Greetings from the Chair

Welcome to the Georgia Southern University School of Nursing. We are glad you have chosen our program to begin your journey towards professional nursing practice.

Nursing in the 21st century provides practitioners with a variety of practice options to meet the healthcare needs of our community within a rapidly changing healthcare system. Advances in diagnosis and treatment, technology, and care location options provide graduates with exciting employment opportunities.

The School of Nursing is committed to providing you with a high-quality nursing education that will launch your professional nursing career. Whether working at the bedside or furthering your education to become an advanced practice nurse (Nurse Practitioner, Certified Nurse Midwife, Clinical Nurse Specialist, or Nurse Anesthetist), to develop leadership skills, or to teach nursing, Georgia Southern University will ensure you have the knowledge and skills to be successful in fulfilling your potential.

Prepare for your future now. Engage in every learning experience with enthusiasm; take advantage of every opportunity to be successful. Our faculty members are expert teachers and clinicians committed to assisting you to reach your professional goal through expert nursing practice, student advisement, a rigorous program of study, use of state-of-the-art equipment, and a variety of learning experiences that promote active learning.

We will ask you to study hard, work hard, and be the best. However, we have every confidence that you are ready for this challenge. We look forward to joining you on your journey.

Sincerely,

Catherine Gilbert, EdD, MSN, RN
Chair, School of Nursing
Welcome to the Georgia Southern University School of Nursing

The faculty and staff of the School of Nursing are pleased that you have chosen our university for your nursing education to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The School of Nursing is vibrant and on the move. It has been called one of the best in the nation and deserves this kind of recognition. We are certain that over time you will increasingly appreciate the value and quality of the nursing education you receive at Georgia Southern University.

This handbook is provided in order to help you understand and easily find your way through the Undergraduate Nursing Programs. It is intended to be a guide, giving information about the School of Nursing and policies that affect you.

Reading this handbook will help you to get oriented and to develop realistic expectations about the school. We would appreciate being advised of additional, beneficial material that you would like to have included.

1. This handbook will serve as your guide throughout your nursing education experience. A current handbook will be maintained on the School of Nursing website. New policies will be posted until added to the handbook.

2. Georgia Southern University student policies can be found at www.georgiasouthern.edu on the University website.

Utilization of Student Handbook

Please use this Nursing Student Handbook to review the policies which guide your educational experience with us. Any changes or new policies will be added to this handbook. In addition, you will be notified of any updates.

Handbook Disclaimer

The Georgia Southern University Bachelor of Science in Nursing Student Handbook is a student resource for informational purposes only. This is not a contract between the School of Nursing and the student. While the provisions of this handbook are as accurate and complete as possible, the School of Nursing reserves the right to change any provision herein without actual notice if circumstances so warrant. Students will be advised of such changes and information about such changes will be available at all times from the faculty. It is the responsibility of each student to become familiar with the provisions of the Student Handbook and to successfully complete the requirements of the nursing program.

Accreditation Status

The Georgia Southern University School of Nursing is fully accredited by all appropriate national, state, and specialized/professional nursing accrediting agencies. Accrediting agencies assure that programs in nursing education engage in effective educational practices in the preparation of nurses. A determination of accreditation by an accrediting agency is an indication of confidence in the educational institution to offer a program of quality, deserving of public approbation. Note: Universities and colleges in the United States must hold appropriate regional accreditation in order to be recognized to award higher education degrees. All undergraduate nursing programs must hold approval from their State Board of Nursing. Voluntary program accreditation by one specialized/professional nursing accreditation body is highly desirable, particularly to assure graduates of continued educational and employment mobility.
Georgia Southern University holds the following accreditation:

**Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.** This regional accreditation grants Georgia Southern University the right to award Bachelor, Master, Specialist, certificates, and Doctorate degrees.

**Georgia Southern University holds the following state and specialized/professional nursing accreditations:**

1. **Georgia Board of Nursing.** (required approval). The Georgia Board of Nursing grants Full Approval to undergraduate nursing programs who maintain compliance with the Georgia Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations as evidenced by: annual reports submitted by the program, site visit reports, and appropriate passing percentages of first-time writers on the NCLEX-RN examination. Inquiries regarding the accreditation status of the program can be directed to: Georgia Board of Nursing, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA 31217-3858. Phone: 912-207-1640.

2. **CCNE.** The baccalaureate degree program in nursing at Georgia Southern University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. [http://www.ccneaccreditation.org](http://www.ccneaccreditation.org)

**Mission, Purpose, Vision, Philosophy, and Conceptual Framework**

**Mission Statement: Georgia Southern University**

Georgia Southern University is a public comprehensive and Carnegie Doctoral/Research (R2) university offering associate, bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in nationally accredited programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines. The University provides transformative learning opportunities to meet the needs of a diverse student population through its legacy of commitment to academic excellence and personal attention. Through the shared resources of its multiple locations, the University creates vibrant learning environments that foster an inclusive, student-centered culture of engagement designed to prepare students for lifelong service as scholars, leaders, and responsible stewards of their communities. The University enhances quality of life and drives economic development in the Coastal Georgia region, the State of Georgia, and beyond by supporting collaborative efforts in technological innovation, scientific advancement, education, health services, artistic creativity, and cultural enrichment. Faculty, staff, and students embrace the values of integrity, civility, kindness, respect, sustainability, citizenship, and social responsibility in every facet of the University.

**Purpose, Mission, Vision, and Values**

The purpose of the School of Nursing is to support the mission, vision, and values of the University:

A. **Mission:**
   The Mission of the School of Nursing is to prepare a diverse student population to become professional nurses through academic excellence to promote health and enhance the quality of life for citizens in the rural and urban communities they serve.

B. **Vision:**
   The School of Nursing aspires to be the premier center for academic excellence in professional nursing education for the Southeastern United States through transformative learning opportunities that promote a culture of caring and a legacy of
lifelong scholarship, leadership and responsible community service and stewardship.

C. Values:
The nursing faculty embraces the following core values:
❖ Culture of Caring – respect, civility, kindness, collaboration, diversity
❖ Culture of Scholarship – student engagement, evidence-based practice, life-long learning, competence
❖ Culture of Integrity – ethics, social responsibility, social justice, stewardship
❖ Culture of Service – citizenship, leadership, altruism

**Metaparadigm Concepts**

**Person**
The person component focuses on the receiver of care. A person is a holistic being central to nursing, with a unique culture, values, and beliefs. Having certain rights and responsibilities, a person is capable of self-actualization and self-determination. Whether alone or in families, groups, or communities, a person interacts with his or her environment.

**Nursing**
Professional Nursing Practice is a discipline involving human caring that is concerned with improving quality of life and promoting, maintaining, and restoring health in partnership with persons, families, groups, and communities. The evolving art and science of nursing consists of a unique body of knowledge based on theory, research, and practice in nursing and other disciplines.

**Health**
“Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (World Health Organization [WHO], 1948). Health promotion and disease prevention at the individual and population level are necessary to improve population health. In partnership with the nurse, health is defined by individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations across the lifespan and across the continuum of healthcare environments.

**Environment**
The environment aspect focuses on the surroundings that affect the patient. Environment constitutes the internal and external influences that affect or are affected by the person. These influences include, but are not limited to, biological, psychological, and spiritual factors, population density, socioeconomic status, cultural diversity, social values and beliefs, and scientific and technological development.

**Curriculum Threads**

Nurses, in partnership with persons, families, groups, and communities, engage in the dynamic process of health promotion. While the metaparadigm concepts of person, nursing, health, and environment form the foundation of the school's framework, the following curriculum threads shape the curriculum.

**Human Caring** in nursing is a set of interpersonal acts that extend beyond concern, emotion, and benevolent desire. Caring in this context involves values, intent, commitment, knowledge, actions, and outcomes.

**Communication**, within the context of nursing, is a dynamic and interpersonal process that requires at least one messenger and one receiver. The process, which includes interprofessional collaboration, can be either verbal (oral or written) or nonverbal and is influenced by a person's
culture, setting, values, beliefs, and perceptions. Undergraduate and graduate students engage in increasingly complex levels of communication skills.

**Ethical Principles**, which include altruism, autonomy, integrity, freedom, veracity, privacy, beneficence, fidelity, human dignity, and social justice, are used to clarify and resolve identified moral problems and ethical dilemmas. The beliefs and values outlined in the Code of Ethics for Nurses (American Nurses Association [ANA], 2015) provide guidelines for ethical nursing practice.

**Critical Thinking** is an active process of analysis exploring relevant phenomena and making judgments to intervene in a therapeutic manner. This reflexive, transferable process involves the ongoing integration and application of a complex set of abilities. The critical thinking process is made public through various modes of communication.

**Empowerment** is an interpersonal process of providing resources, tools, and environment for people to achieve their optimal potential and well-being. Nursing’s role is to support people to actively participate in their healthcare decision-making to improve healthcare outcomes.

**Cultural Appropriateness** is the skilled delivery of care based on the appreciation for and knowledge of the diversity in backgrounds of persons. The nurse who is culturally competent takes into account the person’s view of the world which is transmitted from generation to generation. The person’s world view, which is manifested in beliefs, practices, likes, dislikes, customs, norms, and rituals, is incorporated within appropriate therapeutic nursing interventions. In addition, ethnic sensitivity takes into account the person’s group affiliation or membership.

**Healthcare Technologies** are utilized and managed by nurses in various settings. Technology may enhance nursing practice in direct and indirect patient care, health-related communication, nursing informatics, and clinical information management. Nurses must therefore maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to provide care that is technologically current while maintaining a caring, interactive approach.

**Leadership** in nursing is an awareness of complex systems, and the impact of power, politics, policy, and regulatory guidelines on these systems. Leadership skills emphasize ethical and critical decision-making, initiating and maintaining effective working relationships, using mutually respectful communication and collaboration, care coordination, delegation, and conflict resolution. The nurse uses leadership skills to promote high quality patient care and patient safety within organizational and community arenas (American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN], 2008).

**Health Policy** is the compilation of decisions made within the government, and sometimes private entities, regarding health and healthcare. Policies influence health in areas such as access to care, patient care delivery, and financing. It is therefore incumbent upon the nursing profession to consider the impact of health policy on professional nursing practice and to participate in policy development as warranted (Estes, Chapman, Dodd, Holliister, & Harrington, 2012).

**Professional Roles and Responsibilities** include delivering safe care and designing, managing, and coordinating care as a member of the interprofessional team. The professional nurse evaluates one’s own practice as well as contributes to the support and advancement of the profession. The professional nurse focuses on continuous self-evaluation and lifelong learning. The nurse who upholds professional roles and responsibilities advocates for quality healthcare and functions as a leader in the community and profession (AACN, 2008).
Research is the systematic inquiry that uses disciplined methods to answer questions or solve problems (Polit & Beck, 2014). Evidence-based practice involves using best evidence in making patient care decisions (Polit & Beck, 2014) and is based on clinical expertise, patient preferences and values and external evidence (Melnyk & Fineout-Overholt, 2014). External evidence is generated through rigorous investigations to produce new data. The nurse translates evidence, into professional nursing practice. At the undergraduate level, external research evidence is critiqued, analyzed, and applied to the provision of care of persons, families, groups, and communities.

Because the School of Nursing’s mission includes the professional development of a diverse group of students, nursing faculty carefully reviewed and chose professional standards and guidelines that represented a broad base for various levels of nursing practice. A variety of professional nursing standards, along with selected specialty area nursing practice standards, representing the most current and developed perspectives of the discipline of nursing were chosen to underpin and develop the mission, philosophy, purposes, goals/objectives of the School of Nursing. All are consistently applied as guidelines for the development of program and curricula materials for the preparation of nursing students. A list of standards are referenced at the end of this document.

UNDERGRADUATE NURSING PROGRAMS

ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS AND CURRICULA
FOR TRADITIONAL, ACCELERATED, ADVANCED PLACEMENT TRACK FOR LPN, AND RN-BSN PROGRAMS

Pre-Nursing: Core Curriculum Requirements

The core curriculum is a reflection of courses required of all students attending state-supported schools in Georgia who are seeking a baccalaureate degree. Full information about the core curriculum can be found in the Georgia Southern University general catalog. Nursing is built upon a liberal arts educational base provided by courses from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. These courses fulfill some of the core curriculum requirements outlined by the University System of Georgia.

The semester system core curriculum consists of courses from five areas (Areas A-E): Communication Skills; Quantitative Skills; Global Perspectives; Humanities, Arts, and Ethics; Science, Mathematics, and Technology; and Social Science. The core curriculum requirements for the pre-licensure program equal 64 credits, whereas the core for RN-BSN equals 60 credits.

Pre-Nursing: US/Georgia History Requirements

The baccalaureate student must meet the University System of Georgia requirements for US and Georgia History and Constitution as stated in the Georgia Southern University General Catalog. See website for more information.
https://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/success/testing/legislative-exemption-exams/

Pre-Nursing: The College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

https://admissions.georgiasouthern.edu/future/ap-ib-clep/
See the Georgia Southern University general catalog for information on the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) for courses other than nursing courses.
BSN Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the baccalaureate degree, the graduate will be able to:

1. Synthesize core knowledge from the liberal arts, sciences, and nursing as the foundation for professional practice.
2. Use knowledge of organizational systems, leadership principles, and resources in becoming responsible, safe, and accountable professional nurses.
3. Apply scholarship, inquiry, and analysis of current evidence to clinical judgment to improve individual and population healthcare outcomes.
4. Incorporate healthcare information and technology to enhance clinical decision making in professional practice.
5. Integrate knowledge of healthcare policy, finance, and regulatory environments into professional practice.
6. Utilize inter-professional communication to develop collaborative partnerships for improving patient health outcomes.
7. Apply a health promotion, disease and injury prevention framework to the care of individuals and populations.
8. Demonstrate the professional standards of moral, ethical, and legal conduct as well as assume accountability for personal and professional behavior.

TRADITIONAL BSN PROGRAM

Admission Criteria

Admission to the BSN program is competitive. The Georgia Southern University School of Nursing program admits students each Fall and Spring semester. Fall semester applications will be available on the School of Nursing website during Spring semester and Spring applications during Fall Semester. Please check the website for specific application dates and deadlines.

Admission to Georgia Southern University. All transfer credits must be evaluated by the Registrar’s office and posted on the Georgia Southern University transcript upon official acceptance to the University. In order to meet admissions criteria for the School of Nursing, students must:

1. Meet the core performance standards. See website for details.
2. Maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 on all attempted courses in the Program of Study for the School of Nursing is required.
3. Achieve a cumulative score of at least 75% on the HESI Admission Assessment (A2) Exams from the following subject areas: Anatomy & Physiology, Grammar, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary and General Knowledge, and Math. HESI exams scores must be no older than 1 year.
4. Complete 12 hours of the 20 hours of required lab science course work with a minimum grade of C in both the lab and didactic portions of each course.
5. Complete successfully 54 semester hours in appropriate core courses prior to admission.
6. Complete sciences in Area F must have been completed within the past 5 years and with a grade of C or higher.
7. Achieving a grade of C or higher is required for Core Areas A, D, and F courses.
8. Repeating more than one course or repeating one course more than once in Areas A, D, or F to earn a passing grade of C or better, makes the student ineligible for admission. For the post Baccalaureate student, this applies to area F.
9. Maintain, if a post Baccalaureate student, a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on grades
earned in Statistics, Anatomy and Physiology I & II with labs, Microbiology, Pathophysiology and Lifespan Development to be eligible to apply to the program.

10. Students admitted to the nursing major must maintain a minimum overall 3.0 GPA and a minimum grade of C in all area A, D, and F courses after admission to the program and prior to beginning the first nursing course.

11. Provide proof of meeting all outstanding admission requirements to the School of Nursing Administrative Assistant before the beginning of the admitted semester or be removed from the admitted list.

12. Pass a criminal background check and drug screening to be eligible for acceptance by clinical agency practice sites utilized by the School of Nursing. Students who do not pass these screenings will be unable to attend clinical courses and, therefore, will be unable to complete their program of study resulting in course failure. Any fees or cost associated with criminal background screening and/or drug screening are the responsibility of the student.

13. Students who are dismissed from any nursing program due to course failures may be considered for admission to Georgia Southern University’s nursing program after a period of 5 years.

**Admission by Transfer**

The School of Nursing at Georgia Southern University welcomes transfer students who meet the admission requirements and the following nursing transfer credit conditions. Credit for courses taken at schools other than Georgia Southern University will be considered on an individual basis using the following guidelines:

1. Transfer students must apply using the same admission criteria for application as all nursing applicants.

2. Transfer credits for non-nursing courses will be evaluated by the Admissions Department of the University.

3. Credit for nursing courses will be eligible for transfer upon review of the syllabi for courses by the BSN Program Director. Up to 50% of the nursing program of study may be eligible for transfer.

4. A letter of good standing is required from the Program Director, Chair, or Dean of the transferring school of nursing. Each student will be evaluated on an individual basis by the Program Director in conjunction with the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee.

**Program Duration Limits**

All nursing program courses for completion of the BSN degree must be completed within a total of four consecutive calendar years.

**Progression Requirements**

1. BSN students must earn a grade of C in all required courses in the major to progress in the nursing program.

2. Pre-licensure students earning a grade lower than C in a nursing course, or withdrawing from a nursing course, must meet with the Program Director to review the student’s program of study. Before progressing, the student must repeat the course at the next offering on a space available basis. After withdrawal from or earning a grade less than a C in a nursing course, a student’s ability to continue or to progress in the nursing program will be contingent on a review of the student’s record and approval of the Student Affairs Committee.
3. Students who earn an unsatisfactory in a clinical practicum rotation may not continue in any clinical practicum rotation during the same semester until their academic and clinical performance is individually reviewed. An unsatisfactory performance in a clinical practicum rotation represents failure of the course.

4. If approved, a nursing student may repeat a required nursing course only one time. After two required nursing course failures, the student will be dismissed from the nursing program.

5. Dismissal from the nursing major does not affect the ability of the student to progress in the University in another major.

6. All core courses and graduation requirements must be completed before beginning senior II semester of nursing.

7. Strict adherence to the American Nurses’ Association Nursing: Scope & Standards of Practice (ANA, 2015) is required of all nursing students. Additionally, nursing students who are LPNs are held accountable to the Georgia Nurse Practice Act for LPNs. Failure to comply with these professional standards will result in review and action by the School of Nursing faculty and could result in the student’s dismissal from the nursing program.

Readmission

Application for re-entry after an absence of more than one year will be evaluated on an individual basis. Re-entry is not guaranteed and may include retaking nursing courses completed at a prior time. Students who are dismissed from any nursing program due to course failures may be considered for admission to Georgia Southern University’s nursing program after a period of five years.

Program Map

The Program map for the traditional BSN Program can be found on the School of Nursing website. [https://chp.georgiasouthern.edu/nursing/programs/bachelor-of-science/](https://chp.georgiasouthern.edu/nursing/programs/bachelor-of-science/)

Core Performance Standards

The list of core performance standards (see Appendix A) is documented to provide students with information related to the skills required in the performance of duties of the professional nurse as well as to assess your ability to complete such duties. These standards reflect performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the program at this University. Persons interested in applying for admission to the nursing program should review the core performance standards to develop a better understanding of the physical abilities and behavioral characteristics necessary to successfully complete the program.

These core performances are based on guidelines proposed by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The University complies with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Therefore, the University will endeavor to make reasonable accommodations for participants with disabilities who are otherwise qualified.

Procedure for Implementation of Core Performance Standards

In order to implement the policy, the student must provide complete and accurate information on the health forms required at the time of admission and annually thereafter. If conditions exist outside the stated parameters, the student cannot be admitted or allowed to progress. If, during the process of review, additional information is needed, the Student Affairs Committee
may request the information with the consent of the student. If problems arise during the academic year to change a student’s health status, an updated physical exam and release form from the healthcare provider responsible for the ongoing care of the student will be required as per policy. All information will be maintained in the strictest confidence subject only to the stipulations made in the agreements with clinical agencies. Failure to provide the needed information will result in the denial of admission to or dismissal from the program. If a student is denied admission/progression based on inability to meet any of these standards, documentation must be forwarded to the student as well as copies placed in her/his file. The Program Director will bear the ultimate responsibility for ascertaining that all requirements are met.

Other Program Requirements

Students are responsible for:
1. Transportation for off-campus clinical experiences and field trips.
2. The purchase of uniforms, white shoes, books, learning resources, and equipment (including but not limited to a laptop with internet access that is compatible with exam monitoring programs and a webcam).
3. Maintaining personal health and accident insurance coverage and professional liability insurance.
4. Fees for selected achievement tests during junior and senior years.
5. Additional expenses which may include the cost of a nursing pin, academic regalia rental, and state board licensing examinations fees.

For additional information contact the BSN Program Administrative Assistant, School of Nursing:
Statesboro campus Nursing/Chemistry Building, room 2002. phone 912-478-5242
Savannah campus, Ashmore Hall, room 235. phone 912-344-2585

Standardized Admission Examination

A standardized admission examination (HESI Admission Assessment A2 Exam) must be completed before students are considered for admission to any of the undergraduate programs. The required standardized admission examination is offered by the School of Nursing. Standardized admission examinations may be taken at Georgia Southern University or other official testing offices. The standardized admission examination must be taken no earlier than one year before the nursing application is submitted and may not be taken more than twice in a calendar year. In addition, there must be at least 30 days between examination attempts. HESI exams scores must be no older than 1 year. Achieving the required score on the standardized admission examination does not guarantee admission to the School of Nursing.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TRACK FOR LPNS

Admission Criteria

The School of Nursing offers an innovative program, the Advanced Placement Track, whereby the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) is eligible to earn college credit for education advancement. The faculty recognize that LPNs have knowledge and skills which support the opportunity for advanced placement. Eligibility for advanced placement is based on academic transcripts, license verification, basic nursing skills verification, and a minimum average score of 75% on the HESI Admission Assessment (A2) Exams. Students have the opportunity to challenge by
examination a total of 23 hours of nursing course credit.

After admission to Georgia Southern University, the student will make an appointment with the Advanced Placement Track Program Director for advisement. The student will need to bring any previous higher education transcripts to the advisement appointment. The student’s transcript will be evaluated and must have an overall GPA of 2.7 in all core courses. In order to be considered for the BSN Program, applicants must have met regular admission requirements before the application deadlines posted on the website. Applicants must follow the same application process. Please note that core science course credits in Area F may be earned no longer than five years prior to the time of admission.

The student will have the opportunity to challenge up to four nursing courses (Skills and Essentials of Nursing Practice, Adult Health Nursing I, Mental Health Nursing, and Women’s and Children’s Nursing) for a total of 23 credit hours. Upon acceptance into the Nursing program, the student must meet with the Advanced Placement Track Program Director to review challenge options. Students must meet all of the legal requirements for licensure.

LPN students wishing to earn credit by proficiency examination should request a meeting with the Advanced Placement Track Program Director immediately after admission to the pre-licensure program to discuss eligibility. Permission to earn proficiency credit is granted on an individual basis.

Program Map

The Program map for the Advanced Placement Track for LPNs can be found on the School of Nursing website. https://chp.georgiasouthern.edu/nursing/programs/bachelor-of-science/

ACCELERATED BSN (ABSN) PROGRAM

Admission Criteria

- A bachelor’s degree from an accredited university
- Admission to Georgia Southern University
- A GPA of 3.2 on grades earned in Introduction to Statistics I, Anatomy and Physiology I with lab (four credit hours), Anatomy and Physiology II with lab (four credit hours), Microbiology with lab (four credit hours), Lifespan Development, and Pathophysiology without repetition of failed science courses to achieve a passing grade
  14. A cumulative score of at least 75% on the HESI Admission Assessment (A²) Exams from the following subject areas: Anatomy & Physiology, Grammar, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary and General Knowledge, and Math. HESI exams scores must be no older than 1 year.
- Completion of a pre-admission interview (student will be contacted to schedule an interview)
- Verification through signature that the student will not be employed at any time while enrolled in the accelerated program
- Completion of Area D, Introduction to Statistics, and Area F with a grade of C or higher
- Post-baccalaureate students will be given credit for completion of Areas A thru E, and Physical Education, with the exception of Statistics in Area D and US and Georgia History and Government
- Completion of sciences in Area F must have been completed within the past five years.
- Completion of all core courses, including US and Georgia History and Government, must be completed prior to starting the ABSN curriculum
- Submit correct information related to the ability to perform Core Performance Standards.
Eligible to pass a criminal background screening and drug screening. Clinical agencies utilized by the School of Nursing require criminal background screening and/or drug screening prior to acceptance of the student at clinical facilities. Students who do not pass these screenings will be unable to attend clinical courses and, therefore, will be unable to complete their program of study resulting in course failure. Any fees or cost associated with criminal background screening and/or drug screening are the responsibility of the student.

Progression Requirements

- A student who fails one ABSN course will not be allowed to continue in the ABSN track but may be given the opportunity to join the traditional program on a space available basis. The student will need to meet with the ABSN Program Director to review their program of study. A student who fails more than one ABSN course will be dismissed from the ABSN program and is not eligible for the traditional program. Students who are dismissed from any nursing program due to course failures may be considered for readmission to Georgia Southern University’s pre-licensure nursing program after a period of five years.
- Only one readmission in the nursing program per track is permitted. The student must meet all current entry requirements. Upon acceptance, the student will be required to complete all nursing courses from the beginning.
- If a student withdraws from the ABSN program, they may be eligible to apply to the next admission cycle of the traditional BSN program.

State law requires proficiency in US and Georgia History and Government. At Georgia Southern University, a student may demonstrate proficiency by examination or credit for political science and history. For further information about the requirements, criteria, and more, please refer to the Georgia Southern University course catalog.

Standardized Admission Examination

A standardized admission examination (HESI Admission Assessment A2 Exam) must be completed before students are considered for admission to the program. The required standardized admission examination is offered by the School of Nursing. Standardized admission examinations may be taken at Georgia Southern University or other official testing offices. The standardized admission examination must be taken no earlier than one year before the nursing application is submitted and may not be taken more than twice in a calendar year. In addition, there must be at least 30 days between examination attempts. HESI exams scores must be no older than 1 year. Achieving the required score on the standardized admission examination does not guarantee admission to the School of Nursing.

Program Map

The Program map for the accelerated BSN Program can be found on the School of Nursing website. https://chp.georgiasouthern.edu/nursing/programs/bachelor-of-science/

RN-BSN PROGRAM

Admission Criteria

RN-BSN Program applicants must meet the University entrance requirements as described in the University Catalog. All applicants must apply for admission to both the University and the School of Nursing RN-BSN Program. Requirements for admission into the RN-BSN Program are based
on requirements in place at the time of application. To be considered for admission to the BSN program, RN applicants must have met the following minimum requirements by the application deadline:

1. **Full Admission** to Georgia Southern University: Achieved a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 on all course work attempted or

2. **Provisional Admission** to Georgia Southern University: Achieved a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 2.7 on all course work attempted. Full admission status is granted after earning a B or better in each course of the first six credit hours of nursing coursework completed. For provisional admission, a grade of C or lower in any of the courses of the first six credit hours of nursing coursework will result in automatic dismissal from the program.

3. Completion of all program pre-requisite courses including, two Area D lab science courses, and statistics, Area A math course, and Area F courses.

4. Completion of university core with no more than ten hours left to complete.


6. Submitted the nursing application to the School of Nursing.

7. Met the requirements of the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Model.

RN applicants must have met the following requirements after admission to the RN-BSN Program and before enrollment in the first nursing course:

- a. Attended the RN-BSN mandatory orientation session that substitutes for SOAR, which is the University student orientation.
- b. Submitted School of Nursing clinical requirements including: (a) current American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers' certification; (b) proof of payment for liability insurance for Registered Nurses; and (c) proof of healthcare insurance.

**NOTE:** RN-BSN applicants are not required to take the standardized admission exams.

For additional information, contact the RN-BSN Program Administrative Assistant, Statesboro campus at (912) 478-5479.

**Progression Requirements**

1. All university required core courses and legislative requirements must be completed prior to or concurrent with the last semester of the program. The final capstone course, cannot be taken unless these requirements are met.

2. After full admission is achieved, RN-BSN students must earn a grade of C in all required nursing courses in the major in order to progress in the nursing program.

3. For provisional admission, students must attain a grade of B or higher in the first six hours of coursework and then follow the full admission progression stated above. A grade of C or lower in the first six hours of coursework will result in automatic dismissal from the program.

4. Communication is expected throughout the program. Any student who does not follow their plan of study and does not communicate with the Program Director, after two semesters, will automatically be placed on inactive status. When a student is on inactive status, they will need to reapply to the program.

5. After withdrawal from a nursing course for any reason, a student’s ability to continue or to progress in the nursing program will be contingent on a review of the student’s record and approval of the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee. Also,
progression will be based on space available in needed courses.

6. If approved, a nursing student may repeat a required nursing course only one time.
   a. A student who earns a D or an F in a required nursing course and wishes to continue in the major, must write a letter directed to the RN-BSN Program Director requesting permission to continue in the nursing major. Students should submit the letter a minimum of one week prior to the anticipated date of reentry to the program. Requests to repeat a course are considered by the School of Nursing Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee on an individual basis. The student is notified in writing of the decision of the Committee. If approval is granted, the student may repeat the course at its next offering pending space availability.
   b. Approval for repeating a required nursing course and for progression in the nursing program is dependent on the reasons for unsuccessful performance in the course. Denial of a request to repeat a required nursing course will result in the dismissal of the student from the nursing program. The student will be notified in writing of the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee’s decision.
   c. After two nursing course failures, the student will be dismissed from the program.

7. Dismissal from the nursing major does not affect the ability of the student to progress in the University in another major.

8. Students must maintain continued active RN licensure throughout the program. A lapsed license will result in the student being dropped from all courses that semester. Re-enrollment into nursing courses is contingent upon renewal of the RN License.

9. Strict adherence to the American Nurses’ Association Nursing: Scope & Standards of Practice (ANA, 2015) is required of all nursing students. Additionally, nursing students who are RNs are held accountable to the Georgia Nurse Practice Act for Registered Nurses. Failure to comply with these professional standards will result in review and action by the School of Nursing faculty and could result in the student’s dismissal from the nursing program.

The RN-BSN Program is a participant in and endorses the Georgia RN-BSN Articulation Model for registered nurses returning for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree requirements. Registered Nurse students, who successfully complete six semester hours of specified junior level nursing courses, will be awarded 29 credit hours of junior and senior level courses in the nursing major.

**Program Duration Limits**

All RN-BSN Program nursing courses must be completed within five years from the starting date of the first course.

**RN-BSN Curricula**

The Online RN-BSN Students are exempt from taking Health and Physical Education courses due to their online status and their knowledge and experience relative to health.

**Program Map**

The Program map for the RN-BSN Program can be found on the School of Nursing website.
SCHOOL OF NURSING POLICIES

This Student Handbook provides information regarding policies for students in the undergraduate nursing programs. Additional sources of information related to student policies are published on the Georgia Southern University website at www.georgiasouthern.edu in the catalog, student conduct code, and the student handbook. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and procedures. Policies specific to the School of Nursing are included here. Course-specific policies may be found in each individual course syllabus. Students must be familiar with and follow any additional policies noted in each course syllabus.

Academic Integrity

All students of Georgia Southern University are required to comply with the standards of conduct published in the Georgia Southern University Academic Dishonesty policy found at this link: https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/conduct/resources/faculty/academic-dishonesty/

Students found to be in violation of this code may receive a reduction in course letter grade; receive a grade of F in the course; and/or may be referred to the Provost's office for adjudication.

Accident/Injury

An accident/injury is defined as an undesirable and unexpected event which results in potential or personal harm during clinical or classroom time. In addition, an accident/injury includes occupational exposure to blood and body fluids and airborne pathogens during clinical/classroom labs. Occupational exposure may be described as a percutaneous (needle stick, cut, or puncture) or mucous membrane (splash to the eyes, nasal mucosa, or mouth) exposure to body fluids (blood or other infectious material), a cutaneous exposure when chapped or abraded skin or otherwise non-intact skin is contaminated with infectious materials, or exposure to infectious airborne agents by way of inhalation or contact.

Students are to report such accidents or injuries which occur in the clinical setting or classroom labs to their faculty member immediately. In addition, the student must complete a School of Nursing accident/injury report and/or agency incident report and seek appropriate medical follow-up according to clinical agency’s policy and Georgia Southern University School of Nursing. Students are responsible for the costs of any tests or treatments due to accident/injuries that occur during clinical/classroom experiences. Please see the accident/injury report document for appropriate steps.

Advisement

All pre-nursing students and pre-licensure nursing students are advised by the Waters College of Health Professions Student Services Center Advising & Academic Services. Students may visit the website https://chp.georgiasouthern.edu/ssc/ for further information. Students in the RN-BSN program are advised by the RN-BSN Program Director. The RN-BSN Program Director may be contacted via email.

Appeals & Complaints Process
Students who wish to file a complaint or appeal a grade may access the processes on the Dean of Students website at these links: https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/dean/resources/appeal-a-grade/ or https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/dean/resources/student-complaint-procedures/

**Attendance: Classroom**

It is the belief of the School of Nursing that classroom attendance is important to academic achievement and professional development. Due to the nature of nursing, which is a practice discipline, safe performance dictates that learning in the class be transferred to clinical decision-making. Therefore, the mere fact of absence can leave the student subject to information gaps that jeopardize client care. Attendance at each scheduled class is expected since the learning process involves group interaction. Students are expected to adhere to the course policies related to attendance and are responsible for all activities associated with each class, and for all content discussed or announced in class. In accordance with academic policy, instructors may drop students from any course with a grade of W or WF, if in their judgment absences have been excessive.

Class attendance and online participation are expected, and students are responsible for completing assignments on time. See individual course syllabi for specific course requirements. Students missing more than one on-campus class session or scheduled on-line activity will be considered at serious risk for knowledge deficit and failure of that course. Absences may cause the student to be unable to meet course objectives and can thereby affect grades. Due to extreme circumstances, when unable to meet the assigned learning activities due date, the student must make arrangements for makeup date with the instructor in advance of class; otherwise, the grade can be affected. Students must contact the faculty for directions on a missed campus class or online activity. The faculty will make the final determination regarding the results of missed attendance or assignments.

Students who are tardy disrupt class and the learning experience; therefore, students are expected to be on time, and respectful of their peers and the instructor. Students who are tardy may be denied admission to the classroom, at the discretion of the faculty.

Students must assume the responsibility for class preparation by reading assigned materials and completing any pre-class assignments. The faculty will assume that the student is familiar with the material to be covered. It is expected that all exams be taken at the scheduled time. In extreme cases, an exam may be made up at a designated time set up by the faculty, if arrangements are made prior to absence or the absence is due to a major unforeseen circumstance.

**Attendance: Clinical/Lab**

1. Attendance at any scheduled clinical day that is part of a practicum course is mandatory. Absences will have implications for grades in the practicum course. Consequences are course specific.

2. In the event of illness or other problems, students are required to notify their clinical instructor and others as specified in the specific course syllabus. A message left on an instructor’s voicemail or a message sent with another student is not sufficient. The student must speak directly with the clinical instructor.

3. Students are required to adhere to the clinical course policies related to attendance and are responsible for all activities associated with each class.

4. In all lab/clinical settings, two tardies (defined as arriving <10 minutes after designated time) will equal one absence and will be marked as one unsatisfactory. Any student who is late (defined as arriving 10 minutes or more after designated time) will receive an
unsatisfactory and may or may not stay at the clinical site or on-campus lab at the discretion of the faculty.

5. One absence in lab/clinical will result in an unsatisfactory for the day. Students who acquire more than one unsatisfactory in lab/clinical will fail the clinical course.

6. Students are expected to remain at clinical site/unit or on-campus lab for the duration of the assigned shift and cannot leave the clinical unit/site or on-campus lab without permission of the assigned faculty/preceptor.

7. Leaving the unit/site or on-campus lab without permission will result in a course failure.

8. Leaving the unit/site or on-campus lab and not returning for the assigned shift will result in a course failure.

9. The clinical/campus lab experience assignments in each course have been designed by the faculty to meet course objectives. Clinical sites may be scheduled up to 100 miles in travel from the University.

10. Clinical/lab time missed must be made up; scheduling is at the discretion of clinical course faculty according to course policy.

Chemical Impairment of Nursing Students

The University policy pertaining to alcoholic beverages and drugs can be found in the Student Conduct Code. Because nursing students are responsible for the direct care of patients in vulnerable situations, students who are under the influence of prescription or over the counter substances that directly impact his or her ability to provide safe and appropriate patient care are included under this policy. In accordance with university policies, the School of Nursing has adopted the following policy for nursing students in the clinical setting.

a. A student reporting to clinical under the adverse influence of any substance, will not be allowed to remain in the clinical setting that day and the matter will be referred to the School of Nursing Chair, Associate Chair, or BSN Program Director for further evaluation. The student will receive an unsatisfactory for the clinical day which could result in a clinical failure. A drug and/or alcohol screen may be required at the student’s expense if probable suspicion of impairment exists. If the student is under the influence of prescription or over the counter substances, the student will be required to provide a written statement from their primary healthcare provider stating that the substance(s) the student is taking does not influence his or her ability to provide safe, appropriate care to patients in the clinical setting.

b. The course coordinator in conjunction with the School of Nursing Chair, Associate Chair, or BSN Program Director will inform the student when return to clinical is permitted, if the student has been asked to leave the clinical setting due to being under the adverse influence of any substance.

c. A detailed description of the incident will be documented by the clinical instructor and signed by the student, indicating that the description has been read by the student. The documentation will be placed in the student's folder.

d. The School of Nursing Chair, or Associate Chair, and BSN Program Director will determine what further action is necessary based on a review of the student’s case. Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with clinical agencies include a statement that the School of Nursing will follow all facility policies. If suspected chemical impairment occurs in the clinical setting, faculty are to follow facility policy. If suspected chemical impairment occurs on campus, faculty are to follow university policy by reporting the event to the Dean of Students Office at the following link http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/dean/report-an-incident/

Children on Campus
Georgia Southern University policy prohibits the presence of children during class. This includes, but is not limited to, classroom, lab, simulation, and clinical sites. Children may not be left unattended on school grounds.

Clinical Calculation Policy

All students enrolled in the pre-licensure program must take and pass a clinical calculation exam with 90% accuracy each semester in order to progress to clinical practice sites. A student will take the exam once and if a passing score of 90% is not achieved, the student will be allowed to take a repeat exam. If the student does not pass on the third attempt, progression is halted in the clinical courses. A student who is not successful after the third attempt must meet with the BSN Program Director to discuss plans for possible readmission and progression in the program. All clinical calculation exams for the Junior I level will be completed prior to the “drop without penalty” deadline. All clinical calculation exams for levels Junior II, Senior I, and Senior II will be administered the first week of classes prior to any clinical experience.

Students who do not achieve a 90% on the first attempt should complete the HESI Medication Calculation exam (located in HESI Practice Tests) or receive remediation prior to both the second and third attempts. Failure to pass the clinical calculation exam after three attempts will require the students to drop the clinical courses, receive a grade of W, and re-enroll the following semester. A grade of W does not count toward a failure in the program but does count toward allowed University withdrawals. Any students not passing on their second attempt will sign a statement of understanding of the clinical calculation exam policy.

Clinical Equipment (Pre-licensure)

1. A stethoscope, a penlight, sphygmomanometer (blood pressure cuff) and a pair of bandage scissors are required. The stethoscope you purchase must have a diaphragm and a bell.
2. An analog, non-digital watch with a second hand is required and must be worn during all clinical experiences.
3. The Georgia Southern University School of Nursing name badge must be worn during all clinical experiences.

Clinical Hours

Nursing students will not be permitted in the clinical areas any time during Georgia Southern University holidays or breaks unless previously arranged by the course coordinator.

Clinical Placement and Preceptor Assignments

Students may not arrange their own clinical placement nor choose their own preceptor. Scheduling of both clinical placement and preceptors is a function of the education coordinators and other designees at each facility. Students attempting to schedule their own preceptor or clinical site will be in violation of this policy resulting in possible clinical or course failure.

Continuance Materials

School of Nursing requirements for health, PPD, BLS certification, professional liability insurance, health insurance, and immunizations must be turned in to the Nursing office prior to attending the first day of clinical and must be current through the last day of clinical for the semester enrolled.
If the expiration date occurs during the semester, then the student must provide evidence of update prior to the next scheduled clinical day. If clinical course requirements are not met by the deadline, the student will not be allowed to attend clinical which could result in a course failure.

All students must submit evidence of the following in order to be admitted to a clinical course:

1. Health
   a. A completed health history form and a physical examination by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant.

   The physical examination is completed once prior to the student attending nursing courses. The health history form must be updated annually. Any condition that deemed by the faculty to jeopardize the quality of nursing care or the safety of clients will be discussed with the student by the Program Director and appropriate action will be taken. Key problems will be identified and appropriate faculty notified.

   b. Yearly Tuberculosis (TB) Screening

   Two-step TB testing, Quantiferon test, or a T-Spot is required for incoming Junior I students, and may be clinical agency specific. The two-step TB skin testing procedure and Quantiferon Test are described on the health form. The two-step TB skin test, Quantiferon, or T-Spot results are required to be submitted by the designated deadline. Throughout the program, students are required to obtain an annual 1-step TB test or Quantiferon test, depending on clinical agency requirements.

   Students with a negative skin test will be required to complete an annual PPD skin test screening prior to engaging in any clinical experiences. If the student has a positive skin test with either the first or the second step of the TB skin testing procedure, the student will be required to complete the annual TB exposure questionnaire, obtain a chest x-ray and follow the directions provided to them through the health department and/or Georgia Southern University Student Health Services. Students must provide documentation to the nursing program of compliance with the recommendations of these agencies.

2. Immunizations

   Students must maintain current immunization status for clinical courses. In today’s environment, we are faced with new and emerging threats to public health and safety. Due to these threats and for the protection of the School of Nursing students and patients, many clinical agencies require nursing students and faculty to undergo mandatory vaccinations. If a clinical agency requires a mandatory vaccination, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain the required vaccinations prior to clinical placement. The School of Nursing will not attempt to find alternative clinical placements for students refusing to comply with a clinical agency’s mandatory vaccination policy. The student is also responsible for all costs associated with the mandatory vaccination. The School of Nursing will make every effort to provide reasonable opportunities for the students to receive the mandatory vaccinations. If the student chooses not to be vaccinated, the student must follow the agency requirements. Refusal of immunization may affect ability to complete program requirements.

   a. Immunity to measles and rubella may be demonstrated by:

      • Compliance with University admissions requirements with evidence of 2 doses of MMR vaccine (date must be after 1970); one dose at 12 months of age or later and a second dose at least 30 days after the first dose.

      • or laboratory evidence of immunity.

   b. Immunity to Hepatitis B is evidenced by

      • a completed series of three injections of vaccine

      • a positive antibody titer

      (or a signed refusal or waiver form)

   Student may show evidence of initiating Hepatitis B series while the series is in progress.

   c. Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis vaccination (Td and Tdap) may be demonstrated by

      • Evidence of current tetanus immunization. Boosters are required every 10
years for healthcare providers, following the initial completion of the primary three dose series.

- Students lacking written documentation of a primary series consisting of at least three doses of tetanus and diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine should complete the primary series with Td. If the student has no documentation of receiving a Tdap, he/she is required to obtain based on CDC recommendations (CDC, 2018).

d. Varicella (chicken pox) may be demonstrated by
   - evidence of vaccination of two doses
   - positive titer
   - documentation of history of chicken pox

If a clinical agency requires medical or immunization information from students, such as proof of the influenza vaccine, please note the following:

- GSU Health Services does not release medical records without a signed consent form completed by the patient/student.
- GSU Health Services has access to the Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS) and will be happy to print student records after completion of a consent form.
- GSU Health Services may require up to 24 hours to complete a request for medical records.
- Students must have identification to obtain a copy of medical records.
- Students may access their own records by going to the GSU Health Services portal.

3. **BLS certification** (American Heart Association, Healthcare Provider Level, Adult, Child, Infant). Current certification is required which extends through the last day of clinical for the semester enrolled. A copy of the card showing date, month, and year of expiration must be provided by the deadline established by the School of Nursing.

4. **Professional liability insurance**
   a. Current insurance is required that extends through the last day of clinical for the semester enrolled.
   b. Pre-licensure BSN students in clinical are assessed a fee attached to their course registration each semester to cover the cost of professional student liability insurance premium carried by the School of Nursing. Students who are not registered in courses with a clinical practicum will pay the blanket professional student liability insurance premium every semester.
   c. RN-BSN students are required to purchase professional liability insurance and to furnish proof of payment.

5. **Professional Licensure**
   Visualization of current Georgia RN or LPN license, if any.

6. **Health Insurance**
   Coverage is required as specified by the University System of Georgia Student Health Insurance Policy. Those with insurance from an outside source must apply for a waiver every semester using the identified website.
   [https://auxiliary.georgiasouthern.edu/healthservices/insurance/](https://auxiliary.georgiasouthern.edu/healthservices/insurance/)

7. **Applied Learning Experiences**
   Signed copies of identified forms are needed for nursing students to participate in applied learning experiences in hospitals and other clinical agencies. The forms include Student Applied Learning Experience Agreement, Authorization for Release of Records and Information, and off-campus Student Participation Agreement.

8. **Release of Continuance Course Requirements to Clinical Agencies**
   Individual student continuance materials may be released to clinical agencies upon
request, when deemed necessary by the agency, with the signed permission of the student.

9. Agency Orientation Requirements

Every semester, all pre-licensure BSN students must complete the required clinical paperwork specific for the agency to which they are assigned. This information is located on the learning management system. This site includes specific topics on infection control policies and privacy information, such as HIPAA regulations, which are required in order to attend clinical. Students will not be able to attend clinical sessions until the required paperwork is completed, submitted, and processed.

For Junior 1 students, the deadline for completion will be determined by the Skills and Essentials of Nursing Practice faculty. Junior 1 students must also complete the generic required paperwork for the Georgia Southern University nursing program listed under the Generic Paperwork heading on the learning management system by the designated deadline.

For Junior 2, Senior 1, and Senior 2 semesters, the required clinical paperwork specific for the agency to which the student is assigned, must be completed during the designated deadline.

All of these requirements are subject to change based on University and School of Nursing policy and clinical agencies’ requirements. All students will be notified as soon as possible when requirements change.

Student noncompliance with the university, school of nursing, and clinical agency policy/requirements will result in students being unable to participate in clinical experiences until the health and agency requirements are met and could result in course failure.

Copyright

Syllabi, lectures, notes, and all materials distributed and presented by faculty during any course are protected by copyright law. You are authorized to take notes in class, but that authorization extends only to making one set of notes for your personal use and no other use. You are not authorized to sell, license, commercially publish, distribute, transmit, display, or record notes unless you have written consent by the faculty to do so.

Criminal Background Screening (Pre-licensure)

Students participating in clinical placements are required to have an annual criminal background screening as a prerequisite for placement at the facilities. If a student has been out of the nursing program for one semester or more, he or she will be required to complete a criminal background screening at the time of readmission to the nursing program and annually (based on clinical site requirements) thereafter.

Students placed in all clinical experiences are personally responsible for obtaining a criminal background screening (including cost). Student criminal background screenings are obtained through independent vendors that may be clinical agency specific. The Clinical Coordinator will give you information regarding which vendor is to be used. Each clinical agency may review student criminal background screenings and make the final decision, based on its own criteria, as to whether each student will be allowed to participate in clinical activities at the affiliate clinical site.

Georgia Southern University does not assume any responsibility for performing or evaluating the background screening, delivering the documents to the facility, or maintaining the records. Decisions as to whether a student is ineligible for placement at a particular clinical site based on results of the screening are those of the clinical site alone. All students must complete the criminal background screening and may not request to be assigned to specific sites that do not require a
criminal background screening. The School of Nursing will make reasonable efforts to place admitted students in a clinical experience. Students who cannot be placed in clinical experiences because of problems with their criminal background screening may not be able to complete program requirements.

Finally, students are also reminded that the Georgia Board of Nursing may deny, suspend or revoke a license if an applicant has a criminal history or if any licensee is convicted, pleads guilty or nolo contendre to a felony or other crime. Students should consult the Georgia Board of Nursing for more details regarding possible Board of Nursing actions related to personal background record issues. Successful completion of a program of study in the School of Nursing at Georgia Southern University does not guarantee licensure or employment in the nursing profession.

Dress Code (Pre-licensure BSN):

- The purpose of the pre-licensure student uniform standards and regulations is to promote safety, provide a means of identifying the student, and to support the milieu of the clinical environment. These guidelines apply only to the pre-licensure student while in the student role.
- Students are expected to maintain professional appearance and behavior in all clinical settings.
- Students are expected to maintain appropriate levels of appearance and good personal hygiene including cleanliness and neatness of uniforms and shoes.
- Clothing of appropriate length, style, fit, and professional design must be worn as designated by the School of Nursing.
- Pre-licensure nursing students are required to purchase uniforms through the designated vendor as directed by the School of Nursing for white uniform, lab coat, and blue polo top.
- If clinical agency requirements are more restrictive, nursing students are required to adhere to both the School of Nursing and agency requirements. Additional clinical dress expectations may be required in specific courses.
- A student who reports to clinical and is not in compliance with dress code policy may be dismissed from clinical for the day at the discretion of the instructor and receive an unexcused absence.

Name Badge:
Name badges must be clearly visible at all times when participating in clinical activities. The GSU-Name badge is to be placed over the right upper chest area of uniform and lab coat/jacket. Name badge must be purchased through the approved vendor. The name badge will have the following information for pre-licensure students: first line: Name (First, Middle Initial, and Last) and second line: BSN Student

Uniforms:
Clinical agencies require specific uniforms to be worn by students. For hospital and designated clinical sites, a clean, standard white uniform is required: top with pants or skirts, and white scrub jacket. Uniform top must extend past the hipline. Leggings, shorts, and white jeans are not permitted. A GSU-BSN patch is to be affixed to left upper sleeve on uniforms and lab coats/jackets. For other clinical sites (including but not limited to mental health clinical, community, outreach activities/services), the following attire is required: Beige or khaki slacks; dark navy polo top with the embroidered name of Georgia Southern University; and white clinical shoes. High heeled, platform, sandals or open toe shoes are not permitted.

Uniform Guidelines for non-hospital agencies in the role of student nurse:
Jeans (or any denim fabric clothing), leggings, tight pants, shorts, cutoff’s, Capri pants, midriffs,
sweats, or athletic clothes are *not* permitted. High heeled, platform, sandals, or open toe shoes are not permitted.

**Undergarments:**
Full coverage undergarments should be neutral color or skin tone so as not to be visible through clothing. No visible undergarments are allowed. If the undergarments are visible through the uniform, the clothing is not appropriate for clinical. Students may wear a neutral color or skin tone camisole or undershirt.

**Lab Coat:**
A white lab coat that is three-quarters length is required. The lab coat must have a Georgia Southern University patch on the left arm and a name badge worn on the right chest. Lab coats are required when entering the clinical area for assignments or when making a home visit.

**Shoes:**
Clean, impermeable, standard white nursing shoes or plain white leather athletic shoes are required (no trim or colors, no high tops, wedges, open toes, or open heels). Shoes cannot have holes or other openings on the top, toe, or sides of the shoes. No clogs or other similar styles of shoes are allowed. Shoes are expected to be clean and polished.

**Hose/Socks:**
Plain white, full-length hosiery is to be worn with skirts. Plain white socks, ankle length or knee length, are to be worn with pants.

**Hairstyle:**
The hair policy includes natural hair, wigs, and weaves. Hair must be neat and well-groomed. If hair is longer than shoulder-length, hair must be pulled back and cannot touch the collar. Hair accessories must be limited and same color as hair. Hair must be kept out of the face regardless of the length. Hair that is dyed must be a naturally occurring hair color.

**Facial Hair:**
Fully developed beard must be neatly trimmed, clean, and present a well-groomed appearance. Facial hair cannot be longer than 1 inch in length.

**Personal Grooming:**
- Nails should be clean and neatly trimmed and should not extend beyond ¼ inch from the fingertip. Nail enhancement is not allowed. Anything applied to natural nails is considered an enhancement. This includes, but is not limited to, polish, gels, artificial nails, tips, wraps, appliqués, and acrylics applied to the nail surface.
- Make-up should not be excessive.
- Tattoos must be completely covered while in the clinical setting.
- Perfume/cologne/aftershave is prohibited.
- Uniform must be clean and wrinkle free.
- No gum is to be chewed while in the clinical setting.

**Jewelry:**
- Earrings: One pair of small post earrings, 3mm or less. Only one earring per ear is permitted in lower lobe. Earrings which are permanently implanted in the ear must be covered.
- Body piercing jewelry in visible areas other than ears is not permitted. A clear spacer is not allowed in lieu of jewelry.
- Only an analog watch with a second hand (as part of your clinical equipment) is permitted. A smart watch is not permitted.
- Necklaces must not be visible.
- Do not wear bracelets in the clinical setting.
- If a ring is worn, it must be a plain band only.

**Dress Code (RN-BSN)**

Students are expected to maintain appropriate levels of good personal hygiene including cleanliness and neatness of dress and shoes. Uniforms are site specific.

**Drug Screening**

Many clinical agencies require drug screening as a condition of pre-licensure student participation at their sites. The School of Nursing complies with these requirements. Students are responsible for all costs associated with the drug screening. Results of the drug screening will be provided directly to the clinical agencies.

All students will use a designated laboratory testing facility to secure student drug screens. The pre-licensure student is responsible for completing a drug screen at the designated agency and for all costs associated with these tests. Each clinical affiliate will independently review students’ drug screens and make the final decision, based on its own criteria, as to whether each student will be allowed to participate in clinical activities at the affiliate clinical site.

Decisions as to whether a student is eligible for placement at a particular clinical site based on the results of the drug screen are those of the clinical site alone. However, if a student is refused clinical placement due to the results of the drug screening that student’s ability to continue in the nursing program may be affected. The School of Nursing Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee along with the BSN Program Director and Chair of the School of Nursing will determine if the student will be allowed to continue in the nursing program.

A student who refuses to undergo the mandatory drug screening will not be admitted to the nursing program or will not be allowed to continue in the nursing program.

**Electronic Communications and Social Media Usage**

The use of electronic communication is essential for nursing students in the School of Nursing. Georgia Southern University provides an email account to each student. Students are expected to check their university email accounts on a regular basis. In addition, the Georgia Southern University learning management system (Folio) used by many faculty members as an essential part of the course learning activities provides students with an effective means to communicate in a secure environment with faculty and students enrolled in a course. Faculty may require students to transmit documentation or information related to their clinical experiences via their online course email or other course tools. This documentation and information related to clinical experiences is considered confidential and should not contain any private health information which would result in a violation of HIPAA regulations. Nursing faculty may also use other web-based tools to enhance student learning.

Responsibilities of Students related to Electronic Communications:

In addition to the authorized use of online courses, web-based course tools, and assigned university email accounts, many nursing students choose to engage in other activities via the internet. Nursing faculty and university staff do not routinely monitor these student communications. Nursing students must understand that some of these activities may result in
violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the Student Code of Conduct, the ANA Principles for Social Networking (Fowler, 2015), and the Patient’s Bill of Rights. Any violation of these standards can result in significant consequences for the student including possible civil and legal penalties, dismissal from the School of Nursing and the University, and the inability to seek licensure as a Registered Nurse.

Nursing students have an obligation to understand the nature, benefits, and consequences of participating in social networking of all types. Online content and behavior has the potential to either enhance or undermine not only the individual’s career, but also the nursing profession. Do not present yourself as a representative of the School of Nursing, Georgia Southern University, or any clinical agency without their written permission to do so.

**ANA’s Principles for Social Networking (Fowler, 2015)**
1. Nurses must not transmit or place online individually identifiable patient information.
2. Nurses must observe ethically prescribed professional patient/nurse boundaries.
3. Nurses should understand that patients, colleagues, institutions, and employers may view postings.
4. Nurses should take advantage of privacy settings and seek to separate personal and professional information online.
5. Nurses should bring content that could harm a patient’s privacy, rights, or welfare to the attention of appropriate authorities.
6. Nurses should participate in developing institutional policies governing online conduct.

**6 Tips to Avoid Problems (NCSBN, 2011)**
1. Remember that standards of professionalism are the same online as in any other circumstance.
2. Do not share or post information or photos gained through the nurse/patient relationship.
3. Maintain professional boundaries in the use of electronic media. Online contact with patients blurs this boundary.
4. Do not make disparaging remarks about patients, employers or co-workers, even if they are not identified.
5. Do not take photos or videos of patients on personal devices, including cell phones.
6. Promptly report a breach of confidentiality or privacy.

Students should be aware that information and communications they post to the internet via social media and social networking sites are public in nature. Where information and communications posted violate the Student Conduct Code, or provide information documenting a violation of the Student Conduct Code, such information or communications may be used in judiciary proceedings. In particular, communications that violate the Student Conduct Code, such as threats and harassment, are violations whether they are transmitted in person, by phone, over the internet, or by any other means. Students should consider that any form of electronic communication is subject to this policy. Nursing students will be held responsible for the posting of any content that violates the ANA standards on their personal social networking sites even if the person posting the message is not the student. HIPAA regulations require that we maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the people we encounter in clinical settings. Therefore, the transmission of any images, names, or personally identifiable health information related to people encountered in the clinical setting is forbidden. Students are not allowed to discuss any information they learn as a result of being present in a clinical environment including information related to the clinical agency or site, clinical agency staff, nursing faculty and staff, the School of Nursing, and Georgia Southern University via electronic communication unless authorized by nursing faculty and within the University email account or password-protected online course.
Students are also not allowed to post pictures, images, or other content related to a specific clinical agency or obtained from the clinical agency’s website electronically in any format unless expressly authorized in writing to do so by the clinical agency and the nursing faculty member supervising the student. Any communication electronically between students, students and faculty, and persons outside of the School of Nursing should be considered in the context of the standards and codes outlined above.

As with all parties described above, the nursing faculty is individually and collectively entitled to privacy and confidentiality, inside and outside of the classroom. Students are prohibited from recording (audio, video, still photo) or posting images of faculty to social media through the use of any electronic communication device without the written consent of the faculty member. Permission from one individual faculty member does not represent blanket consent for any other faculty member. Recording audio or video of faculty-developed course content can be construed as a violation of the intellectual property of that faculty member or a violation of that person’s copyright should the course material be under copyright.

**Employment of Nursing Students (Pre-licensure)**

Unlicensed students may be employed in the healthcare field as unlicensed personnel. (See the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Board of Nursing for further information.) Students employed as unlicensed nursing personnel may not practice or represent themselves as nursing students except as part of scheduled learning activities which are integral to the curriculum. Students should know the limits of their practice as unlicensed nursing personnel and their job description. Students are accountable and responsible for their own actions in the practice setting. The pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program is an academically challenging, demanding, and rigorous program. Students who maintain fulltime employment often encounter academic difficulties and may not perform satisfactorily in the program. Students are urged to use their discretion in planning their course of study to avoid inevitable conflicts between academic course work activities, employment, and family/personal responsibilities, in light of the demands which will be placed on them during the nursing program.

**Exam Setting Expectations**

**Attire:**
No coats, jackets, capes, sunglasses, hats, or hoods may be worn. A hoodie sweatshirt may be worn but the hood may not be on the head; the hood must be tucked in the back of the shirt.

**Belongings:**
All belongings must be placed at a designated area in the room prior to the start of the examination. All electronic devices must be placed in designated area and powered off. This includes any brand of smart watch.

**Leaving exam room:**
Once the exams have been distributed, students may only leave the exam with permission of faculty.

**Timeliness:**
Students who arrive after the start time on exam day may or may not be admitted at the discretion of the Course Coordinator due to class disruption issues. Students who arrive late will
not receive extra time to complete the exam. Any student who arrives late and is allowed to proceed with the exam will only be afforded the remaining allotted exam time.

Exam supplies:

Exam booklets (if applicable) will be numbered. Students are to provide their own Scantron sheets (if applicable) and pencils. Students are to provide their own laptop and webcam that is compatible with Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor (if applicable). All other resources will be provided by the Course Coordinator or designated proctor.

Seating:

Students may be given assigned seating at the discretion of the Course Coordinator.

Behaviors during exam:

Exam start and end times will be posted. Students will remain silent once the first exam is distributed and will not begin the examination until prompted by the Course Coordinator or designated proctor. In computer testing, talking should cease when the access code is revealed by the Course Coordinator. Students are not allowed to consume food or drink during the exam period. Please notify the Course Coordinator if special health/medical considerations are needed. Exam questions will not be clarified, nor information provided regarding exam questions once the exam has begun.

Honesty and integrity:

All students of Georgia Southern University are required to comply with the standards of conduct published in the Georgia Southern University Academic Dishonesty policy found at this link: https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/conduct/resources/faculty/academic-dishonesty/ Here is an excerpt from the policy: Cheating is the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise; or actions taken to gain unfair or undue advantage over others. Examples of cheating include but are not limited to: a. receiving, providing, and/or using unauthorized assistance or materials on any work required to be submitted for any course (including online services or social media); b. alteration or insertion of any grade so as to obtain unearned academic credit; c. fabricating information, research, and/or results such as taking, or attempting to take, an examination for another student, alteration of legitimate research data, alteration or distortion of laboratory experiments, or deliberate distortion of another's work or results; d. collaborating with others on assignments without the faculty’s consent; e. impeding the ability of students to have fair access to materials assigned or suggested by faculty (e.g., removal or destruction of library or other source materials); and f. demonstrating any other forms of dishonest behavior.

Also a violation is the willing cooperation with, and/or helping, another student to cheat such as instigating, encouraging, or abetting plagiarism or cheating and/or failing to report a known violation. Plagiarism is the offering of the words, ideas, computer data programs, or graphics of others as one’s own in any academic exercise. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the offering of another’s work, whether verbatim or paraphrased, as original material without identifying the source(s) in an academic paper; directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them; self-plagiarism: re-submitting work previously submitted without appropriate or accurate citation or credit and/or without explicit approval from the instructor; and the use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Any person involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with university regulations and procedures. Students found to be in violation may receive a zero for the exam grade; receive a grade of F in the course; and/or may be referred to the Provost’s office for
adjudication. The Course Coordinator will abide strictly by the above referenced policy. Any student who attempts to replicate exam information in any form (photograph, video, audio, via written means, etc.) will receive a zero for their exam grade and the university policies will be followed accordingly.

Penalty:

Use of electronics during testing will result in the exam being forfeited and a zero given for the exam. A formal report will be submitted to the office of the University Provost’s for investigation.

Exam make up:

Students are expected to sit for each course exam on the day it is scheduled. In the event of an absence, students are required to notify the Course Coordinator via e-mail prior to the scheduled exam time. Do not leave messages with school administrative assistants, other faculty, or have a classmate or friend notify the Course Coordinator. Failure to notify the Course Coordinator prior to the scheduled exam time may result in a grade of zero. The make-up exam will be scheduled at the discretion of the Course Coordinator. Make-up exam format will be at the discretion of the Course Coordinator (Short answer, short essay, a paper, etc.). Employment orientation or responsibilities are not an excuse to miss an exam. This will not be considered as an excused absence and will result in a grade of zero for that exam.

Exam Review:

All students have a right to review exams with the Course Coordinator. Review for each exam must be conducted prior to the next exam. Final Exam review is at the discretion of the Course Coordinator.

Grading

The following grading scale applies to all programs in the School of Nursing:

90-100 = A  80-89.99 = B  75-79.99 = C  70-74.99 = D  <70 = F

Pre-licensure baccalaureate nursing students must achieve a course average of 75% in order to earn a grade of C in each nursing course. Grades for all assignments will be recorded as earned with no mathematical rounding. This policy allows the faculty of the School of Nursing to ensure integrity in the grading process for all students.

Course grades are calculated using a two-step process as follows: Step 1: All objective measures (i.e. unit tests/exams, final exam, HESI exam, quizzes, etc.) will be averaged (weighted as per individual course syllabi). If the resulting score from the objective measures is less than 75, that numerical value will be used to assign your final course grade of D or F. Step 2: If the resulting score from the objective measures is 75 or greater, grades from other course assignments (i.e. presentations, case studies, papers, etc.) will be used with the grades in step 1 to compute your final course grade.

Health Status Change

Students who enter the nursing program are expected to complete all assigned academic and clinical activities. If a student develops a change in health status (including, but not limited to pregnancy and illness) which requires restrictions on his/her academic or clinical activities, the student must notify the Program Director. The student must notify the course faculty and provide the Program Director with written confirmation of the restrictions from the healthcare provider. The restrictions must include the duration and the specific restrictions. If the restrictions affect the
ability of the student to meet program or course outcomes, the Program Director, in consultation with the appropriate faculty, will determine whether to assign a grade of incomplete or to support an administrative withdrawal. A release form from the healthcare provider responsible for the ongoing care of the student is required when the restrictions are no longer necessary and the student can return to full participation.

**HESI Specialty Exams**

- HESI Specialty Exams are course requirements.
- Failure to take the examination for a specific course will result in failure of the course.
- The secured version of the HESI Specialty Exams (version 1 and version 2) will be given in a proctored setting.
- If the secured version of the HESI Specialty Exam is taken in the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC) the student is responsible for having the appropriate paperwork completed by faculty and for scheduling with SARC for the date and time specified for the HESI Specialty Exam. The proctored HESI Specialty Exam must be taken on the scheduled date.
- Each student will take the secured HESI Specialty Exam version 1 for each course approximately 2-4 weeks prior to the end of the semester.
- Each student must present verification of obtaining a score of at least 90% on the non-proctored (practice) exam before taking the secured HESI Specialty Exam version 1 where applicable.
- After the secured HESI Specialty Exam version 1, the student will complete remediation as outlined by the Georgia Southern University School of Nursing HESI Specialty Exam Remediation Policy in preparation for the HESI Specialty Exam version 2.
- All students are required to remediate after each HESI Specialty Exam regardless of the score achieved.
- The following documentation is required to be submitted to course faculty prior to the HESI Specialty Exam version 2: a completed, signed remediation plan and contract with the printed exam results page and remediation summary page attached.
- If all remediation documentation has not been submitted, the student will not be allowed to take the HESI Specialty Exam version 2. Failure to complete the HESI Specialty Exam version 2 will result in course failure.
- The HESI Specialty Exam scoring is as follows:
  - The HESI Specialty Exam version 1 grade will be calculated as 5% of the course grade.
  - The HESI Specialty Exam Version 2 grade will be calculated as 5% of the course grade.
  - The conversion score will be used as your grade for each HESI Exam.

**HESI Specialty Exam Remediation Policy**

Remediation is defined in the literature as “The process of identifying the need to take action to remedy a situation that, if left unresolved, will result in unfavorable outcomes, whereas implementing intervention strategies will successfully address the situation” (Culleiton, 2009, p. 26).

All students enrolled in the Georgia Southern University School of Nursing will take the HESI Specialty Exams (version 1 and version 2) in each applicable course. Students should aim to achieve a benchmark score of at least 900 on each exam. Research demonstrates that scores in this range on the HESI Specialty Exams (version 1 and version 2) are highly predictive of BSN program and NCLEX-RN success.

Students receive the HESI Specialty Exam report and correlating online remediation immediately upon completion of the exam. The Next Generation HESI program develops the student remediation packet based on weak areas of performance. Students must complete the Georgia Southern University School of Nursing Remediation Plan and Contract.

Following the HESI Specialty Exam version 1, students are required to complete all the Essential
remediation assigned in their packet. Areas that are recommended remediation are not required for completion but should be considered if it is an area you as the student have identified as a weakness during your remediation. Students must complete the remediation work on their own. Completing Remediation:
• Access all essential remediation packets delivered (which are based on areas of weaker performance).
• Start with the pre-check to test your knowledge; from here open the material in the packet which can include: textbook excerpts, videos, case studies, simulations, and quizzes. Complete each of these areas that are included in each of the packets prior to moving to the post-check.
• Continue this process until all of the remediation packets are completed that have been delivered for the exam.
• Once all remediation packets have been completed, go to the Exam Results page and print this to attach to the remediation contract to submit to course faculty prior to the HESI Specialty Exam version 2.

**Honors Students in the Nursing Major (Pre-licensure)**

See link for full information about the University honors program.
[https://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/honors/](https://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/honors/)

**Licensure (BSN)**

Licensure as a Registered Professional Nurse by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NSCBN) is required to practice in all fifty United States. Students who complete the pre-licensure BSN program are eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN licensure examination.

**Plagiarism**

From the Academic Dishonesty university policy found at this link: [https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/conduct/resources/faculty/academic-dishonesty/](https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/conduct/resources/faculty/academic-dishonesty/)

Plagiarism is the offering of the words, ideas, computer data programs, or graphics of others as one’s own in any academic exercise. Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to: a) the offering of another’s work, whether verbatim or paraphrased, as original material without identifying the source in an academic paper, b) directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them, c) self-plagiarism: re-submitting work previously submitted without appropriate or accurate citation or credit and/or without explicit approval from the instructor, d) use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

**Scholarships and Financial Assistance**

The Georgia Southern University Foundation provides a variety of scholarships eligible to students through the Georgia Southern University online scholarship application portal. Through this portal, students can easily search, review requirements, apply and accept awards for available scholarships.

**Student Concerns with Faculty**

It is the expectation that students will be assertive in meeting their learning needs. A student who perceives a problem or concern with a course faculty member is expected to contact that faculty member first to discuss and attempt resolution of the perceived issue. If no resolution is forthcoming, then the BSN Program Director may be contacted.
**Student Records**

Student folders are maintained as permanent records in the School of Nursing office. Students may have access to their own records upon request. Students may read or review anything in their record under the Sunshine Law. The records are the property of the School of Nursing. The student may not remove anything from the record and must read it in the presence of faculty or staff of the School of Nursing. Admission application, references, transcripts, Registrar's Office evaluation of records, grade slips, conference notes, advisement schedules, correspondence, memos, and written performance evaluations are all part of the student's record.

All student test answer sheets and selected student learning activities and papers will be kept by the course coordinator until three months after student's graduation. Due to the agreement between the Board of Regents and the Georgia Hospital Association, student files may be accessed on request by the clinical agencies. The student must sign a form stating they are aware that these records may be accessed if deemed necessary. These forms must be signed in order for nursing students to be able to participate in applied learning experiences in hospitals and other clinical agencies. The two forms are signed one time only when the student begins the nursing program of study.

**Syllabus Addendum**

While the provisions of a syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, the faculty reserve the right to change any provision herein if circumstances so warrant. Faculty will notify students of such changes. Information about changes will be available at all times from the faculty.

**Travel**

Each student is required to make arrangements for transportation to their clinical sites. This may involve traveling extended distances and the student is responsible for their expenses. Carpooling is recommended.

**Withdrawal for Medical Reasons**

A student who experiences medical problems including physiological or psychological problems which requires him or her to withdraw from a nursing course is required to drop all nursing courses for that semester, including nursing courses that do not have a clinical component. Upon petition for return to the nursing program, the student will have to provide a statement from his or her licensed healthcare provider including physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, nurse practitioners, and/or physician assistants indicating that the student is able to meet the mental and physical demands of the nursing program. The student must follow the guidelines outlined in this handbook for progression.

**Withdrawal from Nursing Courses after Drop/Add Deadline**

With the permission of the course faculty, a student may petition to drop a nursing course. A student who drops a nursing course after the drop-add deadline will receive a grade of WP or WF as per University requirements. Although withdrawal grades may not be used to compute the grade point average, any course withdrawal will have a direct effect on the student's ability to continue in the Nursing Program. If a student retakes a nursing course in which a withdrawal grade was received on the first attempt and is unsuccessful or withdraws failing, they will not be
allowed to continue in the nursing program.

NURSING STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Student Nurses Association

Membership in the Georgia Southern University’s Student Nurses Association is open to all pre-licensure BSN students. The organization is recognized as a campus student organization and is governed by a constitution and by-laws. There are quarterly meetings and projects. All pre-nursing and pre-licensure nursing students are encouraged to join the local, state, and national student nurses’ organizations.

Sigma Theta Tau Rho Psi

Sigma Theta Tau is an international nursing honor society that fosters scholarship and leadership in nursing. Membership in the Georgia Southern University Rho Psi Chapter is competitive and is based on GPA and leadership qualities. Qualified students receive an invitation to join after completion of 50% of the BSN (or RN-BSN) Program with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or above. Information on Sigma Theta Tau is available at www.sigmanursing.org

Nursing Student Representation on School of Nursing Committees

The faculty of the School of Nursing are concerned about students’ perceptions, ideas, and viewpoints regarding their experiences in the School’s nursing programs. In order to create a meaningful exchange of ideas between faculty and students related to the School’s programs, students are asked to elect members from their nursing class/program each year to serve in an advisory capacity to selected standing School committees. Student representatives will be asked to meet with the faculty throughout the course of the year to exchange information and ideas related to the work of the School’s standing committees and the ongoing evaluation of the School of Nursing. Nursing student representatives are encouraged to use these vehicles to communicate student ideas and issues from their class/program peers to the School of Nursing faculty.
References


Marks, B. & Ailey, S. A. (2014). *White paper on inclusion of students with disabilities in
nursing educational programs. Sacramento, CA: California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.


## Appendix A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUE</th>
<th>AS EVIDENCED BY:</th>
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| **Critical Thinking Ability**  
**STANDARD**  
Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment. | - Identify cause/effect relationships in clinical situations  
- Develop nursing care plans, evaluate the plan of care and revise as appropriate  
- Analyze and use assessment findings to plan and implement care for clients and families  
- Use relevant data to support the decision-making process  
- Identify priorities of care based analysis of data  
- Manage multiple priorities in stressful situations  
- Respond instantly to emergency situations  
- Exhibit arithmetic competence that would allow the student to read, understand and perform calculations for computing dosages  
- Solve problems and make valid rational decisions using logic, creativity, and reasoning  
- Remember multiple messages and information and communicate to all interdisciplinary team members and family/client where consented. |
| **Interpersonal Skills**  
**STANDARD**  
Interpersonal skills sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. | - Establish rapport (relationship) with clients/colleagues.  
- Maintain therapeutic relationships with clients and colleagues.  
- Respect cultural diversity and the rights of others.  
- Work effectively in small groups as a team member and as a team leader  
- Practice verbal and non-verbal therapeutic communication  
- Recognize adverse events and attempt to resolve for both client and colleague. |
| **Communication Ability**  
**STANDARD**  
Communication abilities sufficient for interaction in verbal, written, electronic format. | - Write and speak English effectively to be understood by general public.  
- Communicate therapeutically with clients, families, and groups in a variety of settings.  
- Document client data and nursing care completely and accurately use correct medical terminology.  
- Obtain health history information from client/family.  
- Interpret nonverbal cues and behaviors.  
- Provide health teaching information for clients, families, and/or groups based on assessed needs, available resources, age, lifestyle and cultural considerations. |
Gross and Fine Motor Skills Standard

Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.

- Perform physical activities necessary to do basic fundamental nursing skills such as putting on sterile gloves, donning mask and gown, operating a manual and/or electronic blood pressure cuff, sterile technique and other essential fundamental nursing skills.
- Perform correct hand washing technique and behaviors.
- Provide or assist with activities of daily living such as bathing, hygiene, toileting, positioning, making an occupied and unoccupied bed.
- Manipulate instruments, supplies, and equipment with speed, dexterity, precision, and adequate eye-hand coordination.
- Correctly administer oral and parenteral medications to maintain client safety.
- Perform electronic keyboarding/documentation and/or extensive writing with a pen and/or pencil.
- Maintain and safely operate orthopedic devices such as traction equipment, casts, and assistive devices.
- Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures maintaining health teams and client safety.
- Calibrate and use equipment (i.e. syringes, vials, and medication packages, etc.). Grasp small objects with hands (e.g. IV tubing, pencil). Pinch/pick or otherwise work with fingers (e.g. manipulate a syringe, eye dropper, etc.). Twist (turn objects/knobs using hands).

Visual Ability Standard

Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary for safe client care.

- Perform basic nursing skills such as insertion of a urinary catheter, insertion of an IV, counting respirations, preparing and administering medications.
- Observe client responses (level of consciousness, respiration patterns) and recognize subtle physical changes.
- Read small print, gauges, thermometers, measuring cups, syringes, and other equipment.
- Discriminate colors, changes in color, size, and continuity of body part.
- Accurately identify, prepare, and administer medications.
- Identify hazards in the environment (safety rails, restraints, water spills and harmful situations).
- Correctly visualize written words and information on paper and on a computer screen.

Acoustic Ability Standard

Acoustic ability sufficient for physical assessment

- Ability to gather vital signs using a variety of means
- Able to observe patient conditions and responses to health and illness
- Accurately convey information and interpretation of information using one or more means of communication (verbal, written, assisted—such as TTY or electronic) to patients and the healthcare team. (Marks & Ailey, 2014)

Tactile Ability Standard

Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment

- Correctly perform palpation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention.
- Don and wear gloves and other protective devices while accurately performing a physical assessment.
- Correctly perform skills that require tactile sensation.
- Accurately palpate for pulses, temperature, texture, hardness or softness, landmarks, etc.
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<th>Emotional Stability STANDARD</th>
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| Emotional stability sufficient to tolerate rapidly changing conditions and environmental stress | - Establish therapeutic interpersonal boundaries.
- Provide clients with emotional support.
- Adapt to changing environment and stress while maintaining professional conduct and standards without displaying hostility, agitation, rudeness or belligerence.
- Poses no threat to self or others.
- Perform potentially stressful tasks concurrently.  

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<th>Professional Behavior STANDARD</th>
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| Student nurses are expected to respect the nursing profession to which they aspire and perform and behave in a respectful, ethical and professional manner with others in class, lab, or clinical. | - Adapted from guidelines from American Nurses Association (2012):
- Interacts respectfully with peers, superiors and patients
- Strives to provide quality care to patients
- Applies knowledge and learning in nursing situations
- Reflects on own behavior and practice performance with patients, engages in self-evaluation
- Is able to interact with peers and colleagues appropriately.
- Is able to collaborate with patients, family and others in nursing situations
- Integrates ethical behavior in nursing practice
- Performs activities safely, so as not to injure or harm others
- Recognizes that as a student they represent the nursing profession, and must behave accordingly
- Respects and adheres to the policies and procedures of the School of Nursing and clinical agencies. |