Mission: To provide a quality curriculum through which nursing students are prepared to be competent, professional nurses and develop a commitment to lifelong learning.
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Dear Nursing Student:

Welcome to Northwestern Michigan College’s Nursing Program. You have chosen to become a member of a health profession that is rewarding, challenging, stimulating and demanding. This exciting career challenge is about to begin. The NMC nursing program faculty all wish you success as you pursue your nursing career. So study hard, take advantage of all learning activities, seek new learning experiences, and take responsibility for your own learning. We are here to assist you to reach your goal to become a member of the nursing profession!

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Take full advantage of every learning opportunity. Make an effort to see the purpose of every assignment whether it is a reading assignment or a patient care assignment. By recognizing the purpose, every assignment becomes a learning opportunity. Do your best. Strive to discover and perform new skills. Your mastery and application of the knowledge and skills required to provide quality care is of prime importance. One measurable degree to which you achieve nursing knowledge and skill will be reflected by your grades. Another important measure is the patient/patient satisfaction after you have taken care of them for the day. Take time to reflect and ask yourself: “Am I providing the highest quality nursing care that I would want my loved ones to receive when they are a patient?” and “Am I learning everything I possibly can in this course?” Reflect on your learning often and ask yourself “how can I do things better next time?”

Keep in contact with your academic nursing advisor. A nursing faculty academic advisor was assigned to you upon entrance to the program. If you do not remember who it is, the Health Occupations office manager can help you connect with him or her. Let your advisor know how you are doing once a semester. If you are having difficulty in a class, talk with your advisor early and ask questions. Your advisor is very helpful to your successful navigation throughout the nursing program.

This policy book is provided so that you may have a full understanding of the Nursing Program philosophy, student expectations, policies and clinical regulations. Read it carefully as your signature on the verification form indicates that you understand and will abide by the policies of the program.

With best wishes for success,

Laura

Laura A. Schmidt DNP, FNP-BC
Director, Nursing & Allied Health
Northwestern Michigan College

Mission

To provide a quality curriculum through which nursing students are prepared to be competent, professional nurses and develop a commitment to lifelong learning.

Statement of Philosophy

The Department of Nursing strives to fulfill the Mission, Vision, and Values of Northwestern Michigan College. The faculty have designed a curriculum to meet the needs of students which provides a foundation necessary to facilitate successful completion of the NCLEX exam and, ultimately, successful entry into the nursing profession. In addition, the nursing programs encourage lifelong learning through collaboration with community partners and universities. The curriculum of the nursing programs is based upon the following beliefs:

- Human beings are unique, holistic individuals. They function within families, groups, and communities in a dynamic interaction with the environment. Human beings have the potential for learning and developing over the life span. They are autonomous beings who have the right and responsibility to make choices as they attempt to attain or maintain optimal health states.

- Health is a dynamic state across the wellness-illness continuum, through which the patient actively engages in the process of living and dying and is comprised of biological, psycho-social, and cultural aspects.

- Environment is the context within which the nurse and patient live, interact, and function. It is comprised of all conditions, circumstances, and influences surrounding and affecting the development and behavior of individuals, families, groups, or communities. Environment has the potential to enhance or diminish the health of human beings.

- Nursing is a unique, holistic, and caring profession. The professional nurse utilizes the nursing process which is guided by evidenced-based research, various types of thinking, and ethical and legal standards to facilitate progression of the patient toward optimal health throughout the lifespan. Nursing responds to the needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities and collaborates with other healthcare professionals and consumers to promote healthy environments and lifestyle behaviors.

The nursing faculty members believe that ADN graduates of the Northwestern Michigan College Nursing Program are professional practitioners. Graduates of the Practical Nursing Program are technical nurses. All program graduates provide safe, effective, holistic care within the scope of practice of the nursing profession. The Associate Degree and Practical nurse use various types of thinking such as clinical reasoning and critical thinking within their practice. The graduate nurse is an excellent communicator and views the bigger picture to include the family and significant individuals in the patient’s life. They are a collaborator of care with other members of the healthcare team. The plan of care for their patient is evidenced based and incorporates education to help promote a healthy lifestyle.

As educators in the Department of Nursing, we believe that students must accept responsibility for their learning but also understand that we must support, guide, and facilitate student learning. Education is believed to be a lifelong journey that begins with learning the basic knowledge needed to practice and progresses through continual improvement of the individual’s own professional practice. We believe in keeping learning at the center and encourage our students to advance their education to continue the learning process.
Organizing Framework

The organizing framework for the Northwestern Michigan College Nursing programs provides a foundation to implement the mission, philosophy, and curriculum of the nursing program. It encompasses the beliefs of the faculty and the understanding that learning is at the center of our mission. The level 4 student learning outcomes are the core components of this framework:

- Communication & Collaboration Skills
- Patient-Centered Care
- Nursing Judgment
- Professional Identity
- Safety

Students will successfully reach these outcomes through immersion in an evidence based curriculum that values the nursing process and offers opportunities to experience nursing through various clinical placements in the acute care and community settings.
## Student Learning Outcomes

|                           | Level 1 (Semester 1)                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Level 2 (Semester 2)                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Level 3 (Semester 3)                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Level 4 (Semester 4)                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Communication &        | **Definition:** The use of professional verbal and written communication skills to promote knowledge, facilitate quality patient-centered care, and function effectively within nursing and interdisciplinary teams.   | Recognizes the impact of professional communication skills in promoting knowledge, facilitating quality patient-centered care, and in promoting effective team functioning.                                                                                                          | Utilizes professional communication skills to facilitate shared decision-making in providing patient-centered care, and in promoting effective team functioning.                                                                                                             | Integrates professional communication skills to facilitate shared decision-making in providing patient-centered care, and in promoting effective team functioning.                                                                                                        |
| Collaboration             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Explains the impact of professional communication skills in promoting knowledge, facilitating quality patient-centered care, and in promoting effective team functioning.                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| **Nursing Judgment**     | **Definition:** The use of various types of thinking that includes, but is not limited to, critical thinking and clinical reasoning to provide safe, effective, quality, evidence-based patient care.                                                                                     | Recognizes various types of thinking required to implement the nursing process.                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Applies various types of thinking required to implement the nursing process.                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Integrates various types of thinking required to implement the nursing process.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Explains various types of thinking required to implement the nursing process.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| **Patient-Centered Care** | **Definition:** The recognition of the autonomy of the patient or his/her designee when implementing coordinated care that respects the patient’s culture and values, and includes the family/significant others, while holistically addressing the physical, mental, and spiritual needs. | Implements holistic patient-centered care for one to two assigned patients with guidance.                                                                                                                                                                                      | Implements holistic patient-centered care for an assigned group of patients.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Coordinates holistic patient-centered care provided to an assigned group of patients.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| **Professional Identity** | **Definition:** Upholds professional standards, ethics, and legal regulations in the practice of nursing while implementing interventions that are consistent with established policies and procedures.                                                                                               | Implements nursing actions based on decisions that are consistent with standards for nursing practice, established policies and procedures, and legal/ethical parameters with guidance.                                         | Implements nursing actions based on decisions that are consistent with standards for nursing practice, established policies and procedures, and legal/ethical parameters with guidance.                                          | Employs nursing actions based on decisions that are consistent with standards for nursing practice, established policies and procedures, and legal/ethical parameters.                                                                                                               |
|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| **Safety**                | **Definition:** The potential for harm to patients and health care team members is minimized by implementing current practice policies and procedures.                                                                       | Demonstrates safe care practices that minimize the potential for harm to patients, self, and health care team members with guidance.                                                                                                                                         | Performs safe care practices that minimize the potential for harm to patients, self, and health care team members.                                                                                                                                                                  | Integrates safe care practices that minimize the potential for harm to patients, self, and other health care team members.                                                                                                                                                          |
|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
Mathematics Requirements within the Nursing Program

Accurate pharmacological calculation skills will be developed and evaluated in HNR 102, the first clinical course in the nursing program. In each clinical course thereafter, students will be required to validate their calculation competency. These calculation skills are a prerequisite for all subsequent clinical course work. The following math requirement must be met prior to students administering medications in a clinical course. If the math requirement is not met, the student will be dismissed from the program.

A 10-item calculation skills exam will be administered in second, third, and fourth semester clinical nursing courses during the first week of classes each semester. A score of 100% is required by the first clinical day of the second week in the following courses: HNR 126, 142, 242, 248, 252, 262. For HNR 102 Fundamentals of Nursing, the student must obtain a 100% by the 11th week of the semester. Bring a calculator to use for this exam. Phone calculators may not be used. The student can retake the exam once prior to remediation as described below.

Students who are unsuccessful in meeting this requirement must present documentation of participation in tutoring/remediation activities to their instructor after which the test may be taken a third time. This must be done by the end of the second week of clinical for second, third and fourth semester students and the end of week 13 for first semester students. If this test is not passed at 100%, this will be considered a course fail and the student will be ineligible to continue in the course. This will also result in a program failure and the student will complete a Change in Sequence form to request readmission. If this is a second program fail, the student will not be eligible for readmission and must follow the recommendations in the policy book related to Readmission Following Dismissal.

Language Requirements within the Nursing Program

It is an expectation of the Nursing Department that students use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, word selection, and sentence structure in all written assignments. The goal is to have each student able to document patient care accurately and succinctly. If a student does not demonstrate satisfactory language skills, the student may not continue in the program. Examples of errors include spelling, grammar, incorrect verb forms, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraph structure, failure to capitalize proper names, incorrect word choice/incorrect use of English language (there vs their vs they’re; who vs whom; to, too, two; its vs it’s; then vs than; your vs you’re; lead vs led; already vs all ready; past vs passed; affect vs effect; do vs due, etc.).

- A maximum of 6 errors at the end of the first semester in order to continue into the second semester.
- A maximum of 4 errors at the end of the second semester in order to continue into the third semester.
- A maximum of 3 errors at the end of the third semester in order to continue into the fourth semester.
- A maximum of 2 errors in the fourth semester.

APA format is used for all nursing papers. If the student does not demonstrate knowledge of APA format at the level defined below, the student may not continue in the program:

- A maximum of 8 errors at the end of the first semester in order to continue into the second semester.
- A maximum of 6 errors at the second semester in order to continue into the third semester.
- A maximum of 4 errors at the end of the third semester in order to continue into the fourth semester.
- A maximum of 2 errors in the fourth semester.
Course Requirements for Graduation

It is the student's responsibility to be sure he/she has completed and received credit for all courses required for graduation. This is particularly important to the student who has completed any coursework at a college or university other than Northwestern Michigan College.

Each transfer student must request an evaluation of their transcripts to determine transfer course equivalencies. This request should be made to the Records & Registration Office as soon as possible after admission to the college. It is highly recommended that each student obtain and retain a written and signed copy of this evaluation.

CPR certification is recommended to be completed prior to admission or taken as a co-requisite with HNR 102 within the first five weeks of HNR 102. It is a pre-requisite for all subsequent clinical nursing classes. The following courses are acceptable courses: AHA Basic Life Support for Health Care Professionals (CPR and AED), HeartCode® BLS, and the American Red Cross BLS for Health Care Providers.

During the third semester of the nursing program, students are to apply for graduation through the Records & Registration Office. Once the graduation application is completed and reviewed, students will receive an audit letter confirming they have met the graduation requirements or identifying what is needed for graduation. By applying during the third semester, students have a semester prior to graduation to complete graduation requirements.

The following courses are required for completion of an ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*BIO 227</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*BIO 228</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology II</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*BIO 240</td>
<td>Normal and Clinical Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*ENG 111</td>
<td>English Composition</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*ENG 112</td>
<td>English Composition</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*PSY 101</td>
<td>Intro to Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*PHL 202</td>
<td>Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*HAH 100c</td>
<td>Informatics Essentials</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Nursing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 101</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Nursing – Lecture</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 102</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Nursing – Clinical</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 106</td>
<td>Pharmacology I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 107</td>
<td>Pharmacology II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 125</td>
<td>Nursing Across the Lifespan – Lecture</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 126</td>
<td>Nursing Across the Lifespan – Clinical</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*HNR 241</td>
<td>Advanced Maternal &amp; Child Nursing – Lecture</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*HNR 242</td>
<td>Advanced Maternal &amp; Child Nursing – Clinical</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*HNR 247</td>
<td>Nursing Management of Complex Patients I- Lecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*HNR 248</td>
<td>Nursing Management of Complex Patients I – Clinical</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*HNR 251</td>
<td>Mental Health Nursing – Lecture</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*HNR 252</td>
<td>Mental Health Nursing – Clinical</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*HNR 261</td>
<td>Nursing Management of Complex Patients II – Lecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*HNR 262</td>
<td>Nursing Management of Complex Patients II – Clinical</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Licensed Practical Nurses admitted to the ADN Completion Option must complete the (*) courses above. Graduates of other Practical Nursing programs and of NMC’s Practical Nursing program prior to 1993 may also need to complete an individualized self-study class to update their skills and/or knowledge base to prepare for the nursing classes.

Note: A maximum of 23 nursing credits will be awarded for Practical Nursing course work. A minimum of 16 - degree credits must be completed through NMC classes.
The following courses are required for completion of the PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 227</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 228</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology II</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 240</td>
<td>Normal and Clinical Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Nursing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 101</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Nursing – Lecture</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 102</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Nursing – Clinical</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 106</td>
<td>Pharmacology I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 107</td>
<td>Pharmacology II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 125</td>
<td>Nursing Across the Lifespan – Lecture</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 126</td>
<td>Nursing Across the Lifespan – Clinical</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR 145</td>
<td>Practical Nursing Role &amp; Issues</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAH 100c</td>
<td>Informatics Essentials</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Academic Plan**

The Nursing Program Model Schedule was developed to identify the required sequence of classes. The availability of non-nursing courses cannot be guaranteed at times other than those in the model schedule. While these courses may be offered at other times, it may not be possible to schedule them along with the required nursing courses. Failure to complete courses according to the model schedule may result in a delay in graduation and licensure. It is the student's responsibility to enroll in and to complete all required courses. See current NMC Catalog (https://www.nmc.edu/programs/catalog-schedules/nmc-catalog.html) for course prerequisites and co-requisites.

**Criminal Background Checks**

Criminal Background Checks are now required on all students entering the Associate Degree in Nursing and the Practical Nursing programs at NMC. This is due to the change in legislation that requires Criminal Background Checks be completed for certain health care institutions. The background check will be required by NMC upon admission to the program and prior to the beginning of the first course. An updated Ichat background check will also be required for any student readmitted to the program based on the NMC Nursing Background Check Records policy in the Health Occupations Office. The costs associated with this background check will be the sole responsibility of the nursing student. Following graduation all nursing license applicants in the State of Michigan are required by the Bureau of Health Professions to complete an updated criminal background fingerprint check prior to taking the NCLEX exam. The following link provides information on the State of Michigan exclusions for criminal history. Please review the information if you have a criminal history to determine if you are eligible for clinical placement as a nursing student. Felonies typically have restricted admission until after a 10-15 year period from the time of completion of sentence and all probation time served. Misdemeanors vary in the severity of the crime and the time frame a student would be excluded from placement in a health care setting. Misdemeanor guidelines do not require completion of probation time in the exclusion time period.


Once admitted to the program, students subsequently convicted of crimes identified at the State and/or Federal level as exclusionary may be dismissed from the Nursing Program. It is the student’s responsibility to report changes in the status of their criminal background to the Director of the Nursing Programs.
Licensure

In order to attain licensure as a Practical Nurse and thus be permitted to participate in the practice of nursing, a person must successfully pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) for Practical Nurses.

In order to attain licensure as a Registered Nurse and be permitted to participate in the practice of nursing, a person must successfully pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) for Registered Nurses. The Board of Nursing may deny a license for a previous felony conviction, previous treatment for drug or alcohol abuse or after finding the existence of one or more grounds for board action listed in 333.16221 of the Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978. If a student has a conviction, he/she should contact the Michigan State Board of Nursing and discuss his/her eligibility for licensure before taking any classes. Also, employers may not hire prospective employees who have a conviction on their record.

General Policies

Students will be subject to the policies and procedures of Northwestern Michigan College, the Health Occupations Discipline, and the Nursing Department. In addition, policies of all clinical agencies will also apply to students during the times they are scheduled for clinical coursework in each institution.

Cell Phone Use
Due to the potential disturbance to others, cell phones are to be turned off or silenced when in class or lab. Cell phones are not permitted in patient care areas. If a special arrangement is needed, the student is to contact the instructor. Due to the capabilities of current cell phones, they may not be used in the testing environment. Students violating this policy will be dismissed from class, lab, or clinical and will be placed in the disciplinary process dependent on the severity of the situation. Subsequent occurrences will result in progressive discipline up to and including dismissal from the program.

Clinical Assignments
Students may only provide direct nursing care for the specific patients to whom they are assigned by their nursing instructor or health facility designee. While they are expected to contribute to teamwork and to respond to other patients’ needs, any direct nursing care must be approved and/or supervised by the nursing instructor.

Clinical Facility Policies
Students must follow the policies set forth by the clinical facility. If suspicious behaviors are present, the student must follow the clinical facility’s guidelines for their employees. This includes suspicions related to but not limited to patient care, drug screening, theft, and searches for suspicious behaviors.

Communication
To assure confidentiality related to student issues, all communication through the Department of Nursing will be through the student’s NMC e-mail account. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor e-mail on a regular basis (at least 3-4 times per week).

Drug Screen
All new and readmitted students will be required to complete a drug screen as part of the admission process. A negative screen is required for admission to the nursing program. Random drug screens will continue as per the Alcohol and Drug Nursing Policy & Procedure in Appendix A.

Instructor-Learner Expectations
Nursing at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) is committed to providing a quality curriculum through which nursing students are prepared to be competent, professional nurses and develop a commitment to lifelong learning. The nursing programs hold in high regard professional behaviors and attitudes, including duty, honesty, respect for others and a commitment to excellence. All members of the nursing department, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators, are held to high standards in these areas. (See Appendix B for entire document)
**Liability Insurance**
Students are covered by the College liability insurance policy. In addition, it is recommended that students have their own liability insurance coverage.

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Regulations**
The nursing program is required to comply with all OSHA regulations. Students will receive instruction related to these guidelines within the nursing program course content.

**Social Networking Statement**
Social networking websites and other electronic communication can be important methods of communication. As a result, users must take advantage of the privacy settings available on their personal online activities and separate personal and professional sites. Information covered under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) or Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations may not be discussed on social media or any electronic communication. The following actions are strictly prohibited:

1. Information related to any patient you care for in a clinical setting may not be shared. Removal of an individual’s name does not constitute the proper way to protect a person’s identity or health information. This would be a HIPAA violation.
2. Academic information on another student or graduate is protected under FERPA. Sharing this information such as grades, evaluation, etc. may violate state and/or federal privacy laws and regulation.
3. Representing yourself as someone else is not acceptable and would place the student in the disciplinary process.
4. Discussion of classroom activities such as exams and quizzes is also not acceptable and could be considered as cheating.

The following links will provide more information:
- A Nurse’s Guide to the Use of Social Media from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) ([https://www.ncsbn.org/3739.htm](https://www.ncsbn.org/3739.htm))
- Information on HIPAA guidelines: Health Information Privacy ([http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/))

**Student Health**

1. **Health Assessment**
   Since the nursing program is strenuous and involves direct care of patients, all students must be in good mental and physical health. Students are required to have a health assessment completed by their own health care provider. A Statement of Health (form available in the nursing department) must be completed within one year of admission or readmission to the program. This form must be submitted to the nursing department by the due date in the welcome letter. Failure to submit the required forms will result in the inability to attend classes. Specific health care testing and immunization requirements are noted on the Certificate of Health. Note the requirements for TB testing, Tetanus immunization, and Hepatitis immunization. In addition, students must have documentation of immunizations or titer levels for rubella, rubeola and varicella. Immunization records are required in order to participate in clinical health care facilities and must be kept up to date during the entire nursing program.

   Performance of safe and competent patient care is always of the utmost importance. Therefore, if at any time a Nursing Instructor or the Director of Nursing has reason to believe that a student's health or behavior may compromise safe patient care, that student may be required to obtain a health appraisal including a random drug screen by a practitioner designated by the college (Appendix A).

2. **Hepatitis Vaccination**
The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have enacted a rule known as the OSHA Standard on Occupational Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens. This Standard was promulgated to eliminate or minimize occupational exposure to blood-borne pathogens, particularly to the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). In issuing this Standard, OSHA is acknowledging that health care providers face a significant health risk as the result of occupational exposure to blood-borne pathogens.
Recent interpretations of the Standard by OSHA regulators regarding who is subject to citations for failure to comply which may result in a fine to the institution, include not only the institution's employees, but also "the employees of other employers on their premises," including students.

Because the ruling and its subsequent interpretation places obligations on area hospitals and other clinical agencies to ensure compliance with the Standard, and because violations for noncompliance may result in significant fines to these agencies, it has become both necessary and prudent for these agencies to identify a Plan for compliance to OSHA's Standard. Essentially, this plan requires that all nursing students and faculty provide documentation of immunity to Hepatitis B either through titer or immunization. Students and faculty have the right to refuse immunization but, in this event, must provide documentation of this decision to the NMC Nursing Department and to the Clinical Agencies.

The following information should be noted:

A. All students must be vaccinated against Hepatitis B or document their decision to decline the vaccination prior to any clinical rotation at an area agency. Documentation of the student's decision will be kept on file by the NMC Nursing Department and the clinical agencies. Students may not attend clinical until documentation has been furnished.

B. The Certificate of Health form submitted by nursing students does require that the student discuss Hepatitis B vaccine with their own personal health care provider. The nursing faculty stress the importance of discussing this immunization with your own health care provider who is most aware of your personal situation. Should your provider recommend the immunization, you may elect to have him/her administer the series of three doses of this vaccine. It should be anticipated that these injections are very expensive. The nursing department is occasionally able to identify alternative sources of this vaccine at a slightly lower cost.

C. The clinical agency has a right to require compliance of the OSHA Standard by the college, the faculty, and the students. The clinical agency's Nursing Department has the responsibility for overseeing that quality nursing care is delivered in a safe manner which serves to protect the patient and the provider of care. It is the responsibility of the nursing staff of the clinical agency to observe and remind the students about universal precaution measures and to report to the faculty member repeated non-compliance of a student. The clinical agency Nursing Administrators have the right and responsibility to request the college to terminate a clinical rotation of a student with repeated failures to comply.

D. In the event of Occupational Exposure, the student should be evaluated by clinical agency personnel prior to leaving the premises. The Clinical Instructor must complete an Incident Report at that time. If preferred, the student may seek medical assistance elsewhere, but documentation of the visit must be sent to the college Nursing Department. A medical evaluation should take place no later than seven (7) days after the exposure. ANY COSTS OF EVALUATION AND TREATMENT RELATED TO THIS EXPOSURE WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT.

E. The student does have the right to refuse any blood test and/or prophylaxis treatment. However, such refusal must be documented and copies will be retained by the clinical agency involved and sent to the college. If the follow-up testing and/or treatment are performed at a site other than the health care agency involved, documentation of that testing (not test results) and treatment must be forwarded to the appropriate clinical agency and to the college.

These policies are implemented primarily to protect students from the potentially grave effects of exposure to Hepatitis B and other infectious agents. The policies are also required by the OSHA Standards. If you have questions or concerns regarding any of the above, please feel free to call 231-995-1235.

3. Patient Safety and Prescription Student Medication
In order to best ensure patient and student safety, all students must notify their current nursing instructor of all prescription and non-prescription medications they are taking at the time of any clinical session that may
impair their clinical judgment and/or skills. Since some medications affect cognitive awareness and/or motor skills, it may be necessary to alter and/or limit that student's clinical assignment during the course of medication usage. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate the student while ensuring patient safety. However, depending on the extent and length of this clinical limitation, it may or may not be possible to complete all clinical requirements for that course within the current semester of study (see Alcohol and Drug Nursing Policy and Procedures in Appendix A).

4. **Health Care Costs**

   As Northwestern Michigan College and the Department of Nursing are not responsible for health care costs incurred by students as a result of clinical practice, it is strongly recommended that all students obtain personal health care insurance and/or make arrangements for the payment of any such expenses.

   Every effort will be made to prevent accidental injury and illness, and to insure that students are assigned to care for patients whose health care needs are estimated to be within that student's expected skill levels. Each student will be informed of and expected to maintain Universal Precautions in the performance of all patient care. It is the student's responsibility to thoroughly prepare themselves at the appropriate learning level, for the nursing care of their assigned patients and to take appropriate precautions against personal injury and illness. It is important to note though, through no fault of the college, instructors, or clinical agency that the possibility exists that a student could accidentally injure or expose him/herself to disease. If an injury occurs in the clinical setting, the facility may require emergency room care and/or medical follow-up. The cost of this and any other care is the responsibility of the student. All students, therefore, should have personal health care coverage. Information about student health insurance is available through NMC’s Health Services.

5. **Updating Health Information**

   It is the student’s ongoing responsibility to keep required health information current. CPR status must be updated annually. TB testing will be required upon admission to the program and when required by clinical facilities in subsequent clinical semesters. All major health changes that effect your completion of the student learning outcomes or are on the clinical exclusions list must be documented in your student file through the Health Occupations office. Medical releases following an injury or illnesses are included in these health update requirements.

6. **Immunizations**

   Students are required to complete all immunizations as identified in the Certificate of Health. In addition, students must also obtain specific immunizations required by the clinical health care facility – i.e. flu shots.

   **Personal Attributes and Professional Behavior**

   While preparing to enter the profession of nursing, students are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors and personal attributes. The integrity and honesty of the nursing student must be above reproach. The nursing student must accept accountability and responsibility for all actions.

   The nursing student must assure that interaction with assigned patients is maintained at a professional level. The nursing student must recognize that all patient information is confidential and therefore, to be shared only with other health personnel who are directly involved in the care of that patient. In addition, nursing student/patient interaction is restricted to the clinical hours when the student is assigned to care for the patient. Personal contacts (phone calls, visits etc.) outside of assigned clinical hours are inappropriate and are a violation of confidentiality and expected professional behavior.

   It is expected that the nursing student will demonstrate interest in and enthusiasm for the study of nursing. The nursing faculty expects the nursing student to be dependable; that is, he/she is seldom absent and arrives for all classroom and clinical experiences on time. The nursing student must conduct him/herself professionally and follow all policies of the clinical agencies.
The student is responsible for learning. However, the nursing faculty is available to assist and support each student in mastering the requirements of the nursing program. All students are assigned a nursing faculty academic advisor and are encouraged to seek their advisor if they are having difficulty with any aspect of the program.

The nursing faculty recognize that personal problems may have a detrimental effect on a student's academic performance. Solutions to a personal problem must be determined by the student. Nursing faculty will listen and offer guidance to promote resolution of problems at the discretion of the student if she/he chooses.

**Dress Code for Nursing Students**

The following regulations apply to all students in the Nursing Program at Northwestern Michigan College. The appearance of the student enrolled in the nursing program should reflect their aspiration to attain professional standards. Professional appearance includes much more than the clothing one wears. It includes grooming, hygiene, and having a positive demeanor toward others. One’s professional appearance can impact both the safety and comfort of the patients we serve. Therefore, in addition to the items described in the following dress code, the student is expected to avoid any dress related practices that would be considered too extreme to fall within professional standards. The student must also be in compliance with the dress code of any institution where they are assigned to do clinical.

**HAIR:**

The hair is styled in a manner appropriate to maintaining asepsis, safety, and patient comfort in the clinical setting. Example: long hair must be secured behind the shoulders with a clip or tie.

**FACIAL HAIR:**

Mustaches and beards, if worn, must be clean and neatly trimmed.

**COSMETICS:**

Cosmetics, if worn, must be subtle.

**JEWELRY:**

A watch with a second hand for taking pulses and respirations is required. A plain wedding band and a single set of small post earrings worn in the lower earlobe are the only jewelry that may be worn.

**NAILS:**

Nails should be kept short, no longer than the fingertip, clean and well rounded. Nails should not be visible when viewed from the palm of the hand. Nail polish and acrylic nails are not permitted.

**FRAGRANCE:**

Fragrance free products are to be used due to sensitivities by patients and staff members. This also includes tobacco.

**UNIFORM:**

All students wear a hunter green uniform. Information on the specific uniforms required is available through the Health Occupations Office. If you have any questions regarding the appropriateness of any uniform, please call 231-995-1235 or your academic advisor prior to making your uniform purchase. Sweaters are not permitted. A clean white shirt may be worn under the uniform top. A name badge with school identification is to be worn on the left side of the uniform. The NMC student patch is worn on the left sleeve approximately one inch from the shoulder. Protective eyewear (goggles, not ordinary eyeglasses) are required in the clinical area for designated procedures. These must be taken to the clinical area on each day of clinical. Bandage scissors, leak proof black pen and small notebook are also considered a vital part of the uniform.

**SHOES:**

White nurse's shoes are required for all students. The shoes must be kept clean and polished; the white laces laundered as necessary. All white leather tennis shoes and clogs are permitted. These shoes are to be worn only at the clinical site. Other “sporty” shoes (“Crocs”, sandals etc.) and open toe shoes are not acceptable.

**HOSIERY:**

White socks that reach above the ankle may be worn with pants.
LAB COATS: White laboratory coats (with or without a lapel), instead of a uniform, may be worn to the clinic areas over business casual attire on assessment days. Business casual is defined as slacks or khakis, dress shirt or blouse, dress or skirt at knee-length or below, or knit shirt or sweater. Street shoes must be suitable to the clinical area.

BODY PIERCING: Visible tattoos and body piercings – i.e. eyebrows, lip, tongue, ears, nose, etc. are not deemed as professional appearance and therefore are unacceptable (MMC Policy).

*NOTE:* All students and instructors are to follow all facility policies.

**Attendance**

Students are to regularly attend all classes and lab/clinical sessions as assigned. During certain health problems, the student will be unable to care for patients in the clinical setting. Absence from a scheduled clinical session for any reason may require that the experience be made up at an additional fee to the student. The nursing instructor always has the final decision of whether or not a student is capable of clinical performance on any one day. After any illness/health problem, a student may be required to obtain and submit a statement from his/her health care provider which describes that student’s ability to perform patient care.

In the event of a health condition, which might affect a student’s ability to complete a normal clinical assignment (ex: pregnancy, surgery, etc.), the student must obtain and submit a written release to continue clinical that includes any restrictions from their provider. If the nursing faculty believes that the student, with reasonable accommodations, may be able to meet the clinical objectives, the student will be given the option to remain in the course. The nursing faculty reserves the right to decide that the risks to the student or patients are too great OR that the objectives cannot be met within the restriction. At that time, the student must withdraw from that course and it would not be considered a course failure. Provided the student withdraws in good academic standing, he/she may apply for readmission to the program after submitting proof that the health restrictions are alleviated. Readmission would be dependent upon the availability of space in the required course.

**Absence**

If you are scheduled for a class on campus and will not be present, call your instructor’s office (all instructors have voice-mail) or send an e-mail. If you do not have your instructor’s office telephone number, call the Health Occupations office manager at 231-995-1235 and leave a message for the instructor. The Health Occupations office manager is usually present from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **If there is no answer, leave a message for your instructor on his/her voice mail.**

If you are scheduled for a clinical experience and will not be present, you must notify the clinical unit and your instructor prior to the time that you are expected to report for the experience.

You are not to arrive for your clinical experience when ill; you will be sent home. Therefore, it is imperative that you utilize all measures to maintain your health, such as proper rest and nutrition.

**MAKE-UP CLINICAL:** Clinical experience is critical to the study of nursing and the attainment of nursing skills. Clinical experience includes time that is scheduled on the clinical unit, time scheduled in the campus lab, pre-conference time, clinical seminar time, or any other assigned use of clinical hours. Students are required to make-up missed clinical time. The clinical instructor will determine how the time is to be made up. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor for such experience during the next clinical day.

Should make up experience be possible only at times other than those ordinarily scheduled for clinical experience, an additional clinical fee will be levied. **The student must pay the clinical fee prior to the experience.**
However, it may not be possible to make up clinical time; even with the use of the clinical fee if there have been an excessive number of absences. Therefore, it would be necessary to repeat the course. **EXCESSIVE ABSENCE IS DEFINED AS MISSING THREE CLINICAL CLASS PERIODS PER CLINICAL COURSE.** As a result of excessive absences, it will be the lead instructor’s decision through consultation with the Director of Nursing and documentation of release by the medical provider to determine if the student can meet the class outcomes and continue in the clinical course.

**NOTE:** A standard clinical day is up to eight hours per session. Any absence greater than eight hours in one clinical day will count for more than one clinical day missed.

**NO CALL/ NO SHOW:** The overall clinical grade may be Unsatisfactory (U) for any no Show/No Call. This includes failure to notify the clinical unit and clinical instructor prior to the scheduled time of arrival.

**EMERGENCIES:** In the event of a serious family illness or funeral of an immediate family member, special consideration will be given. However, it is possible that such absence will interfere with meeting the requirements of the course.

**CLINICAL STARTING TIME:** When students are assigned a starting time in the clinical area, this time is not the arrival time. Students are to arrive in sufficient time to be ready to begin their clinical experience at the starting time. Dependent upon the experience and the particular clinical unit, the arrival time may be from fifteen minutes to a half hour prior to the starting time.

**LATENESS/ SKIPPING CLASS:** Repeated tardiness and/or absence may cause a FAILING GRADE in the course.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** In the event of the official closing of the college due to inclement weather, nursing students should not report for clinical. Clinical will be cancelled. The decision to cancel class will be announced by 5:30am. Since this cancelation will include all classes that begin prior to 5pm, all day and evening clinical sections will be cancelled. If the college has a delayed start time, the student will report to the clinical setting when the college opens.

If the announcement is not made sufficiently early, students are expected to use good judgment in deciding whether to travel to the clinical facility. However, if the instructor is unable to reach the hospital, students may not care for patients and should not remain on the clinical unit, unless another instructor is present and able to assume supervision. If an instructor cancels class but NMC is open, the instructor and students will be expected to make up the time missed to meet the requirements of the class.

**Testing Policy**

The Nursing Department faculty may utilize a variety of exam formats for assessing your knowledge. The format may not always be identified ahead of time. Quizzes will not always be announced in advance. The grading policy for missed quizzes within a course will be written in the course syllabus. All exams are to be completed at the regularly scheduled time. A student may take any quiz, test, or exam one time only. It is the responsibility of the student to be prepared for all testing.

In the event of an unexpected situation that is beyond the student's control (serious illness, accident, death of an immediate family member, etc.), the student must notify the appropriate instructor to request an excused absence prior to the exam. A provider's documentation of the student's inability to complete an exam will be required for an excused absence based on student health. Such documentation may be obtained from the student’s provider or the
nurse practitioner at NMC Health Services. Failure to obtain an excused absence, to submit the appropriate documentation, or to complete the make-up exam at the scheduled time will result in a grade of 0.0 for that exam.

If an excused absence is granted, the arrangements must be made on the date of return to any college class or clinical session. It is expected that the make-up exam will be taken at the earliest time possible. If there are one or more weekdays between scheduled classes, the student will be expected to complete the make-up exam on the first available date. Make-up exams are scheduled outside of class time. Students are expected to arrange their work and family schedules accordingly.

Final exams are to be taken by all students. Permission to make up the final examination is at the instructor's discretion.

Cheating on any paper, quiz or exam will result in a grade of 0.0 for the exam or course and may include dismissal of the student from the nursing program. Cheating includes but is not limited to copying, distributing, or sharing in any way secure materials such as exams, quizzes, and/or case studies that have been made available for your use either in paper or online.

Below is the college statement on cheating and plagiarism as stated on the following website or in the NMC catalogue under Academic Code of Conduct. (http://www.nmc.edu/about/policies/board-staff/D-602.01.html#5)

Cheating or Plagiarism: Cheating or plagiarism on written or oral examinations, quizzes, papers, or other academic work is prohibited. Cheating is defined as falsifying data on a report, exam, summary, or paper; the giving or receiving of aid in an examination situation; and/or the use of unauthorized materials as an aid during an examination. Plagiarism consists of offering as one’s own work, the words, ideas, or arguments of another person, without appropriate attribution by quotation, reference, or footnote. Plagiarism occurs both when the words of another are reproduced without acknowledgment, and when the ideas or arguments of another are paraphrased in such a way as to lead the reader to believe that they originated with the writer.

**Proctored Standardized Test Policy**

1. Proctored standardized tests that are administered in theory classes will account for up to 10% of the total course points.
2. The points for the class will be determined prior to the start of the class and given to all students. These will be administered by posting on the online platform (i.e. Moodle), in the syllabus, or distributed the first day of class.
3. If points are awarded for practice tests, such points will be included under the category of “learning activities.” Practice test points will not increase or decrease the exam scores.
4. Standardized testing is subject to the same policies as all department exams -- see the Testing Policy in the Nursing Program Policy Manual. The weight of each exam will be noted in the course syllabus. Students are expected to remediate missed exam questions. Any required remediation will be described in the course syllabus.
5. Students should be informed about the test’s different modalities (i.e. paper, computer, or verbal exams).
6. Students cannot access the standardized test from outside the designated classroom or the student will receive a zero (“0”) for the exam grade.
7. There is no clicking outside the testing window during the exam.
8. There are no cell phones, note pages, books, or educational testing materials allowed in the testing room.
9. Paper will be distributed if calculations are included in the exam.
10. Students must have their own basic calculator or use the drop down calculator imbedded into the exam if taking an online exam.
Grading Policy

Theory/Lecture Course Grading
In accordance with Northwestern Michigan College’s grading policy, grades will be recorded using the numerical system. The following scale is used to determine the numerical grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Numerical Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90- 94.9</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85- 89.9</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80- 84.9</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Passing exams **75- 79.9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Numerical Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70- 74.9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65- 69.9</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64.9 &amp; below</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The specific objective to be attained by the student and the method of calculating the final course grade is written in each course syllabus. Students are responsible for reading each course syllabus to apprise themselves of the particular objectives and grading system for each course. **While the overall course grade may consist of exam points combined with other course assignment points and/or extra credit points, the average of the designated course exam scores must be at least 75% before other scores are added to determine the final grade for the course. This 75% average will be calculated by averaging the scores for all course exams including standardized tests identified as exams. Failure to obtain a 75% average for course exams will result in course failure regardless of the number of points earned for other course activities.**

**NOTE:** Grades will not "round." – i.e. 74.9 or 1.99 will be recorded as 1.5.

Clinical Course Grading
Clinical courses are graded as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U). Clinical course grades are based on specific performance expectations for each individual course.

In order to earn an overall satisfactory clinical grade, students must demonstrate consistent satisfactory performance for all of the S/U performance objectives identified in the evaluation tool for the clinical course in which they are enrolled. A copy of the evaluation tool is included in each clinical course syllabus. The clinical instructor will provide ongoing feedback and instruction to assist the student in achieving the required level. An unsatisfactory “U” is a course failure, will result in dismissal from the program and will require a written request for reinstatement if the student wishes to continue in the nursing program. Failure to submit an assignment by the due date will result in a grade of NI (need improvement) for the clinical assignment. If two or more episodes of late assignments occur, the grade will be U for the clinical day.

Critical Learning Objectives
Certain performance behaviors are deemed to be essential in the practice of nursing. The student’s clinical coursework involves the provision of nursing care for actual persons with real health care needs. These persons are often more vulnerable due to their state of health and/or circumstances. The student’s classwork must also meet these critical learning objectives since patient care is discussed and reported in the classroom setting. Honesty, integrity and confidentiality must be maintained in all nursing courses; whether it is working with patients or completing class assignments. Therefore, these essential behaviors are identified as **CRITICAL** objectives for each nursing course.
While it is understood that students are inexperienced and are involved in an educational situation, failure to consistently demonstrate these particular critical behaviors could have severely detrimental physical and/or psychological effects on another person. Therefore, students are required to satisfactorily demonstrate these CRITICAL objectives in all nursing courses:

a. Demonstrates integrity / honesty / accountability  
b. Maintains patient safety  
c. Maintains patient confidentiality, privacy, respect, and dignity

Critical performance issues that put the safety and welfare of patients at risk can result in immediate probation or failure. The lead instructor and director of nursing will assist with decisions requiring this level of response.

Individual courses may have additional CRITICAL objectives. The student is directed to each course syllabus for further information.

Failure to satisfactorily demonstrate any CRITICAL objective may result in a final course grade of “0” or "U" and dismissal from the nursing program. Dismissal from the nursing program may occur prior to the end of the course.

**Supervision of Medication Administration/Invasive Procedures**

NMC policy requires that the student have supervision throughout the act of preparing and administering medications. The clinical instructor or the instructor’s licensed designee can provide supervision. The student is responsible to seek such supervision and to delay the medication administration if supervision is not available throughout the procedure. In this case, the primary nurse must also be informed of the medication delay.

Supervision is also expected for new and/or invasive complex procedures. The student is expected to be prepared and knowledgeable regarding any assigned procedures. The student must confer with the instructor regarding the amount and method of supervision required. Giving medications and performing procedures without adequate supervision is a violation of the Critical Objective: Maintains Patient Safety. Violation can result in course failure and program dismissal.

**Remediation**

There are two types of remediation: required and recommended. With recommended remediation, the instructor may identify a need for improvement. It is the student’s choice whether to follow through with those suggestions. With required remediation (this usually involves a safety issue or difficulty with a skill) the student must complete the remediation plan before returning to the clinical setting. If this does not result in improvement to a consistently “satisfactory” level, the instructor will develop an appropriate due process document (e.g. written warning, probation, and/or dismissal) that specifically identifies the performance areas that continue to be unsatisfactory and the expectations that must be met for the student to pass the course. If this inconsistency is the failure to meet the terms of a plan for improvement or violation of the terms of the probation, this could result in course failure and dismissal from the program due to unsatisfactory program progression. (See Progression, Dismissal sections of Nursing Policy Manual.)

**Nursing Due Process**

When the instructor notices that a violation of some aspect of expected performance persists (clinical and/or classroom), the due process will begin. The due process consists of a verbal warning, written warning, probation, and/or suspension. If appropriate, the instructor will begin with a verbal warning but this may not always be the case. The due process will begin at the level of severity for the situation.

- Examples of issues resulting in a verbal warning may be lateness to clinical or assignments. These would include non-critical issues. It is meant to help the student understand that the behavior must change immediately.
Examples of when a written warning would be implemented are unsatisfactory performance, behavioral issues, a potential safety issue, or continued occurrence of any issue/behavior for which the student has received a verbal warning.

Examples of probation are when repeated issues occur, especially those related to safety, or weak or unsatisfactory performance. It may also be a first offence if the situation is serious such as a medication error or safety concern.

A suspension from participation in clinical assignments occurs when student performance results in a potential danger or safety risk to the health and safety of patients. This may be the result of a violation of the terms of a probationary statement or due to single or multiple violations of any critical behavior. The director of nursing and nursing instructors work together to determine if such serious action is essential for maintaining patient safety. Clinical facility managers and staff may also have input on these safety concerns. Students must always adhere to the health care facility policy when providing patient care. If a suspension occurs, it may result in an unsatisfactory clinical grade and, therefore, program dismissal due to unsatisfactory program progression.

Whenever the due process is implemented, the event details are clearly described and a plan for improvement must be developed by the student and clinical instructor with input from the lead instructor. The plan may include remediation in the lab or an individualized plan to help the student correct any deficiencies identified. Within the plan must be defined the next steps so the student has a clear understanding of their status within the program. Any warning within the due process will remain active during the entire time the student is in the nursing program. Once signatures are obtained on the due process document, it is given to the health occupations office manager to be placed in the student file. The person filing this form also needs to note it on the Student Corrective Activity Sheet on the front inner cover of the student’s file.

If a student violates a warning, they will be issued a more severe warning (e.g. verbal is violated, the student may be given a written warning or placed on probation dependent on the situation). Violation of probation will result in course failure.

Course Withdrawals/Repeating Courses

Policy Related to Course Repeats
As stated in the NMC Catalogue under REPEATING COURSES, a course can be attempted a maximum of three (3) times. A course attempt is defined as being registered for a course on the first day of class. A nursing student who attempts the same required course 3 times without successfully completing it will be unable to register for the course again and therefore will be dismissed from the nursing program.

Policy Related to Withdrawal Before 25% of Class has been Completed
Students who withdraw from a nursing class/clinical before 25% of the course has been completed may request to re-enroll pending space available in the class/clinical by completing a “Change of Sequence” form. If a student drops one class and continues in his/her remaining registered classes, he/she must still complete a “Change of Sequence” form. Progression in the program after a Change of Sequence will depend on space available in the program. “Before 25% of the course has been completed” is defined as by the end of the 2nd week of classes for 7.5-8 week courses or by the end of the 4th week for 15-16 week courses.

Note: The NMC policy states a course may not be attempted more than 3 times. See related policy above. Students who take HNR 100 prior to starting the nursing program must follow this 25% policy.

Policy Related to Withdrawal After 25% of Class has been Completed
Withdrawing from a course after 25% has been completed is considered failure to progress in the program and will result in program dismissal. See section on Progression for policy related to this circumstance. Note: Students who take HNR 100 prior to starting the nursing program must follow this 25% policy.
Progression

To progress in the Nursing Program, the student must achieve a grade of 2.0 or 75% or better or a Satisfactory rating in any nursing (HNR) course that has been attended beyond 25% of the course. For courses that are graded on an S/U basis, the student must achieve a satisfactory grade for each course evaluation criterion listed.

- Failure to progress will result in dismissal from the program and will require a written request for readmission if the student wishes to return to complete the nursing program. Readmission will be granted no more than one time. See section “Readmission Following Dismissal.”

- If readmission is granted, progression in the program is dependent upon satisfactorily completing any failed nursing (HNR) course (less than 2.0 or U) and successfully completing any remaining program requirements.

- In addition, all nursing students must achieve a grade of 2.5 or better in each course in the Anatomy and Physiology sequence (BIO 227 & 228). Anatomy and Physiology must be completed no longer than five (5) years and Chemistry completed ten (10) years prior to entering the nursing program.

- It is the responsibility of the student to satisfactorily complete the nursing program within five (5) years from the time of enrollment in the first nursing course. Due to the constant addition of new information and the specialization of the field of nursing, it may be necessary to repeat a course or courses if the student has withdrawn from the program for a period of one year or longer. HNR 100 Introduction to Nursing is not included in this requirement.

Dismissal

A student may be dismissed from the program for the following reasons:

- Achievement of less than a 2.0 cumulative grade point average
- A grade of less than 2.0 or a "U" in any course with an HNR designation
- After withdrawing from a nursing class/clinical that has been registered for and/or attended for less than 25% of the course a total of three times
- Failure to complete any HNR courses that are attended beyond 25% of the course with a 2.0 or satisfactory grade
- Failure to achieve 100% on the final math exam in clinical classes
- Positive result from a drug screen
- Cheating and Plagiarism
- Failure to meet terms of any due process documentation and/or plan for improvement
- Failure to satisfactorily demonstrate any CRITICAL objective in any nursing course
- Demonstration and/or evidence of a mental and/or physical health condition that is deemed by the nursing faculty to be dangerous to the student, peers and/or to patients

Readmission Following Dismissal

A lapse in progression through the model nursing curriculum schedule due to class/clinical failure will require an application for readmission to the program. Application forms are available in the nursing department. When applying for readmission, keep in mind that you may be required to repeat or audit previous courses. Readmission is subject to space in the program and to faculty approval.
To be readmitted in the program, a written request for readmission must be sent to the Director of the Nursing Program. Reacceptance of the student will depend upon correction of the reason for dismissal and space being available in the course to which the student is seeking admission. A student may be readmitted a maximum of ONE TIME.

If a student is dismissed from the ADN or PN program after two course fails, they must wait three (3) years to reapply from the program they were dismissed. If an ADN student meets the requirements and would like to take the PN class (HNR 145) to obtain a certificate of completion and become eligible to take the NCLEX-PN exam, they may ask to be admitted to that class. The three (3) year wait still applies for these students to be readmitted to the ADN program. When readmission is requested, the student must meet all eligibility requirements required for admission – i.e. immunizations, time frames for classes, etc.

**Application for Change of Sequence**

Students who withdraw from a nursing class/clinical may request to re-enroll pending space available in the class/clinical by completing a “Change of Sequence” form. If a student drops one class and continues in his/her remaining registered classes, he/she must request a “Change of Sequence” form to be completed. Progression in the program will depend on space available in the program and meeting all course pre-requisites and co-requisites. After withdrawing a third time from a nursing class/clinical, a student may not re-enroll in that nursing class/clinical and will be dismissed from the program.

**Transferring Into the Nursing Program**

Students who withdrew in good standing from another nursing program may apply for admission to NMC’s Nursing Program by submitting an application to the Admissions Department. Such students must also submit official transcripts from all schools previously attended and a letter of reference from the Director of Nursing and /or the applicant's most recent clinical instructor at each nursing school attended. References should be sent to the Nursing Department at NMC. Admission will be subject to the above documentation and to space availability in the Nursing Department.

The student may apply for transfer credit for nursing courses through the Director of Nursing at NMC. A course description, course objectives and lecture outline from each previous nursing course will be required. As nursing programs vary greatly in philosophy, course content, and course sequencing, nursing courses may not all directly transfer. The five-year program completion requirement (see “Progression”, above) will be applied to any transfer courses. A minimum grade of 2.0 or 75% above is required to receive credit for any nursing course. The current years admission criteria to the nursing program will apply to all transfer applicants.

All students previously dismissed from another nursing program and students who failed to achieve a grade of 2.0 or above in any nursing course will not be considered for admission to NMC’s Nursing program unless they show unusual or extraordinary circumstances that warrant such admission. If admitted, this student would not be eligible for readmission following any nursing course failure and/or following dismissal from the nursing program for any other reason.

**Transfer of HNR Equivalent Courses**

- Any substitute HNR course approved for transfer must be completed prior to the semester in which it is a required co-requisite course.
- The student must provide their advisor with a completed Transfer Course Notification form prior to starting the approved course.
- An unsuccessful attempt of the transfer course has the same significance as an attempt of the equivalent NMC course (see related Program Progression policy).
The course grade must be reported to the academic advisor as soon as the course is completed. The student must also request that an official transcript be sent to NMC Registrar’s Office. The transcript must be on file in the Registrar’s office before starting any class for which the course is a prerequisite.

**Student Dissatisfaction with Course Grade**

A student who has reason to believe that the grade received is incorrect or unfair, will first discuss the situation with the instructor in order to seek satisfactory explanation/resolution. If, after talking with the instructor, the student still believes that there is a basis for a grade complaint, the student will set up an appointment with the instructor and Director of Nursing to review the grade. If the Director of Nursing upholds the grade of record and the student is not satisfied with this decision, the student may submit a written request to the Academic Area Chair to convene a Health Occupations Review Board no later than (10) calendar days after the last day of class. The written request must include reasonable evidence that one or more of the Grade Review Criteria below may have been violated.

**A. Criteria for Request of a Hearing:** The reasons for a request for a Hearing will be restricted to the following causes:
1. The grade is allegedly based on an arithmetic error, or is allegedly based on a factual error.
2. The criteria for establishing the assigned grade are allegedly violated.
3. The instructor has allegedly violated the student's academic freedom by grading on some basis other than performance in the course.

The student complaint shall carry the burden of proof that the grade is incorrect or unjustified.

**B. The Health Occupations Review Board** will consist of two (2) faculty members and the Academic Department Chair. One (1) of the faculty shall be from a department other than Nursing. The Academic Chair will serve as the committee chairperson.

**C. Rules of Procedure:**
1. The request for grade review will be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days after the last day of the class in which the grade dispute occurred. The Health Occupations Review Board will be called to convene by the Academic Area Chair.

2. Upon receipt of a valid written complaint statement, the Health Occupations Review Board will convene within ten (10) working days and notify the student and instructor, in writing, five (5) calendar days before the meeting. (Working days are defined as Monday through Friday on days during which the College is open for regular business. Calendar days also include Sundays and Saturdays.)

3. The student may be accompanied by an observer or counsel of his/her choice; counsel shall be a member of the faculty, staff or student body.

4. The first step in the grade review procedure shall be a verbal presentation of the complaint by the student, followed by a verbal presentation of the faculty to the Health Occupations Review Board. The student and the faculty member shall both have the opportunity to be heard by the Health Occupations Review Board. Both may be present to hear the statements of the other and ask any questions relevant to the complaint at the appropriate time. All discourse must take place in a respectful manner or the grade review may be terminated and completed through submission of written evidence only.

5. If the Health Occupations Review Board decides that evidence for a change of grade for the course exists, the Board will attempt to reach a grade that is mutually acceptable to the student and instructor. Should the acceptable agreement involve a change of grade, the instructor will complete the grade change. If no agreement is reached and all possibilities are exhausted, the Health Occupations Review Board will recommend the appropriate grade and forward a complete written recommendation with supporting reasons within five (5) calendar days to the Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Services. Copies of this recommendation shall be sent to the faculty member, the student, and the Director of Nursing.
6. Within five (5) working days following receipt of the report, the Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Services will without additional meetings, either accept the Health Occupations Review Board’s recommendation as written, or determine any additional actions deemed necessary to determine the final grade. Notification of this decision will be sent to the student, faculty member, Academic Chair, and the Director of Nursing.

7. If either the faculty member or the student involved in the dispute is in disagreement with the final outcome as identified by the Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Services, an appeal of the decision may be submitted to the Academic Review Board. Notice of appeal must be submitted to the office for the Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Services in writing within ten (10) college business days after receiving the notice of the decision. See the NMC’s Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy Academic Review Board for more policy detail.

*NOTE: If the Director of Nursing is the instructor of the course or is unavailable, the student is to first seek resolution with her/him and then seek counsel with the Academic Area Chair if no resolution is found. If the Academic Area Chair is the instructor of the course or is unavailable, another occupational Academic Area Chair will be appointed. All other procedures shall remain the same.
Appendix A

Northwestern Michigan College
Health Occupations
Departments of Nursing and Surgical Technology

Alcohol and Drug Policy and Procedures

I. Introduction

The Health Occupations Academic Area at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) recognizes its responsibility to provide a healthy environment within which students may learn and prepare themselves to become members of the nursing or surgical technology professions. The Departments of Nursing and Surgical Technology are committed to protecting the safety, health, and welfare of their faculty, staff, and students, and the people who come into contact with their faculty, staff, and students during scheduled learning experiences. The Departments of Nursing and Surgical Technology strictly prohibit the illicit use, possession, sale, conveyance, distribution, and manufacture of illegal drugs, intoxicants, or controlled substances in any amount or in any manner, and the abuse of nonprescription and prescription drugs.

Any nursing or surgical technology student who tests positively for illegal, controlled, or abuse-potential substances and who cannot produce a valid and current prescription for the drug is at risk of being in violation of this policy, the NMC Student Handbook, the NMC Nursing or Surgical Technology Program Policy Manual, and the NMC Student Rights & Responsibilities Policy, in addition to possible violation of state and federal law. The intent of the Alcohol and Drug Policy and Procedures is not simply to identify those students who are chemically impaired, but also to attempt to assist the student in the return to a competent and safe level of practice and to achieve his/her goal of becoming a nurse or surgical technologist. Emphasis is upon deterrence, education, and reintegration. All aspects of the policy are to be conducted in good faith with compassion, dignity, and confidentiality to the extent allowed by state and federal law. This Alcohol and Drug Abuse Policy and Procedures is consistent with policies incorporated in the Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook, however, this policy and procedures only apply to the NMC Departments of Nursing and Surgical Technology. A student disciplined for violation of this policy may appeal pursuant to the NMC Department of Nursing or Department of Surgical Technology Student Discipline Procedures and Due Process.

II. Testing Procedures

When the testing may occur

The NMC Departments of Nursing and Surgical Technology require a student to submit to a 5 panel drug screen under any or all of the following circumstances:

- Mandated Program Admission testing;
- Random testing as may be required by clinical agencies;
- For cause (see Section VI);
- As a part of a substance abuse recovery program.

Program Admission Testing

- All nursing and surgical technology students will participate in their specific program admission testing.
- As part of the admission process, students will be given a Health Occupations Student Authorization to Test form to complete and bring to MCHC/Occupational & Medicine Clinic which is located at 550 Munson Ave., in Traverse City. Phone number is 231-935-8590. Enter through the South Entrance and the clinic will be the first door on the right.
The student will register at the Occupational Health registration desk after entering the clinic.

Negative results will be sent to the Director of Nursing via email within 24 hours.

Non-negative results will take an additional 24-48 hours.

The students with non-negative results will be contacted by the Medical Director at MCHC to determine reason for a non-negative result.

The Medical Director will contact the Director of Nursing to discuss all non-negative results and a report will also be sent via email.

The students will follow the procedure outlined above under Section V. Admission and reapplication with a history of substance abuse.

Cost
The approximate cost of the 5 panel drug screen is $35 (price may change without notice).

Facility
The NMC Department of Nursing or Surgical Technology will provide the student with a name and location of an approved laboratory to perform testing utilizing that laboratory’s policies. The approved laboratory facility will interpret and report positive test results to the NMC Director of Nursing or designee. Currently, students are sent to the Munson Community Health Center (MCHC)/Occupational Health & Medicine Clinic during normal business hours. If outside normal business hours, the Munson ER will be the designated site.

Substances
Substance-related disorders are listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition, and as subsequently amended. Substance abuse is grouped into eleven classes: alcohol, amphetamines or similarly acting sympathomimetics, caffeine, cannabis, cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants, nicotine, opioids, phencyclidine (PCP), or similarly acting arylethylamines and sedatives, hypnotics or anxiolytics. Testing may include any of these drug categories. The NMC Departments of Nursing and Surgical Technology have the authority to change the panel of tests without notice to include other illegal substances as suggested by local, state, and national reports or circumstances.

Positive results
Test results will be considered positive if any substance level is detected for classes of substances defined above, excluding caffeine and nicotine. If the test results are diluted or adulterated, the student may be allowed one retest at his/her expense. Positive tests may be run twice to verify substances. Split samples saved at the original lab may be sent to another approved lab for additional testing at the student’s expense.

III. Confidentiality
All testing information, interviews, reports, statements, and test results specifically related to the individual are confidential to the extent allowed by state and federal law. The NMC Director of Nursing or designee will receive drug test results from the lab, and only authorized persons will be allowed to review this information. Records will be maintained in a password protected electronic database.

IV. Treatment and referral
The outcome of a positive drug screen may include any of the following: a verbal warning, a written warning, probation, a referral for a medical evaluation, suspension, or immediate dismissal from the program. The Director of Nursing or the Surgical Technology Program Coordinator will refer persons identified as having substance abuse problems for therapeutic counseling regarding substance withdrawal and rehabilitation to a reliable source.
V. Admission and reapplication with a history of substance abuse

The student will not be denied learning opportunities based on a history of substance abuse. The admission and reapplication process for a student who tested positive for substance abuse will include:

- Once the Director of Nursing or designee is notified of a positive drug screen from the Medical Director at MCHC/Occupational Health & Medicine Clinic, the student will be notified and instructed to complete the following process:
  - Contact Munson Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic at 231-955-6382.
  - Set up an appointment for a Substance Abuse Assessment with a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP).
  - Sign a release of information for the Director of Nursing or designee to obtain information as needed.
  - Arrange for a copy of the treatment plan/program to be sent to the Director of Nursing.
  - Follow the plan as directed by the SAP.
  - Submit appropriate documentation to the Director of Nursing stating:
    - student completed the treatment plan/program as required and has been cleared;
    - student obtained a negative drug screen; and
    - student is eligible to be reconsidered for admission to the Nursing or Surgical Technology program.

- Once admitted or readmitted, the student must sign an agreement to participate in monitoring by random drug screening consistent with policies then in effect by NMC and any clinical agency where assigned client care may occur. The student will pay for testing.

- Once admitted or readmitted, the student must abstain at all times from the use of controlled or abuse-potential substances, which may include alcohol, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner from whom medical attention is sought. The student shall inform all licensed practitioners who authorize prescriptions of controlled or abuse-potential substances of the student’s dependency on controlled or abuse-potential substances, and the student shall cause all such licensed practitioners to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage, and the date that medication was prescribed. The prescribing practitioners must submit the report directly to the NMC Director of Nursing or designee, or the Surgical Technology Program Coordinator or designee within ten (10) days of the date upon the prescription was issued.

Once a student who is readmitted to the Nursing or Surgical Technology Program has a positive test for substance abuse, the student will be dismissed from the program and will be ineligible to return.

VI. Testing for Cause

Any nursing or surgical technology student who demonstrates behavioral changes suspected to be related to substance abuse, including but not limited to alcohol, will be subject to testing. The nursing or surgical technology faculty member’s decision to drug test will be drawn from those facts in light of the experience of the observer(s) and may be based on, but not limited to:

- Observable phenomena, such as direct observation of drug use and/or physical symptoms or manifestations of being under the influence of a substance of abuse.

- Erratic behavior, slurred speech, staggered gait, flushed face, dilated/pinpoint pupils, wide mood swings, and/or deterioration of work performance.

- Information that a student has caused or contributed to an accident as a result of substance abuse.
• Information that a student has been arrested or charged with a substance abuse-related offense.

• Conviction by a court or being found guilty, plea of guilty, or a plea of no contest for substance abuse-related offense.

Testing will be conducted using the following procedure:

• The faculty member observes suspicious behavior. If circumstances permit, another appropriate person will be asked to confirm the suspicious behavior.

• The student will be asked to leave the area and go with a faculty member and a witness to discuss the situation in a location ensuring privacy and confidentiality. The discussion will be documented, and the decision whether to drug test will be made. The faculty member will then immediately notify the NMC Director of Nursing or designee, or the Surgical Technology Program Coordinator or designee.

• If warranted, the student will submit appropriate laboratory specimens in accordance with this policy and, if appropriate, clinical agency policies. The student will be given a Health Occupations Student Authorization to Test form and immediately sent to MCHC/Occupational Health & Medicine Clinical for a 5 Panel Drug Screen. The student will be suspended from all clinical activities until the case has been reviewed by the appropriate personnel or committees, as designated by the Nursing or Surgical Technology Program. The student may continue to participate in classroom activities unless otherwise advised by the NMC Director of Nursing or Surgical Technology Program Coordinator.

• If the laboratory test is negative for substances classified as provided in this policy, the student will be allowed to return to class and clinical learning experience without penalty. Arrangements to make up missed work must be initiated by the student on the first day back to either the classroom or the clinical program.

• If a laboratory test is positive for substances classified as provided in this policy, the decision may include, but is not limited to, any one or more of the following: a verbal warning, a written warning, a referral for medical evaluation, suspension, or immediate dismissal from the program. The student will follow the procedure outlined above under Section V. Admission and reapplication with a history of substance abuse.

• Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent permitted by state and federal law.

Revised: August 2016
Northwestern Michigan College
Health Occupations
Departments of Nursing and Surgical Technology

Student Discipline Procedures and Due Process

This procedure applies to students in the Nursing or Surgical Technology Programs at Northwestern Michigan College (“NMC”). The purpose of this procedure is to provide a prompt and equitable means to address violations of the Nursing or Surgical Technology Program Policy Manuals, and the Alcohol and Drug Policy and Procedures, in a manner consistent with the Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook of NMC, and to address and resolve issues/concerns raised as communicated through Alcohol and Abuse Faculty Reports. Each case is handled individually; while due process is employed, some of the procedures may not be necessary in each case.

I. Definition

A. Deadlines: Failure of NMC to meet any of the deadlines specified in this procedure shall not be construed against NMC or result in finding in favor of the student.

B. Fees: Students who are suspended or dismissed from the NMC Nursing or Surgical Technology Programs shall not be refunded or credited any fees paid by and/or for the student.

C. Notification: Whenever this procedure calls for or permits notification to be given, current student contact information will be utilized and deemed sufficient for this provision. NMC will use reasonable means to transmit notice and communications, using the information provided by the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that NMC has updated and current addresses and telephone contact information at all times. Personal delivery shall also be deemed compliant with any mailing requirement. Any e-mail sent to the student’s NMC e-mail address shall be presumed to be received by the student. A student’s failure or refusal to sign a receipt to indicate it was received shall not invalidate the contents of the notice. Notification is deemed given at the time an e-mail is transmitted or a telephone call is placed. Student contact is not required.

II. Student’s right to appeal

The student will follow their specific program manual to appeal a decision.

Revised: August 2016
Northwestern Michigan College
Health Occupations

Departments of Nursing and Surgical Technology

DRUG TESTING LIABILITY RELEASE AND WAIVER AGREEMENT

I understand that as a requirement for admission to the nursing or surgical technology program, I must submit to a drug test at a designated laboratory when required by the Northwestern Michigan College Health Occupations Nursing and Surgical Technology Policy and Procedures, including but not limited to admission to the clinical component of the program. I understand and agree that the designated laboratory will provide the result of the test to the administrator of the nursing or surgical technology program. I understand that if the test result is positive, I will be denied admission to the program. I further understand that I will be subject to drug tests while enrolled in the program, or as otherwise specified in the NMC Health Occupations Nursing and Surgical Technology Policy and Procedures. A positive drug test or refusal to submit to testing will result in dismissal from the nursing or surgical technology program.

1. As the participant, I understand, recognize, and acknowledge that there are risks of physical injury related to a drug test, have had the opportunity to call or speak with the NMC Nursing or Surgical Technology Department to ask any questions that I may have, and I agree to assume full risk of all dangerous conditions associated with the requirements of a drug test at a laboratory designated by NMC. I further agree that I am solely responsible for any illness, injuries (including death), damages, or loss which I may sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with such a drug test(s).

2. I will defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Northwestern Michigan College, its agents, employees, volunteers, and officers (collectively the “Released Parties”) from and against any and all liability, claims, losses, damages, actual attorney fees, settlement expenses, and causes of action from injuries or illness (including death), damages or loss which I may have or which may accrue to me arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with any drug test required under the NMC Health Occupations Nursing or Surgical Technology Program Policy and Procedures. This is a complete and irrevocable release and waiver of liability. Specifically, and without limitation, I hereby release the Released Parties from any liability, claim, or cause of action arising out of any person or persons, including the Released Parties, negligence in referring me for the drug test and for any harm or injury to my reputation resulting from such referral. I covenant not to sue the Released Parties from any alleged liabilities, claims, or causes of action released hereunder. This provision is not intended to waive the defense of government immunity that may be asserted by Northwestern Michigan College in an action against it.

3. In the event of any emergency, I authorize the Released Parties to secure from any licensed hospital, physician, and/or medical personnel any treatment deemed necessary for my immediate care and agree that I will be responsible for payment of any and all medical services rendered. I acknowledge and agree that the above release, waiver, indemnification, and hold harmless provisions apply to any such treatment or testing.

4. I understand and agree to adhere to the Northwestern Michigan College Nursing or Surgical Technology Program Policy Manual of which I have received a copy.

5. I expressly acknowledge and agree that the foregoing release, waiver, hold harmless, and indemnity agreement provisions are intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by law and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

I have read and fully understand this Acknowledgment and Release of Liability set forth above, including the permission to secure medical treatment and the release of all claims, including claims of the negligence of any person or persons, including the Released Parties. I am 18 years or older. This document is binding upon me and my heirs, children, wards, personal representatives, and anyone else entitled to act on my behalf.
By signing this document, I indicate that I have read, I understand, and I agree to the nursing or surgical technology program drug testing policy. I understand that a negative drug test is required for admission and for progression in the nursing or surgical technology program.

This signed document constitutes my consent for drug testing by a designated laboratory. It also constitutes consent for the laboratory to release the results of my drug test to the administrator of the nursing or surgical technology program.

By signing this agreement, I am agreeing that I will not sue Northwestern Michigan College, its employees, officials, volunteers, representatives or agents, and that I will indemnify Northwestern Michigan College, its employees, officials, volunteers, representatives, or agents against any and all claims brought by or on behalf of any person in connection with a referral to a designated laboratory for a drug test as provided in the Northwestern Michigan College Health Occupations Departments of Nursing and Surgical Technology Alcohol and Drug Policy and Procedures.

____________________  ________________________________  
Date  Printed Name of Student

____________________  
Student NMC ID

____________________  
Student Signature

Revised: August 2016
Appendix B

Northwestern Michigan College
Department of Nursing

Instructor-Learner Expectations

Nursing at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) is committed to provide a quality curriculum through which nursing students are prepared to be competent, professional nurses and develop a commitment to lifelong learning. The nursing programs hold in high regard professional behaviors and attitudes, including duty, honesty, respect for others and a commitment to excellence. All members of the nursing department, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators, are held to high standards in these areas.

Effective learning is best fostered in an environment of mutual respect between instructors and learners. In the context of nursing education the term “instructor” is used broadly to include peers, faculty members, clinical preceptors, nurses and ancillary support staff, as well as others from whom students learn. Students and instructors share the challenge of learning and teaching not only the art and science of nursing, but also the acquisition of behaviors and value systems that characterize the ideal nurse.

This Agreement serves both as a pledge and a reminder to instructors and students that their conduct in fulfilling the nursing programs mission and student learning outcomes is an important quality within the department to enhance professionalism.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Duty: Nurse educators have a duty not only to convey the knowledge and skills required for delivering the profession’s standard of care but also to instill the values and attitudes required for preserving the nursing profession’s social contract with its patients.

Honesty: Learning environments that are conducive to conveying professional values must be based on honesty. Students learn professionalism by observing and emulating role models who personify authentic professional values and attitudes.

Respect: Respect for every individual is fundamental to the ethic of nursing. Mutual respect between students, as novice members of the profession, and their instructors, as experienced and esteemed professionals, is essential for nurturing that principle. Given the inherently hierarchical nature of the instructor/learner relationship, instructors have a special obligation to ensure that students are always treated respectfully.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF INSTRUCTORS AND LEARNERS

Instructors (including faculty, clinical preceptors, agency nurses and ancillary support staff) should:

- Treat students fairly, respectfully and without bias related to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability or country of origin
- Maintain high professional standards in all interactions with patients, students, colleagues and staff
- Be prepared and on time
- Provide relevant and timely information
- Provide explicit learning and behavioral expectations early in a course
- Provide timely, focused, accurate and constructive feedback on a regular basis
• Display honesty, integrity and compassion
• Practice insightful (Socratic) questioning, which stimulates learning and self-discovery
• Provide thoughtful and timely evaluations at the end of a course
• Solicit feedback from students regarding their perception of their educational experiences and personal interactions
• Encourage students who experience mistreatment or who witness unprofessional behavior to report the facts immediately (to a trusted faculty or a staff member). To the extent possible this report is to be treated as confidential, recognizing that there could be legal obligations to further disclose and investigate such reports.

Students should:
• Be courteous to staff, instructors and fellow students, employees of all clinical agencies, patients and their families and visitors, and anyone else they interact with at the clinical site, in class, or through social networking forums
• Be prepared and on time
• Be active, enthusiastic, curious learners who work to enhance a positive learning environment
• Demonstrate professional behavior in all settings and anytime a student represents NMC – i.e. wearing NMC branded clothing, verbalizing they are an NMC student, wearing an NMC uniform, etc.
• Recognize that not all learning stems from formal and structured activities
• Recognize their responsibility to establish learning objectives and to participate as an active learner
• Demonstrate a commitment to life-long learning, a practice that is essential to the profession of nursing
• Recognize personal limitations and seek help as needed
• Display honesty, integrity and compassion; these attributes include the responsibility of reporting dishonest or unprofessional behavior to the appropriate individual
• Recognize the privileges and assume the responsibilities coming from the opportunity to work with patients in clinical settings
• Recognize the duty to place patient welfare above their own
• Recognize and respect patients' rights to privacy and maintain confidentiality as to patient records and information
• Provide instructors and the Nursing Programs with constructive feedback that can be used to improve the educational experience
• Solicit feedback on their performance and recognize that constructive feedback is essential to the learning process
• Information covered under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) or Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations may not be discussed on social media or any electronic communication.
**Relationships between Instructors and Students**

Students and instructors should recognize the special nature of the instructor-learner relationship which is in part defined by professional role modeling, mentorship, and supervision. There is a power differential, as expressed by the fact that instructors often evaluate student performance and the results of their evaluation may affect the student's future. Conversely, students evaluate the quality of their instructors and this can, to a lesser degree, affect the instructor's future.

Because of the special nature of this relationship, students and instructors should strive to develop their relationship as one characterized by mutual trust, acceptance and confidence. They should both recognize the potential for conflict of interest and respect appropriate boundaries. Managing boundaries, understanding the slippery slope of behaviors which can lead to the perception of a boundaries violation, and avoiding major boundary violations is crucial to a good instructor/student relationship. Boundary violations or actions that may give the appearance of a boundary violation should routinely be avoided. A partial list may include:

- Romantic involvements
- Business relationships, other than those that might emerge from joint educational projects
- Social contacts outside of the realm of learning or education
- Faculty or students accepting services or personal favors from each other, e.g., baby-sitting, house sitting, pet care, and work in the office.
- Accepting substantial gifts
- Special treatment of a student that differs substantially from the usual instructor-learner relationship with other students
- Making exceptions for students because they are attractive or appealing

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF INSTRUCTORS AND LEARNERS TO ADHERE TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

**Students:**

- If a student violates a guiding principle, the due process as identified in the Nursing Program Policy Manual will be implemented.

**Faculty and Staff:**

- If a faculty or staff member violates a guiding principle, the due process as identified in the NMC Employee/Faculty Handbook will be implemented.

January 2, 2015
Appendix C

Northwestern Michigan College
Department of Nursing

Acknowledgement Form

Student Name: 

Student ID: 

Part I: Student Confidentiality in Simulation Agreement
I understand that I will be participating in simulation scenarios and experiences throughout the nursing program. All experiences will be treated with confidentiality and non-disclosure as I would with any patient/client interaction. This includes the scenarios themselves (not sharing the specifics of the scenario) as well as what happens within the group of students that goes through the simulated and debriefing experiences (what students say and do during the scenario). For quality learning to occur, it is important that all students feel safe to be involved in the scenario without feeling that their nursing actions and statements will be evaluated and talked about by other students. If I fail to comply with this agreement, it will result in a warning and may prevent me from meeting course objectives and end in failure of the course.

Student Initials: 

Part II: Information Release Form
I hereby grant my permission to Northwestern Michigan College Nursing Program to submit copies of all my immunization records, and/or the Waiver of Hepatitis Vaccination to all clinical agencies which I am assigned for NMC clinical coursework, and discuss my criminal background results with clinical partners and government agencies if required to participate in clinical learning.

Student Initials: 

Part III: Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) for Health Facility
My clinical education will be completed in one or more facilities approved by the Northwestern Michigan College Nursing Department.

It is the responsibility of each student, in their assigned facility, to exercise appropriate judgment and conduct himself or herself in a manner that reflects use of common sense and good judgment. The following general areas are for the information and guidance of all students in the facility. These guidelines do not mean that conduct not prohibited is allowed.

Students are to render care in a manner that enhances the personal dignity and rights of each patient. Any form of patient abuse and/or neglect will not be tolerated and staff members are to support facility policy and procedure in this regard.
Counseling of the patient regarding personal problems or involvement of students with patients outside the facility is discouraged and unacceptable.

Appropriate language is to be used at all times in all facility areas (patient, professional, and public).

Students are not to divulge any information or records concerning any patient without proper authorization. Unauthorized release of confidential information may constitute grounds for civil action.

Discussions regarding patients are not to be held in the presence of other patients or any other person not privileged to this communication.

Problems of a patient are not to be discussed with another patient by the student.

Patients are not to be named or discussed with anyone outside the facility setting or who does not have a legal right and reason to receive information about a patient.

Personal problems or concerns of staff members are not to be discussed with patient group or any member of this group.

I agree to abide by the above Code of Ethics. I have read the above and acknowledge receiving a copy of same.

Student Initials: __________

Part IV: Michigan Public Health Code PA 368
I have read the excerpt from the Michigan Public Health Code PA 368 and understand the reasons for which the Michigan State Board of Nursing may deny a license to practice as a Practical/Registered Nurse.

Student Initials: __________

Part V: Guarantee of Employment
I understand that completion of the Nursing Program of Northwestern Michigan College does not carry with it any guarantee of employment.

Student Initials: __________

Part VI: Nursing Policy Manual
I have received and read the policies of the Nursing Program of Northwestern Michigan College. I understand these policies and will act in an ethical, responsible manner upholding the integrity of all nursing program policies. I understand that I may be dismissed from the program for violations of said policies.

Student Initials: __________

Student Signature: ____________________________________________

Date: __________________________________________________________
Part I: Student Confidentiality in Simulation Agreement
I understand that I will be participating in simulation scenarios and experiences throughout the nursing program. All experiences will be treated with confidentiality and non-disclosure as I would with any patient/client interaction. This includes the scenarios themselves (not sharing the specifics of the scenario) as well as what happens within the group of students that goes through the simulated and debriefing experiences (what students say and do during the scenario). For quality learning to occur, it is important that all students feel safe to be involved in the scenario without feeling that their nursing actions and statements will be evaluated and talked about by other students. If I fail to comply with this agreement, it will result in a warning and may prevent me from meeting course objectives and end in failure of the course.

Student Initials: ___________

Part II: Information Release Form
I hereby grant my permission to Northwestern Michigan College Nursing Program to submit copies of all my immunization records, and/or the Waiver of Hepatitis Vaccination to all clinical agencies which I am assigned for NMC clinical coursework, and discuss my criminal background results with clinical partners and government agencies if required to participate in clinical learning.

Student Initials: ___________

Part III: Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) for Health Facility
My clinical education will be completed in one or more facilities approved by the Northwestern Michigan College Nursing Department.

It is the responsibility of each student, in their assigned facility, to exercise appropriate judgment and conduct himself or herself in a manner that reflects use of common sense and good judgment. The following general areas are for the information and guidance of all students in the facility. These guidelines do not mean that conduct not prohibited is allowed.

Students are to render care in a manner that enhances the personal dignity and rights of each patient. Any form of patient abuse and/or neglect will not be tolerated and staff members are to support facility policy and procedure in this regard.
Counseling of the patient regarding personal problems or involvement of students with patients outside the facility is discouraged and unacceptable.

Appropriate language is to be used at all times in all facility areas (patient, professional, and public).

Students are not to divulge any information or records concerning any patient without proper authorization. Unauthorized release of confidential information may constitute grounds for civil action.

Discussions regarding patients are not to be held in the presence of other patients or any other person not privileged to this communication.

Problems of a patient are not to be discussed with another patient by the student.

Patients are not to be named or discussed with anyone outside the facility setting or who does not have a legal right and reason to receive information about a patient.

Personal problems or concerns of staff members are not to be discussed with patient group or any member of this group.

I agree to abide by the above Code of Ethics. I have read the above and acknowledge receiving a copy of same.

Student Initials: ____________

Part IV: Michigan Public Health Code PA 368
I have read the excerpt from the Michigan Public Health Code PA 368 and understand the reasons for which the Michigan State Board of Nursing may deny a license to practice as a Practical/Registered Nurse.

Student Initials: ____________

Part V: Guarantee of Employment
I understand that completion of the Nursing Program of Northwestern Michigan College does not carry with it any guarantee of employment.

Student Initials: ____________

Part VI: Nursing Policy Manual
I have received and read the policies of the Nursing Program of Northwestern Michigan College. I understand these policies and will act in an ethical, responsible manner upholding the integrity of all nursing program policies. I understand that I may be dismissed from the program for violations of said policies.

Student Initials: ____________

Student Signature: _______________________________________________________

Date: __________________________________________________________________
Any portion of the Student Policy Book may be revised at any time by action of the Nursing Department. Such revision shall be binding on all parties.

Reviewed: July 2007  Revised: August 2010
Reviewed: July 2008  Revised: August 2011
Reviewed: June 2009  Revised: July 2012
Reviewed: December 2008 Revised: July 2015
Reviewed: December 2009 Revised: August 2016
Reviewed: June 2017