

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

College of Nursing

UNDERGRADUATE NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK

August 2025



We acknowledge that UW-Eau Claire occupies the sacred and ancestral lands of Indigenous Peoples. We honor the land of the Ojibwe and Dakota Nations.

HANDBOOK FOR UNDERGRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS

PREFACE

All students will find it helpful to study this handbook. It is updated every six months by the Associate Dean to reflect new or changed policies occurring each academic year. It is important for you to be aware of the information contained herein to facilitate your program and to protect you and your clients. We wish to create an inclusive and supportive environment that motivates everyone to do their best work and learn and grow as individuals.



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I. Introduction

This handbook is designed to serve as a resource for students enrolled in the Eau Claire and Marshfield site Nursing programs. Academic advisors can also be contacted as needed for information and support. Students are also encouraged to utilize the following additional resources:

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Undergraduate Catalog - Contains an updated description of University and College requirements, academic policies, and courses. The catalog is published annually and is available online:

<https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/blugold-central/academic-planning/catalogs>

Campus Directory Information - Students are encouraged to utilize the UWEC website and the UWEC Outlook email system to access locations and telephone numbers for services and departments/offices; room and office telephone numbers and email addresses of faculty and staff, as well as e-mail addresses of students.

Dean of Students Office – The Dean of Students Office website references university regulations, procedures, student services, and where to get help for specific problems. This includes complete information regarding grievance procedures.

Your Right to Know - A campus resource for all students, faculty and staff which provides information and identifies resources which can assist students regarding supportive services, campus communications, safety and transportation services. An electronic copy can be viewed online (use the Search Box).

Spectator - Campus newspaper that contains calendar of events and official notices concerning actions required of students; available on Thursdays at various locations on campus. It is also available online at the University's website—please use the Search box.

Letters/Returned Papers --Letters, graded papers, paper forms, or other items not returned directly to a student by an instructor or adviser may be picked up in Room 127 of the Nursing Building at the Eau Claire campus or in the main program office (Room 325) at the Marshfield Site.

Email - Students are required to use their official UWEC email address for university and nursing program communications. It is your responsibility as a student to check your UWEC email account daily. Information about accessing your e-mail address is available at the Help Desk in the Vicki Lord Larson Hall (Room 1106). Please see the University HelpDesk website for assistance.

Bulletin Boards - An Eau Claire site bulletin board containing University and College announcements is available on the first floor in the west corridor of the Nursing Building. Bulletin boards containing information on Nursing courses are on the Nursing building's second floor near the department offices. Marshfield site bulletin boards are located at the Marshfield Site.

Program Costs - Students are responsible for all costs relating to their professional nursing program. This includes, but is not limited to: tuition, fees, special course fees, textbooks, uniforms, clinical and skills lab supplies, professional equipment, clinical travel, required CPR updates, personal health insurance, and other health and background check requirements. Admitted students should have wireless laptop access (with webcam & microphone, not a Chromebook, tablet, iPad, or Surface Pro due to software compatibility issues). See website for details. All students are expected to have means of transportation to/from clinical sites throughout the program. Nursing students also may be charged additional differential tuition.

Student Records - It is important to keep all mailing address, telephone number, and name change information updated. This can be done by accessing the following Blugold Central link: <https://www.uwec.edu/blugold-central/personal-information/>

II. College of Nursing Educational Facilities

Eau Claire Site - College of Nursing Building

Hours

Building is open Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., and 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday during fall and spring semesters, unless otherwise published. During summer and interim/winterim sessions the building is open Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. unless otherwise published.

Lockers

Individual lockers are available on a first come, first serve basis for nursing students each semester. Students provide their own locks (combination only). If interested, students should select a locker and place their lock on it. Lockers can be utilized as needed, day-to-day, or for the whole semester. Lockers must be cleaned out and locks removed at the end of each semester. Any locks remaining on lockers at the end of the semester will be cut off and personal items found in the lockers will be recycled or donated. The College reserves the right to remove the locks at any time if it is deemed necessary to ensure the safety of its staff, students, physical structure, and/or other aspects of campus. The Women's Locker Room is adjacent to the 1st floor women's restroom (room 121) and has 106 lockers. The Men's Locker Room is adjacent to the 2nd floor men's restroom (room 220) and contains 12 storage lockers.

Letters/Returned Papers

Letters, graded papers, paper forms, or other items not returned directly to a student by an instructor or adviser may be picked up in Room 127 of the Nursing Building at the Eau Claire campus or in the main program office (Room 325) at the Marshfield Site.

Faculty Mailboxes

Faculty and staff mailboxes are located in room 252 on the second floor of the Nursing building. Because the door to the room is kept locked for security reasons, students may leave items with the support staff in Room 127, who will deliver the materials to the appropriate mailboxes.

Room Use

The Academic Department Associate for the Department of Nursing, Room 127, handles reservations for most rooms. Furniture is to remain in designated rooms. If room is rearranged for special class sessions, it is to be returned to the original arrangement at the end of the session. Rooms are to be left clean and orderly after use. No penetrating objects, such as nails or thumbtacks, are to be used on walls. Modifying rooms, such as might be done for special educational or community service projects, must be approved by the Nursing Department Chair(s) or administrator responsible for the project.

Special Purpose Rooms

Distance Learning Classrooms

Rooms 104, 114, and 119 are interactive video classrooms set up to interact live with our satellite campus and other locations. Equipment includes student and faculty cameras, document cameras, audio systems, send and receive monitors, projection equipment, and teaching stations with control systems, and standard university computers.

Standard Classrooms

Rooms 221 and 227 are standard classrooms with projection equipment, teaching stations, document cameras, and standard university computers. However, Room 227 is reserved for Clinical Learning Center/Mayo Clinic Health System use.

Seminar Rooms

Rooms 261 and 263 are seminar rooms which comfortably seat up to 24 students each. A dividing wall that separates the two rooms can be opened to create a larger space. Room 276 also can serve as a seminar or conference room.

Computer Group Workstations and Printer

- Room 154 houses a computer group workstation for student use, along with a multi-function device (MFD) for printing, copying, and scanning. Blugold ID cards can be used to log into the MFD and release print jobs.
- Room 246 houses a computer group workstation and serves as a simulation debriefing room.
- Room 158 houses a group workstation which seats five individuals. It is available for faculty use only.

Printing

A multi-function device (MFD) for printing, copying, and scanning is available in Room 154 for student use. Blugold ID cards can be used to log into the MFD and release print jobs.

Clinical Learning Center (CLC)/Nursing Skills Lab

The College of Nursing Skills Lab encompasses multiple rooms in the center of the second floor of the building: 202A, 202B, 222, 224, 234, 246A, and 246B. This area is used for teaching and practicing nursing skills incorporating high and medium fidelity simulation in many forms. There are 20 bed spaces with equipment and supplies each closely resembling an acute care patient room. Videotaping capabilities allow recording of students and faculty in simulation and demonstration activities. In addition to assigned laboratory periods, open sessions are available for student practice—these must be supervised. Students are not allowed to utilize the Clinical Learning Center spaces unless a faculty member is present.

Room 155 is an Immersive Reality Simulation Room.

Nursing Clinic Area

The Nursing Clinic Area on the west end of the first floor consists of eight clinic rooms, an observation aisle, and a wet lab. The clinic rooms are utilized for clinical course practice and public clinic use. The observation aisle provides student/faculty observation of procedures via a one-way mirror and an audio connection between the aisle and the rooms. Videotaping capability is available in two of the rooms. The clinic area provides students with an area where they can learn and practice skills in an environment which closely resembles a clinic setting.

Student Lounge

Room 154 is a Graduate/Undergraduate student lounge area with a refrigerator and microwave.

Lactation Room

A lactation room is available for students, faculty, and staff and is located on the west side of the building (Room 166). Lactation rooms also are available in Davies Center.

Nursing Student Success Center

Located in Room 167, on the 1st floor on the west side of the building. This room also serves as the office of the Eau Claire Prelicensure Academic Success Coordinator.

Reporting Damage/Malfunctions

Any damage to or malfunctioning of the building or its contents should be reported directly to the Building Coordinator whose office is located in the Nursing LRC. Please provide the Building Coordinator with the location and nature of the problem.

Food and Beverage

1. No alcoholic beverages are permitted at anytime, anywhere in the building.
2. Coffee pots or other electrical appliances for food or beverage preparation are to be used in authorized areas of the building only (Room 105, 251, and 259).
3. Faculty offices and classrooms are not to be used for beverage or food preparation or serving.
4. Soft drink and snack machines are located outside Room 114 in the west corridor on the first floor.
5. Please place all discarded trash in the appropriate recycling and waste receptacles.
6. No food is allowed in the three distance education classrooms. Drinking water in closed containers is allowed (no Styrofoam or open cans).

Updated 7/18

Food Services

Food can be purchased in a variety of locations in the Davies Center. The Nursing building contains vending machines (on the first floor of the west side) which sell soft drinks, juices, and snacks.

Food service (during clinical)

Food service for contracting students whose clinical experience schedule prevents eating meals in UW-Eau Claire cafeterias during published hours includes "sack breakfast," available at about 6:40 a.m., as well as sack lunches or suppers. To obtain such service, check with the Dining Service Cafeteria Office where you normally eat. Take your ID and a copy of your schedule, including dates for needed service. Students in uniform are also welcome to eat in employee cafeterias at the Eau Claire hospitals.

Accessibility Features

An elevator near the rear entrance as well as ramps leading to the front, rear, and west entrances of the building are available for students, clients, or visitors.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited on campus except in designated areas. Students also are expected to follow the smoking policies (including use of tobacco and e-cigarette products) of clinical agencies.

Bicycles

Bicycles must be parked in provided bicycle racks, NOT attached to trees.

Posting of Items

1. Notices, posters, or communications of any kind are to be posted only in areas designated for that use; namely, bulletin boards and display cabinets. Walls, doors, and window surfaces are not to be used for posting.
2. Classroom whiteboard and bulletin boards are for instructional purposes; they are not to be used for announcements unrelated to instruction. Exceptions must have the approval of the Dean or Building Coordinator.
3. Unless otherwise designated, bulletin board items in the corridors are posted by the Dean, the Associate Dean, the Department Chair(s), the Marshfield Site Director, the Building Coordinator, and/or the Academic Department Associates. The only exceptions are:
 - a. The Eau Claire Student Nurses Association (ECSNA) bulletin board is to be used for items relevant to that organization. Non-relevant items will be removed.
 - b. Course materials are posted by faculty.
 - c. Two of the bulletin boards in the first floor west corridor are reserved for items of campus-wide interest and monitored by Davies Center staff.
 - d. Areas are demarcated on certain bulletin boards for specific purposes, such as Sigma Theta Tau.
4. Students having items for sale, negotiating housing, or wishing to communicate about matters that might be categorized as "Classified Ads" should make use of the facilities in the Davies Center.
5. Occasionally, part-time work, scholarship, volunteer, or other opportunities are made known to the College; the posting does not mean the College has done any specific screening or that any kind of endorsement is implied.
6. Special requests for displays other than the above should be submitted to the Dean or Building Coordinator.

Nursing Department Educational Facilities - Marshfield Site at UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield

Hours

Main office hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The campus hours are Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Parking

Parking is available without a permit in the West Parking Lot on the UWSP-Marshfield campus. Please contact the Marshfield Site Director or Academic Department Associate for questions regarding where to park.

Lockers

There are two locker rooms available on campus, located by the Fitness Center and gymnasium. Students can rent a half or full size locker for \$10 per semester by visiting the UWSP-Marshfield Solution Center.

Room Use

1. The Marshfield site Academic Department Associate handles meeting/event room reservations.
2. Room reservations are posted outside the rooms each week. Students are encouraged to make reservations in order to utilize the rooms for group work, meetings, etc.
3. Furniture is to remain in designated rooms unless arrangements have been made for special sessions.
4. Rooms are to be left clean and orderly after use.
5. No penetrating objects, such as nails or thumbtacks, or tape are to be used on walls.

Special Use Rooms

Room 320 (Distance Education [DE] Classroom)

Room 327 (Student Success Center): This room is often used for group projects and peer tutoring. It holds a large-screen monitor, computer workstation, and a computer/device charging station. There are also 3 computers and a multi-function device (MFD) for printing, copying, and scanning. Paper is currently provided through UW-Eau Claire. This room also has a student lounge corner.

Room 325a (Faculty Lounge, Conference Room): This room is dual purpose but will primarily function as a conference room.

Rooms 319 & 321 (Clinical Learning Center): The skills lab is located in Room 321. Open lab hours offered throughout the week so that students are able to practice skills. The simulation lab is located in Room 319. Students are not allowed to utilize the Clinical Learning Center spaces unless a faculty member is present.

Smoking

Smoking is NOT permitted anywhere on site. Students also are expected to follow the smoking policies (including use of tobacco and e-cigarette products) of clinical agencies.

Letters/Returned Papers

Letters, graded papers, paper forms, or other items not returned directly to a student by an instructor or adviser may be picked up in Room 127 of the Nursing Building at the Eau Claire campus or in the main program office (Room 325) at the Marshfield Site.

Faculty Mailboxes

Faculty mailboxes are located in the main office (Room 325a).

Printing

A multi-function device (MFD) for printing, copying, and scanning is available in Room 327 for student use. Paper is currently provided through UW-Eau Claire. Instructions for how to use the MFD or to print using one's own device are posted. Blugold ID cards can be used to log into the MFD and release print jobs. Please contact the Marshfield Site Academic Department Associate for questions, troubleshooting, or to obtain a Blugold ID card.

Textbooks

Students are encouraged to utilize the University Bookstore to rent/purchase the required textbooks and course materials. After placing a textbook/course material order through the UWEC Bookstore, Marshfield site students have the option of picking up their textbooks/course materials directly from the UWEC campus bookstore or paying for the items to be shipped to a home address. Rented textbooks must be returned to the University Bookstore's posted deadline at the end of each semester. If textbook rental returns are not received by the deadline, fees will be charged to the student's account. For more information, please see the UWEC Bookstore website:

<http://www.uwec.edu/bookstore/>

Food and Beverages

1. At no time are alcoholic beverages permitted anywhere on the grounds.
2. Coffee pots and other electrical appliances used to prepare food or beverages are only to be used in student lounge. Any electrical appliances must be checked by facilities before use in the lounge. Please check with Academic Department Associate.
3. Food and beverages are not to be prepared nor served in DE classrooms. The only exception being drinking water, which must be kept in a covered, non-Styrofoam container.
4. Please place all discarded trash in the appropriate recycling and waste receptacles.

Food Services

Students have access to the UWSP-Marshfield cafeteria and food vendor.

Reporting Damage and Malfunction

During office hours, any damage to or malfunctioning of the building or its contents should be reported directly to the Marshfield site Academic Department Associate in Room 325. If there is a problem after office hours, students are able to report issues to UWSP-Marshfield Facilities by calling their emergency line at 715-305-0369.

Posting of Items

1. Notices, posters, or communications of any kind are to be posted only in areas designated for that use. To have an announcement posted on the digital display, contact the ADA in Room 325 at the Marshfield site. Walls, doors, and window surfaces are not to be used for student postings.
2. Classroom chalkboards, whiteboards, and bulletin boards are for instructional purposes only. They are NOT to be used for announcements unrelated to instruction. Exceptions must have the approval of the Marshfield Site Director.
3. Student organizations may post to their assigned bulletin boards in Room 327.
4. The employment bulletin board is in Room 327. The posting of an item does not mean that the college has done any special screening or that any University endorsement is implied.

Nursing Equipment and Supplies at Marshfield Site

Nursing Equipment and Skills Lab supplies may be checked out from the site per the approval of the course instructor. Students are required to complete and sign an item check-out contract stating the item will be returned in the same physical condition as it was in on the date of check-out.

Use of UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield Campus Facilities

The Marshfield site students are encouraged to fully utilize UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield facilities and services. The UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield administrators have agreed to allow student access to all UW-

Stevens Point at Marshfield campus activities (i.e., clubs) and resources. In order to access these resources, students must utilize their UWEC Blugold card and nursing name pin. For further information, contact the UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield Student Services office at (715)387-6501.

Marshfield Site – Learning Resource Center (LRC) and Other Resources

UWSP-Marshfield Library

The library is designed to support the education needs of all students, including UWEC nursing students, and the general public. Students can borrow library resources using their Blugold ID card. There are also several private study rooms that are reservable and plenty of reading areas, tables, chairs, study kiosks, etc. The library is a quiet zone. The hours for Fall 2021 are 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and 8-1 Friday.

George E. Magnin Medical Library

The Marshfield Clinic offers the use of the George E. Magnin Medical Library to the Marshfield Site UW-Eau Claire nursing students. The library is located at the Marshfield Clinic, Laird Center for Medical Research. Students are allowed 24/7 library access with an issued Marshfield Medical Center ID badge card.

Tours are scheduled for all students at the beginning of the semester so that students can take advantage of this resource. Library staff provide student orientation to use of the clinic's electronic resource databases and are able to assist students with literature searches. The library also has multiple study areas for student use. Additionally, the library has nursing textbooks available for student use while in the library.

Fitness Center

Students can use the Fitness center located in the Physical Education building of the UWSP-Marshfield campus. The cost is \$25 for semester pass, \$40 for academic year pass, or \$60 for calendar year pass. To pay for and get an access pass, visit the UWSP-Marshfield Solution Center.

Security/student badges

These badges are issued by the Marshfield Clinic to allow students access to the Magnin Library and the Marshfield Medical Center complex for clinicals. Changes in building access due to COVID-19 will be communicated to students. Each student will be provided a badge at the beginning of the semester. Lost badges have a \$10 replacement fee.

Library Resources and Utilization

McIntyre Library on the Eau Claire campus, UWSP-Marshfield Library, and the George E. Magnin Medical Library are the primary library resources for nursing students. Mayo Clinic Health System's library is also available.

III. History

The first baccalaureate degree-nursing program in West Central Wisconsin was established at what was then known as Wisconsin State University-Eau Claire, when 22 students were accepted as majors in the new School of Nursing in September 1965. The University and community leaders had seriously discussed the possibility for such a program for a number of years, and consultation had been sought from the National League for Nursing on several occasions. In 1964, the President of the University, Dr. Leonard Haas, approved the appointment of Marguerite Coffman to lay the groundwork for a degree-nursing program to be initiated in the fall of 1965.

Dean Coffman, having served as educational consultant for the Kansas State Board of Nursing for eight years, and later as director of degree and continuing education programs for registered nurses at the University of Kansas, brought with her a wealth of experience for establishing an educationally sound program. Many of the baccalaureate degree programs at that time resided within the organizational structure of university medical schools or as an academic unit in arts and sciences colleges. Such an arrangement placed the person responsible for the nursing education program under non-nursing deans or department heads, too far removed from the points at which decisions were made in regard to budget and other administrative matters that had an impact on nursing education. One of the conditions Dean Coffman had attached to her acceptance of her contract was that the program was to reside within the context of the University as an autonomous school, which gave her and the faculty access to, and representation in, the top-level decision-making processes of the institution.

Final approval by the Board of Regents and approval by the State Board of Nursing in July 1965 was followed by what was then known as "reasonable assurance of accreditation" by the National League for Nursing. Accreditation made it possible for a new School to secure federal funds available through the National Nurse Training Act of 1964.

In October of 1965, Luther Hospital announced the closure of its three-year diploma school with the last class of 25 students graduating on August 13, 1967. The announced closure was earlier than anticipated and necessitated quick re-planning to accommodate the resulting increase in enrollment and revision of the curriculum to utilize Luther Hospital clinical facilities in addition to the Sacred Heart Hospital facilities.

Dean Marguerite Coffman retired in 1977. She was succeeded by Dr. Suzanne Van Ort who continued as dean until 1982. Dr. Patricia Ostmoen was appointed Dean in 1982. In 1989 she was appointed acting Vice Chancellor of the University to fill a one-year vacancy of that office. During that period Associate Dean Dr. Linda Finke served as acting Dean of Nursing. Following the 1989-90 school year, Dean Ostmoen returned to the School of Nursing as Dean and continued in that position until July 1995.

The organization of the School has undergone several transformations. Between 1965 and 1970, the School operated as a unit, with coordinators of the various clinical areas responsible for implementing the curriculum. In 1970, the School took on the pattern of the rest of the University with the establishment of five departments: Medical-Surgical Nursing, Maternal-Child Health Nursing, Community Health Nursing, Psychiatric Nursing and Nursing Leadership. That pattern continued until July 1984, when these departments were dissolved and replaced with the departments of General Nursing, chaired by Dr. M. Regina Venn, and Adult Health Nursing, chaired by Dr. Norma J. Briggs. This arrangement organized the faculty along undergraduate and graduate lines, respectively. The transformation continued with a planned reorganization of the School into three departments, completed in September 1990. Dr. Marjorie Bottoms served as the first chair of the Department of Nursing Systems. Dr. Winifred Morse was appointed to chair the Department of Adult Health Nursing and Dr. Mary Wright chaired the Department of Family Health Nursing.

Administrative adaptations were made to facilitate the efficiency of the School and its various programs. Sister Joel Jacobi, Elaine Menges, and Shirley Carlson all served as coordinators of continuing education prior to the appointment of Dr. Rita Kisting Sparks as Coordinator of Continuing Education in 1985. Dr. Sparks' title was changed to Assistant Dean for Continuing Education in 1988.

The position of Associate Dean for Student Affairs was created in 1979. Berniece Wagner served in that capacity until her retirement in 1988. Dr. Linda M. Finke was appointed Associate Dean that same year. Dr. Finke resigned in 1991 and Dr. Marjorie Bottoms was appointed Acting Associate Dean.

In January 1995 Chancellor Larry Schnack announced a proposed merger of the School of Education, the School of Human Sciences and Services, and the School of Nursing into a new college, the College of Professional Studies. The nursing faculty voted unanimously in February 1995 to oppose the restructuring. The Academic Policies Committee of the University also opposed the merger but the University Senate voted to endorse the restructuring. Dr. Ostmo left the deanship to return to teaching on June 30, 1995. Dr. Ronald N. Satz was appointed Dean of the College of Professional Studies. With this reorganization, Dr. Marjorie Bottoms was appointed Associate Dean and Educational Administrator. Upon Dr. Bottoms' resignation as Associate Dean, Dr. Susan J. Johnson Warner was appointed Associate Dean and Educational Administrator in July 1998. In 1999, Dr. Ronald N. Satz accepted a position as vice-chancellor. Dr. Carol Klun was appointed Interim Dean for the College of Professional Studies. Dr. Rita Kisting Sparks was appointed Interim Associate Dean and Educational Administrator upon Dr. Warner's resignation in June 2000. In May of 2001, Dr. Mark Clark was appointed as Dean of the College of Professional Studies. In July of 2002, Dr. Sparks retired and Dr. L. Elaine Wendt was appointed Interim Associate Dean and Educational Administrator and in 2003 she was appointed the Associate Dean and Educational Administrator.

In May of 2004, Chancellor Donald Mash notified the campus that the College of Professional Studies would be dissolved in September of 2004, and we were officially named the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. This new college was comprised of four departments: Adult Health Nursing (Dr. Sheila Smith, chair), Family Health Nursing (Karen Maddox, interim chair), Nursing Systems (Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher, chair), and Public Health Professions (Dr. Doug Olson, chair). Dr. L. Elaine Wendt was named Dean of the College and Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher was appointed Interim Associate Dean, and was named Associate Dean in May of 2005, and Dr. Lois Taft was named chair of the Department of Nursing Systems.

In 2007 the nursing faculty voted to restructure from three academic nursing departments to a department of the whole. Thus, the College was comprised of two departments: the Department of Nursing and the Department of Public Health Professions. Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher was Interim Chair of the new Department of Nursing and then Dr. Lois Taft subsequently filled the Nursing Department Chair position while a national search was completed. Following the search, in 2009, Dr. Rosemary Jadack was named the Chair of the Department of Nursing. Ms. Karen Maddox served as Interim Chair of the Department of Public Health Professions. When Dr. Wendt retired in June of 2008, Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher was named Interim Dean for the College. In 2007, an Assistant Dean: Eau Claire for Pre-Licensure programs position was created and filled by Dr. Sheila Smith; in addition, the Coordinator for the Marshfield Site position was changed to Assistant Dean for the Marshfield Site, a position held by Dr. Robin Beeman. Dr. Debra Jansen was named Acting Associate Dean in 2009. In 2010, Provost Patricia Kleine approved the increase of appointment for the Associate Dean position, allowing for restructuring of the position and also that of the Eau Claire Assistant Dean position. With the restructuring, Dr. Sheila Smith served as the Assistant Dean for Evaluation and Strategic Initiatives from 2010 until her retirement in 2012. Dr. Debra Jansen served as Interim Associate Dean from 2010 to 2012, after having served as Acting Associate Dean.

Following a national search in 2010-2011, Dr. Linda Young was appointed as Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences beginning August 2011. Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher became the Graduate Nursing Programs Director and the BSN Completion Program Coordinator, and subsequently named the Assistant Dean for Post Licensure Programs in July 2012. Dr. Debra Jansen was appointed as Associate Dean beginning in July 2012, after a national search. With Dr. Sheila Smith's retirement, beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year, Dr. Shelley Rae Pehler began serving as the Director of Assessment and Evaluation and Dr. Rita Sperstad as the Department of Nursing: Coordinator of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). In July 2013, the Environmental Public Health Program, the only program within the Department of Public Health Professions, moved to the College of Arts and Sciences. The Assistant Dean for Post Licensure Programs position was converted to a Nursing Graduate Programs Director position and a BSN Completion Program Director position around 2014-2015. Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher served in the Nursing Graduate Programs Director role through June 2019; the responsibilities for the BSN Completion Program were dispersed until Dr. Mary

Canales returned in May 2020 to assume the BSN Completion Program Director position. Beginning in July 2015, Dr. Robin Beeman began serving as Interim Department Chair with Dr. Rita Sperstad functioning as interim Traditional BSN Program Director. The interim titles were removed for Dr. Beeman and Dr. Sperstad in the summer of 2016. Dr. Rachel Merkel assumed the role of Marshfield Site Coordinator when Dr. Beeman became the Nursing Department Chair and reduced her Assistant Dean duties; the title was changed to Marshfield Site Director in February 2020. Following the retirement of Dr. Rita Sperstad in May 2018, Dr. Arin VanWormer was appointed as the Traditional BSN Program Director. Dr. Lisa Schiller began serving as the Nursing Graduate Programs Director in July 2019 after Dr. Zwygart-Stauffacher stepped back into full-time teaching in the graduate program. Dr. Robin Beeman retired as the Assistant Dean for the Marshfield Site and Nursing Department Chair in January 2020; Dr. Charlotte Sortedahl was appointed as Interim Department Chair, starting in January 2020 and as Department Chair beginning in August 2020, following a national search. Upon the retirement of Dr. Shelley-Rae Pehler in August 2020, Dr. Jeanette Olsen became the Director of Assessment and Evaluation. Following the retirement of Dr. Mary Canales in May 2024, Dr. Lorraine Smith assumed the BSN Completion Program Director role. However, Dr. Smith announced in January 2025 that she would be retiring from UW-Eau Claire following the Spring 2025 semester, as she was leading the development of the BSN Completion program beginning at UW-Superior. Dr. Gail Hanson Brenner was named the Interim Director of the BSN Completion Program in January 2025 and later assumed the Director role starting in Summer 2025. Shortly later, Dr. Beth Evans became the Director of Assessment and Evaluation, starting in Fall 2025, after Dr. Jeanette Olsen stepped out of that role.

The 2015-2016 academic year marked the 50th anniversary of the nursing program. A 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration was held at the Florian Gardens in Eau Claire on October 9, 2015. Dr. Rita Kisting Sparks, Dr. Elaine Wendt, Dr. Marjorie Bottoms, and Dr. Linda Young shared reflections of events that transpired during their time as nursing leaders. Greetings also were shared by Dr. Young from Dr. Patricia Ostmoe, Dr. Suzanne Van Ort, Dr. Susan Johnson Warner, Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher, and Sister Joel Jacobi. The Gala included a silent auction, proceeds of which were used to fund improvements to the simulation laboratories. The annual Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk was held the subsequent morning, at which time a Nursing Alumni Homecoming Quilt created by Ms. Vicki Vogler, a BSN and MSN alum, using t-shirts from prior walks, was dedicated.

The spring of 2020 marked the beginning of a major change in operations as we dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 12, 2020, the Chancellor announced students would be going on an extended 3-week spring break and not returning to campus. Classes were to be virtual starting on April 6, 2020. The Year of the Nurse, 2020, became one in which we saw how resilient, caring, brave, flexible, and creative nurses in all areas, nursing students, and faculty and staff were in facing challenges. Faculty and staff rapidly worked to convert undergraduate and graduate classes, including clinicals, to online and virtual platforms. For the 2020-2021 academic year, students were allowed at most, but not all clinical sites, and therefore some clinicals occurred in the Clinical Learning Center (CLC) simulation laboratories. Classes were held via a combination of synchronous and asynchronous remote online connections. For the 2021-2022 academic year, the faculty continued with on-site clinicals but synchronous and asynchronous remote online didactic classes for the fall term and face-to-face classes for spring. On a positive note, the pandemic provided students and faculty and staff the opportunity to promote the health of our communities, as they participated in mass vaccination clinics both on campus and at various health departments and health care facilities in the surrounding Eau Claire and Marshfield areas throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2021 and spring of 2022.

In January 2022, Dr. Linda Young resigned her position (effective 1/28/22) as dean to devote her time and energy to state advocacy and to her research on nurse retention and persistence. While on an administrative sabbatical leave for the Spring 2022 semester, she chaired the implementation committee for the \$5 million state-funded Nurse Educator Loan Program. Dean Emerita Young retired at the end of June 2022. Dr. Sonja Meiers, who was hired to be the inaugural Jane W. and James E. Moore Nursing Research Professor, beginning in January 2022, accepted the role of acting dean of the College, effective January 28, 2022 and transitioned to the interim dean role in July 2022. Following a national search, Dr. Kristen Abbott-Anderson assumed the role of Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences on January 3, 2023. Dr. Charlotte Sortedahl, Chair of the Department of Nursing since 2020, stepped down as chair in June 2023 and returned to full time teaching. The chair duties were subsequently divided among three co-chairs/directors: TBSN Program Director Arin VanWormer; Nursing Graduate Programs Director Lisa Schiller; and Marshfield Site Director

Rachel Merkel. Following the Spring 2025 semester, Dr. Arin VanWormer stepped out of the co-chair role but maintained the TBSN Program Director position. Based on survey results and college discussions, Dean Abbot-Anderson moved forward with a two-chair model, with a Chair for the TBSN and BSN Completion programs (Dr. Rachel Merkel) and a Chair/Director for the Nursing Graduate Programs (Dr. Lisa Schiller).

After receiving votes of support from the Nursing Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Nursing Graduate Curriculum Committee, and the Department of Nursing, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences faculty and staff voted in April 2024 to change the name of the College to the College of Nursing. In renaming the College, the faculty and staff had been surveyed to determine interest in changing the name and to suggest possible names, with the “College of Nursing” being the most popular response. Since 2013, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences had been comprised of a single department and “Health Sciences” was perceived to be a carryover from the time when the Department of Public Health Professions was a part of the College. Changing the name to “College of Nursing” would more accurately reflect the nursing focus of the College and provide clarity for the University and for prospective students. The University Senate Academic Policies Committee voted unanimously on April 9, 2024 and the University Senate voted unanimously on May 7, 2024 to approve the change, with Chancellor James Schmidt signing off on the new name on May 15, 2024. Board of Regents approval was received in July 2024, making the rename effective immediately.

Facilities

During 1965-66 the School operated out of offices and classrooms in Schofield Hall while the first floor of the new Crest Commons building on the upper campus was completed for use by the School of Nursing. When Crest Commons could no longer accommodate the growing number of faculty, three mobile office facilities (trailers) were placed next to the building for the overflow. The Crest Commons facilities had always been regarded as temporary for the School and planning had begun early on for a separate building to house the program. Federal funds under the Nurse Training Act of 1964 were sought and received, and groundbreaking for a new building took place in July 1968. The building was completed and occupied in Fall 1969. The dedication took place in April 1970 with Ms. Jesse M. Scott, Director of the Division of Nursing, Health Resources Administration Public Health Service, of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, giving the dedicatory address. The speaker at the dedication banquet was Ms. Margaret Dolan, a past president of the American Nurses Association (1962-1964). An addition attached to the west of the building was begun in the Spring of 1984 and was occupied in the Fall of 1985. It was designed to relieve the congestion in the main building which was intended originally for a student body and faculty about two-thirds the size of that of today.

With the addition of the nursing program at the Marshfield site in the late 1980s, two lecture classrooms (rooms 104 and 114) were remodeled to incorporate distance education technology. Since the inception of this program site, these classrooms have evolved from basic audio teleconferencing to state-of-the-art two-way full motion interactive video classrooms. A third interactive video classroom (room 119A) was completed in fall of 2009.

Since 2004 the existing skills lab space has been renovated to accommodate high fidelity simulation equipment. High tech mannequins, a birthing room, acute care simulation rooms and electronic charting have all contributed to changes in the design and usage of the skills lab. Video technology in the lab allows for demonstrations in the Eau Claire site skills lab to be broadcast not only to classrooms at the Eau Claire site, but to the Marshfield Site classrooms as well, allowing students at both sites to see lab demonstrations simultaneously.

Curriculum

Traditional BSN

Although curriculum revision has been an ongoing process since the beginning of the School, a major revision of the basic nursing curriculum was implemented with students who entered the University as pre-nursing students in the fall of 1983. Credits required for graduation were reduced from 136 to 128, which facilitated elimination of the summer session that had been mandatory between the sophomore and junior years. The faculty adopted a developmental organization framework and a curriculum based on the model of Loomis and Wood. Curriculum revision was again undertaken in the 1994-95 academic year. The impetus for this work arose from current trends in health care reform and the Redefinition of the Baccalaureate degree completed by the University faculty in 1993-94. Revisions were

implemented in fall 1996. Credits required for graduation are 120 in keeping with the redefined university degree. Another curriculum revision was implemented beginning in January 2014, following approval by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing, to be consistent with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) *Essentials of Baccalaureate Education* and current practices.

BSN Completion Program

Registered nurses were admitted to the nursing program for BSN degree completion beginning in 1974. Students were able to earn credit by examination for some nursing courses. Starting in 1980 the nursing courses were taught on the campus of the UW Center-Marshfield/Wood County for several years to accommodate registered nurses in that part of the state. In the fall of 1985, the School initiated a special educational option for registered nurse students. Advanced placement in the undergraduate nursing program was offered based on performance on a standardized test of nursing knowledge and completion of a confirming nursing course. This track was phased out in 1996 to enter into a Collaborative Nursing Program (CNP) for registered nurses to pursue baccalaureate degrees in nursing. Facilitated by UW-Extension, this program was a collaborative distance learning effort by UW-Eau Claire, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Green Bay, UW-Madison, and UW-Milwaukee, with each campus offering one of the required core courses. The first two courses in the program were piloted in spring 1996 with UW-Eau Claire and UW-Madison offering them. Initially courses were offered through audiographic technologies but later transitioned to online learning management systems. For several years, some of the core courses were also offered on campus at UWEC on a rotating basis, as an alternative to the online format for interested students. Selected sections were offered at the Marshfield Site, when there were sufficient numbers of students located in central Wisconsin.

In 2012, UW-Stevens Point became the sixth member of this collaboration and began admitting students to their program in 2014. These campuses share at present six core courses which are offered online. In Fall 2024, UW-Superior received Board of Regents approval to join the collaborative. Students can take courses from any one of the universities but retain a “home school” student status from which they graduate. That is, one is admitted to a selected university and is required to fulfill all degree requirements specific to that university. The nursing courses are taken online and are taught by faculty of the participating institutions. Each campus has designated credits that are campus specific nursing courses and are taught only to their students. A state-wide curriculum revision was implemented, beginning Fall 2014, to be consistent with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) *Essentials of Baccalaureate Education* and current practices. The curriculum included six core courses offered online by the six Universities of Wisconsin campuses, plus a beginning and capstone BSN Completion course offered by UW-Eau Claire for the Eau Claire students. These two UW-Eau Claire courses were initially offered in a hybrid format, but have since transitioned to being all online (with the exception of the clinical component of the capstone course).

Master of Science in Nursing Program

In 1976, the UW-Eau Claire School of Nursing was granted an entitlement to plan a graduate degree program in nursing. The strength of the baccalaureate nursing program at UW-Eau Claire provided a strong base upon which to build the graduate nursing program. Support for the planned graduate program was derived from the 1970 Commission on Statewide Planning for Nursing Education and the 1979 Statewide Study of Nursing and Nursing Education.

In July 1979, a feasibility study for the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program was completed by Dr. Norma Briggs and Dr. Rita Kisting Sparks. The study was carried out with the support of an ad hoc graduate committee, an advisory committee, and student consultants. This study supported the need for a graduate nursing program at UW-Eau Claire. A graduate program with a focus in adult health nursing was implemented.

Dr. Briggs was appointed Interim Director of the Graduate Program in 1979 and served in this capacity until the appointment of Dr. Barbara Haag, who filled the position of Director of the Graduate Program from 1981 until 1982. Dr. Patricia Ostmo, Dean of the School of Nursing, served as Acting Director of the Graduate Program from 1982 until 1983. Dr. Briggs was appointed Director of the Graduate Program in 1983, and in 1984 was selected as Chairperson, Department of Adult Health Nursing, which housed the graduate program. The National League for Nursing granted initial accreditation to the master’s program in 1985.

The first graduate students were accepted to the program in 1981 and began graduate courses in the fall of 1981. Three full-time and nine part-time students were enrolled. The first three graduates of the master's program were awarded their degrees in May 1983. The initial emphasis for the degree in 1981 was adult health nursing, with the role preparations of nurse clinician with advanced clinical expertise or nurse educator. By 1983, role preparation options were clinical nurse specialist, educator, and nursing service administrator.

The enrollment of the graduate program varied between 60 and 80 students through the 1980's and early nineties, with the majority of students enrolled part-time. The program increased to an enrollment of over 100 students during the 1990's largely due to student interest in expanded clinical practice role options.

In the fall of 1989, the graduate nursing faculty approved a second area of specialization, family health nursing, within the graduate nursing curriculum. This new population focus appeared in the 1989-1991 graduate catalog, with the courses still in development. The focus on family health nursing, as an option along with adult health nursing, was initiated in 1990.

In the spring of 1990, the faculty approved a reorganization of the School of Nursing. Graduate courses were assigned across the three departments of Adult Health Nursing, Family Health Nursing, and Nursing Systems. Department chairs were responsible for the courses assigned to their individual departments; a Graduate Curriculum and Admissions Committee was and still is responsible for the graduate curriculum.

The graduate faculty undertook extensive curricular work during the early 1990's. The major impetus for the changes was to update the total curriculum and to expand the clinical nurse specialist role preparation area to an advanced clinical practice role which allowed students the option to sit for the certification exam as adult or family nurse practitioners.

The 1995-96 academic year was a year of transition for the School of Nursing. On July 1, 1995, the School became one of three schools in the College of Professional Studies. The University was structured with three Colleges; the two others were the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Business.

In July 1995, the School of Nursing was awarded an Advanced Nurse Education grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Professions, Division of Nursing, to establish the Family Health Advanced Clinical Practice program in cooperation with Saint Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, Wisconsin. The first part-time students were matriculated in fall 1995 and the first full-time students began the course work in summer 1996.

The curriculum was revised again in 2002. Subsequently, the role preparations expanded to include Advanced Clinical Practice for Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANP), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), and Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS, Adult); Nurse Educator; and Nursing Administration. In 2004 the newly appointed Associate Dean, Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher, was named director of the graduate programs in the College. Dr. Debra Jansen served as the graduate programs director, beginning in 2009, while serving as the acting and interim associate dean. In 2010, in response to a Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification and Education endorsed by the major national nursing organizations and all major APRN organizations, the adult specialization was changed to an adult-gerontologic population focus. Thus, the Adult Nurse Practitioner and Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist role preparations were transitioned to the Adult-Gerontologic NP and Adult-Gerontologic CNS preparations, with the first classes graduating with these changes in May 2012. During the 2012-2013 academic year, the Adult-Gerontologic NP role preparation was changed to Adult-Gerontologic Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (A/G PC, NP). Dr. Susan Peck was named MSN program coordinator in 2010 (while Dr. Debra Jansen continued to serve as the MSN and DNP program director) and Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher became the Graduate Nursing Programs Director in 2011, the Assistant Dean for Post Licensure Programs beginning in 2012, and then back to the Nursing Graduate Programs Director in 2014, in the wake of severe state budget cuts. Dr. Lisa Schiller began serving as the Nursing Graduate Programs Director in July 2019 after Dr. Zwygart-Stauffacher stepped back into full-time teaching in the graduate program.

In 2004, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recommended that the level of preparation necessary for advanced nursing practice roles be moved from the master's degree to the doctorate level by 2015. In keeping with the AACN *Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing*, the last class of MSN students seeking nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist role preparations was admitted for the summer of 2011. The first class of post-baccalaureate Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students was admitted for the Fall of 2012. (Students were admitted into the post-master's DNP option starting in 2010.) The College of Nursing continues to admit students interested in the nursing education and administration/leadership and management role preparations to the MSN program.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is a clinical doctorate designed to prepare nurses to assume leadership roles in the areas of advanced clinical practice (nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist) or nursing administration. In 2008, the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents approved an Entitlement to Plan a collaborative DNP program between UW-Eau Claire and UW-Oshkosh. Planning and development of the proposed DNP program occurred collaboratively between both institutions. In March of 2009, UW-Eau Claire and UW-Oshkosh were given permission to develop independent authorizations to offer a DNP program on each campus. On May 8, 2009, the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents approved establishing a DNP program at UW-Eau Claire. This is the first doctoral program at UW-Eau Claire. Both post-master's (MSN-to-DNP) and post-baccalaureate (BSN-to-DNP) options were approved. A DNP program also was approved for UW Oshkosh, making these the first doctoral programs at any of the Universities of Wisconsin 11 comprehensive universities.

During the first two years of the program, the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years, the DNP degree was offered as a post-masters option only (for part-time students during the initial year). Sixteen students were admitted to the first class of post-master's DNP (MSN-to-DNP) students, with coursework beginning in the summer of 2010. Twelve post-master's DNP students were admitted for the summer of 2011. The first class of post-master's DNP students graduated in 2012, with 14 of them graduating in May and one individual graduating later in August. The MSN-to-DNP option was intended for nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, or nurse administrators who already had master's degrees in nursing in these areas. However, in 2015, an additional more tailored post-master's Nurse executive option was created for those with prior master's degrees in nursing administration.

The first class of post-baccalaureate DNP (BSN-to-DNP) students was admitted for the Fall of 2012, with 13 of them graduating in May 2015. Initial emphases for the BSN-to-DNP option included Adult-gerontologic primary care nurse practitioner (NP), Adult-gerontologic clinical nurse specialist, Family NP, and Nurse administrator/nurse executive

In December 2024, the Department of Nursing and the University Graduate Council voted to approve two new DNP emphases, to be offered beginning in Fall 2025: A Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Family population focus) post-baccalaureate option and a Nursing Education Leadership post-master's option. The development and offering of these options were supported by Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation grant funding. They were seen as helping to meet the needs of rural communities for psychiatric mental health providers and nurses.

Marshfield Site

After a survey of the health care needs for Central Wisconsin was completed, a distance education nursing site was established in Marshfield in cooperation with Saint Joseph's Hospital in the fall of 1986. The hospital had decided to phase out the three-year diploma program it had operated for many years, but wished to continue an active participation in nursing education. This school had a long and honorable history of educating registered nurses but chose to discontinue its program in response to the increasing social and technological complexities of health care that made the baccalaureate degree for professional nursing essential. In July 1986, the Board of Regents endorsed this program and the first class was admitted in 1987-1988. The first class of graduates (N=18) completed the program in May 1990. Nursing courses were taught by a combination of on-site faculty, main campus faculty, and telecommunications technology. To complete the baccalaureate degree, for the non-nursing requirements, students primarily utilized course offerings at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, UW Marshfield/Wood County, and UW Marathon County campuses.

Since the inception of the program, approximately 24 students had been admitted once a year to the Marshfield site. In 2008, a Decision Item Narrative (DIN) proposal from UW-System was funded, in part, to allow for the expansion of the Marshfield site, so that 16 students could be admitted each semester. In January 2013, in a pilot partnership with Aspirus Wausau Hospital, eight additional students (for a total of 24 students) started nursing courses. Aspirus Wausau Hospital provided the clinical instructors for additional clinical settings in the Wausau area to accommodate the extra 8 students for the pilot.

Nancy Ray was the first satellite site program coordinator. Judith Vanderwalker replaced Ms. Ray in 1988. In July 1993, Dr. Norma Briggs was appointed the coordinator. She held this position until her retirement in 1997. Ms. Rebecca Wiegand replaced Dr. Briggs as coordinator in the fall of 1997. Dr. Robin Beeman accepted the coordinator role in 1999. In 2007, Dr. Beeman's title of "Site Coordinator" was changed to Assistant Dean, Marshfield Site. Dr. Rachel Merkel assumed the role of Marshfield Site Coordinator in 2015 when Dr. Beeman became the Nursing Department Chair and reduced her Assistant Dean duties. Following the retirement of Dr. Beeman in January 2020, University administration did not support the filling of the Assistant Dean position and it was eliminated. Dr. Merkel became the Director of the Marshfield Site in 2020.

A 25th anniversary celebration of our nursing education partnership with Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital was held at the Hospital on April 29, 2013. Alumni in the area were invited to attend. Featured speakers included UW-Eau Claire Provost and Vice Chancellor Patricia Kleine and Dr. Linda Young, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences; Mr. Brian Kief, the President and CEO of Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital; Mr. Mike Schmidt, former President and CEO of Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital; Dr. Marjorie Bottoms, Associate Dean and Educational Administrator Emeritus; Ms. Marcia Bollinger, our first distance education specialist; Ms. Karen Maddox, the first faculty member to teach using the original distance education audiographics system; Ms. Judy Vanderwalker, an early Marshfield Site Coordinator; Ms. Patricia Burbach, the first office assistant at the Marshfield Site; Ms. Anna Alexander-Doelle and Ms. Nancy Danou, two of the first nursing faculty members at the Marshfield Site; Ms. Linda Duffy, a long-standing faculty member at the Marshfield Site; Ms. Michelle Johnson, Mr. Mark Knauf, and Ms. Paula Thompson, three graduates of the very first class; and Ms. DeeAnn Dickinson, Ms. Kate Filla, Mr. Brian Tessmer, and Ms. Rachel Zaleski, then current students (and graduates) at our Marshfield Site. Associate Dean Debra Jansen emceed the event and shared words from Dr. Robin Beeman, as she was unable to attend. A plaque to commemorate and celebrate the partnership was presented by Dean Linda Young to Mr. Brian Kief.

In July 2017, Marshfield Clinic Health System finalized the purchase of Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital and renamed the hospital the Marshfield Medical Center. Marshfield Clinic signed an agreement with UW-Eau Claire to continue to support the undergraduate nursing program in Marshfield. They provided building space in the hospital, resources, and some funding for FTE. We are quite grateful for the many years of support we received through Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital; however, we also appreciate the opportunities Marshfield Clinic has provided for our students in central Wisconsin. State budget cuts caused us to reduce enrollments to 8 students per semester for two terms in 2016; yet with the support of Marshfield Clinic, we continued to enroll 16 students per semester. A celebration of the 30th anniversary of our nursing education site in Marshfield and our new partnership with Marshfield Clinic Health System was held on November 20, 2017. Up to then, 670 nurses had earned the BSN degree from UW-Eau Claire through the Marshfield Site.

In May 2021, following the completion of the spring semester, the nursing program at the Marshfield Site moved out of the South Building of the Marshfield Medical Center where it had been housed since 1987, and was set up in the Helen Connor Laird Fine Arts Building of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point at Marshfield campus. The move was part of a multiyear Marshfield Medical Center campus renovation project that had been in discussion and planning for several years. These discussions included the leadership at both the UW-Eau Claire College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Marshfield Clinic Health System. The project involved tearing down the South Building in fall 2021 as it had reached the end of its practical use and could not be feasibly renovated. Marshfield Clinic Health System continued to provide funding for faculty and staff to teach at the Marshfield Site, on top of other resources and support, including leasing of the space at the UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield campus. The program remained the UW-Eau Claire nursing program and the students were UW-Eau Claire nursing students. Students continued to have clinicals at the Marshfield Medical

Center and access to Marshfield Clinic Health System resources, including the Magnin Medical Library. The move was a positive one for students as they had the best of both worlds—access to a campus environment and a world class health system complex.

In Spring 2024, Marshfield Clinic Health System made the difficult decision to phase out the distance education site in Marshfield over the next two years, with the last cohort of three students graduating in May 2026. During this two-year period, we will maintain the use of the UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield campus, including the simulation laboratories. Following the Spring 2026 semester, we will continue to partner with Marshfield Clinic Health System for clinical learning opportunities in Marshfield, Eau Claire, and other communities. Subsequently, in July 2024, Marshfield Clinic Health System and Sanford Health announced an intent to combine and create an integrated health system; the merger was finalized on January 2, 2025. As of June 2025, 873 individuals have graduated from UW-Eau Claire through the distance education site.

The announcements of the phasing out of the Marshfield distance education site and intent to combine came on the heels of the closures of Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls in March 2024, and Prevea Health Clinics in Western Wisconsin in April 2024, amidst financial struggles faced by health care systems, particularly those covering more rural areas. With these closures, the College pivoted to utilizing more of the MCHS Marshfield Medical Center hospital units in Marshfield for students located at the Eau Claire campus. Students from the Eau Claire campus already had been traveling to the MCHS Marshfield Children's Hospital in Marshfield for pediatric experiences.

Accelerated Baccalaureate Program

An accelerated program for second degree students was piloted with 8 students in 2006-2007. With the assistance from the DIN as noted above, 16 students were admitted for summer 2009 (16 graduated May 2010) and 18 students for summer 2010 (18 graduated May 2011) and summer 2011 (18 graduated May 2012). Dr. Cheryl Brandt served as the coordinator, under the direction of the Chair of the Department of Nursing. Due to human resource issues and the impact of budget reductions on programing, the Accelerated Program was placed on hold effective starting summer 2012. The program had operated under a cost recovery model in which the students paid a higher rate of tuition than other undergraduate students on campus. As part of a program array review process, the Accelerated BSN option was identified as low enrollment (no admissions had occurred while nursing had placed it on hold) and was therefore recommended for suspension by University Academic Affairs. The University Senate formally voted to suspend the program on November 27, 2018; the suspension became permanent after 5 years.

Chippewa Valley Alliance/Coulee Region Nursing Alliance and Other Technical School Alliances

In 2004 and 2005, in an effort to graduate more baccalaureate prepared nurses, Alliances were formed with Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) and Western Technical College (WTC), Black River Falls campus. An announcement of the CVTC Chippewa Valley Nursing Alliance occurred in November 2004. Students who were denied admission to the traditional BSN program, due to limited space and resources, are afforded an opportunity to attend CVTC and WTC to earn their Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), while being concurrently enrolled through UWEC. Students apply to the technical college and are admitted to these programs based on technical college guidelines, though eligibility to apply is based on their lack of admission to the BSN program. Following completion of their ADN, these students apply for admission to the BSN Completion Program to finish their BSN. Seats have been available for sixteen to twenty-four students annually for the Chippewa Valley Nursing Alliance with CVTC and for seven to nine students annually for the Coulee Region Nursing Alliance with WTC.

In February 2018, an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) alliance agreement was signed with CVTC to enable 16 students to start each fall at the CVTC-Eau Claire campus and 8 students each fall at the CVTC-River Falls campus. A similar MOU was signed in February 2018 with Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) to create the Northwest Nursing Alliance (NWN), thereby enabling 4 students to start each fall at the WITC-Rice Lake campus and 4 students at the WITC-New Richmond campus; as well as 8 students to start each spring at the Rice Lake campus and 8 at the New Richmond campus. Following suit, a similar MOU was signed in March 2018 with the Nicolet Area Technical College (NATC) to admit up to 8 students each fall to NATC in Rhinelander as part of the Nicolet Nursing Alliance.

Research, Practice, and Scholarly Activity

As the School and the nursing profession matured and the graduate program began to evolve, research and scholarly activity received greater emphasis. In support of these efforts, the Coffman Lecture Series fund was established to promote scholarliness in faculty, students, and alumni (the Coffman funds are now used for student scholarships). The series was established in honor of Dean Marguerite Coffman upon her retirement in 1977. Dr. Suzanne Van Ort established the Van Ort Award for Faculty Creativity and Scholarliness in 1985.

The creation of the first donor-supported faculty chair in the College of Nursing, the Jane W. and James E. Moore Chair in Nursing Research, was announced on May 18, 2018. Jane (BSN class of 1973) and James Moore committed to providing funds to augment a nursing faculty position base salary (position and base salary was to be provided by the University). The chair position was to be endowed at a later time by the Moores through their estate gift. However, attempts to fill the Chair position were unsuccessful. To better coincide with the needs of the College, the position was converted to and readvertised as the Jane W. and James E. Moore Nursing Research Professorship in 2021, with a limited term appointment of three years. The Moore Professorship is intended to recognize and promote the ongoing research development of a nurse scientist. Dr. Sonja Meiers was hired as the inaugural Professor, beginning with the Spring 2022 term.

Dr. Patricia Ostmo established an award for excellence in clinical instruction in October 1991. The establishment of this award coincided with the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the School of Nursing.

In the mid-1990's the School made several refinements and generated new initiatives with vision that extends into history's third millennium. Although a University-wide Honors Program has been available for several years in which qualified nursing majors have participated, the College created a Departmental Honors in Nursing program; however, the nursing honors program was placed on hold in October 2016 due to a shortage of faculty resources compounded by severe state budget cuts in the 2015-2017 biennium.

The quality of the faculty and students, as well as the reputation for outstanding performance of the College's graduates, have been sources of pride in both the School and the University. Approximately one-half of each year's graduating class has earned graduation honors. In 1980 the National Honor Society of Sigma Theta Tau awarded the School a charter as the Delta Phi chapter, enabling the School to not only recognize excellence of performance of individuals through invitational membership, but to promote nursing as a scholarly pursuit through its affiliation with the Society.

The new addition to the building in 1985 made possible the establishment of the Nursing Center for Health. Professional nursing education, practice, and service to the community came together in the Center; here faculty and students in various educational programs could learn, test, and refine as they directed their attention to health maintenance and restoration for clients across the life span, particularly those who were under-served by existing health care services. The Nursing Center for Health was put on hold in 2007, due to lack of faculty resources. While it was operating, examples of services provided by the Center included blood pressure clinics and foot and nail care at apartments for low-income older adults; and physicals for low-income older adults engaged in employment training and seeking work.

In 2003, The Rita Kisting Sparks Faculty Service Award was established by Dr. Sparks to recognize excellence in service and is awarded annually to a member of the nursing faculty or teaching academic staff.

A Pre-College Program for 10th and 11th graders was developed in the early 1990s and was offered most summers between 1992 and 2004. The program, designed to recruit and retain minorities in nursing, consisted of a one-week summer camp held on campus. Scholarships for 20 minority students were made available by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Diversity

Diversity is a high priority for the Department of Nursing. For ten years, from 1993-2003, UW-Eau Claire was the recipient of a federal Indian Health Service (IHS) nursing education grant. During this time curriculum articulation was established with Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College. Through this grant Native American students were able to attend pre-nursing courses in their home community and come to campus for their professional nursing education. Although the grant is no longer available, efforts to partner with regional tribal communities have continued.

The Department of Nursing recognizes the importance of clinical immersion experiences as one strategy for fostering cultural awareness in our students. Undergraduate clinical experiences have been offered at the Rosebud Lakota Sioux tribal community in South Dakota since 2004. Additionally, beginning in 2011, undergraduate cultural clinical immersion experiences have been offered at Wisconsin dairy farms with Hispanic migrant workers. Clinical groups also have been working with the Somali population in Barron County and in Minneapolis since about 2017. For several years in the early 2000's, undergraduate students also had the opportunity to work with the Alaskan Native populations in Anchorage, Alaska as funding and staffing allowed, as well as at a free-standing, nurse-managed Hispanic birth center in Weslaco, Texas (1998-2015). Furthermore, many graduate students have participated in clinical immersion experiences at the Lac Du Flambeau Reservation.

A Coordinator of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) position was created in 2012. Aspects of this position were subsequently incorporated into the Traditional Undergraduate Program Director position in August 2015.

International Education

Nursing education took on an international flavor with the design of a course entitled "Comparative Study of Nursing and Health Care," which was taught the summers of 1972 and 1973 at the Instituto Tecnologica de Monterey in Mexico. During the summers of 1981 through 1988 the course was taught in Harlaxton, England. The course was offered at King Alfred's College in Winchester, England, in the summer of 1990. One clinical group of senior students took their final spring semester of nursing courses at King Alfred's in 1991. Beginning in the fall of 2009, additional students have participated in a study abroad opportunity for nursing students at Harlaxton, England, through nursing courses offered by the University of Evansville in Indiana. Additionally, other students participated for many years in a summer health care study abroad in Costa Rica up through 2017; since 2018, students now take part in a summer health care study abroad in Pueblo, Mexico and Valladolid, Spain. In Spring 2014, Dean Linda Young and Dr. Jill Hecker-Fernandes led a clinical group of eight first semester senior nursing students for a week-long clinical immersion experience in El Salvador. The students and faculty stayed at Casa Concordia, an orphanage and guest house in San Salvador which served as the home base from which the group ventured out to various facilities and more rural areas of San Salvador. However, this opportunity was placed on hold after a few semesters after 2015 due to the risk of exposure of students to the Zika virus and violence concerns.

Enrollment

In the year 2000 there were 44 faculty and teaching academic staff positions. As of May, 2000, 2,785 Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees had been awarded and 268 people had received Master of Science in Nursing degrees, the first of these having been awarded in May 1983. The College of Nursing and Health Sciences, nursing programs in 2009 had an approximate annual enrollment of over 800 students, including first-year-students selecting nursing as a major, students at our Marshfield site, second degree students in our accelerated program, registered nurse students seeking the baccalaureate degree, and graduate students. As of fall 2011, there were 796 undergraduate (pre-nursing and admitted) students and 110 graduate (MSN and DNP) students. In Fall 2020 there were 852 undergraduate (462 pre-nursing, 339 traditional, and 51 BSN Completion) and 87 graduate (2 MSN and 85 DNP) students.

Since the 1990s, 40 students were admitted per semester to the traditional undergraduate program at the Eau Claire site. To increase university tuition funds in response to severe 2015-2017 biennium budget cuts to the Universities of Wisconsin, an additional 25 students per year were admitted for two years (16 with the June 2015 and 2016 cohorts and 9 with the January 2016 and 2017 cohorts). This increase was in response to a request by University administration.

In December 2021, UW-Eau Claire was awarded a \$9.4 million grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) through the agency's Workforce Innovation Grant program. The 3-year award was meant to address the needs of rural communities in the areas of health care, education, and small business development. As part of the grant, Nursing was charged with increasing enrollment in the traditional undergraduate program in Eau Claire by 24 students (3 clinical groups) each semester (48 students per year); we were admitting about 40-43 students per semester, prior to the grant. In January 2022, 52 students (one extra clinical group) were admitted and in June 2022, 68 students (3 extra clinical groups) were admitted for the Eau Claire campus. The initial plan was to continue to admit about 64-68 students each semester going forward, with the goal of graduating 48 more students per year, consistent with the grant expectations. However, in 2025, as part of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Strategic Plan/Vision for 2030, we were charged with doubling our enrollment within the next five years, with the eventual goal of admitting 128 TBSN students per semester. We are incrementally increasing our admission numbers to reach that target goal (e.g., 78 students were admitted in June 2025).

Accreditation

Faculty continue to seek an increasing level of quality for our nursing programs. In 1993 the maximum eight-year accreditation (until 2001) was received with no recommendations for the undergraduate or graduate programs from the National League for Nursing (the last time we sought reaccreditation from NLN). In 2001, the School was visited for accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and received full accreditation for the graduate and undergraduate programs through December 2011. Following a reaccreditation visit in April 2011, the baccalaureate and master's programs were accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 887-6791, through December 31, 2021. As a new program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program was accredited by CCNE through December 31, 2016. Following a CCNE site visit for the DNP program that occurred March 7-9, 2016, the doctoral program was re-accredited through December 31, 2026. In March 2021, the College hosted a virtual (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) CCNE site visit as part of our request for reaccreditation. Besides reaccreditation, the goal of this visit was to align our undergraduate and graduate programs on the same evaluation cycle. No compliance issues were found at the time of the site visit. Consequently, the baccalaureate degree program in nursing, master's degree program in nursing, and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 887-6791, through December 31, 2031.

In the years since the School of Nursing first took recognizable shape, much has happened to change the character of nursing and nursing education. Responding to these changes as scholars, teachers, and practitioners within a University setting has been a position of privilege, as well as responsibility. We look forward to the future and continue our commitment to excellence.

History of Nursing Attire

Distinguishing attire has been characteristic of the nursing profession even in its pre-professional era. Attire has utilitarian, symbolic, and communicative value.

Nurse's Cap - The nurse's cap is a familiar symbol. Its origin was thoroughly utilitarian as well as of religious significance. Women in the religious nursing orders of the Middle Ages were garbed in the habit of their orders to provide for concealment of the hair. Long hair, which women have worn throughout most of history, was washed only occasionally, and in nursing settings was covered to keep it clean and under control. Feminine adornments began to appear on the head coverings--pleating, bands, straps, bars, shirring, and ruffles. Eventually each school of nursing had its own unique cap, serving little or no utilitarian purpose, the presentation of which more or less ushered the student into the profession after a probationary period during which the student's fitness for the intellectual and physical rigors of nursing was determined.

As men and women began to cross the lines of previously sex-differentiated occupations, some schools of nursing dispensed with the cap. However, it has remained an enduring symbol. The first capping ceremony (called the *Nursing Convocation*) was held in January 1967, for the first cohort of students. Subsequent capping ceremonies occurred

around each January. The class of 1986 was the last cohort of students to have a capping ceremony, in January 1984, as the caps were being phased out by then. Rather than caps, for the capping ceremony, men students received blue and gold bars which were affixed to the left sleeve; this practice was started in 1976.

The UW-Eau Claire cap was designed by Nancy Fugate Woods, a member of the first graduating class in 1968 (she later became Dean at the University of Washington). The following is an excerpt from a School of Nursing Student Handbook from the 1980s regarding the care of the cap:

The caps must be stiffened with a very heavy starch mixture. They may be soaked in the starch and, while wet, smoothed onto a very smooth, flat surface (such as a refrigerator door) to dry; or they may be ironed. The half-inch royal blue velvet ribbon is attached about one inch from the outer edge, using K-Y lubricant jelly as paste, which is readily available from drug stores. Small size tubes are available. Certain commercial laundries launder caps at reasonable cost. (Be certain to remove studs from the caps.)

Bars, stripes, and chevrons - Bars, stripes, and chevrons are also symbols coupled with the nursing profession. They speak to the military part of nursing history that harks back to the Crusades when there were military orders of men who traveled with and established hospitals for the crusaders who swept down from northern Europe toward the Middle East. Although they are masculine symbols, women nurses subsequently wore them with distinction in various branches of military settings. To that point, modern professional nursing began with Florence Nightingale in military installations during the Crimean War.

Nursing Pin - Another long-standing symbol is the Nursing pin. These were uniquely designed for each school and generally displayed a blend of medical, religious, and heraldic symbols such as the Maltese Cross, Caduceus, Star of David, etc. They too, probably served a useful purpose at one time for securing certain parts of the uniform, but eventually became an acceptable decorative item to be worn on the uniform of a graduate nurse upon completion of their program.

The design for the UW-Eau Claire pin was selected from designs submitted by students and faculty. Most of the designs submitted bore a striking resemblance to the traditional diploma school pins, but Associate Professor (at the time) Bernice Wagner's proposal for an adaptation of the University's official emblem was selected. The design clearly links nursing and higher education, with the oak tree symbolizing knowledge and life, the lamp symbolizing not only enlightenment or learning, but the lantern that had come to be associated with Florence Nightingale, and the word, *excellence*, characterizing what every UW-Eau Claire nursing graduate aspires to. Two Maltese crosses acknowledge the significance of the historical monastic nursing orders.

Information on ordering nursing pins is given to all seniors during the final semester of their senior year. The Nursing pin is to be worn only after the requirements for the degree have been met. Orders are placed through the UW-Eau Claire University Bookstore and the pins are awarded at a special Convocation Ceremony (The Pinning Ceremony was renamed the *Nursing Convocation* after the capping ceremony ended.) held the evening before commencement. In case of loss or damage to a nursing pin, graduates contact the University Bookstore for replacement.

III. College of Nursing Mission/Vision

College of Nursing Mission Statement

Building on a foundation of excellence, liberal education, and inclusivity, the College of Nursing fosters the transformation of individuals at the undergraduate and graduate levels into leaders in professional nursing practice, education, and scholarship. High-impact educational experiences, scholarship, and service to our communities enhance the personal and professional growth of students and faculty while promoting life-long learning. 4/19/2019; reaffirmed 9/26/24.

College of Nursing Values

- Excellence in*:
 - Education
 - Practice
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - Experiential Learning
 - Life-Long Learning
- Diversity
 - Eliminating Barriers to Participation*
- Health
- Integrity
- Civility
- Innovation*
- Quality of Life
- Social Responsibility*:
 - Respect
 - Positive Influence on Health
 - Social Justice,
 - Accountability
 - Sustainability

Note: Those values with an asterisk are held in common with the overall University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire values.
(approved 4/19/19; reaffirmed 9/26/24)

College of Nursing Vision Statement

The College of Nursing strives to be a leader for exemplary education in nursing. In doing so, we endeavor to transform the lives of our students, the practice of our profession, and the health of populations.

(approved 4/19/19; reaffirmed 9/26/24).

IV. Department of Nursing Organization

Department of Nursing Vision Statement

Members of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Department of Nursing, as a learning community, honor our successes while we pursue new avenues of excellence.

Vision: Educating nurse leaders to challenge boundaries and build bridges for a healthier world.

Revised & approved 11.7.19. Reaffirmed 5/8/25.

Department of Nursing Mission Statement

The purpose of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Department of Nursing is to provide a scholarly environment in which faculty and students gain and extend knowledge of health, health care, and the practice of professional nursing. The Department of Nursing is dedicated to accomplishing this mission using traditional, as well as technology-based instructional strategies and a variety of innovative and diverse teaching methods.

The Nursing Department shares the mission of the University and the College by building upon the foundational values of transformative liberal education, inclusivity, and educational excellence.

The select mission of the Nursing Department is to:

- Educate nurses to lead within diverse, complex environments
- Promote health and the public good through ethical leadership, collaboration, and practice
- Contribute to knowledge development for health and nursing,
- Serve the broader missions of the College and University

Revised & approved 11.7.19. Reaffirmed 5/8/25.

Nursing Department Philosophy

Nursing is a discipline that practices. In our practice, we protect, promote, and optimize health and abilities; prevent illness and injury; alleviate suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response; and advocate in the care of individuals, families, communities, and populations (American Nurses Association, 2003). In our practice, evidence underscores what we do and client education assumes a primary role. In all settings, holism shapes our approach and expands our effectiveness. Although deliberate and purposeful, to improve world health we also remain imaginative and continually search for the unforeseen in our practice.

Nursing is a discipline that leads. Leadership demands us to confront what is and imagine what could be. We hold and articulate our own values and visions with conviction. But in challenging what exists, we also recognize that accomplishing commonly-shared goals about health requires collaboration that emerges from inclusive leadership. Inclusion is expanded because professionally-educated nurse leaders strive to understand people who are unlike them. Furthermore, leadership insists that we persuade rather than coerce, appreciate the power of mutual information, and live peacefully with irony and paradox. As architects, then, nurse leaders design strategy, influence policy, and advocate for clients in political places. As designers, nurse leaders inspire others to seek environmentally-beneficial solutions. Both strategy and inspiration call for knowledge, energy, and courage.

Nursing is a discipline that generates, translates, and applies knowledge. Research, as the process of knowledge generation, uses data that are systematically collected and judiciously interpreted to help us answer questions and construct interventions. We engage in this process with students and colleagues, as well as with other campus and community partners. In this collaboration, where we respect traditional and emerging approaches to knowledge generation, we study issues that influence nursing practice, education, and administration. Our goal is that our research

launches wide-ranging conversations, contributes to a culture of scholarship in all settings, and advances and promotes world health and well-being.

Nursing is a discipline that educates. Because nursing education is a liberal education, faculty and students reflect thoughtfully, commit to innovation, and exhibit a spirit of scholarship. As educators, we value multiple evidence-based methods of teaching and honor numerous ways of learning. Nursing education serves society where we strive to practice wisely and try to understand unpredictability and complexity. At the same time, nursing education is a reflective haven where we can disagree, examine, and dialogue in ways that incite and enrich us. Unmistakably, then, preparing students for the workforce is not our only goal as we both serve society and retreat from society in our nursing education. More broadly, improved healthcare outcomes for all people direct our teaching and learning. Freedom and lifetime growth for both students and faculty draw us onward. With our rekindled effort, this nursing education will become more accessible to all.

As we ***practice, lead, generate knowledge, and educate***, several convictions structure our actions. First, the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses (Fowler, 2008) guides our decisions. Further, a commitment to a person-centered collaborative relationship secures what we do. This commitment compels us to embrace diverse peoples and understand distinctive lifestyles from all global places and positions. By foregrounding ethics and relationship, a seamless link merges our roles in practice, leadership, knowledge generation, and education.

In our blended roles, it is our curiosity and wonder—our search for opportunity and sense of inquiry—our ability to create associations and see patterns—that lead us forward. In this way, we focus on social justice, environmental protection, and the promotion of world health through our engagement with and contributions to the human health experience.

Accepted September 17, 2009

American Nurses Association. (2003). *Nursing's social policy statement* (2nd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author.

Fowler, M. D. M. (Ed.). (2008). *Guide to the Code of Ethics for Nurses: Interpretation and application*. Silver Spring, MD: American Nurses Association.

Purpose

The purpose of the baccalaureate program is to prepare graduates for the practice of professional nursing in a variety of health care settings. The program leads to a Bachelor of Science in nursing, which serves as an entry-level professional degree and as the basis for graduate study.

Accepted 10/83

Revised 12/84; 01/85; 10/92; Reviewed 7/02; Reaffirmed 2/5/15

Baccalaureate Program/Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from UW-Eau Claire with the Bachelor of Science in Nursing demonstrate accomplishment of the AACN Essentials* through:

- I. Integrates nursing knowledge with a liberal education foundation and knowledge from other disciplines.
- II. Provides holistic, compassionate, coordinated, just, respectful, and developmentally appropriate nursing care that is client-focused and evidence-based.
- III. Promotes population health through collaboration, advocacy, and implementation of policies that improve health, health equity, and crisis preparedness.
- IV. Understands the role of scholarship in nursing practice and uses evidence to improve health and healthcare.
- V. Applies principles of safety, risk management, and quality improvement in nursing practice.
- VI. Intentionally collaborates with care team members including patients, families, communities, stakeholders, and other professions.

- VII. Coordinates resources across complex healthcare systems to provide safe, quality, and equitable care to diverse populations.
- VIII. Uses informatic processes, technologies, and data to guide, manage, and improve the delivery of healthcare.
- IX. Demonstrates the formation and cultivation of the professional nursing identity and ethical conduct.
- X. Participates in activities that foster personal health and well-being, career-long learning, professional resilience, and the development of nursing expertise and leadership attributes.

(* *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education*, AACN 2021)

Approved: 12/14/23. Reaffirmed 5/8/25.

Nursing Curricular Organizing Framework

Core Concepts

- Nurse as *leader*
- Nurse as *scholar*
- Nurse as *professional*
- Nurse as *global citizen*

Nurse as *leader*

- Empowering others and stimulating change to reach a shared vision.

Nurse as *scholar*

- Drawing on a liberal education to reason critically, investigate carefully, and think creatively to build an advancing discipline and affect patient outcomes

Nurse as *professional*

- Advocating vigorously for the profession and providing nursing care that is based on the Code of Ethics.

Nurse as *global citizen*

- Enlarging an understanding of the world that expands inclusivity, embraces diversity, and strengthens cultural sensitivity to reduce health disparity

**Revised per faculty suggestions offered at the April 15, 2010 Nursing Department meeting*

Glossary of Terms

Please refer to the *Glossary* at the end of *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN, 2021); <https://www.aacnnursing.org/essentials>

Approved by Dept 4/10/25.

Operational Definition of Simulation—Undergraduate

Simulation is a pedagogy, using one or more typologies to promote, improve, or validate a participant's progression from novice to expert (INACSL, 2013).

"Simulation" means planned clinical experiences to develop clinical judgment and assess learning utilizing patient simulators in an environment and under conditions that provide a realistic clinical scenario (WI Administrative Code).

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Department of Nursing supports simulation as a valid pedagogy that supports our purpose and mission, *"the purpose of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Department of Nursing is to provide a scholarly environment in which faculty and students gain and extend knowledge of health, health care, and the practice of professional nursing. The Department of Nursing is dedicated to accomplishing this mission using traditional, as well as technology-based instructional strategies and a variety of innovative and diverse teaching methods"* (Faculty Handbook, pg 55, revised and approved 11.7.19).

To standardize the implementation of simulation in our curriculum the following principles will be used:

- Simulation development and delivery will be guided by:
 - Wisconsin Board of Nursing and accreditation standards
 - International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) The Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice (HSSOBP)
 - Quality educational pedagogy and theory
 - Current clinical guidelines
- Every simulation will include:
 - Objectives
 - *Mapped to course objectives and Essentials*
 - Prework
 - *Materials assigned by educator to prepare the learner for the experience*
 - Prebrief
 - *Communication of expectations and norms*
 - Simulation Activity
 - *Active application of clinical knowledge*
 - *Could be face to face or virtual format*
 - *Aligns with objective and leveled to expected learner's knowledge*
 - Debrief
 - *Intentional reflection of activity guided by educator*
 - *Focus on clinical judgement and critical thinking*
 - *Strive to address all domains of learning: cognitive, affective, and psychomotor*
 - Post work
 - *Materials assigned by educator to promote self-reflection, retention of knowledge, and cognitive growth as learner progresses through the curriculum*
 - Evaluation
 - *Evaluation of the learner:*
 - *May be formative or summative*
 - *Pre-established rubric*
 - *Linked to clinical course grade/performance*
 - *Lasater Clinical Evaluation Rubric*
 - *Evaluation of the simulation and educator:*
 - *Link to clinical course evaluation*
- 1 hour of simulation will equate to 2 hours of undergraduate clinical.
- The execution of face-to-face simulation will be done collaboratively between an educator, and someone trained to operate the technology (e.g., simulation technician).
- A student to educator ratio of 8-10:1 will be used for formative simulations.
- A student to educator ratio of 4-5:1 will be used for summative simulations.
- Educators will receive simulation training and support from the CLC to maintain consistent, high-quality simulation.
- Clinical hours provided by simulation will be separated from the workload of the clinical course allowing for additional staffing flexibility.

The following activities will not be counted as simulation. Although valuable and necessary components of both nursing education and the CLC, the activities described below, do not meet the criteria for simulation.

- Stand-alone skill training and practice; including skills review sessions
- Skill check offs
- Assessment training and practice

- Open lab
- Case review without debriefing

Approved by Department 9/8/22.

Department of Nursing Sample Program Plan of Undergraduate Study

A sample program plan and other resources for the traditional undergraduate nursing program (TBSN) can be found on the College of Nursing web site: <https://www.uwec.edu/nursing-department/nursing-current-students> and in Blugold Insider.

V. Academic Affairs

The following information pertains specifically to nursing academic programs. Additional information is available in the UW-Eau Claire catalog, UW-Eau Claire Dean of Students Office website, and the UW-Eau Claire web pages.

Academic Advisers

Undergraduate students in Eau Claire are assigned an academic adviser through the Advising, Retention & Career Center (ARCC); following admission to the nursing program, students are additionally assigned a nursing faculty adviser to provide career guidance. Students at the Marshfield Site and second degree students typically do not have an ARCC adviser, but do have a faculty or instructional academic staff member assigned to them as an adviser for academic and career guidance. Your academic adviser assists in your course planning and ensures that you meet all degree requirements. Your adviser can also help you, or refer you to others who can help you, with a wide variety of difficulties related to course work, study habits, reading skills, and personal problems. When you wish to see your adviser, a telephone or e-mail request for an appointment will be useful.

Degree Audits/Plans

First-Degree students - Degree audits can be found in CampS.

Second Degree students – **MUST** file a degree plan. This should be done by the end of the second semester of the first year in the professional nursing program, with the assistance of the Faculty Advisor.

Degree audits should be reviewed each semester with your faculty adviser. The 2nd degree plan forms are filed electronically by your faculty adviser and are available via Blugold Insider or eform1.uwec.edu.

Scholarships

Nursing scholarships are available through the UWEC Foundation and are publicized and administered through the College of Nursing rather than the Financial Aids Office of the University. Information regarding the scholarships and financial resources specific to nursing students are available on the University Website. The information is updated annually. Students are notified via email regarding the application deadline. Information about other scholarships is available through organizations, and may be emailed to nursing students and/or posted on Facebook.

The general nursing scholarship form is available at <http://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/departments-programs/nursing/explore-opportunities/scholarships/>. Follow the instructions listed under each scholarship. Please see the Dean's office personnel for more information.

Dean's List

At the close of each semester, outstanding scholastic achievement is recognized through the Dean's List. Each student on the Dean's List receives an e-mailed letter of notification and congratulations from the Dean. The criteria may be found in the University catalog.

Collection of Student Work for Accreditation and Assessment Processes

Faculty are encouraged to place in syllabi and announce in class:

As part of the accreditation and assessment process, on-site visitors may want to review examples of student work. These examples may include items such as care plans, written papers, projects, etc. Faculty will de-identify the required sampling of artifacts. If a student does not want any personal papers or projects included in this sample, they should please notify each course or clinical faculty person of this request.

Approved March 2015.

Departmental Honors in Nursing (on hold)

Currently on hold, pending resources. Students admitted to nursing with a GPA of 3.5 or higher are eligible for Nursing Honors. After receiving a letter of invitation to participate in Nursing Honors, the students will meet with their Academic Advisors to discuss their interests and motivations for application. The academic advisor will assist interested students in completing the Nursing Honors Acceptance Form. See the Departmental Honors in Nursing web site or Department Chair(s) for further information.

The purpose of Departmental Honors in Nursing is to provide an opportunity for students to discover nursing knowledge in a specific topic area **using advanced scholarship abilities** beyond the student learning outcomes of the baccalaureate nursing program.

Nursing Honors student will:

1. Demonstrate professional motivation and commitment to the contribution of nursing knowledge by participating in a scholarly project that engages the student in any of the following formats: research, evidence-based practice, service project with a health care/ community partner, and/or leadership.
2. Demonstrate some or all of the following scholarly behaviors with abundant depth and breadth through the scholarly project:
 - a. Formation of a focused practice/ academic/ management problem or need
 - b. Retrieval, appraisal, analysis, and synthesis of scholarly literature/ evidence
 - c. Collaboratively design a scholarly project to meet the identified need
 - d. Implement the honors scholarly project
 - e. Disseminate results of the scholarly project in a professional format (oral/ poster presentation, manuscript, or other).
3. Cultivate professional relationship(s) with Nursing Honors Advisor and/ or other significant professional partners.

Criteria for Participating in Departmental Honors in Nursing

- Admitted UWEC baccalaureate nursing students with a minimum GPA of 3.5 will be invited to apply for participation in Departmental Honors in Nursing.
- Acceptance and initiation of participation in Departmental Honors in Nursing is required by the start of the Junior 1 semester. Application with written rationale to the Departmental Honors in Nursing after Junior 1 semester may be submitted to the Nursing Honors Chair for consideration by the Nursing Honors Committee.
- Nursing honors students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3 in nursing courses throughout the nursing honors program.
- Demonstrated ongoing active participation with honors work through submission and approval of progress reports and successful completion of scholarly project.

Sophomore 2 Exploration and Application to the Departmental Honors in Nursing	Junior 1 Honors Topic Exploration and Scholarly Project Development	Junior 2 and Senior 1 Scholarly Project Implementation	Senior 2 Scholarly Project Dissemination
Student Requirements: 1. After receiving letter of invitation to participate in Nursing Honors, student will meet with Academic Advisor to discuss interests and motivation for application.	Student Requirements: 1. Attend Nursing Honors Student Forum 1.* 2. Complete the Nursing Honors Acceptance form and return to the Nursing Honors Chair. 3. Collaborate with Academic Advisor to select Nursing Honors Advisor. 4. Design scholarly project in collaboration with Nursing Honors Advisor. 5. Complete Scholarly Project Proposal and submit to Nursing Honors Committee for approval.	Student Requirements: 1. Establish goals, activities and timeline for implementation of scholarly project in collaboration with Nursing Honors Advisor. 2. Submit Scholarly Project Progress Report to Nursing Honors Committee at the end of each semester prior to dissemination.	Student Requirements: 1. Attend Nursing Honors Student Forum II.* (offered once per semester) 2. Demonstrate professional dissemination of Scholarly Project with Nursing Honors Advisor guidance. 3. Complete Nursing Honors Scholarly Project Completion Form (with Nursing Honors Advisor signature). Submit form and product of Scholarly Project (copy of manuscript, poster, abstract of presentation, etc.) to Nursing Honors Chair by November 12 (fall semester) or April 12 (spring semester).

*The Student Nursing Honors Forum I and Forum II will be scheduled at a designated time arranged by the faculty facilitator. The Forum is not for credit, but is required for development through the Departmental Honors in Nursing program.

12.5.14 Approved by Dept. of Nursing; Revised 5/7/15

- Notification of completion must occur by April 15/November 15 in order for Departmental Honors in Nursing recognition to appear on commencement and convocation programs.
- Contact the Nursing Department Chair(s) regarding the availability and requirements of Departmental Honors. The option has been on hold due to insufficient faculty resources.

Please note that the program currently is on hold, pending resources.

Grading Scale

The below course grade scale is the standard course grade scale for all undergraduate required and elective nursing courses. Grades will round up from the “tenths” position to the nearest whole number when the number in the tenths position is 5 or greater. (i.e. 72.5% rounds to 73%).

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 and below	F

Approved 12.16.2010

Policies Related to Student Progression

1. Students must receive a satisfactory clinical evaluation in each of the following critical areas in each clinical course on a summative clinical evaluation of a course (also see Lasater Clinical Judgment Rubric below):
 - a. Effective noticing (focused observation, recognizing deviations from expected patterns, and information seeking).
 - b. Effective interpreting (prioritizing data and making sense of data).
 - c. Effective responding (calm, confident manner, clear communication, well-planned intervention/flexibility, and being safe and skillful).
 - d. Effective reflecting (evaluation/self-analysis and commitment to improvement).
 - e. Respectful and professional behavior.
 - f. Professional attire.
 - g. Professional values.
 - h. Accountability and responsibility for own professional behavior.
2. If a student demonstrates deficiencies that the instructor determines are clearly unsafe or unprofessional behaviors, the student will be immediately removed from the clinical situation.
3. Remedial work is a faculty decision and includes a number of factors, including but not limited to consideration of workload, faculty availability, resources, scheduling, and potential for the student to succeed.
4. Remedial work not completed before the end of a semester will result in the student receiving an incomplete or a failing grade.
5. A student may repeat only two required nursing courses. Only one of these repeated courses may be a clinical course. Failure in or withdrawal from a third nursing course, or a second clinical course, will result in dismissal from the program.
6. A second instance of probation within the college will result in termination from the program.
7. When a faculty member has determined that a student has failed a clinical component of a course at any point during the semester, a course grade of F will be assigned and the student cannot withdraw from the course.
8. Students must earn a grade of C or better in required nursing and required non-nursing courses (e.g., biology, chemistry, stats, human development).

Academic Standards

Students must maintain the following scholastic standards after admission to the nursing program if they are to be considered in good standing:

1. Achieve a semester grade point average of at least 2.25
 2. Maintain a resident grade point average of at least 2.50
 3. Achieve a grade of at least "C" in each specific course required by nursing
- Please note that a total and resident GPA of at least 2.50 is needed to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.
 - Students who do not meet these standards will be placed on probation with the nursing program and must appeal to continue in the program. The nursing student who is placed on probation in the nursing program will be officially notified of the change in academic standing within the college and will be required to negotiate a contract designed for regaining good standing with the Associate Dean. Failure to submit an appeal to continue in the nursing program by the designated due date assumes the student no longer wishes to continue in the nursing program and constitutes withdrawal from the nursing program. Should a grade of less than "C" in a required nursing or non-nursing course be a factor in the probationary status, the student must repeat that course **BEFORE** earning credit for any course for which the repeated course is a prerequisite. For the traditional undergraduate nursing program, students are not allowed to progress further in the nursing program until the course with the less than satisfactory grade is successfully completed. No more than one instance of probation within the nursing programs is allowed. The ability to repeat a course and the term in which students may take nursing courses due to altered plans are not guaranteed.
 - All required traditional undergraduate program nursing courses with exams require a 75% minimum exam average in order for a student to successfully pass the course; a grade of F will be earned if the minimum exam average is not reached. This minimum exam average score requirement does not include the grades from course assignments. Vendor standardized exams will not be calculated into the exam average. The 75% exam average will be calculated as stated in each undergraduate course syllabus.
 - Once the minimum 75% exam average is reached, in order to pass a course, students must earn a C (73%) when scores for all exams, papers, and other assignments are calculated together. Written and other assignments count toward the final course grade, once the minimum exam average is reached.

LASATER CLINICAL JUDGMENT RUBRIC

Noticing and Interpreting

Effective NOTICING involves:	Exemplary	Accomplished Senior 1 and 2 (A2)	Accomplished Sophomore 2, Junior 1 and 2 (A1)	Unsatisfactory
Focused Observation	Focuses observation appropriately; regularly observes and monitors a wide variety of objective and subjective data to uncover any useful information	Regularly observes/monitors a variety of data including both subjective and objective; most useful information is noticed, may miss the most subtle signs	Attempts to monitor a variety of subjective and objective data, but is overwhelmed by the array of data; focuses on the most obvious data, missing some important information	Confused by the clinical situation and the amount/type of data; observation is not organized and important data is missed, and/or assessment errors are made
Recognizing Deviations from Expected Patterns	Recognizes subtle patterns and deviations from expected patterns in data and uses these to guide the assessment	Recognizes most obvious patterns and deviations in data and uses these to continually assess	Identifies obvious patterns and deviations, missing some important information; unsure how to continue the assessment	Focuses on one thing at a time and misses most patterns/deviations from expectations; misses opportunities to refine the assessment
Information Seeking	Assertively seeks information to plan intervention; carefully collects useful subjective data from observing the client and from interacting with the client and family	Actively seeks subjective information about the client's situation from the client and family to support planning interventions; occasionally does not pursue important leads	Makes limited efforts to seek additional information from the client/family; often seems not to know what information to seek and/or pursues unrelated information	Is ineffective in seeking information; relies mostly on objective data; has difficulty interacting with the client and family and fails to collect important subjective data
Effective INTERPRETING involves:	Exemplary	Accomplished Senior 1 and 2 (A2)	Accomplished Sophomore 2, Junior 1 and 2 (A1)	Unsatisfactory
Prioritizing Data	Focuses on the most relevant and important data useful for explaining the client's condition	Generally focuses on the most important data and seeks further relevant information, but also may try to attend to less pertinent data	Makes an effort to prioritize data and focus on the most important, but also attends to less relevant/useful data	Has difficulty focusing and appears not to know which data are most important to the diagnosis; attempts to attend to all available data
Making Sense of Data	Even when facing complex, conflicting, or confusing data, is able to (1) note and make sense of patterns in the client's data, (2) compare these with known patterns (from the nursing knowledge base, research, personal experience, and intuition), and (3) develop plans	In most situations, interprets the client's data patterns and compares with known patterns to develop an intervention plan and accompanying rationale; the exceptions are rare or complicated cases where it is appropriate to seek the guidance	In simple or common/familiar situations, is able to compare the client's data patterns with those known and to develop/explain intervention plans; has difficulty, however, with even moderately difficult data/situations that are within the expectations for	Even in simple or familiar/common situations has difficulty interpreting or making sense of data; has trouble distinguishing among competing explanations and appropriate interventions, requiring assistance both in diagnosing the problem and in developing an intervention

	for interventions that can be justified in terms of their likelihood of success	of a specialist or more experienced nurse	students, inappropriately requires advice or assistance	
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LASATER CLINICAL JUDGMENT RUBRIC

Responding and Reflecting

Effective RESPONDING involves:	Exemplary	Accomplished Senior 1 and 2 (A2)	Accomplished Sophomore 2, Junior 1 and 2 (A1)	Unsatisfactory
Calm, Confident Manner	Assumes responsibility: delegates team assignments, assess the client and reassures them and their families	Generally displays leadership and confidence, and is able to control/calm most situations; may show stress in particularly difficult or complex situations	Is tentative in the leader's role; reassures clients/families in routine and relatively simple situations, but becomes stressed and disorganized easily	Except in simple and routine situations, is stressed and disorganized, lacks control, making clients and families anxious/less able to cooperate
Clear Communication	Communicates effectively; explains interventions; calms/reassures clients and families; directs and involves team members, explaining and giving directions; checks for understanding	Generally communicates well; explains carefully to clients, gives clear directions to team; could be more effective in establishing rapport	Shows some communication ability (e.g., giving directions); communication with clients/families/team members is only partly successful; displays caring but not competence	Has difficulty communicating; explanations are confusing, directions are unclear or contradictory, and clients/families are made confused/anxious, not reassured
Well-Planned Intervention/Flexibility	Interventions are tailored for the individual client; monitors client progress closely and is able to adjust treatment as indicated by the client response	Develops interventions based on relevant patient data; monitors progress regularly but does not expect to have to change treatments	Develops interventions based on the most obvious data; monitors progress, but is unable to make adjustments based on the patient response	Focuses on developing a single intervention addressing a likely solution but it may be vague, confusing, and/or incomplete; some monitoring may occur
Being Safe and Skillful	Identifies system-wide violations of safety standards and proposes solutions; shows mastery of necessary nursing skills	Consistently maintains safety standards; displays proficiency in the use of most nursing skills; could improve speed or accuracy	Usually maintains safety standards; is hesitant or ineffective in utilizing nursing skills	Violates culture of safety standards; is unable to select and/or perform the nursing skills
Effective REFLECTING involves:	Exemplary	Accomplished Senior 1 and 2 (A2)	Accomplished Sophomore 2, Junior 1 and 2 (A1)	Unsatisfactory
Evaluation/Self-Analysis	Independently evaluates/analyzes personal clinical performance, noting decision points, elaborating alternatives and accurately evaluating choices against alternatives	Evaluates/analyzes personal clinical performance with minimal prompting, primarily major events/decisions; key decision points are identified and alternatives are considered	Even when prompted, briefly verbalizes the most obvious evaluations; has difficulty imagining alternative choices; is self-protective in evaluating personal choices	Even prompted evaluations are brief, cursory, and not used to improve performance; justifies personal decisions/choices without evaluating them

Commitment to Improvement	Demonstrates commitment to ongoing improvement: reflects on and critically evaluates nursing experiences; accurately identifies strengths/weaknesses and develops specific plans to eliminate weaknesses	Demonstrates a desire to improve nursing performance: reflects on and evaluates experiences; identifies strengths/weaknesses; could be more systematic in evaluating weaknesses	Demonstrates awareness of the need for ongoing improvement and makes some effort to learn from experience and improve performance but tends to state the obvious, and needs external evaluation	Appears uninterested in improving performance or unable to do so; rarely reflects; is uncritical of self, or overly critical (given level of development); is unable to see flaws or need for improvement
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PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

	Satisfactory (All levels)	Unsatisfactory (All levels)
Respectful and professional behavior	Is respectful of all faculty, student peers, professional colleagues, institutional staff, patients/clients and their family members or other visitors, community/clinical hosts, and community members; exhibits active engagement, participating in and contributing to a positive learning environment; behavior honors cultural beliefs, expectations and practices	Exhibits behavior that is distracting, disruptive, disrespectful, inappropriate or disengaged from the teaching-learning activities
Professional attire	Follows the attire policies as described in the UW-Eau Claire Nursing Undergraduate Student Handbook; selects attire for cultural events or activities, or during clinical immersion experiences, that is respectful of cultural expectations for the setting	Deviates from the attire policies as described in the UW-Eau Claire Nursing Undergraduate Student Handbook; adopts attire during cultural events or activities that disregards cultural expectations for the setting
Professional values	Adheres to the professional code of ethics, professional standards, and workplace/academic ethics and standards, including those standards related to privacy, confidentiality and the use of social media; exhibits integrity, honesty, compassion, empathy, altruism, responsibility, maturity, respect and acceptance of differences	Exhibits behavior that is unethical, uncaring, irresponsible, immature, disrespectful, and indicative of bias; violates academic and/or workplace ethical and practice standards.
Accountability and responsibility for own professional behavior	Adheres to attendance standards; completes assigned responsibilities; demonstrates awareness of need for improvement in performance; takes responsibility for personal behaviors; identifies personal plan for improving performance; responds positively to faculty suggestions for improvement and acts on the suggestions	Is late, absent without notice, or has excessive absences.; fails to complete assigned responsibilities; appears uninterested in improving performance or fails to do so; justifies behaviors without evaluating them for their appropriateness

Unsatisfactory Grades in Nursing Courses

(Grade of less than C) Any of the following may result in an unsatisfactory grade in a nursing course:

1. Clearly unsatisfactory achievement in either the theoretical or the practicum components of a nursing course
2. Failure to earn at least a 75% minimum exam average in required nursing courses in the traditional undergraduate nursing program
3. Failure to submit course assignments or projects
4. Failure to meet make-up requirements in relation to course work missed
5. Failure to appear for the final examination, unless prevented by illness or other emergency from taking the examination at the scheduled time. In this case the Dean's Office must be notified. See University Catalogue for policy.
6. Offenses as defined by the Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents in Chapter UWS 17 and published on the Dean of Students website.
7. Failure to comply with attendance policy as stated in writing by the instructor.

Incompletes

A grade of "incomplete" is negotiated with the course coordinator and is allowed only when illness or other extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control have interfered with completion of the course, and the plan for completion is a clearly viable alternative for meeting the course objectives. Students may not progress to courses that have a prerequisite course in which a grade of "incomplete" has been received. For the traditional undergraduate nursing program, students are not allowed to progress further in the nursing program until the course with the incomplete grade is successfully completed.

Withdrawing from a Class

There are issues to consider before withdrawing from a class. A student must maintain 12 credits to be considered full-time. If you fall below full-time during a semester it may affect health insurance coverage, athletic eligibility, veteran's benefits, financial aid, and eligibility for the dean's list. Students should meet with their advisor and discuss implications of withdrawing from a class before withdrawal date. It is expected that course faculty are also included in considering the need to withdraw from a class.

Students wishing to withdraw from all classes will be withdrawing from the university. Withdrawal from the university presumes that the student is also withdrawing from the nursing program. University withdrawal requires completion of electronic paperwork through the Advising, Retention, and Career Center and cannot be done using a Change of Registration eForm.

Academic and program progression implications of course withdrawal need to be carefully considered by the student and academic advisor. Withdrawal from a professional nursing course may significantly affect academic standing and program progressions. For admitted students in the traditional undergraduate nursing program, approval of a Nursing Program Plan Change form (available via Blugold Insider) may be required as part of progression planning. The ability to repeat a course and the term in which students may take nursing courses due to altered plans are not guaranteed. For students in the traditional program, students are expected to be enrolled full-time in the required nursing courses while completing the 60 credits of nursing courses in the program (i.e., students are not to drop individual nursing courses while staying enrolled in others). Students newly admitted to the traditional undergraduate nursing program must be able to start the nursing courses with their admission cohort; they would be asked to reapply to the nursing program if wishing to delay the start of the sophomore nursing courses.

University Withdrawal

Students wishing to withdraw from all classes will be withdrawing from the university. Withdrawal from the university presumes that the student is also withdrawing from the nursing program. Unless a Nursing Program Plan Change form is received and approved by Nursing, withdrawal from the TBSN nursing program will necessitate reapplication to be considered for readmission to the program. University withdrawal requires completion of electronic paperwork through

the Advising, Retention, and Career Center and cannot be done using a Change of Registration eForm. Notification of the Nursing Department Chair(s) and CON Dean's Office is essential. Readmission to the university does not result in readmission to the nursing program. Consideration for re-admission into nursing must be specifically requested in a letter to the Associate Dean at least three months in advance of the desired readmission date. Reapplication to the nursing program may be required. Approval of the readmission request will depend upon the length of absence, the reasons for withdrawal, the student's ability to achieve and academic standing, progress made to rectify any previous concerns or difficulties, and the availability of spaces in the clinical courses in which the student would enroll. Documentation of readiness to return may be required. If readmission is granted, the remaining program will be planned as considered best for the student and according to the current curriculum.

Readmission to Undergraduate Nursing Programs Following Termination

Following termination from an undergraduate nursing program, reapplications will not be accepted.

Termination from Program

A student may be terminated from the nursing program for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to regain good standing.
- A second instance of probation within the College.
- Failure to demonstrate the potential for consistently safe and responsible nursing practice.
- Likelihood that a student's condition or prior experience will adversely affect the student, other persons, the University, an agency or unit used for clinical practice, or the patients or clients served.
- Failure in or withdrawal from a third nursing course, or a second clinical course.

Termination from the program constitutes dismissal from the nursing program only. A student's status within the University is not affected, providing the University standards for good standing are met. A student who has been notified of termination from the program may appeal for reinstatement through the College of Nursing Dean's Office.

Academic Conduct and Misconduct

The student's work is expected to be theirs alone, unless the instructor has granted prior approval for assistance. Students are expected to appropriately acknowledge ideas borrowed from the work of others through use of quotation marks for short quotations, setting off of longer quotations, and identification of the sources of both direct quotations and materials paraphrased or summarized. Failure to acknowledge such resources is considered academic dishonesty and will be handled according to University policy.

FALSIFICATION OF ANY PATIENT/CLIENT RECORDS OR MISREPRESENTATION OF A STUDENT'S NURSING ACTIONS IN RELATION TO PATIENTS/CLIENTS ASSIGNED FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE ARE REGARDED BY THE FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES AS ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

Accountability Contract Agreement Policy for At-Risk Performance

Students enrolled in a nursing course with a didactic and/or clinical component are expected to follow the policies and procedures of the nursing program, course and assigned clinical agency. Professional, academic and performance behaviors all need to be followed. Violations may result in failure of the nursing course and possible dismissal from the nursing program.

An accountability contract is a joint agreement between the course faculty and a nursing student. The student's academic advisor and the department chair(s) are notified of the contract. This agreement is entered into when a student has been found to demonstrate action that is not consistent with university, nursing program, clinical agency or course policies/expectations or policies and procedures. Through dialog with the faculty, the student is able to reflect on ways to meet course outcomes. The student will earn a failing grade in the course if the outcomes are not met. If a

student demonstrates behavior not consistent with course and/or clinical agency policies/expectations, that student will receive warning notification from the course faculty.

An Accountability Contract Agreement will be developed if the behavior continues or at the time of initial notification, if warranted. The agreement will include conditions for progression and services/resources recommended to the student. The student will meet with course faculty and their academic advisor, as appropriate. In egregious situations immediate course dismissal may occur.

The student and course faculty must sign and date the Accountability Contract Agreement. The agreement must be signed by the student in order for the student to continue in the course or the student will receive a grade of F for the course. The student may respond with written comments.

An original agreement will be placed in the advising file. The student will receive a copy of the agreement. Copies will also be forwarded to the academic advisor, Department Chair(s) and to the appropriate Assistant/Associate Dean.

A student can be placed on an Accountability Contract Agreement a maximum of two (2) times while in the nursing program. At the time of initiating the contract, course faculty will review the student's academic file for previous contracts. If previous contracts have been written the student, academic advisor, department chair(s), and assistant/associate dean will be notified.

If course faculty need to place a student on an accountability agreement for a third time, a performance review will be conducted by the Department Chair(s) and the Dean's office, and may be grounds for dismissal from the nursing program. The Dean of the College of Nursing will notify the student of dismissal from the nursing program.

Classroom Behavior Expectations

The classroom is considered an extension of the professional practice environment. Students are expected to extend the usual common courtesies to the faculty and others in the classroom of attentiveness to what is being said or demonstrated, and refraining from behaviors that may be distracting to others. Faculty may request students whose behavior is distracting, disruptive, or disengaged from the teaching-learning activities in process to leave the classroom.

Clinical Behavior Expectations

When students are participating in clinical (including immersion experiences) they are representatives of the Department of Nursing. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. The clinical setting, or in the case of immersion experiences, the full immersion experience (including the housing site) is considered the professional practice environment. No alcohol is to be purchased, transported, or consumed by students en route, during, and when returning from clinical immersion experiences. This includes when driving or flying to and from the clinical site. Students are expected to be respectful of all faculty, student peers, professional colleagues, institutional staff, patients/clients and their family members or other visitors, community/clinical hosts, and community members. Respect and professional behavior are demonstrated through active engagement, participating in and contributing to a positive learning environment, honoring cultural beliefs, expectations and practices, and taking responsibility for personal behaviors. Attire in the clinical setting is required to follow the policies as addressed under UW-Eau Claire dress requirements in the student handbooks. Attire for and behavior at cultural events or activities, or during clinical immersion experiences, must be respectful of cultural expectations for the setting. Faculty may request students whose behavior is distracting, disruptive, disrespectful, inappropriate or otherwise unprofessional to leave the clinical site. Students may also be asked to leave the clinical site if not engaged in the teaching-learning activities. These behaviors may result in failure of the clinical course. Approved 10/16/09; revised 10/16.

Students are expected to follow the policies of the clinical agencies; this includes policies regarding smoking and the use of tobacco and e-cigarette products.

Written Assignments

Students are expected to know and use appropriate literary style for written reports and papers or to follow the format designated by faculty. Faculty request that students be guided by: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (Current edition). It is available in the University Bookstore for purchase and in the library. When in doubt about the instructor's expectations in regard to an assignment, ask.

Submitting Papers

Arrangements for submitting papers vary among the faculty. Please check the course syllabus and with individual faculty.

Absences

Students are expected to attend all sessions of nursing courses in which they are enrolled. Instructors expect calls or messages concerning class absences. For reporting clinical absences, see individual clinical instructor and/or course syllabus for direction. When absences are anticipated, make-up work should be done, or at least planned. It may not be possible for faculty to provide make-up opportunities for all experiences. Students are responsible for arranging for make-up work with their course instructor. This includes absences planned/required as a member of university athletics, music and other extramural activities, etc. Extended absences must be reported to the UW-Eau Claire Office of the Dean of Students. If the absences are extensive, it may not be possible to successfully complete the course. See *Class Attendance Policy and Authorized Absence Policy* available online from the Dean of Students website.

Final Examination Schedule Changes

A request for a change in the time of an individual final examination must be approved by the instructor, the department chair(s), and the associate dean of the college in which the course is offered. Make-up examinations must be scheduled during finals week or later and must be arranged by the student with the instructor (See policies regarding final examinations in "Academic Policies and Regulations" of current University Catalog or the following link: <https://www.uwec.edu/blugold-central/academic-planning/final-common-exam-schedules/>).

The following points are considered in granting permission to change an examination schedule:

- Three or more examinations scheduled for one day.
- Military obligation.
- Work or employment related reasons, if they existed prior to publication of the examination schedule and the employer verifies the need for the request.
- Illness that clearly renders the student incapable of demonstrating their achievement through the exam.
- Death or serious illness of family members that are verified as in four above.
- Personal or family events that are verifiable and deemed sufficiently cataclysmic to warrant the student's absence from campus.

Planned "emergency" or "extraordinary circumstances" are generally not honored. For example, circumstances typically not approved for final exam rescheduling may include: family vacations, weddings, baptisms, family reunions, medical tests, dental appointments, job interviews, fishing trips. For courses in the College of Arts and Sciences, final exam rescheduling requires submission of the "Final Exam Change Form" which is located on the College of Arts and Sciences website or at this link: <https://www.uwec.edu/blugold-central/academic-planning/final-common-exam-schedules/>.

Nursing Program Sponsored Examinations

Selected professional examinations are administered to students in the traditional undergraduate program for special purposes.

As part of NRS 337, NRS 357, NRS 424, and NRS 487, nursing program assessment exams (Elsevier HESI exams) are administered. The exams have been prepared by a national testing service and provide information regarding areas in

which remediation may be needed. They assist in preparing for the national nursing licensure (NCLEX) exam as they cover similar content. The HESI examinations are administered during scheduled classroom hours or during the university-assigned final exam times for the courses in which an exam is administered. Two longer HESI exams are administered in the final year of the program (Exit exams) and may be scheduled to begin or end prior to or after classroom hours. Students will be notified in advance and need to plan ahead to reserve this extra time.

Students receive their exam results confidentially with an interpretation on how they are progressing toward building knowledge needed for the nursing licensure exam. Students will have an opportunity to talk with faculty members about their results and areas in which improvement may be needed.

Students are encouraged to spend some time reviewing past nursing course content in preparation for these exams. Additional preparation and remediation activities will be assigned and outlined in individual course syllabi. HESI preparation assignment and exam scores are incorporated into nursing course grades and therefore may affect the ability to pass a course. Course fees are associated with these exams. Note: Vendor standardized exams are not calculated into the regular course exam 75% minimum average required to pass a course.

As specified in the course syllabi, students are required to take the HESI RN Fundamentals specialty exam in NRSG 337 (5% of course grade), the HESI RN Medical-Surgical specialty exam in NRSG 357 (5% of course grade), the HESI Exit Version 1 exam in NRSG 424 (5% of course grade), and the HESI RN Pharmacology specialty exam (5% of course grade) and the HESI Exit Version 2 exam (10% of course grade) in NRSG 487. The HESI Exit Version I Exam is worth 5% of the course grade in the NRSG 495 Directed Study for the students returning from Harlaxton. Additional HESI exam preparation assignments are also assigned and graded in each of these courses.

Students repeating a course are expected to retake the HESI exam associated with that course and pay the course fee.

Note: The Department voted on 9/12/24 to eliminate the Pediatric and Gerontology specialty exams, starting with the 2025-2026 academic year. The HESI Contract for academic years 2025-2028 will include 4 exams and Practice tests. The 4 exams will be Fundamentals, Medical-Surgical, Pharmacology, and Exit. Students who purchased access to the HESI Pediatrics (normally part of NRSG 446) and Gerontology (normally part of NRSG 457) specialty exams under the previous contract will be able to take these exams during the optional testing sessions that are already being offered every semester, but they will not contribute to a course grade starting in Fall 2025. Additionally, the HESI Case Study portion of the HESI Exam Preparation assignments were replaced with an Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing (EAQ) activity across all relevant courses starting in Fall 2025.

HESI Testing Policy

While nursing students are evaluated in multiple ways throughout the course of their program (simulation, observation of clinical performance, quizzes, and testing), an additional way of helping students be prepared for practice and passing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) is to take standardized tests. Standardized tests are normed so that a student's score on these exams can help a student determine if they understand and can apply the required content as well as predict how they might do on NCLEX (Hyland, 2012; Lavandera et al, 2011; Shah et al., 2022). After an extensive review of the literature and available research, the UWEC faculty has decided to use HESI standardized exams through Elsevier. Student scores on the standardized exams will be factored into the student's course grades.

Two of the HESI exams are Exit exams, which are designed to test all content areas and simulate taking an NCLEX exam. The RN Exit Version 1 is given in the Senior 1 semester (NRSG 424), and the RN Exit Version 2 is given in the Senior 2 semester (NRSG 487). Students are given 4 hours to complete these exams. Three of the HESI exams are specialty exams which cover a single content area. Students are given 1 hour and 50 minutes to complete each of the specialty exams. Each exam is only taken once as follows*:

- Fundamentals in the Jr. 1 Semester (NRSG 337)
- Medical-Surgical in the Jr. 2 Semester (NRSG 357)
- Pharmacology in the Sr. 2 Semester (NRSG 487)

Standardized exam preparation, practice, and remediation activities support success in passing the NCLEX exam (Mee & Schreiner, 2016; Olsen et al., 2022; Shah et al., 2022). Department of Nursing faculty have identified 850 as the benchmark (target) score for HESI exams based on prior studies in which scores of 850 or higher were associated with increased success on the NCLEX exam (Shah et al., 2022). All students may benefit from remediation activities based on exam results; however, students with lower scores may need more time and practice. Remediation is defined as, “The process of identifying the need to take action to remedy a situation that, if left unresolved, will result in unfavorable outcomes, whereas implementing intervention strategies will successfully address the situation” (Cullieton, 2009). No single method of remediation has been found to be most effective for NCLEX exam success; rather, evidence supports the value of using multiple strategies including self-guided assignments and activities; faculty-guided group activities; and faculty-guided activities with individual students (Olsen et al., 2022). Based on this evidence, students are encouraged to informally remediate on their own using a wide variety of materials and resources to help them expand their understanding and application of the content they are learning. In addition, standardized exam preparation assignments, which include remediation based on prior and practice exams, are integrated in course HESI testing grades. Extra faculty-guided group and individual activities are integrated in some courses. HESI preparation assignments for each exam are described below. Since several of the HESI specialty exams are administered during finals week, completion of exam remediation is carried forward as a requirement when preparing for the next HESI exam. Preparation assignments are intended to incentivize and reward students for their efforts preparing for HESI exams and, ultimately, the NCLEX exam. HESI testing preparation assignments and exam score details for each specialty and exit exam are outlined in the first table below. Details regarding how points will be awarded for the preparation assignment portion of the HESI grade may vary across courses and will be specified in course syllabi. Details regarding how HESI exam scores will be graded are outlined in the second table below.

HESI Testing Preparation Assignment and Exam Score Details for each HESI Specialty and Exit Exam

Exam	Preparation Assignment	Exam Score
Fundamentals (NRS337) 10% of course grade (5% from preparation assignment and 5% from exam score)	- One-hour remote asynchronous HESI preparation learning module - Fundamentals <i>Assignment</i> Exam (a practice test in the HESI Case Studies and Practice Tests online resource) - Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing	See HESI exam score conversion table below
Medical-Surgical (NRS357) 10% of course grade (5% from preparation assignment and 5% from exam score)	- Remediation based on Fundamentals exam score (completed online in Evolve): 850+: remediation encouraged, not required 750 – 849: 1 hour - Under 750: 2 hours - Medical-Surgical <i>Assignment</i> Exam (a practice test in the HESI Case Studies and Practice Tests online resource) - Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing	See HESI exam score conversion table below
Pharmacology (NRS487) 10% of course grade (5% from preparation assignment and 5% from exam score)	- Remediation based on Exit 1 score (completed online in Evolve): 850+: remediation encouraged, not required 750 – 849: 1 hour - Under 750: 2 hours - Pharmacology <i>Assignment</i> Exam (a practice test in the HESI Case Studies and Practice Tests online resource) - Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing	See HESI exam score conversion table below
Exit 1 (NRS424)	One-hour remote asynchronous HESI preparation learning module	See HESI exam score conversion table below

Exam	Preparation Assignment	Exam Score
10% of course grade (5% from preparation assignment and 5% from exam score)	- Comprehensive 2 <i>Assignment</i> Exam (a practice test in the HESI Case Studies and Practice Tests online resource) - Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing	
Exit 2 (NRS 487) 20% of course grade (10% from preparation assignment and 10% from exam score)	- Remediation based on Pharmacology score (completed online in Evolve): 850+: remediation encouraged, not required 750 – 849: 1 hour - Under 750: 2 hours - Comprehensive 3 <i>Assignment</i> Exam (a practice test in the HESI Case Studies and Practice Tests online resource) - Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing	See HESI exam score conversion table below

*Note: Some adjustments in the exams, assignments, and scoring may be made as we transition to the new contract. Please contact your course instructors or Dr. Beth Evans regarding questions or for more information.

HESI Exam Score Conversion Table

HESI Score	Grade Earned
Greater than or equal to 850	100%
800 - 849	90%
750 - 799	80%
700 - 749	70%
650 - 699	60%
Less than 650	50%

References

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- Hyland, J. R. (2012) Building on the evidence: Interventions promoting NCLEX success. *Open Journal of Nursing*, 2(3), 23–238. DOI:10.4236/ojn.2012.23036
- Lavandera, R., Whalen, D. M., Perkel, L. K., Hackett, V., Molnar, D., Steffey, C., . . . Harris, J. (2011). Value-added of HESI Exam as a predictor of timely first-time RN licensure. *International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship*, 8(1). Retrieved from <http://www.degruyter.com/view/ijnes>.
- Mee, C.L., & Schreiner, B. (2016). Remediation in nursing education today: Review of the literature and considerations for future research. *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 7(1), 37-45.
- Olsen, J., Mota, D., Wildenberg, C., Donahue, R., & Thomas, R. (2022). Evidence-based strategies for standardized exam remediation in nursing: An integrative review. *Teaching and Learning in Nursing*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.teln.2022.05.007>
- Shah, M., Fuller, B., Gouveia, C., Mee, C. L., Baker, R. S., & San Pedro, M. O. Z. (2022). NCLEX-RN readiness: HESI exit exam validity and nursing program policies. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 39, 131–138. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.profnurs.2022.01.010>

4/25.

Credit by Examination Policy

Selected undergraduate nursing courses are available to eligible students for credit by examination. Credit for a maximum of two clinical nursing courses may be earned by examination. Prerequisite courses must be completed prior to pursuing credit by examination. Each clinical nursing course examination will include instructor observation of

student clinical performance, along with other examinations, check-offs, or portfolio reviews, as needed. Objective and/or essay components of the examination must be completed successfully before assignment, clinical examination, and/or portfolio evaluation are attempted. Students interested in receiving credit by examination for nursing courses should see their faculty advisor or the chair of the department in which the course is offered for more information.

Eligibility for Graduate Courses

Upon the recommendation of the student's advisor, course instructor, and Nursing Department Chair(s), a senior may be allowed to enroll in a limited number of graduate courses. Consult the [University Catalog](#) under "Academic Policies and Regulations" and the [Graduate Catalog](#) for information. To be eligible for this privilege, students must have earned a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Permission must be received from the Nursing Graduate Programs Director to enroll in a nursing graduate course.

Flexibility in Progression through Undergraduate Program

The structure of the undergraduate curriculum offers limited flexibility for students with special needs that might affect ability to complete a typical program plan. Such needs may result from study abroad experiences, participation in University athletics, personal circumstances, and academic difficulty.

The nursing faculty agree every effort will be made to support flexibility in program progression in order to facilitate successful completion of the degree. If a student needs to alter progression through the typical sequence of courses, a progression plan will be developed by the student in collaboration with the advisor (or Associate Dean/Marshfield Site Director in the absence of the advisor) to ensure integrity of the curriculum for the individual student. The plan, signed by the student and the advisor, will be submitted to the Associate Dean for approval. The Associate Dean will consult with the Student Affairs and Undergraduate Admissions Committee and the Department Chair(s) as indicated. Program progression change forms are available on the department website (see Blugold Insider). Students who wish to study abroad will need to begin the approval process a year in advance of the proposed travel.

Students applying for admission to the TBSN program must be able to start the sophomore nursing courses with their admission cohort, if admitted. If they are expecting to study abroad and will not be able to begin the nursing courses with their admission cohort, they will need to delay submission of their nursing application.

Flexibility in Progression in Clinical Courses

Numbers of students in clinical courses must be monitored carefully to ensure effective teaching and patient safety. If students need to delay progression through the sequence of clinical courses, careful planning for the student's return to clinical course work needs to be accomplished with the student advisor in collaboration with the Department Chair(s) and the Associate Dean. Return to clinical courses must be on a space available basis.

Attending Eau Claire and Marshfield Sites

Students admitted to a primary site, either Marshfield or Eau Claire, will register for course sections according to the site to which they are admitted. Students are required to attend clinical at the primary site and are expected to attend classes at the primary site. Class site attendance (not clinical attendance) may be negotiated with the course faculty based on the individual student need.

Clinical Group Sections – Subject to Change

The Department of Nursing attempts to provide information regarding clinical sections prior to course registration. However, due to unexpected staffing or clinical site alterations, the locations, dates, times, and instructors may need to be modified and are subject to change. Because of these and other circumstances as well as student progression issues,

it occasionally happens that the Nursing Department Chair(s) must also adjust clinical group sizes and make-up. An appropriate, safe clinical group size must be maintained for a given clinical site. Although efforts are made to honor student wishes, it is possible that students may be required to change clinical sections, times, locations, etc. Our goal is to provide meaningful, supportive, and safe clinical experiences that will enable all students to learn and grow and for patients to heal and receive optimal care.

Students must have means of transportation to and from clinical sites throughout the program, especially since clinical experiences may occur outside of Eau Claire or Marshfield and standard Monday through Friday times, e.g., experiences may occur on weekend, evening, or night shifts. Carpooling is not an option for many experiences. Students admitted to the Eau Claire campus may need to travel to Marshfield for some clinical experiences.

Information Reported to National/State Nursing Organizations/Accrediting Bodies

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is a national nursing organization of which we are a member. An arm of the organization serves as our accrediting body. AACN and other state and national organizations require that we periodically submit basic directory-type and employment information regarding our students, graduates, and faculty. AACN collects the data to address issues related to nursing faculty and health care access shortages. If an individual objects at any time to having their information released to AACN or other national/state organizations, please notify the Associate Dean of the College so that we ensure the information is not submitted. The Registrar's Office also has an electronic form in which one may request to restrict the release of directory information.

Guidelines for Video Recording of Classes

1. The instructor(s) will determine for what purpose, for whom, and at what location their class may be video recorded.
2. Instructors are responsible for decisions regarding video recording in student absence situations. Taping of a class for a student should be an exception and permission for the taping must be granted by the instructor (not the facilitator, student, or technician). All students are expected to attend all sessions of nursing courses in which they are enrolled.
3. In the case of emergencies or technical difficulties involving the transmission of a class, the class will be video recorded only with the instructor's permission.
4. Instructors are asked to address the video recording policy in the course syllabus.
5. Students will be informed if video recording occurs.
6. Recordings will be managed by the Information Systems Coordinator in Eau Claire and by the ADA in Marshfield. The recordings can only be used by the student(s) who made the recording request. The recordings will be erased following their use by the student.

Updated 8/12; edited 7/22/24.

Nursing Learning Environment Visitation Policy

This visitation policy applies to all College of Nursing programs. It has been developed due to the potential sensitive nature of content shared in the nursing programs, as well as learning distractions posed by visitors. A visitor is defined as an individual not enrolled in the respective course. A visitor, either in person or via distance education technology (e.g., Zoom or Teams) is not allowed in College of Nursing learning environments. This includes classrooms, clinical laboratory spaces, and clinical sites. Rare exceptions may be made under extenuating circumstances only. Permission to bring a visitor must be received from the course instructor(s) for that day prior to the start of each class. *Approved by Dept. 12/1/16.*

Essential Abilities for Students in Undergraduate and Graduate Nursing Program

Preamble - The University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, College of Nursing, welcomes and invites persons with disabilities into professional nursing education whenever possible, making modifications and accommodations as possible within the capacities of our resources and expertise. While there are limitations on the extent of modifications and accommodations that can be provided within a program that does not specialize in disability education, we are committed to facilitating baccalaureate and graduate nursing education for qualified individuals whenever possible, including individuals with disabilities. For circumstances in which we are not able to accommodate an individual's needs due to disability status, we will do our best to refer students to appropriate support services.

The following ***Essential Abilities of UW-Eau Claire Nursing Students*** apply to students in the UW-Eau Claire Nursing programs. Students who, due to documented disability or other limitation, do not fully meet these abilities, may request accommodations consistent with requirements for meeting course and program objectives. When possible the UW-Eau Claire Nursing programs will work with university services and clinical partners to assist students in meeting course and program requirements while maintaining student and patient safety and effectively facilitating highest quality client health outcomes.

Essential Abilities: Safe and Effective Care - The University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, College of Nursing, represents to its internal and external constituents that recipients of the baccalaureate or higher degree from a UW-Eau Claire Nursing program have been educated to practice professional nursing safely and effectively in a wide variety of healthcare settings, and that pre-licensure BSN graduates are eligible to apply for RN licensure in the State of Wisconsin. In light of this, UW-Eau Claire's Nursing programs leading to licensure or advanced clinical practice require students to engage in a variety of complex and specific experiences. Successful completion of these experiences is necessary in order for the nursing student to demonstrate integration and application of the broad body of knowledge and skills essential for safe and effective professional nursing practice, across a wide spectrum of health and illness conditions and settings for the provision of care.

To this end, in order to practice safely and effectively, nursing requires a combination of physical abilities, motor skills, and sensory abilities; affective, interpersonal, and communication skills; cognitive abilities, behavioral and emotional sensitivity; and professionalism. These skills and abilities are essential not only to ensure the safety and effectiveness of professional nursing care for patients, but also to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the nursing student, fellow nursing students, faculty, other healthcare providers, and the community. As such, nursing students are expected to demonstrate skills and behaviors consistent with the following essential abilities in order to successfully complete the Nursing programs at the UW-Eau Claire College of Nursing. Students who demonstrate a pattern of behaviors that is not consistent with the essential abilities and their professional application may be removed from the teaching-learning setting or may be required to participate in remedial activities, as appropriate for the circumstances and to preserve safe and effective care. Students who, due to documented disability or other limitation, do not fully meet these abilities, may request accommodations consistent with requirements for meeting course and program objectives.

Essential Abilities: Physical and Motor Skills - The nursing student must have sufficient biological or accommodated: physical abilities and motor function so that they are able to execute movements required to provide general care and treatment for patients in all health care settings. For example: For the safety and protection of individuals, the nursing student must be able to perform basic life support, including CPR, and function physically in an emergency situation, both independently and with professional colleagues. The nursing student must have the ability, within reasonable limits, to safely assist an individual in moving, for example, from a chair to a bed, or from a wheelchair to a commode, using appropriate bioengineering equipment consistent with national guidelines (e.g., the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health), and to hold or otherwise care for infants and small children to meet their healthcare, emotional, and developmental needs. Fine motor skills and other psychomotor skills, including the use of one or both upper extremities, hands, and fingers, are needed for some essential activities. Students requiring uniform or clinical attire accommodations for personal religious beliefs must be able to perform all of the above activities safely, effectively, and in accordance with healthcare agency policy, while wearing the accommodated uniform.

Essential Abilities: Sensory - The nursing student must have sufficient biological or accommodated: visual acuity to see details near and at a distance, as well as be able to discriminate colors adequately for the clinical setting; auditory acuity to hear conversation and other sounds in order to assess and protect the health and safety of individual patients and others in the vicinity; and intact tactile sensation to assess (e.g., hot/cold; rough/smooth) and perform appropriate professional nursing functions. Sight and hearing are also necessary to communicate accurately and effectively. Auditory-visual-tactile perception and integration are needed to perform most essential nursing functions.

Essential Abilities: Situation-Appropriate Affect, Communication, and Interpersonal Skills - The nursing student must have sufficient biological or accommodated: effective communication with others. Effective communication requires consistency of message, integration of information, synchrony with circumstances and other data, and effective interpersonal skills. Situation-appropriate affect and judgment are necessary to convey emotions appropriate for the circumstances, to engage in interpersonal communication effectively and sensitively, and to respond appropriately to a wide variety of interpersonal circumstances and demands. The nursing student must express their ideas clearly and appropriately. (See also Behavioral/Emotional section below.) A nursing student must be able to convey or exchange information to establish and maintain patient-centered relationships; conduct an appropriate health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative solutions; give directions during treatment and post-treatment; and work effectively with all professional colleagues and team members. The nursing student must be able to communicate effectively in oral and written forms and interpret non-verbal communication. They must be able to process and communicate information on the patient's status with accuracy and in a timely manner with other members of the healthcare team.

Essential Abilities: Cognitive - The nursing student must have sufficient biological or accommodated: cognitive abilities to be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, synthesize, and make appropriate clinical judgments in the classroom and in a wide variety of clinical settings. The nursing student must be able to quickly read and comprehend extensive written material, as well as comprehend oral communication. The student must be able to enter and process electronic information using a variety of current technologies. They must also be able to effectively gather information to assess and evaluate individuals, families, groups, and community/environmental situations, and act in a timely fashion using critical thinking. Likewise, the nursing student must be able to select from a wide array of existing information, to assess and evaluate that information and take action that shows evidence of intact integrative functions and critical thinking. Effective clinical judgment requires the integration of information that results in rational, timely, and informed action, and the appropriate anticipation of consequences associated with those actions (or inactions). They must be able to engage in critical self-evaluation, including demonstrating a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback and to make a correct judgment in seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner. English-language ability in all of the above is required.

Essential Abilities: Behavioral/Emotional Sensitivity - The nursing student must have sufficient biological or accommodated: psychoemotional ability required to fully use their cognitive abilities, employ good judgment and carry out responsibilities in a timely manner with respect to professional nursing practice. In addition, nursing students must be able to quickly develop and maintain professional, sensitive, and effective relationships with individual patients, families, students, team members, faculty, and others with whom they have professional contact, regardless of circumstances. In the practice setting these circumstances can frequently be stressful and require immediate appropriate response. Nursing students must be able to control impulsive behaviors and act in a socially responsible way regarding their own behavior, recognize the same in others, and take appropriate action as warranted. The nursing student is expected to have the psychoemotional stability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to the healthcare environment, which can change rapidly and unpredictably. The nursing student must be able to experience empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and effectively communicate that empathy. Nursing students must be cognizant of their values, attitudes, beliefs, affect, and experiences, and how these attributes or experiences may influence their own perceptions, behaviors, and relationships with others. Nursing students must be able and willing to examine and change their behavior when it interferes with relationships with others so that they can function effectively and collaboratively in diverse academic and professional work environments.

Essential Abilities: Professional Conduct - The nursing student must have sufficient biological or accommodated: ethical and professional manner at all times, adhering to the professional code of ethics, professional standards, and workplace/academic ethics and standards, including those standards related to the use of social media. They must possess characteristics including integrity, honesty, compassion, empathy, altruism, responsibility, maturity, respect, and acceptance of differences. Nursing students must be able to engage in healthcare delivery in all settings and be able to provide care to all client populations, including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults of all ages, all genders, individuals with disabilities, medically compromised individuals, individuals from all socioeconomic strata, and other vulnerable populations. Professional conduct is expected in both academic and clinical/community environments. Behaviors demonstrating acceptance of and respect for diversity are expected, including but not limited to race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, and ability/disability. Nursing students are expected to meet UW-Eau Claire's attendance requirements in all courses and clinical activities. Academic integrity must be maintained in all clinical and classroom experiences.

Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities

UW-Eau Claire provides reasonable accommodation to qualified students with disabilities. Upon admission, a nursing student who discloses a disability and requests accommodation may be asked to provide documentation of their disability for the purpose of determining appropriate accommodations. The UW-Eau Claire College of Nursing will make every attempt to provide reasonable accommodations whenever possible, but is not required to make modifications that would substantially alter the nature or requirements of courses or programs, or to provide auxiliary aids that present an undue burden. To progress in the curriculum, the nursing student must be able to demonstrate satisfactory achievement of course and program objectives, either with or without negotiated accommodations. The student is responsible for disclosing the need and engaging in the process to determine appropriate accommodations prior to the academic or other activities and is responsible for providing documentation to substantiate the disability and need for accommodations in a timely manner.

Requests for accommodation should be directed to:

UW-Eau Claire Services for Students with Disabilities

Centennial Hall 2106

(715) 836-5800

<https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/student-success-center/services-students-disabilities>

Acknowledgements and References - This policy has been significantly modified from Katz, J.R., Woods, S. L., Cameron, C.A., & Millam, S. (2004). Essential qualifications for nursing students. *Nursing Outlook*, 52, 277-288, as well as informed by these other key sources:

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (1998). *The essentials of baccalaureate education for professional nursing practice*. Washington, D.C.: Author
- U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Facts and Guidance, Disability Discrimination. Available at: <http://www.eeoc.gov/>
- Wilkerson, D.J., Watson, J.E., & Hutchens, S.H. (2005). *Medical students with disabilities: A generation of practice*. Washington, DC: Association of American Medical Colleges.
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, College of Nursing, Policy on Essential Abilities, Faculty Document #(80-05) 073B.

APPROVED 2/18/2010 Dept. of Nursing; updated 7/12, 1/16, 12/8/22.

Students in need of accommodations are to work with the Services for Students with Disabilities Office to provide documentation and are to contact the appropriate course faculty, as soon as possible, preferably prior to the start of each term.

Other Available Resources

Study Skills

Students are urged to seek assistance early if they encounter difficulties in such areas as writing skills, mathematics, reading speed and comprehension, note taking, and preparing for or taking examinations. The course instructor or your academic advisor can often help you to correct the difficulty; some students will wish to make use of special study helps such as tutoring or short courses. Ask your advisor to refer you, or simply go to the Academic Skills Center and ask for evaluation of your problem and assistance.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Academic accommodations are sometimes available for students with disabilities including learning disabilities. Admitted students seeking accommodations must provide disability documentation and should make their special needs known in advance to insure that appropriate accommodations can be arranged prior to the beginning of classes. Information about necessary documentation and obtaining services is available from the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities located in Centennial Hall.

Study Abroad Opportunities

In addition to the University's international education programs, the Nursing Program is expanding opportunities for international education. The University and faculty continue to evaluate coalitions with international colleges and universities that may result in study-abroad opportunities. Many of these experiences are affordable and funding may be available. For further information regarding study abroad through the Nursing Program, contact your faculty advisor or the Office of International Education. Students planning to study abroad must work with their advisor to complete the Nursing Program Plan Change form (see Blugold Insider on Nursing Website). This form must be completed early in the process, concurrent with making application to the center for International Education.

Multicultural Student Services (MSS) Office

The UWEC Multicultural Student Services Office, located in Centennial Hall, Room 1106, coordinates services for multicultural and ethnically diverse students. Support for academic needs, financial assistance, personal support, and cultural resources are available through this office. See <https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/multicultural-student-services>. Multicultural students are assigned an additional adviser/resource person—this person is listed as one of the student's advisers in CAMPS.

Financial Aid Office

The Financial Aid Office, <https://www.uwec.edu/tuition-aid/financial-aid>, is located in Vicki Lord Larson Hall 1108 (see Blugold Central Office). Besides information regarding different types of financial aid, the website also provides scholarship listings. Emergency grants are available through the Dean of Students Office; the grants are intended for emergencies such as a house burning down. Contact the Dean of Students Office when these circumstances occur. Emergency short-term loans are available through the Financial Aid Office, funded by the Foundation Office. These must be repaid in 30 days and therefore are only a Band-Aid for financial difficulties. The loans are meant for circumstances such as when a car breaks down or a paycheck is delayed and the student is expecting to have money for repayment within a month.

Campus Harvest Food Pantry

The Campus Harvest Food Pantry is located in Davies, Room 103, <https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/campus-harvest-food-pantry>. The food pantry is available to students that self-identify as in need of supplemental food assistance. It is open exclusively for university students.

Career Closet

The Career Closet is located in Vicki Lord Larson Hall, Room 2142, <https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/career-closet>. The Career Closet gives UW-Eau Claire students free professional and business casual attire, so they can feel confident

and prepared for interviews, career fairs, networking, and the workplace. Alumni are welcome to access the Career Closet for one year after graduation.

Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault (CASA)

CASA is located in 2119 Vicki Lord Larson Hall [and is a sexual assault support service that maintains a victim centered approach. Services are free and confidential. 715-836-4357. https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/center-awareness-sexual-assault](https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/center-awareness-sexual-assault)

Gender & Sexuality Resource Center

The Gender & Sexuality Resource Center, <https://www.uwec.edu/equity-diversity-inclusion/edi-services-programs/gender-sexuality-resource-center/>, is located in Davies Student Center 220M, 715-836-2693, and provides resources, information, programming, events, and training to foster an inclusive atmosphere on campus and in the greater community. Of particular note is the Safe Space Training it provides. Under its umbrella are the following additional resources that provide a safe space and an informal lounge/study space for students to gather:

Women's Resource Center, located in Hibbard 311C.

The Bridge: LGBTQIA+ Resource Center, located in Davies 229 (2nd floor, next to the Bookstore).

TRANS at UWEC

As part of the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, resources specifically for Transgender students can be found on this website: <https://www.uwec.edu/equity-diversity-inclusion/edi-services-programs/gender-sexuality-resource-center/trans-at-uwec/>, including information on changing one's gender identity and preferred name in CAMPS, gender inclusive housing, and health care.

- The following website provides information on the use of personal pronouns: <https://www.mypronouns.org/>

Bias Incident Reporting Tool (BIRT)

The Bias Incident Reporting Tool, <https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/division-equity-diversity-and-inclusion-edi/bias-incident-reporting>, is available for anyone who is aware of and would like to report a bias/hate incident.

Veterans Center

The Veterans Center, located in Schofield 20, <https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/veterans-center>, is a meeting and information place for veteran students, faculty, and staff. It provides information about resources specifically for veterans, including access to support groups and a telehealth network through a partnership with the Veterans Administration Hospital in Minneapolis.

Campus Student Organizations

A variety of student organizations are available at UWEC and are listed on the following website:

<https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/activities-involvement-leadership/student-organizations-uwec>. Organizations specifically involving nursing students are the Eau Claire Student Nurses Association and the American Assembly for Men in Nursing. However, there are many student organizations related to Culture and Identity, including the Black Student Alliance, Chinese Students and Scholars Association, International Student Association, Student Organization of Latinos/Latinas, Hmong Student Association, Inter-Tribal Student Council, and Pride, among others. A Veteran's Club also exists.

Eau Claire Student Nurses' Association

ECSNA provides an excellent opportunity for students to prepare for professional activities beyond graduation. Students have opportunity to develop leadership skills through accepting offices in ECSNA. See Appendix for further information.

Dean of Students Office

The Dean of Students Office, Schofield 240, provides a wide variety of essential services relating to academic and non-academic conduct, military leaves of absence, extended absences, and university withdrawals.

Health Services

Main Campus: The Student Health Services clinic on the main campus is located in Crest Wellness Center and provide acute, chronic and preventive health care for registered students. Please see their website for hours of operation. In addition to caring for students who are ill, Health Services also provides health education and programs oriented toward wellness, exercise nutrition, stress management, high-risk behaviors, reproductive health, and family planning.

There is no charge for student visits to the Student Health Service, but students must pay for prescriptions, special tests, any emergency room or other hospital charges, and medical care that is beyond the scope of Health Service practice. All nursing students (Eau Claire and Marshfield) are required to carry health care insurance if not covered by family policy. More information on the health services available is located on the UW-Eau Claire website at www.uwec.edu/shs.

All expenses associated with RN licensure, health surveillance, and care are borne by the student unless the Student Health Service specifically indicates otherwise. Students are not covered by health or accident insurance by UW-Eau Claire, the practicum facility, or the practicum institution. In addition, workers' compensation insurance does not cover students. For example, if a student suffers a needle stick or is injured while in practicum, they are personally responsible to pay for medical bills. Nursing students are required to maintain health insurance for the duration of their education. Students must be able to provide proof of health insurance coverage if requested by clinical agencies. Students are under a continuing obligation to notify the dean's office of the college of any lapse in personal health insurance coverage.

Marshfield Site: Marshfield site students are able to use the Eau Claire main campus student health services as described above.

Counseling Services

Main Campus: Counseling services, located in Vicki Lord Larson Hall 2122, are available to assist students with a variety of issues such as family or personal emergencies, alcohol and/or drug difficulties, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, major stressors, or emotional concerns. Assistance can be provided in evaluating and managing mental health concerns, as well as counseling and education to assist in preventing mental health concerns. If medications are required, counselors and licensed psychologists are able to provide services in collaboration with Student Health Services or the student's own health care provider, as desired by the student. The Dean of Students' office is also a resource for students.

Marshfield Site: Students at the Marshfield Site may obtain counseling services by contacting the Marshfield Site Director who will be in touch with the Director of UWEC Counseling Services.

The Rest Nest

The Rest Nest is located in Room 5011 of McIntyre Library and is a place for students to relax and de-stress.

Advising, Retention & Career Center (ARCC)

ARCC is located in Vicki Lord Larson Hall 2100 (<https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/advising-retention-career-center>) and is the location of centralized advising on campus. It houses the academic advisers for the Health Professions cluster. All pre-nursing and traditional undergraduate program nursing students are assigned an academic adviser from the Health Professions cluster. Second degree students, BSN Completion students, and Marshfield Site students do not have ARCC advisers and instead are advised by faculty/IAS in nursing. ARCC also includes Career Services. Of note, Handshake is a Career Service recruiting platform for finding jobs and internships and for networking. The ARCC website provides a number of advising resources.

Student Rights and Opportunities

Student Academic Grievance Procedures

The Department of Nursing recognizes the value of student concerns and therefore addresses student complaints or grievances in the following manner:

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has an appeal and grievance policy governing academic matters. This policy defines the general rules regarding what issues may be appealed and the procedure to be followed for filing a grievance. The College of Nursing operates in conformity with the University academic grievance procedures and policies.

The University defines an academic grievance as an allegation by a student of substantial and unjustified deviation, to the student's detriment, from any of the following:

1. Officially announced or published policies, procedures, and/or requirements regarding admission into programs, schools, or individual classes;
2. Officially published grading policies of the University;
3. The instructor's requirements for a course as announced to the class at the beginning of the semester;
4. The instructor's own grading policies as announced to the class or as demonstrably applied to other students in that same class.

Before submitting a formal grievance, the Informal Resolution Procedures of the College of Nursing are to be followed. The Informal Resolution Procedures must be initiated within 30 days of the conclusion of the term when the alleged deviation occurred and prior to submitting a formal academic grievance.

The informal resolution procedures include the following steps:

1. The student should first meet with the person (i.e., respondent) to whom the grievance is directed (e.g., instructor or department chair(s)).
2. If resolution is not achieved at any level, the student may consult with the person at the next level of decision making. Students should follow the appropriate consultation protocol sequence: instructor, course coordinator, department chair(s) (undergraduate)/program director (graduate), associate dean. Students enrolled in online degree programs should consult their program director.

If resolution is not achieved through the informal resolution process, and the student wants the grievance to be considered further, the student must file a Formal Student Academic Grievance and follow that procedure. The student will be directed by the associate dean with whom they have been working.

Formal Student Academic Grievance Procedure

If the student is not satisfied with the results obtained by following all of the above applicable procedures for informally resolving the concern and wants the grievance to be considered further, the student may file a Formal Academic Grievance according to the procedures established in the UW-Eau Claire grievance policy (available at the Dean of Students Office website: <https://www.uwec.edu/dean-of-students>).

Other information of interest that can be found at the UWEC Dean of Students website includes university policies on codes of conduct, affirmative action, and sexual harassment. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this information.

Approved 12/5/19.

General Suggestions

If students have a complaint about or a suggestion for improvement of a course or some aspect of the Nursing program, they are encouraged to make those thoughts known to the Nursing Department faculty/IAS and administration. The department faculty/IAS strive to improve the educational experiences for students in the programs. Students are encouraged to talk about their ideas with academic advisors, course instructors, the department chair(s), Associate Dean, or the CON Dean. Student concerns may be referred to student representatives on department committees, who may talk with committee chairs about putting the item on a meeting agenda. Students are permitted to attend department meetings, which are open, to present requests or ideas. They may also wish to include their ideas for course/program improvement on course evaluation forms or as part of their response to student surveys.

Student Rights

Evaluating Educational Experiences - Students have the opportunity to participate in the evaluation of their educational experience. The Nursing Program offers this opportunity through a variety of mechanisms. Each semester students have a chance to provide feedback to the Department about each course and the instruction they receive. Normally, evaluations are done at the end of the semester and within the classroom setting. The results of student evaluations of faculty are not shared with faculty until after grades have been turned in for that semester. Course evaluations are reviewed on a regular basis by the department curriculum committee and where needed, recommendations for changes are made to the Department of Nursing faculty.

VI. Clinical Experiences

Health Protection

Each student is expected to promote and maintain their own optimal level of health. Adequate rest, exercise, recreation, and a balanced diet, including an adequate breakfast, are important for both personal health and successful completion of the nursing program. Regular dental care and early treatment for physical and emotional illness are essential.

Students are taught to protect themselves and others from such hazards as radiation and infection, and must assume responsibility for doing so.

Reporting Illness

Procedures for notifying faculty and agency or client are outlined in the course syllabus.

Control of Infectious Diseases (for protection of self and others)

The requirements regarding immunizations and monitoring for infectious diseases are in the nursing section of the University Catalog. These are in conformity with state statutes and local institutional policies regarding persons who work with patients/clients in health care settings. More expectations may be added by clinical agencies. Failure to comply will result in the student's forfeiture to engage in clinical practice activities. Any costs incurred will be borne by the student.

Upper respiratory infections (including colds)

Adequate fluid intake and rest are advised. Medical care is recommended for other than simple colds. Students with infection, cough, fever, sore throat, and/or "drippy noses" are not permitted to attend clinical laboratory.

Intestinal infections

Students may be excluded from clinical laboratories if communicable disease organisms are present or suspected. Surveillance is carried out through the Student Health Services.

Requirements for Clinical Experiences

CPR Certification

CPR certification at the Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (American Red Cross) or Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider (American Heart Association) level is required. Be sure to recertify before the expiration date indicated on the card. Evidence of current certification must be uploaded to CastleBranch.com.

Background Checks

Based on Wisconsin State law, clinical agencies must have completed background checks for all students. The College of Nursing requires students admitted to the nursing programs to complete background check materials which are submitted by the students to CastleBranch.com. CastleBranch.com conducts Wisconsin and out of state criminal record and healthcare fraud and abuse searches. Some clinical agencies also require the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) Background Information Disclosure (BID), a release for a Wisconsin Department of Justice Criminal Background Check. Further information regarding the Wisconsin Caregiver Law can be obtained from DHFS's Web site: www.dhfs.state.wi.us. Students participating in clinicals in Minnesota may be required to complete added background check(s) (with associated fees). Additional, including out of state, background checks (with associated fees) may be required by the College and by the clinical agencies. Clinical agencies may conduct further background checks.

In addition to providing student background check findings, some clinical agencies require the College to submit photo images of students for identification and safety surveillance purposes.

Admission status to the nursing program is contingent upon return of criminal background check(s) with no findings that would prevent participation in the program. Because of background check or BID findings, clinical agencies may refuse placement of students based on the findings. This may prevent progression in or completion of the program. The findings also may affect future licensure, good standing with licensure, and employment. A criminal history is not an automatic bar to clinical agency placement, program progression, licensure/certification and/or future employment. Admitted students are under a continuing obligation to notify the Dean's Office at the College of Nursing of any new or pending charges or violations of federal, state, and local laws or the campus student conduct code that occur at any future date and during their tenure as College of Nursing students. Failure to notify the college may result in loss of good academic standing in the college and an inability to progress in the program.

Health & Clinical Record Requirements

Students are not permitted to participate in clinical course work and experiences unless all health record information, including immunizations, TB tests, CPR certification, personal health insurance coverage, background checks, and other health or clinical requirements are current and cleared/approved. Please refer to the Health and Clinical Record Guidelines on the web. Some clinical sites require students to have proof of personal health insurance coverage; therefore, students must be able to provide proof of personal health insurance if asked. Students are under a continuing obligation to notify the Dean's Office at the College of Nursing of any lapses in personal health insurance coverage. All requirements are subject to change as clinical facility requirements evolve. Non-immune status may affect clinical placement and ability to progress or complete the program.

Health Insurance Requirement and Health Expenses and Risks

All expenses associated with health surveillance and care are borne by the student unless the Student Health Service specifically indicates otherwise. Students are not covered by health or accident insurance by UW-Eau Claire, the College, the practicum facility, or the practicum institution. In addition, workers' compensation insurance does not cover students. If a student suffers a needle stick or is injured while in practicum, they are personally responsible to pay for all medical bills and therefore will need personal health insurance.

Due to occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials, health care workers are at risk of acquiring Hepatitis B Virus infection and other serious infections. Students are considered to be at increased risk for needle-stick injuries. Such accidents can also be costly (e.g., student and patient testing, ER injury management, chemoprophylaxis, and potential illness care). The student, not the College, University, or clinical agency, is responsible for these expenses should an accidental exposure occur during a clinical experience.

Some clinical sites require students to have proof of personal health insurance; therefore, nursing students are required to maintain health insurance for the duration of their education. Students must be able to provide proof of health insurance coverage if requested by clinical agencies. Students are under a continuing obligation to notify the dean's office of the College of any lapse in personal health insurance coverage.

Clinical Immersion Experiences

Students who participate in international immersion clinical experiences will adhere to the protocol developed by Center for International Education (CIE). Students who participate in Domestic Intercultural Immersions (DII) will adhere to the protocol developed by the DII Office.

Students who participate in domestic immersion clinical experiences through the Department of Nursing must complete the following forms accessed through the Domestic Intercultural Immersion (DII) office: Emergency contact information, Medical Form and Waiver Form. The Deans of Students may be contacted to obtain additional information. These forms must be completed prior to the immersion experience as directed by course faculty. The information provided by self-

disclosure will be reviewed by course faculty and may be shared with appropriate administrative offices, including the Dean of Students as needed. Information on the medical self-assessment is confidential.

Approved 5/15/14

Guidelines for Selection of Undergraduate Teaching Assistants

(both for teaching apprenticeship courses and non-credit bearing instances):

1. Minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.00
2. Minimum grade of B in the nursing course for which the student will be a teaching assistant
3. Minimum grade of B in all prior and current (in progress) required nursing courses
4. No past or current clinical contracts
5. No past or current instances of probation within the College
6. Currently in good standing within the College
7. Demonstrated interest in serving as a teaching assistant

Approved by Dept. 12/4/14.

Clinical Guidelines and Policies

Policies Relating to Injuries and Exposure Risk in Clinical and Skills Lab Settings

1. Faculty/IAS and students are responsible for exercising reasonable prudence to prevent injury or risk. This means that faculty/IAS must be aware of risks inherent in situations to which students are exposed and assignments must be structured in a way that takes into consideration the student's capacity and readiness to deal with the risks. Faculty/IAS and students will comply with approved safety precautions so as to not compromise their own safety or that of others in the vicinity. Students having any work restrictions due to surgery, illness, injury, pregnancy, etc., should notify their clinical instructor immediately.
2. Both students and faculty/IAS will refer to the "Guidelines to Promote Safety and Prevent Infection with Bloodborne Pathogens for Students and Faculty/IAS in All Clinical Experiences".
3. All accidents, injuries, and exposure incidents (including needle sticks), either to themselves or their patients, are to be reported promptly to the supervising faculty/staff and appropriate agency personnel.
4. The instructor is responsible for documenting the event following the procedures of the College of Nursing, UW-Eau Claire Safety & Risk Management, and the clinical agency.
 - Documentation of injury or exposure to a bloodborne pathogen, occurring to a student or College of Nursing employee while **ON CAMPUS**:
 - a. Follow the UW-Eau Claire Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan:
<https://www.uwec.edu/kb/article/risk-management-and-safety-bloodborne-pathogens-exposure-control-plan/>
 - b. Complete the UWEC College of Nursing *Incident Record of Injury or Exposure to Risk* form. The reporting form is available on the department SharePoint website under *Forms and Resources*. After all signatures are obtained, submit the form to the Dean's office (Main office at the MF site). This record is not kept in the individual's personal file.
 - Documentation of injury or exposure to a bloodborne pathogen, occurring to a student or College of Nursing employee while **ON SITE AT A CLINICAL AGENCY**:
 - a. Complete the clinical agency incident report. Do not submit this form to the CON. This is for the clinical agency only.
 - b. Complete the UWEC College of Nursing *Incident Record of Injury or Exposure to Risk* form. This form is available on the department SharePoint website under *Forms and Resources*.
 - c. Submit **only** the UWEC College of Nursing *Incident Record of Injury or Exposure to Risk* form to the Dean's office (Main office at the MF site), after all signatures are obtained. This record is not kept in the individual's personal file.

- d. Follow the UW-Eau Claire Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan:
<https://www.uwec.edu/kb/article/risk-management-and-safety-bloodborne-pathogens-exposure-control-plan/>
5. Nursing faculty/IAS and other CON employees who are injured or exposed must also complete the following:
 - a. The UWEC Worker Compensation form. Submit the completed form to the UWEC Human Resources Office, and a copy to the CON Dean's office.
 - b. [Complete the Bloodborne Pathogens Post Exposure Incident Report Form available via the UWEC Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan.](#)
6. Students must be advised they should notify their health insurance carrier of their academic activities involving bloodborne pathogenic materials. Neither UW-Eau Claire departments nor the Student Health Service will fund post-exposure follow up procedures should the student become exposed to bloodborne pathogens (UW-Eau Claire Exposure Control Plan, April, 2007).

Centers for Disease Control. (2013). Updated U.S. Public Health Service guidelines for the management of occupational exposures to HIV and recommendations for postexposure prophylaxis. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, 34 (9), 1-48.

7/88; Reviewed 9/91; Rev: 8/00; Revised 10/09; 7/12; 1/15; edited 7/21, 6/22.

Policy Regarding Bloodborne Pathogens

Control of Bloodborne Pathogens is a principal concern of the College of Nursing (COHNS) Department of Nursing, including nondiscriminatory treatment of students and faculty/staff who may have a bloodborne illness, faculty/IAS and student education, and exposure or infection control issues that may arise with nursing students, department faculty/IAS, and clients served in clinical practice.

Objectives

1. Protection of the rights and welfare of patients, employees, students, faculty/staff, and the public who come in contact with each other through various Department of Nursing programs and activities.
2. Continuation of the Department of Nursing's ability to carry out its mission in the setting of bloodborne pathogen concerns.

Definitions of Bloodborne Pathogens

HIV antibody positive - A person who has serum antibody to Human Immunodeficiency Virus as confirmed by reliable testing.

Bloodborne pathogens - Include, but are not limited to, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Syphilis, Malaria, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

AIDS- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome as defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Direct patient contact- Care or contact with a patient that requires direct physical contact. Contact with mucous membranes, body fluids/excretions, or performance of an invasive procedure are of particular concern.

Admission and retention of students: Nondiscriminatory treatment

The same admission and retention policies prevail with regard to the person who is HIV antibody positive, has AIDS, Hepatitis C, or other bloodborne illness, as for any student admitted to the program with a known medical condition.

Decisions regarding admission or retention for the student with a known bloodborne illness are based on the following:

1. The student's condition is relatively stable and well controlled.
2. The student is able to carry out activities essential to meeting course and program objectives.
3. The student is able to function in the program without significant risk to self or others.
4. The student is regarded as one who will be able to carry out the responsibilities of professional nursing practice after graduation.

Education: Faculty/IAS and Students

Education regarding Bloodborne Pathogens including current OSHA standards is required annually for students and Department of Nursing faculty/IAS. (OSHA 29CFR1910.1030.) Education materials are available electronically on the CON Canvas website.

Annual Safety Training Requirement (AST)—Includes Bloodborne Pathogen Annual Requirement.

Evidence of completing the annual update will be maintained as indicated below.

- **Faculty/IAS:** It is the responsibility of the faculty/IAS member to view the online materials and pass the quiz. Department Chair(s) or designee will monitor Canvas site for successful completion of quiz. The quiz must be completed by October 1 of every academic year.
- **Students:** Annually, it is the responsibility of the student to view the online materials and pass the quiz. This requirement will be met in the following courses prior to the start of on-site clinical experiences: CND 310, CND 480, and NRS 701, 709, 719, 722, 730, 741, 750, 805, 811, 813, 827, 831, 833, and 852. In the TBSN program this requirement will be met each fall in the following clinical courses: NRS 267, 317, 359, 447 or 428, and 477 and each spring in 267. Course coordinators or designees will monitor successful completion of the quiz and inform appropriate course faculty and students.

Approved by Dept. 10/17/13; updated 5/17; edits on 1/19, 1/20, 7/21.

Guidelines to Promote Safety and Minimize Risks Associated with the Instruction and Practice

of the Technical Skills within the Department of Nursing (On Campus, Clinical Learning Center, or Nursing Clinic areas)

1. Items coming in contact with mucous membranes or resulting in breaks in skin or vascular integrity will be considered as potentially infectious and handled with universal precautions to prevent transmission of infectious agents.
2. Puncture-resistant containers will be used for the disposal of potentially infectious disposable items.
3. All reusable items used in the Clinical Learning Lab will be cleaned and/or replaced according to standard best practices.
4. All invasive procedures performed by students on humans in the Clinical Learning Center require faculty supervision.
5. Practice of technical skills by students in the Department of Nursing will take place during designated supervised lab hours.
6. Condition of equipment and supplies used for practice of technical skills will be monitored by a responsible faculty member.
7. Students are responsible to promptly report any injury sustained during learning experiences to a faculty/IAS member.
8. Completed UWEC Incident Record of Injury or Exposure Risk form will be submitted to the CON Dean's office. The completed form will then be kept in the Dean's office.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5210a1.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5116.pdf>

http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/Disinfection_Nov_2008.pdf

Approved 9/91

Revised 10/09, 1/15, 6/22.

Guidelines to Promote Safety and Prevent Infection with Communicable Diseases

for Students and Faculty/IAS in all Clinical Experiences. ALL CLIENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY INFECTED WITH COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

1. Barrier precautions must be used to prevent contact with blood and other body fluids including potential for splash.
 - a. Gloves, whenever contact is likely.
 - b. Masks, protective eyewear, face shields, gowns or aprons if potential for generation of droplets of blood or other body fluids exists.
2. Following removal of gloves, hands and other skin surfaces must be washed with soap or other cleansing agent immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids.
3. If a glove is torn it must be removed and promptly replaced with a new glove.
4. Individuals who have exudative lesions or weeping dermatitis should refrain from all direct client care until the condition is resolved.
5. Clinical agency policy must be followed when providing immediate newborn care.
6. To prevent needle stick injuries, needles should not be recapped, purposely bent or broken by hand or removed from disposable syringes after use. After they are used, disposable syringes and needles or other sharp instruments should be placed in puncture resistant containers for disposal according to Institutional procedures.
7. Mouthpieces, resuscitation bags or other ventilating devices must be used in the event that resuscitation becomes necessary.
8. Spills of blood or other body fluids must be cleaned with soap and water, then rinsed with a 1:10 solution of 5% sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) or an equivalent disinfectant. Housekeeping personnel must be alerted immediately if they are to clean the area.
9. Institutional procedures will be followed relative to the handling of soiled or contaminated linen. Gloves must be worn whenever handling contaminated equipment or materials.
10. All other agency infection control policies must be followed for students and faculty/IAS in clinical settings.

http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/prevent/prevent_pubs.html

http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/bbp/Exp_to_Blood.pdf

Centers for Disease Control. (2013). Updated U.S. Public Health Service guidelines for the management of occupational exposures to HIV and recommendations for postexposure prophylaxis. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, 34 (9), 1-48.

Approved 6/91

Revised 10/09

Revised 1/2015

Clinical Learning Center (CLC) Guidelines for Students

The CLC includes the simulation, skills lab, and clinical rooms

A "Safe" Place to learn

GOAL: Provide a realistic setting in which the student can learn and practice nursing skills in an environment in which the instructor and student have adequate resources.

AIM: Provide a foundation from which to launch clinical practice, decrease anxiety, and build self-esteem.

GENERAL POLICIES:

1. CLC staff will be responsible for orienting faculty to use of the space, equipment, and supplies in the CLC. Faculty are responsible for orienting students to use of the lab and clinic area.
2. Evaluation will be done regularly to assess how effectively these resources support the College of Nursing programs.
3. There is no eating or drinking (other than water in closed containers).
4. Learners and Faculty are responsible for maintenance of the area following established procedures. Allow enough time for the students to clean up the lab before leaving. It should look as good as or better than it did when you arrived.
5. Remove shoes when lying on the beds.

6. Room requests should be submitted to the Director of the Clinical Learning Center and/or the Marshfield Clinical Learning Center Coordinator.
7. Clinic area rooms are available for individual or small group use on a first come first serve basis. Course use or scheduled use should be required through the Director of the Clinical Learning Center.
8. Faculty responsible for CLC activities will lock those areas when leaving.
9. Course faculty who wish to make changes and/or introduce new skills, laboratory experience, or equipment will present a proposal to the Director of the Clinical Learning Center and course coordinator.
10. Course coordinators will inform the Director of the Clinical Learning Center when changes in learning experiences will cause variation in needs for supplies.
11. Equipment will be maintained in working order and cleaned on a regular basis and/or after use by the lab staff.
12. Equipment may be checked out of the CLC using the "Nursing Equipment Checkout Agreement" form. Equipment will be returned in clean and working order within 24 hours or by arrangement.
13. Lost/Found: There is a box labeled "Lost/Found" in room 234 (in Eau Claire). Any item(s) left in the lab will be placed in this box.
14. Used linen will be placed in linen bags.
15. Room supplies will be restocked by the CLC staff. Students are responsible to bring their own stethoscope, penlight, pen, paper, and course specific supplies as directed by course faculty.
16. CLC will be clean and stocked with appropriate supplies prior to scheduled lab by CLC staff.
17. Models and equipment will be operated and maintained according to manufacturer's directions.

SAFETY:

1. Gloves will be worn when practicing technical skills involving skin contact with blood or mucous membranes.
2. Disposable syringes, needles and other sharp items will be disposed in puncture-resistant containers. Containers will be removed and processed by agreement with appropriate departments.
3. If an injury occurs, refer to "Policies Relating to Injuries and Risk in Clinical and Skills Lab Settings."
4. **If there is a body fluid exposure or spill of blood or other bodily fluid, refer to "Policy regarding Bloodborne Pathogens."**

Revised 9/09; 7/12; 5/17; 7/21

Travel and Parking

Each student is responsible for transportation to and from, as well as during clinical experience. Community health nursing experiences may require travel; therefore, access to reliable transportation is necessary.

Parking on the Eau Claire site - Eau Claire bus schedules and city maps are posted in various areas. For Eau Claire campus students, certain areas are designated by authorities at Mayo Clinic Health System and Marshfield Medical Center hospitals for student and faculty parking of cars and cycles. Temporary permits for parking may be required; if so, instructors will provide information.

Parking on the Marshfield site - Please contact the Marshfield site program office at (715)830-7735 if you will need directions for the UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield campus or Marshfield Medical Center.

Policies and Guidelines Regarding Professional Relationships

Clinical Laboratory Experience

Students should not be assigned to care for members of their own family or close friends. Inform your clinical instructor if assignments include such persons. Students are requested to refrain from accepting employment and entering into social contacts with clients or a client's family while maintaining a professional relationship.

Acceptance of Gifts

Students are discouraged from giving gifts to faculty or accepting gifts from clients. Faculty are expected to guide students so that a climate of gift giving is not created.

Home/Cell Telephone Numbers

Students should not give their home/cell phone numbers or cell phone numbers to clients. They should have the clients contact them through either the clinical agency or the Nursing Department (contact cards are available through department office). This will help prevent unnecessary, unwanted, or inappropriate contacts.

Calling of Community Health Clients

When possible, students should call their clients during the regular workday; unscheduled calls should not be made after 9:00 p.m. or on the weekend.

Confidentiality

Special caution should be taken to maintain client confidentiality. Students should exercise caution concerning any papers that contain information regarding the health needs or other personal information about the client. The client's situation should not be discussed in other than a professional setting.

Liability Insurance

The University maintains general liability insurance that covers students while they are caring for patients or clients as part of a University course. Students should consider carrying their own liability insurance policy if they work in a nurse-related position outside of their student responsibilities.

Witnessing Legal Documents

Students should not sign as witnesses for legal documents such as surgery permits. It is also recommended students not witness wills or other similar legal documents. Refer any such requests to the instructor or appropriate nursing personnel in the clinical agency.

Transportation of Clients

Students must not transport clients in their personal vehicle. Students should arrange to meet the client as needed at the health care agency.

Revised 8/12: edited 7/22/24.

UW-Eau Claire Uniform Policy – Clinical Experiences and Clinical Learning Center

Uniform: Traditional baccalaureate nursing students engaged in clinical experiences must wear the official College of Nursing nursing uniform. The uniform visibly differentiates students from clients and others in health care settings. The uniform consists of a royal blue top and pants.

Uniforms are to fit appropriately and be in good condition. Uniforms pants are not to be altered by pinning or rolling and **may not drag on the floor**. No substitutions of color or style are acceptable. The uniform top must have the modified UWEC Nursing seal embroidered (gold embroidery on the tops) on the upper LEFT chest and the name pin is worn on the upper RIGHT chest.

A plain white, grey, black, or beige tee shirt, short or long sleeve, may be worn under the top. Sleeves must be able to be pushed to the elbow. The uniform is to be laundered after each wearing and ironed, if needed, to provide a neat, professional appearance. The uniform is worn **ONLY** in clinical settings or in the Clinical Learning Center.

Name pin: A UWEC College of Nursing name pin (with legal first and last name) will be worn during all clinical assignments unless otherwise directed by the instructor or agency. A UWEC name pin will be provided. The designated staff member in Nursing Room 127 will order name pins with student legal first and last names and distribute them. If the name pin is lost, students are expected to order a replacement through the Nursing support staff. Requests for replacements also can be made through the following link to a name pin request form:
https://uweauclaire.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e9TqFdZX3PWpChz.

Attire in Clinical Learning Center and Clinical Practice:

Practice and open lab: The uniform scrubs and name pin must be worn when in the lab. Hair must be contained as in the clinical setting. Clothing should cover abdomen and torso front and back with no visible cleavage, tattoos, or underwear. **Pant legs may not drag on the floor**. Closed-toed and closed-heeled shoes are required. The lab is supervised when open for clinical practice.

Hospital Units: Attire must comply with College and agency policies. Contact your instructor with questions.

Community Health Visits and agencies: Attire is determined by the clinical instructor and the agency and is expected to be consistent with professional street clothes. Lab coats and/or name pins may be required. The lab coats may be checked out from the CLC if available; otherwise, white lab coats may be purchased from any retailer.* Contact your clinical instructor for questions.

Professional appearance: Meticulous personal cleanliness, good grooming, and neat appearance are essential. No strong fragrances in perfume, cologne, lotions, or other personal care products.

Shoes: Shoes are to be white, cleanable, and worn **ONLY** in the lab or clinical setting. No open-toed or open-heeled shoes, crocs, or clogs are acceptable. Athletic-type shoes are acceptable if they fit the above criteria and do not detract from professional appearance.

Hosiery: Socks or hosiery must be white or neutral (beige) and cover the ankle.

Jewelry: Rings other than plain wedding bands are not acceptable for patient care. Other jewelry including pendants, necklaces, dangling earrings, and jewelry for other body parts (i.e., pierced eyebrows, nose, tongue, lip) may not be worn. Some jewelry may scratch clients, serve as a reservoir of infection, or in other ways be offensive. Students with pierced ears may wear **ONE** small stud earring in each ear lobe. Tattoos must not be visible.

Nails: Nails should be clean, smooth, and of a length that does not interfere with client care, scratch, or injure clients. No artificial nails, nail jewelry, or nail polish.

Hair: HAIR MUST BE CLEAN AND CONTROLLED so that it remains in place when leaning forward, and so that the hands need not be used to push it back during client care. Extreme hair colors and styles are not acceptable. Plain pins or clasps may be used to anchor the hair. Beards and moustaches must be short, neatly trimmed, well groomed, and if applicable, allow for fitted respiratory isolation/protection masks.

Undergarments: Required and discreet.

Equipment: Beginning with the first clinical laboratory course (NRS 267), a watch with a second hand and plain band (no Apple watches), black pen, penlight, **OSHA approved eye protection**, and a stethoscope (with an interchangeable bell and diaphragm) are required. Students entering NRS 317 will purchase a skills bag containing clinical practice supplies and equipment.

STUDENTS NOT DRESSED APPROPRIATELY OR IN PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE CLINICAL SETTING OR SKILLS LAB AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR.

12/09; 7/12; 6/13; 5/17; 5/20; 9/20; 5/11/23; 3/14/24.

Community-Based Clinical Practicum Guidelines

Guidelines for Clinical Experiences in Public Health Agencies, Residential Facilities, Homes, and Other Community Settings:

Community-based practicums involve specific planning to maximize effectiveness and maintain safety. The following guidelines are designed to help meet the above aims.

Clinical practicums may occur in community-based settings, in order to meet specific program requirements and course objectives. The purpose of community-based practicums is to learn to assess, plan, and deliver care for families, communities and populations (e.g., in schools, correctional facilities) in their natural environment.

Professional Conduct and Safety Guidelines

1. Standards of professional conduct and communication, as well as protection of client confidentiality, apply in community settings as in all other clinical settings. Additionally, conduct and communication are expected to be culturally sensitive.
2. Dress code guidelines of the clinical agency, Department of Nursing, and specific syllabus instructions are to be followed.
3. Professional nurse-patient boundaries must be maintained. Only *agency* contact information is to be shared with clients for follow-up.
4. Visit preparation and communication with the clinical instructor or preceptor is necessary for maximum safety and effectiveness. Most clinical visits are made by students in pairs. Specific timing, goals, and itinerary for the visit must be developed in advance with instructor or preceptor knowledge and approval. For example, students must be familiar with the setting's geographic location and travel by the safest direct route. Remember that cell/GPS service may not be available in rural areas.
5. Student safety is of highest priority. Maintain alertness to identify hazardous circumstances in the setting. If a student feels unsafe for whatever reason (e.g., alcohol or other substance use in the home, developing altercation, or visible presence of a weapon), **withdrawal from the situation is required**. Immediate contact with the clinical instructor must be made and documentation completed as instructed.
6. Students are encouraged to practice automobile safety precautions. Examples include being aware of fuel levels, weather conditions, and emergency numbers. Lock automobile doors; do not display valuables. Following a home or community visit, travel to a safe place, such as the agency, university, or local library to complete documentation. Please be aware that student driver authorization may be a requirement, depending upon the circumstances of university related travel.

Approved 4/8/16

VII. Toward Graduation and Beyond

Licensure

Licensure for the practice of professional nursing is mandatory in almost all jurisdictions (generally the States) in the United States. It is, therefore, illegal to engage in professional nursing for pay (or considerations such as room and board) in any part of the U.S. without a current, valid license, or a temporary permit from the jurisdiction, state, or territory in which a person wishes to work.

Once licensed in this country, a professional nurse in good standing can obtain licensure in another jurisdiction through endorsement, which does not require retaking the licensure examination. Information can be obtained by writing the Board of Nursing in the new jurisdiction. The Board of Nursing in the jurisdiction of original licensure forwards necessary information to the new jurisdiction. There is a fee for forwarding such information.

Initial licensure and endorsement fees and procedures vary from one jurisdiction to another. One may practice in Wisconsin with a temporary permit that covers one after graduation, but before results of the State Board examination are known. You must have your supervisor's signature in order to obtain a temporary permit. Not all jurisdictions permit practice under temporary permit. Failure to pass the State Board examination may result in revocation of the graduate nurse temporary practice permit.

State Board Examination

To be registered (licensed) to practice professional nursing, graduates of approved programs must pass an examination, administered under the authority of the State Board of Nursing. The computer-assisted test, known as the NCLEX, may be scheduled soon after graduation; examinations are given in all jurisdictions throughout the United States. Information on the NCLEX exam and the application is available online at: <https://www.ncsbn.org/index.htm>

Application for the licensure examination is discussed in the NRS 487 (TBSN) class. Anyone planning to take the examination in another jurisdiction is advised to write the Board of Nursing in that jurisdiction to obtain an application from that jurisdiction. Addresses for other State Boards are available on the Internet.

The U.S. Department of Education requires institutions to disclose information for programs leading to professional certification or licensure about whether each program meets state educational requirements for initial licensure. Please see this website for the College of Nursing: <https://www.uwec.edu/academics/programs/undergraduate/nursing/>

It is highly recommended that students study and fully prepare for the NCLEX exam, including developing an effective study plan while progressing through the nursing program. Several standardized examinations are provided during the program, to assist students in gauging their level of preparation for NCLEX. Students who do not pass the NCLEX on their first attempt are strongly advised to seek study assistance, such as a review course.

IMPORTANT!

One of the requirements in applying to take the licensure examination is to declare your status with regard to violations of the criminal codes, other than for minor traffic violations. In most states, the Dean must sign a recommendation that your graduation has been certified. Graduations are certified through the Registrar's Office and may not be completed until two weeks after graduation. Verification of program completion is sent as quickly as possible after the close of the semester, a date by which it is generally safe to assume that you would have your permit given to you. Be certain that all financial obligations have been met or arranged for prior to leaving campus to avoid delays in verification of program completion.

Early NCLEX Testing

The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) allows students who meet criteria set by schools of nursing to take the NCLEX early, potentially before graduation, via the Accelerate Wisconsin Initiative. To be eligible for this opportunity, the criteria set by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire College of Nursing are that students must:

- Score 950 or above on the Exit 1 HESI Exam AND
- Score 1000 or above on the HESI Exit 2 exam AND
- Maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or above AND
- Discuss study plan with Pre-Licensure Academic Success Coordinator

Students may identify that they wish to be considered for sitting for the NCLEX early after scoring 950 or above on the Exit 1 HESI exam by contacting the Prelicensure Academic Success Coordinator. After the student has met all four criteria listed above, the Academic Success Coordinator will notify the Undergraduate Program Support. The Undergraduate Program Support will then authorize the student to sit for the NCLEX prior to graduation via the LicenseE Educator Access Portal (LEAP). Students will not receive a license until the BSN degree has been conferred and all requirements from the Board of Nursing and University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire College of Nursing have been met. 10/10/24

Employment Opportunities

Information about specific employment opportunities are posted online by Career Services in Handshake, on the bulletin boards in the College of Nursing, and at the Marshfield Site.

Career Fairs

Career Services organizes job fairs when either representatives or individuals of hospitals and other health care agencies come to campus for recruiting. Visits are announced and/or posted in the College and by the University. Notices of visits may be obtained and appointments for interviews made with Career Services.

Alumni Status

It is important to keep the Dean's office aware of your current address. From time to time, the College of Nursing sends out surveys regarding employment and satisfaction with the nursing program. Survey responses assist with federal funding for the College, accreditation, and ongoing program improvements. The College of Nursing also maintains a Nursing newsletter (created by the Associate Dean) in which alumni and Nursing program accomplishments and news is highlighted. Please send your information to the College Dean's office so we can keep your classmates informed of your accomplishments.

Checklist for Graduating Seniors

- Apply for graduation on **BLUGOLD** no later than the end of the first week of undergraduate priority registration for the semester of intended graduation. Failure to apply for graduation on time may result in the postponement of graduation. Although only two commencement ceremonies are held (May and December) students may graduate in January, May, August, or December. Information about graduation can be found at: <https://www.uwec.edu/blugold-central/academic-planning/graduation/>.
- Your record will be reviewed for graduation only after you have registered for your final term. At that time, an e-mail will be sent to you indicating your eligibility to graduate. Be **SURE to review your degree audit after your final registration** and address any unmet requirements immediately.
- Order your cap and gown for commencement from the Bookstore. The Bookstore will send specific information to the Marshfield site students in reference to cap, gown, and graduation announcements.
- The nursing pin may be worn only after the requirements for the degree have been met. Order the UW-Eau Claire Nursing pin directly from the University Bookstore on the Eau Claire campus (a form will be provided by the College). Prices vary considerably, depending on whether you order gold case, gold-filled, or gold pins. If the graduate wishes to delay purchase, the pin may be purchased at any time following graduation by contacting the University Bookstore.

- Attend to mailings/emails sent to you from the Registrar's office/Blugold Central. Any problems with your academic record or with graduation requirements should be reported to your academic advisor at once.
- Attend the class (NRS 487) regarding licensure examination (not required for R.N. students).
- Apply for NCLEX examination and licensure.
- Help to choose a student speaker from both the Eau Claire and Marshfield sites for the Convocation (Pinning) Ceremony. Graduates are pinned by a person(s) of the graduate's choosing during the convocation ceremony. (Graduates who choose not to order pins may instead utilize blue UWEC Nursing ribbons provided by the College.)
- Pay or make arrangements with the Business Office for payment of any money owed to the University. (A hold is placed on transcripts and other records until book and parking fines are paid, exit interview form for loans are filed, etc.)
- Attend graduation and Convocation Ceremonies (not required, but highly recommended). The Convocation ("pinning") Ceremony usually takes place the evening prior to graduation. Tickets are required for graduation; RSVP's are needed for the convocation ceremony.

Appendix A: Sigma Theta Tau (Sigma)

Sigma Theta Tau is the international nursing honor society that recognizes students in baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs who demonstrate superior scholastic achievement, evidence of professional leadership potential, and/or marked achievement in the field of nursing. Six students at the Indiana University Training School for Nurses founded the society in 1922. The name was chosen using the initials of the Greek Words, STORGA, THAROS, TIMA, meaning Love, Courage, Honor. The honor society is now referred to as *Sigma*.

From a beginning of six members and one chapter in 1922, the organization has grown to more than 12,000 members and 263 chapters. Sigma Theta Tau International is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and is professional and scholarly, rather than social in its purpose.

The local chapter, Delta Phi, was granted a charter on April 25, 1980.

Membership is by invitation. Undergraduate students must be in the upper one-third of the class to be eligible for membership (please see Sigma Theta Tau website for current information <http://www.nursingsociety.org/default.aspx>). A percentage of the class may be elected as juniors with the remainder elected in the spring of their senior year. Graduate nursing students and professional nurses in the community members may also be recommended for membership.

As a member of Sigma Theta Tau, one joins a global community of scholars who perceive their professionalism with a special sense of commitment to research, education, and quality patient/client care.

Active membership in Sigma Theta Tau carries numerous privileges. These include:

- Opportunity to remain abreast of scholarly research developments, social and educational trends, conference, and seminar highlights that are covered in *The Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, *Nursing Centered*, *Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing*, and other special publications.
- Professional growth through conferences, seminars, webinars, and workshops. Members receive reduced conference fees.
- Leadership opportunities in nursing and in the community at large.
- Recognition programs in support of achievement, leadership, service, education, and research.
- Priority when applying for National and Chapter research grants.
- An implicit recommendation in relation to employment and admission to graduate school.

Many faculty and instructional academic staff are Sigma Theta Tau members and officers. Please talk with them about the Society and all it has to offer.

Appendix B: National, Wisconsin, and Eau Claire Student Nurses' Association

- WHAT:** Eau Claire Student Nurses' Association (ECSNA) is the local unit of the state constituent of NSNA. This organization represents students at both the Eau Claire and Marshfield sites. Officers are elected at both Eau Claire and Marshfield.
- WHO:** Membership in NSNA/WSNA/ECSNA is open to all undergraduate students enrolled in state-approved programs leading to licensure as registered nurses; all pre-nursing students enrolled in programs designed as preparation for entrance into an undergraduate program leading to an AD or BS in nursing; and registered nurses enrolled in undergraduate programs in nursing.
- WHY:** The purpose of NSNA/WSNA/ECSNA is:
1. To assume responsibility for contributing to nursing education in order to provide for the highest quality health care.
 2. To provide programs representative of fundamental and current professional interests and concerns, and
 3. To aid in the development of the whole person, their professional role, and their responsibility for health care of people in all walks of life.
- HOW:** Members take part by:
1. Supporting the legislative efforts of other nursing and health organizations to obtain funds for health care, environmental protection, school support, scholarship aid, etc., through testimony before congressional committees and state legislature.
 2. Organizing community action programs.
 3. Recruiting students into nursing and helping keep them there through Project Breakthrough.
 4. Working with graduate nurses on committees and programs for improving nursing care.
 5. Producing a national magazine--IMPRINT--for all members.
 6. Planning and conducting annual conventions.

What does NSNA do for its members?

- Works to develop good student-faculty relationships and promotes student participation in school planning, policies, and curriculum.
- Collaborates with other organizations (ANA, NLN, etc.).
- Negotiates reduced subscriptions to nursing periodicals.

The ECSNA combines the functions of pre-professional responsibility, learning, and community participation with social activities, all as part of the development of the whole person.

Appendix C: Northwestern Wisconsin Chapter of the American Association for Men in Nursing

In 2016, the Northwestern Wisconsin Chapter of the American Association for Men in Nursing was formed by UW-Eau Claire nursing students with the assistance of faculty advisers. It is part of the larger American Association for Men in Nursing (AAMN) organization originally founded in 1971 and is open to all genders. The Northwestern Wisconsin Chapter was recognized as an official student organization on the UW-Eau Claire campus with the 2016-2017 academic year. The goal of the chapter is to increase enrollment of minorities, particularly men, into nursing and create more diverse future cohorts of nursing students at UW-Eau Claire and nationally.

Membership is open to pre-nursing and admitted nursing undergraduate and graduate students of all genders at UW-Eau Claire, including the Marshfield Site, as well as non-UW-Eau Claire students and practicing nurses. Please see the UW-Eau Claire Student Organizations website <https://www.uwec.edu/offices-services/activities-involvement-leadership/student-organizations-uwec> for more information.

Appendix D: University of Evansville at Harlaxton

Harlaxton Study Abroad (University of Evansville at Harlaxton)

HARLAXTON FALL NURSING COURSE EQUIVALENCIES & REGISTRATION

For Students who would be in the 1st semester senior nursing courses in a fall semester.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible, one must:

- Be in the first semester of the senior year of the nursing program during a Fall term.
- Be in good academic standing.
- Have a minimum resident GPA of at least 2.50 and semester GPA of at least 2.25, to be in good standing in the nursing program.

Procedural Notes:

1. Application to the Harlaxton program must be made through the UW-Eau Claire Center for International Education one year in advance of the anticipated semester abroad.
2. Prior to the application to the Harlaxton program, the student completes the Department of Nursing Program Plan Change Form. Please contact your adviser or Dr. Debra Jansen, Associate Dean, for assistance (jansenda@uwec.edu).
3. Arrangements must be made with the traditional undergraduate program director in the spring semester prior to the fall Harlaxton experience for the winterim one credit directed study.
4. Students attending the Harlaxton program will be registered into a specific NRS 477 clinical section in order to facilitate completion of NRS 446. They complete the HESI RN Pediatric exam near the end of the Senior 2 semester.

Course Descriptions:

NURS 463 Professional Leadership (3) Focuses on principles of leadership and management as they are practiced in nursing. Concepts of organizational behavior, transformational and transactional leadership are emphasized along with client advocacy, change agency, power, and politics.

NURS 467 Dynamic Integration: Health Promotion within the Community (3) Focuses on individuals, families and groups within the community. Emphasis on vulnerable populations, their health and the provision of health care. Examines health of the community including communicable disease, environmental health hazards, mortality and morbidity and epidemiology. Placement: Senior. Prerequisites: All 300 level nursing courses. Co requisite: Nursing 468. Fall.

NURS 468 Nursing Modalities for the Community (4) Clinical laboratory includes instruction and practice with the modalities of teaching, counseling, alternative health, social support and augmented social support. Focuses on vulnerable groups within the community who require health promotion and/or suffer chronicity. Primary emphasis on teaching and augmented social support. Prerequisites: All 300 level nursing courses. Course includes care of adults and children in the community. Co requisite: Nursing 467. Fall.

BRIT 220/320 British Studies: Historical Perspectives (3) BRIT 320H also is available for University Honors credit. British Studies offers students an historical perspective on the emergence of modern Britain. The central theme of the course is the development of a sense of national identity within the British Isles and the problems associated with a British national identity. Students are encouraged to reflect on the issues and stereotypes that emerge out of competing national identities and contested borders in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. 220 will equal HIST 980 Lower Division elective, LE-K3, R2; 320/320H = HIST 980 Upper Division Elective, LE-K3, R2 (Students need to verify with the Transfer Credit Wizard in CampS.).

BRIT 230/330 British Studies: Literary Perspectives (3) BRIT 330H also is available for University Honors credit. This course introduces students to a range of literary perspectives in relation to the development of modern Britain. The central theme of the course is the development of a sense of national identity within the British Isles and the ways in which literature has both shaped and questioned British identity. We will consider how national identity intersects with other key themes including gender, race, class and belonging. Includes field trips to locations of literary interest and experiential learning opportunities. 230 will equal ENGL 259 Perspectives on British Literature After 1790 (LE-K3, R2); 330/330H = ENGL 359 Topics in British Literature After 1790 (Students need to verify with the Transfer Credit Wizard in CampS.).

Course Schedule for Nursing Students who study abroad at Harlaxton

Senior 1 term (fall semester):

U of Evansville at Harlaxton courses, in place of UW-Eau Claire courses NRSRG 424, 428, & 447

- Nurs 463 Professional Leadership I (3 cr)
- Nurs 467 Dynamic Integration: Health Promotion within the community (3 cr)
- Nurs 468 Nursing Modalities for the Community (4 cr – clinical)
- BRIT 220/320 British Studies Historical Perspectives (3 cr) AND
- BRIT 230/330 British Studies Literary Perspectives (3 cr)
 - Both BRIT courses are available for University Honors; intended for students needing upper division liberal education credit; involves additional writing assignments in comparison to 220/230.

Semester Total: 16 credits (both British Studies courses are required by the College of Nursing).

- **In addition**, students can also enroll in the 1 cr Harlaxton College Choir

Winterim between Senior 1 and Senior 2:

- NRSRG 495 Directed Study (1 credit)
 - Objectives pertain to achievement of NRSRG 428 Integration (I1), S3 Creativity, and Community Engaged Learning** requirements. The HESI Exit I Exam is 10% of the NRSRG 495 Directed Study course grade.

Winterim Total: 1 credit

Senior 2 term (spring semester):

- NRSRG 446 (4 cr) – a first-semester senior UW-EC nursing course for which the UE/Harlaxton experience does not have an approximate equivalent.
- NRSRG 457 Chronically Ill Patients and Families (3 cr)
- NRSRG 467 Innovative Solutions to Complex Healthcare Problems (2 cr)
- NRSRG 477 Practicum: Leadership II (4 cr)
- NRSRG 487 Transition to Practice (3 cr)

Total: 16 credits

It is acknowledged that the students who have the University of Evansville/Harlaxton experience will not take NRSRG 447 Practicum: Children & Families (2 cr). This program plan will insure students have at least 60 nursing credits.

Note: Students should pack their UW-Eau Claire name tags, as these will be used at Harlaxton.

UGCC & Dept: 5/13, 2/17, 1/19, 5/19, 1/20; 1/24/21; 9/24.

**Note: Service Learning transitioned to Community Engaged Learning starting with the 2025-2026 academic year.

Appendix E: Library Resources and Utilization

McIntyre Library on the Eau Claire campus, the UWSP-Marshfield Library, and the George E. Magnin Medical Library are the primary library resources for nursing students. Mayo Clinic Health System's library is also available.

The librarians can suggest a better resource if you are not able to find the information you seek (i.e. local demographic, community, and/or public health data).

Aids to Library Use

Librarians are a scholar's best friend when it comes to helping you uncover and access current informational and reference materials. Make the Reference Desk your first stop in the library.

Selecting References

- Select the most current scholarly references. While books over five years old rarely meet this criterion, there are "classics" in each field which are considered appropriate for research and are able to be incorporated into scholarly efforts. Because of the rapidity with which knowledge is accumulating, even sections of newly published books may be obsolete; therefore, expect to rely heavily on professional journals and periodicals in addition to consulting books.
- As a general rule, do not use older editions of books if a newer edition has been published.
- Materials written for the lay public must be used cautiously; information pertinent to scholarly research is generally found in literature made available through professional sources.

Marshfield Site –Learning Resource Center (LRC) and Other Resources

UWSP-Marshfield Library

The library is designed to support the education needs of all students, including UWEC nursing students, and the general public. Students can borrow library resources using their Blugold ID card. There are also several private study rooms that are reservable and plenty of reading areas, tables, chairs, study kiosks, etc. The library is a quiet zone. The hours for Fall 2021 are 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and 8-1 Friday.

George E. Magnin Medical Library

The Marshfield Clinic offers the use of the George E. Magnin Medical Library to the Marshfield Site UW-Eau Claire nursing students. The library is located at the Marshfield Clinic, Laird Center for Medical Research. Students are allowed 24/7 library access with an issued Marshfield Medical Center ID badge card.

Tours are scheduled for all students at the beginning of the semester so that students can take advantage of this resource. Library staff provide student orientation to use of the clinic's electronic resource databases and are able to assist students with literature searches. The library also has multiple study areas for student use. Additionally, the library has nursing textbooks available for student use while in the library.

Fitness Center

Students can use the Fitness center located in the Physical Education building of the UWSP-Marshfield campus. The cost is \$25 for semester pass, \$40 for academic year pass, or \$60 for calendar year pass. To pay for and get an access pass, visit the UWSP-Marshfield Solution Center.

Security/student badges

These badges are issued by the Marshfield Clinic to allow students access to the Magnin Library and the Marshfield Medical Center complex for clinicals. Changes in building access due to COVID-19 will be communicated to students. Each student will be provided a badge at the beginning of the semester. Lost badges have a \$10 replacement fee.

Appendix F: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer/Questioning, or Asexual (LGBTQIA+) Safe Space Resolution

In that it can be assumed that some members of the nursing student body, pre-nursing students, department of nursing faculty and staff, and other members of the Department of Nursing community may be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, or asexual (LGBTQIA+) individuals;

And, in that many of our patients and large segments of society are LGBTQIA+ individuals;

And, in that we have committed, in our Nursing vision/mission/program outcome and University strategic planning documents, to fully promote and aspire to equity, diversity, inclusivity ideals and actions;

And, in that any form of negative bias against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, or asexual (LGBTQIA+) individuals constitutes a form of discrimination;

And, in that we have a responsibility to create a culture, community and physical space free from bias, bigotry, and discrimination;

And, in that the LGBTQIA+ Safe Space concept strives to assure that that each member of every community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender orientation/expression;

Be it resolved that the UW-Eau Claire Department of Nursing, Nursing programs, and Nursing Building will be identified as Safe Space for LGBTQIA+ individuals, their partners, family members and allies, in all activities and undertakings associated with UWEC Nursing program and department functions;

And that the UWEC Department of Nursing will strive to uphold and enact Safe Space precepts, actions, and intent in our collective endeavors to create a welcoming, bias-free environment supportive of LGBTQIA+ issues and concerns.

Approved 9/18/09; 5/11/23.