ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL POLICIES

Admission to the College of Nursing

University College Students
Students Enrolled in University College must successfully complete a minimum of 24 credits, including the pre-requisite courses, BIO 121, BIO 242, BIO 244, CHM 103, CHM 124, WRT, and NUR 100. Students must earn a minimum overall GPA of a 3.0 with a minimum grade of C in each pre-requisite course, before entering the College of Nursing. Students who have not met the pre-requisite criteria for transfer to the College of Nursing and the clinical course sequence by the end of two years or sixty credits will be required to choose a different major at the University.

Students admitted to URI prior to September 2011 must obtain a minimum overall GPA of 2.8, with a minimum grade of C in each pre-requisite course before entering the College of Nursing.

Transfer Students
External Transfer Students:
Students who wish to transfer into the University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing from other universities or colleges must apply for admission through the URI Admissions Office. All transfer students are admitted to University College as nursing majors even if they have taken all the science pre-requisite courses at their previous institution. Transfer students must minimally have one semester at URI to establish a competitive GPA (3.0 or better) and take NUR 100 before they will be considered for NUR 203. Transfer students will be considered for NUR 203 in the same competitive manner as all other students who are eligible and according to the NUR 203 admission guidelines below. If the student is ready for a higher level nursing course, placement is contingent on space in the course.

Internal Transfer Students (Change of Major):
Students who wish to transfer to the College of Nursing from another degree granting program within URI must complete an application for change of major (found on the College of Nursing web site under student resources) to the College of Nursing. Applications to transfer to the College of Nursing are reviewed by the College’s Scholastic Standing Committee. The Committee will evaluate the application, letter of intent, and academic record of each student and determine eligibility for the program. Students accepted will have to meet the pre-requisite requirements before being accepted into NUR 203. Internal transfer students, who have met the requirements, will be considered for NUR 203 pending space availability. Students accepted into the College of Nursing will be subject to the progression rules of the College at the time of their acceptance.

Admission to NUR 203
NUR 203: Comprehensive Health Assessment, is the first clinical course in nursing. The CON Scholastic Standing Committee verifies student eligibility for NUR 203 (GPA of 3.0 or better and successful completion of pre-requisites, C or better in BIO 121, 242, 244, CHM 103, 124, NUR 100, WRT) and selects students for acceptance each semester. Admission is competitive, based on GPA, and seats are limited. Please note that the fall offering for NUR 203 is always reserved for sophomore students who were accepted to the University as freshmen nursing students. Transfer, change of major, and readmitted students should anticipate spring consideration for NUR 203.
Requirements for Progression through the Curriculum

1. A minimum grade of C is required in all pre-requisite courses for NUR 203, as well as CMB 201 and NFS 207, which are pre-requisite courses for NUR 213 and NUR 233.

2. Students who achieve less than a grade of C must repeat the course, obtaining a C grade or better, before progressing in the nursing curriculum. Students are expected to achieve a C (73%) or better in all NUR courses and a C in all non-nursing pre-requisite courses and to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.20 in order to progress in the College of Nursing. Students who receive a C- or less in any two NUR courses will be dismissed from the College of Nursing. If a student receives a C- or less in a single NUR course, s/he may petition, in writing, the Scholastic Standing Committee to retake the course. Permission to retake the course will be granted on a space available basis only. Even if successfully repeated, the C- remains on record as the first unsuccessful attempt referred to in this dismissal policy. There are no further allowances for repeating a NUR course, and any subsequent NUR coursework of C- or below will result in dismissal. However, if the student should achieve a C- or less in two NUR courses in a single semester, s/he will be dismissed from the College of Nursing.

3. Students admitted to the CON prior to September 2012: Students are expected to achieve a C (73%) or better in all NUR courses and in all non-nursing pre-requisite courses (including CMB 201 and NFS 207), and to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.20 in order to progress in the College of Nursing. A student who receives less than a C in any undergraduate nursing course may petition, in writing, the Scholastic Standing Committee to retake the course. Students may repeat the course only one time. If a student receives a grade of less than a C twice in the same nursing course, the student is dismissed from the College of Nursing.

4. Students who must repeat a course are "out of sequence" and placement in the course to be repeated is on a "space available" basis and is NOT guaranteed. Students may have to wait a semester or more to repeat the course, pending evaluation by the College's Scholastic Standing Committee.

5. Students must meet all pre-requisite courses (including non-nursing courses, e.g., CMB 201) before continuing to the next sequence of courses.

6. Students who receive less than a C in a nursing course will not be allowed to "double up" (e.g. NUR 203 with NUR 233/234, or NUR 333 with 433/434), in order to progress in the nursing curriculum.

Scholastic Standing Committee
The academic records of any nursing student, who receives a C- or less grade in any required course or a GPA below 2.2, will be reviewed by the College of Nursing Scholastic Standing Committee. This committee is responsible for enforcing the academic policies set forth in the University Manual.

Academic Conduct
Life in the academic community must be one of integrity, honesty, acceptance of responsibility, and a willingness to clearly and accurately represent oneself, one's work, and one's activities. Failure to meet these standards must be treated as a failure to accept responsibility as a student, and may make one subject to dismissal from the University. The University has specific expectations and requirements regarding student conduct, including those related to cheating and plagiarism. Please refer to the URI Student Handbook, the University Manual, and the University Catalog for information.

Faculty, in the College of Nursing, believes that professional conduct is critical to the practice of nursing and fully supports the University policies. Breach of professionalism is a serious offense which will be dealt with firmly. The
faculty reserves the right to require withdrawal from the College of Nursing (classroom and/or clinical) of any student who gives evidence academically and/or personally of inability to carry out safe, professional practice in nursing. Students who violate University policy prohibiting illegal use or possession of any controlled substance without a prescription may be dismissed from the College of Nursing and will be reported to the Office of Student Life, as indicated in the URI student handbook.

Grievance Procedure
In the event that a student believes a particular academic decision is unjust, the student has the right to file a formal grievance. It is recommended, however, that the student first initiate and attempt a resolution with those parties directly involved. For example, if the complaint involves a grade, the student should first consult with the professor. If satisfaction is not reached at this level, the student should consult the lead teacher of a clinical course, and then, the Associate or Assistant Dean. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be obtained through this process, the student should contact the Dean's Office for an appointment with the Dean.

The following offices are available to advise and inform students concerning such complaints:

- Affirmative Action Officer, Administration Bldg. 401-874-2442
- Office of Student Life, Memorial Union 401-874-2101
- University Ombud, Memorial Union 401-874-4250

Attendance
Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes, exams and clinical days. NOTE: Do not plan vacations or other absences during classes or exams. This pertains to non-nursing courses as well as nursing courses.

National Testing
Students in the College of Nursing will be required to take standardized achievement tests from Health Education Systems Incorporated (HESI) as part of course requirements. The tests are scheduled by the faculty and are factored in the course grade as an exam. The HESI program contains many other educational resources such as case studies, practice tests, personalized remediation, and a live review NCLEX prep class. These additional resources may be open access or assigned by each instructor as course requirements.

These tests are considered an assessment of the basic knowledge required for beginning professional nursing practice; all aspects of nursing process are covered on the tests. The results are a predictor of success on the licensing exam (NCLEX) taken after graduation. Students who actively study and practice using these tests are more likely to achieve success on the licensure examination.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Students with documented disabilities from Disability Services in the Office of Student Life, Memorial Union are expected to notify faculty at the onset of the semester (or as soon as accommodations are granted during a semester), if any special accommodations are required in the classroom or during exams. The requesting student must contact/re-contact the professor at least one week before each exam to request test modifications. Other accommodations will be provided at the discretion of the faculty and Office of Student Disabilities.
Electronic Devices
Electronic devices, e.g. beepers, cell phones, tablets and other mobile devices, brought to class or lab must be in airplane mode. Clinical agency policies regarding mobile devices must be followed by all students during their practicum experiences.