UNDERGRADUATE NURSING PROGRAMS HANDBOOK

Traditional Bachelor of Science Degree
Second Bachelor of Science Degree
RN-BS Bachelor of Science Degree

2014-2015

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PREFACE
The Common Handbook for Nursing Students has information that is relevant for all nursing students in our programs. The Common Handbook is designed to familiarize you with policies that apply to everyone, regardless of degree or program. We hope that these pages will assist you throughout your academic years and that you will become well-acquainted with its contents. This handbook describes your rights, privileges, and responsibilities as a nursing student.

All nursing students pursuing a degree (BS, MS, DNP) or degree/certificate of completion (RN-BS, RN-MS, Master’s, or DNP) will find the policies in the Student Handbooks that are pertinent to them. The policies related to specific degrees can be found in either the Undergraduate Handbook (BS degree) or the Graduate (MS/DNP degrees) Handbook. Some of the information found in the Common Handbook, the Undergraduate Handbook, and Graduate Handbook may be also be found on the SU Nursing Website. However, the student is cautioned to read the appropriate handbook carefully, as it contains official policies of the Department for students.

MISSION STATEMENTS
Mission Statement of Salisbury University

Mission
Salisbury University is a premier comprehensive Maryland public university, offering excellent, affordable education in undergraduate liberal arts, sciences, pre-professional programs, including education, nursing, social work, and business, and a limited number of applied graduate programs. Our highest purpose is to empower our students with the knowledge, skills, and core values that contribute to active citizenship, gainful employment, and life-long learning in a democratic society.

Salisbury University cultivates and sustains a superior learning community where students, faculty, and staff are viewed as teachers, scholars, and learners, and where commitment to excellence and openness to a broad array of idea and perspectives are central to all aspects of University life. Our learning community is student-centered, where students are taught by professional educators in small classroom settings, where faculty serve as academic advisors, and where virtually every student has an opportunity to undertake research with a faculty mentor. We foster an environment where individuals make choices that lead to a more successful development of social, physical, occupational, emotional, and intellectual well-being.

The University recruits exceptional and diverse faculty, staff, and undergraduate and graduate students from across Maryland, the United States, and around the world, supporting all members of the University community as they work together to achieve institutional goals and vision. Believing that learning and service are vital components of civic life, Salisbury University actively contributes to the local Eastern Shore community and the educational, economic, cultural, and social needs of our State and nation.

Vision
Salisbury University, Maryland’s University of national distinction, will be acknowledged by its peers as a globally oriented, widely recognized comprehensive university for excellence in education both in and out of the classroom and for its commitment to model programs in civic engagement. Undergraduate research, international experiences, and a broad range of internships and community outreach activities will be the hallmark of the institution, enriching the traditional academic curriculum and enabling students to connect research to practice and theory to action.

Salisbury University will grow to meet the education and workforce needs of the State by providing nationally distinguished undergraduate programs as well as specialized masters and doctoral programs that will uniquely serve the region. We will attract superior students who are academically exceptional and who embrace their role as involved citizens. We will empower students for a life of leadership and cultural appreciation through their participation in campus artistic and athletic activities and in campus clubs and organizations. We will graduate students who are recruited by the best employers and graduate schools and who will contribute to the economic
and social vitality of the State and nation.

Values
The core values of Salisbury University are excellence, student-centeredness, learning, community, civic engagement, and diversity. We believe these values must be lived and experienced as integral to everyday campus life so that students make the connection between what they learn and how they live. The goals and objectives of our strategic, academic facilities, and enrollment plans, as well as our financial commitments, reflect our fundamental values. In addition to these principal values, the University embraces the long-honored tradition of honesty and mutual regard that is and should be a defining characteristic of higher education. The “Salisbury University Promise” is a statement of integrity and respect for others to which we ask all new students to commit as a way of highlighting the University’s values and expectations for our students.

Mission Statement of the Salisbury University Department of Nursing

Mission
The Faculty of the Department of Nursing at Salisbury University actively engages undergraduate and graduate students in the development of the knowledge, skills and values integral to excellence in professional nursing practice.

Vision
To be academically and professionally recognized as an outstanding nursing program that has substantial impact on health care in the region.

Values
- Excellence: Achieve the best possible outcomes in all that we do.
- Accountability: Be responsible for our actions, the effects of those actions, and fidelity to follow-up.
- Commitment: Use our knowledge, skills and talents in the interest of the common good.
- Respect: Honor the uniqueness of each person, appreciating the differences among them.

Goals
- Provide science-based education to undergraduate and graduate students.
- Educate baccalaureate students to assume entry-level roles as registered nurses.
- Provide baccalaureate degree completion for registered nurses.
- Educate graduate students to assume advanced nursing roles.
- Foster an interactive educational climate.
- Recruit exceptional and diverse faculty to provide high quality education.
- Retain excellent and experienced faculty to educate students.
- Participate actively in the regional health care community.
- Expand the knowledge base through faculty scholarship, leadership, and practice.
- Maintain collaboration with area health care agencies and educational institutions.
- Serve as a resource for the community.

Approved by NFO April 13, 2007; revised 2013
DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNANCE

The Nursing Department believes that students have the right as well as the responsibility to participate in the governance of the Nursing Department. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with their rights and to voice their opinions in matters pertaining to academic affairs. The interest and participation of students is considered vital to the development and maintenance of the academic environment.

Student Representation on NFO and on Nursing Program Committees

The Bylaws of the Nursing Faculty Organization (NFO) of the Nursing Department states that there shall be student representation on the following standing committees:

- **NFO**
  Includes all faculty members of the Nursing Department and carries out Department business.
  Student members: Undergraduate representative who is the President of the Student Nurses' Association (SNA) (or in his/her absence, the Vice President of the SNA) with voting privileges, and a graduate representative with voting privileges.

- **Undergraduate Curriculum**
  Oversees the undergraduate curriculum
  Student members: Two undergraduate students with voting privileges

- **Graduate Program**
  Oversees the graduate program curriculum and admissions
  Student members: Two students with voting privileges

- **Resources**
  Oversees the resources (equipment, space, SU library) of the Department
  Student members: Two students with voting privileges

- **Student Policies**
  Oversees the admission, progression, and other related policies pertaining to undergraduate students
  Student members: Two undergraduate students with voting privileges

- **Program Effectiveness**
  Oversees program satisfaction evaluation methods
  Student members: Two students with voting privileges
COMMON POLICIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

Official email
Students must use their SU email accounts provided to them by the University. Students will be held responsible for information communicated to them via SU email.

Plagiarism
Misrepresenting other’s work as one’s own is one type of academic misconduct. Students are expected to properly cite all references according to the most currently published American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines. When ideas are taken from an author, citing the source is required. Any words that are direct quotes must be placed in quotations. When statements are paraphrased, the source must also be cited accordingly. Students, who fail to do so, either deliberately or from ignorance, will be penalized. The penalty, which is based on the severity of the plagiarism, may range from deduction of points from the assignment to the issuance of an F in the course and/or removal from the course. The decision about the penalty is at the discretion of the course faculty member.

TurnItIn
(Statements can be found on MyClasses Learning Management System sites for individual courses.)

Expected Student Behavior

Civility
According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, professional values and their associated behaviors are foundational to the practice of nursing. Inherent in professional practice is an understanding of the historical, legal, and contemporary context of nursing practice. Professionalism is defined as the consistent demonstration of core values evidenced by nurses working with other professionals to achieve optimal health and wellness outcomes in patients, families, and communities by wisely applying principles of altruism, excellence, caring, ethics, respect, communication, and accountability (Interprofessional Professionalism Measurement Group, 2008). Professionalism also involves accountability for one’s self and nursing practice, including continuous professional engagement and lifelong learning. As discussed in the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nursing (2005, p.16), “The nurse is responsible for individual nursing practice and determines the appropriate delegation of tasks consistent with the nurse’s obligation to provide optimum patient care.” Also, inherent in accountability is responsibility for individual actions and behaviors, including civility. In order to demonstrate professionalism, civility must be present. Civility is a fundamental set of accepted behaviors for a society/culture upon which professional behaviors are based” (Hammer, 2003). As part of professional conduct students are expected to demonstrate civil behaviors in classroom and clinical situation. Uncivil student behaviors include but are not limited to cheating on examinations or quizzes; inappropriate use of cell phones, smart phones, or related devices during class or clinical; holding distracting conversations; making sarcastic remarks or gestures; sleeping in class; using computers for purposes not related to the class; demanding make-up examinations, extensions, or other favors; making disapproving groans; dominating class discussion; and refusing to answer direct questions (Clark & Springer, 2007).

Policy on Behavior of Health Professions
Professional behavior on clinical sites is expected of nursing students from the outset and throughout the nursing major. An incident of substandard behavior of a severe nature may be the basis for dismissal from the program. Examples of such behavior could include, but not be limited to, abusive behavior towards patients, faculty, students or agency staff, intoxicated behavior, fraudulent acts of care (such as falsification of medical records), and gross disregard for patient safety either by acts of commission or omission. The policy can be found at http://www.salisbury.edu/nursing/docs/BehaviorPolicyHandbook_13.pdf

Social Media Policy
The Department of Nursing supports the use of social media to reach audiences important to Salisbury University such as students, prospective students, faculty, and staff. This document serves as the office policy for student use of social media at the Department of Nursing at Salisbury University. These guidelines apply to all students creating or contributing to any kind of social media affiliated with the Department of Nursing. Nursing students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with standard professional and ethical practices and abide by state and federal laws regarding privacy and confidentiality at all times. Distribution of sensitive and confidential information is protected under HIPAA and FERPA whether discussed through traditional communication channels or through social media. Violations of privacy and confidentiality may occur intentionally or inadvertently and may result not only in dismissal from the nursing program but also possible civil and criminal penalties.

Definition
Social networks are defined as “web-based services that allow individuals to 1) construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system, 2) articulate a list of other users with whom they share a connection, and 3) view and traverse their lists of connections and those made by others within the system” (Boyd & Ellison, 2007). Social media includes but is not limited to:

- Blogs, and micro-blogs such as Twitter
- Social networks, such as Facebook
- Professional networks, such as LinkedIn
- Video sharing, such as YouTube, Second Life and vlogs (video logs)
- Audio sharing, such as podcasts
- Photo sharing, such as Flickr, Instagram and Photobucket
- Social bookmarking, such as Digg and Reddit
- Public comment sections on webpages (such as those for online news sites), RSS feeds, Allnurses.com
- User created web pages such as Wikis and Wikipedia, and
- Any other internet-based Social Media application similar in purpose or function to those applications described above.

Policy
- Maintain ethically prescribed professional boundaries surrounding the nurse-patient relationship in the online environment in addition to the classroom and testing areas.
- Follow HIPAA guidelines at all times. Identifiable information concerning clients/clinical rotations must not be posted in any online forum or webpage.
- Promptly report any identified breach of confidentiality of privacy to clinical faculty or other appropriate authority.
- Protect confidential, sensitive, and proprietary information: Do not post confidential or proprietary information about the university, staff, students, clinical facilities, patients/clients, or others with whom one has contact in the role of a Salisbury University nursing student.
- Do not transmit or place online individually identifiable patient information.
- Be familiar with and use conservative privacy settings regardless of the content on social media profiles and seek to separate personal and professional information online.
- Practice restraint when disclosing personal information on social networking sites. Even seemingly innocuous pictures and comments can impact the respect and trust patients and peers have for Salisbury University nursing students, now and in the future.
Be aware of your association with Salisbury University Department of Nursing in online social networks. If identifying yourself as a student, ensure your profile and related content is consistent with how you wish to present yourself to colleagues, clients, and potential employers. Identify views as your own. When posting your point of view, neither claim nor imply that you are speaking on Salisbury University Department of Nursing’s behalf, unless you are authorized to do so in writing.

Understand that patients, colleagues, institutions, and employers may view postings.

In accordance with the Nursing Code of Ethics, it would be a violation of human rights if students:

- Take any pictures in any clinical, laboratory, or practice site without appropriate approval.
- Share, post, or transmit any personal information, health information, or images of other by way of any electronic media. Sharing this information is a violation of patient rights to confidentiality and privacy.
- Engage in communication with patients and their family members or legally appointed decision makers on social networking sites.
- Post on behalf of Salisbury University Department of Nursing or as an official representative for the Salisbury University Department of Nursing.
- Refer to anyone or any group in a disparaging, disrespectful, or threatening way, even if the person or group has not been identified. This includes, but is not limited to patients, families, faculty, and staff.

Considerations

- Privacy does not exist in the world of Social Media. Consider what could happen if a post becomes widely known and how that may reflect on both you and Salisbury University Department of Nursing. Search engines can turn up posts years after they are created, and comments can be forwarded or copied. Archival systems save information even if a post is deleted.
- Anonymity is a myth. Write everything as if you are signing it with your name.
- Consider the professional image you would like to portray. Future employers hold you to a high standard of behavior. By identifying yourself as a Salisbury University Department of Nursing student through postings and personal web pages, you are connected to your colleagues, clinical agencies, and even patient/clients. Ensure that content associated with you is consistent with your professional goals.
- You are legally liable for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others. Individual bloggers have been held liable for commentary deemed to be proprietary, copyrighted, defamatory, libelous or obscene (as defined by the courts).
- If in doubt, don’t post.

Consequences

- Violations of patient/client privacy with an electronic device will be subject to HIPAA procedures/guidelines and consequences.
- Students who share confidential or unprofessional information do so at the risk of disciplinary action including failure in a course and/or dismissal from the program. Please refer to the Salisbury University Policy and Procedures Concerning Student Behavior In The Health Professions Academic Programs.
- Each student is legally responsible for individual postings and may be subject to liability if individual postings are found defamatory, harassing, or in violation of any other applicable law. Students may also be liable if individual postings include confidential or copyrighted information (music, videos, text, etc.)

Approved May 2014

Code of Conduct/Academic Misconduct

The University expects all students to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of personal integrity and academic honesty. The Department of Nursing expects all students to adhere strictly to the code of conduct and the principle and spirit of academic integrity as described in the Salisbury University “Student Code of Conduct, Policies, and Procedures” [link]

Accountability in Clinical Experiences

The faculty in the Department of Nursing places a high value on student accountability, honesty, and safety in clinical experiences. Clinical experiences include learning activities that take place in campus labs, the R.A. Henson Medical Simulation Center, and in affiliating community organizations (hospitals, health department, clinics, schools
Accountability means that students are answerable or responsible for their actions. Personal accountability is the responsibility that students have to themselves and to the patients entrusted to their care including maintaining confidentiality related to health care under HIPAA.

Public accountability is the responsibility that students have to the University, the nursing profession and to the society in general. The primary goals of accountability in nursing are to maintain high standards of care and to protect clients from harm. Honesty is defined as demonstrating truthfulness in all one's words and integrity in one's actions. Safety is defined as protecting self, other health care providers, and clients from physical and psychosocial harm.

A student, who is not responsible in a manner that the clinical instructor evaluates as serious, may be disciplined as appropriate, including, but not limited to the assignment of a grade of “F” in the course. Examples of misconduct warranting discipline include, but are not limited to, 1) fraudulent or dishonest behavior, 2) behavior or judgment that compromises the safety of a client, 3) behavior that demonstrates continuing disregard for the rights of other members of the university community or public, 4) violation of rules of professional conduct established by accrediting or licensing bodies. Other conduct not listed here may also be grounds for dismissal from the Program and/or the University.

Dress Code for Nursing Majors
Students are to comply with dress code policies as set forth by the Department, as well as the policies of the individual clinical facilities where they are assigned. While many policies are designed to protect the safety of students and patients under their care, these policies also serve to guide students to properly represent both the University and the profession. Dress code requirements will vary among healthcare agencies. Any questions regarding these guidelines and students’ general appearance are to be clarified by the clinical instructor and/or the individual agency.

Department guidelines for general appearance while in the clinical setting:
1. Piercings must be limited to one small earring/stud per ear lobe. For safety reasons, students must refrain from wearing hoops or dangling earrings;
2. Fingernails must be clean and neatly trimmed (no more than 1/4 " long);
3. Long hair must be pulled back when nursing care is being given.

In addition, the following may not be permitted in some clinical agencies:
1. Visible jewelry in body piercings, including but not limited to nose, facial or tongue studs, or multiple ear piercings (including those in the upper ear and ear gauges);
2. Artificial nails and/or fingernail polish or only fingernail polish that is clear/neutral;
3. Hair of an unnatural color, as well as, glitter spray, sequins and other similar artificial adornments;
4. Tattoos (body art)--many facilities require that visible tattoos be covered as they may be offensive to patients/families and/or public;
5. Perfumes, scented lotions, aftershaves and other scented products;
6. Facial hair (men)--if allowed, must be closely trimmed.

Students who do not comply with the Department and/or clinical agency policies will be asked to remove or cover the article in order to be in compliance. Students may not be allowed to participate in clinical. Participation will be at the discretion of the instructor and/or clinical agency. Additionally, violation of the Department and/or clinical agency uniform guidelines may negatively impact the clinical grade.

The University shall have no obligation to refund tuition, otherwise accommodate the student, or make any other special arrangements in the event the student is unable to meet the individual dress code requirements of the clinical agency.

Academic Advising
Each student who has declared nursing as a major is assigned an academic advisor from the Department of Nursing. Ordinarily, the student will keep the same faculty advisor throughout the program. The student’s faculty advisor is
key to providing advice in scheduling and other academic matters.

Student Evaluation of Nursing Program
The faculty believes that a systematic ongoing evaluation is essential to the development of an educationally sound professional program. Evaluation promotes the search for effective, efficient, and innovative approaches to learning and provides quality control. It provides a sound basis for making decisions regarding modification and changes, resulting in the continuing improvement of the educational program.

Purposes of the evaluation of the program are to:

1. Determine to what extent students and graduates are prepared to meet the purposes and objectives of the professional program.
2. Promote continuous improvement in the overall program in order to better achieve these purposes and objectives.
3. Encourage personal/professional growth and responsibility of faculty and students through participation in the evaluation of the educational program.

Students participate in the evaluation process by providing written evaluations of all nursing courses and of the teaching effectiveness of faculty members. Students have opportunities to share information through student representatives to Department committees, by representation on course teams, and through other informal channels of communication. Students are also asked to complete an end-of-program evaluation at the time of graduation.

Writing Formal Papers
The Department of Nursing endorses the University policy on writing across the curriculum. Therefore, writing assignments are included in all nursing courses. Specific guidelines are provided by the course faculty. The Department mandates the resource style listed below to be followed in the preparation of formal papers. The APA style must be followed carefully and consistently.


Grievance Procedures
Students have a right to grieve a grade and to grieve charges relating to academic misconduct. There are stipulated processes for such grievances. The student is referred to the Salisbury University Code of Conduct, Policies, and Procedures in the event that such procedures are needed.

Requirements and Application for Graduation
Degrees of Bachelor of Science (BS), Master of Science (MS), or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) are awarded to nursing students who have completed all required courses in their respective curricula and are students in good standing at the University. (See Salisbury University Catalog, "College Curricula", and the nursing program Curriculum Guide).

Students must submit an application for graduation to the Office of the Registrar during the semester before they graduate, typically in the first semester of their senior year. The deadline for this application is published each semester on the university website.
HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AND RELATED POLICIES

Health Examination Policy

Initial Health Physical Examination
Because our clinical agencies require specific health information, all nursing majors are required to have a completed health examination submitted one MONTH prior to the start of the first clinical course (this is the fall semester for undergraduate nursing courses).

Therefore all undergraduate students must have a health examination in June, July or August. This is the only health examination required during the program under ordinary circumstances. Students taking longer than three years to complete their nursing curriculum will be required to have a second health examination. The University Student Health Center does not provide this service.

The SU Nursing Department form must be used for the health examination and may be obtained from the department’s web site. The student is also required to submit a “Fit for Duty” form signed by the physician/health care provider verifying that the student is both physically and mentally fit to provide safe care to patients.

Tests for Communicable Diseases
Health care workers, including students in health care clinical experiences, are at risk for contracting a variety of communicable diseases, and are also at risk for spreading communicable diseases to vulnerable populations. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has specific recommendations for health care workers, in addition to the usual adult immunization recommendations, to better protect health care workers and the populations they serve.

The SU Department of Nursing requires its students to provide proof of certain immunizations and/or immunities prior to the start of the program to assist the Department in facilitating clinical placements that are required for program completion. Most, if not all, clinical sites require proof of the immunizations and/or immunities required by the program prior to clinical placement.

Please be advised that failure to receive and provide proof of immunizations (and/or proof of immunity) required by clinical sites may impact a student’s ability to participate in clinical experiences that are required for program completion. Please also be advised that some clinical agencies may require immunizations in addition to those required by the program. Students with any questions about communicable diseases or immunizations should contact the Associate Chair, Department of Nursing
Initial Requirements Table of Immunizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immunization</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus, diphtheria and</td>
<td>One time Tdap booster within the past 10 years. If Tdap booster was given more than 10 years ago,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pertussis (Tdap)</td>
<td>proof of Td within the past 10 years is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles, Mumps, Rubella</td>
<td>Evidence of 2 doses of MMR given at least 4 weeks apart OR Laboratory evidence of immunity (Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(MMR)</td>
<td>titers) for each of these: Measles, Mumps and Rubella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella vaccination</td>
<td>Physician Documentation of disease OR 2 doses of Varicella vaccine at least 4 weeks apart OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laboratory evidence of immunity (positive titer) for varicella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>Complete series of 3 vaccinations for Hepatitis B OR has completed the first 2 doses of the 3-dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>series, and provides date for the third dose scheduled, to be completed within 8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>Proof of a two-step tuberculosis skin test (TST) at least one week apart, done within the last 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>months or proof of two consecutive annual tuberculin skin tests (TST) completed within the last 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>months. If you have a positive result, you must attach a copy of a negative Chest X-ray report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please also include dates of prophylaxis therapy, if completed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Returning Students Annual Requirement
A tuberculosis screening test (PPD) is required annually. Students who submitted a previous x-ray due to a positive PPD must sign and submit a form verifying the absence of symptoms by August 15. For students who had not finished the Hepatitis B vaccination series prior to entering the program, verification of completion is required, to be submitted by August 15.

Annual Immunization Requirement
Annual influenza vaccination is required of all SU nursing students with submission of documentation to Certified Background.com on or before the expiration date of the annual flu vaccine. Students who are not in compliance with this requirement will not be permitted to participate in clinical experiences. This vaccination is generally available on campus during the fall semester (at a small charge to students) or at local clinical agencies (free of charge).

Waiver of Receipt of Department of Nursing Required Immunization(s)
If student are unable to receive required immunization(s) because of a medical contraindication, they must sign a Waiver of Receipt of Department of Nursing Required Immunization(s) form prior to each academic year for which they are not able to fulfill the requirement. The Waiver of Receipt of Required Immunizations must be signed by a licensed healthcare provider.

Uploading Relevant Information to tracker service
Students are supplied with detailed instructions on how to submit the completed documents to the online service known as Certifiedbackground.com where student health records will be confidentially maintained. Submitted materials are reviewed to verify that the student is eligible for participation in the clinical courses. Students are responsible for the annual cost of this service. No student will be allowed in a clinical agency without fulfilling this requirement. The student may also send a copy of the completed health record to the University Health Center.

Health Maintenance by Students

Significant Change in Health Status
Students must report any significant change in their health status that impacts their ability to meet the SU Nursing Program technical standards, or be in compliance with the health requirements outlined on the “Fit for Duty” form. By definition, any situation that curtails clinical performance activities for more than one clinical absence or creates a pattern of absences (e.g. every other week), and/or involves a hospitalization/medical observation will be considered a “Significant Change in Health Status”.

The following are common examples (not an exhaustive list) of changes in health status: diagnosis of mononucleosis or other infectious/communicable illnesses/diseases, disabling headache lasting more than one clinical week,
fractures, or other injuries affecting physical ability, hospitalizations, behavioral health issues, or other emergency events.

A variety of factors, including length of time (more than one clinical absence or a pattern of absences), hospitalization/medical observation, clinical agency policies, and adherence to the usual standard of medical care, will enter into the determination of what kind of documentation is required before a student can return to clinical experiences.

1. **The Length of Absence from Clinical.** If the resolution of the health problem requires more than one clinical absence, the Change of Health status will be deemed significant, and will require documentation and signature by a provider stating that the student is fit for duty.

2. **Hospitalization/medical observation** will be considered a significant change in health status and will require documentation and signature by a provider stating that the student is fit for duty.

3. **Compliance with Clinical Agency Policies.** SU Nursing students and faculty must meet the health requirements of our clinical affiliates. If a student has had a significant change in health status as determined above, documentation and signature by a provider stating that the student is fit for duty will be required.

4. **Adherence to the usual Standard of Care.** If medical, psychological, and other types of interventions are ordinarily part of care, [e.g., rest, limitation of weight-bearing, use of casts/boots, crutches, restrictions on lifting, medications that alter cognition, etc.], students may not return to clinical until they provide documentation and signature from a provider stating that the student is fit for duty.

Clinical instructors will assess the situation regarding student clinical participation. The instructor, in consultation with the Course Coordinator and the Associate Chair of the SU Department of Nursing, will make the decision as to whether the student has had a “Significant Change in Health Status and the kind of documentation needed prior to returning to clinical.

**Student Responsibilities for Significant Change in Health Status**

The student must be aware that:

1. Suspected changes in health status must be reported to clinical instructors.
2. Clinical agency policies regarding health requirements may vary widely from location to location and by the population served [e.g. policies for working with pregnant women, infants, and children are generally stricter.]
3. **After a “Significant Change in Health Status”, a new, updated “Fit for Duty” form must be completed and signed by a licensed health care provider indicating that the student is safe to return to clinical experiences.**
4. Clearance to return to clinical experiences will not be granted until all medical documents have been uploaded and accepted by the Immunization Tracker system.

**Standard Precautions**

Due to the nature of the practice of nursing, students may come in contact with patients or specimens capable of causing disease. Thus, it is critical that infection control techniques and precautions be followed. Appropriate standard precautions and needle and sharps precautions, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control, are followed by the Department of Nursing. Each year, every nursing student must complete training on “Standard Precautions” to prevent the transmission of blood borne diseases.

In order to limit transmission of blood borne diseases, students are not permitted to perform invasive procedures on themselves or other students in the Nursing Resource Lab. Invasive procedures includes, but is not limited to, any form of injection or venipuncture. In addition, students may not practice invasive procedures on themselves, other students, or agency staff in the clinical setting. However, students are permitted to perform invasive procedures in clinical care settings on clients with direct supervision of appropriately licensed personnel. During such procedure, students could potentially be exposed to blood or body fluids. There is also potential for exposure during university flu clinics that are staffed by nursing students under the supervision of nursing faculty.

Standard precautions should not be relaxed for any reason. Despite careful practice of standard precautions, it cannot be guaranteed that students will not be exposed to blood and body fluids. This policy delineates what students and
clinical faculty should do in the case of actual or suspected exposure.

**General Procedure Following Exposure, Illness, or Injury**
If an exposure/illness/injury occurs during student experiences, the student is responsible for immediately reporting the incident to the clinical faculty and to the agency where the incident occurs. The initial care following any injury, illness or exposure to blood or body fluid which happens to a student during clinical experiences may be done through the clinical agency or through the student’s provider of choice (private medical provider or urgent care) as determined by the student. If the incident incurred by the student while at an agency with a clinical affiliation agreement with the University and the student so chooses, the initial care should be handled following the same procedure used for employees of the agency (for example, the emergency department, employee health, or county health department). Regardless of the place for initial care (agency or private medical provider), the student or the student’s appropriate insurance carrier will be responsible for any and all charges incurred. The post-exposure or follow-up care should be conducted by the student’s choice of private medical provider. While students are not required to maintain their own health insurance, they are urged to do so.

**Exposure to Blood or Body Fluids**
Any blood or body fluid contamination by percutaneous, mucous membrane, or increased risk of skin exposure is considered a MEDICAL EMERGENCY. Therefore, it is imperative that the student notifies his or her clinical instructor immediately after any exposure has occurred (even if only suspected exposure) so that appropriate investigation, follow-up, and prompt post-exposure prophylaxis can occur. Post-exposure prophylaxis, in some circumstances, should begin within one to two hours following exposure.

It is strongly recommended in the case of exposure that the initial care be provided by the agency in which the exposure occurred since the agency may be in the best position to facilitate testing of the source patient. If exposure occurred outside an agency capable of providing appropriate testing, the clinical faculty should contact the appropriate manager/supervisor of the agency to elicit support of that person to deal with the source patient. The manager/supervisor will facilitate obtaining consent for testing from the source person and refer the person to the local health department. Expenses for the lab testing in this case will be borne by the agency or the county health department.

**Summary Steps: Exposure Procedure**
In the event of actual or suspected exposure:

1. The student will **immediately** flush mucous membranes with water or saline, and cleanse wounds thoroughly.
2. The student will report exposure to the clinical instructor **immediately** in order to have the clinical instructor provide further information and to facilitate prompt investigation into the incident and referral treatment, if necessary.
3. The clinical instructor will RECOMMEND to the student that the student seek initial care in the agency’s appropriate area of care (the emergency department, employee health, or county health department). However, the student may choose to seek initial care through his/her own medical provider. In this case, the student may be excused from clinical to seek medical care.
4. The clinical instructor will notify the department Chair (text message, email, or phone call) that an actual or suspected exposure has occurred.
5. The clinical instructor will assist the student in completion of the documentation of the incident in the clinical agency.
6. The clinical instructor will complete the appropriate departmental form, “Report of Unusual Occurrence” found on the “O” drive under “Forms”. This form should be submitted to the Chair within 5 days.
7. The post-exposure care should be conducted by the student’s choice of medical provider.
CPR Certification

Current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross is required for all graduate students. The course must be designed for a health care provider. Students are supplied with detailed instructions on how to submit the completed document to the online service known as CertifiedBackground.com. The proof of CPR certification must be uploaded to and approved by CertifiedBackground.com in order to participate in graduate courses.

Liability Insurance

Students are automatically billed by the University each semester that the student is registered in a clinical nursing course for malpractice insurance (extent of coverage is $1,000,000-3,000,000).

Drug Screen Testing

Due to changing clinical site and agency regulations, Salisbury University students who accept admission to any the nursing program (BS, MS, DNP) must now complete drug screen testing to participate in clinical experiences. This testing is managed through the PreCheck system. Instructions for completion are provided by the nursing department. The cost of testing is the responsibility of the student. It is highly possible that in the near future all students may be required to undergo additional drug screen testing for some or all clinical experiences including both routine and random drug screening. The Department of Nursing will provide information for students as it becomes available. Students who do not complete this requirement will be unable to remain in their respective programs.

Policy on Alcohol/Drug Use

The Department of Nursing recognizes that alcohol abuse and drug use are societal problems that can affect nursing students, faculty, and all in the profession. These problems can adversely influence the learning environment, and persons with impaired judgment and skills are not safe in providing care in any health setting. Students must be free of alcohol and illicit drugs in order to participate in any clinical experience.

Education

The Department of Nursing is committed to including education on drug and alcohol use in the curriculum. The faculty and students will be educated on the recognition of symptomatic behaviors, their adverse consequences in a health care setting, the belief that drug and alcohol problems are amenable to treatment and rehabilitation, and the philosophy that those individuals in the profession with addictive illnesses should be given the opportunity to seek treatment. These beliefs are articulated in the position statement of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the Maryland Board of Nursing, the SU Code of Conduct, Policies, and Procedures, and the SU Nursing Student Handbook.

Clinical Placement Drug and/or Alcohol Testing

If a student is rejected for placement by a facility based on the results of a positive drug and/or alcohol test, the student will be counseled on his/her rights to challenge the results of the test. If the student challenges the results and is unsuccessful, the student will be referred to the SU Student Health Center for further evaluation and treatment. The student will not be permitted to participate in the clinical rotation and may face disciplinary action within the Nursing Department and the University. Such disciplinary action may range from failure in the nursing course through dismissal from the nursing program and/or dismissal from the University. Any disciplinary proceeding that may be initiated will be conducted according to the Department of Nursing Student Handbook Disciplinary Procedures and/or University Student Code of Conduct, Policies and Procedures, as appropriate.

Students Found to Be Under the Influence of Illicit Drugs and/or Alcohol

Students must be free of alcohol and illicit drugs in order to participate in any clinical experience. Students in violation of drug and alcohol policies detected by behavioral signs and symptoms may be subject to disciplinary action ranging from failure in the nursing course through dismissal from the nursing program and/or dismissal from the University. Students evidencing behaviors in clinical settings including but not limited to, alcohol on breath, pupillary changes, slurred speech, motor incapacities, or other signs and/or physical symptoms suggesting impairment, will be questioned by faculty. If, in the faculty member’s judgment, it is reasonable to believe that
impairment exists, then students will be asked to leave the clinical setting immediately. Family, friends, or Public Safety officers are expected to provide safe transportation for the student away from the clinical site. Students will also be referred to the SU Student Health Center for evaluation and treatment. Any disciplinary proceeding that may be initiated will be conducted according to the Department of Nursing Student Handbook Disciplinary Procedures and/or University Student Code of Conduct, Policies and Procedures, as appropriate.

**Disciplinary Action**
 Discipline for alcohol and/or drug violations will be implemented in accordance with the SU Department of Nursing Student Handbook Disciplinary Procedures and/or the SU Student Code of Conduct, Policies and Procedures. Sanctions imposed for alcohol and/or drug violations range from course failure, to suspension from the Nursing Program and/or the University for typically one year, to expulsion from the Nursing Program and/or University.

Procedures for readmission to the Nursing Program after a drug/alcohol related suspension are described in the Nursing Program Student Handbook Disciplinary Procedures – Procedures for Readmission. Students seeking readmission after a drug/alcohol related suspension will typically have to satisfy conditions prior to readmission, as well as conditions after readmission, including, but not limited to, providing the Nursing Department with evidence of the student’s rehabilitation and continuing rehabilitation efforts, as well as evidence that the student is safe to return to the program and unlikely to incur future violations. A second documented incident of unsafe impaired behavior or violation of the drug/alcohol policy will result in expulsion from the nursing program with no possibility of re-entry.

The University has no obligation to refund tuition and fees, or otherwise make accommodations if a student’s drug/alcohol policy violation renders them ineligible to complete required clinical experiences and courses or obtain a license to practice nursing.

**Criminal Background Check**
 Due to changing clinical site and agency regulations, Salisbury University students who accept admission to the nursing program will likely be asked to undergo one or more criminal background checks in order to participate in some clinical rotations. It is highly possible that in the near future all students will have to undergo criminal background checks for some or all clinical experiences. The Department of Nursing will provide information for students as it becomes available and it will be the students’ responsibility to assume the responsibility of the cost and have the background check completed.

Students are advised that if they have been convicted of a felony or have pled nolo contendere to a felony or to a crime involving moral turpitude, they may not be eligible for some clinical placements and may be unable to complete program requirements. Likewise they may be ineligible for licensure as a Registered Nurse in some states including Maryland.

All students must sign a Notice of Possible Implications of Criminal Convictions and Required Criminal Background Checks. This form states that the student is aware of the possibility of a criminal background check and the implications for licensure if they have a criminal background. The student is responsible for the cost of the criminal background check.

**TRANSPORTATION**
 Learning experiences are planned in various health care facilities, community agencies, and other selected sites. Please note: Nursing students are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from assigned clinical experiences. Students must therefore have access to individual transportation. Students traveling for lab or clinical experiences may have additional expenses for travel.
DEPARTMENT RESOURCES
The Lucy Tull Nursing Resource Laboratory and the Health Assessment Laboratory

The Lucy Tull Nursing Resource Laboratory and the Health Assessment Laboratory comprise the Nursing Resource Laboratories and are located on the second floor of Devilbiss Hall. The purposes of the NRLs are twofold: providing a simulation of a clinical setting for the practice and mastery of clinical nursing skills and providing a place for study.

Richard A. Henson Medical Simulation Center
Simulation experiences typically involve high-fidelity medical mannequins which can be remotely controlled to enact planned scenarios demonstrating various clinical events. The simulation experiences are video-taped (typically with multiple cameras) for later review by instructor and students. Alternatively, ‘standardized patients’ (trained actors) may interact with student clinicians and portray various illnesses (e.g. mental health symptoms). The interactions between student and ‘standardized patient’ are filmed for later review and feedback. The Richard A Henson Medical Simulation Center is located at 106 Pine Bluff Road.

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

The University provides additional services to facilitate student success. These include personal and career counseling, study skills enhancement, test taking strategies, and reading and writing tutoring. Students may contact these offices themselves or ask their faculty advisor to do so. Occasionally, faculty may require students to seek assistance from these offices.

University Computer Labs
University computer labs are located in Fulton Hall, Blackwell Library, the University Center and Devilbiss Hall. Some lab hours are reserved for formal classes, but each lab has open hours every week. Hours of operation are posted early each semester on the information technology web site. Student monitors are always available in the labs whenever they are open. All computers in these labs are linked to the SU network providing access to Microsoft office products, statistical packages, e-mail and the internet. Several nursing applications are also available through the Network Application Launcher Icon.

University Writing Center
The University Writing center offers a place where writers can meet to talk about their work with trained consultants. Their services are free of charge to any member of the Salisbury University community. Appointments can be made by phone or in person and are encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome in the center. Writing Center Highlights:

- All sessions are confidential
- Assistant available for any kind of assignment
- Assistance can be given at any stage of writing (rough draft or final work)
- Individual or group sessions available

Writing Center consultants all have strong writing skills and backgrounds in multiple disciplines of academia - not just English.

The writing center is located in Room 206 at the Guerrieri University Center
Phone: 410-543-6332 (or Salisbury University extension 36332).
For questions : please email universitywritingcenter@salisbury.edu

Information for Veterans
Salisbury University is committed to providing quality services and programs for veterans. We recognize and appreciate your service to and sacrifice for our country, and we look forward to assisting you as you achieve your educational and career goals. Please visit http://www.salisbury.edu/veterans for more information.
Career Services
Students are encouraged to contact the center in order to facilitate the development of a resume for professional purposes. This would include activities related to professional development, letters of recommendation, etc. The web site is at http://www.salisbury.edu/careerservices/

Blackwell Library Resources
Many nursing courses identify required readings that are kept on reserve in Blackwell Library. A reference librarian, appointed as the primary resource person for the Nursing Department, will assist students in locating literature, journals and other related resources. The librarian will also assist students with computer searches. Several data bases of health care related journals are available in the library and/or via the library web site. For more information, go to the web site of the Library at http://www.salisbury.edu/library/welcome.html

Center for Academic Achievement
The Center for Student Achievement is located in Room 213 of the Guerrieri University Center, (410-677-4865). The mission of the Center is to enhance student learning, academic success and personal growth through engagement in the Salisbury University academic community. For more information, go to the website http://www.salisbury.edu/achievement
OVERVIEW OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) PROGRAMS

Baccalaureate preparation for the practice of professional nursing requires a substantial liberal education base for the study of the theory and practice of nursing. The courses that students take prior to the beginning of the upper-division nursing courses comprise the liberal arts and sciences as foundation for nursing. At Salisbury University, we have 3 courses of study that lead to a BS degree.

Traditional BS in nursing for 1st BS degree seekers who wish to become registered nurses. In this four year program, the first two years focus on general education and supporting courses that provide the foundation for a liberal education as well as the nursing major. These courses are offered by departments at Salisbury University, or students may transfer approved, comparable courses from other educational institutions.

The nursing component of the curriculum is four semesters in length. Courses in the theoretical basis of nursing practice with a wide variety of related clinical laboratory experiences are developed and taught by faculty of nursing. Clinical laboratory experiences are designed in collaboration with health care delivery institutions and other health related agencies in the area.

BS in nursing (2nd degree students) for those with a bachelor’s degree in another field who wish to make a career change. The curriculum, acknowledging the education, career and life experiences of the individual requires fewer pre-requisites for the nursing courses than the basic baccalaureate nursing program of study. Students may complete the second bachelor’s degree in three semesters of full-time study.

RN to BS for registered nurses (RNs) who already hold a resident state or compact state license as a RN. The students typically have a previous Associates Degree or Diploma Degree in Nursing, and may or may not already hold a Bachelor’s Degree in a non-nursing field. Depending on the individual’s academic coursework, the RN to BS may be completed in one year of full-time study.

Clinical placements and the Nursing curriculum
Regardless of track, clinical placements for any given nursing course will be made on a space-available basis in clinical agencies. Placements in agencies within the City of Salisbury, Wicomico County, or the State of Maryland are not guaranteed. Placements will ordinarily be on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Delaware, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Requests by students for specific placements can sometimes be honored, but there is no guarantee of this.

Students should be aware that drug testing and background checks are commonly required by clinical agencies. Students who have been convicted of a felony, or have pled nolo contendere to a felony or to a crime involving moral turpitude, may not be eligible for some clinical placements and may be unable to complete program requirements. Likewise, they may be ineligible for licensure as a Registered Nurse in some states, including Maryland.
STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND ACCREDITATION

The Salisbury University Nursing Programs were developed and guided by the following standards and documents:

- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). (amended 2013). *CCNE Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs*.

END-OF-PROGRAM STUDENT OUTCOMES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Salisbury University prepares undergraduate nursing students in accordance with the *ANA Standards and Scope of Practice*, 2nd ed. (2010) and the *CCNE Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs* (2013).

Upon completion of the undergraduate program students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate accountability in professional practice.
2. Provide safe, effective, and empathetic health care for individuals, families, and groups.
3. Synthesize relevant information from multiple sources to promote health, reduce risk, and prevent disease.
4. Synthesize relevant information from multiple sources to manage illness and disease.
5. Exhibit knowledge of pharmacotherapeutics and competence in the safe administration of medications.
6. Demonstrate critical thinking in nursing practice using knowledge from the natural, behavioral, and nursing sciences.
7. Apply ethical principles in nursing practice.
8. Provide holistic care that includes respect for human dignity, health beliefs, and culture.
9. Use effective verbal, non-verbal, and written communication skills.
10. Apply relevant research findings in the practice of nursing.
11. Collaborate with other health professionals in the provision of health care.
12. Teach individuals and groups effectively.
13. Use leadership skills to enhance the quality of nursing care.
14. Consider the impact of availability, accessibility, cost and quality of healthcare on individuals and groups.
15. Participate in community and professional activities.
16. Demonstrate competence in information and health care technologies.

*Revised Learning Outcomes Adopted 4/27/07*
COURSES OF STUDY

Curriculum Guides
Curriculum guides outlining the courses of study for undergraduates for the baccalaureate degree in nursing can be found at the following:

First Degree Traditional BS

Second Degree

RN-BS for Registered Nurses

UNIFORM POLICIES for UNDERGRADUATE NURSING MAJORS

Attire for Pre-Clinical Experiences
Professional dress for women:
  1. Dress slacks/pants (no jeans or shorts),
  2. Skirt or dress of reasonable length;
  3. Attire worn under lab coat (e.g., skirt) should be visible below the hem of the lab coat/scrub jacket;
Professional dress for men:
  1. Dress slacks/pants (no jeans or shorts)
  2. Knit golf-style shirt or dress shirt

Hospital/Clinical Uniform:
  1. Closed-toe, primarily white or black shoes; the construction of the shoe should be of a material that is impermeable to liquid. Clogs are permissible but should not have holes/perforations.
  2. White or maroon scrub jacket or lab coat with SU logo.
  3. SU Identification badge obtained from the Gull Card office (this is not your SU ID)

Community Clinical Uniform
  1. Tailored shirt, knit style golf-shirt and dress slacks or trousers.
  2. SU identification badge

Uniform requirements will vary among agencies. Students must clarify requirements with their clinical instructors.

Care of Uniforms
Students must wear clean uniforms to each clinical experience. Uniforms (including lab coats or scrub jackets if worn in patient rooms) should be laundered after each clinical experience to prevent contamination.

It is recommended that uniforms be laundered separately from general household laundry, using soap and water, and that thorough tumble-drying be utilized to achieve thermal disinfection.
STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION (SNA)
The Student Nurses’ Association of the Nursing Department is an official campus organization that is an affiliate of the Salisbury University Student Government Association. All majors in the Undergraduate Nursing Program are members of this dues-free organization.

This organization offers opportunities for self-governance and leadership and provides an official means for channeling student views and concerns to the faculty. It also offers opportunities for students to become involved in professional and community service.

The Student Nurses’ Association meets regularly during the academic year. Information concerning the meetings and activities of the Student Nurses’ Association is in the Department of Nursing.

ACADEMIC POLICIES
APPLICATION AND ADMISSION TO THE NURSING MAJOR

FIRST-DEGREE TRADITIONAL BACHELOR’S DEGREE STUDENTS
Application and admission to upper division (junior/senior level core curriculum) nursing courses within the major is a separate process from application and admission to the University. Admission to the University does not guarantee acceptance to begin the upper division nursing courses. Students are eligible to begin the upper-division required nursing courses upon successful completion of the admission requirements (including all science and prerequisite courses) and approval by the Department’s Student Policies Committee. That is, students must complete all prerequisites prior to the fall semester of the junior year, request official transcripts from all colleges other than SU be sent to the SU registrar’s office, complete the Evolve Reach Admission Assessment (A2) exam, and inform the Department of their request to be considered to begin the upper level courses. This entails submitting the Request to Enroll form to the Department by February 1 of the spring semester prior to the junior year fall semester in which they wish to begin the core curriculum. All transcripts and the A2 exam scores must be received by the same February 1st deadline. The applicant must register on-line and schedule and complete the Evolve Reach A2 nursing admission test at a designated testing center. Information regarding registration and scheduling is available on the Nursing Department website (http://www.salisbury.edu/nursing), from the Nursing Department Administrative Assistant, or from the student’s assigned faculty advisor. This exam tests knowledge of English, math, chemistry, and anatomy/physiology; the fee for such is the responsibility of the applicant.

Decisions regarding permission to begin the upper division nursing courses occur during that spring semester of the applicant’s sophomore year and students are notified of their status in writing by March 10th. Accepted applicants begin upper division courses the following fall semester. Due to course sequencing, students are admitted to the upper division nursing courses in the fall semester only. All applicants are considered on a competitive and space available basis. Decisions to accept students to the upper division courses are based upon cumulative GPA(s) from SU and/or all institutions attended, overall academic record, Evolve Reach A2 scores, and having completed, or a plan to complete, all prerequisites prior to the start of the fall semester.

SECOND-BACHELOR’S DEGREE STUDENTS
Admission of Second Degree students is a two-step process. Students must first apply and be accepted to Salisbury University. Once admitted to the University, the student must then apply to the Nursing Department. The Director of the Graduate and Second Degree Program and the Graduate Program Committee will determine which students will be accepted into the Second Degree program.
Applicants to the Second Degree program must:

1. Submit to the Salisbury University Admissions Office:
   - Admissions application (found on the University’s web site and can be submitted electronically). Paper copies are also accepted.
   - Residency/Domicile Information Form (also on the University’s web site and can be submitted electronically). Paper copies are also accepted.
   - Any official transcripts from the previous bachelor’s and any other academic course work
   - University application fee
   - TOEFL scores (international students)

2. Submit to the Department of Nursing, Director of Graduate and Second Degree Programs by December 1:
   - Application to the Second Degree program in the Department of Nursing (form is in application packet available from the Department of Nursing)
   - 1-2 page narrative of educational and professional goals
   - Current résumé or curriculum vitae
   - Two academic and/or professional recommendations addressing potential for nursing study (forms are in the application packet)

Admission Requirements for the Second Degree Program

Applicants for admission to the Second Degree program must meet all University requirements and be admitted to the University by the Admissions Office. Once admitted to the University, applicants are reviewed by the Department of Nursing for admission to the Second Degree program. Admission is competitive and is based on evaluation of the applicant’s overall qualifications.

In order to be eligible for admission to the Second Degree program, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must have completed a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university and have a minimum cumulative grade point average for previous academic work of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
2. International students must demonstrate proficiency in the English language. Additional Salisbury University requirements for admission of international students must be met. All international applications will be reviewed by a University International Student Admissions Counselor.
3. Applicants must demonstrate mastery in the following subjects: basic statistics, microbiology, anatomy and physiology (all body systems), chemistry or physics and pathophysiology. Mastery may be established by earning academic credit for course work or by successfully challenging a department exam given for the course. Arrangements for challenge exams must be made by the student with the appropriate academic departments.
4. Enrollment in the nursing program will be conditional upon successful completion of the prerequisites.

RN STUDENTS
REQUEST FOR PART-TIME ENROLLMENT IN NURSING PROGRAM

Students accepted to 1st-degree upper division courses are expected to complete the nursing curriculum on a full-time basis. In the rare case of an extenuating circumstance(s) that precludes one from continuing as a full-time student in the major, the student is to meet with his/her academic advisor to discuss the situation including the development of a modified progression plan for part-time study. The student must prepare a written request noting reason(s) requiring part-time status and for what period of time he/she wishes to enroll part-time (current, upcoming semester only, or on an ongoing basis, etc.). This written request, along with any relevant documentation, is to be submitted to the Chair of the Student Policies Committee (SPC) for consideration by the Committee.

The Committee will make every effort to notify the student of the decision within ten (10) business days of receiving the written request. In the event that the part-time enrollment request in the major is granted by SPC, the Department Chair will be notified. The student will then meet with his/her academic advisor to review the modified progression plan, a copy of which will be placed in the student’s file.

PROGRESSION POLICIES FOR ALL UNDERGRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS

Once students are accepted into the nursing program, every effort is made to promote successful completion. Students who experience difficulties in a particular nursing course should first meet with the course faculty or coordinator to discuss their status and any specific strategies to enhance success. They may also consult with their nursing academic advisor to discuss strategies or concerns regarding progression.

GRADING POLICIES

GPA Maintenance Requirements

After admission to the first nursing course at Salisbury University, a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 with a grade of “C” or higher in all required nursing courses must be maintained for progression and continuance in the nursing program. Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 will not be permitted to take any required nursing courses until they are in good academic standing as defined in the Salisbury University Catalog.

Students who earn less than a “C” in any required nursing course must retake the course and earn a grade of “C” or better to continue in the program. This policy applies to any course taken to satisfy the Department’s graduation requirements, including the one nursing elective course required of first-degree students and the two nursing elective courses required of RN to BS students. Elective courses must be taken as graded courses (A, B, C, D, F) to satisfy graduation requirements. Students taking any additional nursing elective courses beyond the required elective course(s), may take it in the “pass”, “satisfactory”, or “audit” grading option.

Students may repeat only ONE required nursing course ONE time. Therefore if a student earns a grade of less than “C” in two courses with an NURS prefix, even if one of the courses is a nursing elective, they will be dismissed from the nursing program.

Course Grades in Required Nursing Courses

Student evaluation for both the theoretical and clinical courses is based on the achievement of specific course objectives. These objectives are presented in the course syllabus of each nursing course. A final course grade of "C" or better in required nursing courses, both theory and clinical, is necessary to advance in the nursing program. Students should consult their course syllabi for detailed delineation of course grading procedures.
**Theory Courses**

In order to achieve a final course grade of "C" or better in a theory course, the student must achieve a final course grade of \( \geq 70\% \). The grade will include unit tests, papers, projects, and final exams. Tests, papers, and projects, will be weighted by specific courses. All courses determine the exact weight of their exams, papers and projects. The final grade will be a weighted grade.

The Department grading scale for theory courses is as follows:

- A .......................... 90 - 100%
- B .......................... 80 - 89%
- C .......................... 70 - 79%
- D .......................... 60 - 69%
- F .......................... Below 60%

**Clinical Courses**

In order to achieve a final course grade of "C" or better in a clinical course, the student shall achieve a final grade of "C" or better in the course objectives listed in the course syllabus. The determination of grades is made by the clinical instructor based on the quality of students’ clinical performance of clinical objectives.

The Department grading scale for clinical courses is as follows:

- A .......................... Outstanding
- B .......................... Very good (Above Expected)
- C .......................... Satisfactory (Expected)
- D .......................... Less than satisfactory
- F .......................... Unsatisfactory

**Repeating Nursing Courses**

Approximately two weeks after grades are posted, students who have earned grades of "D" or "F" in required nursing courses will receive a letter indicating when the course may be repeated, along with recommended changes to their progression plan. First-degree students will receive this letter from the Student Policies Committee; second degree students will receive this letter from the Director of Graduate and Second Degree programs. Within two (2) weeks of receipt of this letter, first-degree students must notify the Chair of Student Policies Committee in writing of their plans; second-degree students must notify the Director of Graduate & Second Degree Programs in writing of their plans.

Because only one required nursing course may be repeated, those students receiving a second grade of less than "C", either in a repeated course or any other required nursing course, will receive written notification that they are dismissed from the nursing program. They will also be referred to the Henson School Advising Coordinator.

**Withdrawal from Nursing Courses**

Students who withdraw from one or more nursing courses during a given semester must submit a formal letter requesting to re-enroll in the program noting reason(s) for withdrawal. This letter requesting re-enrollment in the nursing program must be submitted to the Student Policies Committee (first-degree students) or to the Graduate Program Committee (second-degree students) by June 1st for re-enrollment in Fall or January 1st for re-enrollment in Spring. The designated committee will consider the reason for withdrawal, as well as, the student’s entire academic record when making a determination about re-enrollment in the program. Students who withdraw from required courses and/or the nursing program for any reason are not guaranteed re-enrollment.
DISMISSAL POLICIES

Suspension or Dismissal from the University
In the event that a student is suspended or dismissed from the University for any reason, a letter from the student requesting readmission to the nursing program must be submitted to the Student Policies Committee (first degree students) or the Graduate Program Committee (second degree students) by June 1st for re-enrollment in Fall or January 1st for re-enrollment in Spring. Students who are suspended or dismissed from the University are not guaranteed readmission to the nursing program. A student who is dismissed from the University for any reason is automatically dismissed from the program.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING RESOURCES

ATI-CARP Program
An integral part of the academic nursing program is preparation for the National Council Licensing Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). To enhance student preparation for the NCLEX-RN, the nursing program has adopted the Comprehensive Assessment and Review Program (CARP), a total curriculum support system, devised by ATI. As part of this CARP program, students in each course are required to complete one or more of the modules, which are found on the internet. Information about specific course requirements is explained in each course orientation.

Nursing Resource Laboratories (NRLs)
The Nursing Resource Laboratories (NRLs) are comprised of the Lucy Tull Nursing Resource Center and the Health Assessment Lab. They are located on the second floor of Devilbiss Hall. The purposes of the NRLs are twofold: providing a simulation of a clinical setting for the practice and mastery of clinical nursing skills and providing a place for study.

The NRLs are open approximately 25 hours a week and are staffed by lab assistants who are usually senior level nursing students. It is the responsibility of the lab assistants to assist students in skill practice and promote competency by verification of mastery of each skill. In addition the lab assistants are available to assist students in using other resources in the labs and may be able to assist students studying for various nursing courses. Individual tutoring is also available by appointment/and or request by faculty.

The NRLs contains a variety of materials and equipment to augment the nursing student’s individual learning and to be used in the education of the community through the student’s clinical experience. Some equipment may be borrowed from the lab and policies are in place for check out of certain items to students. The NRLs also have a small library of books and journals available for use in the lab as well as check out.

A small number of networked computers, located in the lab, provide access to nursing related software and DVDs. Students may use instructional materials in the lab at any time during open lab hours. The lab assistants can assist in setting up a viewing station for an individual student or a small group.

Any comments concerning the operations of the lab, supplies, equipment, etc, should be directed to the coordinator of the NRLs, the student lab coordinator, or the Resources Committee of the Department of Nursing.

Near the end of the spring semester, application packets for NRL lab assistant positions are distributed. Any student interested in a position as a lab assistant should submit the completed application with two faculty recommendations to the lab coordinator.

NRL Guidelines for Skills Mastery
There are two types of clinical skills, those needing practice time and competency verification by a lab
assistant and those that need practice time but do not need competency verification by a lab assistant. The course syllabus will identify which skills will need practice only versus practice and verification by a lab assistant.

In preparation for learning skills, students should review assigned web-based video clips and performance steps outlined in their clinical nursing skill textbook. Faculty provide live demonstration of skills and guide initial skills practice. Students are then required to spend time in the NRL, coached by student lab assistants, to practice skills until mastery is achieved. For certain skills, students must also schedule an appointment for one-on-one competency verification by a lab assistant.

Sufficient time for practice prior to scheduled competency verification is essential. During competency verification lab assistants are not to coach or assist the student in the performance of the skill. Students who are unable to perform the skill smoothly and independently will be stopped and asked to spend more time on practice. They will then schedule another appointment for competency verification. The lab assistants using the following criteria will evaluate satisfactory or unsatisfactory completion of a skill:

**Satisfactory:**
1. Student is able to complete their performance of the skill safely.
2. Performance was organized and demonstration smooth.
3. Student is able to demonstrate and or discuss pertinent information about the emotional, physical, and psychological needs of the client.

**Unsatisfactory**
1. Student is unprepared; has not reviewed or practiced designated skill.
2. Student required reminder to prevent actual or potential unsafe situation and/or incomplete performance.
3. Student disorganized, basic principles of skill neglected, essential steps omitted.
4. Student unable to relate pertinent information about the emotional, physical, and psychological needs of the client.

When the students have completed the skill satisfactorily, the lab assistant will sign students’ competency verification sheet (found in course syllabus) and initial in the skill Competency Verification List in the Lab Notebook. It is the students’ responsibility to have the lab assistant sign their competency verification sheet.

If students do not perform the skill satisfactorily in the clinical area after having the competency of the skill verified in the lab, the clinical faculty member may:
- Require that students return to the lab for additional practice and/or
- Require that students return to the lab to repeat their competency verification of the skill

**RICHARD A. HENSON MEDICAL SIMULATION CENTER**
Simulation experiences typically involve high-fidelity medical mannequins which can be remotely controlled to enact planned scenarios demonstrating various clinical events. The simulation experiences are video-taped (typically with multiple cameras) for later review by instructor and students. Alternatively, ‘standardized patients’ (trained actors) may interact with student clinicians and portray various illnesses (e.g. mental health symptoms). The interactions between student and ‘standardized patient’ are filmed for later review and feedback. The Richard A Henson Medical Simulation Center is located south of the SU Campus, at 106 Pine Bluff Road.

There are several important reasons for using simulation within health care education including:
1. Allowing students to have experiential learning where clinical opportunities are limited or entirely not available (e.g., neonatal intensive care, pediatric acute care, labor/delivery/postpartum/recovery, etc.);
2. Providing students with exposure to simulated symptoms of rare events that if not identified in the clinical setting would most assuredly result in death or harm.
3. Simulating invasive procedures that pose real risks to actual patients, and
4. Reducing litigable risk to the student and the institution by using simulators instead of real patients.

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS
Honors, Scholarships, and Awards
There are a variety of nursing scholarships and awards available to incoming freshmen nursing majors, as well as, nursing students enrolled in upper division nursing courses. Some scholarships are available for second degree and graduate students. Scholarships are awarded by the Department, and also by the Henson School of Science & Technology. Please refer to the following websites for a complete and detailed listing of School and Department-sponsored scholarships for nursing majors.

Department of Nursing:
http://www.salisbury.edu/nursing/FinancialAid.html#dept

Henson School and Lucy Tull Scholarships:
http://www.salisbury.edu/henson/scholars.html

http://www.salisbury.edu/henson/Scholarship%20info/Hensonscholarship%202-5-10.doc

Maryland State Nursing Scholarship Program
The Maryland State Nursing Scholarship program represents another avenue of financial aid specifically available to nursing majors who are Maryland residents. For more information about the Maryland State Nursing Scholarship program, visit http://www.mhec.state.md.us or call the Maryland Higher Education Commission @ 410-260-4565 or 1-800-974-1024.