with a passing grade. Once the student is in compliance with all clinical documentation, he or she will be allowed to re-enroll in the clinical course during the next available quarter (when space is available). This policy revision goes into effect January 1, 2017.

In order to complete the required clinical rotations, nursing students must provide the following additional documentation upon acceptance into the program:

Health Clearance:

1. Hepatitis B Series - Proof of immunity by vaccination (3 doses) and a positive titer:

If you received the 3 required doses as a child, a positive titer is still needed.

If you have a titer drawn and it is negative you should complete a new series and repeat titer. If negative the second time you are considered a non-responder. Student will be allowed in clinical during repeat series as long as the student signs a Hepatitis B waiver.

1. Influenza - Proof of immunity by vaccination. This vaccination must be current (based upon current flu season requirements).
2. MMR - Measles (rubeolla), Mumps, Rubella - Proof of immunity by vaccination (2 doses) or titer.
3. PPD (TB) – We require the 2 step PPD. If the 1st PPD test is negative then you will need to obtain a 2nd PPD within 1-3 weeks. Yearly annuals are required after your 2 step. If you have a new positive TB result, history of a positive TB, or have had the BCG vaccination you must provide proof of chest x-ray. The x-ray must be after the positive result and within the last five years. You will need to submit negative symptom checks annually. (must be within the last 12 months). If you have no proof of a positive TB test you will need to re-test to show history.

NOTE: If administered concurrently, or shortly after, a live virus vaccine (such as varicella), a TB skin test may produce a false negative.

1. Tetanus – Tdap vaccination must be within 10 years.
2. Varicella (Chicken Pox) - Proof of immunity by vaccination or titer. For proof of immunity by vaccination, you must show 2 doses of vaccination.

Information regarding health clearance procedures will be sent to those accepted into the program. *Note: These requirements are subject to change.*

**INCIDENT REPORTING AND TRACKING**

WAC 246-840-519 requires nursing programs to have written policies/procedures on Incident Reports and tracking of reports that are specific to nursing students. Currently, these are limited to the following:

1. **Clinical Events** resulting in patient harm or has the perception of patient harm. See section on “Clinical Events” for full details. Clinical Events are reported by the student’s clinical instructor using the Student Practice Event Evaluation Tool (SPEET) form and are reported to the Washington State Nursing Commission according to legal guidelines. The nursing program tracks these each quarter on a spreadsheet that captures all information required by law. It is reviewed each quarter by the Nursing Program Assessment Committee.
2. **Student Accidents**. If a student is involved in any type of accident while on campus or during a clinical course, a Report of Student Injury/Incident/Accident Student Accident Report is completed by the staff or faculty member who witnesses or responds to the incident. The form captures descriptive information of what occurred and what actions were taken. This is given to the Associate Dean for Nursing and the Health, Business & Professional services Dean who review and take any actions required to prevent future accidents or address additional issues related ot the event.

However, students should be aware that they can report the behavior of students on campus that they consider dangerous, inappropriate, threatening, or disruptive. This is done by accessing the Student Conduct Report located on the TCC Portal (most easily through dashboard quick links in “Security”). These reports are received by the Director for Student Conduct, Compliance, & Partnerships and are reviewed for an appropriate response. Copies may be distributed to any parties considered appropriate for the containment or management of the incident or who may be affected should additional incidents occur. Campus violence across the country has escalated in recent years. It is believed that serious incidents that often result in deadly consequences can possibly be prevented if negative patterns of behavior are identified early and steps are taken to address root issues or attitudes that fuel the behavior. That is one of the key purposes of this important reporting form.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Nursing is a dangerous profession. Risks include, but are not limited to HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B & C, Tuberculosis, Influenza, C-differential, Staphylococcus, Streptococcus and other viral or bacterial pathogens. The goal is to accept the risk and then train to minimize risk. Nevertheless, risks remain. A student must be willing to accept the risks. Healthcare personnel will not be excused from caring for a patient with a communicable disease on their own request. Healthcare workers who may be immunosuppressed or have a clinical condition which may confer an increased risk should provide a written statement to that effect from their private physician.

Students may be required to care for patients who are unidentified carriers of infectious diseases. Therefore, to minimize exposure to pathogens, students in the Health, Business, and Professional Services Division must follow the universal precautions as currently outlined by the CDC when caring for ALL patients. The same universal precautions will be followed when performing laboratory procedures on campus. Program faculty, therefore, must inform students of the required universal precautions and of the necessity to follow those guidelines.

If a student sustains parenteral or mucous membrane exposure during routine patient care, individual hospital or agency policy will determine patient testing and student follow-up. All testing will be done at the student’s own expense. During the follow-up period, the exposed individual will be referred to their private physician for appropriate care.

#### INSURANCE AND OTHER CLINICAL SITE REQUIREMENTS

1. Health Insurance - Students are required to maintain their own health insurance as it is required by the clinical agencies. The cost of injury or illness during the clinical experience is the responsibility of the individual student. Verification of health insurance will be required to show proof of coverage with coverage period. If the name on the card does not match yours (the student), proof of coverage from the provider is required.
2. Vehicle Insurance - TCC students who drive themselves to clinical, are required to show proof of automobile insurance. The documentation has to include proof of coverage with coverage period. If the name on the document does not match yours (the student) proof of coverage from the provider is required.
3. HIV/AIDS Training - Certificate of Completion showing 7 hours of training.
4. Professional License (if applicable) - LPN License (current, unencumbered, Washington State.)
5. CPR – Only the American Heart Association "Healthcare Provider" or "Basic Life Support (BLS) for Professional Rescuer" will be accepted. Online courses are not acceptable. Your name must appear on this document.
6. Training. Module by CPNW #1 (Uploaded under Training HIPAA)
   1. Bloodborne Pathogens and Workplace Safety
   2. Infectious Medical Waste
   3. Compliance
   4. Patient Safety
   5. Emergency Response Procedures
   6. Standard Precautions
   7. Patient Rights

#### Finger Printing/Drug Screening: Some clinical agencies may require students to submit to other procedures such as finger printing or drug screening, before clinical placement. Any expenses for testing or treatment will be incurred by the student. If the results of the drug screening prevents a student from attending their clinical, the policy on substance abuse will be initiated.

#### INVASIVE PROCEDURES

During the nursing program you will be participating in laboratory activities in which learning by students requires the use of human subjects as part of the training procedures. As part of your learning activities you may be asked to perform specific skills or be asked to be the subject of specific skill practice by other students.

Learning activities that use human subjects shall be conducted under the supervision of the instructor who has been assigned to teach the course. Before involvement as a human subject, a student must willingly give informed consent. If under the age of eighteen, informed consent must be obtained from the parent or the legal guardian unless the participant is determined to be an emancipated minor. See Appendix V for complete policy. See Appendix VI for Informed consent for coursework requiring human subjects.

#### JUST CULTURE

“Just Culture” is a concept used by hospitals and schools where clinical practice events are reviewed and analyzed from a holistic view in an effort to ascertain any mitigating or aggravating factors that contributed to the event and then determine an improvement plan or discipline action. The principle behind a “Just Culture” environment is this: Discipline needs to be tied to the behavior of individuals and the potential risks their behavior presents more than the actual outcome of their actions.

In 2010, the ANA came out with the following “Just Culture” position statement: “The ANA supports the Just Culture concept and its’ use in healthcare to improve patient safety. The ANA supports the collaboration of state boards of nursing, professional nursing associations, hospital associations, patient safety centers, and individual healthcare organizations in developing regional and state-wide Just Culture initiatives.”

A “Just Culture” Method:

* Places focus on evaluating the behavior, not the outcome;
* Requires leadership commitment and modeling;
* Distinguishes between normal error, unintentional risk-taking behavior and intentional risk-taking behaviors; and reckless behaviors;
* Fosters a learning environment that encourages reporting of all mistakes, errors, adverse events, and system weaknesses (including self-reports);
* Lends itself to continuous improvement of work processes and systems to ensure the highest level of patient and staff safety;
* Encourages the use of non-disciplinary actions whenever appropriate (including coaching, counseling, training and education);
* Holds individuals accountable for their own performance in accordance with their responsibilities but does not expect individuals to assume accountability for system flaws over which they had no control;
* “Just Culture” encourages discussion and reporting of errors and near misses without fear of retribution. It is a culture that focuses on the behavioral choices of the individual, not merely the fact that an error occurred or that a bad outcome resulted from an error.

It is inevitable that individuals, including nursing students, make mistakes in today’s complex and interdependent health care environment. Most errors take place within complex systems; however, when errors occur, the immediate solution is to blame an individual for the error. Blaming individuals creates a culture of fear, discourages open reporting and discussion of errors, and does little to prevent future errors or improve the safety of the health care system.

“Just Culture” in Nursing Programs uses a Student Practice Event Evaluation Tool (SPEET) (Appendix VII) developed by the NCBON\* for evaluating practice events and determining whether the actions of the individual student warrant consoling, coaching, counseling, remediation, or disciplinary action. This tool will be used to evaluate student practice events with consistency and fairness, while providing the opportunity to learn from mistakes and enhance patient safety. Washington Administrative Code 246-840-513 requires that any event resulting in patient harm, unreasonable risk of patient harm, or diversion of legend drugs or controlled substances be reported to the Washington State Nursing Commission within two business days.

\*Permission to use the tool was obtained by the WSNCQAC Spring 2015 (CNEWS).

See Appendix VII for the “Just Culture” Rubric used by the TCC nursing program.

#### LEAVE FOR FAITH AND CONSCIENCE

Students are entitled up to two days of excused absences per calendar year for reasons of faith and conscience or for organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church or religious organization. (see Appendix VIII for complete policy and forms)

#### LIABILITY INSURANCE

TCC students assigned to clinical sites are automatically charged a lab fee which covers liability insurance providing they work within the boundaries for which they are trained. The student may purchase additional coverage.

**Medical Authorization to return to clinicals**

A student should not attend clinical courses while ill, impaired, or recovering from illness or surgery. The program has the right to withhold a student from continuing or returning to a clinical setting until such time as they are satisfied that the student’s condition does not risk the safety of the student or patients in the healthcare facility. Instructors may ask a student who seems “ill” or unable to provide safe nursing care to leave the clinical facility. Students who have been under a physician’s care for an illness, injury, or surgery that resulted in absence from their clinical course will be required to provide the Associate Dean for Nursing with a TCC “Medical Release” Form that has been completed and signed by their healthcare provider. This form is found in Appendix XVI.

**Military Deployment**

A nursing student in good standing, called to active military duty, will not be penalized for this service. Depending upon where the student is in the quarter and the anticipated length of deployment, an “incomplete” or withdrawal will be made based upon the discretion of the instructor. This will not count as a withdrawal from the program for readmission purposes. A leave of absence will be automatically implemented for the student by the Associate Dean for Nursing. Readmission criteria to the program are the same as for any other student.

#### NURSE TECHNICIAN/NURSING ASSISTANT

Upon successful completion of at least two levels of the nursing program, students are able to apply for employment in hospitals or long-term care facilities as a Nurse Technician.  **Note: You may not work for an agency or clinic as an NT.**

In the Nurse Technician role, the student may be employed to perform all the skills that have learned thus far in the program. The legal role of the nurse technician is found at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=246-840-840> and additional information in WACs 246-840-010, WAC 246-840-840 and 246-840-521).

When a student finds a nurse tech job the following procedure should be followed:

* Review the legal responsibilities of the position found at:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=246-840-840>

* Go to the Dept. of Health website and download the following paperwork: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/NurseTechnician.aspx>
  1. Application Form
  2. Education Verification Form
  3. Employment Verification Form
  4. Aids Education and Training Attestation
* Submit Employment Verification Form to your potential employer to verify a job offer.
* Submit the Education Verification Form to the TCC nursing program secretary for signature; secretary will provide you with a recruiting letter and a skills list.
* Submit the recruiting letter and skills list to the Nurse Tech Recruiter.
* Mail in your application and forms listed above, along with the application fee, to the Department of Health, who will provide you with proof of successful application.

At the successful completion of each quarter, students can request a new skills checklist from the secretary and submit to the employer to verify completion of courses and qualification to perform more advanced skills. Note: If you fail a course, you must immediately let the employer know about the failure.

Students may also opt to take the Nursing Assistant Certifying Exam upon successful completion of the first two levels. You may contact the Department of Social and Health Service web site for further information.

#### Personal Electronic Device Usage in Clinical Settings

#### The TCC Nursing Program supports the use of electronic devices in the clinical setting as a tool for enhancing learning and as a foundation on which students will build skills for professional responsibilities in this area. Electronic devices include personal computers, tablets/iPads, or smart phones. However, care must be taken to follow important CDC safety guidelines as well as HIPPA privacy requirements and these devices can never be used for personal or social business while in clinical. All students must follow the policy is listed in Appendix W, “Policy for Personal Electronic Device Usage in Clinical Settings”.

#### PINNING CEREMONY

Nurses have traditionally celebrated their rite of passage into the profession of nursing by a "pinning ceremony.” The placing of the TCC nursing pin on the new graduate by the program faculty is similar to the granting of a diploma, but is unique to the profession of nursing. It is the time when the new graduate is recognized by the faculty as a peer rather than a student and is welcomed into the profession.

The TCC Nursing Faculty are supportive of your desire to celebrate this significant event in your lives. It is up to each class to decide how they wish to celebrate in consultation with the Associate Dean for Nursing. Some of the possible options include:

1. Design and implement a "Pinning Ceremony" separate from the TCC commence­ment activities. Students are responsible for the planning and fund raising for this event; however, faculty must be consulted in the process.
2. Attend the TCC commencement activities (conducted in June only), which celebrates academic achievement.

Faculty involvement in these ceremonies is not mandatory. If the "pinning" is done at the commencement ceremony, the Associate Dean for Nursing will have the honor of pinning. If the class chooses to have a separate celebration ceremony, students may select the person to "pin" them. Only students who have successfully completed the entire nursing program may participate in the ceremony.

**PREGNANCY GUIDELINES**

A student in the Nursing program who has reason to believe she may be pregnant has the option of voluntary disclosure to the Nursing Program Associate Dean. Such voluntary formal notification is requested in order that the program has the pertinent information needed to limit occupational hazards to the developing fetus.

Upon voluntary formal notification of the pregnancy, the Associate Dean will advise the student of her option to take a leave of absence or remain in the program with any modifications as identified at the time of notification. The student will be asked to sign a statement indicating that she has received counseling and was advised on any necessary precautions required during the course of the pregnancy.

Students who have disclosed they are pregnant will not be asked to participate in known occupational hazards for pregnant women. They will be asked to present an accommodations form to each clinical instructor. Note not all hazards are known. See Appendix IV for complete policy and forms.

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR INFORMATION**

In order to meet program requirements and to keep informed about possible program changes, each student is responsible for knowing, being aware of, and complying with all information given out in class, lab, clinical, posted in Canvas on the Nursing Associate Dean Communications site, or delivered through the TCC email system. Students are required to send written notification to their clinical instructor and to the nursing secretary of any changes in name, address, email, or telephone number in a timely manner. The student is also entirely responsible for course or program information missed as a result of not updating their records in a timely fashion. Neither TCC nor the nursing program will be held responsible for any consequences that occur as a result of the student not providing this information in a timely manner. Students are required to check these communications on a daily basis.

#### SEVERE WEATHER

#### Campus Closure

There are many ways to get College Closure Information in the event of inclement weather. Information will be available at 566-5000 or on the Tacoma Community College website ([www.tacomacc.edu](http://www.tacomacc.edu)) by 6:15 a.m. on those days of partial or total closure.

If you sign up for e2Campus, Tacoma Community College will send you a text message in the event of college closure due to severe weather. If the college is to be closed, announcements will also be given to several area radio and television stations.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tacoma Area Radio** | |
| KMTT (850 AM) (103.7 FM) | KRPM (106.1 FM) |
| KKMO (1360 AM) | KBSG (97.3) |
| **Seattle Area Radio** | |
| KING (1090 AM) | KOMO (1000 AM) |
| KJR (950 AM) | KVI (570 AM) |
| KIRO (710 AM) | KZOK (102.5 FM) |
| KPLZ (101.5 FM) |  |
| **Seattle/Tacoma Television** | |
| KOMO TV Channel 4 | KING TV Channel 5 |
| KIRO TV Channel 7 |  |

**Clinical – Severe Weather**

If clinical is canceled due to severe weather, the clinical instructor, after consultation with the Associate Dean for Nursing, will initiate the class phone tree to notify all students. Each class should develop a phone tree system upon entry and keep it current. Clinical instructors will first call students living the farthest distance away and then work inward if no other system is in place. Some instructors may use alternate methods – consult your syllabus for clinical directions and specific details.

#### SIMULATION CONFIDENTIAL POLICY

Simulations and skills validations held in Building 13 labs that are tape recorded are considered confidential and may not be discussed with anyone but those appearing in the video and cannot be posted in any electronic or social media for any reason. All students must abide by the Simulation Confidentiality Policy listed in appendix XIII and the Social and Electronic Media Policy in Appendix XI.

#### Simulation Lab Rules

The Simulation Lab is a patient care area and your professionalism and attention is needed at all times. Due to this being a “realistic” patient setting, as well as a new facility with expensive state-of-the-art simulators, all faculty, staff, and students will follow the Simulation Lab rules. See Appendix X for the list of rules.

#### Social AND ELECTRONIC Media Policy

The TCC Nursing Program supports the use of electronic and social media, as it sees this as a powerful tool in building professional connections and creating supportive learning communities for students. However, it is important that clear expectations for students are set to promote student success and to build the foundation for professional practice responsibilities in this area. These expectations are outlined in the program’s Social and Electronic Media Policy found in Appendix XI. They apply to all nursing school-related discussions on social media sites and/or activities/discussions in or about clinical and didactic course activities. Distribution of personal information is protected under HIPAA and FERPA whether discussed through traditional communication channels or through social media.

#### STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

All students are issued a school student identification number upon admission to the college. Every effort will be made to use this number for identification purposes. At times the student’s Social Security Number must be used in the clinical setting or when applying for licensure with the state.

#### Students with Special Needs

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public and private sector services and employment and in higher education settings. Determining eligibility for academic accommodations is the responsibility of Access Services, located in Building 7. Their overall mission is to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to all programs and activities offered at the college.

If a student needs specific academic accommodations it is the student’s responsibility to request them by contacting Access Services at (253) 360-4447. The student will participate in an intake appointment to discuss the disability and identify the specific accommodations that may be needed. Once approved, Access Services will provide the student with an Accommodation Letter and it is the student’s responsibility to give a copy of this letter to their instructors.  Students are encouraged to schedule a time to meet with their faculty to discuss the accommodations that will be made and agree on any details that are not covered in the accommodation letter.

Students using testing accommodations must also schedule their tests with the Certification and Testing Center (not Access Services). This can be done by emailing [tcenter@tacomacc.edu](mailto:tcenter@tacomacc.edu), calling 253.460.4364, or by visiting their office in Building 6. **This should be done with as much advance notice as possible.** This process is explained in greater detail during the student’s intake appointment. The instructor will then receive an email from the Testing Center asking for the test to be sent to them. The instructor will complete the form “Instructions for Use of Access Services Accommodated Testing” and return it to the Testing Center with the test. When the test is complete it will be sent to the instructor for grading.

**Note:** All students are responsible for all requirements of each specific course in the nursing program and accommodation for special needs does not guarantee that the same accommodation will be made for the student when taking the NCLEX exam for licensure.

#### SUBSTANCE ABUSE

All students are expected to perform their clinical activities efficiently and safely without the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The following actions/conditions are prohibited:

1. Deficient clinical performance due to use of drugs and/or alcohol.
2. Reporting for a clinical session with the odor of alcohol, marijuana, or illegal chemicals on the breath.
3. Possessing any illegal narcotic, hallucinogen, stimulant, sedative or similar drug while on clinical time.
4. Removing any drug from the institution or patient supply for any reason.

All students have a responsibility to notify their instructor(s) if they are taking any medications that would affect clinical performance. See Appendix XII for complete policy.

#### Tacoma Art Museum Access

TCC is an Institutional Member at the Tacoma Art Museum(TAM).  TCC students and faculty currently have unlimited free admissions with our Institutional Membership.  If interested, you can access the Tacoma Art Museum with your college ID card.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from clinical sites is the responsibility of each student and prior arrangements are to be made in order to arrive on time. Some clinical facilities require proof of auto insurance, auto registration, and/or licensure information. Carpooling is encouraged.

**VIDEO MONITORING**

The Harned Center for Allied Health Careers has nursing simulation and skills labs that all students use during the course of their study to practice their nursing skills. To enhance learning, each room is equipped with state-of-the-art video and audio monitoring so that simulations and skills labs sessions can be recorded and reviewed by students and faculty at a later date. The video monitoring runs 24 hours a day whether there are classes in the rooms or not. The live feed is projected onto screens in the Simulation Control Room and is viewable by any staff or faculty in that area during the time in which the activity takes place. Recordings of sessions can be saved and viewed in the Simulation Debriefing Room or placed on flash drives for student review. Therefore, students and faculty should be cognizant that all activity taking place in these rooms is recorded and has the potential to be seen by other students and faculty. Faculty determine viewing privileges and students may only view videos in which they appear unless, for educational purposes, the instructor allows group viewing.

Faculty may require students to view their videos outside of class. At the present time, due to security concerns, TCC will not allow for student off campus viewing using the TCC network and wi fi connections in Building 13 are unreliable. Therefore students must provide a flash drive onto which the video can be copied if they need to view it outside of the debriefing room.

Students may not discuss the events of simulations or the debriefing sessions with anyone other than the students and faculty who participated. And, they may not make any social media postings or disclosure of any events, discussions and/or materials used in any clinical simulation. Please see the full student Simulation Confidentiality and Policy Statement in the Student Handbook for all details of this policy.

### APPENDICES

### j0337245

### APPENDIX I

# STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

****TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE****

# ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

# Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities

**Student Policy/Procedure Changes:**

TCC’s **Code of Student Conduct (Chapter 132V-121 WAC** <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=132V-121>\_)

is posted on the college website at (<http://www.tacomacc.edu/abouttcc/policies/codeofstudentconduct/>)

The Final Course Grades Appeal Process is found in WAC 132V-123-010.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=132V-123>

TCC Portal - Grade Grievance Procedures:

<http://www.tacomacc.edu/abouttcc/policies/final_course_grade_appeal_process/>

Student Grievance Procedures - Other are found in WAC 132V—300.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=132V-300>

TCC Portal - Student Grievance Procedures – Other:

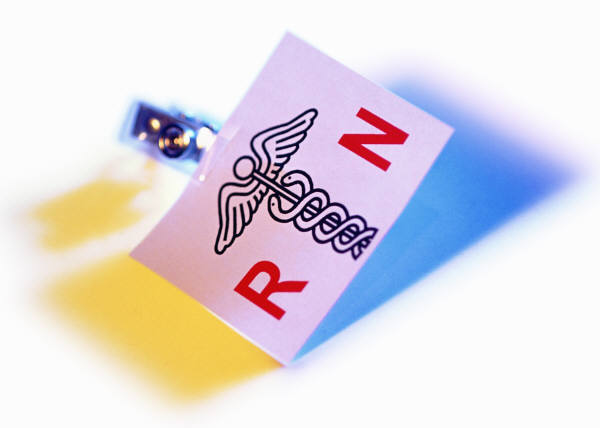
<http://www.tacomacc.edu/abouttcc/policies/studentgrievanceproceduresother/>

Additional Policy - Substance Abuse

<http://www.tacomacc.edu/catalog/14-15catalog/substance-abuse.htm>

Copies of these policies are also available in the Student Services Administration office in Building 7.

<http://www.tacomacc.edu/abouttcc/policies/>



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### APPENDIX II

**JOB ANALYSIS FOR NURSING STUDENTS**

**Work Hours:** Varies with Shifts and Settings **Full/Part Time:** Full and Part-Time

**General Job Description:** The nursing student is responsible for using critical thinking/clinical reasoning skills in the performance of all their duties including performing patient assessment, planning care delivery, performing nursing interventions, and teaching patients and family members about the medical condition. This also includes reviewing the patient’s chart, following physician’s orders, determining appropriate treatment, providing medication, assessing the patient’s current medical condition, complaints and concerns, and communicating this information to the health care team. The nursing student will also assist patients with meals, positioning, transferring them out of bed, and walking. Direct care includes administering medications, completing the nursing procedures such as catheterization, suctioning, dressing changes, and respond to emergencies as they occur.

**Machines, Tools or Moving Equipment:** Will use a variety of medical supplies and equipment to include: stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, medications, PCA machine, IV poles, tubing and pumps, CPM machine, syringes, patient support bars, hospital bed, etc.

Standing and walking are both frequent and alternating for the entire work day. Occasional sitting is possible when taking patients’ history or recording on the patient’s chart. Percent of time spent:

Sitting: 10% Standing: 50% Walking: 40%

While Working Employee must:

Yes No

Twist ✓

Stoop/bend ✓

Squat ✓

Kneel ✓

Crawl ✓

Climb ✓

Push/Climb ✓

Push/Pull ✓

Grasp/Handling ✓

Reach Over ✓

Shoulders

Reach at waist ✓

Reach below waist ✓

Lifting to 10# ✓

Lifting to 11-20# ✓

Lifting to 21-50# ✓

Lifting over 50# ✓

Carry to 10# ✓

Carry to 11-20 # ✓

Carry 21-50 # ✓

Carry over 50 # ✓

**Working Environment:** There are many settings in which the nursing student will experience, i.e., hospital, nursing home, public health, school setting, above which is in a hospital or nursing home setting. In that environment there is usually a nursing station area with patient rooms surrounding the area. The flooring often varies. This is an active, busy position requiring the ability to keep track of a large number of activities at a time.

**Essential functions** necessary for this program include the use of the senses to gather information, i.e., color changes in the skin, hearing heart and lung sounds through a stethoscope, palpating pulses, and feeling heat/cold skin. Will require the use of speech, reading, and writing to communicate with ability to synthesize information from a variety of sources and apply it in making decisions regarding client care. Must have emotional stability and flexibility to function effectively in situations of stress while placing client needs first.

**This job may be modified:** Yes **✓**  No: \_\_ During each shift the nursing students are assigned to perform patient care, which includes medication administration and direct care functions. Lifting assistance is usually available for items which are too heavy for one person. A person in this position could be relieved of emergency response duties, but would have to be prepared to administer emergency care if other personnel are not available to do so. Please be specific regarding any restrictions or modifications required.

G:\ADN\Handbook\Job Analysis.doc

Re-created 8/26/99 by eym from document signed, “Debra Stearns BSN, MS.

### APPENDIX III

**APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE AS A REGISTERED NURSE**

ELIGIBILITY TO WRITE THE NATIONAL LICENSING EXAM FOR REGISTERED NURSES:

**Registered Nurses are licensed by the State of Washington. In order to be eligible to write the licensing exam, students must g**raduate from a state-accredited nursing school.

Applicants must file their intent to take the exam 60 days prior to the expected date with a form supplied by the Associate Dean for Nursing. The exam fees must be paid at the same time.

Graduating students must answer the following questions, which are excerpted from the Nursing Practice Law:

1. Do you have a medical condition, which in any way impairs or limits your ability to practice your profession with reasonable skill and safety? If yes, please explain.

**“Medical condition”** includes physiological conditions or disorders, such as, but not limited to orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental retardation, emotional or mental illness, learning disabilities, HIV disease, tuberculosis, drug addiction, and alcoholism.

1a. If you answered “yes” to question 1, please explain whether and how the limitations or impairments caused by your medical condition are reduced or eliminated because you received ongoing treatment (with or without medications).

1b. If you answered “yes” to question 1, please explain whether and how the limitations and impairments caused by your medical condition are reduced or eliminated because of your field of practice, the setting or the manner in which you have chosen to practice.

*If you answered “yes” to question 1, the licensing authority (Board/Commission or Department as appropriate) will make an individualized assessment of the nature, the severity, and the duration of the risks associated with an ongoing medical condition, the treatment ongoing, and the factors in “1b” so as to determine whether an unrestricted license should be issued, whether conditions should be imposed or whether you are not eligible for licensure.*

2. Do you currently use chemical substance(s) in any way, which impair or limit your ability to practice your profession with reasonable skill and safety? If yes, please explain.

* **“Currently”** means recently enough so that the use of drugs may have an ongoing impact on one’s functioning as a licensee, and includes at least the past two years.
* **“Chemical substances”** includes alcohol, drugs or medications, including those taken pursuant to a valid prescription for legitimate medical purposes and in accordance with the prescriber’s direction, as well as those used illegally.

3. Have you ever been diagnosed as having or have you ever been treated for pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism or frotteurism?

4. Are you currently engaged in the illegal use of controlled substances?

* **“Currently”** means recently enough so that the use of drugs may have an ongoing impact on one’s functioning as a licensee, and includes at least the past two years.
* **“Illegal use of controlled substances”** means the use of controlled substances obtained illegally (e.g., heroin, cocaine), as well as the use of legally controlled substances, not taken in accordance with the directions of a licensed healthcare practitioner.

5. Have you ever been convicted, entered a plea of guilty, nolo contendere or a plea, similar effect, or had

prosecution or sentence deferred or suspended, in connection with:

a. The use or distribution of controlled substances or legend drugs?

b. A charge of a sex offense?

c. Any other crime, other than minor traffic infractions (including driving under the influence and reckless driving)?

6. Have you ever been found in any civil, administrative, or criminal proceeding to have:

a. Possessed, used, prescribed for use or distributed controlled substances for legend drugs in any way other than for legitimate or therapeutic purposes, diverted controlled substances or legend drugs, violated any drug law or prescribed controlled substances for yourself?

b. Committed any act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption?

c. Violated any state or federal law or rule regulating the practice of a healthcare profession?

7. Have you ever been found in any proceeding to have violated any state or federal law or rule regulating the practice of a healthcare profession? If “yes,” explain and provide copies of all judgments, decisions, and agreements.

8. Have you ever had any license, certificate, registration or other privilege to practice a healthcare profession denied, revoked, suspended or restricted by a state, federal or foreign authority, or have you ever surrendered such credential to avoid or in connection with action by such authority?

9. Have you ever been named in any civil suit or suffered any civil judgment for incompetence, negligence or malpractice in connection with the practice of a healthcare profession?

**Students who answer “yes” to any of the questions, should make early application to the Washington State Nursing Commission. The Commission acts on each case individually at the time of application for licensure. Provide an explanation and copies of all judgments, decisions, orders, agreements, and surrenders.**

*A dishonest answer to any of the questions is grounds for revocation of a license in and of itself.*

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### APPENDIX IV

# AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and privacy Act (FERPA), the college will not provide information contained in student records in response to inquiries unless the student has given written consent to the College.

The student should allow a **minimum of two weeks** for faculty to write letters of reference.

By signing this document, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hereby authorize ***(print your name)***

□ Any Nursing faculty or staff member, ***or***

□ Only the following instructor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

at Tacoma Community College to release the following reference information to:

□ Any prospective employer

□ Any educational institution to which I seek admission

□ Any organization considering me for a scholarship or award

□ ONLY the following agency/person(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Release: □ Indefinite

□ For this specific time frame:

I authorize release of the following levels of information ***(check all that apply):***

□ Student level of completion only (no information on performance)

□ Program performance information (May include GPA), including level of completion

□ Reference may be given by written or verbal request.

If a written reference is requested, check all that apply ***(and complete page two):***

□ Please write a generic letter and leave in the Building 13 reception desk pick-up box. □ Please write a letter and send it to (student requesting the letter is responsible to provide the correct name and address):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Date SID Number

**Letters for scholarship:**

Please indicate the name of the scholarship and a brief summary of why you think you should be selected for the award.

**Letters for prospective employers:**

Please indicate who you want the letter addressed and/or what job you are applying for and how you may be uniquely qualified for the position:

**Is there any additional information you think would be helpful?**

***If you need more space for any section, please attach a separate sheet of paper.***

### APPENDIX V

# INVASIVE PROCEDURES POLICY

**General Information:**

During the nursing program you will be participating in laboratory activities in which learning by students requires the use of human subjects as part of the training procedures. As part of your learning activities you may be asked to perform specific skills or be asked to be the subject of specific skill practice by other students.

Learning activities that use human subjects shall be conducted under the supervision of the instructor who has been assigned to teach the course. Before involvement as a human subject, a student must willingly give informed consent. If under the age of eighteen, informed consent must be obtained from the parent or the legal guardian unless the participant is determined to be an emancipated minor.

**Benefits**:

The experiences listed below have been selected because they are skills essential to the learning process and the faculty believes that realistic practice is essential for optimum learning. Participation will enhance the learning process and the acquisition of technical skills. An alternative experience may not provide as realistic an opportunity to practice and therefore may result in less effective learning. Specific benefits are listed below.

**Risks/Discomforts**:

Participation may create some anxiety for you. Some of the procedures may create minor physical or psychological discomfort. Specific risks/discomforts are listed below.

**Your Rights**:

You have the right to withhold consent for participation and to withdraw consent after it has been given for any reason. If you withhold consent, you will be required to participate in an alternative learning experience. If you do not participate in either the planned or the alternative activity, you will not be able to successfully complete the course. You may ask questions and expect explanations of any point that is unclear.

### j0337245APPENDIX VI

# Informed Consent for Coursework Requiring Human Subjects

The use of human subjects for educational purposes carries with it the responsibility to protect the rights, well-being, and personal privacy of individuals; to assure a favorable climate for the acquisition of practical skills and the conduct of academically-oriented inquiry, and to protect the interests of the institution. Some Nursing Program courses involve classroom, laboratory, and clinical activities where learning by students requires the use of fellow students as part of the training procedures and/or demonstrations.

**LABORATORY TESTING OF BODY FLUIDS:** Involves working with body fluids (such as blood and urine) obtained from fellow students within the classroom laboratory.

**Possible risks and discomforts:**

1. Exposure to infection carried by body fluids.

2. Injury while handling laboratory equipment.

**Benefits:**

1. Participation in a learning experience necessary to become a nurse.

2. Acquisition of empathy for future patients undergoing testing.

**Appropriate Alternatives:** Simulated bodily fluids may be substituted to practice skills.

**INJECTIONS:** Involves being the recipient of up to two injections administered by a fellow student; intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intradermal. Each will contain sterile water or sterile saline and be given privately under the direct supervision of the course instructor.

**Possible risks and discomforts:**

1. Personal embarrassment.

2. Damage to nerve, muscle, or other soft tissue.

3. Introduction of infection into body tissues.

4. Pain resulting from the procedure itself.

**Benefits:**

1. Participation in a learning experience necessary to become a nurse.

2. Acquisition of empathy for future patients undergoing injections.

**Appropriate Alternatives:** Perform injections on injection models provided by the school.

**VENIPUNCTURE:** Involves being the recipient of one or more venipuncture procedure(s) performed by fellow students for the purpose of initiating intravenous access under the private and direct supervision of the course instructor.

**Possible risks and discomforts:**

1. Damage to nerve, muscle, or other soft tissue.

2. Introduction of infection into body tissues.

3. Pain resulting from the procedure itself.

4. Bleeding that may result in bruising.

**Benefits:**

1. Participation in a learning experience necessary to become a nurse.

2. Acquisition of empathy for future patients undergoing venipuncture.

**Appropriate Alternatives:** Perform IV skills on IV arms provided by the school.

**FINGERSTICK:** Involves receiving finger sticks performed by fellow students for the purpose of obtaining capillary blood samples under the direct supervision of the course instructor.

**Possible risks and discomforts:**

1. Damage to nerve, muscle, or other soft tissue.

2. Introduction of infection into body tissues.

3. Pain resulting from the procedure itself.

4. Bleeding that may result in bruising.

**Benefits:**

1. Participation in a learning experience necessary to become a nurse.

2. Acquisition of empathy for future patients undergoing injections.

**Appropriate Alternatives:** Review with instructor prior to performing skills for a patient in a procedure or as determined by instructor.

As a student in the Nursing Program at Tacoma Community College, I am aware of the possible risks and discomforts, benefits, and appropriate alternatives to my voluntary participation in the nursing courses. I agree to abide by the safety rules and regulations promulgated by Tacoma Community College and the instructor of each course as they relate to my participation in the courses. I have made the Associate Dean for Nursing and the appropriate instructor(s) aware of any pre-existing condition (such as seizure disorder, bleeding disorder, etc.) that I have that might put myself or others at risk through my participation. I further state that I am of legal age and legally competent to sign this agreement or that I will obtain signature from my legal guardian. I have read and understand the terms of the agreement and I sign the agreement as my own free act.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name Signature Date

I have the right to withhold consent for participation and to withdraw consent after it has been given for any reason. I understand that withholding consent will not adversely affect my course grade.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name Signature Date

At this time, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (date), I do not give my consent to participate in invasive procedures during lab.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name Signature Date

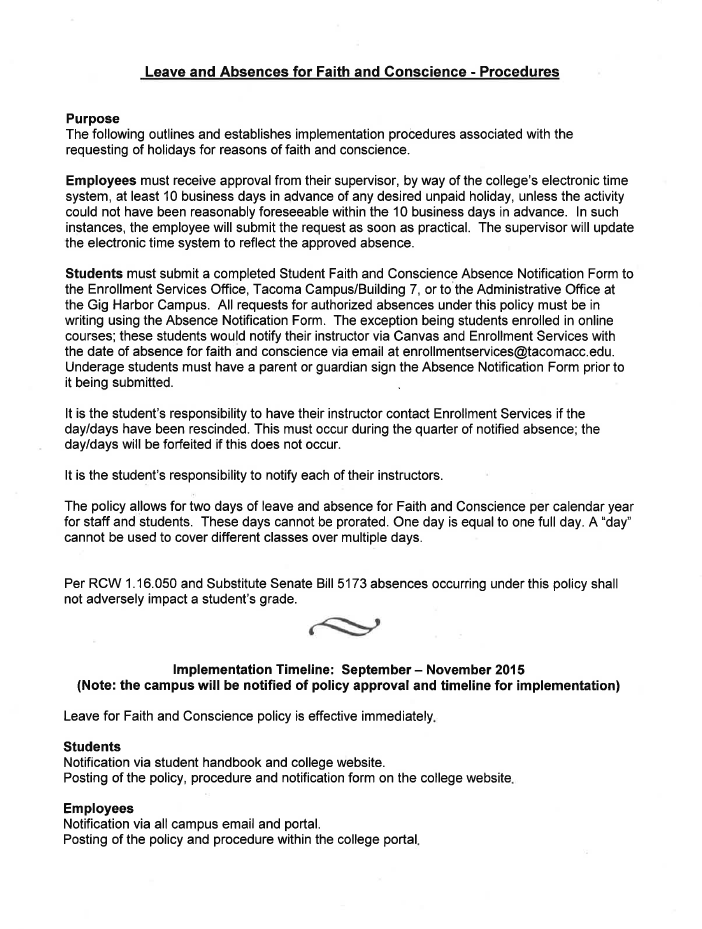
# 

### APPENDIX VII



### APPENDIX VIII

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### APPENDIX IX

**Pregnant Student Avoidance of Occupational Hazards**

**Pregnancy Guidelines:** A student in the Nursing program who has reason to believe she may be pregnant has the option of voluntary disclosure to the Nursing Program Associate Dean or designee. Such voluntary formal notification is requested in order that the program has the pertinent information needed to limit occupational hazards to the developing fetus.

Upon voluntary formal notification of the pregnancy, the Associate Dean or designee will advise the student of her option to take a leave of absence or remain in the program with any modifications as identified at the time of notification. The student will be asked to sign a statement indicating that she has received information and was advised on any necessary precautions required during the course of the pregnancy.

Students who have disclosed they are pregnant will not be asked to participate in known occupational hazards for pregnant women. They will be asked to present an accommodations form to each clinical instructor. Note not all hazards are known.

**Rationale:**

The intent of the guidelines is to protect the unborn child, not to prohibit the practice of nursing by the student. Our guidelines express the faculty’s concern for the well-being of its students.

**Overview of the Process:**

1. Student voluntarily discloses to Associate Dean of Nursing they are pregnant through the completion of the Declaration of Pregnancy Form.
2. Associate Dean counsels student regarding occupational hazards and appropriate precautions.
3. Student signs Pregnancy Policy Counseling Form indicating they have received counseling about the hazards.
4. Associate Dean completes the Pregnancy Accommodation Form and gives a copy to the student who is instructed to give it to her clinical instructor before their first/next clinical.
5. When receiving the form from the student the clinical faculty members(s) sign the form and give a copy to the student and the Associate Dean.
6. The Associate Dean places a copy of all three signed forms in the student’s electronic file.

**Faculty Guidelines:**

1. If faculty is informally notified by the student, they will refer the student to the team leader or Associate Dean of Nursing/designee so the above process can be followed.

2. Faculty will make accommodations to the pregnant student, taking into consideration known hazards listed below. If the faculty has questions about what accommodations to make, they are to consult with the Associate Dean.

**Know Hazards:**

1. Infectious Diseases:
2. Strongly advised to get applicable immunizations (Hep B, Influenza, MMR, Varicella)
3. Consistent adherence to universal precautions
4. Minimize work to home contamination (change out of clinical clothes before entering home, laundering and storing clinical and non-clinical clothing separately
5. May modify clinical setting to reduce occupational exposure depending on immunity or stage of pregnancy.
6. High alert infectious diseases: CMV, Parvovirus B19, influenza,
7. Pharmaceutical agents:
8. There are specific drugs that have been identified as impacting the reproductive and fetal development. Pregnant students in the clinical setting will not be required to administer the following agents.
9. Antineoplastic agents
10. Aerosolized agents such as pentamidine, ribavirin
11. Waste anesthetic gases (in operating rooms, recovery room and post anesthesia care units)
12. Organic Solvents-many are tetratogenic and embryotoxic
13. Examples acetone, benzene, chloroform, ethanol, methanol, formaldehyde, gasoline and industrial glues.
14. To limit exposure wear solvent resistant gloves and protective clothing.
15. Ionizing Radiation-Radiology, nuclear medicine, positron emission tomography, gamma ray cancer therapy and cardiac catheterization all emit ionizing radiation.
16. Pregnant students are to be removed from clinical situations that are known to expose them to ionizing radiation.

**REFERENCES:**

CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/pregnant/whooping-cough/get-vaccinated.html

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses

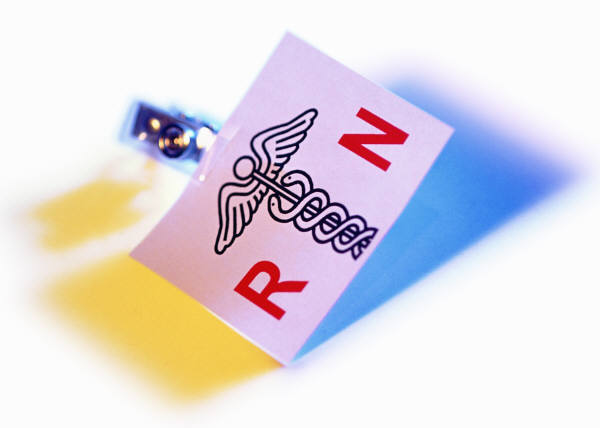
American Nurses Association

Health Canada

March of Dimes Foundation

Motherisk Program at the Hospital for Sick children. Toronto Canada

(AJN January 2011 Vol 111, No1)



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# Pregnancy Policy Counseling Form

In signing this form, the declared pregnant student acknowledges that:

1. She has read and understands the Tacoma Community College guidelines for pregnant Nursing students.
2. She has read and understands Occupational Hazards for Pregnant Nurses-Finding a balance between service and safety. AJN January 2011 Vol 111, No 1
3. The Associate Dean or designee has informed her of proper protection practices to follow during pregnancy.
4. The Associate Dean or designee provided her an opportunity to ask questions and the questions were satisfactorily answered.

Student Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name Printed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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# Declaration of Pregnancy

To: Associate Dean of Nursing/Designee

From: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am voluntarily declaring that I am pregnant. In consultation with my physician, we estimate my delivery date to be:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Month Year

I will review the program policy in regard to pregnancy (student handbook). I understand that pregnancy may require changes in the clinical setting.

If I find out that I am not pregnant or if my pregnancy is terminated, I will promptly inform the Associate Dean in Nursing/designee in writing that my pregnancy is ended. (This statement may be crossed out by the student if desired.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name Printed

Acceptance by Associate Dean in Nursing/designee

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Associate Dean Signature Date

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# PREGNANCY Accommodation Form

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTOR AND COURSE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This student has voluntarily disclosed that she is pregnant with an identified delivery date of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Upon voluntary formal notification of the pregnancy, the student has received counseling and was advised on any necessary precautions required during the course of the pregnancy.

Students who have disclosed they are pregnant will not be asked to participate in known occupational hazards for pregnant women. This note is intended to begin the process of working with you on what adjustments will be needed for this student.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Associate Dean of Nursing Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Date

**APPENDIX X**

**Simulation and Skills Labs Rules**

The Simulation Lab is a patient care area and your professionalism and attention is needed at all times. Due to this being a “realistic” patient setting, as well as a facility with expensive state-of-the-art simulators, all faculty, staff, and students must adhere to the following rules:

1. Students will wear lab coats/uniform when in the Simulation Lab for class or for self-practice.
2. Absolutely no food or drink (including water) will be allowed in the Simulation Lab.
3. Drinks are allowed in the Skills labs, but must be kept at the drink stations.
4. Do not use ink pens when working with the manikins/simulators. Ink permanently stains them.
5. Manikins should be treated like people. Do not misuse them or leave them exposed.
6. **Do not ever** move any of the manikins/simulators in the Simulation Lab.
7. Manikins can be moved in the Skills Labs only under the supervision of the Lab Coordinator, Simulation Technician, or faculty. Equipment, particularly the simulation manikins, are very expensive and need to be treated with care.
8. Providone Iodine (betadine) will permanently stain the manikins. Therefore, DO NOT use betadine on them or any of the training models.
9. Any damage to any equipment or space should be **immediately** reported to the Instructor, Lab Coordinator, or Simulation Technician.
10. Large spills and/or hazardous waste contamination should be reported immediately to the instructor, Lab Coordinator, or Simulation Technician.
11. Supplies for each lab will be available in a designated area, cart, or bin and will be set-up by the Lab Coordinator, Simulation Technician, or work study student before each class per the faculty instructions.
12. Please be respectful of other groups that will be working in close proximity to you and try to keep noise to a minimum.
13. Please treat all AV equipment as if it were your own. Students and instructors experiencing a problem with the equipment are to notify the Lab Coordinator or Simulation Technician. They will be responsible for troubleshooting the issue or notifying the IT department. Following this process will help facilitate the tracking of the resolution of the issues.
14. Unsterile or outdated supplies CANNOT be used invasively on other students.
15. If faculty have questions about lab equipment or supplies for the class, they should follow-up with the Simulation Technician or Lab Coordinator. Students should follow-up with their instructor.

**At the end of each Skills Lab, the instructor and students should:**

* + Return the equipment and **unused** supplies **to the original location/cart/bin**.
  + Garbage should be placed in a garbage can.
  + All sharps and hazardous wastes should be placed in the appropriate receptacles.
  + Beds should be made and the head of the bed lowered.
  + Chairs removed from the classroom must be returned to the original location.
  + The room must be left tidy and clean for the next class or person using the area.

The last five minutes of class should be designated for clean-up. Remember, the next instructor may not be using the same equipment or be teaching the same skills. There is absolutely no acceptable reason for leaving the lab in disarray. Faculty who experience a disregard for this rule by others are encouraged to advise the Lab Coordinator or the Associate Dean.

**At the end of each Simulation Lab, the instructor and students should:**

* + Return the equipment and **unused** supplies **to the original location: cart/bin/etc**.
  + Garbage should be placed in a garbage can.
  + Beds should be made and the head of the bed lowered.
  + Chairs removed from the classroom must be returned to the original location.
  + The room must be left tidy and clean for the next class or person using the area.

1. Students must respect instructions by lab personnel and faculty. Anyone who is non-compliant will be asked to leave the learning environment immediately.

### APPENDIX XI

# Social and Electronic Media Policy

**Purpose:**

The TCC Nursing Program supports the use of electronic and social media, as it sees this as a powerful tool in building professional connections and creating supportive learning communities for students. It is important that clear expectations of use for students are set to promote student success and to build the foundation for professional practice responsibilities in this area. This policy applies to all nursing school-related discussions on social media sites and/or activities/discussions in or about clinical and didactic course activities. Distribution of personal information is protected under HIPAA and FERPA whether discussed through traditional communication channels or through social media.

**Definition:**

Social media is a collection of online platforms and tools that people use to share content, profiles, opinions, insights, experiences, perspectives and media itself, facilitating conversations and interactions online between groups of people. Examples include but are not limited to LinkedIn, blogs, Facebook, YouTube, etc. New technologies/platforms are always emerging and the intent of this policy is to be protective of personal and confidential information, regardless of the platform.

Social media often spans traditional boundaries between professional and personal relationships and thus takes additional vigilance to make sure that one is protecting personal, professional, and college reputations.

Electronic Media is defined as video recordings, audio recordings, multimedia presentations, CD’s, flash drives, etc.

**Policy:**

1. Protect confidential, sensitive, and proprietary information. Do not post confidential or proprietary information about the college, staff, students, clinical facilities, patients/clients, or others with whom one has contact in the role of a Tacoma Community College student.
2. Respect copyright and fair use laws or regulations. When posting, be mindful of the copyright and intellectual property rights of others.
3. Do not use Tacoma Community College logos and graphics on personal social media sites. Do not use TCC’s name to promote a product, cause, or political party or candidate.
4. It is expected that during clinical rotations, use of tablets/smart phones and other devices employed for social media will be used only as authorized by TCC faculty and/or the clinical facility’s policies. It is expected that the cell phone aspect of the device is silenced.
5. No personal phone conversations or texting are allowed at any time while in patient/client areas or in the classroom. If the student needs to respond to an emergency text or phone call during class, the student is asked to leave the classroom and respond as deemed necessary.
6. Use of computers (Tablets, Smart phones, Notebooks, etc.) during class shall be restricted to note taking and classroom activities.
7. No student shall video or audio record instructors or fellow students for personal or social media use without the express written permission of the instructors or fellow students.
8. At NO time shall patients/clients be videotaped, audio recorded or photographed.
9. At NO time may you print and or download patient information at a clinical facility on to electronic devices for use at home later.
10. Students may not utilize personal electronic devices [specifically laptops, net books, cell phones] to collect patient data in a clinical facility without the expressed permission of the instructor.
11. HIPAA guidelines must be followed at all times. Identifiable information concerning clients/clinical rotations must not be posted in any online forum or webpage.
12. Students must promptly report any identified breach of confidentiality or privacy to the Associate Dean for Nursing or Lead Faculty.

Ultimately, **you have sole responsibility** for what you post. Be smart about protecting yourself, your and others’ privacy, and all forms of confidential information.

**Consequences:**

• Violations of patient/client privacy with an electronic device will be subject to HIPAA procedures/guidelines and consequences.

• Students who share confidential or unprofessional information do so at the risk of disciplinary action including failure in a course and/or dismissal from the program.

• Each student is legally responsible for individual postings and may be subject to legal and/or financial liability if individual postings are found defamatory, harassing, or in violation of any other applicable law. Students may also be liable if individual postings include confidential or copyrighted information (music, videos, text, etc.).

Each facility at which students work and perform their clinicals has policies and procedures. You are required to be familiar with and comply with them.

**Note that the facility policy will supersede TCC Nursing program policy.**

Nursing students are prohibited from transmitting by way of any electronic media any patient-related information or image that is reasonably anticipated to violate patient rights to confidentiality or privacy or to otherwise degrade or embarrass the patient – regardless of whether the patient can be identified or not.

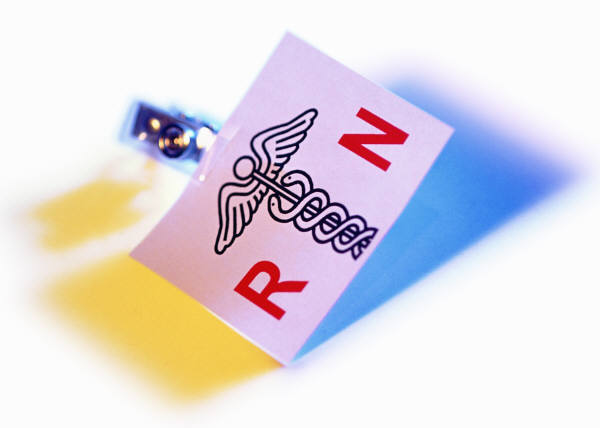
⦁⦁ Consult employer policies or an appropriate leader within the organization for guidance regarding work-related postings.

⦁⦁ Promptly report any identified breach of confidentiality or privacy.

⦁⦁ Be aware of and comply with employer policies regarding the use of employer-owned or personal computers, cameras, and other electronic devices and the use of personal devices in the workplace.

⦁⦁ Do not make disparaging remarks about employers or coworkers. Do not make threatening, harassing, profane, obscene, sexually explicit, racially derogatory, homophobic, or other offensive comments.

⦁⦁ Do not post content or otherwise speak on behalf of the employer unless authorized to do so, and follow all applicable policies of the employer.

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### APPENDIX XII

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

**General Policy Statement**

All students are expected to perform their clinical activities efficiently and safely without the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The following actions/conditions are prohibited.

* Deficient clinical performance due to use of drugs and/or alcohol.
* Reporting for a clinical session with the odor of alcohol, marijuana, or illegal chemicals on the breath or person.
* Possessing any illegal narcotic, hallucinogen, stimulant, sedative or similar drug while on clinical time.
* Removing any drug from the institution or patient supply for any reason.

All students have a responsibility to notify their instructor(s) if they are taking any medications.

**Purpose:**

To protect the welfare of patients, students, instructors, Tacoma Community College, and affiliating clinical facilities.

**Procedure**

All questionable student behavior will be dealt with through the following procedure:

1. If clinical performance is adversely affected by a prescribed medication, the student will be sent home and be considered ill.
2. If an instructor observes behaviors that cause suspicion of chemical impairment on the part of the student, the student consents to undergo immediate drug/alcohol testing at the site designated by the instructor. The expense for such testing will be borne by the student. If the student refuses testing, he/she will be dismissed from the program on the grounds of implied admission to substance use. In the event of suspected use in the clinical setting, the instructor has the right to confiscate the substance for identification.
3. All tests will be processed using identification other than the student’s name. All tests and test results will be considered confidential and will not be shared with anyone not directly involved with making decisions about the student’s status in the Nursing Program. The test results will be filed in the office of the Associate Dean for Nursing apart from the student’s academic file.
4. The student will be barred from attendance at clinical sessions until the test results have been received by the Nursing Program.

a. If test results are negative, the student may return to clinical practice.

b. If test results are positive, the student will be dismissed from the program on the grounds of substance abuse.

1. Should an incident occur after the student has shown negative testing results and the results are again negative, the student will be barred from clinical practice until the cause of the problem has been determined.

Any student dismissed from the program for substance use may apply for readmission with evidence of having successfully completed a treatment program. Other aspects of the readmission process will be handled under the standard procedures for readmission.

### APPENDIX XIII

# SIMULATION CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

Confidentiality is essential to the learning process with simulation. Therefore I understand and agree to the following:

1. All bedside activities in the Simulation Lab and Skills Labs are video-taped 24 hours a day.
2. Faculty determine viewing privileges. Students may only view videos in which they appear unless, for educational purposes, the instructor allows group viewing.
3. For skills validation recordings, instructors will only give viewing privileges to the student being validated. No other student will be given access to another student’s validation video. Other staff or faculty can be given access if needed for program/curriculum evaluation and assessment.
4. Faculty may require students to view their videos outside of class. It is the students’ responsibility to obtain a copy of their video and must provide their own flash drive (minimum 16 GB suggested). Downloads can be done at any computer in Building 13. They cannot be downloaded off campus.
5. I agree not to discuss the events of simulations or the debriefing sessions with anyone other than the students and faculty who participated in these simulation(s).
6. I agree not to disclose the events, discussions, and/or materials used in the simulated clinical experience. Any simulation photos or video recordings may not be used in social media of any kind at any time. Any student(s) found to be disclosing or disseminating any materials or events regarding any simulated clinical experiences will be subject to disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, course failure and removal from the nursing program without ability to return.
7. I permit these photographs or audio/visual recordings to be published and reproduced for educational or marketing purposes.

I have read and understand the above Confidentiality and Policy Statement. I acknowledge that any breach of the above is considered very serious and may result in dismissal from the TCC nursing program.

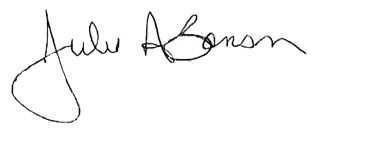
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Print Name Date

Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### APPENDIX XIV

# Nursing Students With Positive Background Check Results POLICY



**General Information:**

The [Child/Adult Abuse Information Act](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.43.830), RCW 43.43.830 through 43.43.845, requires that anyone having unsupervised contact with a vulnerable adult or a child must have a criminal history background check.  If this check reveals a conviction for a crime against a vulnerable adult or child, the nature of the crime and the time since the conviction of the crime are both significant in a determination of whether contact can be permitted.

WAC 388.113.0020 defines criminal convictions and pending charges that automatically disqualifies an individual from having unsupervised access to adults or minors who are receiving services in a program under chapter 388-71 and 388-107.

*Based on this requirement, both faculty and students in nursing programs are required to have background checks for access to patients in most clinical agencies.*

A check of a student's background for criminal history Information will be required at the time of admission. In addition, a Disclosure Statement to grant TCC a limited agency must be signed prior to beginning the nursing program. Certain crimes on the record may hinder the student's ability to achieve course expected outcomes and clinical agencies may or may not allow a student to enter their facility due to the results of the background inquiry.

The clinical agencies requirements are outlined in the Clinical Placement Northwest Clinical Passport. The Clinical Passport represents the minimum standards for health and safety requirements for all students and clinical faculty prior to their clinical placement in the regions’ healthcare systems.  The passport requires the following:

1. Completion of a National Criminal Background Check and Washington State Patrol Background Check (WATCH) upon admission/readmission and reentry/hire to the program which includes all counties of residence and all Washington State counties (per RCW 43.43.830)
2. Completion of an Office of Inspector General (OIG) background screen - List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE).
   * OIG: <http://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/>
3. Completion of a General Services Administration (GSA) background screen – Excluded Parties List Search (EPLS).

* GSA: <http://www.sam.gov>/

1. The Washington State Patrol Background Check (WATCH) will occur annually thereafter.

Additional checks that may be required:

1. Long-term rare clinical agencies are required to run the DSHS background check on students.
   * https://www.dshs.wa.gov/fsa/background-check-central-unit/disqualifying-list-crimes-and-negative-actions

**PURPOSE:**

The policy outlines the student background screening requirements to be eligible to attend clinical courses in the TCC Nursing Program as well as the steps to be followed by students whose screenings reveal a negative finding.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Background Check:** The process of researching and compiling criminal, commercial, and financial records of an individual or organization.

**General Services Administration (GSA) & System Awards Management (SAM):** The Excluded Parties List Search (EPLS) required includes information regarding entities debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, excluded or disqualified under the non-procurement common rule, or otherwise declared ineligible from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits. By definition, debarred or suspended vendors listed on the Excluded Party Listing Search (EPLS) are not responsible contractors. Thus, regardless of the dollar value of a contract, the EPLS should be consulted to ensure that the vendor is not listed. The United States General Services Administration (GSA) oversees contracts with the Federal government. Clinical sites ask TCC to ensure that no party listed on the Federal Government's Excluded Parties List is awarded a contract funded with Federal funds as they cannot have any students in the clinical site that would affect their federal funding.

**Office of Inspector General (OIG):** OIG has the authority to exclude individuals and entities from federally- funded healthcare programs pursuant to sections [1128](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title11/1128.htm) [External link](https://oig.hhs.gov/notices/disclaimers.asp) and [1156](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title11/1156.htm) [External link](https://oig.hhs.gov/notices/disclaimers.asp) of the [Social Security Act](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/) [External link](https://oig.hhs.gov/notices/disclaimers.asp) and maintains a list of all currently excluded individuals and entities, referred to as the List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE). Anyone who hires an individual or entity on the LEIE may be subject to civil monetary penalties (CMP).

**County Criminal History:** This search provides the most current, complete criminal information directly from county courthouses. Results include: number of years searched, case number, charges, dispositions, dates, sentencing details, and more. The standard scope for this search is seven years, with extended searches available in some jurisdictions.

**National Criminal Database:** The nationwide scope of this search provides a broad view of your candidate’s criminal history. This search draws from over 505 million records from thousands of jurisdictions, including databases with terrorist and sex offender information.

**National Sex Offender Public Registry**: This registry includes sex offender information from the federal government and agencies from all 50 states. Maintained by the U.S. Department of Justice, the public registry returns sex offender profiles, including up to level three offenders.

**FACIS (Fraud and Abuse Control Information):** This system identifies any wrong actions of individual and entities in the healthcare field. This includes information on disciplinary actions ranging from exclusion and debarments to letters of reprimand and probation.

**ID Trace (Address Trace):** This search reveals current/former residences and aliases. These are used to run other background checks.

**WATCH:** This statewide criminal search provides an overview of criminal history in a specific state. The standard scope is seven years, with extended searches available in some jurisdictions.

[**Background Check Central Unit (BCCU) of DSHS**](http://dshs.wa.gov/BCCU/index.shtml)**:** This search reports background check information from the following sources:

* Applicant Self-Disclosure - Current and previous background check self-disclosures
* Department of Corrections (DOC) - Conviction information
* Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) - National conviction information, arrest and pending charges, and national sex offender registry
* Negative Actions - Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALTSA)/Resident and Client Protection Program, ALTSA/Adult Protective Services, Children’s Administration/Child Protective Services, and Department of Health (DOH) including, out-of-state service provider and professional license status
* Washington State Courts and other state court systems
* Washington State Patrol (WSP) - WA State conviction information, arrest and pending charges of less than 12 months, DOC activity, and registered sex offender status
* Western Identification Network (WIN) - State police records from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming

**TO WHOM DOES THIS POLICY APPLY:**

Any student accepted into the TCC Nursing Program.

**POLICY:**

1. All students are required to complete a background check per the regional clinical passport produced by Clinical Placement Northwest (CPNW).
2. Criminal background check *findings* are considered an “exception”. This requires a review by TCC Nursing Program leadership in the context of the criteria that the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (WSNCQAC) utilizes to approve or deny applications for licensing. (RCW 18.130.050 (13) <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/6000/ProcedureA21.05.pdf>
   1. The Associate Dean is given the summary sheets of all students who have an exception listed on their background check.
   2. The nursing program will notify the student of the exception and will provide a copy of the report and the contact information for the background check entity used if the student does not have access. Exception: the student will need to request a copy of the BCCU DSHS results independently.
   3. The student will be invited to meet with the Associate Dean for Nursing to review the exception(s) and will be provided the opportunity to dispute the finding(s). If the dispute results in a different finding the student may request that the Associate Dean for Nursing reconsider his/her status in the program.
   4. A final determination is made based on if the exception disqualifies the student for clinical placement using WSNCQAC Procedure A21.04. Notification of the final determination to the student will include whether the criminal conviction will disqualify them from working with children or vulnerable adults and if it will preclude licensure.
      1. Automatically disqualifying felony convictions would make the student ineligible for any clinical agency and ineligible for licensure.  Based on this, the student will not be admitted to the program or, if already admitted, admission will be withdrawn.
      2. Students with other exceptions will be notified that the program cannot guarantee the ability to place them in clinical settings throughout the program as individual agencies are in control of who they allow to provide care in their facility.
   5. After determined to be ineligible, the student may then seek permission to be placed at a clinical facility by submitting a letter of explanation and a copy of the background check findings to the Associate Dean for Nursing. After review, the Associate Dean will forward this request to the healthcare facility for their review and consideration. Note: An agency may legally deny an individual with disqualifying convictions, but it is not required to do so.
   6. If the student is not approved, the program will make a reasonable attempt to identify an alternative clinical location for the student, but is not obligated to do so.
   7. If successful, the student will be notified of their ability to participate in the program by the Associate Dean for Nursing.

**REFERENCES:**

US Attorney General (2006), The Attorney General’s Report on Criminal History Background Checks. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, [online](http://www.justice.gov/olp/ag_bgchecks_report.pdf).

Burns, K., Frank-Stromborg, M, Teytelman, Y. & Denver-Herren J. (March, 2004) Criminal Background Checks: Necessary Admission Criteria? Journal of Nursing Education. 43(3): 125-129.  
  
Farnsworth, J. & Springer, P.J. (May-June, 2006) Background Checks for Nursing Students: What Are Schools Doing? Nursing Education Perspectives. 27(3), [online](http://nln.allenpress.com/nlnonline/?request=get-document&issn=1536-5026&volume=027&issue=03&page=0148).

Hopkins, N & Thomas, K. (October 2013) Developing Guidelines for Evaluating the Results of Criminal Background Checks. 4(3): 44-48  
  
Jones, M. M. & Weninger, R. A. (2007), Student criminal background checks: considerations for schools of nursing. Journal of Nursing Law 11(3): 163-170.

### APPENDIX XV

**Policy for Personal Electronic Device Usage in Clinical Settings**

1. The clinical facilities and/or Tacoma Community College are not responsible for lost or stolen items.
2. Each student is responsible for his/her own devices.
3. Students will store and secure valuables according to facility policy in areas/lockers provided.
4. At no time will students engage or connect personal devices into the clinical facility's internal computer network system. Students may use public/patient access wireless networks.
5. Students will comply with HIPAA guidelines and not enter any personal patient identifiers on personal electronic devices.
6. Students will not use any camera function on personal electronic devices while at clinical facilities.
7. Students will not use personal electronic devices in an isolation room.
8. All equipment and electronic devices must be cleaned between patients as follows:

**Cleaning Procedure**

**Critical Items**

1. Cleaning responsibility for student computers, iPads, or tablets used in clinicals is to be performed by the individual owner or user.
2. Personal-use computers:
   1. Should be cleaned daily, when visibly soiled, or if contaminated with blood/body fluids.
   2. Personal computers used in patient’s rooms should be cleaned between each patient.
   3. Using a CDC-approved detergent/disinfectant, wipe the device clean with a washcloth (dampened with the germicidal solution).
   4. Use moistened cotton-tipped applicators to clean the keyboard, covering creases if necessary.
   5. The monitor should be cleaned with a manufacturer-approved cleaning solution.
   6. Plexiglass monitor shields may be cleaned with wipes which will not disrupt the clarity of this surface.
3. Tablets/iPads

a. Clean the glass surface of tablet/iPad display with a manufacturer-approved solution.

b. Plexiglass monitor shields may be cleaned with wipes which will not disrupt the clarity of this surface.

**Non-Critical Items**

1. Non-critical items, as defined by the CDC, come in contact with intact skin but not with mucous a membrane.
2. Soiled environmental surfaces can be a source of contamination to hands or other objects which may have contact with the patient. Use a CDC-approved detergent-disinfectant regularly to clean and disinfect surfaces.
3. Examples of non-critical items include, but are not limited to: stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, countertops, portable pumps, toys (stuffed toys should not be shared), and assistive devices such as crutches.

**References**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov>

### APPENDIX XVI

**MEDICAL RELASE FORM**

### APPENDIX XVII

**Policy for Personal Electronic Device Usage in Clinical Settings**

The TCC Nursing Program supports the use of electronic devices in the clinical setting as a tool for enhancing learning and as a foundation on which students will build skills for professional responsibilities in this area. Electronic devices include personal computers, tablets/iPads, or smart phones.

1. Electronic devices that can be used in a clinical setting will be identified by the students’ clinical instructor. These devices may not be used for personal or social business while in clinical.
2. The clinical facilities and/or Tacoma Community College are not responsible for lost or stolen items. Each student is responsible for his/her own devices.
3. Students will store and secure valuables according to facility policy in areas/lockers provided.
4. Cleaning responsibility for student computers, iPads, tablets, or smart phones used in clinicals is to be performed by the individual owner or user.
5. If allowed by the instructor, the following will apply to these devices:
   1. At no time will students connect personal devices into the clinical facility's internal computer network system. Students may use public/patient access wireless networks and approved web based applications.
   2. Students will comply with HIPAA guidelines and will not enter any personal patient identifiers on personal electronic devices.
   3. Students will not use any camera function on personal electronic devices while at clinical facilities.
   4. Students will not use personal electronic devices in an isolation room.
   5. Students will be familiar with and follow the Social and Electronic Media Policy. See Student Handbook.
   6. All equipment and electronic devices that have been used must be cleaned between patients as follows:

**Cleaning Procedure for Critical Items:**

1. Personal-use computers:
   1. Should be cleaned daily, when visibly soiled, or if contaminated with blood/body fluids.
   2. Using a CDC-approved detergent/disinfectant, wipe the device clean with a washcloth (dampened with the germicidal solution).
   3. Use moistened cotton-tipped applicators to clean the keyboard, covering creases if necessary.
   4. The monitor should be cleaned with a manufacturer-approved cleaning solution.
   5. Plexiglass monitor shields may be cleaned with wipes which will not disrupt the clarity of this surface.
2. Tablets/iPads

a. Clean the glass surface of tablet/iPad display with a manufacturer-approved solution.

b. Plexiglass monitor shields may be cleaned with wipes which will not disrupt the clarity of this surface.

8. Smart Phones

a. If enclosed in a protective case, wipe the device clean using a CDC-approved detergent/disinfectant.

b. Clean the glass surface of phone display with a manufacturer-approved solution.

**Non-Critical Items**

Non-critical items, as defined by the CDC, come in contact with intact skin but not with mucous a membrane. Soiled environmental surfaces can be a source of contamination to hands or other objects which may have contact with the patient. Use a CDC-approved detergent-disinfectant regularly to clean and disinfect surfaces. Examples of non-critical items include, but are not limited to: stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, countertops, portable pumps, toys (stuffed toys should not be shared), and assistive devices such as crutches.

**References**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov>