Health, Clinical And Program Continuation Requirements For The Nursing Program

As a part of contractual agreements with clinical agencies, all nursing students must provide evidence of an acceptable criminal background history, a negative drug screen, immunizations, and health clearances. Students who do not have the required documentation may not be accepted at the clinical site, resulting in failure and potential dismissal from the program. All requirements must remain current throughout the program. It is important to note that the contracted clinical agency agreements are not negotiable in their requirements.

Students are required to provide documentation and be cleared for placement no later than 21 days prior to the start of the term in which the clinical rotations occur. No student will be permitted to enter a clinical site without having satisfied the requirement for immunization and health clearance documentation. The inability to complete program requirements may result in failure or dismissal. All students are required to sign the *Medical Clearance Acknowledgement Form* regarding health and immunization requirements. The acknowledgement will become part of the permanent record and stored in the student file.

Admissions staff will provide all new nursing students with information regarding the immunization requirements for participating in the nursing program. Students may choose to obtain immunizations from any healthcare provider.

Students are responsible for all costs of program immunizations and medical clearances required for admission and continuation within the nursing program as well as costs that may be associated with injury or illness while on campus, in the learning laboratories, at a clinical experience, or while performing other campus/ program related activities during enrollment in the nursing program.

A summary of the requirements follows, however students may be asked to provide additional documentation required by the clinical site at any time. The full Clinical Requirements Policy can be found in the Student Handbook.

1. Cleared Background Check

   The applicant must pass a criminal background check upon enrollment consisting of federal, state and specialty agencies per school policy, State Board of Nursing rules and regulations, various accrediting body requirements and the terms of the clinical affiliation agreements. Students must maintain a clear criminal background while enrolled in the nursing program.

2. Negative Drug Screen

   The applicant must pass a drug screen upon enrollment. There may be additional needs throughout the program based on clinical requirements.

3. Current BLS CPR Card

   Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers certification by the American Heart Association must remain current while the student is enrolled in the nursing program.

4. Student Health Requirements

   It is essential that nursing students be able to perform a number of physical and cognitive activities in the classroom, clinical, and laboratory portions of the program.

   Students are not to enter any clinical facility with certain injuries or contagious conditions. A student must consult with the clinical instructor if an illness, medical condition, or injury is present prior to entering the clinical facility. The School or clinical agency reserves the right to request a medical release from a health care provider if a medical condition, illness, or injury may cause a potential safety risk to the student, patient, or others. Additional health care clearance documentation may be required. Any additional requirements will be at the student's expense.

   Examples of medical issues include, but are not limited to: limitations required after surgery or accident, immuno-suppression, pregnancy, back injury, behavioral health, etc.

Students may not enter or practice within a clinical area under the influence of a controlled substance or any medication which may impair judgment, alertness, or physical agility regardless of if prescribed by a healthcare provider. The clinical instructor and nursing program director will be the final deciding authority as to their perception if the student may practice safely within the clinical environment. The clinical agency may be consulted as well.

Any changes in physical or mental health or any medication changes that may alter a student's cognition must be reported immediately to the clinical instructor and Dean of Nursing. All notifications must come at least 24 hours before entering a clinical area.

Students must submit the approved physical and health clearance forms to the School prior to the designated deadline.

NOTE: Students with medical and/or mental health conditions which may place the student or patients' safety at risk may not be eligible for admission or continuation in the nursing program. Risk assessment is at the discretion of the Dean of Nursing in consultation with the Vice President of Nursing.

5. Health Insurance

   Many clinical sites require students to have health insurance in order to participate in clinical experiences. It is strongly recommended that students always maintain a health insurance policy to help cover the immunization and health costs required for the nursing program and to cover any injury or illness during the program. Choosing to not maintain a policy could exclude students from clinical, resulting in course failure and potential dismissal.

6. Physical Examination

   Nursing students must be able to perform a number of physical and cognitive activities in the classroom, clinicals, simulation and lab. All applicants must submit a current physical exam, less than 365 days old at the time of enrollment, signed by a valid healthcare practitioner demonstrating that they are free from any communicable disease or health impairment that could be a potential risk to patients or impede their ability to perform regular clinical duties. All exams must be performed in person. Tele-health exams are not accepted.

7. Immunizations

   Immunization requirements are generally based on the current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for health-care workers and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Clinical agencies may have additional health clearance and immunization requirements beyond the current recommendations outlined by the CDC, ACIP, or school policy. The standardized immunization policy reserves the right to require additional healthcare clearance assessments, documentation, immunization, and serology testing at any point throughout enrollment of the nursing program. In addition, immunizations and health requirements may change without notice and students may be required to provide verifiable proof of their ability to meet new requirements. Failure to meet this requirement may result in failure to progress in the nursing program. Students are responsible for the cost of any additional requirements.

   Students are required to submit documentation of complete immunization or serological evidence of immunity (titers) for the following infectious diseases. Full details may be found in the Clinical Requirements Policy published in the Student Handbook.

Immunizations

Vaccination/Screening/Document	Requirement Summaries
Hep B/HBV (Hepatitis B)	1. Proof of a 3-dose series - doses at 0, 1, and 6 months **OR** 2. Proof of the HEPLISAV-B vaccine 2 dose series, 4 weeks apart **OR** 3. Serologic proof of immunity **OR** 4. Proof of a booster if the titer is "negative," "indeterminate," or "equivocal" **OR** 5. Documentation as a non-responder **OR** 6. Documentation that the series is underway and on track as described above **OR** 7. Waiver provided by the school with medical documentation attached from a healthcare provider describing why the individual cannot complete the series
MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	1. Proof of 2 doses given at least 28 days apart **OR**

Vaccination/Screening/Document	Requirement Summaries
	2. Serologic proof of immunity **OR** 3. Proof of a booster if the titer is "negative," “indeterminate,” or “equivocal” **OR** 4. Waiver provided by the school with medical documentation attached from a healthcare provider describing why the individual cannot complete the series
Varicella (Chickenpox)	1. Serologic proof of immunity **OR** 2. Laboratory confirmation of disease **OR** 3. Documentation of a diagnosis or verified history of varicella from a healthcare provider **OR** 4. Proof of 2 doses of Varicella vaccine at least 28 days apart **OR** 5. Proof of a booster if the titer is "negative," “indeterminate,” or “equivocal” **OR** 6. Waiver provided by the school with medical documentation attached from a healthcare provider describing why the individual cannot complete the series
Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis)	1. Tdap within the last 10 years **OR** 2. Waiver provided by the school with medical documentation attached from a healthcare provider describing why the individual cannot complete the series
Flu (Influenza)	1. Seasonal vaccine required annually during the September-March flu season **OR** 2. Waiver provided by the school with medical documentation attached from a healthcare provider describing why the individual cannot complete the series
Tuberculosis Testing (PPD TST (Purified Protein Derivative Tuberculin Skin Test), IGRA blood tests, & X-rays)	1. If no history of previous annual TB testing, an initial two-step PPD skin test **OR** 2. If previous annual tests AND current testing documentation can be provided, only a one-step within the last 90 days is required for new students **OR** 3. Annual PPD skin test for all previously enrolled students **OR** 4. An annual, negative QuantiFERON-TB Gold test (QFT-G), T-SPOT TB Test or other Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved TB blood test (IGRA) ***For students with a positive TB skin test or IGRA test:*** 5. A "negative" chest x-ray AND a "negative" TB screening report from a healthcare provider if it is a "new" positive TST or IGRA **OR** 6. A "negative" chest x-ray within the past 5 years for those with a history of a BCG vaccination, or a positive TST or IGRA
CPR	1. Valid AHA BLS CPR card (American Heart Association Basic Life Support CPR)
Physical	1. Performed by a healthcare provider stating the student is fit for practice that is less than 1 year old
Background	1. cleared check performed at enrollment - must remain clear through the program
Drug Screen	1. clear screening performed at enrollment and randomly throughout the program