



Department of Health Sciences

*Practical Nurse
Student Handbook*



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Mission

The program provides a foundation for excellence in nursing practice. It is designed to prepare graduates having met state licensure requirements to practice as:

- provider of care
- manager of care
- member of discipline
- lifelong learner

Philosophy

The philosophy of the nursing program is consistent with the general purposes of liberal education at Mesa State College. The program provides a balance between general education and nursing knowledge as a basis for practical nursing practice, facilitates the development of professional behaviors as the foundation for nursing practice, prepares graduates to utilize data related to biological, psychological, social, spiritual, cultural and developmental needs to promote, maintain and restore health, and promotes the transition to practice as a practical nurse.

This program prepares a proficient practitioner who values the lifelong process of self-evaluation, self-acceptance, and learning which support the continual acquisition of new skills. Graduates of the program are prepared for entry into practice to function as technical nurses in a caring manner within increasingly complex health care settings.

Each learner possesses unique experiences, interests, values, attitudes, motivations, learning styles and capabilities that must be recognized and cultivated. Students have a responsibility to actively participate in the educational process, and join faculty in planning for this approach. Alternative and non-traditional teaching-learning strategies, in accordance with academic requirements of the College, recognized standards of nursing practice and societal expectations are used to enhance learner needs. Learning is achieved through progression from simple concepts to complex theories in an environment that is conducive to teaching/learning. The faculty further believes in continuous quality improvement in nursing education, which is apparent in outcomes based assessment of the program's mission and goals.

The faculty identifies **patients** as individuals, families, groups, or communities, who continuously interrelate within their environment. Patients, as recipients of holistic nursing care, are complex with physiological, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural components. Patients function in independent, interdependent, or dependent roles, and may seek to receive nursing interventions related to health promotion and maintenance, as well as health restoration and end-of-life care.

Health is viewed as patterns of interrelationships with the environment. One of these patterns may be disease. The dynamic patterning of health, which includes illness, is characterized as becoming, transcending and unfolding. Health and illness are not polar opposites, but are part of a rhythmic process, and part of the whole expression of life. This process includes dying as a heightened awareness of the meaningfulness of life. Within this framework, the delivery of health care resources is an interdisciplinary collaborative effort among health professionals.

The **environment** as defined by each individual, family, group, community, or global population, is the total context in which people exist. Environments encompass the physical surroundings, and social and personal beliefs that influence people's perceptions and interactions in regard to health. Environments change in response to biologic factors; societal values and needs; gender, racial, ethnic and cultural diversity; technological advances; health care legislation; and consumer expectations.

Practical nursing's ascribed roles are derived from the science and art that is inherent in a practice discipline. The essence of nursing is a deliberate caring relationship, designed to uniquely preserve and enhance the integrity, dignity and worth of individuals while upholding ethical, moral, legal and humanistic principles. Nurses, practicing from a holistic perspective, are integral members of interdisciplinary teams. They collaborate with patients and other providers to design, provide, manage, and coordinate care for individuals, families, groups and communities in an evolving health care system. This requires the use of critical thinking, communication, data gathering and contributing to assessment within the scope of practice and technical skills characteristic of a health care professional. Furthermore, to provide professional care, nurses must demonstrate knowledge of health promotion, risk reduction, disease prevention and management, the nursing process, leadership process, information technologies, and evidence-based practice. As members of a profession, nurses advocate for quality care that is respectful of human diversity within a global environment. A commitment to enhance the discipline is demonstrated by remaining active in professional organizations as well as in the political and regulatory processes.

Program Goals

1. Provide a balance between general education and nursing knowledge as a basis for Practical Nursing.
2. Facilitate the development of value-based behaviors as the foundation for Practical Nursing.
3. Utilize data related to biological, psychological, social, spiritual, cultural and developmental needs to promote maintain and restore health.
4. Promote the transition to practice as a practical nurse.

Program Objectives

Program Goal #1

1. Apply concepts from general education and program pre-requisites to enhance critical thinking and clinical decision making.
2. Communicate effectively in a variety of situations.

Program Goal #2

1. Demonstrate empathy for and a connection with patients.
2. Display concern for the welfare and well being of others.
3. Reflect support for patients' rights to make decisions about their health care.
4. Show respect for the inherent worth and uniqueness of others.
5. Act in accordance with accepted ethical and professional standards of practice.
6. Uphold moral, legal and humanistic principles.

Program Goal #3

1. Contribute to the holistic assessment of the patient.
2. Assist in formulation of patient care plan.
3. Provide safe and appropriate care in a professionally competent manner recognizing, understanding, and respecting physiological, psychological, social, spiritual and cultural components.
4. Accurately document patient needs, interventions and nursing outcomes.
5. Provide relevant information in a clear, thorough, effective, and accurate manner.
6. Evaluate patient outcomes using critical thinking, decision-making skills, and creative problem solving of common treatments/tasks and assist with collection of evaluation data.
7. Maintain effective interdisciplinary collaboration.
8. Demonstrate an appreciation for diversity among patient populations.

9. Utilize related informatics technologies in patient care settings.

Program Goal #4

1. Provide direct care to patients whose condition is stable or predictable, and under direct supervision provide care, interventions, and communicate response for patients whose condition is complex or unstable.
2. Collaborate in therapeutic interventions while retaining personal accountability.
3. Demonstrate a commitment for continued professional development.
4. Engage in effective working relationships.
5. Demonstrate professional attitude and behavior.

Student Nurses Scope of Nursing Practice

Student nurses will be held liable for their own acts of negligence committed in the course of clinical experiences. If they are performing duties that are within the scope of professional nursing, they will be held to the same standard of skill and competence as Licensed Practical nurses. A lower standard of care will not be applied to the actions of nursing students.

Rhodes, Ann M. and Miller, Robert D. *Nursing and the Law*, 4th Edition, An Aspen Publication, 1984, page 163.

Scope of Practice

Definition of Nursing Delegation: Delegation of nursing function is per occurrence and is limited to patients that are stable and where the outcome of the delegated task is predictable. It is the responsibility of the delegator to verify adequate skills of the delegatee. Delegation of care is only allowed within the RN scope of practice.

(Accessed from website <http://www.dora.state.co.us/nursing/scope/scope.htm#lpn> on 3/29/2007.)

REGISTERED NURSE	PRACTICAL NURSING	NURSING ASSISTANT
<u>ASSESSMENT</u>		
<p>Independent, dependent and interdependent functions</p> <p>Assess and evaluate health status of individuals:</p> <p>Collect objective and subjective data</p> <p>Analyze, report and record data</p> <p>Validate, refine and modify data</p>	<p>At the direction of RN, APN, licensed physician, dentist, or podiatrist</p> <p>Contribute to assessment of health status:</p> <p>Collect, report, and record objective/subjective data</p> <p>Observe conditions or change in condition</p> <p>Collect data and report signs and symptoms of deviation from normal health status</p>	<p>At the direction and under the supervision of RN or PN</p> <p>Collect, report and record basic objective and subjective data</p> <p>Observe and report change in signs and symptoms or deviations from normal health status</p>
<u>IDENTIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE PROBLEMS</u>		
<p>Utilize all data to identify and document health care problems</p>	<p>Assist in formulating lists of needs/problems</p>	<p>Provide basic patient information which assists the licensed nurse in making lists of problems and needs</p>
<u>ESTABLISHES GOALS</u>		
<p>Collaborate with patient, family, significant others and health team to:</p> <p>Identify present and predicted needs</p> <p>Establish short and long-term goals</p> <p>Set realistic and measurable goals</p>	<p>Contribute to setting realistic short and long-term goals</p>	<p>Provide basic information regarding the patient which assists the licensed nurse in setting goals</p>

PLANNING A STRATEGY OF CARE

<p>Develop a written care plan to include:</p> <p>Cultural, ethical, spiritual aspects and decisions regarding treatment</p> <p>Measures to support human functions and maintain hygiene, comfort and safe environment</p> <p>Educational and counseling needs to promote, maintain, restore health.</p> <p>Utilize community resources for continued care Prioritize needs</p> <p>Review and revise care plan as necessary</p>	<p>Participate in development of written care plan</p> <p>Recognize, understand, respect cultural, spiritual, religious backgrounds, beliefs, needs/rights to choice</p> <p>Assist in identification of measures to support human function and maintain hygiene and comfort</p> <p>Maintain environment conducive to well-being</p> <p>Assist in assuring access to community resources</p> <p>Participate in identification of priorities</p> <p>Participate in reviewing and revising plan of care</p>	<p>Contribute to the development and revision of the plan of care by providing basic information regarding the patient which assists the licensed nurse in the development and revision of the plan of care</p>
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IMPLEMENTING STRATEGY OF CARE

<p>Consider complexity of care, educational preparation and facility policies when delegating* care</p> <p>Remains responsible for all delegated* acts</p> <p>Delegate* /assist staff in implementing care</p> <p>Delegate*/assign duties as specified in rules and regulations</p> <p>Initiate, provide, assist with delegated* care</p> <p>Verify medical orders are accurate, properly authorized; no documented contraindications</p> <p>Administer prescribed medications and IV therapy</p> <p>Develop and initiate plan to provide patient education and counseling</p>	<p>Carry out functions taught in approved PN program</p> <p>Assist patient with ADLs; encourage self-care</p> <p>Provide direct care, comfort measures, emotional support to patients whose condition is stable or predictable</p> <p>Under Direct Supervision: Provide care, interventions; and communicate response for patients whose condition is complex or unstable)</p> <p>Assist with rehabilitation (e.g., ROM, alignment, body mechanics)</p> <p>Provide environment conducive to safety and health</p> <p>Administer prescribed treatment and medication, except by intravenous route (IV certified PN's - see</p>	<p>Carry out functions taught in approved nursing assistant programs</p> <p>Complete basic duties assigned by a licensed nurse</p> <p>Provide total personal care or assist patient with ADLs; encourage self-care</p> <p>Provide physical care, comfort measures, emotional support to patients whose conditions are stable or predictable</p> <p>Assist with basic restorative nursing, bladder training</p> <p>Provide a safe and healthy environment</p> <p>Repeat patient teaching instructions as given by the RN</p>
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<p>Document interventions and responses</p> <p>Communicate interventions and responses</p> <p>Make judgments, decisions and modify care as needed</p>	<p>Advanced Educational Preparation Perform selected IV therapy functions as delegated* and supervised by RN</p> <p>Document prescribed interventions and responses</p> <p>Assist and provide reinforcement with patient teaching</p>	<p>Document and communicate completion of assigned duties and patient responses</p>
<p><u>MAINTAINING SAFE AND EFFECTIVE CARE</u></p>		
<p>Evaluate environment and initiate plan to provide a safe environment</p> <p>Institute standard procedures to stabilize patient's condition or prevent serious complications in emergency situations</p> <p>Act as patient advocate</p>	<p>Maintain safe environment</p> <p>Consult/seek guidance from RN and others as necessary</p> <p>Initiate standard emergency procedures until RN or physician is available</p> <p>Apply principles of asepsis and infection control</p> <p>Participate in development, revision and implementation of policies and procedures</p>	<p>Maintain safe environment</p> <p>Seek guidance from a licensed nurse as necessary</p> <p>Perform CPR when necessary</p> <p>Follow principles of asepsis and infection control</p> <p>Share pertinent information with a licensed nurse</p>
<p><u>EVALUATING RESPONSES TO INTERVENTIONS</u></p>		
<p>Utilize identified goals to:</p> <p>Determine data needed to evaluate outcome of care</p> <p>Document and communicate evaluation data</p> <p>Evaluate effectiveness of common treatments/tasks, document and communicate outcomes of care given</p> <p>Use evaluation data to reassess patient status, revise care plan to reflect needed changes in nursing intervention.</p>	<p>Evaluate effectiveness of common treatments/tasks, document and communicate outcomes of care given</p> <p>Assist with collection of evaluation data</p> <p>Contribute to modification of plan of care</p>	<p>Document and communicate patient responses</p> <p>Assist with collection of data</p>

<u>MANAGING PRACTICE OF NURSING</u>		
<p>Provide direct care; assign and/or delegate* functions according to education and demonstrated competence</p> <p>Supervise staff to whom nursing functions are assigned! delegated*</p> <p>Provide leadership in formulating, interpreting, implementing and evaluating nursing service objectives and policies</p> <p>Direct and evaluate quality of nursing service</p>	<p>Assign duties to ancillary workers as specified in rules and regulations</p> <p>Assist ancillary workers to carry out assigned care</p> <p>Supervise ancillary workers to whom care is assigned</p>	N/A
<u>COLLABORATION WITH OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS</u>		
<p>Communicate significant changes in patient status</p> <p>Consult as necessary to meet patient needs</p>	<p>Share pertinent information</p>	<p>Share pertinent information</p>
<u>ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION</u>		
<p>Document completion of comprehensive program including supervised clinical; OR has previously acquired the additional knowledge/judgment/skill and can provide evidence thereof to employer</p> <p>Maintain evidence (both RN and employer) of original documentation and demonstration of acquired knowledge/judgment/skill</p> <p>Verify additional duties are within RN scope of practice</p> <p>Follow written policies and procedures approved by medical staff, nursing and agency administration</p>	<p>* * Complete Board approved IV certification course including supervised clinical; OR document completion of such from another state</p> <p>Maintains evidence (both PN and employer) of original documentation and demonstration of IV knowledge/judgment/skill</p> <p>Follows written IV policies and procedures approved by medical staff, nursing and agency administration</p> <p>** Advanced Educational Preparation for PN's in Colorado is limited to IV certification.</p>	N/A

NSNA Student Bill of Rights

The NSNA Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities was initially adopted in 1975. The document was updated by the NSNA House of Delegates in San Antonio, Texas (1991); and item #4 was revised by the NSNA House of Delegates in Baltimore, Maryland (2006).

1. Students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and engage in a sustained and independent search for truth.
2. The freedom to teach and the freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom: students should exercise their freedom in a responsible manner.
3. Each institution has a duty to develop policies and procedures which provide and safeguard the students' freedom to learn.
4. Under no circumstances should a student be barred from admission to a particular institution on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, marital status, life style, disability, or economic status.
5. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.
6. Students should have protection through orderly procedures against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation, but they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled.
7. Information about student views, beliefs, political ideation, or sexual orientation which instructors acquire in the course of their work or otherwise, should be considered confidential and not released without the knowledge or consent of the student, and should not be used as a basis of evaluation.
8. The student should have the right to have a responsible voice in the determination of his/her curriculum.
9. Institutions should have a carefully considered policy as to the information which should be a part of a student's permanent educational record and as to the conditions of this disclosure.
10. Students and student organizations should be free to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them, and to express opinions publicly and privately.
11. Students should be allowed to invite and to hear any person of their own choosing within the institution's acceptable realm, thereby taking the responsibility of furthering their education.
12. The student body should have clearly defined means to participate in the formulation and application of institutional policy affecting academic and student affairs, e.g., through a faculty-student council, student membership or representation on faculty committees.

13. The institution has an obligation to clarify those standards of behavior which it considers essential to its educational mission, its community life, or its objectives and philosophy.
14. Disciplinary proceedings should be instituted only for violations of standards of conduct formulated with significant student participation and published in advance through such means as a student handbook or a generally available set of institutional regulations. It is the responsibility of the student to know these regulations. Grievance procedures should be available for every student.
15. As citizens and members of an academic community, students are subject to the obligations which accrue to them by virtue of this membership and should enjoy the same freedoms of citizenship.
16. Students have the right to belong or refuse to belong to any organization of their choice.
17. Students have the right to personal privacy in their living space to the extent that the welfare and property of others are respected.
18. Adequate safety precautions should be provided by nursing programs, for example, adequate street lighting, locks, and other safety measures deemed necessary by the environment.
19. Dress code, if present in school, should be established with student input in conjunction with the school director and faculty, so the highest professional standards are maintained, but also taking into consideration points of comfort and practicality for the student.
20. Grading systems should be carefully reviewed periodically with students and faculty for clarification and better student-faculty understanding.
21. Students should have a clear mechanism for input into the evaluation of nursing faculty.

Rev. 7/08

Policies

Academic Advising

- I. Purposes:
 - A. To explain the roles of the student and the advisor in the academic advising relationship.
 - B. To insure that students make satisfactory progress toward a degree or certificate.
 - C. To set standards for satisfactory progress in the nursing program.

II. Policy:

A. Academic Advising

1. Students are responsible for contacting their assigned advisor for initial advising prior to each semester's registration and at any other time that the student and advisor may deem necessary.
2. Students are strongly encouraged to have their advisor review their course load, but the advisor's signature is not necessary for the student to proceed with the registration process.
3. The help of a faculty advisor does not relieve the student of the fundamental responsibility for establishing and maintaining his/her own academic program. Students are responsible for full knowledge of the provisions of their program.
4. For courses requiring "permission of the instructor" as an alternate to a stated prerequisite course, the students must receive such permission before registering for class. Instructors reserve the right to withdraw any student who does *not* have permission.
5. Mesa State College advisors maintain a minimum of 5 scheduled office hours per week, which are scheduled for the purpose of being available to students.
6. Students must contact course instructors to have appropriate forms signed when adding or dropping classes or withdrawing from the program.
7. The advisor will refer the student to the college registrar regarding evaluation of courses for credit and other appropriate matters.
8. Students are responsible for picking up and completing *Intent to Graduate* forms from the Registrar's Office, and for making an appointment with their advisor the semester prior to graduation to complete the program sheet and petition to graduate.
9. Students are responsible for making sure all copies of transcripts from other colleges are current and on file in the nursing department. Student must provide a transcript evaluation from Registrar's Office.
10. Students must provide current Mesa State College transcript obtained from the Registrar's Office.

B. Personal Counseling

1. Students may discuss personal problems with an advisor in a confidential, accepting atmosphere.
2. Advisors will refer students for appropriate counseling when the problems are beyond the problem solving abilities of the advisor and advisee.
3. The Dean of Student Service is available to provide counseling and referral services to students seeking personal, career or substance abuse counseling and resources.

Rev. 01/05

Academic Dishonesty

1. Definition: Intentional act of fraud, in which an individual claims credit for work belonging to another individual.
2. Purpose: To identify policy related to cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information.
3. General Information:

Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

- Looking at another individual's work with the intent to use it on tests, assignments, or presentations.
- Bringing notes to a testing situation on paper or electronic device, not allowed by the instructor.
- Sharing or posting course work/assignments for clinical on the internet other than organized group study guides for tests or authorized by the instructor.
- Assisting others in cheating or plagiarizing.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Submitting of another individual's work as one's own whether it was obtained from print or electronic source.
- Unauthorized collaboration.
- Forging an academic document.
- Taking someone's ideas during class discussion without citing the individual and circumstances of the lecture.
- Paraphrasing without citing the source.
- Submitting in whole or substantial portions written or oral academic work without appropriate citation.

4. Policy:
 - A. Upon entrance into the program, all students will be required to sign a statement regarding academic dishonesty. This is in effect for the entire program of study.
 - B. The signed form should be turned in to the administrative assistant to be kept in the student's file.
 - C. Students on flexible schedules will complete the form in the first nursing course of the academic program.
 - D. Students should also read the Mesa State College Student Handbook sections on student conduct: Cheating, Plagiarism, Academic Integrity, and Discipline as these apply to all Mesa State College Students.
 - E. Information of any kind used for any department course/clinical remains the property of the department.

5. Group Work

- While the student might choose to participate in a study group, each student is responsible for his/her own assignment. Collaboration, rather than division of labor, is expected.
- Group presentations require the same standards as study group.

6. Sanctions and Disciplinary Action for Academic Dishonesty

Faculty members reserve the right to enforce sanctions for academic dishonesty. Such sanctions include, but are not limited to:

- Lowering grades or complete failure for assignments, tests, or the entire course.
- Withdrawing student from course at any time at the discretion of the nursing department.
- Students identified as violating academic honesty will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the program.
- Students who observe academic dishonesty can file a written report and turn it into the head of the department.
- Students may appeal sanctions for academic dishonesty reports made against them. Students should first appeal against the person writing the sanctions against them. If the student is not pleased with the result of the appeal, the student may then appeal to the Dean of Students.

Rev. 01/07

Please print and sign the *Academic Honesty Agreement* found in the "forms" section and return to the PN office.

Attendance - Class/Clinical

Attendance Policy

Attendance with punctuality is required for all classes, labs, and clinical experiences. Students should plan accordingly for traffic, weather, and family issues. One excused absence, tardy, or leaving class early - you must have called the instructor in advance (voice mail or e-mail messages are not acceptable) and received permission to make up work or a test - is permitted per semester per course. **The second absence, early departure, or tardy may result in a decrease of one letter grade for the course.**

Punctuality and attendance for all classes, labs, and clinical activities is an important part of professional accountability. Students are expected to:

- 1) Attend every scheduled class, lab, or clinical day. Faculty understands that on occasion an absence may be unavoidable. The following reasons may lead to an excused absence being granted:
 - a) verifiable family emergency
 - b) sudden student illness verified by health care provider
 - c) significant dependent illness/injury verified by a health care provider
 - d) death/funeral of immediate family member
 - e) mandated court appearances
 - f) university closures
 - g) other circumstances pre-approved by the course coordinator

The second excused absence in a semester will result in a written Performance Improvement Contract between the faculty member and student and may result in course grade dropping one letter grade.

Absences that do not meet the above criteria will be unexcused. The first unexcused absence will result in an automatic drop of one letter grade and placement on a Performance Improvement Contract for the remainder of their enrollment in the nursing program. Two unexcused absences in the same course will result in failure of the course. Students should have contingency plans for unexpected non-emergent situations such as car trouble and minor family illness. Dependents may not be brought to a clinical site under any circumstances. In case of an unavoidable absence, the student must notify the clinical instructor **prior to** the time scheduled for the clinical experience. Failure to notify the instructor will result in an unexcused absence.

Opportunities for making up clinical days when the student has an excused absence are at the discretion of the clinical Instructor. Communication with the instructor regarding make up must occur within 72 hours of absence and makeup must be completed prior to the last scheduled day of the semester, depending on the availability of the clinical instructor and the clinical site. A lab attendance contract will be completed and signed reflecting this agreement. Make-up times for clinical experiences are not always possible at the clinical site but hours must be made up in other appropriate learning activities. Grades for the missed clinical day are at the discretion of the course coordinator. Unexcused absences are not allowed to be made up.

It should be understood that if extra faculty time is required to make up clinical content with an individual student, there may be a fee charged to the student at current faculty rates.

- 2) Be punctual. Students must report to the clinical site on or before the time designated for the clinical experience. In the case of unavoidable tardiness, students must notify the clinical instructor and facility as early as possible **prior** to the time scheduled for the clinical experience. Unexcused tardiness may result in clinical probation or other disciplinary action.

Rev. 2/2008

Please print and sign the *Attendance Policy Agreement* found in the "forms" section and return to the PN office.

LAB ATTENDANCE

The Colorado State Board of Nursing requires 400 hours of lab for certification (Rule II Section 3.13 C 4.a.,b. & 5a.). Therefore, lab hours are required to complete and pass this course.

The student is responsible for the hours missed, making arrangements with the instructor for determining alternative assignment, and for skills check off. Faculty will coordinate this for labs.

Hours of make up lab can be obtained through volunteer programs, ie; the health fair, prostate screens, B/P screens, Well Oldster clinics, or other health related events as mutually agreed upon by instructor and student. All make up hours require documentation of time and event, signed by the medical professional at the event. In light of student scope of knowledge, the student must also identify in writing what was learned related to the course objective from participating in this event, what benefit was gained and how this event will assist the student in their scope of practice. Missed critical skill training or testing must be evaluated by a clinical instructor. Submit documented lab make up to faculty.

This document will be placed in the student's file as evidence of alternative assignment.

Student: _____

Hours of missed lab: _____

Date of skills check off: _____

Alternative Assignment: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Instructor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Comments: _____

Rev. 2/2008

Bringing Children to Class

- I. Purpose: To ensure a conducive learning environment for all students.
- II. General Information
 - A. Children should not be brought to class. It is unreasonable to expect children to maintain decorum for lengthy class periods. Material presented may not always be appropriate for children.
 - B. In an emergency situation, and only with course instructor's permission, a child may be brought to class. If the child's behavior becomes disrupting or distracting, the child's parent must immediately remove the child from the classroom.

Rev. 01/05

Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification

- I. Purpose: To assure that the student maintains certification.
- II. General Information:
 - A. Students must have a current CPR card upon entry into the nursing program.
 - B. Students must maintain a valid CPR certification throughout the remainder of the program.
- III. Procedure:
 - A. The student must attend a CPR course for the professional caregiver approved by the American Heart Association, as follows:
 - BCLS-C from the American Heart Association
 - B. The student must present a valid CPR certification card to the program coordinator at the beginning of each academic year.

Rev. 01/05

Collective Bargaining Activities

- I. Purpose: To clarify the role of students in collective bargaining activities in clinical agencies.
- II. Policy:
 - A. When functioning in the student role, individuals will maintain a position of neutrality in relation to collective bargaining activities at agencies used for clinical experiences.
 - B. In the event of a work stoppage, the faculty will evaluate the appropriateness of the site for the scheduled learning experience.
 - C. If it is determined that the facility would not provide the desired learning experience, alternate methods of meeting clinical objectives will be utilized.

D. If a faculty member or student is assigned to an institution where they are also an employee, as an independent professional, he/she will assume accountability for action regarding strike notice activities during non-working or non-clinical assignment hours.

Rev. 01/05

Confidentiality

I. Purpose: To provide guidelines about Mesa State College's Department of Health Sciences position on confidentiality and protection of privacy

II. Policy

A. A confidential communication is one that contains information given by one person to another under circumstances of trust and confidence with the understanding that such information must not be disclosed. Clearly, information about a patient—gathered by examination, observation, conversation, or treatment—is the type of confidential information the law has always protected. Nurses are legally and morally obligated to keep secret any information about a patient's illness or treatment that is obtained in the normal course of their professional duties. The observance of confidentiality is one of the fundamental tenets of the Code for Professional Nurses adopted by the American Nurses' Association and is also addressed in the *NSNA Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct*.

B. Students will receive initial and ongoing education about confidentiality and patient privacy during their nursing education.

1. At the beginning of each semester, students will view the video, "Confidentiality: Ethical and Legal Considerations" by Medcom/Trainex, found in the ATL.
2. At level I, the student will receive printed information about Confidentiality (see after this policy in this handbook), and will be required to sign a form stating agreement to comply with this policy.
3. The form must be signed and a copy returned to the Department to be placed in student's file before being allowed to attend clinical.
4. In specified courses at each Level, students must re-view the video and receive proof from the ATL lab aid that the video was watched. Each semester, faculty will highlight specific issues regarding confidentiality that are unique to each clinical or academic course.

C. RN-BSN students will provide evidence of confidentiality training at their respective institution and must also submit the signed Confidentiality agreement form.

D. In the academic setting, a patient may be extended to include a guest speaker or individual whose knowledge or experience is used to assist with the students' learning in the classroom or clinical environment. Faculty may also ask students to maintain confidentiality during other learning experiences in which confidential or sensitive information may be shared (i.e. ASSIST training, group discussions or processes).

1. All members of the health care team are duty bound to treat patients with decency, respect, and the greatest degree of privacy possible. At the very least, this means that the patient should be seen, examined, and handled only by those persons directly

- involved in his or her care and treatment. Unnecessary exposure of the patient's body or unwarranted discussion of his or her care with third parties will give rise to a legal cause of action for invasion of privacy, with appropriate damages assessed against the offending party. The nurse must always be alert to any witting or unwitting violation of the patient's right of privacy
2. Only those individuals directly involved in care of a patient or client shall have access to patient records or information, whether in electronic or paper format.
 3. Students may not access patient records of themselves, other students, family members, or patients unless they are directly involved in their care as a student.
 4. Students may discuss patient information with their instructor and preceptor or other involved in assisting with care of a patient.
 5. Students may discuss their patient with other students to assist with the students' learning in the classroom or post-clinical conference. No discussions (e.g. direct conversations, cell phones, text messaging) can occur outside of these "confidential" settings, including lunchroom or break rooms, hallways, non-clinical settings, or in social networking media (ie.g. Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, Twitter).
 6. In general, if information from a patient's chart is disclosed without the patient's express consent, or without a court order or express statutory authority, the hospital--as well as those who actually made the disclosure--may be held liable in damages should the patient be able to prove invasion of privacy or perhaps defamation of character.
- E. Every person has the right to withhold his or her person, personality, and property from unwarranted public scrutiny. This right--called the right of privacy--includes the freedom to live one's life without having one's name, photograph, or private affairs made public against one's will. A negligent violation can have serious legal consequences. A patient places the integrity of his or her person and reputation in the hands of all health care personnel who attend him or her, and they must always be aware of their legal and ethical responsibility to preserve and protect the patient's right to privacy.
1. Students must protect the privacy of those they care for and not reveal patient names or identities on assignments, journals, or any other written or electronic means. Students may use a patient's initials on assignments. "Identity" refers to age, sex, room number, name of hospital, physician, date of birth.
 2. Students may not take photographs of patients without prior written consent according to hospital policies.

III. Disciplinary action

- A. Student nurses will be held liable for their own acts of negligence committed in the course of clinical experiences. If they are performing duties that are within the scope of professional nursing, they will be held to the same standard of skill and competence as registered professional nurses. A lower standard of care will not be applied to the actions of nursing students.
1. Breach of confidentiality or patient privacy will result in disciplinary action up to and including immediate expulsion of the student(s) involved.

2. The department head and/or program director will meet with the student(s) to discuss the breach and develop a disciplinary contract that will be in effect for the remainder of the student's nursing degree program. Any subsequent breach of confidentiality or patient privacy will result in immediate administrative withdrawal from the nursing program.
3. The department head will notify the Vice President for Student Affairs to inform them of the disciplinary contract.
4. The department head and/or program director will notify the chief nursing officer when a breach has occurred for a patient at a healthcare facility, and provide information to assist the agency in their investigation and reporting of the breach.

B. Statutes of Nurse Practice Act 12-38-117. Grounds for Discipline

1. The board has the power to revoke, suspend, withhold or refuse to renew any license, to place on probation a licensee or temporary license holder, or to issue a letter of admonition to a licensee in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (3) of this section, upon proof that such person...has violated the confidentiality of information or knowledge as prescribed by law concerning any patient;

References:

Westrick, S. and Dempsey, K. *Essentials of nursing law and ethics*, Sudberry, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 2009. Rev. 5/09

State of Colorado, (2008). *Colorado nurse practice act*, Retrieved online May 5, 2009 from <http://www.dora.state.co.us/nursing/statutes/nursepracticeact.pdf>
Rev. 6/00, 8/04, 02/10

Please print and sign the Confidentiality Agreement found in the "forms" section, and return to the PN office.

Rev. 01/05

Course and Faculty Evaluation

- I. Purpose: To assist faculty in strengthening course offerings and improving the quality of teaching in the nursing program.
- II. Policy:
 - A. Course Evaluations:
 1. Each course in the curriculum is evaluated on a rotating basis. Students evaluate the course in relation to whether course objectives have been met, and whether the teaching methodologies were effective in fostering their learning.
 2. Students are requested to identify, strengthen and to make realistic suggestions for course improvement.
 3. Course evaluations need not be signed by the student evaluator.
 4. Forms for course evaluation are provided to the students by each course instructor.

5. The course evaluations are analyzed by the instructor to determine student perceptions of course strengths and weaknesses.
6. The results of the analysis are shared with the nursing faculty at the close of each semester.
7. The instructors consider student suggestions to strengthen course offerings in revising and updating courses.

B. Evaluation of Faculty:

1. The process of evaluation for faculty is designated in the Mesa State College *Handbook for Professional Personnel*.
2. The students are encouraged to provide constructive feedback in relation to areas for improvement and to identify the strengths of the faculty member.
3. Faculty evaluations need not be signed by the student evaluator.
4. The student evaluations of faculty are analyzed and submitted to the Chair. The results are communicated to the faculty member.
5. Faculty members incorporate student suggestions which will strengthen the quality of teaching in the program.

Rev. 01/05

Dress Code

I. Purpose: To set standards for students' appearance in the clinical laboratories.

II. General Information:

- A. A professional appearance and attitude must be maintained while in clinical area.
- B. The student is required to follow the dress code stipulated by each clinical agency.
- C. The Mesa State College name pin (with first name and last initial) which is ordered shortly after school begins must be worn with uniform or lab coat during the clinical experience.
- D. Gum chewing is not allowed on clinical units.
- E. Anything which will cause offensive mouth odors should not be eaten prior to or during clinical experience
- F. Clean hair is worn short or arranged in such a manner that it does not interfere with nursing care. Long hair must either be anchored above collar level or restrained in an appropriate manner. Hair color should be a natural color.
- G. The only acceptable jewelry includes a watch, wedding ring(s) and a single, small, plain post style ear stud. No obvious jewelry in any body part, except ear lobes, is acceptable. A student with a pierced tongue must wear a clear stud.
- H. Laboratory coat is required at certain times during the clinical experience which must be suit-coat length or longer and have 3/4 length or longer sleeves. When wearing a laboratory coat, jeans, halters, shorts, leggings and exercise attire are not acceptable.

- I. Only white, long sleeved shirts may be worn under scrubs.
- J. Students are expected to maintain appropriate personal hygiene. Use of personal fragrances, such as lotion, perfume and aftershave is inappropriate. Students must make every attempt to eliminate smoking and other offensive odors from clothes.
- K. Student must make an attempt to cover any body art.

III. Female Student's Uniform/Appearance

Style Royal Blue standard dress, pantsuit, or skirt/pants uniform. Uniforms must be of a heavy weight material, so that underclothing cannot be seen. No white denim. Tuck-in tops are approved if of modest design. No cuffs (like sweats) and no dress shorts type uniforms allowed. Midriff and/or cleavage must not be visible, even when bending and lifting.

Length Hem of dress uniform must be at least knee length.

Shoes White (regulation) leather or nursing shoe type, cleaned and polished. No canvas tennis shoes, boots, sneakers, or sandals. Clogs must have a back strap.

Hose White or natural hose are worn with dress uniform. Students may wear white anklets in their shoes that do not exceed the top of the shoes when wearing a dress-type uniform.

Nails Nails must be clean, short and neatly trimmed. If polish is worn, it must be clear or a pale neutral shade and not chipped. No artificial nails may be worn.

IV. Male Student's Uniform/Appearance:

Pants Royal Blue uniform top and white pants. No white denim. Uniforms must be of a heavy weight material, so that underclothing cannot be seen.

Shoes White (regulation) leather or nursing shoe type, cleaned and polished. No canvas tennis shoes, boots, sneakers, or sandals. Clogs must have a back strap. Crocks must have no open dots – must be solid.

Socks White only.

Hair Facial hair needs to be clean shaven or a well trimmed beard. Chest hair may not be visible, even when bending and lifting.

Nails Must be clean, short and neatly trimmed.

V. Uniform Code Modifications:

Pants: Black/khaki (Dockers style); no capris or denim

Skirts: Knee length or full length, no denim

Shirts: Mesa State College polo shirt (*any color*) with *embroidered MSC logo* (This shirt can be obtained through the college bookstore the first semester of the program.)

All other dress code requirements apply as delineated under general information. Shoes and socks must follow dress code in this situation..

Rev. 09/08

Electronic Media and Communications

I. Purpose: To define appropriate use of electronic media in classroom and clinical settings

II. General Information:

- A. Electronic communication devices (cell phones, texting), which can facilitate sharing information in a timely and consistent manner, may also create the potential for breaching patient privacy in clinical settings.
- B. Electronic media (cell phones, smart phones, laptops, PDAs) can facilitate the learning process in the classroom setting, however, can also create the potential to interfere with the classroom learning environment.
- C. Social networking media (i.e. Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, MySpace) are public forums which can facilitate networking and communication. Unprofessional and unethical communications by nurses in such public forums has led to serious consequences with their employers and the state Board of Nursing. In addition, confidential information about a patient discussed by a nurse at any time represents a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) (*Nursing 2010*, Jan. 2010, p. 10).

III. Policy:

- A. Students may not use cell phones, smart phones, or laptops in hospital clinical facilities to protect patient and staff privacy. Electronic device(s) should remain in the student's car or in the designated location for student backpacks/coats/personal belongings. Students may use electronic devices outside of the clinical facility, however, should use discretion when patients or families are present and avoid all circumstances that might breach patient confidentiality or privacy.
- B. Students in community based clinical rotations may carry a cell phone for emergency communication purposes, however, should use discretion when patients or families are present and avoid all circumstances that might breach patient confidentiality or privacy.
- C. Students shall use the pager system to contact their instructor for assistance during their clinical experience. In the event of an emergency, families or day care providers may contact a student during clinical or classes according to the Emergency Contact policy.
- D. Faculty will inform students in each class of the appropriate uses of electronic media in the classroom settings for note taking, reviewing power point slides, in-class assignments or research.
 - 1. Faculty has the right to restrict student use of electronic media during examinations.
 - 2. Faculty has the right to restrict student use of electronic media when students are using the device for non-academic purposes in the classroom setting (i.e. email, Facebook, Twitter, texting).
 - 3. Faculty may develop performance improvement contracts for students who violate the privilege of using electronic media in the classroom or clinical setting.
- E. Communications in social networking media which violate the BSN Student Handbook policies (i.e. Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct, Confidentiality, or Ethics) will lead to disciplinary action according to the respective policy.

02/10

Email Addresses

IV. Purpose: To enhance relevant communication within the Department of Health Sciences.

V. General Information:

D. Electronic communication will facilitate information in a timely and consistent manner.

E. Students are given free email addresses as part of the college community.

VI. Policy:

E. Student must have an MSC email account upon entering the program, which may be obtained from the Computer Lab in the Library.

F. It is the student's responsibility to check his/her email address on a routine basis. Important student announcements and program information will be sent to all nursing students via email.

To forward your campus mail to another email system:

This is handy for students who already are using another system, such as Hotmail, AOL or Yahoo, to get all of their mail at one address. To forward your campus email to another system:

- Log onto your campus email account per above;
- Click "Preferences";
- Scroll down to "Forwarding";
- Put a check mark in the box next to "Enabled";
- In the box next to "Forward to:" type in the email address to which you want your mail forwarded;
- Scroll all the way to the bottom and click the "Apply" box;
- Finally, run a test to make sure it is working by sending a test message to yourself at students.mesastate.edu.

Emergency Communication

- I. Purpose: To identify a process for facilitation of emergency communications between students, families, and faculty members.
- II. Policy
 - A. Students and faculty who are in hospital clinical settings will not have access to use of cell phones for emergency communications from family members, day care providers, or others.
 - B. Clinical faculty will create a handout at the beginning of each semester with emergency contact information (pager numbers) for students to share with family, day care providers, and schools.
 - C. Clinical faculty will carry a pager that can be activated when a student (or faculty) needs to be contacted in the event of an emergency.
 1. To activate a faculty pager – **970-298-7606; enter pager id number for the faculty member; enter your call back number**. The faculty member will call you back from a phone at the clinical facility.
 2. In the event of an emergency, family members or day care providers can also call the Department of Health Sciences during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00) at **970-248-1398**.
 3. In the event of an emergency outside of normal business hours, family members or day care providers should contact the on-call Program Director for assistance at the following emergency pager number: **970-298-7606; enter pager id number 2255; enter your call back number**. **The on-call Program Director will call you back from a phone at the clinical facility**.
 - D. Clinical and class schedules and emergency contact numbers for all students and faculty will be maintained in the Department of Health Sciences and updated each semester to facilitate rapid communication in the event of an emergency.

02/10

Ethics

- I. Purpose: To define the obligation and responsibility for nursing student and faculty ethical behavior.
- II. General Information
 - A. Having a code of ethics has long been a hallmark of disciplines considered to be professions. A code of ethics is an implied contract through which the profession informs society of the principles and rules by which it functions (*Professional Nursing*, Chitty, 2007).
 - B. The *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* (ANA, 2001) is the nursing profession's expression of its ethical values and duties to the public.
 1. The nurse, in all professional relationships, practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and uniqueness of every individual, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems.
 2. The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, or community.
 3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient.
 4. The nurse is responsible and accountable for individual nursing practice and determines the appropriate delegation of tasks consistent with the nurse's obligation to provide optimum patient care.
 5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to preserve integrity and safety, to main competence, and to continue personal and professional growth.
 6. The nurse participates in establishing, maintaining, and improving health care environments and conditions of employment conducive to the provision of quality health care and consistent with the values of the profession through individual and collective action.
 7. The nurse participates in the advancement of the profession through contributions to practice, education, administration, and knowledge development.
 8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public in promoting community, national, and international efforts to meet health needs.
 9. The profession of nursing, as represented by associations and their members, is responsible for articulating nursing values, for maintaining the integrity of the profession and its practice, and for shaping social policy.
 - C. Students of nursing have a responsibility to society in learning the academic theory and clinical skills needed to provide nursing care. The NSNA Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct (p. 37) is based on an understanding that to practice nursing as a student is an agreement to uphold the trust which society has placed in us. The statements of the Code provide guidance for the nursing student in the personal development of an ethical foundation and need not be limited strictly to the academic or clinical environment but can assist in the holistic development of the person.

- D. Human dignity and respect for persons is the foundation of ethical principles used in nursing practice
1. Autonomy is based on the assertion that individuals have the right to determine their own actions and the freedom to make their own decisions.
 2. Beneficence is defined as “the doing of good” and is often thought to be the most critical ethical principle in health care. The student nurse should always consider one’s actions in the context of promoting good for others.
 3. Nonmaleficence is defined as the duty to do no harm. The student nurse must not knowingly act in a manner that would intentionally harm another.
 4. Veracity is defined as “telling the truth” and is the foundation for development of trust between human beings. Student nurses are expected to be accountable in telling the truth with their patients, peers, agency staff, and faculty.
 5. Fidelity refers to faithfulness or honoring one’s commitments or promises to patients. A student nurse accepts certain responsibilities as part of the contract with society by upholding the NSNA Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct.
 6. Justice states that equals should be treated the same, and that unequals should be treated differently. Student nurses should treat people the same, unless they differ in ways that are specific to a situation (i.e. disability, cultural or age differences).

(Professional Nursing, Chitty, 2007).

III. Policy:

1. Nursing students will be held accountable for demonstrating ethical behavior.
2. Concerns about unethical behavior by a student nurse should be immediately reported to a faculty member and/or the Program Director.
3. Self-reporting of unethical behavior demonstrates accountability and will be considered in the disciplinary process.
4. The identity of a student who reports suspected unethical behavior by another student or faculty will be protected in the investigation process.
5. The faculty member and/or Program Director will investigate in a timely fashion the reported behavior to determine if there is evidence that a violation of the Ethics policy has occurred.
6. The faculty member and/or Program Director will develop a performance improvement plan that includes disciplinary sanctions that address the specific violation.
7. A recurrent pattern of unethical behavior by a student nurse may lead to administrative withdrawal from the program.

02/10

Exit - PN-ATI Comprehensive Predictor Examination

IV. Purpose: To define the obligation and process for the exit examination.

V. General Information

- A. In July of 1985, Article XII of House Bill 1187, enacted by the Colorado General Assembly, mandated that institutions of higher education in Colorado demonstrate student's improvement in knowledge, capacities and skills between entrance and graduation.
- B. The PN-ATI Comprehensive Predictor Examination will be given in the last semester of the year of expected graduation.
- C. Students must achieve a passing score on the PN-ATI Comprehensive Predictor Examination for the Practical Nurse program.
- D. Students will be notified of the required score for passing the PN-ATI Comprehensive Predictor Examination at the start of the semester.

VI. Policy:

- A. The dates for the taking of the PN-ATI Comprehensive Predictor Examination will be announced to students in the senior level courses at least one month prior to the time.
- D. Students will be immediately notified of their results.
- E. If a student does not receive a passing score, the test must be re-taken until a passing score is achieved

Rev. 01/05

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

GENERAL POLICY

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides students who are enrolled in an institution of postsecondary education the right to inspect, review, and challenge their educational records. Mesa State College has the responsibility of maintaining and protecting the confidentiality of students' official educational records. Mesa State College also supervises the access to and/or release of educational records of its students. FERPA now covers enrolled and former students, including deceased students. Students who are not accepted to Mesa State College, or if accepted, do not attend, have no rights under FERPA.

PRIVACY

No person shall have access to, nor will Mesa State College disclose any personal identifiable information from, a student's records without the written consent of the student *except*:

1. To school officials, including faculty, staff, and student workers, who have a legitimate educational or administrative interest in the records (*i.e.*, performing appropriate task related to position, student's education, service, etc.).
2. To other schools in which the student seeks to enroll.
3. To certain officials of the U.S. Department of Education, and state and local educational authorities, in connection with certain state or federally supported educational programs.
4. In connection with a student's request for or receipt of financial aid, as necessary to determine the eligibility, amount or conditions of the financial aid, or to enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.
5. To organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the College.
6. If required by a state law requiring disclosure that was adopted before November 19, 1974.
7. To accrediting organizations to carry out their functions.
8. To comply with a federal judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena having jurisdiction over Mesa State College (upon reasonable effort to notify the student of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance, unless ordered by subpoena not to do so).
9. To parents of an eligible student who claim the student as a dependent (according to Internal Revenue Code of 1954, Section 154) for income tax purposes on their most current federal tax return.
10. To appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency (if necessary to protect the health and safety of students or other persons).
11. After completion of the College disciplinary process, to parents of students under 21 years of age, and to certain victims of student misbehavior as defined by FERPA.
12. As it relates to Directory Information unless the student restricts Directory Information in writing.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Mesa State College may, without the consent of the student, release to persons outside the institution information designated as Directory Information in accordance with the provisions of

FERPA. Directory Information shall include information in an educational record which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, including but not limited to:

1. Student name, address, telephone number
2. date and place of birth
3. major fields of study
4. participation in officially recognized activities and sports
5. weight and height of athletic team members
6. photograph
7. dates of attendance to include enrollment status (*i.e.*, full time or part time)
8. degrees and awards received
9. most recent educational institution attended
10. e-mail address

Note: *At any time, a student may request to the Registrar's Office that Directory Information not be released to other parties without written permission. This request will be honored until the student requests in writing that Directory Information be disclosed.*

ACCESS TO STUDENT EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

FERPA provides current, former students, and parents of dependent students the right to inspect, review, and challenge their educational records. Students are permitted to inspect and review their educational records with a maximum of 45 days after the request is received. Students may not review financial information received from their parents or guardians, confidential letters and recommendations placed in their files prior to January 1, 1975, academic records containing information regarding other students, administrative, disciplinary, law enforcement, student health records, and/or records which are maintained in the sole possession of the maker. While students who have a financial hold or past due account (all holds included) have a right to inspect their academic records, no transcript will be released to the student or other party until holds are reconciled. Bankruptcy, however, removes any financial obligations the student has to Mesa State College.

PROCESS TO CORRECT RECORDS

Upon review, a student may request to the Registrar, in writing, to have his/her educational records amended due to inaccuracies, misleading information or a violation of privacy rights. If the request is denied, the student will be notified in writing and informed of the right to a formal hearing with a hearing officer who is a disinterested party. This hearing officer may, however, be an official of the College. Should a hearing be requested, the student may pick up the appropriate forms at the Registrar's Office. The decision of the hearing officer will be final.

PLEASE CONTACT THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE (970-248-1555) IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS POLICY

Grading/Testing

- I. Purpose: To describe the system for grading, the examination process and grade reporting.
- II. General Information
 - A. Instructors have the freedom to determine the grading criteria for individual courses.
 - B. All sections of the same course will follow the same grading criteria.
 - C. Instructors will determine the components that comprise the final grade in a course and include this information in the course syllabus, along with course expectations.
 - D. The commonly used grading system in nursing is:

93-100%	=	A
85-92%	=	B
76-84%	=	C
70-75%	=	D
69 and below	=	F

- III. Academic Standards

Academic standards will be followed as explained in the Mesa State College Catalog.

- IV. Examinations

- A. The faculty member may administer unit, midterm and final examinations as part of the evaluation process.
- B. The faculty member may assign an alternate learning project to examine mastery of course content when appropriate.
- C. The class must meet during the final examination period to fulfill standard requirements for semester instructional time.
- D. Students are expected to take examinations at scheduled times. With prior approval of the faculty member, an examination may be taken at another time. The students and the faculty member must make specific arrangements for date and time and location.
- E. Special testing needs must have documentation provided by the appropriate campus student support services?

- V. Grade Reporting

- A. Final grades must be submitted to the Records Office by the deadline. Grades are entered online and instructions are provided by the Registrar.
- B. Faculty members may not post grades unless written authorization is given by the students.
- C. Final grades are posted on Maverick online section of the MSC website.
- D. A copy of the final grade submitted by faculty is kept on file in the department office.

See "Letter Clarifying Department Grading System" in the "forms" section

Date: 01/05

Grading Criteria

I. Purpose: To provide descriptions of the letter grades used in the PN Program.

II. General Information

The following information provides guidelines for evaluation of clinical practice. The descriptions indicate how well the student has met outcomes or objectives for the course and/or clinical lab.

The descriptors (1,2,3,4) are defined as:

1. Degree of supervision required for the selected course's level of clinical practice (considers safety and accuracy of student performance).
2. Competence of nursing care, such as problem solving, setting priorities, observation skills, appropriateness in designing care strategies, dexterity, and interactions with clients, staff and peers.
3. Depth and breadth of preparation for clinical practice and ability to apply theory and skills in clinical setting.
4. Motivation and readiness for clinical practice as well as demonstration of interest and self-directed learning.

The A (4) student:

1. Consistently functions with little or no guidance, except in very complex situations
2. Demonstrates outstanding performance of nursing care
3. Demonstrates superior knowledge and consistently integrates appropriate knowledge with skills
4. Is consistently self-directed in his/her approach to learning (*e.g.* initiates new learning experiences)

The B (3) student:

1. Generally functions satisfactorily with minimum guidance in the usual clinical situation
2. Demonstrates above average performance of nursing care
3. Solidly demonstrates accurate and appropriate knowledge and usually integrates knowledge with skills
4. Recognizes learning opportunities but may require assistance in utilizing them

The C (2) student:

1. Functions safely with moderate amount of guidance in the usual clinical situation
2. Demonstrates average performance of nursing care
3. Demonstrates adequate knowledge and requires moderate assistance in integrating knowledge with skills
4. Requires some direction in recognizing and utilizing learning opportunities

The D (1) student:

1. Usually requires intense guidance for the performance of activities at a safe level
2. Clinical performance reflects difficulty in the provision of nursing care

3. Demonstrates gaps in necessary knowledge and requires frequent assistance in integrating knowledge and skills
4. Requires frequent and detailed instruction regarding learning opportunities

The F (0) student:

1. Is considered unsafe to practice without constant, intense guidance
2. Failed to meet clinical objectives
3. Frequently lacks necessary knowledge and skills and is unable to integrate these into practice
4. Requires constant, detailed instruction regarding learning opportunities and is often unable to utilize them

Graduation

I. Purpose: To identify requirements for graduation from Mesa State College with a Practical Nurse Certificate.

II. Policy:

A. PN Graduation requirements

To graduate from Mesa State College with a certificate in Practical Nursing a student must:

1. Have been regularly enrolled for at least 2 semesters, including the semester during which graduation requirements are met, and must have earned a minimum of 16 semester hours at Mesa State College for a certificate.
2. Meet with their advisor to complete their program sheet.
3. After the program sheet is approved by the Department Chair, the student must file with the Registrar an application for graduation *during the semester preceding the semester in which graduation requirements are to be met.*
4. Satisfy all general and specific requirements of the college including the fulfillment of all financial obligations.
5. Have removed from the official record all marks of deficiency in those subjects for credit toward graduation.
6. The catalog used to determine graduation requirements is the academic year in which the student enrolls in the first nursing course.

B. Scholastic requirements

1. Only lower division courses will be accepted in fulfilling general education requirements.
2. Students are required to complete the curriculum or course of study in which they initially enroll, provided courses needed to complete the program are available. The student cannot choose part of the program from one catalog and part from another. If a student resumes study or begins a new course of study at Mesa State College after having been absent from college for one academic year or more, the student must follow the curriculum or course of study at the time of re-enrollment unless the school

- concerned gives written authorization for the student to pursue a different curriculum or course of study.
3. Mesa State College reserves the right to evaluate on a course by course basis any transfer credits earned 15 or more years prior to enrollment, which the student wishes to apply toward any degree.
 4. Nursing course credit which is earned 5 or more years prior to the semester of graduation and meets degree requirements must be revalidated. (See Revalidation of Nursing Courses Policy.)
 5. Science courses (BIOL 209 and 209L, BIOL 210 and 210L) required as prerequisites by the PN program, must have been taken within the last five (5) years to fulfill graduation requirements. If the course was not taken within the last five (5) years, the course must be re-taken or competency proven by a challenge examination. The challenge examination process may only be accomplished if a college-level course has been successfully completed previously with a letter grade of "C" or higher awarded. The final approval for all accepted support course requirements and/or challenge examination will be made by the Department of Health Sciences.
 7. A GPA of 2.0 or higher must be maintained in all courses that apply to the PN certificate.
 8. An overall cumulative GPA of 2.0 is required for graduation.

Rev. 01/05

Grievance and Appeals

I. Purpose:

To provide guidelines and a process for timely and fair resolution of complaints or problems related to grades, school and departmental policies/rules/regulations, or academic decisions for students in Health Sciences programs at Mesa State College.

II. Policy:

A. Grievance/appeal related to a grade.

1. Schedule a meeting with the clinical preceptor, instructor or faculty member within five (5) days to discuss the grievance. If the problem is resolved through the initial meeting, no further action is indicated.
2. Failing successful resolution, the student may wish to appeal, doing so within five (5) working days by filing a written appeal with the appropriate Program Director. The Program Director will render a decision in writing, with explanation, within 10 days.
3. If dissatisfied with the Program Director's decision, within five (5) working days, the student will file a written appeal with the Department Head.

4. The Department Head will investigate and render a decision in writing within 10 days. If the student still does not believe the conflict has been resolved, the student is directed to the Mesa State College Student Handbook (p.23) for further steps to be taken.
<http://www.mesastate.edu/main/policies/studenthandbk/2006-2007AcademicStudentPolicies.pdf>

B. Grievance/appeal related to a sanction for Academic Dishonesty

1. Students should first direct their appeal in writing to the faculty member who imposed the sanction.
2. Students who do not agree with the result of the decision made by the faculty member may appeal that decision in writing to the appropriate department head.
3. When the decision regarding the appeal is not resolved within the department, the student may appeal in writing to the Academic Dishonesty Committee. The point of contact for that complaint is the Office of the Vice President for Student Services and Outreach.
4. In instances when the Academic Dishonesty Committee issued the sanction that is being appealed, the appeal should be directed to the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.
5. The Mesa State College Student Handbook includes information related to academic dishonesty (p. 23)
<http://www.mesastate.edu/main/policies/studenthandbk/2006-2007AcademicStudentPolicies.pdf>

C. Grievance/appeal related to a Campus Student Conduct hearing or sanction

1. A decision reached by Campus Student Conduct hearing or a sanction imposed may be appealed by accused students within five (5) working days of the decision. Such appeals shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Vice President for Student Services and Outreach or his/her designee.
2. The Mesa State College Student Handbook includes information related to appeal of a Campus Student Conduct hearing or sanction (p. 8)
<http://www.mesastate.edu/main/policies/studenthandbk/2006-2007AcademicStudentPolicies.pdf>

D. Grievance/appeal related to a program policy, rule or decision

1. Schedule a meeting with the program director to discuss the grievance or ask the elected student representative to bring the grievance to the PN faculty meeting. If the problem is resolved through the initial meeting, no further action is indicated.
2. Failing successful resolution, the student may wish to appeal, doing so within five (5) working days by filing a written appeal with the

Department Head. The Department Head will render a decision in writing, with explanation, within 10 days.

3. If the student still does not believe the conflict has been resolved, the student may wish to file a written appeal to the Vice President of Academic Affairs within five (5) working days. The Vice President of Academic Affairs or her/his designee will render a final decision in writing, with explanation, within 10 days.

E. Grievance/appeal related to a departmental, rule or decision

1. Schedule a meeting with the Department Head to discuss the grievance. If the problem is resolved through the initial meeting, no further action is indicated.
2. Failing successful resolution, the student may wish to appeal, doing so within five (5) working days by filing a written appeal with the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Vice President of Academic Affairs will render a decision in writing, with explanation, within 10 days.

F. Grievance/appeal related to a college, rule or decision

1. Attend (or schedule) a meeting with the Associated Student Government (ASG) leadership to discuss the grievance. ASG leadership will identify a strategy for discussion, mediation, or challenge of the college policy or rule with appropriate campus representatives. If the problem is resolved, no further action is indicated.
2. Failing successful resolution, the student may wish to appeal, doing so within five (5) working days by filing a written appeal with the President of Mesa State College. The President or her/his designee will render a decision in writing, with explanation, within 10 days.

Date: 09/08

Guide to Challenge Exams

This document is to aid the nursing student in discovering when, where and how different courses might be challenged for credit. If credit has not already been earned, it is possible to challenge out of a total of 30 hours of coursework, if the student feels qualified. A partial list of available challenge exams and the course work they fulfill follows.

		Passing Grade	Credits	
Math	College Algebra	MATH 113	45	4
English	College Composition	ENGL 111	47	3
Humanities	American History I	HIST 131	45	3
	American History II	HIST 132	45	3
	American Literature	ENGL 261, 262	46	6
	Western Civilization I	HIST 101	46	3
	Western Civilization II	HIST 102	47	3
Social/Behavioral Sciences	Introduction to Macroeconomics	ECON 201	48	3
	Introduction to Microeconomics	ECON202	47	3
	American Government	POLS 101	47	3
	Human Growth & Development	PSYC 233	45	3
	Introduction to Sociology	SOC 260	47	3
Natural Sciences	General Biology (no lab credit)	BIOL 101, 102	46	4
	General Chemistry (no lab credit)	CHEM 121, 122	47	8
		CHEM 131, 132	47	8

See the full list of CLEP courses at MSC at www.mesastate.edu. Also, obtain a copy of "Colorado Consortium for Independent Study via Correspondence" (from the continuing education office). This book describes general education and nursing elective courses (Ethical Issues and Gerontological Nursing). Check with the appropriate department to get approval BEFORE registering for a specific course.

NOTE: Returning RNs from non-NLN accredited programs and PNs from Vo-tech schools are limited in the number of hours they may challenge.

Rev. 8/04

Immunizations

I. Purpose: To provide information and guidelines for vaccinations required for admission and ongoing progress in the nursing program.

II. General Information

A. Hepatitis B

1. Hepatitis B is a common and serious disease which causes acute and chronic inflammation of the liver. It is spread by significant contact with blood, blood products or body secretions of patients who are either acutely or chronically infected with the virus. It may be spread by such contacts as needlesticks, household or sexual contact with Hepatitis B carriers, through hemodialysis, by receiving blood or blood products or concentrates, or by close contact with groups having a high incidence of this disease.
2. There is now a safe, highly effective, licensed vaccine for the prevention of Hepatitis B. The vaccine against Hepatitis B, prepared from recombinant yeast cultures, is free of association with human blood or blood products. The vaccine is given in three injections. Following the initial injection one dose is given at one month and the third dose is given at a 6-month interval after the first.
3. Student must have received the series of shots in order to continue in the program. Documentation that student has started the series is required on admittance to the program and dates of completion of the series must be submitted to the department.

B. Tetanus

A current Tetanus (Td) vaccination must be documented for admittance into the nursing program. Tetanus boosters are required every 10 years and must be current to continue in the program.

C. Measles, Mumps, Rubella

Documented immunity to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella are required for admittance into the nursing program. Immunity may be documented by one of the following:

1. Born before 1/1/57 (date of birth)
2. Documentation of physician-diagnoses measles
3. Documentation of two doses of vaccine
4. Laboratory evidence of immunity to measles (titer)

D. Tuberculosis

There is no recommended vaccination for tuberculosis. Student must obtain a **two-step** PPD (TB skin test) on admission to the program and maintain yearly documentation of negative PPD status or negative chest X-ray.

E. Varicella

Any student receiving a varicella vaccination should do so at least one month before beginning nursing classes. Students should not attend clinical rotations for 30 days after a

varicella vaccination due to the rare possibility of on contracting varicella after the immunization and exposing patients and faculty at clinicals.

- F. Student who are pregnant are referred to their physician for advice re: safety of immunization during pregnancy. A written waiver for immunizations must be submitted to the department.
- G. Due to increased risk of exposure during clinical or college environment, students are encourage to obtain meningococcal and influenza vaccines.

Rev. 01/05

Pathogens-Bloodborne /Needle Stick Exposure/Injury Policy

I. PURPOSE

- a. To provide a protocol for students in the Department of Health Sciences to receive appropriate treatment after exposure to a bloodborne pathogen.
- b. To provide systems and processes to minimize occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens
- c. To comply with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard 29 CFR1910.1030
- d. To provide guidelines for injury follow up

II. POLICY

The Department of Health Sciences at Mesa State College has established and maintains the following Exposure Control Plan to eliminate or minimize occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

A copy of the Exposure Control Plan is kept in the department Policy and Procedure Manual. The plan is available to all employees upon hire and is reviewed for all employees during orientation and annually thereafter. All students are oriented to the policy before clinical rotations involving exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

The Exposure Control Plan is reviewed and updated as needed, but no less than annually by the Policy Committee and designated employees to:

- Reflect changes in technology that eliminate or reduce exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
- Document consideration and implementation of appropriate commercially available and effective safer medical devices

A. Program Administration:

The Department Head is responsible for the implementation of the Exposure Control Plan (ECP). He/She will maintain, review and update the ECP at least annually, and whenever necessary to include new or modified tasks and procedures.

Those employees who are determined to have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) must comply with the procedures and work practices outlined in this ECP.

Employees and students who experience an exposure incident will immediately report their exposure as indicated on the Exposure Flow Chart and report to the facility's designated medical provider for confidential medical evaluation and follow-up.

B. Exposure Determination:

Classifications in which all students and employees have occupational exposure:

- Lab Instructors
- Clinical Instructors
- Students

Tasks and procedures in which occupational exposure may occur:

- Handling of blood, blood products or body fluids or contaminated objects
- Invasive procedures
- Phlebotomy or vascular access procedures and care thereof
- Contact with lab specimens
- Wound care
- Contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin
- Handling or disposal of medical waste
- Cleaning or processing contaminated equipment
- Suctioning or sputum induction
- CPR
- Handling of soiled linen
- Cleaning or decontamination of environmental surfaces

C. Methods of Implementation and Control

- All applicable employees and students will utilize universal precautions and treat all blood and/or other potentially infectious materials as infectious regardless of the perceived status of the source individual.
- Engineering and Work Practice Controls as further described in this Exposure Control Plan
- Housekeeping
- Labels
- Hepatitis B Vaccination
- Post exposure evaluation and follow-up
- Employee Training
- Record Keeping

D. Engineering and Work Practice Controls:

Mesa State College institutes appropriate engineering and work practice controls to eliminate or minimize employee exposure to bloodborne pathogens. All clinical settings are also mandated to

implement engineering and work practice controls.

New developments in exposure control technology such as needleless systems are evaluated and implemented as they become available and/or on an annual basis. Mesa State College also conducts ongoing evaluation of tasks and medical devices that carry a risk of exposure and solicits input from faculty and students during lab and clinical rotation in the identification, evaluation and selection of engineering and work practice controls.

All students and employees are instructed and trained in the appropriate use of engineering and work practice controls during orientation and at least annually and more often when necessary such as when new tasks are introduced, when tasks are modified or when job classifications are added or modified.

Engineering and Work Practice Controls that are instituted include:

- Hand washing practices including practices to be used in the absence of hand washing facilities.
- Provision of personal protective equipment
- Standard Precautions
- Needleless systems
- Containment of contaminated sharps and biohazardous waste

E. Work Practice Controls

Students and employees are instructed to wash hands after removal of gloves and whenever there is a likelihood of contamination. Contaminated skin area should be washed as soon as possible.

Waterless hand washing products are permitted for use before and after gloving. When hands/gloves become visibly contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials hands should be washed as soon as possible with antimicrobial soap and water.

If blood or other potentially infectious material contacts mucous membranes, those areas should be washed or flushed with water as soon as possible following contact.

Contaminated needles are not to be recapped, bent or broke off. Shearing or braking of contaminated needles is prohibited. They must be deposited in a sharps container immediately after use. If recapping is necessary, only a one-handed technique is allowed.

Sharps containers are provided to students in the lab area and in all clinical settings. This ensures that they are puncture-resistant, color-coded or labeled with a biohazard warning label and leak-proof on the sides and bottom.

All sharps containers must be closed when they are 2/3 full prior to removal or replacement to prevent spilling or protrusion of the contents during handling or storage.

Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm and handling contact lenses are prohibited in work areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure such as patients' homes.

Food and drink must not be kept in refrigerators, freezers, shelves and cabinets or on countertops or

bench tops where blood or other potential infectious materials are present.

All procedures should be carried out in a manner that minimizes splashing, spraying, splattering and generation of droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials such as emptying of bedpans, commodes.

Specimens of blood or other potentially infectious materials are to be placed in fluid-proof, biohazard labeled shipping containers provided by the agency

Regulated waste material is to be placed in a biohazard labeled container, which is to be closed before removal to prevent spillage or protrusion of contents.

Equipment that may be contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials is to be examined and decontaminated as necessary prior to service of shipping. Employees and students should adhere to universal/standard precautions and use appropriate personal protective equipment when handling such equipment.

No parenteral or invasive procedures will be performed in the campus lab except on mannequins.

F. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All PPE is provided to employees and students at no cost.

PPE is chosen based on the anticipated exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials. The PPE will be considered appropriate only if it does not permit blood or other potentially infectious materials to pass through or reach the employees clothing, skin, eyes, mouth or other mucous membranes under normal conditions of use and for the duration of time for which the protective equipment will be used.

The follow personal protective equipment is provided at the clinical facility:

- Disposable gloves
- Safety goggles with side shields
- Face shields
- Masks
- Aprons
- Non-permeable disposable gowns
- Pocket mask for CPR with one-way valve

1. Gloves

Gloves should be worn where there is a reasonable expectation of contact with blood, OPIM, non-intact skin and/or mucous membranes; when performing vascular access procedures, with a reasonable likelihood of blood exposure; and when handling or touching contaminated items or surfaces.

Hypoallergenic gloves or other similar alternatives shall be available to employees allergic to regular gloves.

Disposable gloves are not to be washed or decontaminated for re-use, and are to be replaced as soon as practical when they become contaminated or as soon as possible if they are torn,

punctured or when their ability to function as a barrier is compromised.

Utility gloves may be decontaminated for re-use provided that the integrity of the glove is not compromised. Utility gloves should be discarded if they are cracked, peeling, torn, punctured, or exhibit other signs of deterioration or when their ability to function as a barrier is compromised.

2. Other PPE

Appropriate face and eye protection should be worn when splashes, sprays, spatters or droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials pose a hazard to the eyes, nose or mouth.

All garments that are contaminated should be removed immediately or as soon as possible.

All personal protective equipment should be removed and placed in a designated container prior to leaving the immediate patient care area.

G. Housekeeping

All environmental surfaces are cleaned with an EPA approved germicidal on a regular cleaning and decontamination schedule.

Areas contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials should be:

- Cleaned with the use of appropriate PPE and a solution that is effective against Hepatitis B & C, HIV and OPIM
- Decontamination should be done with a 1:10 dilution of chlorine bleach (or other approved disinfectant) immediately after contamination (i.e. spill or leakage)
- Decontamination should be done for 10 minutes

H. Handling of Waste Material:

- Used sharps containers are to be closed, placed in a red plastic bag and transported to the agency office.
- The sharps container is placed in the large plastic container in the storage room for pickup by a contracted.
- Broken glass that may be contaminated should never be picked up by hand. Use mechanical means such as a brush and dustpan, forceps or tongs to pick up broke glassware.

I. Laundry

Handle contaminated laundry as little as possible, with minimal agitation. Avoid contact of clothing with contaminated laundry or use barrier aprons or gowns.

Wet contaminated laundry should be placed in leak-proof containers before being transported for laundering

Contaminated linens should be washed with detergent in water at least 140-160 degree F for 25 minutes.

J. Signs and labels:

Warning labels are placed on containers of regulated waste, refrigerators containing blood or other potentially infectious materials and other containers used to store or transport blood or infectious materials and/or when appropriate, the used of red biohazard containers.

The label will be a fluorescent orange or orange-red biohazard label as illustrated with lettering in a contrasting color.



Vaccination:

Students in the Health Sciences Programs are at increased risk for exposure to Hepatitis B. Prior to enrolling in the program, the student will be required to:

- a. Receive the Hepatitis B vaccination series (three vaccinations)
- b. Vaccination is encouraged unless:
 - There is documentation that the employee has previously received the series
 - Antibody testing reveals the employee is immune
 - Medical evaluation shows that vaccination is contraindicated
- c. Sign a *Refusal of Hepatitis B Vaccination* declining the vaccination.

Students agreeing to receive the vaccination series must complete the series within the six month designated time frame. Students are responsible for getting the vaccination from their private physician and for covering the cost of the vaccinations. Verification of all vaccinations/immunity must be provided to the Department of Health Sciences. Vaccination status of all students will be maintained on file in the Health Sciences Department. It is the student's responsibility to keep their immunization records current.

III. PROCEDURE

A. POST EXPOSURE EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Should an exposure incident occur, the student shall:

- Wash the affected area with soap and water or other appropriate solution
- Flush exposed mucous membranes with water
- Contact the clinical instructor immediately. The appropriate incident forms for the agency must be completed.
- The designated medical provider or emergency room (for after hours care) will immediately conduct a confidential medical evaluation and follow-up.
- Faculty will document the incident and follow up for permanent record.
- ***Please note: If the student participates in a non-contracted activity the cost for PEP is at the student's expense***

The written opinion of the treating physician will be limited to the following information:

- The employee has been informed of the results of the evaluation
- The employee has been told about any medical conditions resulting from exposure to the blood or OPIM, which requires further evaluation or treatment

All other findings shall remain confidential and will not be included in the Written Report

B. PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING AN EXPOSURE INCIDENT

The Department Chair will review the circumstances of all exposure incidents to determine:

- Engineering controls in use at the time
- Work practices followed
- A description of the device being used
- Protective equipment or clothing that was used at the time of the exposure incident
- Location of the incident
- Procedure being performed at the time of the incident
- Employee's training

If it is determined that revisions need to be made, the Chair will ensure that appropriate changes are made to this ECP,

IV. FACULTY/STUDENT TRAINING

All students and clinical faculty who have occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens will receive training during orientation and at least annually thereafter. Clinical faculty may complete this at their primary workplace or campus.

Training will include at least the following information:

- The epidemiology, symptoms and modes of transmission of bloodborne pathogen diseases
- An explanation of the OSHA standard
- An explanation of the exposure control plan and where employees can obtain a copy
- An explanation of methods for recognizing tasks and other activities that may involve exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials, including what constitutes an exposure incident
- A review of the use and limitations of engineering controls, work practices and PPE
- An explanation of the types, uses, location, removal, handling, decontamination and disposal of PPE
- An explanation of the criteria for PPE selection
- Information about the Hepatitis B vaccine series including information on its efficacy, safety, method of administration, the benefits of being vaccinated and that the vaccine will be offered free of charge.
- Information on the appropriate actions to take and persons to contact if an exposure incident involving blood or other potentially infectious materials occurs, including the method of reporting the incident and the medical follow-up that will be made available.
- Information on the post-exposure evaluation and follow up that the employer is required to provide for the employee following an exposure incident

- An explanation of the signs and labels and/or color coding required by the standard and used by this organization
- An opportunity for interactive questions and answers with the person conducting the training session

Training records are completed for each employee upon completion of training. Training documents contain the following information:

- Dates and times of the training sessions
- Contents or a summary of the training sessions
- Names and qualifications of persons conducting the training
- Names, signatures and job titles of all persons attending the training sessions.

The original records are maintained in a secure file cabinet in the Health Sciences Department. Copies of documents verifying attendance at the training sessions become part of each employee's personnel record and student's personal file.

Training records are available upon request to the employee, the employee's authorized representative, those within the organization with access to medical records, to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA or designated representative or the Director of NIOSH or designated representative and as otherwise required/stipulated by law and regulation.

V. RECORDKEEPING

A. Medical Records

Human resources is responsible for maintenance of the required medical record in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.20 "Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records."

The Director of Human Resources is responsible for maintenance of the required medical records. These confidential records are kept in the Human Resource office for at least the duration of employment plus 30 years.

Employee medical records are provided upon request of the employee or to anyone having written consent of the employee within 15 working days. Such requests should be sent to the Director of Human Resources.

B. OSHA Recordkeeping

The Director of Human Resources is responsible for maintenance of the OSHA 300 Log.

Individual facilities are responsible for maintenance of the Sharps Injury Log.

NEEDLESTICK/INJURY DECISION TREE

Health Science student sustains an injury during assigned clinical/lab experience

Report to faculty immediately

Did the injury occur at a healthcare facility where we have an affiliation agreement?

YES

NO

Did the injury occur at St. Mary's Hospital?

NO

Did the injury occur at a facility that indicates that students are to be treated the same as employees i.e.VAMC & Community Hospital

Refer student to nearest ER for immediate follow up of injury and/or to begin PEP Protocol (at their own expense)

YES

YES

Go to the emergency room triage

Follow the facility policy.

Student will complete follow up as directed through the student health center or their health care provider at their own expense.

Bring Exposure Paperwork and Report the incident to Human Resources at Mesa State College **within 24 hours** of the incident to complete Workman's Comp forms.

Faculty will report the incident to the Department Head at Mesa State College within 24 hours.

Department Head will notify the VP for Student Affairs and VP for Academic Affairs.

Professional Behavior in the Academic and Clinical Setting

- I. Policy: To provide guidelines for faculty concerning student behavior in the classroom and the clinical setting.
- II. General Information:
- A. As students prepare for transition into professional life, certain behaviors are expected, consistent with safe and ethical professional nursing practices in the classroom and in the clinical setting.
- B. Professional behavior and respect for classmates, faculty, preceptors and guest speakers is expected at all times. This is also addressed in individual course modules.

Examples of non-professional behavior include:

- Tardiness to class and clinical
 - Sleeping in class
 - Interruption of class by talking, passing notes, use of cellular phones, pagers, etc.
 - Use of profanity, name-calling
 - Being rude and hostile to faculty or classroom presenters or in clinical setting
 - Intimidating others
- C. Assigned coursework should be original for each class or clinical.
- D. When student behavior interferes with the conduct of class or the clinical experience or when safety of members of the campus community is endangered, such behavior will result in disciplinary action up to and including immediate expulsion from the program.

See "NSNA's Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct" in "forms" section

Rev. 01/05

Progression

- I. Purpose: To set standards for satisfactory progress in the nursing program.
- II. General information:
- A. All program prerequisite and general education courses must be completed before beginning the nursing program.
- B. Students must attain at least a grade of C in all required courses in the curriculum, including electives, and maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher for all college courses. This policy applies regardless of when or where the course was taken. A "D" grade or lower in any required course is not acceptable.
- C. Any student without a passing grade of "C" or above in required nursing classes may not progress to the next nursing course and will have to re-take the course the next time it is offered as space is available. This requirement also pertains to non-nursing pre- or co-requisite courses.
- D. Students enrolled in nursing courses having both theory and clinical components must take these components concurrently. If a student receives a grade of less than "C" in either component (theory and/or clinical) both components must be repeated. The student may not progress to the next nursing course and will have to retake both components the next semester that the course is offered as space is available.

- E. All nursing courses must be completed or revalidated within 5 years from the semester the first nursing course was taken. This includes transfer of nursing courses from other institutions.
- F. Students must repeat any nursing courses if he/she receives a grade below a C. If a student fails a second nursing course (below a C) he/she will have to withdraw from the program and will not be re-admitted. If a student fails more than one course in a semester, the situation will be reviewed by faculty and treated on an individual basis.
- G. A student may not obtain credit by examination for a failed course.
- H. A student may not obtain credit by examination to improve a grade.
- I. Advisors will maintain a current progress record on the program sheet for each advisee.
- J. Faculty members may withdraw a student from courses due to unsafe clinical practice or behavior jeopardizing professional practice at any time during the semester.

Rev. 01/05

Re-Admission

- I. Purpose: To inform students of the policy/process for re-admission into the nursing program.
- II. General Information:
 - A. All students petitioning to return to the program should complete an application for re-admission. These forms may be secured from the administrative assistant for Practical Nursing.
 - B. The number of spaces for returning students is limited and varies from semester to semester. Students seeking re-admission to the nursing program should submit applications for by March 1 for fall admission.
 - C. Any nursing course may be repeated one time, if the faculty approve. A second failure in any nursing course means that the student must withdraw from the program, and the faculty believes the student should pursue alternate goals.
 - D. If a student fails a course due to unsafe physical or emotional care of patients, the faculty may decide to not allow the student to repeat the course.
 - E. **Students will be admitted to the program only twice regardless of reason for leaving. Attendance in any nursing class or portion of nursing classes is considered an admittance.**
- III. Process:
 - A. Students who withdraw from or fail to complete the first nursing course must apply for admission into the program with the rest of the applicants to the program. These individuals will be considered according to the criteria utilized for the other applicants.
 - B. Students who withdraw from or fail to complete any clinical nursing course may petition for re-admission. If space is available, re-admission will be considered.
 - C. If a student is readmitted after having been absent for one academic year or more, he/she must follow the curriculum outlined in the catalog which is current at the time of re-enrollment.
 - D. In rare situations, a student who fails a required clinical nursing course may be allowed to take nursing electives while waiting for space to become available.

E. Student must complete re-admission form.

See "Readmission Application" in "forms" section

Rev. 01/05

Student Awards, Recognition and Scholarship

I. Purpose:

To describe the process of nominating students for awards, special recognition and scholarships.

II. General Information:

A. The criteria and deadlines for nominations for awards and special recognition shall be communicated to all faculty.

B. An application form, if necessary will be available to qualified students in the department.

III. The Pharo's Award

A. Criteria for award – the student nominee consistently displays the following characteristics:

1. Positive attitude
2. Compassion
3. Respect for others
4. Integrity, initiative, creativity, and tenacity

IV. Scholarships:

A. The criteria for awarding scholarships shall be communicated to all faculty as they are made known.

B. The necessary forms shall be secured from Mesa State College's website or the Financial Aid office.

C. Students shall submit scholarship interest form to secretary of The Department of Health Sciences by March 1.

D. Faculty review submitted applications and recommend nominees and alternates for the next academic year. The Chair will submit the list of nominees to Director of Financial Aid. The list of recipients and alternates shall be announced by the Mesa State College President.

V. Other:

A. Other student awards and achievements will be recognized as available.

B. Criteria will be established as appropriate.

Rev. 11/94, 5/99, 8/04

Student's Liability Insurance

I. Purpose: To comply with Agency's requirements that all students entering clinicals must have proof of liability/malpractice coverage.

II. General Information:

A. According to agency mandate, the policy must be comprehensive general liability insurance covering bodily injury and property damage liability with minimum coverage limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$2,000,000 general total limit, and medical professional liability insurance with minimum coverage limits of \$1,000,000 per claim/\$3,000,000 annual aggregate. Each student shall be required to provide a Certificate of Insurance as evidence of such insurance coverage prior to participation in any clinical experience within the program.

- B. Students are required to obtain this at their own expense and maintain throughout the program. Information will be provided by the Department of Health Sciences.

Rev. 01/05

Student Criminal Background Investigation

POLICY – for New Students:

- I. Purpose: To maintain a safe and productive educational and clinical environment, potential students who have been accepted into one of the health sciences programs will undergo a criminal background investigation.

II. General Information

- A. Beginning in 2004 the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO) began requiring criminal background checks on all employees and students who attend a JCAHO accredited hospital for clinical laboratory experience.
- B. To comply with agency requirements, the Mesa State College Department of Health Sciences will begin criminal background checks on students prior to admission to the programs.
- C. Students will be accepted into the Department of Health Sciences program pending successful background investigation.
- D. Mesa State College has partnered with American DataBank (<http://www.mesacx.com>) to provide these background checks.
- E. The CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK will include a record of all convictions. Only conviction information will be considered. A "conviction" is considered to be a verdict, a guilty plea or a Nolo Contendere ("No contest") plea. If the investigation reveals information that could be relevant to the student's application, the designated individual or committee within the Department may request additional information from the applicant. If the investigation reveals more than minor traffic convictions, it shall be reviewed by the designated departmental ad hoc committee. Departmental faculty selected for the ad hoc committee will not review the background investigations for students in their respective program to maintain student confidentiality.
- F. The existence of a conviction does not automatically disqualify an applicant from entering the programs. Considerations may include, but are not limited to: the date, nature and number of convictions; the relationship the conviction bears to the duties and responsibilities of the position and successful efforts toward rehabilitation. Any decision regarding admission is at the discretion of the Department Head/committee.
- G. Information obtained for the purpose of and during the background investigation will be retained by the Department Head in a separate file from the student's records. Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that results of criminal background checks are kept as confidential as possible with a limited number of persons authorized to review results.
- H. The following criminal offenses that appear on a background investigation may disqualify an applicant for admission to the Department of Health Sciences program.
 - 1. A crime of violence as defined in section 18-1.3-406. C.R.S.
 - 2. Crimes against persons (homicide, assaults, kidnapping and unlawful sexual behavior) as defined in Title 18-3-101 through 18-3-405.5 and 18-6.5-101.C.R.S.
 - 3. Any act of domestic violence, as defined in Title 18-6-800.3. C.R.S.
 - 4. Any crime of child abuse or incest, as defined in Title 18-6-401 and 18-6-301. C.R.S.

5. Any offense involving moral turpitude (prostitution, public lewdness, indecent exposure, etc.), unlawful sexual behavior as defined by Colorado law.
6. Any crimes of theft, burglary or robbery except misdemeanor shoplifting.
7. Felony crimes of arson, criminal mischief, fraud or forgery.
8. Any felony conviction for drug abuse or distribution in the 10 years prior to application.
9. Multiple Driving Under the Influence (DUIs) or Driving with Ability Impaired (DWAI) offenses.
10. Any felony or misdemeanor in another state, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of any of the offenses listed above.

III. Procedure

- A. Upon notification for need for background investigation the incoming health sciences student will access the American DataBank website <http://www.mesacx.com>. New students who refuse to complete this section or who do not answer truthfully and fully may not be allowed to enter any of the programs.
- B. The disclosure and written consent is on the web. The student is instructed to download two copies and sign and return one copy to the Department of Health Sciences office and keep the other for their file.
- C. Students must complete the application on line including payment of associated fees, directly to American DataBank (Approximate cost (\$60.00))
- D. American DataBank will send the report electronically to the Department Head of Health Sciences. The student may review the criminal background investigation information received by the department by contacting the Department Head or designee.
- E. The designated ad hoc departmental committee will review all criminal background investigation results. If adverse information is considered relevant, the committee will notify the applicant in writing. The committee will be responsible for making the final decision regarding whether results will disqualify an applicant from admission.
- F. If the applicant disagrees with the accuracy of information obtained, he/she may request in writing a review of the accuracy of the information. The process of application will be on hold pending results of the review.
If the applicant feels that there are extenuating circumstances to be considered may submit a written request to the Department Head/ ad hoc departmental committee. These individuals may make exceptions where it is deemed to be in the best interests of the Mesa State College Department of Health Sciences.

Rev. 10/05

Student Physical Examination

- I. Purpose:
 - A. To provide information submitted by the student regarding health status
 - B. To comply with requirements of selected clinical agencies
- II. General Information:
 - A. Student will submit required completed physical examination after acceptance into the program and yearly during the program.
 - B. The form may be completed by a physician or by a Certified Nurse Practitioner.
 - C. Physical examination form may be obtained at the office of the Department of Health Sciences.
 - D. The student is responsible for the cost of physical exam and immunizations.

See "Physical Evaluation Form" in Forms Section

Rev. 11/87, 4/02, 10/03, 8/04

Student Representative to Faculty Meetings

- I. Purpose: To outline the responsibilities of the student representatives at faculty meetings.
- II. General Information:
 - A. Attendance at these meetings will provide experience for students in working with faculty related to department concerns.
 - B. The students serve as a liaison between the students and faculty.
 - C. Designated students may serve on ad-hoc committees.
- III. Procedures:
 - A. A student representative shall be elected from each class to attend faculty meetings.
 - B. A representative from the Student Nurse Association (SNA) is encouraged to attend.
 - C. Students will be elected as determined by SNA procedure.
 - D. The representative from the Student Nurse Association will be selected by the membership.

Rev. 01/05

Students' Response to Emergency Situations at Clinical Facilities

- I. Purpose: To assure students know how to respond to emergency situations (*i.e.* fire, codes, security, etc.) at clinical facilities.
- II. General Information:
 - A. Emergency demonstration/training is included within the clinical courses.
 - B. Information regarding security, fire, codes, etc., is included in clinical orientation for each agency.

Rev. 01/05

Substance Abuse

- I. Purpose: To apprise the student of rules regarding substance abuse related to class and clinical attendance in the Mesa State College Department of Health Sciences.
- II. General Information:
 - A. Chemical dependency may impact all aspects of life negatively and is a condition that can be treated successfully.
 - B. Dependency may result from any mind-altering substance that produces psychological or physical symptomology. These include alcohol, over-the-counter or prescribed medication, illegal drugs, toxic vapors, or synthetic designer drugs.
 - C. According to the Mesa State College Student Handbook, students must comply with state and federal laws concerning dangerous drugs. Offenses may result in prosecution by civil authorities and/or disciplinary action by the College.
 - D. Students are responsible for coming to the clinical area mentally alert and physically capable to care for assigned patients/clients.
 - E. The faculty has the responsibility to intervene when patient or student safety and clinical performance are compromised by a student who is chemically impaired.
 - F. Students who may have a substance abuse problem typically will exhibit a pattern of objective, observable behaviors that eventually compromise client safety and clinical standards of performance. In most cases the patterns of possible substance abuse emerge slowly over a period of several semesters; occasionally a faculty member will encounter a student who exhibits clear evidence of intoxication or the influence of a chemical substance. Faculty should be alert for behavioral evidence of signs/symptoms of possible substance abuse (See list below).
 - G. Chemical dependency can be identified in a professional substance abuse evaluation and treatment programs are available to those with chemical dependency.
 - H. After acceptance to the Department of Health Sciences, students must refrain from any illicit drug use or alcohol abuse. Peers and/or classmates are encouraged to report any suspicions of substance abuse to the faculty. Those reporting such information will remain anonymous.
 - I. Students may be subjected to drug screening prior to participating and at random during clinical rotations at some health care facilities.
 - J. The Department of Health Sciences expect their students to be ambassadors for Mesa State at all times when professional uniforms are worn, both on campus and off campus (i.e. scrubs, Mesa State polo shirts). Illegal drugs and/or alcoholic beverages must not be consumed when professional attire is worn, neither on campus nor in the community.
- III. Procedure:
 - A. If an instructor suspects that a student is under the influence of any mind-altering substance which may interfere with safe clinical performance, the student will be asked to leave the clinical area. The instructor must objectively document the behavioral symptoms noted and indicate how client safety and clinical performance were compromised by the student's actions. If any student is suspected of drug or alcohol abuse, the student may be required to submit to a drug and/or urine screening at the student's own expense, immediately after the occurrence. Transportation should be arranged to take the student home safely or to an appropriate treatment facility.
 - B. This action will count as an absence and an appointment will be scheduled for an informational meeting within three working days between the student, instructor(s), and department head.

- C. A pattern of possible substance abuse may emerge slowly over a period of several semesters and observed by more than one faculty member. If an instructor identifies a suspected pattern of signs and symptoms of substance abuse, they are to objectively document the behavioral symptoms noted and consult with other faculty who have interacted with student to verify the suspected substance abuse. Once a pattern is established that strongly suggests substance abuse, the student is contacted and an appointment is scheduled for an informational meeting within working three days between the student, instructor(s), and department head.
- D. If a student has a positive pre-clinical or random drug or urine screening, an informational meeting will be held within three working days between the student, instructor(s), and department head. If they are in a clinical rotation when the positive drug screening result is obtained, they will be asked to leave the clinical area. Transportation should be arranged to take the student home safely or to an appropriate treatment facility.
- E. Informational meeting: The purpose of the informational meeting is to make the student aware of the faculty's suspicions and to review the policy and procedure. The informational meeting will include the student, faculty who identified the problem and the department chair. The faculty will present the documentation concerning the student's behavior and provide the student an opportunity to discuss the observations. The student's behaviors, faculty's recommendations for follow-up, student's written response to the allegations, and the date and time for the intervention meeting is documented and signed by all parties in the meeting. The original document is placed in the student file, and a copy is given to the student.
- F. Intervention meeting: The purpose of the intervention meeting is to review the student's behavior and clinical performance, discuss the policy for impaired student nurses and its implementation, discuss the academic consequences related to the policy violation, and secure the student's agreement to seek a comprehensive substance abuse evaluation. The intervention meeting will include the student, faculty who identified the problem and the department chair, and a representative from student affairs. Documentation is completed that articulates the problem behaviors, any academic consequences, the students' agreement to seek a professional evaluation for a potential substance abuse problem, and the student's understanding that failure to abide by the recommended treatment plan will result in dismissal from the program.
- G. The student will be referred to the campus affiliated Student Health Services and/or PsychHealth services for substance abuse evaluation. If the student refuses to obtain an evaluation, he or she is administratively dismissed from the program. There are three general outcomes anticipated from the substance abuse evaluation:
 - 1. The evaluation DOES NOT substantiate the alleged substance abuse by the student. If this occurs, all documentation related to the alleged incident is removed from the student's file and the student may return to all courses without negative academic consequences.
 - 2. The evaluation DOES substantiate the alleged substance abuse by the student, but the student refuses to abide by the policy of enrollment in a treatment program and ongoing monitoring. If this occurs, the student is dismissed from the program.
 - 3. The evaluation DOES substantiate the alleged substance abuse by the student, and the student agrees to abide by the policy. If this occurs, the student signs an agreement to participate in a treatment program and to have his or her progress monitored by the Department Chair. The student is allowed to continue in the program as long as he or she is compliant with the treatment contract.

See "Substance Abuse" form in "forms" section

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF POSSIBLE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Psychological Problems

Irritability
Moodiness
Tendency to isolate self

Social Changes

Eats alone
Avoids social gatherings
Avoiding faculty/peers
Avoiding group work

General Behavioral Changes

Inappropriate responses
Nervousness
Elaborate excuses for behavior
others
Suspiciousness

Changes in Personal Appearance

Change in dress
Unkempt appearance
Flushed complexion
Red eyes
Swollen face

Hand tremors

Mental Status Changes

Forgetfulness
Confusion
Decreased alertness
Impaired judgment in the clinical area

Changes in Performance

Deteriorating productivity
Excessive absenteeism
A pattern of tardiness
Leaving clinical area frequently
Unsafe clinical performance/placing clients
at risk
Late assignments with elaborate excuses
Intolerance of
for not meeting deadlines

SYMPTOMS

Odor of alcohol
Slurred speech
Unsteady gait
Errors in judgment

Rev. 11/87,3/88,11/94,11/97,5/99,01/07

Test Blueprint

I. Purpose: To provide description of test plan structure that will be followed for each nursing course.

II. General Information:

Knowledge of course content that is evaluation via written test will follow Bloom's Taxonomic Classification System, as follows:

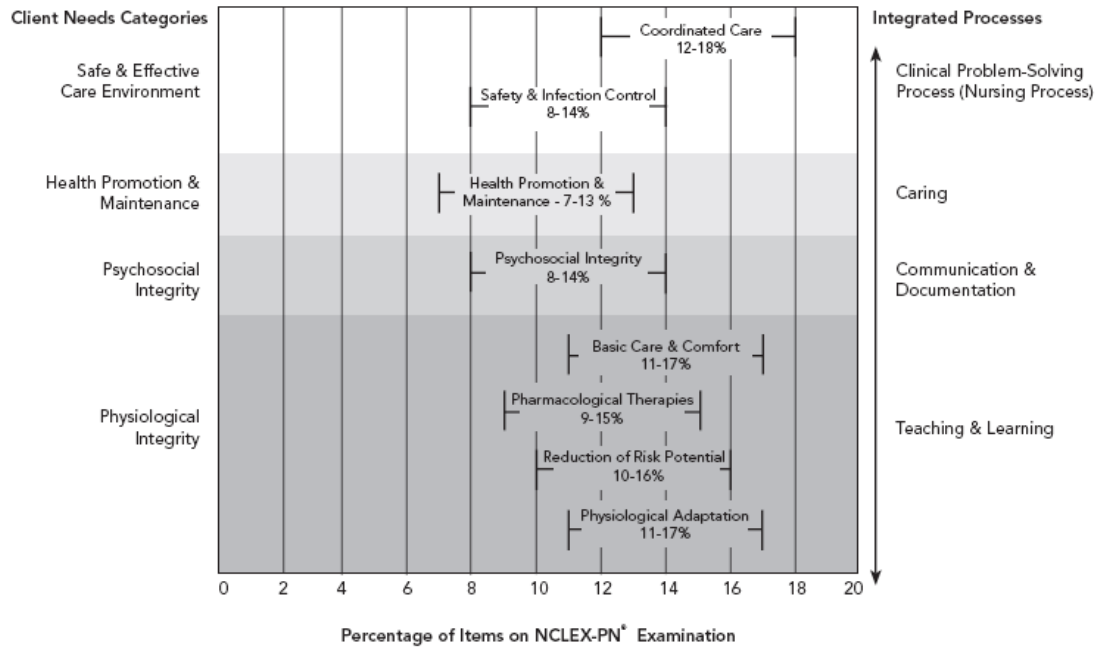
- A. Knowledge — Verbatim recall of specific information that has been presented in class through lecture, handouts, videos, computer programs, etc. EXAMPLE OF VERBS USED: to define, distinguish, recall, list, recognize
- B. Comprehension — Paraphrasing information; does not imply understanding. EXAMPLE OF VERBS USED: to translate, paraphrase, rephrase, restate, rearrange
- C. Application — Ability to use learned concepts in specific situations. This includes knowledge gained in a new situation. EXAMPLES OF VERBS USED: To apply, generalize, relate, organize, classify
- D. Analysis — To break an idea, problem, disease, communication, or any process into parts. This includes breaking apart something that is known and making it new learning for the student. EXAMPLES OF VERBS USED: To contrast, deduce, categorize, discriminate, analyze
- E. Synthesis — To take previously learned information, form new patterns or wholes and create something new. EXAMPLES OF VERBS USED: To propose, plan, produce, design, synthesize, formulate
- F. Evaluation — To make a value judgment regarding how actions or materials meet certain criteria. Should be a deduction made by students based on their studies. This step is not achieved through use of multiple choice questions and is not to be confused with the evaluation step in the nursing process. EXAMPLES OF VERBS USED: To judge, assess, validate, standardize, appraise

III. Procedure: Distribution of Content:

The percentage of test items assigned to each Client Needs category and subcategory in the 2008 NCLEX-PN® Test Plan is based on the results of the study entitled *Report of Findings from the 2006 LPN/VN Practice Analysis: Linking the NCLEX-PN® Examination to Practice* (NCSBN, 2006), and expert judgment provided by members of the NCSBN Examination Committee.

Client Needs	Percentage of Items from Each Category/Subcategory
Safe and Effective Care Environment	
Coordinated Care	12-18%
Safety and Infection Control	8-14%
	7-13%
Health Promotion and Maintenance	
	8-14%
Psychosocial Integrity	
Physiological Integrity	
Basic Care and Comfort	11-17%
Pharmacological Therapies	9-15%
Reduction of Risk Potential	10-16%
Physiological Adaptation	11-17%

Distribution of Content for the NCLEX-PN® Test Plan



Rev. 8/2008

Transfer Students

I. Purpose: To provide documentation saying that students left previous program in good standing.

II. Policy:

A. Student must have official letter saying that they left former program in good standing.

B. Student may be asked to sign form giving permission to contact former school.

Rev. 04/05

Withdrawal, Probation and Suspension

I. Purpose: To identify conditions related to withdrawal, probation and suspension.

II. Policy:

The PN program will follow the policies as outlined in the current Mesa State College Catalog.

Date: 01/05

Forms



MESA STATE COLLEGE
Department of Health Sciences

Academic Honesty Agreement

Any evidence of plagiarism, any form of cheating or knowingly furnishing false information will result in disciplinary action up to and including immediate expulsion of the student(s) involved. (Mesa State College Student Handbook and Mesa State Catalog.)

Student's Name (Print) _____

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

*(This form is to be signed by student and turned in
to the PN Administrative Assistant)*

**National Student Nurses Association, Inc.
Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct**

Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct

- I. Purpose: To outline student responsibilities regarding adherence to the NSNA Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct.
- II. Policy:
 - A. Nursing students will be held accountable for following the NSNA Code of Academic and Clinical conduct in the both classroom and clinical settings.
 - B. Violation of the NSNA Code of Academic and Clinical conduct should be immediately reported to a faculty member and the Program Director.
 1. Self-reporting of a violation demonstrates accountability and will be considered in the disciplinary process.
 2. The identity of a student who reports a suspected violation of the code by another student will be protected in the investigation process.
 - C. The faculty member and Program Director will investigate the reported violation to determine if there is evidence that a violation has occurred.
 - D. The faculty member and Program Director will develop a performance improvement plan that includes disciplinary sanctions that address the specific violation.
 - E. Recurrent violation of the NSNA Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct may lead to administrative withdrawal from the program.
 - F. Many other policies in the BSN student handbook refer directly to specific behaviors in the code of academic and clinical conduct.
- III. General Information:

**National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.
Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct**

PREAMBLE

Students of nursing have a responsibility to society in learning the academic theory and clinical skills needed to provide nursing care. The clinical setting presents unique challenges and responsibilities while caring for human beings in a variety of health care environments.

The Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct is based on an understanding that to practice nursing as a student is an agreement to uphold the trust which society has placed in us. The statements of the Code provide guidance for the nursing student in the personal development of an ethical foundation and need not be limited strictly to the academic or clinical environment but can assist in the holistic development of the person.

A CODE FOR NURSING STUDENTS

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

1. Advocate for the rights of all clients.
2. Maintain client confidentiality.
3. Take appropriate action to ensure the safety of clients, self and others.
4. Provide care for the client in a timely, compassionate and professional manner.
5. Communicate client care in a truthful, timely and accurate manner.
6. Actively promote the highest level of moral and ethical principles and accept responsibility for our actions.
7. Promote excellence in nursing by encouraging lifelong learning and professional development.
8. Treat others with respect and promote an environment that respects human rights, values and choice of cultural and spiritual beliefs.
9. Collaborate in every reasonable manner with the academic faculty and clinical staff to ensure the highest quality of client care.
10. Use every opportunity to improve faculty and clinical staff understanding of the learning needs of nursing students.
11. Encourage faculty, clinical staff and peers to mentor nursing students.
12. Refrain from performing any technique or procedure for which the student has not been adequately trained.
13. Refrain from any deliberate action or omission of care in the academic or clinical setting that creates unnecessary risk of injury to the clients, self or others.
14. Assist the staff nurse or preceptor in ensuring that there is full disclosure and that proper authorization is obtained from clients regarding any form of treatment or research.
15. Abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages or any substances in the academic and clinical setting that impair judgment.
16. Strive to achieve and maintain an optimal level of personal health.
17. Support access to treatment and rehabilitation for students who are experiencing impairments related to substance abuse and mental or physical health issues.
18. Uphold school policies and regulations related to academic and clinical performance, reserving the right to challenge and critique rules and regulations as per school grievance policy.

Adopted by the NSNA House of Delegates, Nashville, TN on April 6, 2001.

02/10

MESA STATE COLLEGE
Department of Health Sciences



Confidentiality Agreement

I have watched the video on confidentiality “Confidentiality: Ethical and Legal Considerations” by Medcom/Trainex. Also, I have read the information on confidentiality contained in my PN Nursing student handbook.

Patients, medical staff, and employees have a legal right to privacy. All students must exercise extreme caution and sensitivity with communicating or accessing information about patients and clinical facility operations: careless talk, inquiry in the system, repeating rumors or unauthorized access can result in serious harm to patients and their families or employees. Such communication and inquiry is limited to necessary disclosures required by individuals having a need-to-know.

Clinical facility standards prohibit employees and others with direct access to protected information about a clinical facility, its patients or their families, medical staff or its employees except when properly authorized. The release of all confidentiality information must meet all policy and legal requirements. **Complete confidentiality is expected.**

I understand and agree to comply with the confidentiality requirements as set by the Department of Health Sciences programs at Mesa State College. If I should break patient confidentiality, I understand that I may be removed from the program.

Student’s Name (Print) _____

Student’s Signature _____

Date _____

(This form is to be signed by student and turned in to the PN Administrative Assistant prior to attending clinicals at a facility off campus.)



MESA STATE COLLEGE
Department of Health Sciences

Letter Clarifying Department Grading System

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been requested that I clarify our grading system in the *Department of Health Sciences* in comparison to that of Mesa State College, in general. These two grading systems are different. However, the grades that appear on the transcript appear the same. For the general college the grading system is:

90-100% = A	4 quality points
80-89% = B	3 quality points
70-79% = C	2 quality points
60-69% = D	1 quality point
59 and below = F	0 quality points

In the *Department of Health Sciences*, the grading system is:

93-100% = A	4 quality points
85-92% = B	3 quality points
76-84% = C	2 quality points
70-75% = D	1 quality point
69 and below = F	0 quality points

(Individual instructors may use a different grading form.) We felt that you should be aware of this difference in the grading systems when accepting transfer courses. Thank you for your cooperation. If I can provide additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Kristy Reuss, Ph.D., R.N.
Department Chair

MESA STATE COLLEGE
Department of Health Sciences
Physical Examination Form

Name _____ Date _____
 Last First Middle (Maiden)

Local Address _____

Birthdate _____ MSC ID # _____

Immunization Record (required):

Either a two-step TST or proof of negative TST documented yearly for 2 years (If the student has proof of a single two-step TST in the preceding year, a one-step TST should be done).

Date of TST#1 _____ positive or negative (circle)

Date of TST#2 _____ positive or negative (circle)

Diphtheria/Tetanus **within past 10 years.**

Yes Date _____

No

Please **attach** proof of two MMR immunizations (if you were born before 1957, provide proof of a positive rubella laboratory titer):

_____ Measles (red/rubeola), Mumps and Rubella (initial immunization received on or after 1st birthday)

and _____ Measles (a second immunization of Rebeola/red measles)

or _____ Physician-diagnosed measles **and** rubella

or _____ Positive laboratory titer for measles **and** rubella

or _____ Birth date of 1957 or earlier, rubella immunity only (requires documentation of a positive rubella laboratory titer)

Nursing requires students to be physically and mentally able to meet demands of nursing practice. The physical and mental capacity requirements are available in the Health Sciences Department.

This student received a physical examination on _____ and is physically and mentally able to meet the demands of nursing practice, and has no functional limitations for movement or lifting of 50 pounds.

Summary of general health status:

Date _____ Signature _____

Examining Health Professional

Address: _____

STUDENT NURSE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS
may be downloaded from the address below:

<http://www.mesastate.edu/schools/sbps/nars/LPNnursing/index.htm>



MESA STATE COLLEGE

Department of Health Sciences

Read PN Student Handbook

I have read, and agree to comply with, the policies in the PN Student Handbook.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

MSC Student ID #

Date

(This form is to be signed by student and submitted to the PN Administrative Assistant)



MESA STATE COLLEGE
Department of Health Sciences

Re-Admission Application

This form must be completed by any student who deviates from the standard progression of the PN nursing program. The form is to be returned to the Program Director prior to enrolling in any nursing classes. **Any student who fails any two nursing courses is NOT eligible to continue in the nursing program or to be readmitted.**

Name _____ MSC ID # _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

Today's date _____ semester last attended nursing classes _____ Year _____

Reason for being off-track from standard progression in the program:

Corrective actions taken to correct the situation causing the deviation (if applicable):

Semester you wish to return _____ Year _____

Nursing courses you wish to enroll in upon returning. (If you failed a required course, you must re-enter taking that course.)



MESA STATE COLLEGE
Department of Health Sciences

Substance Abuse Policy

I have read the Substance Abuse Policy. By signing this agreement, I understand and agree to comply with the stipulations of the policy.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

MSC Student ID #

Date

MESA STATE COLLEGE
Department of Health Sciences



Attendance Policy

I understand and agree to comply with the Practical Nurse attendance policy as set by the *Department of Health Sciences* at Mesa State College.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

MSC Student ID #

Date



MESA STATE COLLEGE

Department of Health Sciences

Electronic Media and Communications Policy

I have read, and agree to comply with, the Electronic Media and Communications Policy in the PN Student Handbook.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

MSC Student ID #

Date

(This form is to be signed by student and submitted to the PN Administrative Assistant)



MESA STATE COLLEGE

Department of Health Sciences

Ethics Policy

I have read, and agree to comply with, the Ethics Policy in the PN Student Handbook.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

MSC Student ID #

Date



MESA STATE COLLEGE

Department of Health Sciences

Emergency Communication Policy

I have read, and agree to comply with, the Emergency Communication Policy in the PN Student Handbook.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

MSC Student ID #

Date