

Advance 2 MSN Handbook with Application Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the Advance 2 MSN (A2M) Program at West Chester University. This program is geared for those who already have a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing discipline and want to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) as a Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) to be eligible to take the NCLEX-RN nursing licensure examination and CNL certification examination at the end of the program.

This guide also includes a FAQs listed on Pages 2-3 on the A2M program. Information on A2M program eligibility, financial aid, and curriculum progression. At the end of this document are several important checklists and forms.

Please use the eligibility checklist on Page 16 before submitting your application to see if you are qualified for this program (the eligibility checklist is not submitted with the graduate application).

The Transcript Self-Review form Page 18 and the Science GPA form on Page 17 which will help you determine if you have completed the pre-requisite courses and meet the competitive GPA for admission requirements.

The **TEAS exam** is a requirement for application to the Advance 2 MSN Program. TEAS testing dates will be offered remotely through ATI Testing at ATITESTING.com

The ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS) Assessment measures your general knowledge in various content areas. Your performance indicates your readiness to begin a course of healthcare studies and is a predictive measure of your future success in the A2M program. This exam is 4 hours in maximum length.

Annual A2M Admission Timeline:

September 1 – November 1: Transcript Self Review and TEAS scores submitted to Graduate Coordinator and to WCU Graduate Admissions.

November 1: Complete WCU Graduate Application.

December: Notification to applicant to meet for interview with Graduate Coordinator and A2M faculty members.

December: Accepted applicants are notified, completion of agreement forms, pay deposit to university, and Graduate courses are scheduled for spring semester.

January: Accepted A2M students complete A2M program orientation.

A2M Program FAQs

How many cohorts/students are admitted each year?

- Annually one cohort of 30-40 students are anticipated to be admitted each year.
- Applicants for each cohort are reviewed in the fall. Completed applications are reviewed and interviews are conducted. The program begins in the spring semester of each year (January).

Where are you located?

- West Chester University Nursing is in the SECC Building.
- All Nursing faculty offices are in the SECC building at 155 University Ave., West Chester, PA. 19383.
- Classes in person course will be held on main campus. Online or hybrid courses will meet either in synchronous or asynchronous format. Details will be listed in course syllabi.

What is your attrition rate?

- Our attrition rate in our previous Advance 2 BSN program, that is students who leave without finishing, has been less than 1%.
- Traditionally, attrition is not due to students' inability to complete course work but rather outside issues impact student progression.

What is your acceptance rate?

- For the last cohort of accelerated student over 100 complete applications were submitted. Thirty-two applicants were admitted from the candidates.

Can I make an appointment to meet someone?

- Due to the high volume of applicants the Graduate Coordinator is not available for individualized, pre-admission meetings.
- Group information sessions will be posted on the Nursing webpage.
- If you still have questions after reading this guide, please submit questions to the Graduate Coordinator via e-mail for fastest response.
- Our program does not require or provide pre-application interviews.

Can I come and tour your facility?

- SECC tours can be arranged through Admissions at WCU.
- You will not meet Nursing faculty members during your tour.

Are classes online?

- All Undergraduate classes (300 level designation) are held in-person on West Chester's Main campus. Some assignments may require online content completion/submission or online group interaction.
- All Graduate courses (500 level designation) are held either online or in a hybrid format. See syllabi for detailed information.

I have a full-time job. Can I continue to work full-time during the program?

- This is a **rigorous full-time program**. Experience has shown that successful students do not work more than 20 hours per week during the semesters. This is an individual decision, and as such each student

should carefully consider this recommendation prior to applying to the program.

- Classes in a variety of formats either held weekdays during day, afternoons, evenings, online or in a hybrid format (online plus in person requirements).
- Clinical experiences are held either on a weekday or weekend. Clinical experiences are typically 12 hours/week.
- Plan on at least 50 hours per week of class time, clinical time, preparation, and completion of assignments.
- Traditional, fall and spring semesters classes are held over 15 weeks.
- Summer classes run in only 7-10 weeks. Coursework and clinical experiences are compressed and may meet more frequently to achieve required classroom and clinical hours.

How do I get more information?

- If you still have a specific question that cannot be answered from our online resources, please send an e-mail to the Graduate Coordinator.
- More generalized information about BSN or MSN programs in general please contact the American Nurses Association (ANA), or the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).
- This A2M Guide is periodically updated. Be sure you are using the latest A2M Guide before submitting your application.

Admission Pre-requisites FAQs

What are the average GPAs and TEAS scores of previously admitted students?

- Averages in the last admitted cohort were Overall GPA 3.28, Science GPA 3.57, and TEAS of 85.
- Admission is competitive.

What are the requirements before admission?

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university.
- All pre-requisites courses must be completed by the onset of the program.
- See the list of prerequisite courses later in this document.
- See the Eligibility Checklist on Page 18 in this document to review your qualifications to apply.

My Undergraduate GPA is not at least a 2.75. Can I apply?

- You can apply but the odds of acceptance are small.
- Send a Transcript Self-Review to the Graduate Coordinator after applying online if you feel your application deserves a waiver from our minimum GPA requirement.

Must all pre-requisites be completed before apply?

- Yes, pre-requisites need to be completed before applying to the program.
- Only applications that meet all the criteria will be considered for acceptance for admission.
- Completion of all components does not mean you will be accepted, only that you will be considered for acceptance.

Do I need to have a certain overall/cumulative GPA to qualify for admission?

- This program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 from a student's previous bachelor's degree AND verification of completed pre-requisites UG courses which include Biology,

Psychology, Sociology, Chemistry, Statistics, Developmental Psychology, and Nutrition. Students must have Microbiology, Anatomy & Physiology 1 – 2 with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or above within the last 5 years.

Where can I take my prerequisite classes? Or I want to take course “X” at school “Y”?

- We do not require that you take classes at any specific institution but ask that you look at the course requirements as your guide. Most community colleges and four-year colleges offer the prerequisite courses that we accept. Course titles and credit load need to be similar. We also accept courses taught through Portage Learning.

My Anatomy & Physiology 1-2 does not meet the 3.0 the minimum GPA requirement for admission. Can I apply to the program?

- You should not apply now but you are permitted to repeat the science courses to improve your GPA to at least a 3.0. See WCU Graduate Catalog Policies.

What are the age limits on prerequisite courses on course I have already taken?

- Prerequisites more than 10 years old will be reviewed on an individual basis.
- Anatomy & Physiology 1-2 must be completed no more than 5 years from the start of the program.

I am having difficulty finding a chemistry course that is equivalent to CHE/CRL107. What should I do?

- CHE/CRL 107 at WCU is 5 credits. We would accept a 4-credit introductory chemistry course from another university if it included a laboratory component described on the transcript.

Do nursing courses from other universities transfer?

- No, nursing courses do not transfer.

I would like to test out of some courses, can I CLEP any pre-requisites?

- Yes, if you feel you have the background, but not the college course credit, for Basic Biology and/or Human Growth and Development Across the Lifespan you can take the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam.
- You must score at least a 50.
- For further information, see <http://www.wcupa.edu/registrar/testCredit.aspx>

Do you still have rolling admissions?

- No. We will accept all applications during the window of September 1 to November 1.
- Only selected applicants will then be invited for an interview.

I have a misdemeanor/felony in my background, will that be a problem?

- All students must submit to criminal background and drug screening checks before attending clinical courses.
- Clearances, background checks, drug screening and history/physical with mandatory vaccinations are a requirement of the program. All components must meet program/clinical requirements.
- The majority of clinical agencies we use will not allow students with certain criminal backgrounds into their agency. Your criminal background may prohibit you from attending clinical rotations and therefore you are unable to meet requirements of the program.

- In this situation you could no longer remain a nursing student.
- Additionally, some crimes may prohibit you from getting a nursing license.
- See the BSN Student Handbook and Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing requirements for new licensure applicants.

My degree is from outside the USA, how to I apply?

- The process is the same for USA graduates but you will need to have your transcripts reviewed first by either WES or NACES see detailed information https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/SCH_DGR/intlgradstudents.aspx
- Native English speaker or scores at least an 80 on TOEFL exam or as specified on the International Student Admissions https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/SCH_DGR/intlgradstudents.aspx
- If your bachelor's degree is from a non-USA university you will need to pay for a transcript review as described on the International Student Admissions page.

What is the TEAS exam?

- TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) is a multiple-choice assessment of basic academic knowledge in reading, mathematics, science, English and language usage. The computerized exam contains 170 four-option multiple-choice questions and must be taken in a proctored environment. Calculators may NOT be used for the test. Test results are available 48 hours after completion of the test.
- See [ATItesting.com](https://www.atitesting.com) for test information search for TEAS exam. Look at the bottom of the page for the Register for the TEAS button. Select TEAS for Nursing and select a testing site. WCU does NOT offer the exam on our campus.
- The minimum score for application eligibility is 75. However, the average accepted student has had Total Score averaging 85 in recent cohorts.
- TEAS scores must be taken within 2 years of applying to the program
- Request that ATI send your score to the West Chester University Admissions Department. This will usually be an extra charge unless you take the exam at a PSI Testing Center. Admissions must have a copy of your TEAS report for you to apply to WCU.
- Attach a copy of your TEAS score and breakdown with your Transcript Self-Review
- We DO NOT substitute, require, or accept SAT, ACT, or GRE scores in lieu the TEAS.
- You should repeat the exam if you score less than 75. We only consider your latest score.

Where can I take the TEAS exam?

- The TEAS is NOT administered at WCU.
- Many community colleges offer the exam. You can also go to [ATItesting.com](https://www.atitesting.com) and to one of their regional testing centers.
 - Some local locations offering the TEAS include Roxborough Memorial Hospital, Penn State Berks and Lehigh campuses, Delaware County Community College, and Berks County Community College.
- If you cannot find a local college then register for the test at a PSI Testing Center through the ATI website.

I went to West Chester University, do I still need to send transcripts to Graduate Admissions?

- No. Current or previous WCU students do not need to send WCU transcripts to Graduate Admissions. We have access to transcripts.

- You will still need to submit all transcripts of any higher education courses you have completed at any other 2 or 4-year institution.

Do you need recommendation letters, SAT scores, or high school records?

- DO NOT send high school transcripts, GRE, SAT, or ACT scores. These are not used in admission decisions.
- YES, letters of recommendation are required by the University.

How do I improve my chances of admission?

- Complete pre-requisites.
- Achieve good grades in your first degree and pre-requisites courses. If you have poor pre-requisite grades, you should consider retaking the courses before applying.
- Obtain insight or experiences with nurses and understand what the role of nursing entails. Consider volunteering at a hospital or obtain a caregiving job.

Application Process	Timeline/deadlines	Submit to
Complete Pre-Req courses	Prior September 1	Graduate Coordinator
Complete Transcript Self-Review	Prior to Admission	Graduate Coordinator
Complete TEAS exam	Prior to Admission	Graduate Coordinator and to *Graduate Admissions
Complete Graduate Application	Sept 1 - Nov 1 annually	*Graduate Admissions
If selected: complete Interview	November 21	Graduate Coordinator and A2M faculty
If accepted: complete/sign required documents, clearances, pay deposit, and schedule courses	December 1	Graduate Coordinator

*Graduate Admissions https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/sch_dgr/ at the bottom of the page: APPLY!
The Graduate School linked above has a wealth of information for Graduate students.

Post-Application/Interview FAQs

Will I be interviewed?

- Only applicants who have submitted all transcripts, TEAS score, and a Transcript Self-Review before November 1 will be considered for interviews.
- If you are invited to an individual or group interview, you will be sent a link to schedule it. Interviews will be held on a weekdays.
- Applications with missing Self-Reviews, transcripts, TEAS scores, or are below minimum GPA requirements will not be invited to the interview stage.

What happens during the interview?

- During the interview, we will ask you why you are choosing nursing as a career and why you want to come to WCU.

- You will have time to ask questions you may have about the program.
- You may be asked questions about prerequisites, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions.

When will admission decisions be made?

- After interviews are completed, we will begin to offer admission to outstanding applicants soon after interviews.
- All applicants who are selected for admission will be notified via e-mail no later than December 10th.

What happens after I am admitted?

- Admitted students will later receive a formal letter from Admissions and will be required to submit a deposit within 30 days of receiving the letter to hold their spot.
- Admitted students will be offered an opportunity to take NSG 310 Human Responses to Disease in the spring semester prior to beginning the summer session and required to take NSG 101.
- You will receive a letter explaining the next steps in enrolling, and a Student Agreement form that affirms your acceptance of admission and agreement to follow the required curriculum.
- You will begin your clearance process upon entering the program.
- In the beginning of January, you will have an Orientation to the program before classes begin.

If I am not admitted after the interview, is there any chance of being admitted?

- Yes. Sometimes admitted students choose to not attend WCU after accepting admission. In those cases, we will contact prior applicants who meet our admission criteria and offer admission if you are still interested.
- Feedback may be provided to applicants on request on how to best improve their application for future cohorts.

Financial Aid & Cost FAQs

What is the cost of the Advance 2 MSN program?

- The tuition/fees are same as all other master's degree programs at WCU. See Bursar cost_calculator to determine your Graduate tuition & fees for either in-state or out-of- state tuition <https://www.wcupa.edu/information/AFA/Fiscal/Bursar/forms/costCalculator/>

Housing and Meals

- Housing and meal costs are additional.
- On-campus housing is generally not available for students in this program.
- There may be some Graduate housing available.

Additional fees

- During the first weeks of the program, you will spend at least \$4000 on books, equipment, uniforms, and the ATI study program. The ATI program provides study guides, online testing for practice, NCLEX-RN licensure exam practice and an in-person NCLEX-RN prep class.
- A smartphone or handheld computer is recommended for electronic reference and healthcare applications.

Computers and Printers

- A laptop with Windows 10 or Mac OS is required for document access and word processing.
- An inexpensive monochrome laser printer is also very helpful and is recommended.

Do I pay upfront for the entire program, or billed each semester for tuition & fees?

- Each semester is billed separately and is due at the start of each semester.
- Be aware that some student loans only pay for tuition & fees during the traditional semesters (fall/spring).

Would I be considered a full-time student?

- Yes, students are considered full-time in the program.

Do I pay in-state or out-of-state tuition?

- Generally, you need to be living in Pennsylvania for 12 consecutive months prior to admission to be considered an in-state student. --

Are there financial aid/scholarships available?

- Yes. Financial and scholarship are available. There are scholarships that may reduce your costs.
- WCU does not offer scholarships in the form of discounted tuition & fees.
- Aid is often dependent on things such as your previous student loan amounts and other parameters, so it may or may not be available. Also, check with a tax advisor on the deductibility of your education expenses.
- Students may indicate upon admission that they would like to serve as Graduate Assistant.
- Students may arrange for payment plans with the Financial Aid office.
- The Nursing Department does not provide financial aid counseling or scholarship information.
- Go to WCU link to Financial Aid <https://www.wcupa.edu/financialAid/default.aspx>

Curriculum Progression FAQs

Is the Advance 2 MSN program the same as either the traditional Undergraduate or Graduate program?

The course content and clinical hours are compressed in the Undergraduate course and clinical experiences.

What classes are required?

See advising sheet for detailed information on Page 13.

When and where are classes held?

- In-person courses are held weekdays on campus during the fall, spring, summer semesters.
- On-line or hybrid courses will identify components that are synchronous or asynchronous in the respective syllabi.
- Clinical courses NSL 381, 383, 385 are held in area hospitals, clinics, and community health settings averaging 12 hours per week or on weekends.
- Some rotations may differ slightly with longer clinical hours on some days and other days off. Shifts vary between days, evenings, and nights. You must keep your calendar open for clinical experiences.

How long is a semester?

- Fall and Spring semesters are 15 weeks in length (14 weeks of classes plus one week of final exams).
- Summer semesters include SS1 and SS2 as one 10-week semester for the NSG/NSL courses.
- Graduate nursing courses may run from 7-10 weeks in SS1 through SS2.
- We follow the University Academic Calendar for classes, holidays, and breaks. We also follow University closings for weather or other emergencies. For the latest 2-year calendar to WCU.edu and search for Academic Calendar.

Are there any courses I need to take before starting?

- Any remaining prerequisite courses must be completed by spring semester.
- Admitted students will not be permitted to enter the program if there are any unfulfilled science prerequisites.

What elective courses are offered?

- You are not required to take nursing electives.
- If you choose to take a nursing elective, electives are offered in fall, spring, and interim semesters (Interim are the times between Fall and Spring, and between Spring and Summer semesters)

What is considered a passing grade?

- For all NSG/NSL progression in this Graduate Program you must achieve an 83% or better. You will take the NSG and NSL portions of the courses together (i.e. NSG 381 and NSL 381) so **you must pass BOTH courses with a minimum of 83%** in order to progress.
- For all Graduate nursing courses, you must achieve an 83% or better. You must carry an overall GPA of 3.0 in your Graduate courses.

What happens if I do not pass a course?

- If you do not achieve the minimum grade as outlined above, you will not be permitted to progress in the program. Due to space limitations, you will also need to apply for readmission to the program and be admitted only if a space is available with the next Cohort.

Is anything in this document subject to change?

- Yes. Policies change regularly so be sure to download the latest A2M Application Guidelines and Graduate Student Handbook and check the WCU Graduate Handbook. Each course syllabus will be specific to course requirements.

Course Descriptions

Undergraduate Courses

NSG 381: In this course the student will examine various nursing theories and concepts; conceptual frameworks; theories from other disciplines which apply to nursing; nursing history; nursing education; professionalism in nursing; nursing leadership; the nursing process; nursing diagnosis, nursing research; ethical, legal, economic, and political aspects of nursing and current issues in nursing. The student will also study and learn to practice psychosocial and physical assessment skills as well as learning how to do: vital sign assessment, provide bedside nursing care, hygiene and comfort; transfer and positioning techniques for clients, and understand and demonstrate competence in the utilization of standard precautions as a health care provider. The emphasis of this course will also be on the maintenance, and promotion and health of the

older adult and introduction to the care of the inpatient. Clients with chronic health problems in both these populations are addressed. Content is organized around the concepts of wellness, chronicity and acuity. The nursing process is used to assist these clients to grow and or adapt through supportive, therapeutic, palliative, and preventive measures. NSG 381 and NSL 381 must be taken concurrently.

NSL 381 Laboratory: Students are evaluated in their ability to apply nursing theory, develop critical thinking skills, and to use the nursing process when caring for clients in a variety of settings. For the clinical experience the Clinical Evaluation Tool is a pass/fail grading tool used to assess core clinical standards and psychomotor skills. ***A failure in the CET portion results in a failure for the clinical practicum. Please see the West Chester University BSN Clinical Evaluation Tool.*** The second part of the clinical experience is clinical assignments that are used in the grading of the student in the clinical practicum. These may include, but are not limited to, writing assignments (such as nursing histories, physical and psychosocial assessments and care plans) and clinical journals that are considered to be a reflective evaluation of your assigned clinical setting and your overall clinical performance.

The students will also be graded on their practical experience in the physical exam and skills laboratory. In addition, the student may have clinical assignments that are specific to the student's assigned clinical setting, such as skill-set completion, small or large group projects, assessment of community programs, mental health programs, cultural competence and psychosocial considerations, evaluation of environmental waste and sustainability and emergency preparedness. In addition, technological activities and lab/SIM preparation may be assigned by the clinical instructor to help students build psychomotor skills needed for safe clinical practice.

The NSL 381 student is responsible for scheduling and completion of skills labs with the Lab Coordinator. Lab sessions are offered at a variety of times to accommodate everyone's schedule. If the student has an extremely busy schedule, it is important to sign up early. Sign-up sheets will be posted at least two weeks prior to the required labs. ***Failure to complete a required lab as scheduled will result in a 0% for the lab grade for NSL.***

According to the **Promotion Policy** of the Department of Nursing, both the NSG and NSL 381 courses must be passed with a B (83%) or above in order to progress to the next nursing course.

NSG 383: The emphasis of this course is the medical-surgical, childbearing family, and the pediatric patient. Content will focus on prevention of illness and promotion of health by assessment of the health status, appropriate intervention, and evaluation of the health promotion plan. Chronic states as well as acute health conditions will be addressed as well. Content is organized around the concepts of wellness, chronicity and acuity. The nursing process provides the framework for the care to be given in a variety of settings with clients.

NSL 383 Laboratory - Clinical experiences are provided in an immersion experience in in agencies where relatively well populations have been identified, as well as acute care population settings. Examples include schools, primary care practices, inpatient settings, and childbirth settings.

A variety of health care agencies are utilized in conjunction with NSG/NSL 383. Effort is made to relate current theory content to all clients in crisis irrespective of the health care systems in which they are involved. The department maintains contracts with those agencies which are best suited to assist in the attainment of the objectives of NSG/NSL 383. According to the **Promotion Policy** of the Department of Nursing, both the NSG and NSL 383 courses must be passed with a B (83%) or above in order to progress to the next nursing course.

NSG 385: The emphasis of this course is on the care of persons with acute medical surgical and acute holistic health crises. Concepts of holistic care are highlighted throughout classroom and clinical experiences. The content will focus on the use of the nursing process to assist clients in crisis. The framework for the care to be given will reflect concepts including the use of leadership, management, and public /population health nursing concepts to manage and improve health. Students will collaborate, coordinate, and advocate as they use the nursing process independently and interdependently to as they focus on the complex problems of individuals, families, communities, populations, and systems. Students are expected to function as self-directed learners who correlate nursing/scientific theory and concepts with identifiable research problems in varied environments.

NSL 385 Laboratory - Clinical experiences are provided in an immersion experience in acute care psychiatric inpatient and medical surgical settings. NSG 385 and NSL 385 must be taken concurrently. A variety of health care agencies are utilized in conjunction with NSG/NSL 385. Effort is made to relate current theory content to all clients in crisis irrespective of the health care systems in which they are involved, i.e., acute care hospitals, inpatient units within the same health care setting. Thus, the department maintains contracts with those agencies which are best suited to assist in the attainment of the objectives of NSG/NSL 385. According to the **Promotion Policy** of the Department of Nursing, both the NSG and NSL 385 courses must be passed with a B (83%) or above in order to progress to the next nursing course.

Graduate Courses: Students must achieve an 83% in each course for progression.

NSG 530 Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice (3)

The focus of this course is on the analysis and evaluation of the theoretical foundations of nursing. Students are introduced to nursing theory through a comprehensive overview. The historical development of nursing theories and a comparison of nursing theories with theories from other disciplines are explored. Emphasis is on theory as a base for advanced nursing practice and nursing education. The relationship of theory to research, education, and practice is analyzed.

NSG 531 Health-Care Policy, Finance, and Organization (3)

This course will introduce students to the concepts and tools of health-policy development as well as the skills necessary to be an effective policy analyst. The course will address healthcare finance and organization for the advanced practitioner.

NSG 532 Pathophysiology for Advanced-Practice Nursing (3)

This course is designed to explore pathophysiologic concepts beginning at the cellular level and proceeding through major body systems. Emphasis will be placed on pathophysiologic changes across the lifespan. This course analyzes the signs and symptoms of various diseases enabling the student and the advanced practice nurse to identify the mechanisms of disease and the clinical manifestations of those diseases so that rational therapies and interventions can be designed and implemented based on the pathophysiologic changes. Appropriate screening and diagnostic laboratory evaluative methods will also be included.

NSG 533 Physical Assessment for Advanced-Practice Nursing (4)

In this course, students will build on their physical assessment knowledge with a combination of comprehensive theoretical and clinical experiences in advanced physical assessment. Students will focus on the attainment of enhanced skills to complete a holistic health assessment and physical examination of the adult, adolescent, and pediatric client. Strategies include the collection of relevant data via appropriate

interviewing methods, and developmental and physical assessment techniques with an emphasis on refinement of communication techniques and psychomotor skills (*60 hours of Clinical Practice of Physical Assessment Skills*).

NSG 534 Pharmacology for Advanced-Practice Nursing (3)

This course will build upon pharmacologic knowledge acquired at the baccalaureate level. This course will introduce the advanced-practice nurse to pharmacologic concepts utilized in advanced-practice roles. Clinical decision-making is applied as students explore pharmacologic aspects of disease management. Communication is encouraged and required through in-class discussions and written assignments.

NSG 535 Population-Based Health Promotion/Epidemiology (3)

This course will provide an overview of the epidemiological model of disease causation. Various epidemiological study designs and their applications will be presented.

NSG 536 Evidence-Based Practice Research (3)

This course provides the learner with an overview of both qualitative and quantitative research designs and methodological approaches commonly encountered. The content focuses on methodology, data collection and analysis, interpretation, and communication of research results. A variety of mixed methods nursing studies are utilized to strengthen skills required for critiquing quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method research as well as developing research proposals.

NSG 537 Ethical Decision Making in Health Care (3)

This is a core course in the Master of Science nursing program. Students will examine ethical principles, theories, and concepts affecting clinical practice. Using these principles, students will focus on the identification, articulation, and planned action for ethical concerns of the patient, family, healthcare provider, system, community, and public policy levels.

NSG 561: In today's rapidly changing healthcare landscape, this course is focused on preparing advanced clinical nurses to assume a leadership role is critical to improving the quality of patient care. This course is the 1st of a series of three courses which provides instruction on how CNLs utilize the competencies necessary to lead improvement teams, analyze data, and ensure delivery of quality, safety, and value-based care in any healthcare setting.

*Students are assigned to a preceptor for an internship in the field for 8 hours/week in-direct practice hours.

***WCU Nursing Faculty will facilitate the placement of students into the educational or healthcare setting where the CNL practicum will be completed. Students will be required to complete agency clearances for practicum placement.**

NSG 562: This course is focused on preparing advanced clinical nurses to assume a leadership role is critical to improving the quality of patient care. This course is the 2nd of a series of three courses which provides instruction on how CNLs utilize the competencies necessary to lead improvement teams, analyze data, and ensure delivery of quality, safety, and value-based care in any healthcare setting. In this course, students in combination with weekly class will begin their CNL Immersion on a specialty unit with an assigned preceptor. Students in conjunction with preceptor under the supervision of their faculty member will identify an appropriate CNL Project. Students will develop a proposal for their CNL Project to faculty/peers/preceptor.

*Students are assigned to a preceptor for an internship in the field 12 hours day/week direct practice hours.

*WCU Nursing Faculty will facilitate the placement of students into the educational or healthcare setting where the CNL practicum will be completed. Students will be required to complete agency clearances for practicum placement.

NSG 563: This course is the 3rd of a series of three courses which provides instruction on how CNLs utilize the competencies necessary to lead improvement teams, analyze data, and ensure delivery of quality, safety, and value-based care in any healthcare setting. This course emphasizes that the CNL is a provider and manager of care at the point of care to individuals and cohorts of patients anywhere healthcare is delivered. Key concepts include clinical leadership, care outcomes, synthesis of data/evidence to provide improved outcomes, risk anticipation for individuals or cohorts of patients, design of EBPs, team leadership with interprofessional teams, integration and use of information system and technologies to improve outcomes, stewardship of human/environmental/materials and advocacy for patients, communities and the health professional team. Students will immerse in their role as a CNL and execute a CNL Project in their assigned area. Students will document their work in a CNL Project paper and present their findings at end of this course. CNL students will prepare for CNL Certification examination by **completion of CNL modules**.

*Students are assigned to a preceptor for an internship in the field for 12 hours days/week direct practice hours.

*WCU Nursing Faculty will facilitate the placement of students into the educational or healthcare setting where the CNL practicum will be completed. Students will be required to complete agency clearances for practicum placement.

Advising Sheet A2M

<i>Advance to MSN</i>	Spring Semester	Summer Semester	Fall Semester
<i>Year 1 – Spring (January start date)</i>	Semester 1 10 credits Graduate NSG 530 (3 cr) Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice NSG 532 (3 cr) Pathology for Advanced Practice Nursing NSG 533 (4 cr) Physical Assessment for Advanced Practice Nursing	Semester 2 9 credits Mixed UG/Grad NSG/NSL 381 – Nursing Foundations (NSG 3 cr/ NSL 3 cr) NSG 534 (3 cr) Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nursing	Semester 3 15 credits Mixed UG/Grad NSG/NSL 383 Caring for healthy and chronic populations – Peds/Mat/ Gerontology/ MS1 (NSG 6 cr/ NSL 3 cr) NSG 535 (3 cr) Population-Based Health Promotion NSG 536 (3 cr) Evidence-Based Practice Research
<i>Year 2</i>	Semester 4 12 credits Mixed UG/Grad	Semester 5 6 credits Graduate	Semester 6 6 credits Graduate

<p>NSG/NSL 385 Caring for acutely ill populations – MS2/ Psych/Public Health (NSG 6 cr/ NSL 3 cr)</p> <p>NSG 537 (3 cr) Ethical Decision-Making in Health Care</p> <p>*Award BSN</p>	<p>NSG 531 (3 cr) Healthcare Policy, Leadership and Organization (Theoretical underpinnings of Nurse as a Clinical Nurse Leader)</p> <p>NSG 561 Immersion as a Clinical Nurse Leader (3 cr) Students are assigned to a <i>preceptor internship in the field 12 hours/week</i> direct practice hours.</p> <p>Secure internship to fulfill remaining clinical practice hours for Immersion</p> <p>*Complete NCLEX</p>	<p>NSG 562 EBP Application Nurse as a Clinical Nurse Leader (3 cr): CNL EBP Project *indirect hours to develop/execute an EBP project</p> <p>NSG 563 EBP Immersion as a Clinical Nurse Leader (3 cr) students assigned to a <i>preceptor internship in the field 12 hours/week</i> direct practice hours.</p> <p>*Award MSN *Complete Clinical Nurse Leader certification test</p>
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A2M Application Procedure

1. Complete the self-checklist on Page 18 of application eligibility.
 - a. This checklist is only for your use; it is not submitted to WCU.
 - b. You may apply even if you have not completed all prerequisites. However, applicants with more prerequisites completed will have a greater chance of acceptance.
 - c. The pre-requisite science courses: Biology, Chemistry, Microbiology and Anatomy & Physiology I – 2 should be completed by the onset of the program.

2. Take the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) exam.
 - a. See Page 1 of this Guide for more information.
 - b. You must achieve at least a 75 to be eligible to apply.
 - c. TEAS scores must be taken within 2 years of applying to the program.
 - d. Request ATI send your score to the West Chester University Graduate Admissions Department.
 - e. The cost of the exam includes one transcript to be sent to the school of your choice.
 - f. You may begin the application process before the TEAS is completed but your application will not be processed until the score is submitted.
 - g. We do not substitute or accept SAT, ACT, or GRE scores for the TEAS.
 - h. You may repeat the exam if you score less than 75. We will only consider your latest score.
 - i. Scores must be received by Graduate Admissions by November 1.

3. Complete the A2M Transcript Self-Review form at the end of this Application Guide.
 - a. Review your own transcripts to see which prerequisites are complete.
 - b. You need a minimum GPA of 2.75 for your undergraduate degree, and a Science Composite minimum GPA of 2.75 (use the form to calculate).
 - c. Between September 6th - November 7th you will mail the Transcript Self-Review and a copy of your TEAS: ATTN to the Graduate Coordinator @ WCU Nursing 155 University Avenue,

SECC Building, West Chester, PA. 19383

4. Apply online at the WCU Undergraduate Admissions page before November 1.
 - a. Go to WCU Graduate School and APPLY NOW at https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/sch_dgr/
 - b. Select the Apply Now tab and select Apply for Spring 2023.
 - c. Create an application account the first time you begin the process. The application process and fees are the same as all other Graduate programs.
 - d. Choose A2M program.
 - e. **Transcripts of ALL previous undergraduate grades** (even if not needed for transfer) must be sent to Graduate Admissions. Transcripts may be sent electronically to Graduate Admissions from the previous school or have them mailed directly to Graduate Admissions from your previous schools. NO high school transcripts, SAT, GRE scores, or reference letters are needed. [Please note: WCU transcripts DO NOT need to be sent to Admissions, the nursing department can access them directly]
 - f. Undergraduate transcripts from universities outside the USA must submit a transcript review as outlined https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/sch_dgr/ Costs for this review are the responsibility of the applicant.
 - g. Applications and all higher education transcripts must be received by Graduate Admissions by October 1.
 - h. Ensure **all** elements of your application to the University Graduate Admissions Department are completed fully and on time. This includes paying your deposit. If the application process and deposit are not completed on time, applicants may lose their place within the cohort. If you apply to the cohort and later decide to withdraw your application, please immediately notify the Graduate Coordinator.
 - i. **Please Note: The Nursing Department A 2 M Admissions Committee will not review applications until all required transcripts and scores are submitted to WCU Graduate Admissions/Graduate School.**

Official transcripts and TEAS scores are sent to:

EMAIL transcripts and TEAS to: Office of Graduate Admissions

https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/SCH_DGR/contact.aspx

- a. Applications will be reviewed once complete and selected applicants will be requested to interview.
- b. Successful applicants will be sent letters of admission in December.
- c. Once the Cohort is filled, no more applications will be accepted.
- d. A waitlist will be maintained by the Department of Nursing.
- e. A2M classes will begin in January.
- f. An orientation session will be held the week prior to classes.

If you have questions, please email the Graduate Coordinator.

A2M Pre-requisite Courses

In addition to an earned bachelor's degree all students must show evidence of the following courses completed before beginning the program. Admission priority is given to those with most of these complete at the time of application.

Required Course	Required Credits	WCU course offering examples
Basic Biological Science	3 credits	BIO100
Anatomy & Physiology (I & II) with Lab*	8 credits	BIO 259 & BIO 269
General Chemistry for Health Sciences with Lab **	4 credits minimum, must include a lab	CHE 107 & CRL 107
Introductory Microbiology with Lab	4 credits	BIO 204
Introduction to Sociology	3 credits	SOC 100
Introduction to Psychology	3 credits	PSY 100
Human Development or Developmental Psychology Across the Lifespan	3 credits	PSY 210 or HEA 206
Introductory Principles of Nutrition	3 credits	NTD 303
Introductory Statistics	3 credits	MAT 121

* Anatomy & Physiology must be taken within 5 years of applying to the program. Both parts must be taken at the same school. See FAQ for details.

Most prerequisite courses either in-class or online with similar titles and the same credit load from accredited 2- or 4-year colleges and universities will transfer as WCU equivalents. Be sure to note that BIO 259, BIO 269, BIO 204, and Introductory Chemistry require a lab.

Composite Science-GPA Calculation Worksheet

1. Record **Grade Earned** for each WCU course or its equivalent.
 - Only grades of C or better will be accepted.
2. Record **Numeric Grade Value** (from chart at bottom).
3. Multiply *Numeric Grade Value* by *Number of Credit Hours* and record in **Quality Points** column.
4. Add the *Quality Points* scores and record in the **Total Quality Points** box.
5. Divide **Total Quality Points** by 16 (or actual # credits completed) and record **Composite Science GPA**.
 - Minimum Composite Science GPA for admission is 2.75

WCU Course	Grade Earned	Numeric Grade	Credit Hours	Quality Points (Numeric Grade x Credit Hours)
EXAMPLE	B-	2.67	3	8.01 (i.e., 2.67 x 3)
Microbiology Bio 204			4	
BIO 259			4	
BIO 269			4	
Total Quality Points				
Total Credit Hours				12 (or the number of credits you took)
Composite Science GPA (Divide: Total Quality Points/16 or your Total Credit Hours)				

Numeric Grade Value	
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00

West Chester University

A2M

Transcript Self Review

Name: _____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

College where you earned bachelor's degree: _____

Date degree earned: _____

Home City/State: _____

Bachelor's degree major: _____ GPA: _____

TEAS score: _____

WCU Course	Credits	WCU Course Number	Transfer College Name	Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Date Completed	Grade
Introductory Biology	3	BIO100						
Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab	4	BIO259*						
Anatomy & Physiology II I with Lab	4	BIO269*						
General Chemistry with Lab	4	CHE& CRL 0						
General Microbiology with Lab	4	BIO204						
Introduction b Sociology	3	SOC200						
Introductionb Psychology	3	PSY100						
Human Development & Developmental Psychology Across the Lifespan	3	PSY210 or HEA206						
Introductory Statistics I	3	MAT121						
Principles of Nutrition	3	NTD 303						

NURSING POLICIES:

Rules and Regulations and the Mission and Values Statements of West Chester University (WCU) the Department of Nursing prepares students to practice nursing safely, proficiently and empathetically with cultural awareness and humility and to think critically in diverse and challenging practice settings.

All efforts are intended to build nursing knowledge, develop nursing practice and patient safety, cultivate professional integrity, and ultimately, improve the health outcomes of patients, families, and communities across the life span and continuum of care. The student must have functional abilities that are vital for the delivery of safe, effective nursing care during clinical experiences. Therefore, the Department of Nursing has determined that certain technical standards are requisite for admission, progression, and graduation from all nursing programs.

WCU nursing student clinical experiences occur during the A2M curriculum and involve functional considerations that are not similar to classroom accommodations. For this reason, applicants and students who seek accommodations prior to or immediately after enrolling in the nursing programs must also request an assessment of the types of reasonable accommodations needed for the clinical training component of the program

A student must be able to independently, with or without reasonable accommodations, meet the following technical standards of general abilities and those specifically:

TECHNICAL STANDARDS POLICY

General Abilities:

The student must have functional use of vision, hearing, smell and touch so that intake of sensorial information can be received and interpreted by the senses. This sensorial information can be integrated, analyzed, and synthesized consistently in an accurate manner.

Examples (not limited to):

Collect data about skin color changes
Collect data from monitors
Auscultate (listen to) heart and lung sounds
Hear alarms or call bells
Detect smoke from burning materials
Detect odors associated with body fluids
Palpate pulses and detect changes in skin temperature

Motor & Endurance:

The student is expected to encompass gross and fine motor movements to be able to provide safe care to clients. It is expected that student have reasonable physical endurance to perform patient care. A nursing student on a clinical day is expected to have the ability to sit, walk and stand.

Latex Allergies

It is in the student's best interest to disclose any allergies that they may have (specifically latex). The Department and clinical agencies cannot guarantee that students will not be exposed to substances that may cause a sensitivity reaction. Students with latex allergies must provide a note from their health care provider stating that they are able to participate in the clinical experience and also provide a plan should exposure occur during a lab or clinical experience.

Example:

Assessments and patient care require the student to be able to bend, squat, reach, kneel and balance.

Usual clinical settings expect students to be able to carry and lift from floor to shoulder height to overhead. This would include occasionally lifting 50lbs, frequently lifting 25lbs, and constantly lifting 10lbs.

Pregnancy is a healthy state. Fetal exposure to environmental/chemical/microbial stressors in the clinical setting may potentially place the developing fetus at risk. Special precautions are warranted. The nursing student who becomes pregnant must notify the level coordinator. The student must provide a signed consent from her health care provider stating the student can safely continue with clinical experiences. In addition, the student who is less than six weeks post-partum must provide a letter from her health care provider stating that she is cleared to return to clinical experiences.

A student who suffers an illness, injury, has been hospitalized, or has a surgery is required to bring a letter of clearance to the level coordinator. Depending on the length of the absence, a decision regarding progression in the nursing course will be made by Department Faculty.

Ethical Standards

The student must develop the ability to consistently deliver safe, effective nursing care using sound judgment according to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Nurse Practice Act (<http://www.pacode.com>) and the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses (<http://www.nursingworld.org>). The student is expected to exhibit good professional character which is an integrated pattern of personal, academic, and occupational behavior. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, honesty, accountability, maintaining confidentiality, trustworthiness, reliability, and integrity.

Individual patient care must be performed regardless of the patient's race, ethnic group, age, gender, religious, or political preference, ability to pay, gender or sexual orientation. Students are not required to be involved with medical procedures that are in disagreement with individual attitudes and values but are required to learn about these procedures and participate in the professional care of the patient before and after such procedure.

Examples (not limited to):

- The ability to distinguish right from wrong
- Will not falsify patient's medical record or information
- Seek consultation and supervision whenever their ability to provide patient care is compromised because of lack of knowledge or experience
- Will not knowingly furnish false information to the other members of the health care profession
- Is able to keep promises and honor obligations
- Is accountable for their own behavior
- Is able to practice nursing in an autonomous role with patients/clients who may be physically,

emotionally, or financially vulnerable

- Recognize and honor the interpersonal boundaries appropriate to any therapeutic relationship or health care setting
- Will promptly and fully disclose facts, circumstances, events, errors, and omissions that could enhance the health status of patient/client or the public and could protect them from unnecessary risk of harm.

Essential Behavioral and Social Attributes

The student must be able to adapt and function effectively to stressful situations in the clinical and classroom settings. Students will encounter multiple stressors while in the nursing program. These stressors may be (but are not limited to) personal, patient care/family, faculty/peer, and or program related.

Compassion, integrity, motivation, effective interpersonal skills, and concern for others are personal attributes required of those in the nursing program. The student must possess skills required for full utilization of the student's intellectual abilities; the exercise of good judgment; the prompt completion of all responsibilities in clinical settings; and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and other members of the health care team. The ability to establish rapport and maintain sensitive, interpersonal relationships with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds is critical for practice as a nurse. The student must be able to adapt to changing environments; display flexibility; accept and integrate constructive criticism given in the classroom and clinical settings; and learn to function cooperatively and efficiently in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical practice.

Examples (not limited to):

- The student must be able to exhibit a level of consciousness and attentiveness that guarantees patient safety.
- Examples of unacceptable compromise include excessive somnolence, memory impairment, or an inability to retain pertinent details of a patient's situation.
- Chronic or recurrent illnesses and problems that could interfere with patient care or safety may be incompatible with nursing education or practice.

Ability to Communicate, Comprehend, Read, and Write English

Must be able to read, comprehend, communicate, and write English at a level that meets the need for accurate, clear, and effective communication with individuals, families, and groups respecting social, cultural and spiritual needs.

Examples (not limited to):

- Give clear oral reports
- Read graphs
- Read and understand English printed documents
- Write legibly or record on computer in English in patient record
- Be able to communicate effectively on the telephone
- Discriminate fine/subtle differences in medical word endings
- Report findings to the licensed nurse
-

Individuals who are unable to meet these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, will not be able to complete the program and are counseled to pursue alternate careers.

In accordance with law and WCU policy, no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of the disability

be excluded from participating in West Chester University programs or activities. WCU will provide reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual with a disability. To obtain accommodations, individuals must request them from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD).

A. Academic Achievement and Promotion

Note to progress in program, students must successfully progress with a GPA of 3.0 in all NSG/NSL courses. If students do not meet requirements for progression, they can retake NSG/NSL courses to meet progression requirements. Students are evaluated based on course outcomes identified in syllabi and by the Clinical Evaluation Tool (CET).

In addition to the specific requirements outlined above, students in nursing must achieve the West Chester University level of Quality Point Index for retention and promotion:

University Probation and Dismissal Policy

Maintenance of Academic Standards: Probation and Dismissal

A student's scholastic standing at the University is indicated by his or her cumulative grade point average (GPA). Three categories of academic standing have been established: Good Academic Standing, Probation, and Dismissal. A student remains in good academic standing as long as he or she maintains a minimum cumulative Graduate GPA of 3.00 for all work taken at the University. Probation and dismissal are actions taken by the University when a student's GPA falls below an acceptable level at the end of the fall or spring term. No student will go on or come off academic probation, or be dismissed from the University for academic reasons, at the end of the summer term.

PLUS/MINUS GRADING:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>QUALITY POINTS</u>	<u>% EQUIVALENTS</u>
A	4.00	93-100
A-	3.67	90-92
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.00	83-86
B-	2.67	80-82
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.00	73-76
C-	1.67	70-72
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.00	63-66
D-	0.67	60-62
F	0.00	59 or lower

For more detailed information on this policy and grades of NG, W, and AU please check the university *Graduate Catalog*.

B. Nursing Class Attendance Policy

The faculty believes the interactive process of learning takes place in the classroom and is a part of professional behavior. Attendance in class is mandatory and required for nursing courses. Students are responsible for reading specific attendance requirements in each syllabus.

C. Electronic Device Policy

Use of Electronic Devices: Students are not permitted to make phone calls, send text messages/ emails, or engage in non-class related internet activity while in the clinical or classroom setting without the

permission of the instructor. During clinical, taking photographs of patients is not permitted. No patient-identifiable information is to be stored on the device or removed from the clinical agency. Additional restrictions or rules may apply to the agency or instructor. Violations of this policy will be considered a violation of Standards of Safe Clinical Practice.

D. *Student Records and Advisement*

1. Departmental

All students enrolled in the Department of Nursing have access to their records on request. The record may not be removed from the Nursing office. The academic record file includes admission and schedule information, clinical evaluations, copies of student papers, and any other materials the department or student deems important. To minimize the risk of improper disclosure of any kind, academic and disciplinary records (if available) are separated. Data from the counseling and disciplinary records are not available to unauthorized persons on campus or to any person off campus except for compelling reasons. Students may request that certain university and/or personal correspondence is retained in the file.

Students need to provide written consent for records to be shared outside the University.

It may be necessary for accrediting and approving bodies to examine student files as part of their evaluation process.

When students request that materials from their files be forwarded to anyone, either within the University or outside of the University, a written permission form must be completed and signed by the student for this to be made possible.

2. Academic Advising

Advising within the Department of Nursing is based upon the belief of the university that each student is an individual with unique needs, problems, interests, and aspirations.

The Department provides academic advising to students beginning with summer pre-entrance orientation and continues throughout program. The Program Director, Graduate Coordinator and Chairperson meets with all incoming nursing students during orientation at the university. Curriculum questions are answered and the general policies relating to the Department are reviewed. Uniforms, fieldwork, miscellaneous expenses, and other items of interest to the student are also reviewed.

The Department of Nursing encourages active participation of the faculty in the area of academic advising. Each faculty member is assigned student advisees by the Chairperson. The faculty member is available for advisement during posted office hours and by appointment. Five hours per week are designated and posted on faculty doors, Office hours may change from semester to semester because of differences in clinical assignments.

Each semester students must meet with their academic advisors to plan their course selection for the following semester. One or two weeks prior to registration, master schedules are available on myWCU. Students must access these schedules and plan what courses will be taken the following semester. The student then discusses this selection with the faculty advisor during regular office hours or at special times posted by faculty members specifically

for pre-scheduling. Students will then register at scheduled times on myWCU. Students should maintain open communication with their advisor for any academic-related question or concern during the school year.

The faculty member may suggest the use of the Academic Advisement Center or the Counseling Center on campus to meet the needs of students. This service is a free choice of the student.

3. Services to Accommodate Students with Disabilities

Please refer to Technical Standards.

Services to accommodate students with disabilities are also available through the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD). The OSSD is located within the Academic Affairs Division of the university. The university's American with Disabilities Act policy statement is located in the Graduate catalog. The OSSD coordinates accommodations and acts as a liaison with faculty, university offices and external agencies. Academic support services and accommodations are provided for eligible students with physical or learning disabilities.

Environmental accommodations, tutoring, coaching, workshops in math, career development, study strategies, and a student support group are available through this office. Eligible students must meet the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) guidelines for learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders.

It is recommended that students contact the OSSD director as early as possible to allow time for testing or to forward appropriate documentation. To request accommodation or more information contact the OSSD director at:

Office of Services for Students with Disabilities
<https://www.wcupa.edu/universitycollege/ossd/>

4. Financial Aid

All requests for scholarships, loans, and employment opportunities should be made to the Director of Financial Aid at 25 University Avenue, West Chester University. Loan and scholarship information is available through the office of Financial Aid and a description of the financial aid programs available at West Chester University may be found in the Undergraduate catalog and the Ram's Eye View.

E. [Academic Dishonesty Policy](#)

The Department of Nursing endorses the university policy on student academic dishonesty as published in the university catalog. See the University Academic Integrity Policy (*WCU Graduate Catalog*).

F. [Graduation Requirements](#)

1. NCLEX Examination and Licensure: All students must attend the ATI Live Review course offered the week following graduation. Students who do not score at least 94% predictive probability on the RN Comprehensive Predictor Exam will need to retake the Exam after completion of the ATI Live Review. Students who do not achieve a score that is equal to or greater than the predictor probability of 92% of passing the NCLEX-RN on the second Comprehensive Predictor will not be cleared for taking State Boards until they have completed the Virtual ATI and have been given the “green light” to take the exam. Virtual ATI will be purchased at the expense of the student.

Students must meet all program requirements to be eligible for graduation. Department paperwork will not be submitted to the State Board of Nursing until the BSN is officially conferred by the Registrar’s Office on the student’s transcript and all program requirements have been met.

“The Board shall not issue a license or certificate to an applicant who has been convicted of a felonious act prohibited by the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L. 233, No. 64), known as ‘The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act’ or convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance in a court of law of the United States or any other state, territory or country unless:

- (1) at least ten (10) years have elapsed from the date of conviction.
- (2) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates to the Board that he has made significant progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction such that licensure of the applicant should not be expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the health and safety of patients or the public or a substantial risk of further criminal violations; and
- (3) the applicant otherwise satisfies the qualifications contained in or authorized by the act.

As used in the subsection the term ‘convicted’ shall include a judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere. An applicant’s statement on the application declaring the absence of a conviction shall be deemed satisfactory evidence of the absence of a conviction, unless the Board has some evidence to the contrary.” (Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, Professional Nurse Law, September 2009)

2. Application for Licensure

For those students who will be working prior to taking NCLEX, the PA State Board of Nursing will issue a temporary practice permit to the graduate. The student must apply for this permit at the same time as they apply for licensure. The employer must have on file a state board approved temporary practice permit before anyone who is not currently licensed in PA may be employed as a nurse. If the permit holder fails the NCLEX, the permit becomes VOID and must be returned to the PA State Board of Nursing.

The temporary practice permit application is combined with the Application for NCLEX-RN Exam. Students must apply online to be approved by the PA State Board of Nursing to take NCLEX.

3. Outcome Assessments

Students must participate in activities designed to evaluate learning outcomes. One of the current outcome measures utilized by the Department of Nursing is the ATI RN Comprehensive Predictor Exam. This Exam is a requirement for all nursing students in their 4th semester of the A2M program.

Students will purchase the RN Comprehensive Assessment and Review Program from ATI upon entering the program.

A. *Requirements for all Nursing Students Prior to Admission to NSG/NSL381 (first clinical course)*

1. All Course Prerequisites as Stated in Academic Policies

a. *Penalties for Non-Compliance of ADB/ COMPLIO and Clinical Requirements:*

- i. Students who do not complete required clearances, physical, health history, immunizations via American Data Bank (ADB)/Complio will not be permitted contractually to enter into clinical experiences.

b. CPR Certification

- i. Nursing students enrolled in nursing courses with a clinical component are required to be currently certified in Life Support (2-person) Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation. Each student is responsible for making his/her own arrangements for initial certification and for renewals. Courses given by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association are among the acceptable resources for CPR certification. The CPR course must include certification in two rescuer resuscitation and resuscitation of children and infants.

2. Liability (Malpractice) Insurance

- i. Nursing students are required to have professional liability insurance when enrolled in nursing courses with a clinical laboratory component. The face sheet of the insurance policy must be submitted at the beginning of NSG/NSL 381 and NSG561 to Certified Background. The student may not begin clinical experience until the policy is on file.
- ii. Forms for subscribing for insurance are available from the secretary in the Nursing Department. Students may apply on-line and pay for their insurance.
- iii. At the present time, students are required to carry coverage in the amount of
- iv. \$1,000,000/\$4-6,000,000 to meet the requirements of some of the clinical agencies.

3. Criminal and Pennsylvania/Delaware Child Abuse History Clearance

- a. In accordance with Pennsylvania, Delaware Nursing Law and Child Protective Services Law as an effort to protect client safety and property, students will be required to complete a criminal background check annually beginning their first semester of classes
- b. Clinical placements may be denied by the clinical site due to felony or misdemeanor convictions, or other adverse findings, and the inability to be placed at a clinical site will prohibit the student from graduating. Since there is not a comprehensive list from clinical sites and licensing agencies, we cannot provide guidance on what would absolutely exclude the student from clinical placement or licensure. However, these decisions are typically dependent upon the nature of the incident, time since the incident occurred, and frequency and type of the incident.

- c. It should be noted by all nursing students that the Professional Nursing Law provides that the Pennsylvania or Delaware State Board of Nursing may refuse applications for professional nursing licensure if the applicant “has been convicted, or has pleaded guilty, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or has been found guilty by a judge or jury, of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude, or has received probation without verdict, disposition in lieu of trial or an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition in the deposition of felony charges, in the courts of this Commonwealth (of Pennsylvania), the United States or any other state, territory, possession or country.” Moral turpitude has been defined by the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania as “anything done knowingly contrary to justice, honesty, or good morals.” Determination of whether a crime is one of moral turpitude depends on the element of the crime as they are enumerated under the criminal statute. All crimes in which fraud is an element are looked on as involving moral turpitude. The Board is authorized to reject application for licensure to anyone who has been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude, even if the crime was not related to the practice of nursing or was not committed while in the practice of nursing.

4. Substance Abuse Policy

- a. Students are expected to perform unimpaired. Prior to progressing to the nursing courses, students must have a negative substance abuse result. If a student is suspected of substance abuse, as evidenced by documented impaired behavior, they will be removed from the classroom/clinical setting and may be asked to submit to further testing. Additionally, if the student is suspected of impairment, they will be asked to find arrangements to leave the clinical/classroom site. Further testing and alternate arrangements will be at the expense of the student. This policy is in addition to the West Chester University Student Code of Conduct and the Drug-Free Campus: Policies, Guidelines, and Resources.
- b. Students must have a test performed at the designated laboratory during the stated testing period before progressing to each of the following levels 300 and 500 level courses/labs. Tests are performed by a qualified agency or laboratory using standard procedures for maintaining chain of custody. Tested substances are; amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids, cocaine, opiates and phencyclidine. Students are responsible for all costs associated with these tests. Students’ results are sent directly to ADB/ Complio and Department Chairperson is notified for a positive result. Students with a positive drug screen will be dismissed from the nursing major. Refusal to be tested will result in dismissal from the nursing major.

5. FBI check

- a. Students must have an FBI check performed before progressing to each of the following courses: NSG/NSL 381, 383, 385, NSG 561, 562, 563. Clearances are completed via ADB/ Complio.

6. Health Requirements

- a. A physical examination will be completed by a primary care provider (MD, DO, CRNP, PA) at student's expense prior to beginning nursing courses.
- b. A Health Form is required for all nursing students at WCU prior to beginning the program. This requirement helps to protect the health of the students as well as the clients with

whom you come in contact while providing nursing care.

- c. In order to comply with agency requirements, a Quantiferon Gold test will be required for all students prior to the start of NSG/NSL 381 and annually. Students with a positive Quantiferon gold must have a chest x-ray completed and have clearance from a health care provider of no active disease of TB. Our Department requirements conform to the rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania State Board of Nurse Examiners in regard to provisions for the protection of students' health and requirements of our clinical affiliates.
- d. If a health problem is identified, indication of how the problem will be remediated must be included in the student's health file. In some cases, students must provide physician's clearance to participate in the clinical setting.
 - i. The health report for current students must include:
 - 1. completed health form, physical and
 - 2. Covid vaccine series
 - 3. evidence of immunity to rubella, measles, mumps, poliomyelitis, flu, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, **Hepatitis B**, and varicella.
 - a. immunization record - evidence of first 3 series vaccination and booster of Tdap within the last 10 years OR
 - b. laboratory test results showing positive titer
 - ii. The **Hepatitis B** immunization process is a three-injection series that occurs over a six month period; initial dose, one month later second dose and five months later third dose. Therefore, the vaccination must be started **no later than** the beginning of the spring semester.
 - iii. **NO** student will be permitted to begin NSG/NSL course without completion of **ALL**
 - iv. preclinical requirements.

7. Health/Automobile Insurance

- a. Nursing students are required to participate in a medical and automobile insurance program. They are to be covered by their own insurance policies.

8. Additional Requirement(s) for all Nursing Students Entering the First Clinical Rotation

Competency in calculation of dosages shall be a prerequisite for entry into NSG/NSL 381. The student is required to have attained 100% proficiency in calculating dosage as measured by a paper and pencil test administered within the time frame prior to enrolling in NSG/NSL 381.

9. Student Guidelines for Communicable Diseases

The West Chester University AIDS Guidelines serve as an underlying basis for this Communicable Disease Policy. This policy expands to the care of patients with Covid disease.

Nursing professionals including faculty have a fundamental responsibility to provide care to all clients assigned to them, and the refusal to care for those patients is contrary to the ethics of the profession. All clients have a right to humane, quality care.

Introduction

Nursing faculty have a responsibility for instructing students in the provision of care based on sound knowledge and professional values. As all clients are potential carriers of communicable diseases, the ability to care for these clients safely is essential. It is the students' responsibility to inform clinical faculty

of exposure or symptoms of any communicable disease.

Communicable Disease Policy

All Nursing majors, prior to direct client contact, must receive instruction concerning the modes and risks of acquiring and transmitting communicable disease in the clinical setting.

All students, prior to direct client contact, must receive instruction concerning infection control precautions such as the standard precautions presented by CDC in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. This instruction will also include appropriate response/recommendations in the case of an exposure such as a needle stick injury.

All students must demonstrate knowledge of and skill in the performance of basic aseptic technique *before they begin clinical practicum*. Students who fail to do so will not meet clinical course requirements.

All students will be required to care for clients with communicable diseases.

It is the responsibility of the student to follow the CDC Guidelines in minimizing risk of infection at the clinical setting.

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the personal protection measures such as immunization/vaccination that are required or recommended by the Dept. of Nursing.

In the case of refusal by a student to care for a client with a communicable disease, the Department of Nursing will pursue the following steps:

1. The Nursing Student will receive additional education and counseling underscoring the obligation to provide care for all clients who have communicable diseases.
2. If refusal continues, career counseling will be recommended.
3. Nursing Students are hereby notified that continued refusal to care for a client with a communicable disease may result in dismissal from the nursing program.

Student Guidelines for Communicable Diseases Adapted from:

Author, (1988). National League for Nursing: AIDS Guidelines for Schools of Nursing. New York.

Author, (1988). Clinical Experience Policy for Faculty. Rhode Island College Dept. of Nursing. Rhode Island.

Author, (1988). Policy Concerning AIDS. Bloomsburg University Dept. of Nursing. Bloomsburg, PA.

B. Standards of Safe Clinical Practice

In all clinical situations, students are expected to demonstrate responsibility and accountability as professional nurses, with the ultimate goal being health promotion and prevention of harm to others. The Department of Nursing believes that this goal will be attained if each student's daily clinical practice is guided by the Standards of Safe Clinical Practice.

Safe clinical performance always includes, but is not limited to, the following behaviors; therefore, I will:

1. Practice within boundaries of the nursing student role.
2. Comply with instructional policies and procedures on implementing nursing care.
3. Prepare for clinical assignments according to course requirements and as determined for specific clinical setting.
4. Provide nursing care that may be required to promote health and prevent illness or further complications.
5. Demonstrate the application of previously learned skills and principles in providing nursing care.
6. Administer medications and/or treatments responsibly according to guidelines provided by the Department of Nursing and agency.
7. Promptly report significant client information in a clear, accurate, and complete oral or written manner to the appropriate person(s).

Acknowledgement

I have read the West Chester University Department of Nursing Standards of Safe Clinical Practice. I understand that these standards are expectations that guide my clinical practice and will be incorporated into the evaluation of my clinical performance in all clinical courses. Failure to meet these standards may result in my removal from the clinical area, which may result in clinical failure.

Signature & Date

Print Name

Standards of Safe Clinical Practice (Cont.)

During enrollment in the West Chester University School of Nursing Program, all students, in all clinical activities, are expected to practice according to the Standards of Safe Clinical Practice.

Failure to abide by these standards will result in disciplinary action, which may include dismissal from the Nursing Program.

PROCEDURES

1. A2M students will receive a copy of the Standards of Safe Clinical Practice in NSG/NSL 381.
2. Students are required to read the Standards and sign a statement that they have read and understand the Standards. This statement will be kept during the student's enrollment in the A2M Program.
3. At the beginning of each subsequent clinical course, the Standards of Safe Clinical Practice will be reviewed with students by the appropriate level coordinator.
4. If any violation jeopardizes patient safety, the student may be removed from the clinical setting.
5. Violation of these Standards will result in the following disciplinary action:
 - A. First Violation
 - 1) Student will be given an immediate oral warning by the appropriate faculty member. The incident will be documented by the faculty member on the *Violation of Standards of Safe Clinical Practice* form. The student has the opportunity to include their comments in the *Student Comments* section of the form. One copy of this form will be given to the student (either hard copy or electronic copy) and one copy will be kept in the student's confidential record.
 - 2) At the discretion of the faculty member, the student may be required to leave the clinical area for the remainder of the day and may not be allowed to return to the clinical area.
 - 3) If the student has not been dismissed and remains in the Program following the above disciplinary action, any additional violation will be documented and referred as above for disciplinary action, which may result in student dismissal from the Program.
 - 4) If this violation is of a serious nature (any act which places a client in physical or psychological danger), in addition to Step 1 & 2, it may be referred to the Level Coordinator and Level Team for further disciplinary action as in B below. The student will be given notice and have an opportunity to be heard by and meet with the Graduate Coordinator and A2M Program Director prior to any disciplinary actions.

B. Second and Subsequent Violations

- 1) In addition to 5A, the faculty member will document the incident on the *Violation of Safe Clinical Practice* form. Following discussion of the incident with the student, the faculty member will forward a copy of the form to the Graduate Coordinator, A2M Program Director and Chair of the Department of Nursing, for review and recommendation regarding further action. The student will be given notice and have an opportunity to be heard and to meet with the Level Coordinator and Level Team prior to any disciplinary actions.
- 2) The recommendation of reprimand or dismissal will be forwarded by the Level Coordinator to the Department Chair for review and approval. This disciplinary action process will be documented and placed in the student's confidential record.
- 3) If the student has not been dismissed and remains in the Program following the above disciplinary action, any additional violation will be documented and referred as above for disciplinary action, which may result in student dismissal from the Program.

Student Appeal Procedures:

A student may appeal a first violation processed under section 5.A. 1 & 2 above according to the following procedures:

1. Student may appeal the Violation with the issuing faculty member within 2 business days of the date of the Violation. If the appeal is not mutually resolved, the student may then appeal to the Graduate Coordinator within 4 business days of the date of the Violation.
2. If the appeal is still not satisfactorily resolved, the student may then appeal to the Department Chair within 2 business days after completion of Step 1.
3. The student may appeal the decision of the Department Chair to the College of Health Sciences Associate Dean within 2 business days after the Chair's decision. The Associate Dean's decision will be the final determination of the University. Student may appeal a second or subsequent violation or a first violation of serious nature under section 5.A.4 above according to the following procedures:

Injury/Incident Form

A West Chester University Department of Nursing Incident Report is filed when any unusual event occurs (such as exposure to infectious disease or hazardous material; life threatening injury, needle sticks, falls, or being struck by a patient, etc.) which may cause injury to students. Students assume the risk of injury at all clinical sites and laboratory settings and hold West Chester University harmless. The Department Chair and course coordinator should be notified as soon as the faculty member has knowledge of such an event. The completed form should then be sent to the Nursing Department Administrative Assistant for processing.

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
Department of Nursing
Violation of Standards of Safe Clinical Practice Form

Date _____

Student _____

Instructor _____

Time of Incident: _____

Agency: _____

Indicate by Circling: Violation #1 #2 #3

Description of Incident:

Action Taken:

SAMPLE

Student Comments:

I understand that I have two business days to appeal this violation with the faculty member.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Student signature merely indicates they have read this form.

Instructor Signature _____ Date _____

Graduate Coordinator _____ Date _____

Department Chair _____ Date _____

(Revised & reprinted with permission from Duquesne University School of Nursing)

West Chester University Department of Nursing

INJURY/INCIDENT FORM

(Please Print)

Today's Date:		Faculty Member Taking Report:			
STUDENT INFORMATION					
Student's Last Name: Middle:		First:	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Age:	Birth date: / /
Student address:		Student ID no.:	Student phone no.:		
Student E-mail address:		City:	State:	Zip Code:	
INJURY/INCIDENT INFORMATION					
Time/Date of injury/incident:	Physical Location of injury/incident (clinical site):	Brief statement of Injury/incident, include body part involved:		Was faculty member present at time of injury/incident? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Injury/incident details (please describe in detail, what happened, use back if need more room):					
Was any first aid provided? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If yes, what was done and by who:			
Was any referral made and where? (Ex. ER, Urgent Center, PCP) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If yes, what was done (attach copy of discharge notes if applicable):			
Witnesses and contact information (If any):		Faculty Notified <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No; Who: _____ A2M Coordinator Notified <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No; Who: _____ Chairperson Notified <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No; Who: _____ Any others notified: Who/relationship: _____ _____			
Student Printed Name:			Faculty Printed Name:		
The above information is true to the best of my knowledge.					
Student Signature		Date	Faculty Signature		Date

SAMPLE

*C. Clinical Attendance Policy **

Attendance at all clinical laboratory experiences is required to meet the educational objectives of each nursing course, except for extenuating circumstances such as illness or personal emergency, i.e., death in family, etc. It is the student's responsibility to notify faculty and the clinical agency if they are unable to be present for the clinical laboratory experience. Notification should occur in a timely fashion, either the evening before or the morning of the clinical experience.

One (5-hour day) clinical absence = **2-point deduction for each absence** from the final clinical grade for each clinical rotation in which the absence(s) occurred. If you are completing a 10-hour day each week and miss a full day, there will be a **4-point deduction for each absence** as this 11-12 hour day counts as 2 clinical days.

More than 20 hours absenteeism from a single clinical rotation will result in clinical failure as the student will not be able to meet the clinical objectives set forth in the CET.

Simulation Lab – Late Arrival Policy

Rationale:

- Simulation is currently counted as clinical hours.
- Professionalism is an outcome of Clinical Evaluation Tool (CET), lateness is an aspect of professionalism

Students who arrive late for simulation lab will be permitted to attend and participate, as long as they have completed the assigned simulation pre-lab assignments as per simulation preparation policy.

If the student arrives less than 1 hour late to simulation lab, a written make-up assignment will be assigned. If this written assignment is not submitted within one week and/or does not meet assignment expected outcomes, the lateness converts to a clinical absence of one hour and points from final NSL grade deducted as per clinical absence policy.

If students arrive late to simulation lab at 1 hour or more, a written make-up assignment will be assigned, and the student must attend the simulation clinical make-up day. If the assignment is not submitted within one week and/or does not meet assignment expected outcomes, the lateness converts to a clinical absence equal to the amount of time missed and points from final NSL grade deducted as per clinical absence policy.

D. Attendance at Professional Conferences

Students may submit a written request (two weeks in advance) to be excused from a classroom and/or clinical laboratory experience in order to attend a professional meeting at the discretion of the faculty and Graduate Coordinator,* to be limited to one per semester.

* e.g., *Student Nurses' Association Convention, continuing education program, or posterpresentation.*

NOTE: A job interview does not meet the criteria of a professional day.

E. Transportation to Clinical Agencies

As stated in the University catalog, students are required to supply their own transportation to clinical facilities.

****Please note** – some rotations will require students to have their own means of transportation during the clinical day. Carpooling and/or public transportation to clinical during those rotations are not feasible.

F. Dress Code (Uniforms, etc.)

The faculty believes that the appearance of a nurse is important. The nurse is part of the patient's environment for healing. The Department of Nursing designates a standard dress code and requires that the student obtain the necessary items prior to entering the first clinical practicum. These items include:

6. Eggplant (purple) uniforms may be purchased by the student for many of the hospital settings.
7. An identification tag that includes two lines as follows:

Student's Name

Nursing Student

8. Please refer to the Student Affairs Information Guidelines regarding uniform purchase. Forms are distributed in NSG 212 and can be found on D2L.
9. Gray WCU jacket is the only uniform jacket acceptable for clinical.

The following outline states other requirements of the dress code by the Student Affairs Committee, accepted by the West Chester University Department of Nursing faculty, December 2019.

Dress Code & Appearance cont.

- Hair** - Neat and preferably no longer than to the collar
- Jewelry** - Earrings: Small, pierced, inconspicuous, non-dangling earrings are acceptable limit one earring per ear
- Watch** - A watch with a second hand is necessary
- Other** - Wedding bands are acceptable
- Makeup** - Lightly worn facial makeup is acceptable
- Nails** - No artificial nails. Nails not to exceed ¼ inch in length. Only clear nail polish is acceptable
- Facial Hair** - Facial hair should be maintained as neat & trimmed at all times

- Body Art -** Ear piercings should be limited to one stud per ear. No other body piercings may be visible. If visible, facial piercings must be removed or covered.
Tattoos - They must be covered.
- Name Pin -** Must be worn as part of the uniform
- Shoes -** Leather or impenetrable professional shoes; no open back/open toe clogs.
Shoes should be clean and in good repair.

Overall professionalism is expected with dress code and appearance. It is at the faculty's discretion as to an appropriate, professional appearance.

*****DISCLAIMER:** *Clinical agency guidelines may vary regarding dress code & appearance. Students must abide by the guidelines of the institution.****

G. Use of Social Media

The use of social media and other electronic communication is increasing with growing numbers of social media outlets, platforms and applications, including blogs, social networking sites, video sites, and online chat rooms and forums. Nurses often use electronic media both personally and professionally. Instances of inappropriate use of electronic media by nurses have been reported to boards of nursing and, in some cases, reported in nursing literature and the media.

Federal law reinforces and further defines privacy through the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA regulations are intended to protect patient privacy by defining individually identifiable information and establishing how this information may be used, by whom and under what circumstances.

Potential consequences for inappropriate use of social and electronic media by a nurse are varied. The potential consequences will depend, in part, on the particular nature of the nurse's conduct.

Board of Nursing Implications

Instances of inappropriate use of social and electronic media may be reported to the Board of Nursing. The laws outlining the basis for disciplinary action by a Board of Nursing vary between jurisdictions. Depending on the laws of a jurisdiction, a Board of Nursing may investigate reports of inappropriate disclosures on social media by a nurse on the grounds of:

Unprofessional conduct; unethical conduct; moral turpitude; mismanagement of patient records; revealing a privileged communication; and breach of confidentiality.

If the allegations are found to be true, the licensed nurse may face disciplinary action by the Board of Nursing, including a reprimand or sanction, assessment of a monetary fine, or temporary or permanent loss of licensure. (National Council on State Boards of Nursing (August, 2011). *White Paper: A Nurse's Guide to Social Media*.)

The entire White Paper can be found on the National Council's website www.ncsbn.org

Students are held to the same standards stated above and may face dismissal from the program if found to be using social media in an inappropriate manner.

H. Student Employment

Employment in health care settings is not required for students in the nursing program. However, many students choose to work part-time during the school year and/or full-time during the summer vacation period in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, or other health care agencies. In most instances, they are employed as nursing assistants or in dealing with clients and families.

When seeking or accepting employment in a health care agency, students should be acutely aware of Section 21.112a of the Rules and Regulations of the Pennsylvania State Board of Nurse Examiners, as follows:

"If students are employed in health agencies, they may not be employed as registered or practical nurses unless they are currently licensed."

Nursing students employed in any position involving client care must work under the direct supervision of a registered nurse, and must not perform any tasks or accept any responsibilities reserved for practical nurses by the Practical Nurse Law of Pennsylvania or for registered nurses by the Professional Nursing Law, which governs the practice of professional nursing in Pennsylvania. Violation of these guidelines could result in a malpractice lawsuit being brought against the student.

In some health care agencies, an attempt has been made recently to encourage or even require nursing student employees to perform functions which are legally reserved for RN's or LPN's. Students applying for a position in a health care agency should always ask for a detailed job description and job title. Any description or title other than a standard one such as "nursing assistant," "nurse aide," or "ward clerk" should alert the student to investigate further, probably through discussion with her faculty advisor. "Nurse Extern" is one example of a title which can confer inappropriate and/or illegal responsibilities on a student who accepts it prior to graduation.

Professional Nursing Events at WCU.

A. *Mary Kline Lecture Series and Professional Day*

An annual campus-wide lecture series has been established by the Department of Nursing to honor Mary L. Kline, a distinguished member of the nursing faculty who retired in 1983 after fourteen years of dedicated teaching and service to the university. These lectures are held annually in the fall semester.

Several other professional activities are also planned for this day, including panel discussions and opportunities for contact with potential employers and graduate education programs.

B. *Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing*

The Honor Society of the Department of Nursing, West Chester University, was established in the spring of 1985. The first induction ceremony for the society was held on March 24, 1985. On April 17, 1994, the Honor Society was chartered as Xi Delta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing in a ceremony conducted by Elizabeth Carnegie, DPA, RN, FAAN, Member of the Board of Directors of Sigma Theta Tau. The purposes of this society are to recognize superior achievement, recognize the development of leadership qualities, foster high professional standards, encourage creative work, strengthen commitment to the ideals, and purposes of the profession.

Membership is open to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the nursing program who have demonstrated superior scholastic achievement and potential for professional leadership as well as to community nurse leaders. Undergraduate candidates must have achieved a grade average of at least 3.25 and be in the top one-third of their class; graduate students are eligible if they have achieved a grade-point average significantly higher than the minimum requirement for graduation. This should be at least a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Community nurse leaders must have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree and have demonstrated marked achievement in nursing education, practice, research or publication.

C. Pins

After having successfully completed the nursing major, senior students have the option of purchasing a pin representing graduation from the West Chester University Department of Nursing. These pins are usually awarded at a department Pinning Ceremony during graduation week.