1801 East Cotati Avenue Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

Date ________________________________

Student Name: ________________________

Program ______________________________

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING 707.664.2465

www.sonoma.edu/nursing

I have thoroughly read and understand that I am responsible for all the information and policies set forth in the Sonoma State University Department of Nursing Student Handbook for the duration of my program.

Student Signature ________________________________
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Introduction

Welcome to the Sonoma State University Nursing Department. The purpose of this Handbook is to inform all students about the nursing programs and specific policies and procedures of the Department, University, and the Board of Registered Nursing. The guidelines/policies are effective for the current academic year. You should check the Department’s website (http://www.sonoma.edu/nursing) and your sonoma.edu e-mail frequently for news and policy updates.

The curriculum prepares nurses to think critically and exercise leadership in planning, implementing, and evaluating nursing care. Students and faculty work closely together to choose clinical experiences that meet the interests of the student, fulfill the objectives of the course, and meet the needs of the community.

Sonoma State University's nursing programs are approved by the California State Board of Registered Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326.

We welcome you to the Sonoma State University Nursing Program and hope that your experience and education will be personally and professionally rewarding.
University and Program Overview

The California State Legislature established Sonoma State University in 1960 as Sonoma State College. The college has grown steadily since its conception in developing academic programs based on traditional liberal arts and sciences as well as career and professional programs and emphasizing close student-faculty interactions. The college moved to its present 220-acre site in 1966. New facilities and extensive landscaping have made this one of the most attractive, modern, and well-equipped campuses in the state. In 1978, university status was granted, and the name was changed to Sonoma State University.

The university now enrolls approximately over 9000 students and offers 46 bachelor's degrees, 15 master's degrees, and 9 credential programs. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges regionally accredit the university.

The Department of Nursing became a part of the university as a response to the service area's interest in a baccalaureate-nursing program at Sonoma State. In spring of 1971, plans were made to initiate a bachelor's program in nursing, and Dr. Mary Searight was recruited as chairperson. The proposal to initiate an upper division nursing major for registered nurses who had an associate degree or its equivalent was made by the chair at her first meeting with university officials. The Second Step program was developed with the primary purpose of providing a two-year upper division-nursing program for registered nurses, which articulates with junior college nursing programs. In fall 1972, the first class was admitted. The first class graduated in 1974, and the program received its initial accreditation from the National League for Nursing the same year.

The program has served as a model for other upper division RN programs (also known as “RN to BSN”, “second step”, “bridge”, or “post-licensure”). The faculty wrote a book, The Second Step: Baccalaureate Education for Registered Nurses, (1976, Mary Searight, ed.), describing various facets of their experience in second step education. The department became a nationally recognized leader in second step education through major research and demonstration projects, such as Demonstration Study of a Second Step Program, HEW Special Project Grant, 1975-78; Researching Second Step Education, First Annual Conference, supported by HEW Special Projects Grant, 1980; and Second Annual Conference Researching Second Step Education, HEW, 1981.

The program experienced phenomenal growth until the mid 1980s when undergraduate enrollment leveled off and then declined throughout the country. Enrollment in the baccalaureate program fluctuated for the next few years, and the department turned to development of graduate education. A Master's program with Family Nurse Practitioner specialization was developed in 1984. A second Master's option in Nursing Administration was begun in 1988 and has developed into a Nursing Leadership and Management program with tracks in Administration and Education that was discontinued in 2013 and replaced by a partnership with CSU Chico to offer tracks in Nursing Education and Nursing Administration.

Concurrently with the graduate nursing program development, the Department of Nursing began to explore the creation of a pre-licensure baccalaureate program option that would articulate with the established upper division RN to BSN program. The local community was very supportive of the Department of Nursing developing a pre-licensure baccalaureate program and in the fall of 1994 the department admitted the first class of students who completed their BSN and curriculum for RN licensure simultaneously. The first class graduated in May 1998 and was successful on the RN licensing exam and in obtaining employment in the health care field.
Mission Statement

Sonoma State University’s mission (U) is reflected in the Department of Nursing’s (N) commitment to:

N: Providing a foundation for lifelong professional learning
U: Have a foundation for lifelong learning

N: Practicing nursing within a broad cultural perspective
U: Have a broad cultural perspective

N: Affirming intellectual and aesthetic achievements as part of the human experience
U: Have a keen appreciation of intellectual and aesthetic achievements

N: Developing professional leadership and active citizenship.
U: Will be leaders and active citizens

N: Fostering flexibility and resilience for a career in nursing within a dynamic world
U: Are capable of pursuing fulfilling careers in a changing world

N: Contributing to the health and well-being of the community within a perspective of the world at large
U: Are concerned with contributing to the health and well-being of the world at large
Philosophy

The philosophical foundation of the SSU Department of Nursing is based upon Humanistic Nursing Theory (HMT) (Paterson & Zderad, 1988). Departmental values are based in HMT from which faculty tailor curriculum and pedagogical methods. HMT is a multi-dimensional metatheory centered on the essence of nursing, the nurse client (individual, family, community, organization) interaction, providing an inclusive bridge from theory to practice. The Department of Nursing recognizes nursing as a nurturing response, based upon a blend of art and science, occurring within a subjective and objective environment with the aim of developing the wellbeing of both nurse and client (client as individuals, families, communities and organizations). Consistent with HMT is the consideration of students as unique individuals with varied ethnic and cultural backgrounds, learning styles and goals. Therefore, the following philosophical statements structure the Department of Nursing curriculum and policy.

1. Nursing centers on shared experiences and these interactions hold client nurse potentials for achieving growth, development and greater well-being.

2. Fulfilling health potentials for the client and nurse is the outcome of choices and the mutually determined inter-subjective relating of those involved.

3. Humans have a basic need for being heard and affirmed. All nursing actions have the potential for being humanizing.

4. Humans have an “all at once” or gestalt existence including perceptions of the past, hopes, fears, environment and future. This inherent wholeness cannot authentically be reduced to separate needs, pathologies, cultures and parts.

5. The nurse must be aware of what he/she individually holds as truth so assumptions, preconceived ideas and expectations do not interfere with understanding the client’s perceptions of the experience.

6. Nurses perceive clients scientifically and intuitively through synthesis of subjective and objective accumulated knowledge.

7. Nurse client interactions are mutually dynamic in that they organize diverse data to create something new.

8. Nurses are members of an interrelated nursing community and a global community with obligations to each to promote a greater well-being.
Nine Foundational Concepts to Organize the Curriculum

Nine concepts are identified to serve as a foundation from which to implement the philosophy of the Sonoma State University Department of Nursing and guide for meeting the terminal objectives. These concepts are: caring, critical thinking, communication, advocacy/social justice, teaching, learning, professionalism, leadership, research, and cultural competency. The faculty value the goal of the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) project and connect specific language of the QSEN Competencies with select concepts to emphasize the relationship to the curriculum.

Within these Nine organizing concepts reside six critical competencies identified in the QSEN project. The faculty values the QSEN goal to prepare future nurses with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes (KSA’s) necessary to continuously improve the quality and safety of the healthcare systems within which they work. There we have connected the specific QSEN language for each of the six competencies to its related department philosophical concept, thus emphasizing its relationship to the curriculum.

1. Human caring is the core of the inter-subjective relationship between the client and the nurse. Caring encompasses nurturing thoughts and behaviors that support the fulfillment of client and nurse health potentials and the outcome of choices. Caring is manifest in compassion, empathy, respect, and presence. Caring occurs through sharing and relating with clients, families, professional colleagues and other health care providers within a local and global perspective. Supported by philosophical statements 1,4.

Supportive QSEN Competency Patient Centered Care: recognize the patient or designee as the source of control and full partner in providing compassionate and coordinated care based on respect for patient’s preferences, values, and needs.

2. Critical thinking is essential for the practice of nursing. Philosophical statements 1,2,5,7 support the following definition.

The ideal critical thinker is habitually inquisitive, well-informed, trustful of reason, open-minded, flexible, fair-minded in evaluation, honest in facing personal biases, prudent in making judgments, willing to reconsider, clear about issues, orderly in complex matters, diligent in seeking relevant information, reasonable in the selection of criteria, focused in inquiry, and persistent in seeking results which are as precise as the subject and the circumstances of inquiry permit. (Facione, 1990, p3)

Supportive QSEN Competency Quality Improvement:
Use data to monitor the outcomes of care processes and use improvement methods to design and test changes to continuously improve the quality and safety of healthcare systems.

3. Communication is the vehicle for inter-subjective relating between client, nurse and the greater community that fulfills health potentials. Communication requires scientific and intuitive perceptions to support an exchange in which the client is heard and affirmed. Communication in nursing is a dialogue in which meeting, relating, presence; a call and response are essential (Paterson and Zderad, 1976, 1988). Philosophical statements 1,2,3,5,7

Supportive QSEN Competency Informatics: Use information and technology to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error, and support decision-making.

4. Advocacy/Social Justice is the spiritual and ethical determination of beneficence for the client, for the self and the profession. Advocacy acknowledges uniqueness and diversity and requires free choice, self-determination and self-responsibility. Social justice acknowledges just ways of
care in accordance with ethical nursing practice. Philosophical statements 1,3,5,8.

5. **Teaching** is a system of directed and deliberate actions that are intended to result in learning. Learning is self-active and results in a personal change mediated by an experience. The teaching-learning process is a complex, cooperative and personal relationship. Philosophical statements 1,2,5,6,7,8.

6. **Professionalism** in nursing is the embodiment of the art and science of nursing. Professionalism is a process of self-transformation, which includes integrity, intellectual awareness, and commitment to the well being of client and self. Philosophical statements 1,3,4,6,8.

   **Supportive QSEN Competency Safety:** Minimize risk of harm to patients and providers through both system effectiveness and individual performances.

7. **Leadership** is the ability to influence change and is guided by vision and commitment to the well being of the client as an individual, group or organization. Leadership is an active state in which the nurse is fully present in actualizing inter-subjective choices. Philosophical statements 1,8.

   **Supportive QSEN Competency Teamwork and Collaboration:**
   Function effectively within nursing and inter-professional teams, fostering open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision-making to achieve quality patient care.

8. **Research** is a scholarly process of acquiring knowledge essential to provide evidence and theory based practice. Scholarship includes the critique and management of information and thoughtfull participation in inquiry. Philosophical statements 1,6,8.

   **Supportive QSEN Competency Evidenced Based Practice:**
   Integrate best current evidence with clinical expertise and patient/family preferences and values for the delivery of healthcare.

9. **Cultural Competency** encompasses diverse populations of clients who need culturally sensitive care by healthcare providers. This care values and respects diversity and individual differences and treats clients as unique individuals. Philosophical statements 1,3,4,5,6.
Terminal Objectives

Defining characteristics differentiating the BSN and MSN graduate follows each terminal objective

These concepts are: caring, critical thinking, communication, advocacy/social justice, teaching, learning, professionalism, leadership, research and cultural competency.

The graduate of Sonoma State University Department of Nursing programs will:

1. Develop inter-subjective nurturing relationships that support the fulfillment of potential of client and nurse. (Caring)

   BSN – Demonstrate the integration of respect for human diversity, social justice and self in the nursing role
   MSN – Initiate policy and practices that demonstrate the integration of respect and social justice that consider the client, the profession and nurse

2. Make informed choices through critical analysis that promote nurse/client well-being. (Critical Thinking)

   BSN – Participate in initiatives that support health promotion and disease prevention.
   MSN – Create and implement initiatives that support health promotion and disease prevention.

3. Demonstrate humanizing interactions that are grounded in the integration of the art (subjective) and science (objective) of nursing. (Communication)

   BSN – Communicate within a team framework to promote optimal client outcomes.
   MSN – Create a collaborative milieu in dialogue with nurses and other health care professionals to promote team decision making.

4. Exemplify moral and ethical professional standards within a framework of equitable care. (Advocacy/social justice)

   BSN – Delineate ethical principles on which to base practice decisions
   MSN–Advocate for the nursing profession, the organization and the global community.

5. Develop directed and deliberate actions for self and clients intended to result in learning. (Teaching/Learning)

   BSN – Demonstrate the role of the nurse in specific, client centered teaching.
   MSN – Implement curriculum for client and professional centered education and present evidenced based protocols for client and staff centered education,

6. Continue the process of self-transformation in the profession of nursing and in the world community. (Professionalism)

   BSN – Commit to life long learning and participation in the profession.
   MSN – Contribute to the development of organizations and the advancement of the profession.
7. Actualize inter-subjective choices guided by vision and commitment to the wellbeing of the client. (Leadership)

   BSN - Participate in changes to promote improvement in patient care  
   MSN - Effect improvement of patient care outcomes, systems, and policy

8. Acquire knowledge to support theory and evidenced based practice. (Research)

   BSN - Demonstrate the use of theoretical foundations of nursing and engagement in scholarship to guide clinical practice  
   MSN - Integrate the science of nursing, advanced knowledge and practice excellence to actualize the professional roles associated with in area of role focus.

9. Promote cultural sensitivity and cultural competent care that respects each individuals rights to be understood as a unique individual. (Culturally competent)

   BSN - Demonstrate respect for the unique care of clients in all aspects of the nurse client relationship  
   MSN - Identify and initiate changes related to system health care inequities of client populations
MASTERS PROGRAM LEVEL OBJECTIVES

**MSN and Post-Masters – Family Nurse Practitioner**

In addition to the departmental nursing terminal objectives, the Family Nurse Practitioner program prepares students to be competent practitioners in the following categories or areas of practice as defined by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF):

1. **Health Promotion, Health Protection, Disease Prevention, and Treatment:** Makes informed choices through critical analysis that promote optimal well-being in clients and self (NONPF FNP I; Core 1, 2, 3)
   - Accurate assessment and documentation of health status
   - Utilize critical thinking, differential diagnosis and integrates and interprets various forms of data to diagnose health status
   - Develop a plan of care and treatment that recognizes the client’s uniqueness and supports the fulfillment of potentials and well-being

2. **Nurse Practitioner-Patient Relationships with clients:** Develop inter-subjective nurturing relationships with clients that foster therapeutic outcomes (NONPF FNP II; Core 1)
   - Assist individuals and families with ethical issues in balancing differing needs, age-related transition, illness, or health among family members

3. **Teaching-Coaching:** Develop directed and deliberate actions for self and clients intended to result in learning and well-being (NONPF III; Core, 2, 5, 7) Promote of client education and self-care
   - Elicit information that supports the client in making informed choices
   - Possess knowledge and skill in addressing sensitive topics

4. **Professional Role:** Continues the process of self-transformation and is comfortable in exemplifying moral and ethical professional standards (NONPF IV; Core 4, 6)
   - Demonstrate a practice commitment to care of whole family
   - Recognize and value participation in community and professional organizations that influence the health of clients and supports the FNP role.

5. **Managing and Negotiating Health Care Delivery Systems and Ensuring the Quality of Health Care Practice:** (NONPF V, VII; Core 4, 8)
   - Accept responsibility in maintaining current knowledge of State and Federal regulations and programs for family health.
   - Act as an advocates for families in negotiating the multiple systems and programs
   - Maintain standards that are moral, ethical and legal in caring for clients
   - Acquire and maintains knowledge to support theory and evidence-based practice

6. **Cultural Competence:** Develop inter-subjective nurturing relationships that support the fulfillment of client potentials (NONPF VIII, Core 1)
   - Develop and applies a process for assessing beliefs and preferences and takes this uniqueness of person into account when planning and delivering care
Admission Requirements

Baccalaureate
The undergraduate-nursing program provides two options to obtain a baccalaureate degree in nursing:
1. A pre-licensure program option that prepares students to become licensed registered nurses
2. A post-licensure program option for licensed R.N.s with associate degrees or the equivalent.

Pre-Nursing Admission - student takes the prerequisite courses for the nursing program
1. Standard SSU admission criteria
2. High school or college level chemistry and biology with a GPA of 3.00 (B) or better.
3. Overall high school or college GPA of 3.0 or better
4. Index score of 3800 or better, or ACT score of 916 or better

Pre-Licensure Admission - the student is admitted on a competitive basis to take the courses required for R.N. licensure and complete the Bachelor of Science in nursing degree
1. Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
2. Transcript verification of completion of GE categories A (Written and Oral Analysis, Fundamentals of Communication, and Critical Thinking) and B (Natural Sciences and Mathematics [Statistics required for Nursing]).
3. GPA of 3.00 or better in prerequisite science courses: BIOL 220, 240, 224, and CHEM 105 or equivalent.
4. Results of the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS).
5. Certified Nurse Assistant licensure
6. Essay (criteria available from the Department of Nursing).

LVN 30-Unit Option
On a space available basis, LVNs can enter the pre-licensure program to complete the courses required for an RN license. To qualify for this option, students must:
1. hold current, clear California licensure as an LVN
2. have completed 4 units of physiology with a lab and 4 units of microbiology with a lab with grades of B or better

It is emphasized that students can only be admitted to the 30-unit option if there is space available in the Pre-Licensure program.

• Post-licensure Admission Requirements
Sonoma State University’s baccalaureate program also offers an upper-division option designed to articulate with community college Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) programs for students to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree. Admission requirements are:
1. Standard SSU admission criteria.
2. Current California licensure as a Registered Nurse. (Recent ADN graduates who have not received California R.N. licensure but who otherwise meet program prerequisites will be accepted on a conditional basis pending NCLEX results. Failure to pass NCLEX disqualifies the student from the nursing major – but not from the University – until such time as a passing score is obtained.)
3. *Sixty semester units of college-transferable credit: 30 units should meet California State University general education requirements, including Areas A (English Composition, Speech, and Critical Thinking) and B4 (Statistics required); 30 units must be credit for lower-division nursing course work. R.N.-B.S.N. applicants may be admitted to SSU and the Nursing program without having yet completed Critical Thinking and/or Statistics.
4. Minimum of 3 semester units of college-transferable credit in general chemistry with a grade C or better.
5. Human anatomy and physiology within the past 10 years or direct clinical nursing experience within the past two years.

*R.N.s who have attended a hospital (diploma) program should contact a community college with an R.N. program to obtain equivalent credit for their diploma program (30 ungraded lower-division
nursing units) and to complete the community college’s general education requirements for an A.A.
degree prior to applying to SSU’s RN to BSN program.

Graduate Program
The Department offers a Master of Science in Nursing degree with the Family Nurse Practitioner option;

Admission Status for Graduate Students
Conditionally Classified Graduate Status
Students eligible for admission to SSU as conditionally classified students have deficiencies in
prerequisite preparation that, in the opinion of the graduate department, can be met by specified additional
preparation. At the time of admission to conditionally classified standing, the student will be told exactly
what conditions must be met before fully classified standing can be attained. The student is usually
expected to complete the conditions before or during their first year. Students are to present proof of
completion of the condition met to their Program Coordinator with a request to be changed to classified
standing.

Classified Graduate Status
Students who have met all standards for admission to a particular graduate degree program and who have
been recommended for admission by the department will be placed in classified graduate standing. Only
those applicants who show promise of success will be admitted to graduate degree curricula and only
those who continue to demonstrate a satisfactory level of scholastic competence will be eligible to
proceed in such curricula.

• Family Nurse Practitioner
  1. B.S.N. degree
  2. GPA of 3.00 in the last two years (60 units) of undergraduate or post-graduate study.
  3. Current California licensure as a registered nurse.
  4. Completion of statistics
  5. Two years full-time experience as an R.N. preferred.
  6. Essay

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
Post-MSN Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate
The FNP Certificate Option is a 36-unit course of study designed for Registered Nurses who hold a
master’s degree in nursing who wish to become family nurse practitioners. Applicants must meet the
following minimum criteria:

  1. Master of Science in Nursing
  2. R.N., licensed in California
  3. Two years experience as an R.N. preferred
  4. Overall Grade Point Average of 3.0 in graduate program coursework
CURRICULUM-COURSE CREDIT

1 lecture unit = 50 min of class time

1 lab unit = 3 hours of lab/clinical time. Travel to class is not included.

UNDERGRADUATE

Please note the curriculum shown below is the Nursing major only. To earn a bachelors degree, the student must also meet the University degree requirements (please see the SSU catalog).

PRE-NURSING

The current pre-nursing curriculum may be found at http://www.sonoma.edu/nursing/undergrad.shtml. (add four year plan top two years) Pre-nursing students will also have a review during on campus sessions posted each semester on the nursing website at www.sonoma.edu/nursing.

PRE-LICENSENCE BSN COURSE PROGRESSION

The current pre-licensure curriculum may be found at http://www.sonoma.edu/nursing/undergrad.shtml.

POST LICENSURE COURSE PROGRESSION

The current post licensure curriculum may be found at http://www.sonoma.edu/nursing/undergrad.shtml.

30 UNIT OPTION FOR LVNs COURSE PROGRESSION

The current 30 unit option for licensed vocational nurses curriculum may be found at http://www.sonoma.edu/nursing/undergrad.shtml.

GRADUATE

Family Nurse Practitioner

The current Family Nurse Practitioner Program curriculum may be found at http://www.sonoma.edu/nursing/fnpp/curriculum.html.
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Advising

University Advising Policy http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/advisingpolicy.htm

The advising process depends on the thoughtful participation of the student. Students must:

- Know and meet graduation requirements contained in the appropriate catalog, class schedules, and other University publications
- Maintain their own personal academic advising folders in portfolio and take them to every advising appointment
- Make every reasonable effort to obtain adequate advising each semester
- Regularly review your Academic Requirement Report and discuss with your advisor

Program Advising
Faculty advisors are resource persons and advocates for the students. Faculty advisors assist students in planning their course of study and provide academic counsel throughout their program. The academic advisor reviews with the student his or her progress in the nursing program and advises the student about strategies to complete degree requirements for graduation. Refer to the listing below for your assigned advisor. Department of nursing student academic folders are securely kept in the nursing office and can only be obtained by nursing faculty and staff members. Academic advising will be documented in the student folders during individual or group advising sessions.

Although faculty advisors assist with planning student progression, students are responsible for fulfilling admission requirements, removing Incomplete (I) grades or unacceptable grades (C-or lower in major courses), submitting appropriate petitions, and meeting graduation requirements, as defined by the Department and the University.

Undergraduate group advising times are scheduled each semester and the dates, times and locations are posted on the Nursing Department Website. Students are encouraged to attend these scheduled advising meetings. If individual advising is needed, faculty advisors post their office hours on their office doors and students may contact them directly for an appointment.

**Undergraduate Program Advisors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Nursing</td>
<td>Mary Ellen Wilkosz</td>
<td>664-2297</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wilkosz@sonoma.edu">wilkosz@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Licensure – Seniors</td>
<td>Deb Kindy</td>
<td>664-2438</td>
<td><a href="mailto:deb.kindy@sonoma.edu">deb.kindy@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Licensure – Juniors</td>
<td>Rachel Napoli</td>
<td>664-2649</td>
<td><a href="mailto:napoli@sonoma.edu">napoli@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVN 30 Unit Option</td>
<td>Mary Ellen Wilkosz</td>
<td>664-2297</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wilkosz@sonoma.edu">wilkosz@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Licensure BSN</td>
<td>Michelle Kelly</td>
<td>664-2664</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kelmiche@sonoma.edu">kelmiche@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
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**Graduate Program Advisors**

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>Wendy Smith</td>
<td>664-2276</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wendy.smith@sonoma.edu">wendy.smith@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>Mary Ellen Wilkosz</td>
<td>664-2297</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wilkosz@sonoma.edu">wilkosz@sonoma.edu</a></td>
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APA Format
Papers will be written in the formatting style of the American Psychological Association. All students are required to adhere to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* and follow current APA guidelines when writing papers.

Attendance: Classroom
Class attendance in lecture and seminar courses is a professional expectation. Prompt arrival and appropriate departure are also expected. Students who miss class are responsible for content and information provided during the class. Check individual course syllabi for class attendance requirements.

On-Line Courses
Class attendance in an online course is considered in terms of assignment postings, due dates and scheduled synchronized meetings. Missed postings, assignments and scheduled synchronized meetings are the same as missing classes. Assignments postings and online exams are not excused. All must be completed. Arrangements to complete late assignments are individually determined by the instructor. It is important for the student to assume responsibility for maintaining close communication with the course instructor when tardiness or absenteeism occurs. Review information in each syllabus for missed or late assignments.

Attendance in Clinical Courses
Student Illness: The student should not provide care to patients if he/she has symptoms of or is aware of an contagious illness or infection. Absence due to illness must be reported prior to the beginning of a clinical assignment according to the course and agency policies.

Tardiness: It is imperative that students arrive promptly for clinical activities. If a student is late, he/she risks the possibility of being dismissed from that clinical session. Tardiness in more than one instance may result in development of a behavioral contract.

Attendance in Clinical Courses: Pre-Licensure & LVN 30 unit Option Programs
The policy regarding clinical experience includes:
   A. All clinical experiences are mandatory including clinical skills lab.
   B. The student must be prepared, dressed appropriately and on time.
   C. In the event of tardiness and absence the student must notify the appropriate individual(s) as indicated in the course syllabus prior to the time clinical begins.
   D. In the event of tardiness and absence without notification more than once in the semester, the student will meet with the faculty to discuss a plan of action and may result in some form of discipline.

The following make up opportunities are available in the event of clinical absences with notification.

   A. One missed clinical session with notification: Written case study to equal the clock hours of missed clinical time and/or simulation experience scheduled and arranged by faculty.
   B. Two missed clinical sessions with notification: Receive an Incomplete for the course. Enroll in Intersession or Summer Session* to complete the two missed clinical days.
   C. Three missed clinical sessions with notification. Petition the nursing faculty for permission to receive an Incomplete for the course and to enroll in Intersession or Summer Session to complete the missed clinical time.
      a. Petition must include reasons for missing the clinical sessions, self-assessment of academic and clinical standing and goals for completion of the missed clinical time.
         i. Petition approval – Enroll in Intersession or Summer Session.
         ii. Petition denial – Receive an F in the course. Petition for readmission to the program.
and re-enrolling in the failed course the next time it is offered. Continuance in the program is denied until the failed course is completed satisfactorily.

The Intersession or Summer Session assignment will be determined by the Department Chair

**Attendance in Clinical Courses: Family Nurse Practitioner**

Absences are to be made up in real time equivalent assignments/clinical to time absent. The student must contact faculty of record or clinical faculty who will also determine when too much time has been missed to allow for successful meeting of the course objectives. The director will review and make recommendations.

**Client Safety**

If, during enrollment in a clinical nursing course, a student's performance presents a potential harm to the welfare of clients, the faculty will determine, on the basis of oral and/or written documentation, whether or not the student will be permitted to continue in the course. If the student’s performance presents an immediate potential harm to clients or self, program faculty and/or preceptors have the responsibility to immediately remove the student from the clinical environment. (Appendix 9)

**Clinical Skills Laboratory**

The Clinical Skills Laboratory is located in Nichols 149. Many programs and students share the lab space. Please be respectful of space, equipment, safety and confidentiality of fellow students. Equipment is to stay in the lab unless specifically arranged with faculty. Students use the lab for many skills as well as the public for the Health Maintenance Center. Students will be practicing numerous skills in the lab with simulated as well as real practice. Keep in mind your safety and the safety of others is our primary responsibility in all cases. Review and sign the practice policy prior to arriving to your first skills lab. (Appendix 6) Any donations of equipment to the skills laboratory will be reviewed by Program Directors for safety and appropriate use.

**Communication**

**sonoma.edu e-mail:** Communications from the Nursing Department will be sent to all nursing students via their official university email address. Instructions and deadlines are announced through this e-mail communication and it is the student’s responsibility to check the e-mail frequently. Webmail can be accessed through Sonoma On-Line Login on the University website, https://login.sonoma.edu

For e-mail communications follow the e-mail rules, otherwise, your e-mail may get lost. The instructor will communicate with students via their Sonoma State email account. The instructor will not be held accountable for contacting students via any other method except their Sonoma State account.

**E-Mail Rules:**

1. **Send emails to the instructor’s designated University address.**
2. **In the subject line type:** N________(Course #) & topic you wish to discuss
3. **Failure to put the proper topic in the subject line could impede the proper priority of the email.**
4. **Emails are intended to be a communication tool. Not for assignment submission.**

Unless it is the weekend or instructor is traveling or ill, all emails will be answered within **24 hours.** It is at the discretion of the instructor if emails will be answered on weekends, holidays and vacations.

**Texting** is at the discretion of the individual instructors.

**Student Records and Files:**
The Department of Nursing will maintain a file in the office for each student in all nursing majors. These
files will be maintained and monitored by the faculty and staff of the department of nursing only. The files will remain in a locked security cabinet when not specifically in use by faculty. Should a student need to review or copy any item in this file they are required to make an appointment with their advisor and review the file in their advisors office only. Students need to maintain their own file of grades, immunization records, clinical evaluations, etc. The Department Office staff is not permitted to copy items from your file for you. Files are not to be removed from the department and will be maintained by the department for five years after graduation at which time all documents in the file will be shredded. (Appendix 5)

**Updating your address/phone:** Your academic folder needs to reflect your current address, last name change, phone and personal e-mail address at all times. Please send an email to [www.nursing@sonoma.edu](mailto:www.nursing@sonoma.edu) to inform us of any changes. You also need to update address and phone changes with the University through your PeopleSoft account (Self Service – Campus Personal Information).

**Internet sites:** Much of the information a student will need is available through Sonoma State University’s home page on the Internet ([www.sonoma.edu](http://www.sonoma.edu)) as well as SSU Nursing’s home page ([www.sonoma.edu/nursing](http://www.sonoma.edu/nursing)). It is the student's responsibility to obtain and be knowledgeable about University and program requirements.

**Computer Requirements**

Nursing courses use a wide variety of education strategies to facilitate your learning. The Instructional Technology department is a valuable resource for you to identify home computer needs and to solve a variety of problems as you incorporate informatics into your repertoire of scholarly activities. Students are required to have access to a reliable computer. You may use computers on campus to facilitate your learning in a variety of campus labs or, if you choose to use your personal computer, these are the requirements needed for nursing program coursework.

- Fast Internet connection.
- A web browser that works with our version of Moodle (Firefox recommended).
- Microsoft Silverlight downloaded for ATI programming.
- Firefox downloaded as a browser option. (Will be required for ATI and recommended for Moodle). Microsoft Word for all program coursework (Text edit or Pages is not allowed)

If you have questions about setting up your computer, review the Information Technology website at [http://www.sonoma.edu/it/](http://www.sonoma.edu/it/) and/or call 664-HELP.

**Confidentiality of Patient Information**

In order to comply with HIPAA confidentiality regulations, clients must not be described in any identifiable way. Do not use initials, exact descriptions, or locations in journals or care plans either in paper documents on on-line assignments. Use only generalities so that no client can be explicitly recognized. Sonoma State University students and faculty must comply with the confidentiality requirements that our partner clinical agencies are mandated to follow.

An inappropriate patient care description might be, "D.E., a Vietnamese manicurist in northeast Santa Rosa, has been diagnosed with positive tuberculosis. "This type of description cannot be used. A more general description, in which the patient cannot be identified, would be, "Miss X, a service worker in Sonoma County, is positive for tuberculosis."
References to patients, patient data or clinical experiences involving patients or family members are not allowed in any social networking environment. Use of cell phones and other electronic devices in the clinical setting are deemed appropriate only by your individual clinical faculty prior to any clinical rotation.

Careful consideration must also be given to the location of any discussions on patients and their families. Classroom, post conference and lab settings may be used for such discussions as a learning tool. Cafeteria, lunch or dinner conversations on or off site are not appropriate and would be considered a violation of patient and family confidentiality.

HIPAA compliance at each clinical agency will be reviewed and adhered by each student. Failure to comply may result in agency requirements for reporting.

Failure to comply with strict confidentiality of all patient and patient family information could result in failure of a course and dismissal from the program.

**Continuing Education Units**

For students who hold California RN licensure, SSU is approved by the BRN to provide continuing education units. One semester unit of an SSU nursing course equals 15 contact hours (15 CEUs). (example: a two-unit nursing course = 30 contact hours, which fulfills the biannual licensure renewal requirement for continuing professional education in California).

SSU’s Continuing Education BRN provider number is 16694. Your official University transcript serves as verification of your coursework. Certificates will not be issued to you.

**Contractual Agency Clinical Affiliation Agreements**

The University maintains contracts with clinical agencies in which students are placed for clinical learning experiences. As part of these contracts, students have the responsibility, for the safety of the patients, themselves and the faculty. The DON utilizes Certified Background to maintain health and safety requirements for these contracts.

**Course Challenge**

A student may earn credit for a course at SSU by successfully completing a course challenge examination. Only courses that are listed in the University catalog for which the student has not received prior credit may be challenged.

Students should read the course syllabus, requirements and objectives before making the decision to challenge the course. After reviewing these, the student should contact the instructor of record to further discuss the challenge examination process and develop a plan for the challenge. This plan must be documented on a Nursing Department Petition, signed by the instructor. The instructor will present this petition to the appropriate program director for approval.

The student enrolls in the course and receives a grade at the end of the semester, based on the challenge. Should the student fail to meet the course challenge requirement, they may elect to remain enrolled in and complete the course or may withdraw from the course for the semester.

**Course Equivalency**

A student who believes they have taken a course that is equivalent to one in SSU’s curriculum may petition for approval of equivalency on a Nursing Department petition form. Evidence of completion of the course at another institution and a course description must be submitted with the petition. The petition is presented to the appropriate program director for approval.
Culminating Experience for Family Nurse Practitioner Program Comprehensive Clinical Simulated Exam (see appendix 1)

FNP students will take the Clinical Simulated Exam (CSE), also known as the Objective Simulated Clinical Exam (OSCE), to satisfy the culminating experience requirement. The CSE will be based on a standardized client and will simulate a clinical encounter with a client. There are three major parts to the exam.

Part I. Ability to gather subjective and objective data from client
Part II. Ability to provide a logical assessment and plan for a client
Part III. Ability to apply theoretical principles to client care

Grading Procedure: Students must pass each section to successfully complete the entire culminating exam. Grading will be based on a percentage that will be translated into a "pass/fail" grade.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Policy on Provisions of Accommodations and Support Services to Students with Disabilities

Disability Services for Students (DSS) Policies and Procedures

http://www.sonoma.edu/dss/faculty_staff/faculty_faq.html

The California State University (CSU) Policy for Provisions of Accommodations and Support Services to Students with Disabilities prohibits unlawful discrimination against students on the basis of disability in CSU Programs, services, and activities in accordance with, but not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA); Sections 504 and 508 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and applicable California state laws. The CSU Policy is consistent with current applicable federal and state laws concerning the non-discrimination of students on the basis of disability.

Specific Roles and Responsibilities
While the Director of Disability Services for Students (DSS) maintains authority to review and verify disabilities and to determine accommodations, the DSS serves as the office to authorize and dispense services and accommodations, the entire campus community is mandated to assure equal access to programs and activities of the University.

Sonoma State University is committed to providing an inclusive environment, which is responsive to the needs of all students. To ensure this inclusion, appropriate accommodations are provided to students and prospective students who have self-identified with verified disabilities and who require these accommodations in order to enjoy access to university programs, services, or activities for which the individuals are otherwise qualified.

Procedure for Requesting Academic Accommodations

Students with Disabilities:
In order for students with disabilities (both permanent and temporary) to receive academic accommodations students must self-identify with the DSS office and provide medical/appropriate professional documentation of functional limitations of their disabling condition when not readily apparent. Information acquired during this process is confidential but will be shared upon consent of the student. To obtain accommodations, students must:

1. Self-identify as a student with a disability and in need of access or accommodation at SSU by initiating a meeting with a Disability Management (DM) Advisor in DSS.
2. Provide appropriate verification of the disability or disabilities and request specific academic and/or housing-related accommodation(s) based upon the documented functional limitations associated with the individual’s disability, per SSU guidelines.
3. Discuss disability and accommodation requests with a DM Advisor to obtain approval for specific accommodation(s) prior to and with sufficient advance notice to implement needed services. Some services
may need to be coordinated with faculty, other campus departments and vendors well in advance of the
start of the semester (e.g. Brailed materials, interpreters, housing).
4. Actively engage in the interactive process of determining reasonable and appropriate accommodations with
faculty and DSS staff.
5. Personally and directly contact faculty regarding the approved accommodation(s) and provide them with
written authorization from DM Advisor within the first 2 weeks of classes, if possible.

Department of Nursing Policies and Procedures

Students with disabilities may take a paper and pencil test, computer/online or Moodle mode for any
proctored course exam or project. Any student requesting their documented accommodations will be
required to take their exams in the Disability Services Center. Students are encouraged to take tests
according to implementation assigned by Course Faculty.

Student Responsibilities

1. Submit current documentation regarding the specific disability to the staff of DSS. The documentation should
state, as determined by an appropriate professional, what reasonable accommodations the student needs.
Students will provide documentation to each course faculty within the first 2 weeks of each semester or as soon
as identified.
2. Student will schedule a meeting with the faculty to discuss accommodations at least two weeks prior to the first
exam to review the policy and discuss plan for accommodations.
3. Students will notify DSS two weeks before the scheduled exam.
4. Students will schedule the test on the same day as the scheduled exam.
5. If a course exam or ATI Exam is scheduled/offered outside of DSS hours, the student is required to contact
DSS and schedule accommodations during DSS hours.
6. Students who take the test earlier than colleagues are prohibited from sharing any content in any format. This is
cheating. If cheating occurs students involved will obtain zero credit for the exam and may result in course
failure and/or dismissal from the program.
7. Students will notify faculty two weeks prior to any exam of any change in accommodation needs, mode of
delivery requests, and scheduling with DSS.
8. The student has the option with any exam to opt out of accommodations and take the exam in the testing
environment during the regularly scheduled timeframe. The student will be required to sign a waiver of
accommodation release for each incident waived.

Faculty Responsibilities

1. Meet with the student requesting accommodations at the beginning of each semester to review the policy
and discuss respective responsibilities.
2. Complete the DSS form with specific accommodation one week prior to each scheduled exam.
http://www.sonoma.edu/dss/web_forms/test_request.html
3. Verify and confirm with student and DSS one week prior to exam.
4. All students will take ATI proctored Tests online. JoAnne Jaggars jaggars@sonoma.edu in DSS is the
contact person and proctor for ATI exams in the Disabilities Services.
DRESS AND IDENTIFICATION
Pre-licensure BSN students represent the department and university in all clinical settings. To that end students are expected to have business casual dress and the Department of Nursing official name badge unless a uniform is required. In addition some clinical agencies require a facility name badge. In all clinical settings check the course syllabus and speak with the faculty assigned to clarify the appropriate dress code.

Acute Care Uniform Policy
The required SSU uniform will be worn during all acute care clinical rotations. Students will also purchase the Department identification badge, which must be worn on the uniform. The patch will be worn on the left sleeve. All Uniforms and Lab Coats will be purchased through the Dove website and Dove will attached the patch. Standard white nursing or white athletic shoes are required for all hospital clinical rotations. Students are required to wear full school uniforms to all acute care experiences. In some cases a lab coat will be required. Lab coats are to be white with the Sonoma State patch applied to the left upper sleeve. Scrub jackets are optional. Only a white cotton shirt can be worn underneath SSU uniform

All Clinical Rotations
All students in clinical settings must follow a professional standard of dress and deportment, including hairstyle, make-up, type and amount of jewelry.

Students may not wear jeans, sweats, stretch pants, shorts, tight fitting, low cut or midriff baring tops or other sports clothing to any clinical rotation. Lab coats may be required in certain clinical courses.

All students must purchase a picture ID badge through the Nursing Department Office to be worn during all clinical experiences with the exception of some psychiatric rotations.

Clinical faculty will not allow a student to remain in the clinical setting if the student arrives with inappropriate attire or without ID badge.

Failure to comply with the dress code at any clinical experience may result in dismissal for the day and a subsequent clinical absence.

Financial Aid and Scholarships
Financial Aid
The Financial Aid Office website http://www.sonoma.edu/finaid/index.html. Many types of financial aid are available through this office, including grants, work-study and loans. Check with the Financial Aid Office for deadlines and eligibility.

Scholarships
Scholarship information is available at the Scholarship Office, located in Salazar 1010C, phone 664-2261, website http://www.sonoma.edu/Scholarship/ The application deadline for University scholarships is usually February 15. Check with the Scholarship Office each year for any changes to deadlines.

Occasionally, the Nursing Department receives scholarship information that the Scholarship Office does not have. Information will be placed near the communication folders and/or sent via Sonoma.edu e-mail.
GRADING

Undergraduate Course Grading Scale
Final course grades will be based on the following percentages and will earn grade points as indicated. Students must earn a minimum grade of "C" (2.0) in each course in order to continue in the program. A grade of "C-" or lower is unacceptable. Only letter grades are given in nursing major courses, except in courses for which a Cr/NC option is specifically indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 - 93</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 83</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74 - 76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 73</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 - 69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64 - 66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 63</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minimum acceptable grade in Nursing major course

Graduate Course Grading Scale
Final course grades will be based on the following percentages and will earn grade points as indicated. Students must maintain a 3.0 in graduate level courses to continue in the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95.5 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92.5 - 95.4</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89.5 - 92.4</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86.5 - 89.4</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.5 - 86.4</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.5 - 83.4</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.5 - 80.4</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74.5 - 77.4</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.5 - 74.4</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.5 - 72.4</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 69.5</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minimum acceptable grade in clinical/residency course

Grading of Assessment Technology Institute (ATI) Exams
**Background:** The nursing program at SSU has student success as its top priority. To that end, the department utilizes a comprehensive program of quality assessment called ATI Assessment Technologies, Inc.). This of modules and exams have been proven to increase student success in both program content and NCLEX pass rates (www.atitesting.com). Prior to entering the program students have been introduced to the TEAS. Each Content Mastery Series module follows the program algorithm for testing and, if necessary, remediation and retesting. These courses include Fundamentals, Pharmacology, Medical-Surgical Nursing, Mental Health, Maternal-Newborn, Nursing Care of Children, Leadership and Management, and Community Health Nursing. In addition, the SSU nursing program utilizes a capstone exam, The RN Comprehensive Predictor, with designated benchmarks to predict likelihood of passing the NCLEX-RN. Passing the RN Comprehensive Predictor is required to complete the program and graduate. The department encourages students to seek faculty assistance for any questions they may have regarding ATI and this comprehensive program. (Appendix 4)

**Graduation**

Curricular requirements for graduation are specified in the Sonoma State University catalog. Students must meet the requirements of the catalog under which they were admitted. In addition to the curricular degree requirements, the following paperwork must be submitted:

**BSN Graduation**

The "Major/Minor Requirements" and the "Application for Award of Degree" forms must be completed and turned in to Admissions & Records by the appropriate deadline to graduate in the semester the student desires.

An advising session is scheduled in the spring prior to the students’ year of graduation to review degree requirements and to complete the forms. If a student misses this session, examples of completed forms are available in the Nursing Office.

Graduation Applications must be received in the Office of Admissions and Records by the following dates:

* Students who file by the Priority Filing Date will have the benefit of receiving a Graduation Evaluation prior to registering for their final semester.

** The Final Deadline is the date by which students must submit applications to be considered for graduation at the conclusion of that term.

**Graduation with Distinction**

The Department of Nursing faculty (or student peer) may nominate an undergraduate or graduate student for "Graduation with Distinction." The Department of Nursing Faculty awards “Graduation with Distinction” to individual graduates who have met the outlined department criteria. (Appendix 12) Faculty will make decisions by October 31 for December graduates and March 31 for May and August graduates.

**MSN Graduation**

In addition to meeting the curricular requirements of the program, graduate students are required to successfully complete a culminating experience (see the section in this handbook on the Culminating Experience). Students are responsible for submitting the following forms in order to be able to graduate:

1. **Advancement to Candidacy Form** (GS01) This form is to be completed and filed as soon as a student knows the date he/she will be completing the requirements for graduation, i.e., when the date of the culminating experience is known or when submitting the plan for the final project or thesis prospectus, which is usually the semester before the student plans to graduate.

2. **Completion of Requirements Form** (GS02) This form is completed and filed when the final project has been successfully completed, usually a few weeks before graduation.

   Turn the above forms in to the Department Office to obtain your program coordinator’s signature. The Department Office will forward the forms to Graduate Studies.

3. Application for Graduation Students must also file an Application for Graduation form with the Office of Admissions and Records. Students should check each semester with the Office of
Admissions and Records for exact filing deadlines.

Group Projects
The educational purpose of group assignments is to maximize the potential for a cooperative and collaborative effort. To be successful, all students are to contribute equally, attend all scheduled meetings, and have delegated work completed as agreed upon by the group. If a student does not meet group expectations (in person or online) the group members first address their concerns with the student. If the problem(s) is not resolved then group members should discuss concerns with the course instructor. Additional information and requirements on group projects may be listed in individual course syllabi.

Health And Immunization Requirements
Before beginning clinical classes, all students are required to submit documentation in CastleBranch © of a health history and current immunization status. The history and physical examination must be completed within the six months prior to start of the first clinical class. All immunizations and CPR must be reviewed and, if required updated annually by August 1st. Students will not be allowed in the clinical setting without evidence of these documents. Clinical facilities require proof of the following before beginning clinical experience:

- Health Physical Form completed by a physician, Family Nurse Practitioner or Physician’s Asst.
- Positive Rubella Titer or positive antibody screen or proof of MMR vaccine (Measles/Mumps/Rubella)
- Positive Varicella Titer or positive antibody screen or proof of Varicella vaccine
- Second Rubella vaccine or MMR 4-6 weeks after initial MMR for students born after 1957, or proof of immunity.
  - Hepatitis B vaccine series
  - Tetanus within 10 years.
  - Proof of negative PPD (TB test) or TB symptom free form evaluation. (updated annually with one PPD)
  - Influenza Vaccine Consent/Declination (Appendix 6) (Updated annually)

A two step Tuberculosis screening test is required for students who have no history of tuberculosis and who have never had a positive TB test. If you have been positive in the past, you will need a clearance from a physician to allow you into the clinical area.

Students must take the two step exam. A first skin test is given. If the first test is positive, the student should have a chest x-ray to rule out active infection with tuberculosis. If the test is negative, a second skin test is given a week later. Again, if this test is positive, the student must have a chest x-ray to rule out latent tuberculosis.

Any positive skin test, regardless of positive or negative chest x-ray, must be evaluated for treatment by a health care practitioner and clearance to clinical.

Students are tested or cleared by their health practitioners annually, which should include a symptom of tuberculosis evaluation.

Impaired Student Performance

The faculty of the Department of Nursing at Sonoma State University concur with the California Board of
Registered Nursing in relation to nursing students who are impaired by alcoholism, drug abuse and emotional distress.

1. We recognize that substance abuse and dependency are diseases and should be treated as such.

2. We are aware that personal and health problems arising from these diseases can affect a student’s academic and clinical performance and that the impaired nursing student is a danger to self and a grave danger to the patients in his or her care.

3. We believe that nursing students who develop these diseases can recover.

4. We agree that it is the responsibility of the nursing student to voluntarily seek diagnosis and treatment for any suspected illness.

5. We acknowledge that confidential handling of the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases is essential.

Furthermore, any behavior observed by a clinical instructor which may be indicative of use of substance use or abuse or emotional instability and which could be potentially dangerous to a client’s health and safety is cause for immediate removal of that student from the clinical area.

A meeting between the student and instructor will take place as soon as possible after the incident to discuss the matter. A performance contract will be implemented.

The instructor will notify the Department Chair of the incident and provide a copy of the performance contract.

The following link to the BRN diversion materials will provide additional information on the impaired nurse and actions taken. http://www.rn.ca.gov/diversion/index.shtml

**Injuries (including exposure to blood or bodily fluids)**

We realize at any time a student may sustain an injury or be exposed to products that can cause physical harm while in the clinical setting. The University carries Workers Compensation insurance that covers nursing students in clinical areas. Should an injury occur, students must immediately follow the infectious disease protocol in the agency and seek help from designated assigned agency staff to notify their clinical instructor who will direct that student to appropriate health care. Documentation and follow up will proceed according to the agency and university policy. All records and details of the incidence will remain confidential.

**Integrity: Cheating and Plagarism**

Academic integrity demands that students, unless otherwise directed by faculty, complete work that is entirely on their own. This means that each student takes responsibility for their own performance on quizzes, tests, papers, and other individually assigned projects unless specifically directed otherwise. The Nursing faculty does not believe that time, place, or mode of assignment/test voids this expectation. If ever there is any doubt, students are expected to ask for clarification prior to engaging in group work to complete an assignment or exam. Misrepresenting others’ work as one’s own, regardless of personal imprudence at justifying the act, is never acceptable. Students found to have cheated or plagiarized in the course may receive an “F” on the assignment and/or “F” in the course. An “F” in the course will require a petition to the faculty to repeat and if approved return
Pending space available in the following year. Important University information such as the add/drop policy, cheating and plagiarism policy, grade appeal procedures, accommodations for students with disabilities and the diversity vision statement can be found at: http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/studentinfo.shtml

Further guidance on this subject can be found in the SSU Student Code of Conduct and Student Rights and Responsibilities accessible from the SSU Student Affairs website, http://www.sonoma.edu/saem/conduct.shtml and also from the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses, Provision 5 at http://nursingworld.org/ethics/ecode.htm.

Leave Of Absence

Students who find it necessary to request a leave of absence (LOA) from the Nursing major may do so after successful completion of a full semester. While this is acceptable, students so doing will be allowed to enroll in subsequent courses only on a "space available" basis. Students who take an LOA for more than one semester must be re-admitted to the University in order to be eligible to enroll in subsequent courses. Students leaving the nursing program in good standing may return after one year due to the ever changing healthcare education environment.

Requests for a Leave of Absence are to be documented on a Department Petition form and submitted to the appropriate program director with a copy to the Chair.

Liability Insurance

Professional liability insurance (also known as “malpractice” insurance) is required of all nursing students enrolled in clinical courses. This is provided at no cost by the California State University. The California State University holds a blanket liability insurance policy with coverage in the amount of $2 million per occurrence/$4 million aggregate for all nursing students in its system. A clinical agency may require that you show proof of this coverage. Students can obtain a copy of the face sheet of this policy for the clinical agency through their clinical faculty.

Licensure/Certification

LVN Certification for Pre-Licensure BSN Students: The California BRN allows Pre-Licensure BSN students to take the LVN exam after the completion of the third semester of nursing courses. If you are interested in this option make an appointment with the Department of Nursing Chair.

NCLEX Exam for RN Licensure: Pre-Licensure BSN graduates are eligible to take the NCLEX exam which, upon successful completion, provides RN licensure. In the semester before graduation, students need to download an Application for Licensure by Examination and accompanying forms from the California Board of Registered Nursing website (http://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/applicants/exam-app.pdf). It is the student’s responsibility to complete the forms in a timely fashion and mail them to the Board of Registered Nursing. The BRN will return an “Authorization to Test” to the student in the week prior to graduation and the student can then schedule the appointment for testing. An Interim Permit can be issued by the BRN which allows the student to work immediately upon graduation until successful completion of the NCLEX exam (valid for 6 months and can work only under direct supervision of RN). (http://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/regulations/npr-b-05.pdf) (http://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/regulations/npr-b-53.pdf) When the student has passed the NCLEX and the final University transcript with the BSN degree posted is received by the BRN, the RN license is issued. Additionally, the National Council for State Boards of Nursing offers information on the NCLEX testing plan available at https://www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm.

Public Health Nursing (PHN) Certification: Students who have earned their Bachelor’s of Science degree in Nursing at SSU are eligible for the Public Health Nursing certificate from the California Board of Registered Nursing. Students who are interested in this certification can download the application for Public Health Nurse certification from the BRN’s website (http://www.rn.ca.gov). Post licensure graduates need to request Official
transcripts from Sonoma State Office of Admissions & Records.

**Nurse Practitioner Licensure:**

Graduates of the SSU FNP program must apply for nurse practitioner certification so they can practice legally in California. Certification forms may be obtained by requesting them from the California BRN or downloading them from the BRN website (http://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/applicants/np-app.pdf). To apply for certification by the BRN, follow these steps:

- Submit completed form "Application for Nurse Practitioner Certification" and fee to the BRN. Use official graduation date for the semester you graduate (see catalogue for official date).
- Request that the Office of Admissions & Records at SSU send transcripts to the BRN when your graduation is posted (6 to 8 weeks after graduation).
- Submit completed form "Verification of Completion of Nurse Practitioner Program" (page 9) (Method 1) to the FNP Program Director at SSU. When graduation or completion dates have been verified, this form will be sent to the BRN.

The BRN will not accept verification forms dated prior to the student's actual graduation date. The Nursing Department needs to wait approximately 4 weeks from the date of graduation for official notification by the Registrar's Office that a student has graduated.

**FNP Furnishing and Dispensing Certification:**

In order to furnish drugs or devices in approved clinics, according to California Law (BPC, Sect. 2836, 1), nurse practitioners must have pharmacology course content as specified by the BRN. The SSU FNP Program includes content and experience that meet the BRN criteria, via N552 Pharmacology in Primary Care.

To obtain a BRN furnishing number, graduates must submit the BRN Nurse Practitioner Pharmacology Course Verification form (available from the BRN). Send the form to the FNP Program Director who completes it and sends it to the BRN. (http://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/applicants/npf-app.pdf)

**FNP Certification Exam:**

Certification is the process by which the American Nurses Credentialing Center Boards on Certification or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Committee validate, based on predetermined standards, an individual nurse's qualifications, knowledge, and practice in a defined functional or clinical area of Nursing. Some states require ANA or AANP certification in order to practice as a nurse practitioner. As of 1993, only masters prepared NP's may sit for the exam.

**American Nurses Credentialing Center:**

To get an application form contact: [http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification](http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification)

Once you have registered and been approved for the computerized Certification Exam you will receive a registration number. This allows you to take the exam at designated Sylvan sites by appointment.

To apply for the exam after you have graduated, fill out the forms and send Form E to the FNP program director for a signature.

To apply for the examination before you actually graduate (if you want to sit for the June exam and you graduate in May), have the program director fill out form E with your expected date of graduation. After you actually do graduate, you must get a letter from the program director verifying that you did indeed graduate. You do not need this letter if you apply for the exam after you finish the program.
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners National Competency-Based Certification Examination: This exam may be taken by FNP's and Adult NP's who are graduates of an MSN program. FNP's certified by the ANA Credentialing Center may apply to this testing board for reciprocity without examination. For information contact: American Academy of Nurse Practitioners/Capitol Station, LBJ Building/PO Box 12846/ Austin, Tx. 78711 (512)442-4262
Netiquette and Student Responsibilities in Online Learning Communities

The department requires students to demonstrate professional and caring behaviors whenever communicating online with peers, faculty and members of the public. Netiquette is a set of principles of how to interact respectfully in cyberspace. Students need to become familiar with established standards of netiquette and are referred to review both Shea’s Rules of Netiquette on [http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html) and West’s article: *A Student’s Guide to Strengthening an Online Community* (2010).

**Petitions**

To request an exception to a rule, the student must complete a petition. The Department and the appropriate Vice President use university petition forms to request an exception from a University rule and require approval. Department petitions are used to request an exception from a Nursing Department rule and require approval of the Nursing faculty. These petitions, after action is taken, are kept in the student's academic file and a copy is given to the student. (Appendix 2)

**Pregnancy**

A student who is pregnant is to

1. Inform the instructor who is responsible for clinical supervision that semester
2. Submit a written statement from her physician or Certified Nurse Midwife to the Department of Nursing at the time of her initial visit as well as at approximately 28, 32, and 36 weeks. These statements should indicate that it is safe for her to continue in the total educational program, including clinical rotations.

**Health Clearance**

If at any point during the progression in the nursing program the student becomes ill, has a surgical procedure, becomes injured, delivers a baby, becomes hospitalized, develops a condition, or has an exacerbation of a condition that limits the student’s ability to fulfill the SSU Nursing Program requirements. The student will obtain a health clearance form (appendix 12) from a health care provider before returning to the Program.

**Progression In The Nursing Program**

Baccalaureate Nursing majors must attain a minimum grade of "C" (2.0) in all nursing courses. Should a student not maintain a minimum grade of "C" (C-is not acceptable) in a nursing major course, the student may petition the faculty to repeat one course. If approval is granted, the student must receive a "C" or better in the course when repeated. If a minimum of "C" is not attained, the student will not be eligible to remain in, or graduate from, the Nursing major.

Graduate students must maintain a "B" average (3.0 GPA) in their courses (University rule). If the student's GPA falls below 3.0, the University will place the student on probation. If the student’s GPA remains below 3.0 after a semester on probation, the student will be disqualified and will be required to petition the University to be able to continue studies.

If a student receives a "U" in a nursing major course, constituting an unauthorized withdrawal, the student must repeat the course within one year or the "U" will convert to an "F". Upon repeat of the course, a "C" or better must be earned in order to remain in the nursing program.

If a student needs to take an Incomplete (I) in a course, the student must be in passing status at the time this grade is requested. An Incomplete Grade contract form must be completed by the student and the instructor and filed in the student’s academic file. Although the University allows students to take up to a year to complete an Incomplete, the Department of Nursing additionally requires that all Incompletes be completed before a student progresses to a subsequent course. See university polices on grading and progression. ([http://www.sonoma.edu/catalog/08-10/17regulations.pdf](http://www.sonoma.edu/catalog/08-10/17regulations.pdf))
**Mid-Term Notification**

In the Pre-licensure program, when appropriate, clinical evaluations at mid-term and at the end of clinical courses formally evaluate student performance and are based on criteria specified in the Clinical Evaluation Form. Faculty use this Clinical Evaluation Form for all clinical courses in the curriculum. Students should use this form to evaluate their own performance during the entire clinical rotation. A student whose mid-term grade is C- or below will be notified, in writing, that he/she may not pass the course. The instructor will develop a written Performance Contract to guide the student toward meeting competency expectations for clinical. Failure to meet the Performance Contract stipulations may result in immediate removal from the clinical experience and/or clinical course failure.

**Client Safety**

If, during enrollment in a clinical nursing course, a student's performance presents a potential harm to the welfare of clients, the faculty will determine, on the basis of oral and/or written documentation, whether or not the student will be permitted to continue in the course. If the student’s performance presents an immediate potential harm to clients or self, program faculty and/or preceptors have the responsibility and authority to immediately remove the student from the clinical environment. (Appendix 10)

**Special Studies (N495/N595/Rural Nurse Placement Program)**

Independent Study (Special Studies) is available to students who want to pursue a subject other than a clinical experience in greater depth or one not offered by the University. The student designs the course of study in conjunction with a faculty member willing to sponsor the study.

To enroll in the independent study, the student completes the Special Studies form with their faculty advisor and turns it in to the Department Office for Chair and Dean signatures. The completed form with signatures needs to be turned in to Admissions and Records prior to the end of the Add/Drop registration period for that semester and is the only manner in which a student may enroll in an Independent Study. Special Studies can be taken for 1 to 4 units. Each unit of credit requires a minimum of 45 hours of academic or clinical work.

An external program available for an additional clinical experience is the Rural Nurse Placement Program offered at CSUCHico. To view more information visit their website at [http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/cat05/2StudentServices/09intern.html#internshipsandcooperativeeducatio](http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/cat05/2StudentServices/09intern.html#internshipsandcooperativeeducatio)

A representative from CSUCHico is often available to meet with students and answer questions regarding the program. Dates, times and location will be posted in the SSU Nursing Department.

**Social Media**

The Department of Nursing fully supports the use of appropriate social media as a communication tool in today’s society. Given the nature of the profession, in nursing and the role of the university, the department has developed a policy for the use of social media in and out of classroom and clinical settings. (Appendix 10)

**Student Activities**

**Department/University Committees**

Students are encouraged to become involved in campus life by serving on departmental and University committees. The Nursing Department has Program and Level Team meetings at which students are encouraged to provide input. The Team Leaders will solicit volunteers and notify students of the meetings.
Student Groups
An increasing number of clubs are available at SSU that meet special interests of students. Within the Department of Nursing, a student nurses group, Sonoma Students United in Nursing (NCSSU) is quite active. All baccalaureate students are encouraged to join this organization. A list of clubs chartered through the Student Activities Office (x2391) may be obtained at the front desk in the Student Union.

Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society
Students in the nursing major may become members of Sigma Theta Tau, Lambda Gamma Chapter, the international nursing honor society, by invitation.

The purposes of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing are to:
1. Recognize superior achievement.
2. Recognize the development of leadership qualities.
3. Foster high professional standards.
4. Strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession of nursing

Those qualified are encouraged to apply:
1. Undergraduate and graduate students in the top 30% of their respective classes, as determined by faculty based on GPA and leadership qualities.
2. Undergraduate students must have completed 20 nursing units.
3. Graduate students must have completed 8 nursing units in their graduate curriculum.

The procedures for application are:
1. Applications are available online at
   (http://www.nursingsociety.org/membership/applynowPages/applynow.aspx)

The Eligibility Committee will review your application and notify you of the Chapter's decision regarding your membership by March 1st. If you are to be inducted, a fee will be due before induction ceremonies. This fee will include the one-time induction fee as well as the annual local chapter fee and international fee. All candidates must attend the Induction Ceremony to be recognized as a member.
Student Representatives

Purpose of the Role

The primary purpose of a Nursing Cohort Student Representative is to act as point of contact between the student community and the faculty. By raising student matters and communicating student views, the Student Reps make a valuable contribution to the department of Nursing’s decision-making and endeavor to ongoing program assessment, evaluation and revision.

Selection and Responsibilities

Their peers elect student representatives annually for each program cohort. Student Representative’s are expected to attend department meetings. The meetings are typically on Monday afternoon’s and held once a month. Students have the opportunity to attend department either face-to-face or online.

Representation and communication: Representative’s are expected become aware of issues of concern and program ideas amongst the students they represent and to communicate this information to the faculty. Individual course or faculty issues are to be communicated with the faculty of record. These are best addressed on an individual basis and not in a public forum.

Representative’s work on behalf of a cohort of students to represent their views to the faculty. It is essential that Reps make efforts to find out the views of their peers and aside their own views if necessary.

Communication is central to the Representative’s role. The Student Representative’s role does not function effectively if students do not know who Student Representative’s are, what they do or how to contact them. Student Representative’s will need to:

- Making sure students know who you are and how to contact you.
- Being available to attend departmental meetings.
- Setting aside sufficient time to consult with your cohort peers on a regular basis. Representatives can use with face-to-face and/or online communication modalities. Please notify the Chair of the meeting ahead of time for any technology access.
- Feeding back issues and responses to and from students and faculty
- Maintaining a professional, constructive and courteous attitude, even if you disagree with people.

Benefits

The main benefit is the opportunity for professional development and networking: gain important professional skills; interfacing with a range of academics and contributing to the quality of department programs.

Student Rights -Discipline -Grievance

The Department of Nursing adheres to all university regulations regarding student conduct, discipline, grievance, and grade appeal. Students should consult the SSU Division of Student Affairs website (http://www.sonoma.edu/saem/), for information on the SSU Student Code of Conduct, Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Discipline Procedures, and Student Grievance Procedures. The policy on grade appeal may be found at http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/gradepolicy.htm.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

The official Sonoma State University Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities is available online at http://www.sonoma.edu/saem/rights.

Discipline and Grievance

a) Discipline: Inappropriate conduct by students or applicants is subject to disciplinary procedures. Such conduct
may lead to student behavioral contracts, probation, suspension or expulsion. See the SSU Judicial Affairs website further details on student discipline (http://www.sonoma.edu/saem/judicial).

b) Grade Appeal and Student Grievance: The SSU Grade Appeal Policy (http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/gradepolicy.htm) and the SSU Student Grievance Policy (http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/studentpolicy.htm) describe specific measures a student must take if they wish to report/challenge academic fairness, grades, discrimination, sexual harassment, abusive treatment, etc.

In following university policy, the Nursing Department requires that students who wish to resolve a complaint concerning an assigned grade or academic fairness in a course should first discuss the issue with the instructor of record. If the matter is not resolved at that level, the student may take the matter to the Nursing Department Chair. If the matter is not resolved at the Department Chair level the student’s options are to take the issue to the Dean, School of Science and Technology and/or to the University Grade Appeals Coordinator or Grievance Coordinator. In all cases, University policy needs to be followed by students, instructors and administrators.

**Transfer Policies**

**Undergraduate Program:** The Sonoma State University Department of Nursing will consider admission of a transfer student to any SSU nursing program under all of the following conditions:

1. Space is available at the appropriate level in the SSU nursing program
2. Director of the Nursing Program at the school from where the student wishes to transfer provides written documentation that the student is in good standing academically and clinically
3. The semester in which the student would begin at SSU is not more than one calendar year after the student attended nursing courses at the original campus
4. The nursing curricula at the original nursing program and at SSU are reasonably aligned such that student can be appropriately placed in the SSU curriculum
5. The student meets all applicable university and departmental academic and transfer requirements.

**Graduate Program:** No more than 12 units of extension or transfer course work may be applied to the Master of Science in Nursing degree.
NURSING FACULTY & STAFF

Full-Time Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilkosz, Mary Ellen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wilkosz@sonoma.edu">wilkosz@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunk, Tammy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brunk@sonoma.edu">brunk@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly, Michelle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kelmiche@sonoma.edu">kelmiche@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napoli, Rachel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:napoli@sonoma.edu">napoli@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose, Jordan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rosejo@sonoma.edu">rosejo@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, Wendy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wendy.smith@sonoma.edu">wendy.smith@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Werder, Karen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:werder@sonoma.edu">werder@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolcott, Krista</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wolcottk@sonoma.edu">wolcottk@sonoma.edu</a></td>
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Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP)

Kindy, Deb         deb.kindy@sonoma.edu

Part-Time Faculty

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brogan, Alanna</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alanna.brogan@sonoma.edu">alanna.brogan@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bischofberger, Stacy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bischofb@sonoma.edu">bischofb@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisgaard, Robin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bisgaard@sonoma.edu">bisgaard@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canepa, Karen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:karen.canepa@sonoma.edu">karen.canepa@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmunds, Johnna</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edmunds@sonoma.edu">edmunds@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miner, Mary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:minerma@sonoma.edu">minerma@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratliff, Katherine</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ratlifka@sonoma.edu">ratlifka@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richards, Judy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Judith.richards@sonoma.edu">Judith.richards@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ritter, Barbara</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barbara.ritter@sonoma.edu">barbara.ritter@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockett, Kathleen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rockett@sonoma.edu">rockett@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronchelli, Janie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ronchelj@sonoma.edu">ronchelj@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaffer, Nancy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shaffern@sonoma.edu">shaffern@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shreiberman, Barbara</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shreibma@sonoma.edu">shreibma@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skidmore, Loree</td>
<td><a href="mailto:skidmore@sonoma.edu">skidmore@sonoma.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sloan, Melissa</td>
<td><a href="mailto:melissa.sloan@sonoma.edu">melissa.sloan@sonoma.edu</a></td>
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Staff

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ana Munoz – AC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ana.munoz@sonoma.edu">ana.munoz@sonoma.edu</a> Kristi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellman – AC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hellmank@sonoma.edu">hellmank@sonoma.edu</a></td>
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(*Please see website for updated faculty and staff contact information: http://sonoma.edu/nursing/faculty/)*
Detailed description of CSE
The Comprehensive Clinical Simulated Exam (CSE) is based on a standardized client and simulates a clinical encounter with a client. There are three major parts to the exam.

Part I. Ability to gather subjective and objective data from client.

One of the FNP faculty will serve as the standardized client who presents to the provider (the student) with a complaint. All faculty have the same presenting problem and use the same script. The student will be observed and graded by a second FNP faculty. The whole experience will simulate a clinical encounter and will be audio-taped.

The student will work-up the "client" as they would in the clinical setting, proceeding to do a pertinent history and physical, and making a preliminary assessment/diagnosis and plan.

Part II. Ability to provide a logical assessment and plan for a client.

The student, using only the appropriate reference material, will provide a write-up of the visit using the standard SOAP format, including a problem list, a health maintenance list, and a medication list. The write-up may have an assessment/diagnosis and plan that may differ from the original oral preliminary assessment and plan, made in the exam room, because the student consulted with their reference books and materials.

Part III. Ability to apply theoretical principles to client care

The student must address, in a succinct, scholarly discussion and using APA format with necessary referencing the following:

A. Discussion of a theoretical perspective that is logically applied in the care of the particular client seen in the encounter. Consideration must be given for the client's ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic status and pertinent demographic characteristics in detailing how the theoretical perspective is an appropriate choice.

B. Discussion of the ethical/policy and economic principles to consider in the care of the particular client seen in the encounter.

Grading Procedure: Students must pass each section to successfully complete the entire culminating exam.
Grading for Parts I and II will be based on a percentage that will be translated into a "pass/fail" grade. One faculty member evaluates the outcome which will be graded Pass/Fail. If the outcome fails, a second faculty member will evaluate it. The second evaluation is final. This is an individual exam, the use of published references is acceptable and encouraged, but students must not consult other persons in the preparation of parts II. and III.
Part I. At the end of the oral part of the exam (Part I.) the faculty observer will review with the student his/her ability to have gathered the pertinent subjective and objective information based on a standardized scoring system. If a student does not pass part I. he/she will be offered the opportunity to retake the exam at another time, by seeing another “patient”.

Parts II and III. The three documents: SOAP note, and two scholarly papers will be uploaded into Moodle within the timeframe established by the Director. Parts II & III will be graded according to the standardized criteria established by the FNP faculty.

**Format:** Part II. Please include a face page with your name. Must be presented in a succinct, scholarly manner using correct clinical terms and descriptions. Must document references/resources using APA format and be limited to three (3) pages, excluding references.

Part III. Must be presented in a succinct, scholarly manner utilizing APA format with the appropriate documentation of references used.

**Reporting of Results** In the event of a failing grade (SOAP), a second faculty will read unmarked copies of parts II. (SOAP) and/or III. Failures in part II will only be read by FNP faculty but failures in part III may be read by other graduate faculty. Papers are graded Pass/Fail. The second evaluation is final. The results of the exam will be e-mailed to individual students. If a student fails part II and/or III they may, after consultation with faculty, rewrite parts II and/or III within one week of the consultation.
APPENDIX 2

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Nursing
DEPARTMENT PETITION

Name: _____________________________  Date: _____________________________

Student ID: _________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of petition (check one &amp; provide thorough explanation with attached requested documentation)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o Waiver of department regulation ___________________________________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>List regulation and attach copy of regulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Repeat Course ___________________________________________________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attach personal statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Leave of absence (list semester) ___________________________________________________________</td>
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<td>Attach personal statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Course equivalency for the major (list course) _____________________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attach course description/course syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Masters Track Transfer ___________________________________________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attach personal statement</td>
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Student justification for petition (provide rationale for consideration of petition with requested documentation)

________________________________________________________________________________________

Student signature

Advisor comments, recommendations/conditions

________________________________________________________________________________________

Advisor signature

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<tr>
<th>Department Decision</th>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>Deny</th>
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Department Decision ______________  Approve __________  Deny __________

Chair signature/ date

________________________________________________________________________________________
APPENDIX 3

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Nursing

POLICY FOR STUDENTS PRACTICING PROCEDURES ON EACH OTHER

In the course of learning new nursing skills, it is often useful for students to take the client role. This enhances the learning experience by creating the more realistic learning experience that a “live patient” creates, and gives the client role a better perspective of the experience of the procedure creating a more empathetic and sensitive care giver.

The student’s right to privacy will be honored. Faculty will make every effort to protect privacy by making sure other students follow the same guidelines used in agencies to avoid exposure to the client. In the case of procedures, such as baths and physical assessments, students will be given the opportunity to bring bathing suits or other appropriate clothing.

The student’s right to refuse a given procedure will be honored. If a student chooses not to be a “client” for a particular skill, such as injection, bath, or IV start, the faculty will arrange a simulated experience for that student’s lab partner, unless another student is willing to take his/her turn.

Certain procedures are deemed by the faculty to be unsuitable or potentially dangerous for students to practice on each other. These procedures include but not limited to: urinary catheterization, nasal/oral suctioning, and nasogastric tube insertion.

Students may not practice any invasive procedure on another student unless there is direct faculty supervision and it is in the skills laboratory. At no time is an invasive procedure to be performed on any person outside of the nursing classes or clinical area, or in class or clinical without faculty supervision.

Syringe/needle policy: no syringe/needles will be distributed for student use without faculty supervision. Syringes will not be recapped. All syringes will meet OSHA safety requirements. All used needles will be placed immediately in an impermeable puncture-resistant “sharps” container for appropriate hazardous waste disposal.

All students will sign a release form to be kept on file in the department, indicating their understanding and compliance with the policy.
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
RELEASE AND CONSENT FOR STUDENTS
PRACTICING PROCEDURES ON EACH OTHER

I, ________________________________(insert name), have read the Department Policy for Students Practicing Procedures on Each Other, and agree to adhere to that policy. This adherence includes, but is not limited to, all students right to privacy, a students right to refuse a given procedure, limitations on permitted procedures, need for direct faculty supervision, practice only in skills lab, and the specified syringe/needle policy.

I voluntarily assume all the risks associated with participation in activities of this type. In consideration of my acceptance as a participant, I hereby release, forever discharge, and hereby hold Sonoma State University and its employees, Trustees of the California State University System, the State of California, its officers and agents, and other participants harmless from any and all claims, liabilities, suits, or damages which I have or might claim to have for injuries to my person, arising out of my participation in this activity.

My signature indicates that I have read, understand, and agree to the above policy.

Name

Date
Policy: For pre-licensure students, participation in Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) is mandatory. The Department of Nursing will provide students with ATI contact information. In collaboration with the Department students are responsible for contacting ATI to make payments for participation in ATI and for obtaining the requisite ATI materials before the academic year commence.

ATI Module

Each ATI Module has accompanying Practice Assessments. These will be assigned in each ATI course. The Practice Assessment attempts will be mastered at a level of 95% or better prior to the scheduled exam. See course syllabus for further details.

An ATI test is worth 15% of the total grade in a course for which it is assigned. To pass a course in which an ATI examination is required, at least a Proficiency Level 2 score must be attained on the proctored ATI examination with two attempts or successful “Secondary Remediation” must be completed.

Course Points for ATI Exam Assigned by Proficiency Level and Remediation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proficiency Level 3</th>
<th>100% of the course points designated for the ATI exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On first proctored attempt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proficiency Level 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On first proctored attempt</td>
<td>89% of the course points designated for the ATI exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proficiency Level 1 or Below</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On first proctored attempt</td>
<td>No point assignment. See remediation plan below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proficiency Level 3 on second</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attempt following first attempt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at Level 2</td>
<td>94% of the course points designated for the ATI exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful Initial Remediation on</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>second proctored exam at Level 3</td>
<td>89% of the course points designated for the ATI exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful Initial Remediation on</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>second proctored exam at Level 2</td>
<td>84% of the course points designated for the ATI exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful Remediation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(see Remediation Procedure)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Remediation</td>
<td>74% of the course points designated for the ATI exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsuccessful Remediation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Remediation</td>
<td>Course Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Initial Remediation Plan for a score below Level 2 proficiency on ATI exam(s) after first attempt. To be eligible for the second proctored ATI exam, a student must complete the following:

1. Evaluate your Focused Review: Go to www.atitesting.com and select My Results. Select all Topics to Review. Review areas identified by ATI as needed for more study time. Print review and take to faculty meeting.
2. Make a timely appointment with the course faculty.
3. Faculty will assign Practice Tests specific to course module to be completed before a retake is scheduled.
4. Retake Proctored exam as scheduled in the course.

Secondary Remediation Plan: If a score below Level 2 is obtained on a second proctored ATI exam:

5. Evaluate your Focused Review: Go to www.atitesting.com and select My Results. Select all Topics to Review. Review areas identified by ATI as needed for more study time. Print review and take to faculty meeting.
6. Make a timely appointment with the course faculty.
7. Faculty will evaluate and assign ATI tools for improvement.
8. Take the faculty assigned Learning Systems Final and pass with 95%.

RN Comprehensive Predictor:
The ATI Comprehensive Predictor is worth 15% of the total grade in NURS 414. To pass the course at least a 91% probability of passing NCLEX score must be attained or successful “Secondary Remediation” must be completed if unable to achieve at least a 91% in two separate testing attempts. See Student Handbook for complete ATI policy including remediation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Points for ATI Comprehensive Based on Probability of Passing NCLEX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Attempt RN Comprehensive Predictor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;72.7% Comp Predictor Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(95% or &gt; Probability)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Points (Will vary by semester)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Attempt RN Comprehensive Predictor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.0% Comprehensive Predictor score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(91% probability)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% of Course Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Attempt RN Comprehensive Predictor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;70.0% Comprehensive Predictor score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(91% probability)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Point Assignment See Initial Remediation Plan Below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retake second attempt RN Comprehensive Predictor Retake #1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89% of assigned course points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(After successful Remediation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.0% Comprehensive Predictor Score or greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91% probability or greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Attempt RN Comprehensive Predictor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;70.0% Comprehensive Predictor score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(&lt;91% probability)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Point Assignment See Initial Remediation Plan Below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Third attempt: RN Comprehensive Predictor Retake #2 (After successful remediation)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Student will need to purchase this additional exam or will receive 0 points</em> (Cost can vary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% Comprehensive Predictor Score or greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91% probability or greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74% of assigned course points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Initial Remediation Plan: The following remediation is required for students scoring below 91% probability on the first attempt. To be eligible for the second proctored ATI exam, a student must complete the following:

1. Make a timely appointment with faculty and bring your lap top
2. Review the focused review with faculty.
3. Faculty will review remediation plan as indicated on remediation contract
4. Student will retake the RN Comprehensive Predictor exam as scheduled in the course after successful completion of remediation plan.

Secondary Remediation: For students, unsuccessful at achieving at least 91% probability on the second proctored ATI exam. To be eligible for the third proctored ATI exam, the student will purchase the additional retake examination and must complete the following:

1. Make a timely appointment with faculty and bring your lap top
2. Review the focused review with faculty.
3. Faculty will review remediation plan as indicated on remediation contract
4. The student will take the RN Comprehensive Predictor Retake #2.
APPENDIX 5

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
POLICY FOR STUDENTS TO VIEW OR COPY INFORMATION FROM STUDENT
DEPARTMENT FILE

INTRODUCTION

Student confidentiality of information is of the utmost importance to the faculty and staff at Sonoma State University. Information in the files maintained by the Department of Nursing is critical to the health, safety and educational experience of each student. The integrity of each file is the responsibility of the department and its members.

POLICY

The Department of Nursing will maintain a file in the office for each student in all nursing majors. These files will be maintained and monitored by the faculty and staff of the department of nursing only. The files will remain in a locked security cabinet when not specifically in use by faculty. Should a student need to review or copy any item in this file they are required to make an appointment with their advisor and review the file in their advisor’s office only. Files are not to be removed from the department and will be maintained by the department for five years after graduation at which time all documents in the file will be shredded.
INTRODUCTION

In our continuing effort to provide safe care to our clients, prevent disease in our student population and pursuant to California Health and Safety Code 1288.5 and Senate Bill No 739 Chapter 526 the faculty will institute a policy regarding the option or declination of the influenza vaccine.

The California Health and Safety Code as of July 1, 2007 requires each facility to appoint an Infection Advisory Committee to make recommendations that will provide expertise in surveillance, prevention, and control of HAI.

The California Senate Bill No. 739 Chapter 526 requires that each general acute hospitals implement specific measures designed to prevent the spread of influenza and other HAI.

POLICY

Students and faculty in the Department of Nursing at Sonoma State University will complete the Department Vaccine Consent/Declination each year and present a copy to each acute care facility assignment/placement. Failure to do so could result in a delay in clinical placement or absences from clinical during a semester. It is the policy of the department to support the spread of communicable disease with the administration of vaccines, including influenza. Declination will result in application of special agency policies and may result in agency dismissal.
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

INFLUENZA VACCINE CONSENT/DECLINATION

Name: ____________________________ Date: ___________________

Program: ________________________

I have had a flu shot as documented by the information below:
Clinic where vaccinated
____________________________________________________________________
Date vaccinated
____________________________________________________________________
Manufacturer and lot number_____________________ Dose and Site_______________________
Signature of provider
____________________________________________________________________

I decline the vaccination: please complete the following section
____________________________________________________________________

Influenza Vaccine Declination

Written declination is required by California Senate Bill No. 739 as of 2007

I acknowledge that I have been made aware of the following facts:
√ Influenza is a serious disease that kills an average 36,000 Americans each year
√ Influenza virus may shed for up to 48 hours before symptoms appear, allowing unknown transmission to others
√ 30% of individuals may have no symptoms, allowing unknown transmission to others
√ Flu virus changes often and requires annual vaccination
√ Flu vaccine cannot transmit disease but does not prevent all disease
√ I decline to receive the vaccine for the __________ season
√ Influenza vaccine is recommended by the CDC for all healthcare workers to prevent disease transmission
√ Spread of influenza may cause harm/death to my fellow healthcare workers, family members and patients

Knowing these facts I choose not to be vaccinated at this time and understand the information presented in this form.

Print name: ______________________________________

Signature: _______________________________________

I decline the vaccination for the following reason(s). Check all that apply.

   ______ I will get the flu if I get the shot
   ______ I am allergic to the vaccine
   ______ I do not like needles
   ______ My philosophical or spiritual believes prohibit vaccination
   ______ I have a medical contraindication to receiving the vaccine
   ______ I do not wish to discuss my reasons for declining the vaccine
   ______ Other reasons for declining you wish to discuss

____________________________________________________________________
APPENDIX 7

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
PROCESS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS SEEKING CLINICAL SITE PLACEMENT FOR PRECEPTORSHIPS AND RESIDENCIES

- Student must discuss with faculty their ideas/plans for preceptorship/residency placement including accepting guidance and suggestions from faculty (clinical site visitor) who will communicate this information to the Program Director. The Program Director will forward to the Departments Clinical Contracts Coordinator any requests for Clinical Agency contracts or renewals. Students should not contact the Clinical Contracts Coordinator or the Nursing Office regarding clinical placements.

- Student explores and communicates with potential preceptor and clinical site to assess their willingness to host student at the site.

- Student obtains the following information and sends completed form via email attachment to the faculty (clinical site visitor) and the Program Director:
  
a. Name of Facility (“Clinical Site”) and parent agency, if any. (For example: “Folsom Clinic, Catholic Healthcare West or Mercy Redding -CHCW”):

  
  __________________________________________________________________________

  b. Full Name of Contact Person (usually not preceptor but Office Manager or QA or Credentialing person) who will facilitate clinical contract approval:

  
  __________________________________________________________________________

  c. Title and Role of the Contact Person:

  
  __________________________________________________________________________

  d. Email Address for Contact Person:

  
  __________________________________________________________________________

  e. Postal Address for Contact Person:

  
  __________________________________________________________________________

  f. Phone number of Contact Person: ________________________________

  Fax number of Contact Person: ________________________________
APPENDIX 8
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

Name                                      Date

Positive TB skin test (PPD) Date: ____________________________

Last Chest X-Ray Date: ____________________________

Please indicate if you are having any of the following problems for three to four weeks or longer:

1. Chronic Cough (greater than 3 weeks)                Yes _____  No _____
2. Production of Sputum                                Yes _____  No _____
3. Blood-Streaked Sputum                               Yes _____  No _____
4. Unexplained Weight Loss                            Yes _____  No _____
5. Fever                                              Yes _____  No _____
6. Fatigue/Tiredness                                   Yes _____  No _____
7. Night Sweats                                       Yes _____  No _____
8. Shortness of Breath                                Yes _____  No _____

NO EVIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS OR CONTAGIUM.

Date_____________  ______________________________________
           Student Signature

Date_____________  ______________________________________
       HealthCare Provider
APPENDIX 9
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
POLICY ON PROFESSIONAL AND SAFE PRACTICE

INTRODUCTION

Providing safe nursing care for clients is an ethical and legal responsibility of professional nurses. In the Department of Nursing (DON), these responsibilities are required of both faculty and students in all the clinical settings. Safe clinical practice is mandated by the California Board of Nursing’s (BRN) Nurse Practice Act (http://www.rn.ca.gov/npa/npa.htm) and supported by the American Nurses’ Association and other professional nursing organizations. Unsafe clinical practices are carefully managed at the administrative level so the student is provided with a maximum learning opportunity while the client (the recipient of care) is adequately protected. Individuals who do not meet the stated professional standards for ethical and legal conduct in a clinical setting will be held accountable by the Department of Nursing as noted in associated policies/procedures.

The Department of Nursing seeks consultation with the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) on matters that affect nursing practice and those that challenge ethical standards, criminal conduct, unsafe clinical practice, and/or potential legal standards of the profession. Unprofessional conduct in any clinical venue related to the Department of Nursing is grounds for disqualification from the nursing program. The following behaviors are grounds for sanctions:

1. Students failing to maintain professional conduct, will be removed from the setting.
2. Students considered unsafe by the faculty and/or the agency in which the student is placed for clinical practice will be removed from the setting.
3. Students unable to complete course objectives constitute a course failure.
4. Dependent on the specific circumstance, and if allowed, a clinical course may be repeated one time if a similar clinical experience can be arranged with another agency, and another faculty member will assume the responsibility for the student's learning experiences.

Students will be oriented to safe clinical practice policies during the first semester of enrollment in the major, and both faculty and students will be responsible for reviewing the policy prior to beginning clinical rotations. All nursing students are responsible for the information maintained in the Student Handbook; this document delineates these policies. Drug testing and criminal background checks are required for all nursing students as a contingency for final admission to the program.

A. POLICY:

(1) A student whose behavior or pattern of behavior is found to be unsafe may be terminated from a clinical practicum for reasons of unsafe practices at any time during the semester and will receive a grade of F for the clinical course. These unsafe critical indicators are outlined in each clinical course evaluation tool.
(2) If a student fails to maintain professional conduct in clinical, the student may be disqualified from the program, or appropriate parties may determine other sanctions.
B. DEFINITIONS:

The student will demonstrate professional behaviors which follow the legal and ethical codes of nursing, accountability in preparation, documentation, continuity of care and respect for individual human rights; and, promote the actual or potential well-being of clients, health care workers, and self in the biological, psychological, sociological, spiritual and cultural realms; Indicators to be used as guidelines for evaluating safe practice and professional conduct include the following:

Regulatory: The student practices within the boundaries of the California State Nurse Practice Act, the guidelines and objectives of the Department of Nursing, and follows the rules and regulations of each health care agency. Examples of unsafe practice include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. failure to notify the agency and/or instructor of absence on a clinical day.
b. failure to adhere to the DON dress code.
c. presenting for clinical practicum under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
d. failure to make up missed clinical experiences, if required to do so.
e. habitual or unexplained tardiness to the clinical agency.
f. excessive utilization of faculty time to ensure safe practice by one student to the detriment of other students in the clinical rotation.
g. inadequate and/or poor preparation; and/or understanding of nursing care, patient's medications or patient's nursing needs, etc.

Ethical: The student practices according to the American Nurses' Association's (ANA) Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice, and the California State Nurse Practice Act. Examples of unsafe practice or unethical behaviors include, but are not limited to the following:

a. refuses assignment based on client's race, culture, or religious preference.
b. inappropriate nursing care in any assigned activity related to clinical practice.
c. ignoring unethical and/or illegal behavior(s) of other health care providers in the clinical setting(s) which affects client welfare.

Biological, Psychological, Social, Spiritual, and Culture Realms: The student's clinical practice meets the total needs of the human system from a biological, psychological, sociological, spiritual and cultural standpoint. Examples of unsafe practice or violations of the safety policy include, but are not limited to the following:

a. failure to display stable mental, physical, or emotional behavior(s) which may affect others' well being.
b. failure to follow through on suggested referrals or interventions to correct deficit areas which may result in harm to others.
c. acts of omission or commission in the care of clients, such as, but not limited to: physical abuse; placing in hazardous positions, conditions, or circumstances; mental or emotional abuse; and medication errors.
d. unprofessional or inappropriate interpersonal relationships with agency staff, co-workers, peers, or faculty resulting in miscommunications, and/or disruption of client care and/or unit functioning.
e. lack of physical and/or mental health necessary for carrying out comprehensive nursing care.
Accountability: The student's clinical practice demonstrates safe practice in the responsible preparation, documentation, and promotion of continuity in the care of clients. Examples of such unsafe practice include but are not limited to the following:

a. failure to provide concise, inclusive, written and oral communication.
b. failure to accurately record comprehensive client behaviors.
c. failure to report questionable nursing practices.
d. attempting activities without adequate orientation or theoretical preparation or appropriate assistance.
e. dishonesty.
f. lack of preparation by student to provide safe care for clients.

Human Rights: The student’s conduct shows respect for the individual, client, health team member, faculty, and self, including but not limited to the legal, ethical, and cultural realms. Examples of unsafe practice include but are not limited to the following:

a. failure to maintain confidentiality of interactions.
b. failure to maintain confidentiality of records.
c. dishonesty in relationships and/or in actions.
d. utilization of stereotypical assessments which are detrimental to patient care.
e. failure to recognize and promote every patient's rights.
f. failure to report client abuse across the lifespan or abuse related to other professionals.

C. PROCEDURE:

A student whose behavior or patterns of behavior endangers the safety or threatens the integrity of a patient, peer, staff member, clinical instructor, faculty member, or agency personnel will be given a verbal and written warning by the primary clinical instructor, and/or by the Department of Nursing Director. Potential life-threatening episodes require immediate actions, and the procedure listed below may not be realistic, as they relate to procedure items listed below. Documented evidence from the student, faculty, and/or

1. The primary instructor in a clinical course will:

   a. provide instruction, guidance, and interpretation of objectives during the clinical experience.
   b. suspend the student from the clinical practicum if the issue of safety is of significant magnitude affecting one or more parameters of safe clinical practice and/or jeopardizes the well-being of patients, staff, or peers until a decision has been obtained through the conflict resolution process.
   c. document patterns of behavior related to attainment of clinical objectives. Documentation may include direct observation by the clinical instructor as well as agency personnel and patient comments, as appropriate. Written work will also be evaluated.
   d. give a verbal and written warning for patterns of behavior that are not safe. To that end, the instructor will:

      (1) provide specific facts of problem areas or deficiencies in relation to course objectives, evaluation tool(s), and performance.
      (2) delineate corrective action and expected outcomes in writing with copies given to the student and the clinical instructor. One copy will also
be placed in the student's file in the Department of Nursing Office. The student and the clinical instructor must sign the written warning. If the student does not sign, the clinical instructor will then document that the student had the opportunity to sign the warning and refused to do so; pertinent discussion at the time that the student read the written warning should also be documented. Department of Nursing Chair.

(3) set a specific time for a change in the behavior to be accomplished

e. If positive attainment of expected outcomes is achieved, then the student will be allowed to continue with the clinical course.

f. provide the student an opportunity for input and/or data regarding the evaluation of his/her clinical performance.

g. consult with the Director of the Program and Chair as needed for problem-solving and guidance.
APPENDIX 10
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Introduction

The Department of Nursing supports the use of social media to reach audiences important to the University such as students, prospective students, faculty and staff. The University presence or participation on social media sites is guided by university policy. This policy applies to the Department of Nursing students who engage in Internet conversations for school-related purposes or school-related activities such as interactions in or about clinical and didactic course activities. Distribution of sensitive and confidential information is protected under HIPAA and FERPA whether discussed through traditional communication channels or through social media.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Social media are defined as mechanisms for communication designed to be disseminated through social interaction, created using highly accessible and scalable publishing techniques. Social media is commonly thought of as a group of Internet-based applications that are built on the ideological and technological foundations of the web that allows the creation and exchange of user-generated content. Examples include but are not limited to LinkedIn, Wikipedia, Second Life, Flickr, blogs, podcasts, RSS feeds, Allnurses.com, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Facebook. While this policy may need to be modified as new technologies and social networking tools emerge, the spirit of the policy will remain the protection of sensitive and confidential information. 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 university reputations.

As students you will want to represent the University and the Department in a fair, accurate and legal manner while protecting the brand and reputation of the institution. When publishing information on social media sites remain cognizant that information may be public for anyone to see and can be traced back to you as an individual. Since social media typically enables two-way communications with your audience, you have less control about how materials you post will be used by others. As one person remarked, “If you wouldn't put it on a flier, carve it into cement in the quad or want it published on the front of the Wall Street Journal, don't broadcast it via social media channels.”

POLICY:

- Protect confidential, sensitive, and proprietary information: Do not post confidential or proprietary information about the university, staff, students, clinical facilities, patients/clients, or others with whom one has contact in the role of a Sonoma State University Department of nursing student.
- Respect copyright and fair use. When posting, be mindful of the copyright and intellectual property rights of others and of the university. For guidance, visit the University's Libraries site or seek consultation through the Copyright Office, Libraries.
- Do not use Sonoma State University or Department of Nursing marks, such as logos and graphics, on personal social media sites. Do not use SSU's name to promote a product, cause, or political party or candidate.
- Use of the Department of Nursing marks (logos and graphics) for School sanctioned events must be approved (posters, fliers, postings) by administration.
• It is expected that during clinical use of electronic and other devices employed for social media will be used only as authorized by faculty.
• 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.
• Use of computers and other electronic devices during class shall be restricted to note taking and classroom activities. Use otherwise is distracting for not only the student involved in the activity but those in the immediate area/vicinity.
• No student shall video professors or fellow students for personal or social media use without the express written permission of the faculty or fellow student. At NO time shall patients/clients be videoed or photographed.
• Be aware of your association with Sonoma State University in online social networks. If you identify yourself as a student, ensure your profile and related content is consistent with how you wish to present yourself to colleagues, clients, and potential employers. Identify your views as your own. When posting your point of view, you should neither claim nor imply you are speaking on SSU’s behalf, unless you are authorized to do so in writing.
• HIPPA guidelines must be followed at all times. Identifiable information concerning clients/clinical rotations must not be posted in any online forum or webpage.
• Ultimately, you have sole responsibility for what you post. Be smart about protecting yourself, your and others privacy, and confidential information.

Procedure/Considerations:

• There is no such thing as a "private" social media site. Search engines can turn up posts years after the publication date. Comments can be forwarded or copied. Archival systems save information, including deleted postings. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it's wise to delay posting until you are calm and clear-headed. Think twice before posting. If you are unsure about posting something or responding to a comment, ask your faculty. If you are about to publish something that makes you even the slightest bit uncertain, review the suggestions in this policy and seek guidance.
• Future employers hold you to a high standard of behavior. By identifying yourself as a SSU student through postings and personal web pages, you are connected to your colleagues, clinical agencies, and even clients/patients. Ensure that content associated with you is consistent with your professional goals.
• Nursing students are preparing for a profession which provides services to a public that also expects high standards of behavior.
• Respect your audience.
• Adhere to all applicable university privacy and confidentiality policies.
• You are legally liable for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others. Individual bloggers have been held liable for commentary deemed to be proprietary, copyrighted, defamatory, libelous or obscene (as defined by the courts).
• Employers are increasingly conducting Web searches on job candidates before extending offers. Be sure that what you post today will not come back to haunt you.
• Monitor comments. You can set your site so that you can review and approve comments before they appear. This allows you to respond in a timely way to comments. It also allows
you to delete spam comments and to block any individuals who repeatedly post offensive or frivolous comments.

• Don’t use ethnic slurs, personal insults, obscenity, pornographic images, or engage in any conduct that would not be acceptable in the professional workplace.
• You are responsible for regularly reviewing the terms of this policy.

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 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.).
APPENDIX 11
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
POLICY ON REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The Department of Nursing is committed to ensuring that otherwise qualified students with disabilities are given reasonable accommodations. Students with disabilities who wish to request these accommodations are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (DSS) at SSU to determine eligibility for services prior to the start of the program. While the process can be initiated at any time, reasonable accommodations cannot be implemented until eligibility has been formally established with DSS. The DSS website notes, “If you are a student with a disability and you think you may require accommodations, please register with the campus office of Disability Services for Students (DSS), located in Salazar Hall - Room 1049, Phone: (707) 664-2677, TTY/TDD: (707) 664-2958. DSS will provide you with written confirmation of your verified disability and authorize recommended accommodations. This authorization must be presented to the instructor before any accommodations can be made”. More information may be found at their website http://www.sonoma.edu/dss/.

Since degrees of ability vary widely among individuals, the Department of Nursing is committed to creating access to qualified individuals with a disability using a case by case analysis. The Department of Nursing remains flexible with regard to the types of reasonable accommodations that can be made specifically in the university's classroom and clinical settings. Students with disabilities are invited to offer suggestions for accommodations that have worked in the past.) Accommodations made will specifically address the limitations of the disability. Our belief is that accommodation should be tailored to individual situations. The process for determining the type of reasonable accommodation in the clinical setting shall be determined by the Department and DSS. The Department is responsible for ongoing monitoring of compliance with essential requirements as they correspond to the Baccalaureate Nursing Program’s objectives for qualified nursing students with disabilities.
APPENDIX 12
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
POLICY ON STUDENT BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG SCREENING

INTRODUCTION
This policy applies to all students enrolled in the Sonoma State University Department of Nursing (DON) undergraduate and graduate programs and addresses required background checks and drug testing for students. The goal of these screening requirements is to assure compliance with clinical agency contracts and insure the safety of patients served in these clinical agencies. The Board of Registered Nursing policy on Background Checks for Student Clinical Placements for review can be located at: http://rn.ca.gov/pdfs/regulations/edp-i-33.pdf.

POLICY
Students must submit to and satisfactorily complete a background check and urine drug screening as a condition for admission to designated programs with a clinical component in the DON. An offer of admission will not be final until the appropriate DON designated staff reviews this background check and drug screening. Admission may be denied or rescinded based on these results. Students who are enrolled in the DON may be required to complete additional background checks and drug screening during their course of study as required by clinical agencies.

The DON will designate an approved vendor(s) to conduct the background check and drug screening. The designated vendor(s) will issue reports directly to the DON. Results from a vendor other than the designated DON approved vendor(s) will not be accepted.

Students and applicants will be given the contact information to the DON approved vendor(s). The student will contact the designated company(ies) and arrange for a background check and drug screening, complying with the requirements for obtaining the check and drug screening, and reporting of the results. This will include authorization for obtaining the background check and drug screening and release of information to the DON.

The DON will give contact information for the approved vendor(s) to students. Students will arrange for background checks and drug screenings with the designated vendor(s). Student requirements for the background checks and drug screenings will include authorization for sample collection and background review, following designated sampling procedures, and release of results to the DON.

Students and applicants are responsible for payment of any fees associated with background checks and drug screening charged by the designated vendor(s).

Background checks and drug screenings must be completed prior to admission to the program or the start of the semester for the required clinical course. Failure to supply such documentation by the published due date is grounds for admission revocation and/or barring from clinical course participation.

When reviewing results, the Chair of the DON or her/his designee may consider the nature and circumstances of criminal convictions, or a positive drug screen as they may affect the student's ability to meet the requirements of the program. The DON however, cannot assure the student's eligibility to take the NCLEX exam.

In reviewing background checks and drug screening, the Chair or her/his designee may seek advice from university counsel, university police, or other appropriate advisors (e.g. California Board of Registered Nursing representatives; clinical agency personnel).
A positive drug screen will result in consideration of the drugs reflected in the report and disclosure of medications used and the student's ability to safely meet the requirements of the program and insure patient safety. Results of the background check and drug screens will be made available to DON designees and any clinical facility that requires this information, before a student may begin a clinical rotation. Should a clinical agency refuse to accept a student based on the outcome of either the background check or drug screen, the DON is not obligated to arrange alternate clinical placements but will attempt to make such placements, if possible, on a case-by-case basis. If an alternate placement is not possible, the student cannot continue in the nursing program. All background checks and drug screenings are considered confidential with the exception of individuals previously noted and are kept in a confidential location separate from the student’s file.

Critical information of the following nature, which is obtained as the result of the background investigation, may make clinical agency placement impossible and will likely result in dismissal from the nursing program or prevent an individual's admission to the program.

1. Felony convictions including plea agreements to felony convictions
2. Sexual assault, rape, indecent exposure, lewd and lascivious behavior, or any crime involving nonconsensual sexual conduct
3. Child abuse, sexual exploitation of children, child abduction, child neglect, contributing to the delinquency or neglect of a child, enticing a child for immoral purposes, exposing a minor to pornography or other harmful materials, incest, or any other crime involving children as victims or participants.
4. Any charge related to illegal drugs, such as (but not limited to) possession of drugs or paraphernalia, or trafficking.
5. Abuse, exploitation or neglect of a vulnerable adult (disabled or elderly)
6. Offenses involving substantial misrepresentation of any material fact to the public or an employer, including embezzlement, bribery, fraud, racketeering or allowing an establishment to be used for illegal purposes.
7. First or second degree arson
8. Kidnapping
9. Any offense in another state or country, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of the above offenses.
10. Multiple offenses including but not limited to repeat driving while intoxicated or impaired and reckless convictions.

Students and applicants have the right to review the information reported by the designated vendor for accuracy and completeness and to request that the designated vendor verify the information provided is correct. It is the student or applicant's burden to produce substantive evidence to prove the reports are incorrect and correct such information with the vendor.

A background check and drug screening will be honored for the duration of the enrollment if: the student is continuously enrolled unless required more frequently by a clinical agency in which the student is placed; or there is reasonable suspicion that the student has violated the student guidelines related to drug and/or alcohol use/dependency or is convicted of one of the crimes listed above during his/her time in the program. A student who has a break in enrollment (not including summers or intersessions) for any reason is required to complete a new background check and drug screening prior to his/her return to the clinical setting.
INTRODUCTION
The purpose of this policy is to describe the procedure in which students are informed of any action that may occur if the student is not meeting the clinical objectives as outlined in the course syllabus and program outcomes.

This department policy is in congruence to the University Academic policies (http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/studentinfo.shtml).

POLICY

A Clinical Performance Notification will be issued when a student's clinical performance puts them in jeopardy for failing the course and can occur at any time during the semester. Students registered in the program will receive a written warning(s) of unsatisfactory clinical performance in any nursing clinical course from the faculty of record.

The Clinical Performance Notification is a record of Student's performance need area(s) and is placed in the student's file. Faculty may use any of the three levels of Clinical Notification depending on the circumstances of student performance.

1. Situation, Background, Assessment and Recommendation (SBAR) Use of an SBAR notice follows a verbal communication from a faculty and serves to document the performance issue for student clarification and self-improvement. May be sent via email or hard copy.

2. Performance contract – Employed to document a significant gap in student's clinical performance. Included are a description of the performance deficit(s), notification of unsatisfactory status in course and specific requirements/actions/ remediation for student to fulfill to successfully meet course objectives. Students are encouraged to assist in the creation of the improvement plan included on the Clinical Notification. May be sent via email or hard copy and requires meeting with course faculty.

3. Immediate suspension/failure – Students may face program suspension or failure if deception, plagiarism, cheating has taken place and/or behaviors that endanger patients, staff, peers or faculty are identified. Documentation includes description of student’s poor performance, program/course standard not met and real or potential consequences of student’s behavior. Suspension and failure require a Student Petition for faculty consideration for re-instatement in program and/or course. Sent via email and hard copy and requires meeting with course faculty.

In each level of Clinical Performance Notification students are responsible for understanding the information and the plan for improvement and sign the record. A copy of any Clinical Performance Notification is placed in a central file in the department office. Performance Contracts and Immediate Suspension or Failures are sent to the Program Director and Department Chair.
APPENDIX 14

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY Department of Nursing
POLICY for Intravenous (IV) push medication therapy and
Flushing PICC lines (third and fourth semester pre-licensure students)

Introduction:
Providing safe nursing care for clients is an ethical and legal responsibility of professional nurses. In the Department of Nursing (DON), these responsibilities are required of both faculty and students in all the clinical settings. Safe clinical practice is mandated by the California Board of Nursing’s (BRN) Nurse Practice Act (http://www.rn.ca.gov/npa/npa.htm) and supported by the American Nurses’ Association and other professional nursing organizations. Clinical practices are carefully managed at the administrative level so the student is provided with a maximum learning opportunity while the client (the recipient of care) is adequately protected.

POLICY:

Third semester pre-licensure students:
1. Students are required to be supervised by the clinical instructor for all IV push meds.
2. Students are required to be familiar with the action, indications and side effects of any medication prior to administration, including how fast/slow it must be administered.
3. Students will learn to administer IV push medications in a skills lab.
4. Students are required to be supervised by the clinical instructor or RN when flushing PICC lines with saline using push/pause and positive pressure method.
5. Students will learn to flush PICC lines with saline using push/pause and positive pressure method in a skills lab.

4th semester pre-licensure students:
1. Students are required to be supervised by the preceptor for all IV push meds.
2. Students are required to be familiar with the action, indications and side effects of any medication prior to administration, including how fast/slow it must be administered.
3. Students are required to be supervised by the preceptor RN when flushing PICC lines with saline using push/pause and positive pressure method.

A. PROCEDURE/ACCOUNTABILITY:
The student's clinical practice demonstrates safe practice in the responsible preparation, documentation, and promotion of continuity in the care of clients. Violations of the above policy for administering IV push medications and flushing PICC lines will result in:
(1) A DON Clinical Performance Contract that delineates problem areas and corrective action in relation to course objectives will be completed by the clinical instructor (2) A copy signed by the student, clinical instructor and department chair will be provided to the student and the clinical instructor. One copy will also be placed in the student's file in the Department of Nursing Office. (3) Failure to meet the corrective actions identified in the Clinical Performance Contract will result in failure of the course.
APPENDIX 15

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY Department
Of Nursing POLICY for Approved Interruption
In Academic Plan (AIAP)

Introduction:
This policy addresses students who need to have an interruption in their Academic progress. Students may request an AIAP for reasons including but not limited to: a healthcare or financial hardship, a change in employment or military duty.

POLICY:
Students must request an AIAP from their Program Director (e.g. post-licensure) by submitting an AIAP Request.
Students who do not request an AIAP may not be readmitted to the major
AIAPs are granted only for students who have completed at least one semester in the program and are in good standing.
Requirements for return may include any or all of the following, based on the recommendation by the Program Director in consultation with the program faculty.
Letter of recommendation from counselor
Health clearance from a licensed state health professional
Enrolling in units of Independent study to maintain and/or improve theoretical and/or clinical skills.
After submitting the required information in #4 and #9, students will receive email notification of the Program Director’s decision.
Students must submit a complete Nursing Department Petition to request a return from an AIAP. Include the original AIAP form, documentation based on #4 and a statement describing completion of the plan described in #9 to retain knowledge/competencies during an AIAP. Students must submit the request by March 15th to return in the fall semester and by October 15th to return in the spring semester.
Students who are approved to return to the program are allowed to enroll with permission from the department chair on a space available basis.
Check the current SSU catalog to determine what is required for taking a Leave of Absence (LOA) from the University.
A LOA may also impact a student’s current academic loans, financial aid or scholarships.
The AIAP Request Letter shall include: Date of AIAP
Date of intended return to the program Reason for AIAP
Explanation of circumstances requiring the AIAP Documentation of circumstances requiring the AIAP
(May include note from a licensed state health professional, National Guard duty...).
Activities during AIAP:
Working as CNA or RN, undergoing medical treatment
Plan to retain knowledge/competencies during an AIAP
Include independent study course, and/or specific learning activities
Progression In The Nursing Program
Nursing majors must attain a minimum grade of “C” (2.0) in all nursing courses. Should a student not maintain a minimum grade of “C” (C-is not acceptable) in a nursing major course, the student must submit a Department Petition to repeat one course. If approval is granted, the student must receive a “C” or better in the course when repeated and the course must be repeated within one year. If a minimum of “C” is not attained, the student will not be eligible to remain in, or graduate from, the Nursing major.

Graduate students, in addition, must maintain a “B” average (3.0 GPA) in their courses (University rule). If the student’s GPA falls below 3.0, the University will place the student on probation. If the student’s GPA remains below 3.0 after a semester on probation, the student will be disqualified and will be required to petition the University to be able to continue studies.

If a student receives a “U” in a nursing major course, constituting an unauthorized withdrawal, the student must repeat the course within one year or the “U” will convert to an “F”. Upon repeat of the course, a “C” or better must be earned in order to remain in the nursing program.

If a student needs to take an Incomplete (I) in a course, the student must be in passing status at the time this grade is requested. An Incomplete Grade contract form must be completed by the student and the instructor and filed in the student’s academic file. Although the University allows students to take up to a year to complete an Incomplete, the Department of Nursing additionally requires that all incompletes be completed before a student progresses to a subsequent course.

To remain in the major, only one course may be repeated one time.
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY Department Of Nursing
DSS Accommodation Waiver Form

Student Name ____________________________________________

Email Address __________________________________________

Course Name & Number ____________________________________

Instructor Name __________________________________________

Phone # _________________________________________________

Email Address __________________________________________

I have chosen to waive my DSS accommodations for ____________

(List exam)

I understand by signing below that I will not receive my documented DSS accommodation (s) for the listed exam.

________________________________________________________
Student Signature                                      Date

________________________________________________________
Instructor Signature                                    Date

(Instructors please retain for your file)
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY Department Of Nursing

HEALTH CLEARANCE

Missed Clinical Course(s): ______________________

Semester & Year: __________________________

Program: BSN Post-Licensure FNP

To be completed by student:
Name (Print): Date of Birth: Student ID #: Email: Phone #:

I understand that the agency to which I am assigned may require more health data than listed below. I hereby authorize Sonoma State University to release my health clearance information on this form and any associated documents, including laboratory reports and immunization waivers, which may be required in connection with my participation in a clinical course. I agree that if I become ill, have a surgical procedure, inj111y, birth of a baby, become hospitalized, develop a condition, or have an exacerbation of a condition that limits my ability to jij1j1l the SSU Nursing Program requirements, I will obtain health clearance from a health care provider before returning to the Program. I have brought the original of the required completed/signed HC documents to: 1) a copy to Nursing Department Office, 1801 E. Cotati Ave, Rohnert Park, CA 94928 2) kept an additional copy for my own records.

Signature: ____________________________ Date ______________

To be completed by a Health Care Provider:

I hereby certify that the above named student is eligible for clinical practice and agrees with the following statement: THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL IS FREE FROM ANY HEALTH IMPAIRMENT WHICH IS OF POTENTIAL RISK TO PATIENTS, PERSONNEL, STUDENTS OR FACULTY AND WHICH MIGHT INTERFERE WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NURSING STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITIES.
I find this individual to be in good health.

NOTE: THIS FORM SHOULD NOT BE SIGNED UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL IS ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN NURSING PRACTICE.

Signature of Health Care Provider: ____________________________ Date: ______________
Print or Type Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Phone #: ____________________________