

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE OF
NURSING

Student Handbook

Undergraduate On-Campus Programs

Bachelor of Science

2026-2027

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I. Introduction

This College of Nursing Student Handbook is provided as a guide for students enrolled in the undergraduate baccalaureate nursing program at URI, and is intended to provide students with: (1) an overview of the College of Nursing and its history, vision, mission, values; (2) a description of the competencies baccalaureate students are expected to achieve prior to graduation (“expected program outcomes”); (3) a full description of the College’s academic and professional policies applicable to undergraduate nursing students; and (4) a full description of the clinical policies applicable to undergraduate nursing students.

This Handbook does not describe specific program courses and graduation requirements. A description of those academic and course requirements can be found in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#) and on the [College of Nursing webpage](#).

This Handbook is also meant to supplement other University policy, program description and guidance documents including the [University Manual](#), [URI Student Handbook](#) and [University Catalog](#).

Each undergraduate nursing student assumes responsibility to become familiar with the information contained in this Handbook. Furthermore, students are expected to always comply with all policies and requirements set forth in this handbook.

The College reserves the right to add, delete, revise, or change the information, including all policies and procedures set forth in this Handbook. All students are expected to review the Handbook at the start of the academic year and as necessary throughout the academic year.

The Handbook may be accessed electronically on the [College of Nursing website](#). This location will contain the most up-to-date version of the Handbook and supersedes all other versions.

History of the College of Nursing

In September 1945, the University began its first nursing program with nine students in the School of Home Economics. In 1947, a Division of Nursing was established and Miss Louisa White, Associate Professor, was appointed Director. In 1970, the College began offering a Master's in Nursing and in 1985 a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing. A Doctor in Nurse Practice (DNP) began in 2010.

Until 1968, nursing students lived in Providence during the clinical portion of the program and the majority of the faculty had offices at Rhode Island Hospital. In 1963, Fogarty Hall was dedicated, and office space was provided for the Dean, several faculty and two secretaries. Finally, a new building was completed which was designed specifically for the College of Nursing. White Hall, named in honor of the first director of the nursing program, was dedicated on September 23, 1977.

In 2017 the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center (RINEC) opened in Providence, RI. This shared space is approximately 133,000 square feet and boasts simulation suites, skills labs, classrooms and URI faculty offices.

Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing/ master's degree program in nursing/Doctor of Nursing Practice program and/or post-graduate APRN certificate program at The University of Rhode Island is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccneaccreditation.org>).

Vision

The University of Rhode Island College of Nursing is a dynamic catalyst for improving health and transforming healthcare through innovation and excellence in education, knowledge development, discovery, and professional practice to meet the needs of a global society.

Mission

To prepare nurses to excel as outstanding and compassionate clinicians, scholars and leaders who will enhance the health and health care of individuals, families, communities, and populations both locally and globally.

Values

- Social justice, diversity, inclusivity, & civic engagement

- Respectful, ethical, humanistic, & compassionate care
- Intellectual curiosity, innovation, & scholarly inquiry
- Leadership, lifelong learning, & excellence in practice

II. Technical Standards

Nursing is a rigorous program of study and professional practice. Students are expected to demonstrate (with or without any pre-approved reasonable accommodations [see “Accommodations for Qualified Students with Disabilities” section below, p. 18]) the ability to exercise all of the technical skills and meet all of the technical demands of the program, including its academic, cognitive, emotional, and psychomotor requirements, in order to succeed.

Below are the technical standards that the college deems essential for training and practice in the profession of nursing to deliver safe and effective patient care.

Observational Ability: The student must demonstrate the ability to make and accurately interpret visual observations in all areas of patient care delivery, both in clinical facilities and simulation education.

Communication: Students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively both verbally and non-verbally to elicit information and to translate information to others. The student must possess oral and written communication skills that permit effective communication with faculty, students, patients, families, and all members of the health care team in both clinical and classroom environments.

Motor Ability: The student must possess motor functions such that they are able to execute movements required to provide necessary care and treatment to all patients in clinical care settings. The student must possess skills that span fine motor and gross motor muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of all senses.

Intellectual – Conceptual Ability: The student must be able to demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills. This includes the ability to measure, calculate, reason, prioritize, analyze, integrate, synthesize information and act with integrity and judgment, often in a time urgent environment. The student is expected to listen, speak, read, write, reason, and perform mathematical functions at a level which allows comprehension of materials both written and oral throughout the program.

Behavioral and emotional: The student must be able to withstand the psychological and physical rigors of nursing education and practice. The student must be able to maintain mature,

sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff, and other professionals under all circumstances, including highly stressful situations. Compassion, integrity, motivation, effective interpersonal skills, and concern for others are personal attributes required of those in the nursing program. The student is expected to have the emotional stability to fully utilize his or her intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment, and promptly complete all patient care responsibilities. Students must have the ability to meet these demands under stress and adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways.

III. Bachelor of Science Program Outcomes

Below are the core competencies (also referred to as program outcomes) that Bachelor of Science students are expected to achieve by the end of the nursing program. Students demonstrate competency in these outcomes by meeting course objectives outlined in each course syllabus.

1. *Knowledge for Nursing Practice:* Integrate and apply nursing knowledge supported by knowledge from liberal arts and sciences to enrich nursing practice

2. *Person-Centered Care:* Implement holistic, just, compassionate, person-centered, evidence-based nursing care to individuals and families across the lifespan and spheres of care.

3. *Population Health:* Use principles of social justice, advocacy, and collaboration to promote equitable care for individuals, families, communities, and populations, from prevention to disease management, through partnerships that address social determinants of health and improve population health outcomes.

4. *Scholarship for the Nursing Discipline:* Engage in scholarly inquiry and critically appraise research as the foundation to deliver evidence-based nursing practice.

5. *Quality and Safety:* Use principles of quality and safety as core values of nursing to enhance practice and minimize risk of harm to patients and providers.

6. *Interprofessional Partnerships:* Engage with individuals, families, communities, health care professionals, and other colleagues to optimize care, enhance the healthcare experience, and improve outcomes.

7. *Systems-Based Practice:* Coordinate and utilize resources in healthcare settings to provide safe, quality, equitable, and value-based care to diverse populations.

8. *Informatics and Healthcare Technologies:* Use healthcare technology to gather and interpret data, form information to support clinical judgment, provide care, and improve interprofessional communication that enhances healthcare delivery in accordance with best practice and professional and regulatory standards.

9. Professionalism: Cultivate a professional identity and conduct grounded in nursing core values of compassionate caring, a collaborative disposition, civility, accountability, ethics and social justice for exemplary practice.

10. Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development: Engage in wellness by participating in activities and self-reflection that fosters personal health, resilience, and well-being; contributes to lifelong learning; and supports the acquisition of nursing expertise and leadership.

IV. Academic Policies

Should any policy be added or modified, the updated information will be located on the student resources section on the [College of Nursing webpage](#)

Scholastic Standing/Academic Review

The academic records of all nursing students are reviewed by the College of Nursing Scholastic Standing Committee. This Committee is responsible for enforcing the academic policies set forth in the [University Manual](#) and the College of Nursing. The Committee is composed of College of Nursing faculty, and the Associate and Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs are ex officio members of the Committee.

Academic Progression & Dismissal Policy

Entry and Progression Policy for the Clinical Course Sequence

- Entry into the College of Nursing is competitive, and seats are limited.
- Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better.
- Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee placement into the clinical course sequence.
- Placement is competitively granted based on performance in prerequisite criteria.
- Students who meet minimum criteria but do not receive a seat will be considered the following year under the same competitive process.
- Students who have not met the pre-requisite for the clinical course sequence by the end of two years or sixty credits will be required to choose a different major at the University.

Progression Policy for Students in the College of Nursing

1. Students are expected to achieve a minimum grade of C in all required NUR courses and a C in all non-nursing prerequisite courses and to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.20 to progress in the College of Nursing. Students must complete all NUR courses in the appropriate sequence as outlined on the College of Nursing curriculum sheets.

2. Students who earn a grade below C in a required NUR course must repeat the course and earn a grade of C or higher before progressing in the nursing curriculum. Approval to repeat the course is subject to space availability. The original grade will remain on the student's academic record and will count as the first unsuccessful attempt. Students are permitted one opportunity to repeat a required NUR course. Earning a grade below C in any subsequent required NUR course will result in dismissal from the College of Nursing. Students who earn grades below C in two required NUR courses during the same semester are not eligible to repeat either course and will be dismissed from the College of Nursing.

Dismissal Appeal Procedure & Policy, and Submission Deadlines

Students who are academically dismissed as outlined in the Academic Progression & Dismissal Policy above have the option to appeal.

1. Notification of Dismissal:
 - a. Students will receive a letter from the Scholastic Standing Committee stating they have been academically dismissed from the College of Nursing. This will include the appeal process and submission deadlines.
2. Grounds for Appeal:
 - a. A student who has **extenuating** circumstances that affected his/her/their academic performance may submit an appeal letter.
3. Appeal Submission Requirements:
 - a. A formal letter requesting a waiver of dismissal
 - b. An explanation of what contributed to poor academic success and any strategies used to try and overcome his/her/their dismissal.
 - c. A plan of intention describing what the student will do differently if allowed to continue in the nursing program.
 - d. Optional
 - i. Supporting documentation (i.e. doctor's note)
 - ii. Letters of support
4. Deadlines for appeal submission:
 - a. All appeal letters and documentation must be submitted to the Scholastic Standing Committee by the deadline identified in the official dismissal notification letter, typically within 5 calendar days. This letter will be emailed within two business days after grades are due (date located on the URI Official calendar).
 - b. Appeals received after the deadline will not be accepted. All appeals must be submitted via email to Assistant Dean.

- c. Extenuating circumstances that prevent the student from meeting the deadline will be considered on a case-by-case basis (i.e. injury, death, hospitalization).
- 5. Reinstatement Conditions:
 - a. If a student is granted reinstatement following an appeal, the student will progress in the nursing program on a space available basis only.
 - b. A student may appeal once during their undergraduate career.
 - c. Earning below a C in a subsequent required NUR course will result in automatic dismissal from the College of Nursing with no appeal.

Curricular Modifications or Exceptions

Student Requests for Curricular Modifications or Exceptions (other than Request for Reasonable Accommodations based on a qualified student's disability, which shall follow the procedures outlined by the URI Office of Disability, Access and Inclusion.)

Undergraduate students seeking exceptions to any University rule pertaining to their academic circumstances, including degree requirements and courses of study, shall do so by written petitions submitted to the College of Nursing Assistant Dean. Students should follow the procedure below:

1. Complete all sections of the "Substitution or Waiver (PDF)" form, located on the [College of Nursing webpage](#).
2. Attach additional supporting information or documentation, if necessary.
3. Submit to the College of Nursing Assistant Dean for review by the Scholastic Standing Committee.
4. A written response from the Committee will be sent to the student within 10 business days.

Grading

The following grade chart is used for undergraduate NURSING courses:

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

Grade Appeal Procedures

Students who believe that a final course grade has been assigned in error may appeal the grade by following the procedure outlined below. The appeal must be initiated within five (5) calendar days of the grade being posted. If the appeal advances beyond Step 1, the student must initiate each subsequent step within two (2) calendar days of the completion of the preceding step.

1. The student shall first discuss the grade with the Instructor.
2. If still unresolved, the student may submit a written appeal to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, who will discuss the matter with the Instructor. If the Associate Dean believes the grade should be changed, and the instructor does not agree to the change, the Associate Dean shall issue a written decision to the student and the instructor which includes the Associate Dean's recommended grade change, and their reasons for recommending the change. If the Associate Dean does not believe the grade should be changed, they shall issue a written decision to the student and Instructor stating their conclusions and reasons.
3. If still unresolved, the student may make a second written appeal to the College of Nursing Scholastic Standing Committee. The Committee will provide the Instructor the opportunity to respond to the appeal, following which, unless the Instructor voluntarily agrees to make a grade change acceptable to the student, The Committee will issue a final decision on the matter, stating its conclusions and reasons. If the Committee decides that the grade should be changed over the objection of the Instructor, the grade shall be changed in the manner specified in the University Manual.

Kaplan Policy

Students in the College of Nursing will be required to take standardized achievement tests from Kaplan as part of course requirements. The use of Kaplan Integrated Exams will begin at the start of the Sophomore year, after admission to the College of Nursing. These exams provide an evaluation of the knowledge of subject matter and provide a benchmark for student progression toward program outcomes.

The exam is administered one time during the semester in designated courses.

- In all nursing courses that have a Kaplan Integrated Exam, except the secure predictor which is administered in NUR 415 Transition to Professional Nursing Practice:
 - Total possible points allocated for the exam = 10 (up to 5 points based on the exam score and 5 points for complete, purposeful, effective remediation of all correct and incorrect questions)

- a) Complete, purposeful, effective remediation consists of a minimum of 1 minute review of each question
 - b) Test score for all Integrated Exams, except the Secure Predictor, is compared to the national percentile ranking: up to 5 points
 - a. 60th percentile rank and higher on Integrated test = 5 points
 - b. 50th – 59th percentile rank on Integrated test = 3 points
 - c. 40th – 49th percentile rank on Integrated test = 1 point
 - d. Below 40th percentile rank on Integrated test = 0 points
- Total possible points for the Secure Predictor = 15 points.
 - Complete, purposeful, effective remediation of all correct and incorrect questions: 5 points
 - Test score for the Secure Predictor is based on the Probability to Pass NCLEX.
 - a. ≥ 95% probability to pass = 10 points
 - b. 90%-94.99% probability to pass = 8 points
 - c. 80%-89.99% probability to pass = 6 points
 - d. 70% - 79.99% probability to pass = 5 points
 - e. < 70% probability to pass = 0 points

University Withdrawal (voluntary)

Students may withdraw from College of Nursing and URI at any time. Students who wish to withdraw from the University and College of Nursing must complete the “Withdrawal Form” found on the Enrollment Services website.

Leave of Absence

Students may apply for a Leave of Absence from the College of Nursing and URI. Students must complete the Leave of Absence form found on the Enrollment Services webpage and are required to meet with the Assistant Dean for discussion and approval. Placement in nursing courses may not occur immediately upon return and the student’s enrollment in specific classes will be provided as soon as reasonably possible, on a space available basis. Depending on the length of time away from URI, students may be required to take an exam and complete a skills check to ensure readiness to return to the CON and care for patients in a safe manner. If a student does not show competence in knowledge and skills, they may be required to repeat a NUR course(s) before progressing in the curriculum.

V. Academic Conduct, Integrity & Professionalism

General Principles

Professional conduct is an essential expectation of nursing education and practice. 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. The College of Nursing believes that professional conduct is critical to the practice of nursing and fully supports the University's policies. Students are expected to observe the standards of professional conduct and ethics in the clinical setting, including respect for patient's rights to: considerate and respectful care, information, informed consent, privacy, confidential communication, and continuity of care. Students are expected to conduct themselves as representatives of the profession, the College of Nursing, and the University.

Failure to meet these standards will be treated as a failure to accept responsibility as a student and may make one subject to suspension or dismissal from the College of Nursing.

Incidents of academic dishonesty (including cheating and plagiarism), collusion (the assisting of another student in an act of dishonesty), and misrepresentation are prohibited.

The commission of illegal or unprofessional actions, such as violations of HIPAA or privacy regulations, illegal drug sale, possession or use, chemical impairment, violation of other state or federal laws, and sexual assault or sexual harassment, are also prohibited.

Students who violate the University's student conduct policies may be reported to the Office of Student Life, as indicated in the URI Student Handbook.

Please refer to the URI Student Handbook - <https://web.uri.edu/studentconduct/conduct-system/>, the University Manual (8.27.10-8.27.20) - <https://web.uri.edu/manual/chapter-8/chapter-8-2/>, and the University Catalog - <http://web.uri.edu/catalog/> for the complete policy.

Involuntary Class or Clinical Withdrawals

Breach of professionalism is a serious offense which will be dealt with firmly. The College of Nursing reserves the right to remove (involuntarily withdraw) a student from a class or clinical for a minimum of one day or up to the remainder of the semester in the event it is determined that a student's behavior, attitudes or actions violate essential program or professional

standards or requirements, threaten harm to self or others, and/or indicate that the student is not fit to continue. In this event, students will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

The student will be required to attend a mandatory meeting with a College administrator to discuss the incident or problematic behavior.

Non-Academic Suspension or Dismissal from a Program

In the event it is determined that a student's behavior, attitudes, or actions violate essential program or professional standards or requirements and/or indicate that the student is not fit to continue in the program, the College may suspend or dismiss a student from their program. The College will normally provide notification to the student of the reasons for the contemplated suspension or dismissal and give the student an opportunity to address those reasons before the College deliberates and makes a final decision to suspend or dismiss the student. The nature of the opportunity provided to the student (e.g. a less formal meeting with a College administrator, or a more formal hearing before multiple College officials or a panel, etc.) will depend on the nature and duration of the sanction and the reasons for the contemplated suspension or dismissal and other relevant factors, provided however, that the College reserves the right to immediately suspend the student in the event that the student's immediate continuation in the program constitutes an imminent risk to the student or to other students in the program, or for other compelling reasons.

Formal Complaint Policy

This policy defines formal complaints submitted to the College of Nursing and establishes a procedure regarding the role of the student, college, and university in the review and resolution of such complaints. The College of Nursing adheres to all University policies.

A "formal complaint" under this policy is defined as any signed, written claim submitted to the College of Nursing by a student alleging discriminatory, improper, or arbitrary treatment.

No retaliation or adverse action shall be taken against any student for initiating, participating in, or refusing to participate in, a formal complaint.

Procedure

1. Formal complaints involving an issue of Academic Integrity will fall under College of Nursing Procedures as outlined in this handbook.
2. Complaints involving any other issue will be subject to other established university policies and the official procedure established by the applicable university policy. Such policies include, but are not limited to:
 - University of Rhode Island *Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence Complaint and Adjudication Process* (Student Handbook) and URI Policy #01.001.1 *Sexual Misconduct*
 - University of Rhode Island *Complaint Procedures for Reporting Discrimination and/or Harassment*
 - University of Rhode Island *Student Conduct System and Academic Honesty Procedures* and other related policies as listed in the University of Rhode Island *Student Handbook*, *Graduate Manual*, and *University Manual*

Upon receipt of a formal complaint that is subject to another university policy, the College of Nursing will either advise the student who submitted the formal complaint of the applicable university policy or refer the complaint directly to the appropriate university official, as it determines to be appropriate under the circumstances.

1. Documentation of formal complaints and their disposition will be logged in a database and shall be maintained as confidential and retained in the Office of the Dean of the College of Nursing consistent with University policies and Rhode Island State law. The log shall include:
 - The date the complaint was first formally submitted
 - The nature of the complaint
 - The steps taken to resolve the complaint
 - The School's final decision regarding the complaint
 - Any other external actions initiated by the student to resolve the complaint.

Diversity and Inclusion

The College of Nursing conceptualizes diversity as understanding that each student brings unique experiences, strengths, and ideas to our classroom. These differences can be along dimensions of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, socioeconomic status, age, ability,

religious or political beliefs, or other different ideologies. Diversity is the exploration and incorporation of these differences to enrich learning and in and out of our classrooms.

Each member of the University has the responsibility to foster an environment of acceptance, mutual respect and understanding. If you are a target or witness to a bias incident, you are encouraged to contact the URI Bias Response Team at <https://web.uri.edu/brt/>.

Tobacco & Vaping Policy

The College of Nursing (CON) is dedicated to maintaining a healthy work and learning environment. While the University already prohibits smoking inside its buildings and facilities, the CON policy prohibits smoking or use of tobacco and vaping products by students while in uniform* or at any time when representing the College of Nursing. *See Student Dress Code Policy (page 30)

Alcohol and Drug Policy

Violation of the University's drug and alcohol policies prohibiting illegal use or possession of any controlled substance without a prescription while enrolled in The College of Nursing is considered a serious offense and may result in suspension or dismissal. Many hospitals, clinical facilities, and other professional sites require students to undergo a drug test. Students who test positive for an illegal drug may be denied clinical placement at these sites. As a result, the student's progression to meet the degree requirements can be impeded.

Electronic Devices

The College of Nursing requires responsible use of mobile devices to access electronic information that can be helpful in forming plans of care for patients and for professional communication. Clinical agency policies regarding mobile devices must be followed by all students during their practicum experiences.

Social Media Policy

Social media, such as X, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok etc. are to be used in adherence with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) The purpose of this policy is to maintain the protection of sensitive and confidential information and to uphold professionalism.

This policy applies to the use of mobile devices, social media and internet communications related to confidential information about the faculty, staff, students, classroom and clinical activities, patients, and clinical affiliates. CON students, faculty and staff must always protect

individuals' rights to privacy and confidentiality and communicate sensitive and confidential information in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies (including the policies of clinical training sites), including whenever applicable the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Members of the CON community are expected to observe the American Nurses Association's Social Media Principles

ANA's Principles for Social Networking (<https://www.nursingworld.org/social/>)

1. Be aware of your audience. Make sure that the content of your posts is appropriate for the people who will be seeing it and may share it with others.
2. Maintain your professionalism. Avoid posting anything that could be considered unprofessional or inappropriate, such as photos or videos of patients.
3. Know your social media policy. Familiarize yourself with your employer's social media policy and adhere to it across all the social media platforms that you choose to use.
4. Secure your social media profiles. Review and set up the respective privacy settings for the social media platforms that you choose to use.
5. Share credible information only. The dissemination of credible and reliable information protects the health and well-being of the public.
6. Engage with respectful content. Do not share content that is harmful, disparaging, racist, homophobic, or derogatory.

The policy requires that all:

- Be aware of the necessity of maintaining professional boundaries while using electronic media.
- Follow applicable HIPAA regulations at all times. Identifiable information concerning patients/clinical activities must not be posted in any online forum.
- Protect confidential, sensitive, and proprietary information. Do not share or post any information related to nurse-patient contact or about the College of Nursing.
- Do not post comments on social media sites about patients, clinical facilities, employees of facilities, faculty or other students as these posts violate the individual's right to privacy and may incur liability - even if the posts do not specifically identify individuals.
- Do not make disparaging remarks about patients, employers, or co-workers, even if they are not identified
- Do not use mobile devices to take photos or videos of patients or patient information.
- Use personal electronic devices only as authorized by faculty and clinical affiliates.
- Report any breach of confidentiality or privacy to a College of Nursing administrator or faculty member.

Violations of patient privacy will be subject to applicable HIPAA policies, procedures and sanctions, and may subject the student to other sanctions imposed by the College. Students who wrongly share confidential information, or otherwise engage in unprofessional communication, may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the Nursing program.

Accommodations for Qualified Students with Disabilities

Students are expected to notify faculty if any reasonable accommodations are required in the classroom or clinical setting. If any reasonable accommodations are required, it is expected that the student will notify the faculty with the appropriate paperwork from the Disability, Access and Inclusion Office. Students are required to notify faculty of their accommodations at least seven days prior to quizzes and/or exams. (<http://web.uri.edu/disability/>).

Students who require accommodations in the clinical environment must set up a separate meeting with Disability, Access, and Inclusion to determine what accommodations are necessary to provide equal access. Reasonable accommodations cannot fundamentally alter the core requirements or technical standards of courses or clinical placements.

Email Policy

All email communications to students by the College, or its faculty and staff, will be via the URI email system, with communications sent to the students' URI assigned email address. Students are also required to use their University of Rhode Island email account for all communications with College faculty or staff. Students are expected to frequently monitor their URI email as all URI and College of Nursing academic and clinical information is communicated in this manner.

Brightspace

The CON Undergraduate Student Resources site serves as a communication portal between undergraduate students, faculty, and administrators. Important information such as clinical schedules, events, job postings and graduation information will be shared through these sites. It is important that you become familiar with Brightspace and check the College of Nursing site frequently.

VI. Clinical Policies

Off campus clinical nursing experiences begin in the second semester of Sophomore year with NUR 234 - Practicum: Care of Adults and Older Adults. Clinical experiences allow the student to apply the knowledge gained in the classroom setting to real-life situations under the direct guidance of a faculty member.

Students must meet clinical requirements and abide by all clinical policies to participate in the practicum portion of their education. Should a student have any questions about their ability to meet requirements or follow listed policies, they should contact the clinical coordinator. Failure to do so could impede the student's ability to progress through the program and meet degree requirements.

Changes to these policies may occur at any time during a student's progression through the nursing program. Should any policy be added or modified, the updated information will be located on the [College of Nursing webpage](#).

Adherence to Clinical Requirements

All students are expected to follow the College of Nursing clinical policies. Failure to follow clinical policies or maintain clinical requirements may affect successful completion of the clinical courses and the nursing program. Students who do not adhere to the policies or allow requirements to lapse are not allowed to attend clinical courses. Students who are unable to attend a scheduled clinical experience because they have not met or maintained required clinical requirements (non-adherence) will receive a 10-point deduction for each missed clinical day. Students who miss three clinical days due to non-adherence will automatically fail the clinical course. Permission to repeat a clinical course is not guaranteed and will be considered by the Scholastic Standing Committee on a space-available basis. (please see full attendance policy p. 19)

College of Nursing Clinical Requirements

1. Criminal Background Check
2. American Heart Association Basic Life Support CPR Certification
3. Student Agreement Form
4. COVID-19 Vaccination (primary series of vaccine) OR current Bivalent Booster
5. Tuberculosis Test (annual)
6. Ishihara Color Blindness Screening

7. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
8. Varicella
9. Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (TDaP)
10. Influenza
11. Hepatitis B
12. N95 Mask Fit Testing

Background screening

Criminal Background Check Requirements

- All College of Nursing students must complete a comprehensive criminal background check through CastleBranch (888-723-4263) before beginning clinical courses and every 12 months thereafter.
- Background checks must be completed by:
 - August 31 for fall semester clinicals
 - December 15 for spring semester clinicals
- Instructions for completing the background check are sent:
 - August for fall semester
 - October for spring semester
- If more than 12 months have passed since your last background check and you have not received updated instructions, contact the Clinical Coordinator.
- Some hospitals, clinical facilities, and professional sites require an additional pre-rotation background check.
- Fingerprinting may be required in some cases, especially when state police or other law enforcement agencies conduct the background check.
- Students should be aware that certain findings in their background check may limit or prevent clinical placement, which may affect progression in the program.
- The College of Nursing may contact the URI Dean of Students Office to confirm:
 - Students are not under disciplinary sanction.
 - Students have no pending judicial cases that would affect eligibility for clinical or internship experiences.
- The College may also consult the Dean of Students Office if concerns arise regarding a student's behavior, wellness, or mental health.

Licensure Considerations

- Students are responsible for reviewing the licensing requirements of the state in which they plan to practice.
- Students with concerns or questions should contact the Clinical Coordinator.

Implications of Adverse Findings

- Adverse findings on any background check—whether required by URI or a clinical site—may negatively affect:
 - Academic standing
 - Eligibility for clinical placement
 - Ability to continue in the program
- Serious violations or concerns related to behavioral, academic, or professional standards may result in additional review or action.

Drug Testing

- Many hospitals, clinical facilities, and other professional sites require students to undergo a drug test.
- Students who test positive for an illegal drug will be denied placements at these sites.
- As a result, the student's progression to meet the degree requirements can be impeded.

Office of Inspector General (OIG) Search

- Some clinical sites will prohibit students from clinical experiences at their institutions if found on the OIG's List of Excluded Individuals/Entities (LEIE) and the student's progression to meet the degree requirements may be impeded.
- If a student anticipates any issue arising from their OIG check or has any questions, please contact the Clinical Coordinator.

American Heart Association BLS Provider CPR

- Students are required to be certified in professional level CPR for adults and children prior to NUR 234.
- The only accepted CPR certification is the American Heart Association BLS course. The course is offered by URI Health Services and free for nursing students. Instructions on how to enroll can be found on the CON Undergraduate Resources Brightspace page. Any CPR class taken elsewhere will be the financial responsibility of the student.

- Proof of certification must be uploaded to CastleBranch.

Student Agreement Form

- This form signifies the student agrees to fulfill all academic obligations outlined in the course syllabus and all financial obligations incurred while participating in the URI College of Nursing Clinical Program while matriculated at the University of Rhode Island.
- It also signifies that the student acknowledges assumption of risk by voluntarily participating in clinical, simulation and the skills lab.
- The form must be signed prior to NUR 234. Forms can be found on CastleBranch and uploaded upon signature.

Immunizations

- Nursing students must meet specific health and immunization requirements before being allowed to begin any clinical nursing course. These requirements reflect RI Department of Health regulations, infection control, and current affiliation agreements with clinical sites. Refer to list on page XXX.
- All students are required to be current in all their immunizations, screenings, and certifications. Students are expected to maintain current records through the College of Nursing contracted agency, CastleBranch at <https://mycb.castlebranch.com>. (Customer service: customerservice@disahealthcare.com).
- Students who are unable to meet or maintain health and immunization requirements may be denied placement by clinical affiliates. This may impede a student's ability to progress through the program and meet degree requirements.
- Any student who anticipates issues meeting and maintaining requirements should speak to the Clinical Coordinator.
- All URI students may use Health Services for care, whether covered by URI health insurance or by any other health insurance company. URI Health Services will bill your insurance provider for any services rendered.
- Students are also free to use their own providers.

Specific health and immunization information is required for the following:

COVID-19 Vaccination

- COVID-19 vaccination requirements are determined by the assigned clinical agency and may vary by site.
- The College of Nursing will communicate applicable COVID-19 requirements and submit required health compliance documentation to the assigned clinical agency.
- Students are responsible for providing all required documentation by established deadlines.
- Requests for medical or religious exemptions must be submitted for clinical agencies to approve or decline. The clinical agency has sole authority to approve or deny exemption requests.
- Students who do not meet the requirements of their assigned clinical agency may be ineligible for clinical placement, which may delay progression in the nursing program.
- The College of Nursing cannot guarantee an alternative clinical placement for students who do not meet clinical agency requirements.

Tuberculosis (Screening Test)

- Tuberculosis tests are required every year.
- The CON accepts either the two-step PPD skin test or the Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) blood test to determine exposure to tuberculosis.
- The PPD test includes two completed tests done at least one week apart, but less than one year apart.
- Documentation of test results must be submitted to CastleBranch every year.
- **If your TB test is positive**, a chest x-ray may be required to assess for evidence of disease.
- Students who have a history of a positive test, a positive chest x-ray, or who have undergone TB treatment are required to obtain yearly medical evaluation to document no signs of active disease, and can participate in clinical practicums.
- Appropriate clearance must be obtained before the first day of the semester and every 12 months thereafter.

Ishihara Color Blindness Screening

- Students are required to provide proof of color blindness screening (Ishihara color test). Results should be uploaded to CastleBranch.

- If the screening indicates color blindness the student should inform their clinical instructor, and refrain from interpreting test results that require discerning variations of color.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)

- Documentation of two doses of the MMR vaccine must be uploaded to CastleBranch.
- In the absence of vaccine documentation, a titer will be required and only positive titers will be accepted.

Varicella (Chicken Pox)

- Documentation of two doses of the varicella vaccine, or documentation of a positive varicella titer, must be uploaded to CastleBranch.
- If you have had the disease (after 12 months of age), physician documented confirmation is required.

NOTE: Individuals who have negative or low serum titers to rubella, rubeola, mumps, varicella or Hepatitis B should consult with their health care provider about boosters or revaccination.

Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis

- Documentation of a single dose of Tdap vaccine must be uploaded to CastleBranch.
- Once the initial Tdap documentation is in place, either a Tdap or a TD vaccine booster is required every 10 years.

Influenza

- Rhode Island Department of Health regulations require healthcare workers, including nursing students, to receive an annual influenza vaccination or wear a surgical mask during periods when influenza is declared widespread.
- Individual clinical agencies may have influenza vaccination requirements that are more restrictive than state requirements.
- The College of Nursing will communicate applicable influenza vaccination requirements and submit required health compliance documentation to the assigned clinical agency.
- Students are responsible for providing all required documentation into CastleBranch by September 30th. Requests for medical or religious exemptions must be submitted for clinical agencies to approve or decline. The clinical agency has sole authority to approve or deny exemption requests.
- Students who do not meet the influenza requirements of their assigned clinical agency may be ineligible for clinical placement, which may delay progression in the nursing program.

- The College of Nursing cannot guarantee an alternative clinical placement for students who do not meet clinical agency requirements.

Hepatitis B Vaccination

- Documentation of three doses of the HBV vaccine must be uploaded to CastleBranch. If students have not completed the HBV series, a serum titer must be done to verify immune status.

Fit Testing - N95 Masks

- Nursing students are required to be fit tested annually for the use of N95 masks. There are two parts to the fit testing process. The first part is a medical evaluation questionnaire to assess for any issues that would impact the user wearing the mask. The second part is the actual fitting of the mask on the user's face and assessment of the seal provided by the mask.
- The College of Nursing offers fit testing, through URI Health Services, for nursing students twice a year (January and September), in preparation for clinical rotations. The Clinical Coordinator will notify students who are due for fit testing by email before the start of the semester. Instructions for completing the medical evaluation and scheduling a fit testing will be sent to students from URI Health Services.
- Students who do not meet the annual fit testing requirement will not be allowed to attend clinical until they meet this requirement.
- Fit testing documentation completed outside of URI, such as a healthcare employer, should be sent to the clinical coordinator for consideration of meeting the student requirement.
- For questions about fit testing process, please contact the Clinical Coordinator: Donna Donilon, RN; email: ddonilon@uri.edu; office phone: 401-874-4806.

Centralized Clinical Placement Online Learning/Orientation Modules

To be eligible to participate in clinical, all students must complete the Centralized Clinical Placement (CCP) online orientation program. The program is completed in 3 steps:

1. Complete the modules & post-tests.
2. Submit required contact information to the clinical placement facility.
3. Complete any facility-specific material and print your Clinical Assignment Ticket.

Directions for access are available on the CON Brightspace site. CCP modules must be completed every year. Modules are updated on July 1st for the upcoming academic year.

Note: The procedures described in this handbook reflect the current clinical registry process for the academic year. If a clinical agency implements a different clinical registry system during the academic year, students assigned to that agency will be notified and provided with updated instructions.

Transportation to Clinical Facilities

Transportation to and from the clinical agency is the responsibility of each student. Students are expected to have car insurance as required by the State of RI. Clinical sites are located throughout Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

Students are not to transport patients/clients or their families to or from appointments etc.

Clinical, Simulation, and Laboratory Attendance Policy

Purpose Attendance in clinical courses is essential to student learning, patient safety, and professional development. Consistent presence ensures that students gain the full benefit of supervised practice and meet program outcomes. Clinical attendance applies to all experiences including those at the clinical site, simulation, and laboratory.

Professional Expectations

- Students are expected to demonstrate accountability by managing their schedules responsibly.
- Attendance is part of professional behavior and is evaluated alongside clinical, simulation, and laboratory performance.
- Policy
- Students are required to attend all scheduled clinical, simulation, and laboratory days in full.
- All missed clinical hours must be made up in their entirety. The assigned clinical faculty member will determine the date, time, and location of any required make-up experience.
- 3 missed days will likely result in an inability to meet course outcomes impacting progression and/or standing in the nursing program.
- For each day a student arrives late, 1 point will be deducted from the final clinical grade due to lack of professionalism.
- Each unexcused absence will result in a 10-point deduction from the student's final clinical grade. Excused absences include those due to serious illness, accident, personal tragedy, or traumatic loss (death of family member or other significant human relationship) preventing students from attending clinical/simulation/lab per University Manual.

Procedures

- Students must notify the clinical or simulation instructor and, if applicable, the clinical preceptor at least 2 hours prior to the start of the clinical/simulation/lab day if they are unable to attend or will be tardy.
- Documentation (e.g., medical note) may be required for absences to be excused.

Clinical Course Registration and Switch Policy

Students register for clinical courses at the same time as they choose their lecture courses. Students should be aware that a number of factors (numbers of students, faculty and clinical agency availability, etc.) influence the clinical course offerings and they are subject to change at any time prior to the start of the semester. While the College of Nursing makes every attempt to keep the placement site, day, and time the same as was originally listed, it is not guaranteed and all three may change. Current clinical listings are immediately updated when a change occurs and can be found on the CON - Undergraduate Student Resources Brightspace site. The College cannot guarantee or prearrange clinical location, days, or times for any student. Personal requests cannot be accommodated. Clinical courses are scheduled seven days a week between 7am and 11pm. Every effort is made to avoid Saturday and Sunday clinical groups, but they may occur. An exception to this is NUR 417, which requires flexibility in days and times to meet required clinical hours. Students not officially registered in a course may NOT attend any clinical experiences until they are officially registered. Students who earned an incomplete grade will be allowed to repeat a course with the permission of the Scholastic Standing Committee only.

Switching groups is not allowed unless:

1. There is an open section **AND** the clinical placements have not been processed.
2. An agreeable student is found to switch **AND** the clinical placements have not been processed
3. A student has documentation from the Disability Services for Students Office (including medical excuses) related to an inability to attend a specific section of clinical versus another section.
4. The student requests the switch to allow them to participate as a URI team member at an authorized NCAA University sanctioned event.
5. Section changes are considered only if an opening exists, clinical placements have not been processed, and clinical scheduling has been finalized. Section changes are not guaranteed.

Incident Reports in the Clinical Setting

- Students who have an accident, injury, needlestick, or Blood Borne Pathogen exposure should obtain immediate medical treatment. If a student receives a contaminated needle stick or is exposed to blood or body fluids, the clinical instructor must be informed immediately, and the Clinical Coordinator
- If you come in contact with or acquire any infectious diseases or a medical condition which may affect your health status, your performance in clinical, or your patients' health, please inform your clinical nursing instructor, and the Clinical Coordinator. Also, seek assistance from URI Health Services and/or another health care provider.
- The student and faculty must follow the clinical agency's protocol for documentation of the incident, patient and student blood testing and potential follow-up. The student also must fill out a Blood Borne Pathogens Exposure form at the college to submit to Risk Management Full policy and form found at: [Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure form](#).
- If a student has an accident or injury not related to a needle stick or Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure, a [Student Accident Report form](#) must be filled out and submitted to Risk Management and notify the Clinical Coordinator.
- The student is encouraged to be seen at their healthcare provider's office or URI Health Services for follow-up.
- All payments for urgent medical services required during clinical hours or related to clinical incidents are the responsibility of the student.

Health Insurance

All nursing students must carry health insurance. If any student does not have their own private insurance, they are required to participate in the University offered coverage. Information regarding obtaining coverage through the University can be found [here](#). All payments for medical services required during clinical hours are the responsibility of the student.

Malpractice Insurance

All students are covered by the University liability insurance policy when they are enrolled in a course with a clinical component. This insurance covers the student only for activities directly related to the College of Nursing courses.

While the University carries basic malpractice insurance for all students officially registered at the University and engaging in nursing care as part of an educational experience, optional malpractice insurance can be obtained through national nursing organizations and private insurance carriers if desired.

HIPAA and Privacy Policy – (see also Social Media policy)

All students must comply with the applicable requirements of The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) when accessing, using, or disclosing “protected health information” (“PHI”) relating to the individual patients or clients of a HIPAA covered healthcare provider (e.g. a hospital or other clinical provider organization where the student is receiving clinical training). [HIPAA for Professionals | HHS.gov](#)

During clinical rotations, students will be considered “trainees” who are “members of the workforce” of the clinical organization for purposes of HIPAA and shall follow all of the clinical organization’s policies and procedures relating to HIPAA, as well as its other health information privacy and security policies, if any.

For reasons of privacy, students also shall not intentionally be assigned to provide care for any client with whom they are personally acquainted, including members of the University of Rhode Island community (i.e., faculty, fellow students, or staff). Should students become aware that they have inadvertently been given such an assignment, they are to notify the instructor or preceptor immediately.

Students are expected to provide dignified care for and uphold patient’s right to privacy and confidentiality as referenced in the CCP learning modules.

Clinical Remediation Process

If at any time a student’s performance in the clinical is considered to be unsatisfactory, the student will be notified with a written warning notice from the clinical instructor. Students may receive one of the following:

Clinical Action Plan (CAP)

When a student’s performance does not meet expectations and/or learning outcomes, a Clinical Action Plan (CAP) is prepared by the clinical instructor or preceptor, in collaboration with the clinical instructor. The plan is time-limited and designed to assist the student to meet course objectives.

The CAP will include the course objective(s) that is not being met and evidence that supports this decision. This is signed by the student and the clinical instructor or preceptor. The Lead Teacher is notified that a CAP is being implemented.

A collaborative plan for improvement is then developed by the lead teacher, clinical instructor or preceptor and the student. It should include what the student will do and what support will be provided by the faculty (lead teacher, clinical instructor or preceptor, and/or tutor). The plan will include a due date and is signed by the clinical instructor or preceptor and the student. At the due date, the lead teacher and clinical instructor or preceptor will decide if the objective is now being met, or if the student will be placed on clinical warning. A copy of the CAP is placed in the student's academic file.

Clinical Warning

A student will receive a clinical warning when the student fails to meet the requirements of the CAP or commits a single serious occurrence. A student may receive a clinical warning at any time during the semester. The recommendation for clinical warning is made by the clinical instructor or preceptor and the lead teacher. The student will be advised of his/her status in writing including a statement of the course objective(s) which the student performed unsatisfactorily or inconsistently, including supporting information/observations.

A time-limited action plan will be developed by the lead teacher, clinical instructor or preceptor, and the student. A student receiving a clinical warning must meet the clinical objectives by the end of the semester to satisfactorily pass the course and progress to the next nursing course. A student cannot progress to the next clinical course while a clinical warning is still in place.

Exceptions to the Clinical Warning Policy may occur if, in the professional judgment of the academic dean, lead teacher, and clinical instructor or preceptor, a student demonstrates inappropriate, unethical, or unsafe behaviors or places a client in imminent danger during a clinical course. Should this situation occur, the student may be dismissed from the clinical area and/or the nursing program without a prior clinical warning.

Student Skill Lab Referral

When students are having difficulty with assessment, the nursing process, specific skills, or are not performing at an expected level, the clinical instructor can request use of the skills lab to perform a remediation session. This is a mechanism to help the student be successful in the course. It is a formative process and does not impact negatively on the student's grade, if remediation leads to the student successfully meeting the course objectives.

Dress Code and Uniform Policy

Complying with the uniform policies in clinical courses is an important demonstration of the professional role of the student nurse in the College of Nursing. This includes clinical courses

conducted in clinical agencies and in the College laboratories. Students who are non-compliant will be sent home from clinical/lab and will receive the appropriate reduction in course grade.

Professional Attire for Clinical College Laboratory Experiences

All on campus laboratory experiences (e.g. Simulation Days and clinical skill learning days), require students to wear the uniform described under “Professional Attire for other in-patient and Simulation/lab Settings” including the hair, tattoo, jewelry and nail requirements below.

Students must wear their lab coats and URI scrubs and follow the hair, tattoo, jewelry and nail requirements below during NUR 203 labs and Open Lab hours.

Professional Attire for Community Settings and Behavioral Health Settings:

- URI College of Nursing navy blue polo shirt – must be tucked in
- Khaki loose fitting professional pants (no jeans/lowriders/hip-huggers)
- Clean sneakers, or shoes that fully cover the whole foot (no open back clogs, platforms, sandals, or mesh top sneakers). Shoes must protect your feet from spills, needle drop/stick, heavy equipment, etc.
- Name pin

Professional Attire for Other In-patient and Simulation/Lab Settings

- Lab Coat – Cherokee Women’s 33” Embroidered Lab coat
- Lab Coat – Cherokee Men’s 30” Embroidered Consultation Lab coat
- Uniform V-Neck Scrub Top with 2 pockets in Royal Blue Embroidered, Cherokee Uniform pant:
 - Option 1: Cherokee Royal Blue Drawstring Scrub Pant.
 - Option 2: Cherokee Royal blue Elastic Waist Cargo pocket.
 - Option 3: Cherokee Jogger
- Polo – Navy Blue Embroidered 50/50 blend Gildan Polo Shirt
- All clothing items above will be embroidered with URI College of Nursing
- Clean sneakers, or shoes that fully cover the whole foot (no open back clogs, platforms, sandals, or mesh top sneakers). Shoes must protect your feet from spills, needle drop/stick, heavy equipment, etc.
- Name Pin

All uniforms can be purchased through [Alexander Uniforms](#) using password: myURLuniforms

Professional Appearance Guidelines – requirements for all experiential learning

- Beards and mustaches must be short, clean, and trimmed.

- Smoking and vaping are prohibited while in uniform or while representing the College of Nursing.
- Hair for both men and women must be clean and away from the face.
- Hair color must be of a naturally occurring shade. Extreme colors are not allowed. Any hair styling or color that may cause distraction to patient care or detracts from a professional appearance is not appropriate.
- Long hair must be tied back.
- Fingernails must be short and unpolished. NO acrylic or gel nails! They trap bacteria and are a potential danger for patients.
- No jewelry (except for one pair of stud earrings) is allowed. No facial jewelry is acceptable. Wedding bands are allowed.
- Tattoos must be covered to not distract from patient care.
- Subtle makeup is allowed.
- No fragrances are allowed in clinical areas.
- No sweatshirts or hoodies

Student Laboratory Requirements

Student expectations for attending Skills and Simulation labs are the same as a clinical experience.

For full policies and procedures see the [Nursing Skills and Simulation Lab Policy Manual](#).

Importance of Surveys to the URI College of Nursing

Please note that all surveys sent by the College of Nursing, Graduate School, Center for Career and Experiential Education, and URI or other entities within URI, including those sent after program completion/graduation are pertinent to the College of Nursing's national accreditation and for URI's accreditation. The College of Nursing encourages all graduates to complete these surveys when received.

These surveys individually and collectively capture an array of data that are used to inform future curricula development, resources to help students, and to meet requirements set by the College's national accreditor, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). For all CCNE accredited nursing programs, please remember that licensure, certification, and other outcomes are directly related to accreditation. If we do not meet the requirements set by our national accreditors due to a lack of data, it puts the College of Nursing's baccalaureate, master's, DNP and post-graduate APRN certificate programs in an undesirable position for all students, alumni, faculty, and staff. This is why we highly encourage students and alumni to take surveys and below are some key highlights of what is directly connected to accreditation via CCNE.

What CCNE accredited programs offer:

- **Financial Aid:** Students at accredited schools are eligible for federal loans and grants, as noted by the [U.S. Department of Education](#).
- **Quality Assurance:** Ensures the curriculum, faculty, and resources meet established, high-quality standards.
- **Licensure & Exam Eligibility:** Most state boards of nursing require graduation from an accredited program to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam and apply for registered nurse licensure. The same is required for qualifying to take national certification exams for nurse practitioner specialties, and then subsequently to apply for nurse practitioner licensure.
- **Employment Opportunities:** Many hospitals and employers prefer or require graduates from [CCNE-accredited programs](#).
- **Academic Advancement:** Accreditation is often required for transferring credits or pursuing advanced degrees (MSN, DNP).
- **Public Safety:** Ensures nurses are trained to provide safe, competent care no matter where they are practicing as a registered nurse, nurse practitioner or in leadership roles.