

PRE-LICENSURE BSN PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK



Developing professional nurse leaders

Missouri Western State University College of Science & Health

Department of Nursing

2024-2025

Department of Nursing
Murphy Hall 309
Phone 816-271-4415

Additional Nursing Program information may be located at:

www.missouriwestern.edu/nursing/



WELCOME

Welcome to Missouri Western State University's BSN Pre-licensure Program. This student handbook has been developed to assist you in successfully completing your baccalaureate degree in nursing at Missouri Western State University. You are responsible for reading the material carefully and discussing any questions you might have with a faculty member or Pre-licensure Program Coordinator. You are responsible for complying with the policies as stated in the Missouri Western State University Pre-licensure BSN Student Handbook and specific course syllabi.

Nursing Students are expected to read the regulations and policies in the University Undergraduate Catalog, University Student Handbook, and BSN Student Handbook and to conform to them. It is the student's responsibility for knowing and abiding by the regulations and policies, and for meeting the requirements for a nursing degree.

In keeping with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in regard to sex discrimination and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in regard to handicap discrimination as well as other applicable federal and state laws, Missouri Western State University follows a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in regard to all employment practices and to all educational programs and activities including financial aid, recruitment, admission, housing, and placement. Inquiries regarding the application of these laws may be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator, Blum 231, (816) 271-4557, titleix@missouriwestern.edu OR the accessibility resource center director, Eder 201, (816) 271-4330 arc@missouriwestern.edu .

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Missouri Western State University

College of Science & Health

Department of Nursing

Developing professional nurse leaders

Mission Statement

The Missouri Western State University Department of Nursing is committed to the development of students as individuals and leaders striving for excellence in inter-professional practice and the promotion of healthy communities.

Nursing Philosophy

As an integral part of Missouri Western State University, the Department of Nursing supports the mission, goals and policies of the University and the College of Science & Health. To master the discipline of nursing and the increasingly complex knowledge, skills and attitudes required to deliver safe, quality care, a broad-based baccalaureate education including theoretical and applied learning are essential for generalist nursing education. Graduate education develops nurses for advanced nursing practice roles. Recognizing the complexity of organizations, financing and delivery of health care, the faculty are committed to supporting ongoing program/curricular evaluation and adaptation to meet the demands of the evolving health care system.

The faculty believe that professional nursing practice is based upon the integration of the concepts related to person, health, environment and nursing. Systems thinking guides the integration of these concepts into the nursing process to promote a holistic nursing care.

Person

The person is viewed as a unique being with intrinsic worth and dignity, whose wholeness is more than the sum of his/her biophysical, psychosocial, cognitive, and social components. A person is a complex open system who is in constant interaction with an internal and external environment. The person or designee is able to choose among alternative actions; set goals; make decisions based on perceptions, values, and needs. Diversity among persons is valued and respected. Professional nurses respect the right of self-determination in making informed health care decisions.

Health

Health is a dynamic holistic process in which individuals and/or groups interact with, biophysical, psychosocial, cognitive and social stimuli in order to achieve maximum potential. All individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities have the potential for both health and illness. The goal of nursing is to promote health, prevent illness, support disease management, improve quality of life and support end-of-life decisions and care.

Environment

The environment is the aggregate of conditions which influence individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. The health care environment varies from basic to complex and highly technological. Nurses manage, monitor and manipulate the environment to foster health and promote safe, quality care. Nurses use informatics to support decision-making and improve outcomes.

Nursing

“Nursing integrates the art and science of caring and focuses on the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and human functioning; prevention of illness and injury; facilitation of healing; and alleviation of suffering through compassionate presence. Nursing is the diagnosis and treatment of human responses and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations in recognition of the connection of all humanity.” (American Nurses Association, 2021, p. 1).

Standards-based practice underpins the implementation of the nursing process and is focused on maintaining, restoring or promoting optimal health. Application of the nursing process requires critical thinking, nursing judgments and competent nursing actions. The nursing process is implemented through a collaborative relationship that involves interpersonal communication, mutually defined goals and desired outcomes. Professional nursing integrates multiple role expectations including leader, provider, designer, manager and coordinator of care. The professional nurse promotes, participates in and uses research as a part of a commitment to high quality care and evidence-based practice.

Nursing is an integral part of the inter-professional health care system which has the responsibility to provide accessible, cost-effective, safe, quality care. As such, professional nurses must possess effective organizational and teamwork skills; strong communication skills; a service orientation; an ethic of professional and social responsibility; cost awareness and accountability for clinical outcomes; commitment to continuous improvement of health care and competency in population-based care.

In addition, the faculty holds the following beliefs related to baccalaureate education of student nurses:

The faculty are committed to creating and sustaining reciprocal partnerships with a variety of clinical practice settings wherein mutually beneficial relationships support both student clinical learning experiences and benefit the delivery setting.

Learning is a life-long process of developing individual potential through a spirit of inquiry and self-motivation. Learning involves cognitive, affective and psychomotor components and development of critical and creative thinking. The learner is accountable for his/her learning and is expected to demonstrate responsibility for independence and self-direction, building upon prior learning.

Faculty have accountability for facilitating student learning by developing, implementing and evaluating quality learning experiences based on current research and practice. Faculty hold students accountable for prior learning.

Approved 3/2002
Revised 12/2007
Reaffirmed 12/2009
Revised 10/2011
Revised 11/2015
Revised 04/2016
Revised 04/2017
Revised 03/2018
Revised 10/2018
Revised 9/2020
Revised 9/2021
Reaffirmed 9/2022

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College of Science & Health
Department of Nursing

BSN Program Objectives

The BSN curriculum at MWSU is grounded in a systems approach to standards-based care across the health/illness continuum. The BSN curriculum incorporates concepts of safety and quality, theory and evidence-based practice, communication and collaboration, patient-centered care, psychomotor skills, clinical reasoning and judgment, personal and professional development, informatics and technology, and environments of care in order to prepare competent, professional nurses. Students will demonstrate competence in the following objectives:

Program Objectives	1st Semester	2nd Semester	3rd Semester	4th Semester
Content Focus	Introduction to Professional Roles & Responsibilities across the Health / Illness Continuum for Individuals & Families	Provider of Care for Individuals & Families Across the Health/Illness Continuum	Provider and Coordinator of Care for Individuals, Families, Groups and Populations in complex care environments Across the Health/Illness Continuum	Designer / Manager / Coordinator of Care for Individuals, Families, Groups, Communities, & Populations across the Health/Illness Continuum
1. Demonstrates standards-based professional practice.	Comprehends the influence of professional standards on nursing practice and health care delivery.	Applies professional, ethical, and legal standards; relates regulatory and accreditation standards.	Incorporates professional, ethical, legal, regulatory, and accreditation standards	Demonstrates and advocates for standards-based professional practice.
2. Uses clinical reasoning and clinical judgement in decision making.	Demonstrates clinical reasoning and clinical judgement in decision making.	Applies clinical reasoning and clinical judgement.	Integrates clinical reasoning and clinical judgement.	Uses clinical reasoning and clinical judgement to anticipate a variety of consequences.

Program Objectives	1st Semester	2nd Semester	3rd Semester	4th Semester
Content Focus	Introduction to Professional Roles & Responsibilities across the Health / Illness Continuum for Individuals & Families	Provider of Care for Individuals & Families Across the Health/Illness Continuum	Provider and Coordinator of Care for Individuals, Families, Groups and Populations in complex care environments Across the Health/Illness Continuum	Designer / Manager / Coordinator of Care for Individuals, Families, Groups, Communities, & Populations across the Health/Illness Continuum
3. Assesses health status and health potential.	Demonstrates holistic assessment skills, focusing on the individual and family.	Demonstrates clinical reasoning and judgement in the systematic, holistic, and focused patient assessment	Demonstrates clinical reasoning and judgement in the systematic, holistic, and focused patient assessment	Demonstrates clinical reasoning and judgement in the systematic, holistic, and focused assessment.
4. Performs, teaches, delegates, and supervises psychomotor skills with safety and competency.	Safely performs selected psychomotor skills.	Competently performs and teaches selected psychomotor skills.	Competently performs and teaches complex psychomotor skills.	Performs, teaches, delegates, and supervises psychomotor skills with safety and competency.
5. Integrates strategies for health promotion, risk reduction, and disease prevention	Performs and reinforces health promotion, risk reduction, and disease prevention strategies	Incorporates strategies for health promotion, risk reduction and disease prevention	Implements strategies for health promotion, risk reduction and disease prevention	Designs strategies for health promotion, risk reduction and disease prevention
6. Provides patient-centered nursing care.	Recognizes the nurses' role in the provision of patient-centered care.	Plans, provides and evaluates patient-centered nursing care.	Plans, provides and evaluates patient-centered nursing care.	Designs, manages and coordinates patient-centered nursing care.

Program Objectives	1st Semester	2nd Semester	3rd Semester	4th Semester
Content Focus	Introduction to Professional Roles & Responsibilities across the Health / Illness Continuum for Individuals & Families	Provider of Care for Individuals & Families Across the Health/Illness Continuum	Provider and Coordinator of Care for Individuals, Families, Groups and Populations in complex care environments Across the Health/Illness Continuum	Designer / Manager / Coordinator of Care for Individuals, Families, Groups, Communities, & Populations across the Health/Illness Continuum
7. Uses information and technology to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error and support decision-making.	Recognizes information and technology that can be used to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error and support decision making.	Effectively uses information and technology to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error and support decision-making.	Integrates the use of information and technology to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error and support decision-making.	Evaluates the use of information and technology to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error and support decision-making.
8. Collaborates effectively as a member of the interprofessional team	Identifies the role of the nurse as an effective member of the interprofessional team	Collaborates with other members of the interprofessional team.	Collaborates with other members of the interprofessional team in the coordination of care.	Collaborates effectively as a member and leader of the interprofessional team.
9. Recognizes the impact of health care policy, finance and regulatory environments on the provision of patient care.	Demonstrates basic knowledge of health care policy and regulatory environments.	Demonstrates basic knowledge of the effect of health care policy and regulatory environments on vulnerable populations.	Evaluates the effect of health care policy, finance and regulatory environments in care coordination.	Evaluates the effect of health care policy, finance and regulatory environments as designer, manager and coordinator of care.

Program Objectives	1st Semester	2nd Semester	3rd Semester	4th Semester
Content Focus	Introduction to Professional Roles & Responsibilities across the Health / Illness Continuum for Individuals & Families	Provider of Care for Individuals & Families Across the Health/Illness Continuum	Provider and Coordinator of Care for Individuals, Families, Groups and Populations in complex care environments Across the Health/Illness Continuum	Designer / Manager / Coordinator of Care for Individuals, Families, Groups, Communities, & Populations across the Health/Illness Continuum
10. Uses theory and evidence-based knowledge from nursing and the sciences in the provision of care.	Recognizes theory and evidence-based practices that contribute to quality nursing care.	Identifies theory and evidence-based knowledge from nursing research.	Appraises theory and evidence-based knowledge from nursing and the sciences.	Uses theory and evidence-based knowledge from nursing and the sciences in the provision of care.
11. Evaluates quality improvement processes to improve patient outcomes.	Understands quality processes to improve patient outcomes.	Identifies quality processes to improve patient outcomes.	Applies quality processes to improve patient outcomes.	Evaluates quality processes to improve patient outcomes.
12. Develops practice changes to promote safe patient care.	Identifies risks to patient safety.	Demonstrates practices to promote safe patient care.	Analyzes practice changes to promote safe patient care.	Develops practice changes to promote safe patient care.
13. Demonstrates proficiency in personal, professional, and leadership development.	Identifies practices to promote personal, professional, and leadership development.	Participates in personal, professional, and leadership development activities.	Integrates personal, professional, and leadership development activities in practice.	Demonstrates proficiency in personal, professional, and leadership development.

Nursing Course Descriptions

The descriptions for all courses required for the completion of the nursing degree are in the Missouri Western State University Undergraduate Catalog. They can also be found online at <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/catalog/>.

Faculty

Members of the faculty are available to students for consultation concerning curriculum and many other matters during office hours and by appointment. Nursing faculty serve as advisors to students enrolled in the nursing major. Nursing students are encouraged to have regular contact with their faculty advisor regarding their progress in the nursing program. A complete roster of the nursing faculty and their educational qualifications is available online at <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/nursing/facultystaff/>.

Faculty may be contacted by emailing or by calling the Department of Nursing administrative assistant at (816) 271-4415. Faculty contact information is available on the Department of Nursing website. The Department of Nursing is located in Murphy Hall, Room 309.

Student Nurse's Code of Conduct

Student nurses are bound by the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics. A code of ethics is an integral part of nursing and serves three major purposes: 1) outlines the ethical obligations and duties of each nurse; 2) provides a nonnegotiable standard; 3) makes a commitment to individuals, families, colleagues, the profession, and society. Therefore, the Department of Nursing has adopted the following Code of Conduct to which all nursing students will be held accountable. The Code of Conduct is derived from the principles in the ANA Code of Ethics and adapted from the National Student Nurses Association.

1. Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity.
2. Advocate for the rights of all clients.
3. Maintain confidentiality of clinical health information and information from health care agencies.
4. Act to ensure the safety of self, clients, and others.
5. Provide quality care for the client in a timely, compassionate, and professional manner.
6. Communicate in a respectful, truthful, timely, and accurate manner.
7. Promote the highest level of moral and ethical principles and accept accountability for all actions.
8. Promote excellence in nursing by encouraging lifelong learning and professional development.
9. Treat others with respect and promote an environment that respects human rights, values, and cultural and spiritual beliefs.
10. Collaborate with the academic faculty and/or clinical staff to enhance learning and practice outcomes.
11. Refrain from performing any technique or procedure for which the student has not been adequately educated.

12. Refrain from any deliberate action or omission in the academic or clinical setting that creates and unnecessary risk to the client, self, or others.
13. Abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages or any substance that impairs judgment in the academic or clinical setting.
14. Strive to achieve and maintain an optimal level of personal health.
15. Uphold school policies and regulations related to academic and clinical performance, reserving the right to appeal according to university policy.

Standards-Based Nursing Practice

All nursing students are held accountable for the same standards and ethics of practice as that of a registered professional nurse. The *American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses* provides guidance for conduct and relationships in carrying out nursing responsibilities consistent with the ethical obligations of the profession and quality of nursing care. *ANA Scope and Standards of Nursing Practice* are published standards of care established by the nursing profession and are continuously updated. They serve as guidelines for nursing practice to ensure proper, consistent, and high-quality nursing care to all members of society. In addition, the AACN Baccalaureate Essentials, QSEN Competencies and agency-specific policies and procedures serve as standards for the BSN program.

The Missouri Nurse Practice Act defines nursing practice and establishes standards for nurses in the state. It is the most definitive legal statute or legislative act regulating nursing practice. *The Nurse Practice Act* provides a framework for the court on which to base decisions when determining whether a nurse has breached a standard of care. Students are required to purchase the *ANA Code of Ethics* and the *ANA Scope and Standards of Nursing Practice* and to download the *Missouri Nurse Practice Act* through www.pr.mo.gov/nursing.asp. If a student has questions about legal scope of practice, licensing requirements, or nursing education, they are encouraged to contact the:

Missouri State Board of Nursing 3605 Missouri Boulevard, P.O. Box 656, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Website: www.pr.mo.gov/nursing.asp

Academic Advisement

Students will be assigned a nursing faculty advisor. The student and the advisor will complete a major declaration form after acceptance into the program. Students are accountable for understanding and completing degree requirements as specified on the major declaration form. Any substitutions to program requirements must be approved by the advisor and the Chairperson. Students must attend an advising session each semester during the enrollment period to plan their course of study.

Academic Honesty

Honesty in the classroom or clinical area is required. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information is unprofessional behavior and may result in dismissal from the program. See the [MWSU Student Handbook](#) .

AI Academic Honesty:

Deliberate misrepresentation of work produced by machine-based tools (aka artificial intelligence, chatbot, neural language model, natural language model) as one's own without appropriate attribution will be considered plagiarism. All student work is subject to anti-plagiarism checkers. Misconduct will be investigated and dealt with per the academic honesty policy. This does not mean that we will ignore tools like ChatGPT. We as faculty strive to work with students to discuss how to use these tools ethically and effectively. Furthermore, patient information should not be put into any electronic source (e.g., artificial intelligence, online learning platforms, etc.) as this is a breach of confidentiality and a HIPAA violation. Violation of this policy will result in action per the student handbook.

Attendance

Timely, regular attendance and preparation for class/clinical is an essential part of professional behavior and academic work. The responsibility for attendance rests with the student. Faculty expect students to attend all scheduled classes of the courses in which they are enrolled. Students must be present during the entire class period to receive credit for quizzes or classroom assignments. Students who must miss class due to a university sanctioned event or who are acting as a representative of the university or department must communicate with their instructors as soon as they are aware of a need to miss class/clinical. Determinations related to make-up coursework or examinations will be based on academic standing, reason for missed coursework and feasibility to obtain required course content and/or clinical experiences. Faculty "are not required to prepare or give a make-up test. Consideration will be given to students in the case of genuine (documented) illness, emergency, or when acting as a representative of the University" (See the [MWSU Full Course Syllabus Statement regarding attendance](#)). Any student who is absent for clinical or a class in which an exam is scheduled will be required to meet with the lead instructor for the course. A summary of this meeting will be forwarded by the lead instructor to the BSN Pre-licensure Coordinator, who will track absences throughout the program. Any student who misses 2 or more clinical days or classes in which an exam is scheduled during the nursing program will be required to meet with the BSN pre-licensure program coordinator and a conduct report will be completed. A pattern of clinical or exam day absences may result in course failure and/or program dismissal (see *Management of Unsafe/Unprofessional behavior Policy*).

Class/Clinical Schedule

Nursing students must take into consideration the fact that nursing coursework demands nontraditional class and clinical hours when entering the nursing program. Students should be aware that special arrangements will be required for child care, work commitments, transportation, and extracurricular activities. Nursing education is a full time, challenging commitment. It is recommended that students should limit their work commitments to no more than 24 hours per week. Information on financial assistance is available from the Office of Financial Aid. **NOTE:** Students are responsible for their own transportation to clinical sites.

Clinical Behavior

Students in the nursing program at Missouri Western State University are expected to practice according to the standards set by the profession. *ANA Scope and Standards of Nursing Practice* and the American

Nurses Association *Code of Ethics* for Nurses document these expectations. Students should be aware that a behavior that deviates significantly from these standards and that is unsafe, illegal, or unprofessional may result in a recommendation for dismissal from the program. While a single incident may be serious enough to warrant an immediate recommendation for dismissal, a pattern of less serious unprofessional behaviors will also result in a recommendation for dismissal.

If a student's behavior/performance is believed to be an immediate and severe threat to patient or public safety and welfare, he/she may be removed from the clinical area, followed by a written recommendation for dismissal from the clinical course. Dismissal from the nursing program may be recommended (*See Management of Unprofessional or Unsafe Behavior*).

Communication

Faculty in the nursing program value open, direct, honest, and respectful communication. Students are expected to communicate openly, honestly, and respectfully with peers, faculty, health care agency staff, patients, and families. If concerns with a course arise, the student is expected to discuss these concerns openly and honestly with the appropriate faculty member. The student may also seek guidance from their academic advisor and/or the BSN Pre-licensure Coordinator, if necessary.

Compliance with Clinical Agency Requirements

Students must complete all pre-admission and annual requirements as described in this handbook and outlined in the document titled "New Student Requirements" (found in the Student Nursing Orientation and Compliance Canvas page) before being allowed in clinical areas. Failure on the part of the student to satisfactorily complete these requirements will result in the student being denied placement in the clinical agency and may result in course failure. Note: clinical agency requirements may change after the student begins the nursing program. It is expected that students will remain compliant with all compliance requirements throughout the duration of the nursing program.

Computer Literacy

Students must have a MWSU email account and have basic computer skills including the ability to; type and edit a Word document, attach a document within an email, scan and upload documents and complete class assignments via the online learning management system.

Confidentiality

A strict ethical and legal (HIPAA) obligation exists for nurses to respect client confidentiality and not to reveal information without the client's consent. Confidentiality of medical information on patients and information regarding the conduct of health care agency personnel must be honored. In order to practice in the clinical environment, students are required to sign a confidentiality statement for the university to hold privileged information in confidence. Violation of confidentiality may be reflected in course grade or may result in dismissal from the program (see Dismissal Policy.)

Health Information Portability and Accountability Act

The Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) established standards for health care providers in the protection of patient health information. Private patient information must be kept confidential and can only be disclosed or used for specific purposes related to an individual's care. In order to practice in the clinical environment, students are required to sign a Confidentiality Statement.

Conduct Report

Student behavior that is not consistent with professional standards (ANA Scope and Standards of Nursing Practice, ANA Code of Ethics, MWSU Student Code of Conduct, Nurse Practice Act, and HIPAA) will be reflected in evaluation/grading and may be grounds for dismissal from the program.

Conduct Reports should be initiated anytime the instructor deems it appropriate to document a student's performance in writing for their permanent file. This serves as a tracking mechanism for patterns of behavior as well as documentation of student acknowledgment of classroom and/or clinical concerns.

The conduct report includes:

- The event
- Plan for improvement/correction.
- Consequences for repeat behavior and/or failure to meet expectations of plan.
- Timelines for expected improvement.
- Signature of faculty member with date.
- Signature of student with date.

In addition, the Early Intervention process may be initiated through the Student Affairs department.

BLS – Basic Life Support

Completion of basic life support (BLS Provider) from the American Heart Association is required prior to beginning the sequence of nursing courses. The student will upload documentation of course completion of BLS Provider in the designated compliance tracking software system. It is the student's responsibility to keep their BLS updated every two years. The Heartsaver course will **NOT** be accepted.

Criminal Background Disclosure

In order to comply with terms of affiliation agreements between Missouri Western State University and clinical agencies, any student who is to have contact with patients (or residents) must provide disclosure regarding his or her criminal background, and/or be subject to possible criminal background check by state agencies. Additionally, state registration and/or licensing applications may require such disclosure.

Prior to placement or assignment of a student with clinical agencies, the student must provide the Nursing Program with a criminal record review consistent with agency guidelines. Criminal history includes any conviction or plea of guilty to a misdemeanor or felony charge. In addition, the University must make an inquiry to the Missouri Department of Social Services as to whether the student is listed on the employee disqualification list, as provided in the §660.315 RSMo. This background check is conducted prior to beginning the Nursing Program through designated vendor. Results of the background check are reviewed by the school designee and shall be confidential. Prior to placement or assignment of a student with a clinical agency, the University shall certify that such student does not appear on the "employee disqualification list" referenced above, and is not disqualified from having contact with patients or residents pursuant to §660.317.6 RSMo and to specific clinical agency requirements.

During the program any criminal or legal action that may impact clinical placement, licensure application, or is a violation of the student code of conduct must be reported to the BSN Pre-licensure Program Coordinator as soon as possible.

Drug Testing

Students accepted into the BSN pre-licensure program are required to complete drug screening prior to starting the program. The purpose of this policy is to meet clinical compliance requirements set by our clinical partners. Drug testing will be conducted through an approved vendor. Students are required to use the approved process to complete the drug test. Results will be reviewed by the BSN pre-licensure program coordinator. The Chairperson of the Department of Nursing will be notified of any result other than negative. If a student tests positive for a tested substance, the student's admission to the nursing program will be rescinded. A student with a positive drug test may reapply after one year. Failure to demonstrate a negative drug screen by the designated date will result in forfeiture of the student's admission status to the nursing program.

Tests Required – Substances tested include: Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine Metabolites, Marijuana Metabolites, Methadone, MDA (SASS), MDMA (Ecstasy), Opiates, Phencyclidine, Propoxyphene, Methaqualone, Oxycodone, Oxymorphone

Medical exemption process – MWSU Nursing Program recognizes that some banned substances are used for legitimate medical purposes. Documentation from the student's prescribing provider will be requested by the Medical Review Officer of the drug screening vendor if a positive test occurs. The Medical Review Officer will confirm medical need and render the test negative, as appropriate. *[A positive drug screen for marijuana will be considered a failed drug screen, even if the marijuana is being used for medical purposes. The rationale of marijuana being used for medical purposes will not be accepted as a valid reason to waive a negative drug screen]*

Dilute Test Results – A dilute test will require retesting at the student's expense. If a student receives 3 consecutive dilute test results, admission to the nursing program will be rescinded. The student may reapply after one year.

Retesting – The MWSU Nursing Program may request a student to be retested for cause at any point, without notice, during the nursing program at the student's expense. This request will be based on reasonable suspicion of substance use or abuse. Reasonable suspicion may include but is not limited to:

- Direct observation of substance use or abuse
- Observation of unusual or erratic behavior
- Observation of physical symptoms consistent with substance use or abuse
- Arrest or conviction for a drug related offense

Documentation of cause by reasonable suspicion will be documented by the reporting individual to include relevant details and forwarded to the Chairperson of the Department of Nursing. The Chairperson will conduct an investigation and determine whether cause exists for retesting. The Chairperson will make a determination regarding the student's continuation in coursework while awaiting the results. Retesting may include, but is not limited to, the substances listed above.

A student who tests positive, receives 3 dilute test results, or whose results are anything other than negative will be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal from the nursing program. Failure to obtain testing upon request will result in dismissal from the nursing program.

Confidentiality – Every effort will be taken to ensure confidentiality of drug testing results. However, the MWSU Nursing Program reserves the right to notify University officials and clinical partners who have a need to know such results. Results may be used for administrative hearings and court cases, and may be

sent to state and/or federal agencies as required by applicable law.

Appeal of Test Results – A student may appeal a test result by submitting a written request within 5 business days of notification of the result. The appeal should be submitted, in writing, to the Chairperson of the Department of Nursing. The student may request a second test to be performed on the original specimen at a SAMHSA certified laboratory of choice at his/her own cost. Transport of the specimen should follow standard laboratory protocols and the results should be submitted by the laboratory directly to the Chairperson. The Chairperson may request a third test on the original specimen to be conducted at a SAMHSA certified laboratory at the school's cost.

Immunization and Health Insurance Requirements

The student is required to furnish documentation of required immunizations, prior to the beginning of the sequence of nursing courses. Documentation of immunizations or laboratory evidence of immunity is required according to standards established by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and as outlined in the [Clinical Orientation Manual](#). A list of required immunizations is provided in the Student Nurse Orientation and Compliance Canvas page. Because of the nature of the profession, nursing students may be exposed to certain health risks during the course of their clinical practice. The majority of these risks can be eliminated or minimized by following established standards.

Students should be aware that neither the school nor clinical agencies provide health insurance for students. Each individual student is responsible for his/her own health care. Injuries sustained by the student in the clinical setting are NOT covered by either the school or the clinical facility. Students are required to maintain health insurance coverage.

Documentation of immunizations and health insurance must be submitted as instructed. Students who fail to submit all required documentation will not be permitted to attend clinical experiences, resulting in a negative impact on the course grade.

Personal Accountability for Risk Management

Because of the nature of various clinical situations, the risk of harm or injury to the student exists. The student must sign an *Assumption of Risk Waiver and Release* Agreement form prior to laboratory practice or clinical experience. If a student is injured during clinical or laboratory experience; the student is responsible for seeking medical care and assuming the financial obligation for that care.

Professional Appearance

Professional appearance promotes an image of a competent and knowledgeable individual. In addition to the requirements in this policy, MWSU students must comply with individual dress code requirements set forth by the clinical agency in which they are placed. Faculty members are responsible for ensuring that the dress code policy is followed in lab and clinical and will be the first line of communication with the student if violations occur. Violations to the Professional Appearance Policy may warrant a Conduct Report and possible removal from clinical (see Conduct Report). Students wearing uniforms, make-up, hair accessories, or jewelry deemed inappropriate may be asked to remove or alter the items being worn, at faculty or facility discretion.

Uniform -. Scrub tops or jackets must include the approved program logo and must be purchased from approved vendors (see SNOG canvas page). Black scrub pants may be purchased from a vendor of the student's choice. The uniform will be clean and in good repair. The hem of the pants will not touch

the floor. Undergarments should not be visible. A shirt may be worn under the tunic and it should be a solid color; white, gray or black. Insulated or thermal-type shirts are not allowed. Hooded sweatshirts or hooded jackets are not allowed in the clinical setting. A watch with a second hand, or digital mechanism to count seconds, is required. Electronic devices, including cell phones and smart watches are not permitted in the patient care or lab environment. Wrist watches should be free of embellishments and gem stones as this poses an infection control hazard. The school ID badge should be worn above the waist.

Equipment – A pen light, blood pressure cuff and a stethoscope with a bell and diaphragm is required. See the SNOC Canvas page for recommendations regarding stethoscope model.

Shoes – Shoes must be closed toe and heel and made of non-permeable material.

Hair and Personal Hygiene – It is expected that students practice good personal hygiene. Bathing, use of deodorant, and brushing teeth is expected. Hair will be clean, of a natural hair color, and controlled so that it does not fall over the eyes and in the immediate work area or on patients... Headbands will be solid white, gray, black, or Griffon gold. Head coverings worn for religious reasons or for protection must be appropriate and secured to prevent any cross-contamination. Facial hair will be short, clean, and well-groomed and must in no way interfere with the technical and professional requirements of the student's work assignment. Some settings may require a beard cover. Facial hair should be removed before N95 fit testing.

Make-up and Nails - Make-up will be conservative and in good taste. False eyelashes are not allowed. No cologne or perfume will be allowed. Fingernails should be natural, clean, well-groomed, and no longer than ¼ inch from tip of finger to tip of nail. Artificial nails including bonding tips, wrappings, acrylic, and gel finishes are not allowed. Nail polish may not be worn.

Jewelry and Piercings – Jewelry acceptable while in uniform in the clinical setting includes watch (no "smart" watches), plain band (simple with no raised stones), and one set of simple post earrings. Flesh-colored or clear spacers must be worn in other piercings or gauges. If wearing a post piercing in the ear for alleviating migraines (Daith piercing), the sum total of piercings may not exceed three. A provider's note for wearing the Daith piercing may be requested.

Tattoos Students will be required to cover tattoos as much as possible in clinical and laboratory settings unless such covering of the tattoo creates a safety or infection control issue.

Food and Drink – Food and drink, including chewing gum and candy, are not permitted in patient care areas or the Nursing Simulation Lab. All food and drink will be kept in designated dining areas in the clinical facility.

Social Media Policy

Web-based tools that allow interactive and highly accessible communication between individuals are broadly referred to as social media. Social media and the use of electronic devices have the potential to improve and strengthen the knowledge and understanding of the student, instructor, and client. Health professions students have the responsibility to understand the benefits, responsibilities, and potential consequences of their participation in social media. The use of social media by health professions students reflects on his/her individual professional self-image and that of the global image of health care professionals.

Social Network Communication:

- Online social networking includes but is not limited to blogs, journals, Facebook, SnapChat, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Snapchat, TikTok
- Students may not post comments or digital images that would compromise another person's or organization's privacy (HIPAA), or comments that do not conform to state and federal laws.
- Students should also be aware that postings on social networking sites may be viewed by potential employers and reflect negatively on the individual and /or the university.

The Department of Nursing suggests that nursing students observe the following tips for online behavior endorsed by the American Nurses Association: [ANA Social Media Principles \(nursingworld.org\)](http://nursingworld.org)

Videotaping/Audio Recording

Students may be expected to participate in the use of videotaping as learning experiences or as a validation of clinical experiences. Students must notify the faculty if they intend to use recording devices in class. Students will not be permitted to use recording devices during clinical post-conferences due to the sensitive nature of information being shared. Text messaging, recording, or taking photographs are prohibited in patient care areas.

Conferences/Events

The Department of Nursing may require students to attend scheduled professional conferences and events. This will be communicated to students in advance and will be included in course syllabi.

Student Organizations

Every student has the opportunity to join an organization or club. These organizations include student government, religious groups, intramurals, band, chorus, ensembles, plays, debates, sororities, and fraternities. For a detailed list of the University recognized clubs and organizations currently active on campus, see the *Missouri Western State University Student Handbook*.

Student Nurses Association - The Department of Nursing encourages nursing students to join the Student Nurses Association (SNA). The purpose of this organization is to help prepare student nurses for professional responsibilities. Members of this organization consist of pre-nursing students and student nurses enrolled in the Missouri Western State University nursing program.

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society - Omicron Nu Chapter Missouri Western State University established the Omicron Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society to:

- recognize superior achievement;
- recognize the development of leadership qualities;
- foster high professional standards;
- encourage creative work; and
- strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession.

Members are selected from 3rd and 4th semester students enrolled in the program and community nurse leaders with a baccalaureate degree. Candidates shall have demonstrated superior scholastic achievement,

academic integrity, professional leadership potential and/or marked achievement in the field of nursing. Students who are selected shall have a grade point average of at least 3.0 and shall rank not lower than the highest 35% of their class in scholarship.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Those students seeking financial aid should see a representative in the Financial Aid Office located in Eder Hall, 271-4361. The Financial Aid Office representative can assist students with information regarding various types of loans, grants, job assistance, and scholarships. Upon admission into the Nursing Program, students are also eligible to compete for specific nursing scholarships.

Applications and information are available online at www.missouriwestern.edu/Finaid/.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Grading Scale

Specific requirements for each course and the method for determining the student's course grade can be found in each course syllabus. The grading scale utilized by Missouri Western State University Department of Nursing is as follows:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 79	D
Less than 60	F

A grade of "C" or better is required in all nursing and support courses. Students receiving a grade below "C" (including withdrawal (W) and audit (AU)) in any nursing course will be dismissed from the Nursing Program (see Dismissal Policy).

A minimum of 70% average is required to pass the course based on examinations, including the final and ATI. Additional points awarded in the course for quizzes, participation, etc., will not be used to increase your grade from a D to a C. They will, however, be used to increase a grade of "C" to "B" or "B" to "A". Conversely, these points may also lower your grade from a "C" to a "D". Three examples are provided. 1) A student's scores on exams, final exam, and the ATI equal a 68%; their quiz and participation scores equal 80%. The student will earn a grade of "D" in the course. 2) A student's scores on exams, final exam, and the ATI equal 89%; their quiz and participation scores equal 95%. The student will earn a grade of "A" in the course. 3) A student's scores on exams, final exam, and the ATI equal 70%; their quiz and participation scores equals 62%. The student earns a grade of "D" in the course. This grading formula best reflects the student's mastery of content knowledge and critical thinking and therefore their competence in meeting stated course objectives.

Grade Appeal Process

Students are responsible for meeting the standards for academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled. Students should maintain ongoing and open communication with the instructor.

In the event that a student believes that the grade received was based on something other than the performance in the course, that the grade assignment was the result of more exacting or demanding standards than were applied to other students in the course, or that the assignment of the grade was representative of a substantial departure from the instructor's previously announced standards, an appeal may be made.

The student must discuss the course grade with the instructor of the course no later than 30 days into the succeeding regular academic semester. If the student desires to appeal the grade further, the student must notify the Chairperson of the Department of Nursing in writing. The appeal must be made to the Chairperson no later than ten (10) calendar days after the aforementioned 30 days. The Chairperson shall notify the student in writing of the departmental decision within 30 calendar days of the receipt of

the written appeal. If the appeal is not resolved at the departmental level, the student may follow the grade appeal process outlined in the *MWSU Student Handbook*. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate and proceed through the grade appeal process as outlined in the *MWSU Student Handbook*

Student Complaints/Concerns

Students who wish to file a grade appeal follow the process as outlined above. Open, direct, honest and respectful communication is expected of both students and faculty.

If other concerns arise, the student is expected to discuss these concerns openly and honestly with the appropriate faculty member using the designated chain-of-command. The student may also seek guidance from their academic advisor and/or BSN pre-licensure program coordinator. If resolution cannot be reached, the student may file a formal complaint and follow the designated process.

Formal Complaint

Formal complaints are defined as complaints from internal or external stakeholders that cannot be addressed by existing due process policies. The process for management of such complaints includes:

1. Complaints must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Department of Nursing in written format and signed by the complainant.
2. Anonymous submissions will not be acknowledged, nor will written comments provided on behalf of an anonymous source.
3. The Chairperson will respond to all complaints within ten working days to attempt resolution of the complaint.
4. If satisfactory resolution is not or cannot be reached, the complainant may appeal to the Dean of the College of Science & Health.
5. The Dean will respond in writing to the complainant within ten working days. A copy of the written response will be forwarded to the Chairperson.
6. If satisfactory resolution is not reached at the Dean level, the appeal may be submitted to the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. A written response to the complainant will be completed within ten working days. The decision of the Provost is final. A copy of the decision will be forwarded to the Dean of the College of Science & Health.
7. The Chairperson will maintain a file on all formal complaints.
8. The Chairperson will provide a summary report at the Annual Program Evaluation Meeting of each academic year's formal complaints received/resolved with recommendations, as indicated, for program improvement.

Leave of Absence Policy

Students in the nursing program are expected to maintain continuous enrollment in nursing courses until the degree is completed. However, at times it is necessary for a student to take time off from nursing courses for health, personal or financial reasons.

A student considering a leave of absence should follow the procedure described below:

- Discuss the potential leave of absence with your academic advisor and/or the BSN pre-licensure program coordinator.
- Write a letter to the Admissions, Progression and Graduation Committee (APG) describing the reasons for and dates of the anticipated leave.
- APG will review the request and make a recommendation to the BSN Pre-licensure Program

Coordinator, who will notify the student.

- A leave of absence is typically granted for one semester but may be extended to two semesters if necessary.
- Prior to resuming nursing courses, the student should notify the Admissions, Progression & Graduation Committee in writing during the semester preceding the semester they wish to return.
- Decisions on resuming nursing courses are based on the student being in good standing at the time of the leave (see Progression Policy).
- The class size will not exceed the number limited to the program by the Missouri State Board of Nursing.
- A student may request a leave of absence one time.

Remediation Policy

Students who do not meet academic requirements as outlined by the Nursing Program's Progression and Probation Policies, will be required to participate in remediation activities outlined by nursing faculty and approved by the Student Retention & Success Coordinator in collaboration with the BSN Pre-licensure Program Coordinator. An approved Remediation Plan will specify required dates of completion. Students who fail to complete required remediation activities will not be allowed to progress in the nursing program.

Conditional admission

Any accepted student who initially receives a D, F, or W in BIO 250, BIO 251, BIO 375, OR receives a final grade of C in 2 or more of these courses will be placed in a conditional admission status and will be required to enroll in NUR 300 during the first semester of the nursing program. The student must successfully complete NUR 300 in order to progress in the nursing program. Any student who has previously received a grade of less than C in any nursing course or dismissed from a nursing program will be placed on conditional admission during their first semester in the nursing program and must successfully complete NUR 300 in order to progress in the nursing program.

NURSING PROGRESSION POLICIES

Progression Policy

- Students must achieve a grade of "C" or better in all required nursing courses in order to continue progression in the nursing program. A grade of less than C (Includes D, F, W, Credit – CR, or Audit - AU) is not satisfactory for progression.
- If a student is receiving a less than satisfactory grade in one nursing course during the semester the faculty may determine that the student should not continue clinical learning experiences. The faculty member(s) will make this recommendation to the Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee. The APG Committee will review this recommendation and forward their recommendation to the BSN Pre-licensure Program Coordinator. The student will then be notified of the decision in writing. Students who are not allowed to continue in clinical learning experiences will not receive a passing grade in the course.
- The Department of Nursing does not assume responsibility for a student's program progression when a student does not progress according to the plan of study for any reason.

Nursing Academic Probation Policy

- Any student who receives 2 or more C's as final course grade in a given semester in the Nursing Program will be placed on nursing academic probation.
- Students placed on nursing academic probation will be allowed to continue progression in the nursing program with an approved remediation plan. All students on nursing academic probation will be required to enroll in NUR 300 – Strategies for Success – during the probationary semester. (Note: Remediation plans will be approved by the Student Retention & Success Coordinator in collaboration with the BSN Pre-licensure Program Coordinator. Students placed on probation after the spring semester may require remediation in the summer months.
- Students on academic probation must participate in an approved remediation plan and successfully complete NUR 300 with a grade of C or better. Failure to participate and complete the approved remediation plan and/or NUR 300 may result in dismissal from the Nursing Program.

Dismissal Policy

Recommendation of dismissal is made by the APG committee to the BSN pre-licensure Program Coordinator. Students are notified of dismissal in writing by the BSN pre-licensure Program Coordinator. Any student who is dismissed and has exhausted all appeals will be administratively withdrawn from nursing courses and the nursing major will be dropped.

The nursing student may be dismissed from the nursing program for the following reasons:

- Grade below "C" (D, F, W-withdrawal, Credit – CR, or AU-audit) in one or more nursing courses.
- Failure to participate in and complete an approved remediation plan implemented during nursing academic probation.
- Failure to successfully complete NUR 300 with a grade of C or better during nursing academic probation.
- Inability to meet course or clinical objectives due to a physical or mental impairment (see Impaired Student Policy).
- Knowingly furnishing false information.
- Failure to comply with pre-admission and annual requirements for placement in clinical agencies.
- Failure to comply with American Nurses Association *Code of Ethics for Nurses* or American Nurses Association *Scope and Standards for Nursing Practice* or violation of confidentiality standards.
- Failure to demonstrate the behaviors conducive to effective nursing as stated by the Missouri Nursing Practice Act (Chapter 335, Section 335.011 to 335.096). These include: unprofessional conduct, or any act derogatory to the morals and standards of those engaged in the care of the client; unfit or incompetence by reason of negligence; lack of professional skill; chemical impairment; or mental incompetence.

Student Appeal of Recommendation for Dismissal

Upon notification of dismissal, the student may submit a request for readmission to the BSN pre-licensure Coordinator within 5 university working days of receipt of letter of dismissal. The request should be presented in writing detailing the rationale for why the student should be readmitted. The

letter should include a description of the circumstances that led to the student's poor performance and strategies for improved performance if readmitted. Readmission decisions will consider the following factors:

- Evidence of unusual or extreme extenuating circumstances that led to poor performance.
 - Evidence that the student sought out and used resources in an attempt to improve performance.
 - Performance in prerequisite coursework
 - Performance in previous and concurrent nursing coursework
 - Performance on ATI exams
 - Written communication or conduct reports on file related to student performance.
1. The BSN Pre-licensure Coordinator will consult with the Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee and provide a written decision to the student within 10 university working days following receipt of the request for readmission.
 2. If the student disagrees with the decision, an appeal may be made to the Chairperson of the Department of Nursing within 5 university working days following the receipt of the denial of request for readmission. The Chairperson will notify the student and the BSN Pre-licensure Coordinator of the decision within ten (10) University working days.
 3. If the student disagrees with the Chairperson's decision, an appeal may be made to the Dean of the College of Health & Science within 5 university working days following the receipt of the Chairperson's decision. The Dean will notify the student and Chairperson within 10 working days. The decision of the Dean is final.

Readmission Policy

Readmission decisions will consider the following factors:

- Evidence of unusual or extreme extenuating circumstances that led to poor performance.
- Evidence that the student sought out and used resources in an attempt to improve performance.
- Performance in prerequisite coursework
- Performance in previous and concurrent nursing coursework
- Performance on ATI exams
- Written communication or Conduct Reports on file related to student performance

Written confirmation of physical and/or mental well-being from the appropriate health care professional may be required before readmission to the nursing program is considered (See *Impaired Student Policy*)

Readmission is not guaranteed, however, all requests for readmission will be considered. If a student is readmitted to the program, their continued progression will be provided on a 'space available basis.' Class size will not exceed the number limited to the program by the Missouri State Board of Nursing.

Readmitted students will be subject to the same requirements, grading systems, and policies which govern the class to which they are readmitted. Students who are readmitted after dismissal will be placed on nursing academic probation and required to enroll in NUR 300. **A student may be readmitted to the nursing program only one time.**

Testing

Students are required to participate in standardized testing over nursing content each semester. Students must satisfactorily complete testing requirements, as stated on the specific course syllabi, to receive a passing grade in the class. This testing may be conducted outside of regular class time. Students with an approved accommodations plan will work with nursing faculty to schedule standardized testing each semester.

Student input/Program evaluation

The Department of Nursing requests that all students participate in ongoing evaluation of the Nursing Program.

1. Evaluation: At the end of each semester, students provide input for each course, instructor and clinical routine site. The evaluation process continues after graduation with follow-up surveys to graduates and employers.
2. Student Forums: Students will be given the opportunity and are encouraged to participate in student forums with semester faculty to discuss issues and concerns.

Nursing Program Pinning Ceremony

The Pinning Ceremony will precede Commencement Ceremony and is an opportunity for the faculty to welcome the graduates into professional nursing practice. Student purchase of the Missouri Western nursing pin is optional.

White Coat Ceremony

The white coat ceremony is conducted each semester to welcome first semester nursing students into clinical practice.

Composite Class Picture

Students are encouraged to have their portrait taken for the graduate composite which is displayed in the Department of Nursing.

Graduation Requirements

To be considered as a candidate for graduation, the student must follow the graduation requirements as stated in the Missouri Western State University Catalog. In order to measure student progress toward educational goals, students are required to participate in periodic assessment efforts at MWSU. Grades, transcripts, and graduation will be held if the student does not participate in this required testing.

Professional Licensure

Upon completion of the baccalaureate program, the graduate is eligible to apply for initial licensure to the State Board of Nursing and for the NCLEX-RN examination. Costs of the examination and licensure application are the student's responsibility.

The State Board of Nursing may refuse to issue any certificate of registration or authority, permit or license pursuant to Chapter 335 of sections 335.011 to 335.066 for any one or any combination of causes stated in 335.066 subsection 2 of the State of Missouri Nursing Practice Act. Specific information may be obtained by contacting the Missouri State Board of Nursing. Student's seeking licensure in a state other than Missouri should refer to this [link](#) for information regarding requirements.

Management Of Unprofessional Or Unsafe Behavior

Students in the nursing program at Missouri Western State University are expected to practice according to the standards set by the profession. The American Nurses Association *Standards for Professional Practice* and the American Nurses Association *Code of Ethics for Nurses* as well as clinical agency policies and standards document these expectations.

Students should be aware that a behavior that deviates significantly from these standards and that is unsafe, illegal or unprofessional may result in a recommendation for dismissal from the program.

While a single incident may be serious enough to warrant an immediate recommendation for dismissal, a pattern of less serious, unsafe or unprofessional behaviors may also result in a recommendation for dismissal. MWSU Department of Nursing may request a student to have a drug retest for cause at any point, without notice, during the nursing program at the student's expense (See Nursing Student Drug Testing Policy).

In addition, students who fail to meet the objectives for a clinical course will not receive a passing grade for the course.

Conduct Reports should be initiated anytime the instructor deems it appropriate to document a student's performance in writing for their permanent file. This serves as a tracking mechanism for patterns of behavior as well as documentation of student acknowledgment of classroom and/or clinical concerns. he

Conduct Report includes:

- The event
 - Plan for improvement/correction.
 - Consequences for repeat behavior and/or failure to meet expectations of plan.
 - Timelines for expected improvement.
 - Signature of faculty member with date.
 - Signature of student with date.
-

Policy Statement Regarding the Impaired Nursing Student

Students in the Nursing Program at Missouri Western State University (MWSU) are expected to practice according to the standards set by the profession. The Missouri Nurse Practice Act, the American Nurses Association's (ANA) Scope and Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics for Nurses document these expectations. The nursing faculty believes that they have a professional and ethical responsibility to provide a safe teaching and learning environment and to protect the welfare of the public. As such, nursing faculty have a responsibility to take action when a student's behavior deviates from these professional standards, including a student whose behavior is significantly impaired.

- The problems of chemical abuse and/or mental illness, resulting in unsafe behaviors must be proactively addressed when identified in nursing students. The nursing faculty will intervene with the impaired student as outlined in the Procedure for Faculty Intervention with the Impaired Nursing Student and in accordance with the Nursing Student Handbook with reference to Nursing Student Ethical-Legal Liability and Student Responsibilities. MWSU Department of Nursing may request a student to have a drug retest for cause at any point, without notice, during the nursing program at the student's expense (See Nursing Student Drug Testing Policy).
- The nursing program follows the university's policy prohibiting disruptive behavior and the illegal possession, use, or distribution of drugs and/or alcohol by students on university property or as a part of any university affiliated academic activity, including off-campus clinical learning experiences. Violators will be prosecuted in accordance with applicable laws and ordinances and will be subject to disciplinary action by the university in conformance with university policy (See MWSU Student Handbook regarding Code of Conduct for Students and Alcohol and Drug Policies).
- The nursing faculty defines the impaired student as a person who, while in the academic or clinical setting, demonstrates unsafe behaviors resulting from mental illness or from chemical abuse. Chemical abuse is defined as abusing, either separately or in combination: alcohol, over-the-counter medications, illegal drugs, prescribed medications, inhalants, or synthetic designer drugs. Abuse of the substances includes episodic misuse or chronic use that has produced psychological and/or physical symptoms. Mental illness is an acute or chronic condition that disrupts a person's thinking, feeling, moods, and functioning. Mental illness can interfere in coping with the ordinary demands of work, school, and family. Disruptive behavior is defined as conduct that reflects unfavorably on the individual or university community; or exhibits behavior/activities which endangers self or others and/or disrupts class or university activities.

Project Concert, Clinical Student, and Student Nurse Orientation and Compliance Canvas Page

Project Concert, *Clinical Student*, and *Canvas* are separate systems that are utilized by the Nursing Program to communicate and collect information from nursing students. All nursing students are expected to access ProjectConcert, Clinical Student, and Canvas on a regular basis.

Project Concert is a secure database that allows the Department of Nursing to monitor and track required documentation. Instructions for uploading documents to Project Concert can be found on the Student Nurse Orientation and Compliance Canvas page. Scanners are available in computer labs and in the MWSU Library. To log in to Project Concert go to: <https://secure.projectnurse.com/missouriwestern/>.

Clinical Student is a secure database that is used to manage clinical placements, clinical compliance requirements, and clinical rotation schedules and rosters. New students are required to register in the

system and to complete all requirements. The invitation to register will be sent to the students' MWSU email address.

Canvas is an online learning management system that is linked to all courses at MWSU. In addition to course-specific Canvas pages, each nursing student will have access to the Student Nurse Orientation and Compliance Canvas page (SNOC). Important information regarding the Department of Nursing and required forms and documents can be downloaded from this site.

Acknowledgement of Student Handbook

Students are expected to read the regulations and policies in the University Undergraduate catalog, University Student Handbook, and the BSN Student Handbook. It is the student's responsibility, not the university or a member of the faculty or staff, for knowing and abiding by the regulations and policies, and for meeting the requirements for a nursing degree.

After reading the policies contained in this handbook, students should download from Clinical Student the *Acknowledgement of Student Handbook* form and sign it acknowledging that all policies have been read. The signed form is then uploaded to the requirement in Clinical Student.