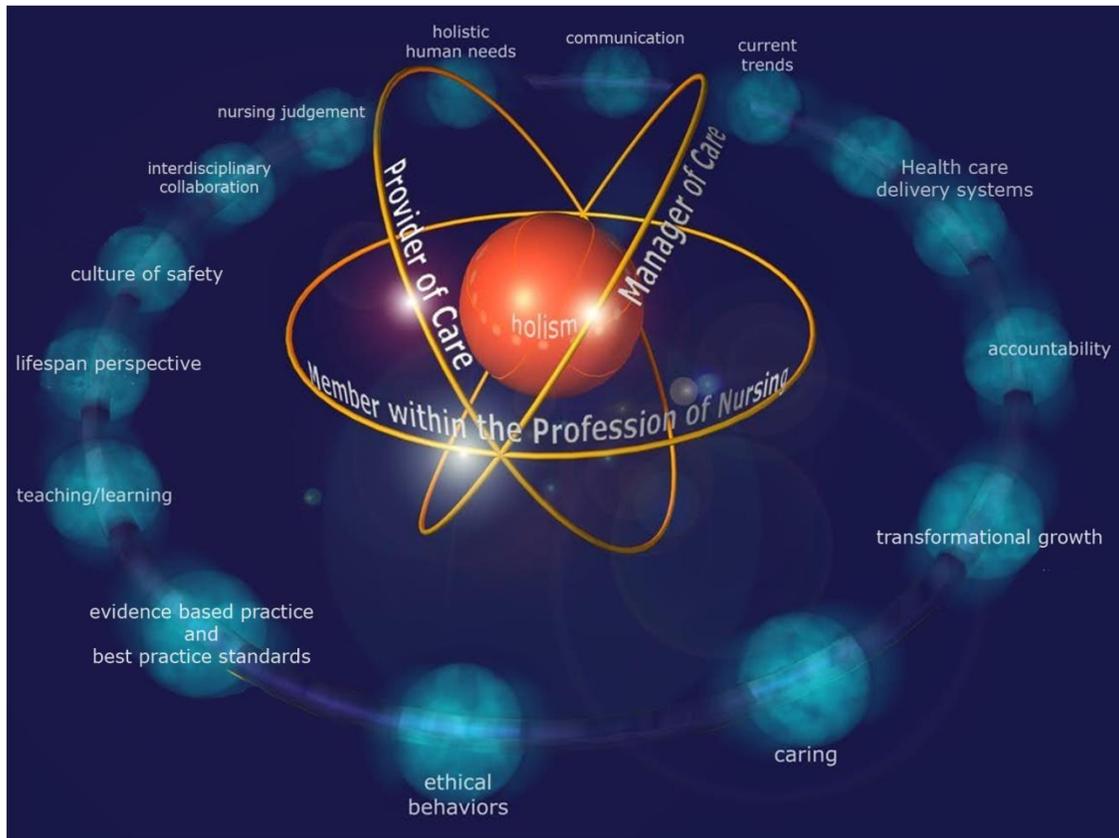


NURSING PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK AY 2021-2022



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PREFACE

It is the student's responsibility to review the RVCC Student Handbook (<https://www.raritanval.edu/general-information/policies-and-consumer-information/student-handbook>), the RVCC Catalog (<https://www.raritanval.edu/academic-programs/catalog>) and the Nursing Program Student Handbook and to comply with the provisions pertaining to them. The rules and regulations set forth in these college publications constitute students' rights and responsibilities in the nursing program. This publication is neither a contract nor an offer to make a contract. The Nursing Program Student Handbook contains the rigorous requirements for admission and retention that takes precedence over the RVCC General Catalog minimum requirements. Statements in these publications may change at any time without prior notice. This publication is reviewed and revised on a yearly basis. The Nursing Program Student Handbook changes become effective the Fall semester following the approved change. Students will be notified via RVCC email if there are exceptions to the effective policy change date. This publication contains information valid as of August 1, 2021. For updated information, visit the HSE website at <https://www.raritanval.edu/nursing-programs> .

As the global pandemic continues to evolve course delivery methods and clinical site requirements remain subject to change pending guidance from public health authorities and in consideration of clinical site conditions.

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I. RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION

Raritan Valley Community College is a Bi-County College serving the residents of Somerset and Hunterdon counties. RVCC is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19104, (215) 662-5606, www.middlestates.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

Raritan Valley Community College is an educational community that works to develop critical thinking, foster intellectual curiosity, promote leadership, encourage social responsibility, support personal growth, and sustain engaged citizenship within a diverse population of students and community members. <https://www.raritanval.edu/general-information/mission>

VISION STATEMENT

Raritan Valley Community College will continue to be a focal point for enriching and broadening the lives of its stakeholders. Raritan Valley Community College is committed to the importance of continuous improvement and is recognized throughout the region, state and country for its academic excellence. By embracing the concept of the Learning College we will continue to empower our students with knowledge, critical thinking skills and the ability to understand the present and change the future. We will prepare our students for participation in an increasingly complex global society. The culture of the institution will support professional development, institutional integrity, and promote leadership. Commitment to our core values will serve as the foundation for our vision.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Raritan Valley Community College values all aspects of diversity including but not limited to race, sexual orientation, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability, socioeconomic status, and political and philosophical perspectives. We rely on diversity to enrich the intellectual environment for students and employees. We support educational access and opportunity by recruiting and retaining a diverse college community. We foster diversity by developing and maintaining curricular and social programs that infuse the contributions of all people, and by preparing students to excel in a global society. Our commitment to diversity is reflected in the College's Mission Statement and Strategic Goals, all of which support excellence in teaching, learning and professional development in a welcoming and respectful climate

CORE VALUES

- RVCC is an open admission institution with high standards and excellent support services.
- RVCC serves as an important center for our community.
- RVCC participates as a reliable partner with the region's K-12 schools to support active learning and college readiness.
- RVCC must provide support for student success, but students are responsible for their own achievements.
- The College values the diversity of our communities as a resource that strengthens the institution.
- The College is accountable for the prudent use of all its resources and seeks transparency in all

its operations.

- The College measures its success against national models and standards.
- The College commits to environmentally sustainable practices.
- Educational programs must be affordable.
- A healthy college community depends on integrity and respect.
- The best college decisions are made on a learning-centered foundation.
- Learning is a lifelong endeavor.

II. NURSING PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Raritan Valley Community College Nursing Program prepares the student to function in three nursing roles – Provider of Care, Manager of Care, and Member of the Profession, which encompasses knowledge and competence as an entry-level professional nurse, by developing individualized plans of care based on contemporary research, respect for diversity, professional interpersonal skills and technological competency.

A. PHILOSOPHY

Our Nursing Program philosophy reflects faculty beliefs about humans, health care, nursing education, and practice of Associate Degree Nursing graduates.

Humans

We believe that humans are multifaceted, diverse, holistic beings who are deserving of care given with a spirit of respect and inclusivity. Within this contextual framework, nursing care supports each individual's efforts to reclaim or develop new pathways of health and human flourishing. As members of society, humans are affected by external forces, including but not limited to, their economic, social, demographic, and political environment.

Health Care

We believe that quality health care focuses on holistic health promotion, illness and injury prevention and, psychosocial support throughout the lifespan. As nurses we facilitate the individual's adaptation to changes which occur during growth and developmental stages, or alterations in health status. Our goal as professional nurses is to provide individuals with the care, knowledge and resources to attain their highest level of function in response to the emotional and physical changes brought about by illness or injury, thus helping them to create for themselves a new sense of normalcy. This requires that nurses have cognitive, psychomotor and affective domain competencies. Nurses must respond to current societal trends and changes that affect healthcare delivery systems and the evolving professional role of nurses. They must also identify the changes that are needed within the various delivery systems and health care settings by being active participants in the change process. Using nursing judgment and a spirit of inquiry, nurses interact with other health care team members to identify problems and gather scientific data relevant to emerging nursing research. This interdisciplinary, collaborative process leads to evidence-based practice, where nurses apply the results of clinical research and best practices. Progress will be most productive, when nurses question the status quo, challenge assumptions, and promote innovative patterns of problem solving. As change occurs in the health care environment, nurses must anticipate the direction of the change and support innovative patterns of responding to the needs of patients, families, and the community. Integral to all facets of change is ability to communicate effectively. The ability to therapeutically communicate face-to-face and to utilize technology for communication and documentation is essential to providing quality, patient centered care. From these

changes, an improved health care delivery system will emerge that will benefit everyone including the individual, family and community.

Nursing Education

Nursing education is a lifelong learning process that results in transformational growth. This transformational growth begins with a progressive course of learning activities, designed to facilitate the development of nursing practice competencies, based on best practice and evidence-based clinical practice standards. The desired outcome of this process is to prepare a safe and competent entry level professional nurse who designs care for diverse populations in multiple care settings.

We believe in creating a learning environment that facilitates adult learners to be self-motivated, independent thinkers committed to continuing education both formally and informally. Nurse educators facilitate the educational process with students by creating an interactive learning environment, with students and faculty having specific rights and responsibilities, using evidence-based pedagogy, technology and clinical resources to support students with varied learning styles to encourage reflective learning.

We believe that effective education is based upon the development of a learning community with all concerned learning from each other through collaboration to advance the acquisition and practice of quality care delivery. The learning environment is based upon academic integrity, trust, open communication, and honest, accurate feedback in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains of learning.

Practice of the Associate Degree Nursing Graduate

To function effectively in a society and a health care delivery system challenged by rapid changes, the associate degree nursing graduate must demonstrate cognitive, psychomotor and affective skill acquisitions in the core components/competencies that characterize the roles of the nurse: provider of care, manager of care, and member within the discipline of nursing. All these roles incorporate a culture of safety and a philosophy of inclusiveness. These core components and competencies are based on (1) Educational Competencies for Graduates of Associate Degree Programs (National League for Nursing, 2010), (2) NCLEX-RN test plan (2019-2022), (3) Institute of Medicine – Future of Nursing report (2010), and (4) Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) (2012).

In the provider of care role, the associate degree nursing graduate demonstrates accountability by responding to human needs and factors that contribute to or threaten health, by applying relevant theories, research, evidence-based guidelines, and principles of teaching and learning within the scope of nursing practice as mandated by the New Jersey Board of Nursing. Nurses provide direct care for individuals and families, recognize community needs and an awareness of local, national and global health needs. Nursing practice embraces the core values of the National League for Nursing: caring, diversity, excellence, integrity, ethics, holism, and patient-centeredness (NLN Competency Model, 2010, fig 1).

As nurses collaborate with professionals from other disciplines, they are uniquely qualified to make critical decisions and assist individuals to meet their changing needs across the lifespan. As a manager and coordinator of care the associate degree nursing graduate provides for the health care needs of individuals and groups through direct or delegated care. In this role it is essential that the graduate utilize effective, respectful communication skills, and use appropriate channels of communication within the inter-disciplinary organizational system.

In the role as a member within the discipline of nursing, the associate degree nursing graduate provides evidence of a personal and professional commitment to life-long learning, professional self-awareness, and supports empowerment of nurses as integral members of the health care system. Nurses encourage

social responsibility and sustained engaged citizenship, through their commitment to caring, advocacy, positive social change, ethical behaviors based on the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses to deliver competent nursing care for diverse populations.

B. NURSING PROGRAM OUTCOMES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Nursing Program Outcomes:

The nursing program of Raritan Valley Community College exists to:

1. Promote educational excellence as evidenced by:
 - a. Maintaining a Nursing Program graduation rate of 70% for students entering the four semesters of clinical nursing courses.
 - b. Meeting or exceeding the national pass rate by first time test takers on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) for associate degree programs as reported by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN).
 - c. Reported satisfaction with the program of learning by nursing graduates at a rate of 90% on the graduate survey.
2. Meet the health care needs of the community by providing entry level nurses as evidenced by:
 - a. Achieving a 70% job placement rate as a Professional Registered Nurse within one year of licensure.
 - b. Recognizing the need for life-long learning, nursing graduates will report on the graduate survey a 50% possibility of pursuing a baccalaureate degree in nursing with 5 years after graduation.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will function as providers of care when they:
 - 1.1. Integrate holistic human needs in providing safe nursing care while encouraging human flourishing of diverse patients in families and communities. (GE- NJ 1, 3, 8)
 - 1.2. Use nursing judgment to assess patient situations and perform clinical decision making. (GE - NJ 1, 2, 3, *)
 - 1.3. Collaborate appropriately and effectively with interdisciplinary members of the health care team. (GE- NJ 1, 4)
 - 1.4. Construct therapeutic interventions within a culture of safety using the nursing process. (GE- NJ 2, 3, 4, ER, *)
 - 1.5. Integrate principles of growth and development with a lifespan perspective. (GE- NJ 3, 5, 8)
 - 1.6. Utilize teaching/learning principles to improve outcomes when caring for patient at different levels of wellness. (GE- NJ 1, 3)
 - 1.7. Utilize evidence based practice/best practice standards when planning and delivering nursing care. (GE- NJ 2, 3, 5, ER, *)
2. The student will function as managers of care when they:
 - 2.1. Demonstrate leadership and management by employing strategies that adapt to different health care delivery systems (GE- NJ 1, 8, ER, *)

- 2.2. Apply concepts of current trends, including information technology, when planning and delivering nursing care. (GE- NJ 4, IL)
 - 2.3. Utilize communication effectively to meet the health care needs of diverse populations. (GE- NJ 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, ER, IL,*)
3. The student will function as members within the profession of nursing when they:
- 3.1. Incorporate ethical behaviors based on the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses when providing care. (GE- NJ ER)
 - 3.2. Implement behaviors which embrace the values of caring, integrity, and inclusiveness. (GE- NJ 5, 8, ER)
 - 3.3. Engage in activities for professional development, transformational growth, and life-long learning. (GE-NJ 3, 4, 5, 8, IL)
 - 3.4. Demonstrate accountability by following the ethical/legal guidelines for professional practice in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey Board of Nursing. (GE- NJ IL, ER,*)

*embedded critical thinking

C. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAM

The conceptual framework of the program is based on the central themes of holism, caring, and inclusiveness; with the core concepts of the role of the nurse as provider of care, manager of care and member with the profession of nursing providing the functional processes for nursing practice. There are 14 core competencies which are integrated throughout the curriculum:

- **Provider of Care**
 1. Holistic human needs
 2. Nursing judgment
 3. Interdisciplinary collaboration
 4. Culture of safety
 5. Lifespan perspective
 6. Teaching/learning
 7. Evidence based practice/best practice standards
- **Manager of Care**
 8. Health care delivery systems
 9. Current trends
 10. Communication
- **Member within the Profession of Nursing**
 11. Ethical behaviors
 12. Caring
 13. Transformational growth
 14. Accountability

D. PROGRAM OF LEARNING

The program of learning is developed, evaluated and revised through continuous and on-going program evaluation during Departmental and Course Team Meetings. In addition, course evaluations by students and clinical facility evaluations by students and faculty are used as part of the program evaluation and revision process. Program assessment is also accomplished through assessment of outcomes. At the end of each academic year, two full day Curriculum Meetings, attended by all nursing faculty, are scheduled to evaluate the program of learning. Based on a review of the findings from the evaluation methods and an assessment of program outcomes and learning objectives, changes in the program of learning are made.

The program of learning is also based on the nursing program's philosophy and program outcomes. The eclectic approach of the nursing program philosophy utilizes components from the theories of Dewey in the active classroom, Roger's holistic beings, Maslow's needs, Erickson's developmental level and Watson's caring model. In addition, there are influences from the theories of Orem, Roy, Selye and Piaget. The pictorial representation of the coherent organizing structure of the program of learning can be found at: The graphic illustration (found at <https://www.raritanval.edu/career-training/nursing-program-objectives>) demonstrates how the program of learning is developed from the nursing program philosophy, which has the global community and the macro and micro society as the underlying structure. The philosophy acknowledges that nurses respond to holistic human needs through a tri-dimensional matrix of nursing judgment, nursing practice competencies and caring behaviors while functioning as providers of care, managers of care and members within the discipline of nursing. In addition to these structural components that are integrated into the core nursing courses, there are fourteen recurring core competencies, which are also interwoven throughout the clinical nursing courses in the program. These recurring competencies are holistic human needs, nursing judgment, interdisciplinary collaboration, culture of safety, lifespan perspective, teaching/learning, evidence-based practice/best practice standards, health care delivery systems, current trends, communication, ethical behaviors, caring, transformational growth, and accountability.

E. ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Nursing Program at Raritan Valley Community College is accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102,

<https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/nur/Pages/default.aspx>

The Nursing Program at Raritan Valley Community College is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, Georgia 30326 www.acenursing.org 1-800-669-1656 Ext. 153.

Raritan Valley Community College is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, 215-662-5605.

<https://www.msche.org/>

III. EDUCATIONAL COMPETENCIES FOR GRADUATES OF ASSOCIATE DEGREE

NURSING PROGRAMS

Professional Behaviors

Professional behaviors within nursing practice are characterized by a commitment to the profession of nursing. The graduate of an associate degree nursing program adheres to standards of professional practice, is accountable for her/his own actions and behaviors, and practices nursing within legal, ethical, and regulatory frameworks. Professional behaviors also include a concern for others, as demonstrated by caring, valuing the profession of nursing, and participating in ongoing professional development.

Upon completion of the associate degree nursing program, the graduate will:

1. Practice within the ethical, legal, and regulatory frameworks of nursing and standards of professional nursing practice.
2. Report unsafe practices of healthcare providers using appropriate channels of communication.
3. Demonstrate accountability for nursing care given by self and/or delegated to others.
4. Use standards of nursing practice to perform and evaluate patient care.
5. Advocate for patient rights.
6. Maintain organizational and patient confidentiality.
7. Practice within the parameters of individual knowledge and experience.
8. Describe political processes as they affect agency specific healthcare.
9. Participate as a member of professional organizations.
10. Serve as a positive role model within healthcare settings and the community at large.
11. Recognize the impact of economic, political, social, and demographic forces on the delivery of healthcare.
12. Participate in lifelong learning.
13. Develop and implement a plan to meet self-learning needs.
14. Delineate and maintain appropriate professional boundaries in the nurse-patient relationship.

Communication

Communication in nursing is an interactive process through which there is an exchange of information that may occur verbally, non-verbally, in writing, or through information technology. Those who may be included in this process are the nurse, patient, significant support person(s), other members of the healthcare team, and community agencies. Effective communication demonstrates caring, compassion, and cultural awareness, and is directed toward promoting positive outcomes and establishing a trusting relationship.

Therapeutic communication is an interactive verbal and non-verbal process between the nurse and patient that assist the patient to cope with change, develop more satisfying interpersonal relationships, and integrate new knowledge skills.

Upon completion of the associate degree nursing program, the graduate will:

1. Utilize therapeutic communication skills when interacting with patients and significant person(s).
2. Communicate relevant, accurate, and complete information in a concise and clear manner.
3. Report and document assessments, interventions, and progress toward patient outcomes.
4. Protect confidential information.
5. Utilize information technology to support and communicate the planning and provision of patient care.

6. Utilize appropriate channels of communication to achieve positive patient outcomes.

Assessment

Assessment is the collection, analysis, and synthesis of relevant data for the purpose of appraising the patient's health status. Comprehensive assessment provides a holistic view of the patient, which includes dimensions of physical, developmental, emotional, psychosocial, cultural, spiritual, and functional status. Assessment involves the orderly collection of information from multiple sources to establish a foundation for provision of nursing care, and includes identification of available resources to meet patient needs. Initial assessment provides a baseline for future comparisons that can be made in order to individualize patient care. Ongoing assessment and reassessment are required to meet the patient's changing needs.

Upon completion of the associate degree nursing program, the graduate will:

1. Assess the interaction patterns of the individual patient or significant support person(s).
2. Assess the impact of developmental, emotional, cultural, religious, and spiritual influences on the patient's health status.
3. Assess the patient's health status by completing a health history and performing a physical, cognitive, psychosocial, and functional assessment.
4. Assess patient and significant support person(s) for learning strengths, capabilities, barrier, and educational needs.
5. Assess the patient's response to actual or potential health problems.
6. Assess the patient's response to interventions.
7. Assess the patient for changes in health status and identified needs.
8. Assess the patient's ability to access available community resources.
9. Assess the environment for factors that may impact the patient's health status.
10. Assess the strengths, resources, and needs of patients within the content of their community.

Clinical Decision Making

Clinical decision making encompasses the performance of accurate assessments, the use of multiple methods to access information, and the analysis and integration of knowledge and information to formulate clinical judgments. Effective clinical decision making results in finding solutions, individualizing care, and assuring delivery of accurate, safe care that moves the patient and support person(s) toward positive outcomes. Evidence based, best practices and the use of critical thinking provide the foundation for appropriate clinical decision making.

Upon completion of the associate degree nursing program, the graduate will:

1. Make clinical judgments and management decisions to ensure provision of accurate and safe care.
2. Analyze and utilize assessment and reassessment data to plan care.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of care provided meet patient outcomes.
4. Modify patient care as indicated by the evaluation of outcomes.
5. Participate in problem identification and data collection for research, quality control, or improvement processes to meet patient outcomes.
6. Use evidence-based information, collected electronically or through other means to support clinical decision making.

Caring Interventions

Caring interventions are those nursing behaviors and actions that assist patients in meeting their needs. These interventions are based on a knowledge and understanding of the natural sciences, behavioral sciences, nursing theory, nursing research, and past nursing experiences. Caring is the “being with” and “doing for” that assist patients to achieve the desired results. Caring behaviors are nurturing, protective, compassionate, and person-centered. Caring creates an environment of hope and trust, where patient choices related to cultural values, beliefs, and lifestyle are respected.

Upon completion of the associate degree nursing program, the graduate will:

1. Protect and promote the patient’s dignity.
2. Identify and honor the emotional, cultural, religious, and spiritual influences on the patient’s health.
3. Demonstrate caring behavior towards the patient, significant support person(s), peers, and other members of the healthcare team.
4. Provide accurate and safe nursing care in diverse settings.
5. Implement the prescribed care regimen within the legal, ethical, and regulatory framework of nursing practice.
6. Perform nursing skills competently.
7. Provide a safe physical and psychosocial environment for the patient.
8. Assist the patient and significant support person(s) to cope with and adapt to stressful events and changes in health status.
9. Assist the patient to achieve optimum comfort and functioning.
10. Prepare the patient and significant support person(s) for intervention, treatment modalities, and self-care.
11. Support the patient and significant support person(s) when making healthcare and end-of-life decisions.
12. Adapt care in consideration of the patient’s values, customs, and/or habits.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning processes are used to promote and maintain health and reduce risks, and are implemented in collaboration with the patient, significant support person(s), and other members of the healthcare team. Teaching encompasses the provision of health education to promote and facilitate informed decision-making, achieve positive outcomes, and support self-care activities. Integral components of the teaching process include the transmission of information, evaluation of the response to teaching, and modification of teaching based on identified responses. Learning involves the assimilation of information to expand knowledge and change behavior.

Upon completion of the associate degree nursing program, the graduate will:

1. Develop an individualized teaching plan based on assessed needs.
2. Provide the patient and significant support person(s) with the information to make choices regarding health.
3. Teach the patient and significant support person(s) the information and skills needed to achieve desired learning outcomes.
4. Evaluate the progress of the patient and significant support person(s) toward achievement of identified learning outcomes.
5. Modify the teaching plan based on evaluation of progress toward meeting identified learning

outcomes.

6. Provide assertive personnel with relevant instruction to support achievement of patient outcomes.

Collaboration

Collaboration is the shared planning, decision-making, problem solving, goal setting, and assumption of responsibilities by those who work together cooperatively, with open professional communication. Collaboration occurs with the patient, significant support person(s), peers, other members of the healthcare team, and community agencies. The nurse participates in the team approach to holistic, patient-centered care across healthcare settings. The nurse functions as advocate, liaison, coordinator, and colleague, as team members' work together to meet patient needs and move the patient toward positive outcomes. Collaboration requires consideration of patient needs priorities and preferences, available resources and services, shared accountability, and mutual respect.

Upon completion of the associate degree nursing program, the graduate will:

1. Coordinate the decision making process with the patient, significant support person(s), and other members of the healthcare team.
2. Work cooperatively with others to achieve patient and organizational outcomes.
3. Collaborate with the patient, significant support person(s), and other members of the healthcare team to evaluate progress toward achievement of outcomes.
4. Interact creatively and openly with others to solve problems to achieve patient goals and outcomes.

Managing Care

Managing care is the efficient, effective use of human, physical, financial, and technological resources to meet patient needs and support organizational outcomes. Effective management is accomplished through the processes of planning, organizing, directing, and controlling. The nurse, in collaboration with the healthcare team, uses these processes to assist the patient to move toward positive outcomes in a cost efficient manner, to transition within and across healthcare settings, and to access resources.

Upon completion of the associate degree nursing program, the graduate will:

1. Prioritize patient care.
2. Coordinate the implementation of an individualized plan of care for patients and significant support person(s).
3. Facilitate the continuity of care within and across healthcare settings.
4. Delegate aspects of patient care to qualified assistive personnel.
5. Supervise and evaluate the activities of assistive personnel.
6. Adapt the provision of patient care to changing healthcare settings and management systems.
7. Assist the patient and significant support person(s) to access available resources and services.
8. Implement nursing strategies to provide cost efficient care.
9. Demonstrate competence with current technologies.

Source: Coxwell, G & Gillerman, H. (Eds.). (2000). *Educational Competencies for Graduates of Associate Degree Nursing Programs*. (Council of Associate Degree Nursing Competencies Task Force: National League for Nursing). Sudbury, Mass.: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

In the current climate of nursing education, the National League for Nursing published *Outcomes and Competencies for graduates of Practical/Vocational, Associate degree, Baccalaureate, Masters,*

Practice Doctorate, and Research Doctorate Programs in Nursing, 2010. The focus today is on four broad program outcomes for nurses that of use of knowledge to enhance human flourishing, sound judgment, professional identity and have a spirit of inquiry. Refer to www.nln.org for the NLN Education Competencies Model for viewing.

IV. CURRICULUM PLAN AND OPTIONS

Curriculum Design

In order to support the philosophy and outcomes of the Nursing Program, the broad based curriculum design includes general education courses in the physical, social and behavioral sciences, art, and humanities and established nursing concepts and interventions (nursing science). This mix provides the framework and means for the acquisition of knowledge and skills for nursing practice competencies in the three major interrelated roles of Associate Degree nursing practice. In addition, the inclusion of general education courses promotes and supports the acquisition of a quality education and intellectual achievement in a community of scholars, prepares students to be responsible citizens and promotes a knowledge of global issues.

Program Sequence and Admission Requirements

Located on the following pages are the prerequisites and all developmental courses that must be completed prior to admission to the clinical nursing program and the program sequence.

The following information on the Nursing/RN, Associate of Applied Science and the Nursing (PN/AD), Associate of Applied Science Degree options are from the Raritan Valley Community College 2020-2021 Catalog <https://www.raritanval.edu/academic-programs/catalog>

A. Generic Program in Nursing Admission Requirements and Program Sequence

Nursing /RN Associate of Applied Science RVCC Catalog 2020/2021

http://catalog.raritanval.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=11&poid=1279&returnto=724

The Associate of Applied Science Degree program in Nursing prepares students for entry-level positions in nursing and to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The program is accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The course of study is designed as a career program, although graduates may wish to continue studies for a baccalaureate degree in nursing at a four-year institution. Credits earned are applied in whole or in part to the upper-division program depending on the policies of the institution to which application is made. Articulation agreements which enhance this process are in effect with numerous colleges and universities.

The nursing program includes nursing courses, general education courses and clinical experiences. These experiences are in a variety of health care settings in acute, sub-acute, and long term care with community-based experiences under the supervision of nursing faculty. In addition, students practice nursing intervention skills in the fully-equipped college laboratory. Evening and day sections are available.

All prerequisites must be completed before submitting an application into the clinical program. Eligible applicants will be evaluated based on selective criteria and ranked according to performance. Admission to clinical nursing courses is granted to the highest ranked applicants. All nursing clinical courses must be taken in an unbroken sequence. If there is a break in sequence, the student must request re-admission into the program with re-entry on a space-available basis.

Since this is a rigorous program, students with weak basic skills or no previous college-level experience may require a longer period of time to complete the program. In order to progress through the program, a grade of 78 percent or better in all nursing courses, a grade of "C" or better in all science courses, and satisfactory clinical evaluations are required. Nursing policy states that two grades of D, F, W or AU in any required science courses or Nursing courses will make a student ineligible to continue in the Nursing program. All required science courses must have been completed within the past 5 years for students applying to the college as pre-nursing majors as of 9/1/17. Students who became pre-nursing majors before 9/1/2017 may follow previous nursing requirements and will have no time limit of required science courses. An exit exam to identify readiness for licensure is required in the final semester. All students enrolled in clinical nursing courses must have a yearly health maintenance survey by their health care practitioner and maintain current liability insurance and BLS-C CPR certification while in the program. In addition, a yearly criminal history background check must be completed.

Licensure for the practice of professional nursing is regulated by the New Jersey Board of Nursing.

Limitations to NCLEX-RN testing, licensure and professional practice may occur for actions or pending actions against any licenses currently held or surrendering of any license, arrest, indictment or conviction for violation of any law or regulation within the last ten years, including motor vehicle offenses, such as driving while impaired or intoxicated.

Graduates are able to:

provide client-centered holistic nursing care across the lifespan by responding to evidenced wellness states
manage and coordinate care for individuals, groups and families experiencing disruptions in wellness states
practice as a member within the profession of nursing

PLEASE NOTE: Students interested in pursuing the nursing program will initially be enrolled into the AS in H

majors. Students must complete the pre-requisites in order to become eligible to apply for selective admission for entrance

Admission requirement(s): Complete RVCC application including proof of high school completion or GED, and transcripts from all colleges attended. Applicants must have completed all prerequisites and the required nursing entrance test (ATI-TEAS), and submit a letter of intent from Somerset or Hunterdon County before applying to the clinical courses. All applicants will be evaluated and given a rank based on their overall GPA, A&P grades, and ATI-TEAS scores. The highest-scoring students will be offered admission first. Students who are currently a resident of Somerset or Hunterdon County are given priority placement.

CURRICULUM – GENERIC PROGRAM

PREREQUISITE COURSES

BIOL 124 - Human Anatomy & Physiology I **4 Credits** ¹

BIOL 125 - Human Anatomy & Physiology II **4 Credits** ¹

Mathematics Proficiency ⁷

Technological Competency ⁸

ATI TEAS (Entrance Test) ⁹

Overall college GPA of 2.75 or higher

Reading & Writing Proficiency ¹⁰

FIRST YEAR - FALL SEMESTER

ENGL 111 - English Composition I **3 Credits**

NURS 101 - Foundations of Nursing **9 Credits** ^{1,6}

NURS 016 - Pharmacology Clinical Calculations **2 Non-Credits** ^{2,6}

FITN 115 - Dynamics of Fitness & Wellness **1 Credit** ⁵

FIRST YEAR - SPRING SEMESTER

ENGL 112 - English Composition II **3 Credits**

PSYC 103 - Introduction to Psychology **3 Credits**

NURS 111 - Nursing of Adults I **9 Credits** ^{1,6}

SECOND YEAR - FALL SEMESTER

NURS 122 - Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing **4 Credits** ^{1,6}

NURS 123 - Nursing of Adults II **4 Credits** ^{1,6}

Humanities **3 Credits** ³

BIOL 133 - Principles of Microbiology **4 Credits** ¹

SOCI 101 - Introduction to Sociology **3 Credits**

SECOND YEAR - SPRING SEMESTER

NURS 124 - Nursing of Families with Children **4 Credits** ^{1,6}

NURS 125 - Nursing Care for the Childbearing Family **4 Credits** ^{1,6}

NURS 211 - Trends in Nursing **3 Credits** ^{1,6}

Free Elective **3 Credits** ⁴

TOTAL CREDITS 68

1 A grade of "C" or better is required in all Science and Clinical Nursing courses.

2 Students who pass the Pharmacology Calculations Lab Placement Test are exempt from this course.

3 Select a course from the appropriate category of the General Education list. Current Moral and Social Issues (PHIL-106) is the preferred Humanities course.

4 Any college-level course.

5 FITN 142 Elements of Physical Fitness or FITN 204 Exercise Physiology & Body Mechanics - (pre-req BIOL 120 Human Biology) may be substituted.

6 Enrollment in these courses is restricted to students formally admitted to the Nursing Clinical Courses. All other courses are open and should be taken by students waiting for admission to the Nursing Clinical Courses.

7 Mathematics Proficiency - This degree requires a minimum math proficiency through MATH 020 Elementary Algebra.

8 Select a course from the appropriate category of the General Education list. Technological Competency may also be met by passing the Technological Competency test (no credit).*

9 The ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) is required of all applicants. Scores will be used to determine admission. (www.atitesting.com)

10 Complete any developmental courses required in reading and writing, including ESL (English as a Second Language) courses.

***NOTE:** Technological Competency must have been demonstrated within the last seven years.

B. PNAD Program Admission Requirements and Program Sequence

http://catalog.raritanval.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=11&pooid=1278&returnto=724

Nursing (PN/AD), Associate of Applied Science Degree Option in Nursing

The Associate of Applied Science Degree program in Nursing (PN/AD Option) prepares graduates of Practical Nursing programs who want to advance their educational preparation to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Graduates are prepared for an entry-level position as registered nurses. The program is accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The course of study is designed as a career program, although graduates may wish to continue their studies for a baccalaureate degree in nursing at a four-year institution. Credits earned are applied in whole or in part to the upper division program depending on the policies of the institution to which application is made. Articulation agreements which enhance this process are in effect with numerous colleges and universities.

The nursing program includes nursing courses, general education courses and clinical experiences. These experiences are in varied health care settings in acute care, subacute and long term care and community-based care under the supervision of nursing faculty. In addition, students practice nursing intervention skills in the fully-equipped college laboratory.

The program requires one summer session (Nursing Transition) and one year of study. All developmental courses and Anatomy and Physiology I and II must be completed with a grade of "C" or better and an overall 2.75 GPA is required for admission into Nursing Transition. Due to its concentrated and rigorous design, it is recommended that students devote themselves fulltime for study and preparation. In order to progress through the program, a grade of "C" or better in all nursing and science courses and satisfactory clinical evaluations must be achieved. Nursing policy states that two grades of D, F/W or AU in any required science courses or Nursing courses will make a student ineligible to continue in the Nursing program. All required science courses must have been completed within the past 5 years for students applying to the college as pre-nursing majors as of 9/1/17. Students who became pre-nursing majors before 9/1/2017 may follow previous nursing requirements and will have no time limit of required science courses. Nursing clinical courses must be taken in an unbroken sequence. If there is a break in sequence, the student must request re-admission into the program with re-entry on a space-available basis. This is a rigorous program. Students with weak basic skills or no previous college-level experience may require a longer period of time to complete the program. All students must have a yearly health maintenance survey by their health care practitioner and maintain current liability insurance while in the program.

Licensure for the practice of professional nursing is regulated by the New Jersey Board of Nursing. Limitations to NCLEX-RN testing, licensure and professional practice may occur for substance/alcohol abuse or violation and conviction of any federal or state law involving moral turpitude or relating adversely to the nursing profession.

Graduates are able to:

provide client-centered holistic nursing care across the lifespan by responding to evidenced wellness states
manage and coordinate care for individuals, groups and families experiencing disruptions in wellness states
practice as a member within the profession of nursing

PLEASE NOTE: Students interested in pursuing the PNAD/RN nursing program will initially be enrolled into the AS in Health Science degree as pre-PNAD majors. Students must complete the pre-requisites in order to become eligible to apply for selective admission for entrance into the PNAD nursing program.

Admission Requirement(s): The following forms are to be submitted to the Admissions Office - completed RVCC application, including proof of HS completion or GED, transcripts from all colleges attended, official transcript from LPN school, and LPN Recommendation Form. A current LPN license from the State of New Jersey must be presented at time of registration. All developmental classes and prerequisites must be completed by the PNAD clinical application deadline date. Graduation from a LPN program with a 3.25 GPA or higher. Entrance testing will be required by the nursing program. Students who submit proof of residency for Somerset or Hunterdon County are given priority placement.

CURRICULUM – PN/AD OPTION

- Transfer credits from LPN education **15 Credits**

PREREQUISITE COURSES

- 85 average (3.25 GPA) from LPN program
- [BIOL 124 - Human Anatomy & Physiology I](#) **4 Credits** ¹
- [BIOL 125 - Human Anatomy & Physiology II](#) **4 Credits** ¹
- Reading & Writing Proficiency ²
- Mathematics Proficiency ³
- Technological Comptency ⁴
- Overall College GPA of 2.75 or higher
- Required Entrance Exam ⁵

SUMMER TRANSITION SESSION (6 WEEKS)

- [NURS 130 - Nursing Transition](#) **6 Credits** ^{1,6}
- [ENGL 111 - English Composition I](#) **3 Credits**
- [PSYC 103 - Introduction to Psychology](#) **3 Credits**

FALL SEMESTER

- [NURS 123 - Nursing of Adults II](#) **4 Credits** ^{1,6}
- [NURS 122 - Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing](#) **4 Credits** ^{1,6}
- [ENGL 112 - English Composition II](#) **3 Credits**
- [BIOL 133 - Principles of Microbiology](#) **4 Credits** ¹
- [FITN 115 - Dynamics of Fitness & Wellness](#) **1 Credit** ¹

SPRING SEMESTER

- [NURS 125 - Nursing Care for the Childbearing Family](#) **4 Credits** ^{1,6}
- [NURS 124 - Nursing of Families with Children](#) **4 Credits** ^{1,6}
- Humanities **3 Credits** ⁷
- [NURS 211 - Trends in Nursing](#) **3 Credits** ⁶
- [SOC 101 - Introduction to Sociology](#) **3 Credits**

TOTAL CREDITS 68

1 A grade of “C” or better is required in all Science and Clinical Nursing courses.

2 Complete any developmental courses required in Reading and Writing, including ESL (English as a Second Language) courses.

³ Mathematics Proficiency - This degree requires a minimum math proficiency through MATH 020 - Elementary Algebra.

⁴ Select a course from the appropriate category of the General Education list. Technological Competency may also be met by passing the Technological Competency test (no credit).*

⁵ Refer to the Health Science Education webpage, <http://www.raritanval.edu/academics/dept/hs/index.html>

⁶ Enrollment in these courses is restricted to students formally admitted to the Nursing Clinical courses. All other courses are open and should be taken by students waiting for admission to the Nursing Clinical courses.

⁷ Select a course from the appropriate category of the General Education list. PHIL 106 - Current Moral and Social Issues is the preferred Humanities course.

*NOTE: Technological Competency must have been demonstrated within the last seven years.

C. ADVANCED STANDING IN THE NURSING PROGRAM **Advanced Standing – Nursing Challenge Examination Option**

Applicants who have been fully accepted for admission into the nursing program and who fall into the categories identified below are eligible to take the Foundations of Nursing Challenge Examination (For Fall 2020, all prerequisites, including taking ATI TEAS with a score of 60% or higher overall since 8/31/18-present time, must be met- see attached catalog page)

- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Former diploma school nursing students with at least one year of clinical study completed
- Discharged Corpsmen/Medics

. After successfully passing 2 written and 1 practical examination, and the Pharmacology Clinical Calculations Placement Test, they are admitted to the nursing program, receive 9 credits for Foundations of Nursing and subsequently enroll in Nursing Seminar (fall semester, classroom and brief clinical course). Following admission into the nursing program, students must take the New Jersey Basic Skills Test and complete all remedial course work prior to continued enrollment in a clinical nursing course if need be.

Applicants who achieve a satisfactory grade on each exam component are exempt from the first nursing course (Foundations of Nursing – 9 credits). The students who successfully pass all testing enter Nursing Seminar in the fall semester. Nursing Seminar is designed to assist students in reviewing content from Foundations of Nursing in order to prepare them to enter Nursing of Adults I in the spring semester.

IF you qualify and are interested in Advanced Standing, all prerequisites must be completed by the end of the SUMMER I semester – June, 2020, this is to allow time for challenge exam testing preparations and if admitted to the program for Fall 2020, time to complete health maintenance and program requirements for clinical clearance and Nursing Seminar I class registration.

Please email Nadine.larson@raritanval.edu if you are interested and 100% qualify in taking the Challenge Examination Option- NO LATER THAN July 1, 2020. Attach ATI TEAS results to this email and cut and paste your RVCC transcript into the email to verify you have met all prerequisites to test. A background check via adamsafeguard.com is mandatory for students applying to the nursing program. Once a test date is confirmed with you, you will be asked to order the background check prior to testing. Students who have unfavorable findings on their background check will not be permitted to take the challenge examination, nor will be admitted to the nursing program.

Date of next challenge exam for 2020-2021 academic year- TBD.

V. TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

A. AAS to BSN Dual Admission Articulation Tract: Kean University

The dual admission AAS to BSN articulation tract will provide a seamless program transition for RVCC nursing students to continue on towards their BSN with completion attained in four years from Kean University. The BSN is a 125 credit, upper division program with nursing and support courses offered at RVCC taught by Kean University – School of Nursing faculty. Students will apply to Kean

University during the spring semester of Year One (1) and will be matriculated as intended nursing majors at Kean University. As intended majors, students may be eligible for enrollment in the Kean University foundational level courses of NURS 3000 and NURS 3010 during the summer of their first completed year in the RVCC-AAS nursing program and may continue in select Kean University BSN courses until completion of the RVCC-AAS nursing program. Students will be enrolled as full majors in the BSN program at Kean University upon the successful completion of their AAS degree in nursing and the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Financial aid will be directed to RVCC for the first two years; after which financial aid will be directed to Kean University. In order to fully participate in the AAS-BSN Dual Admission Program, the RVCC-AAS degree nursing students must have completed Foundations of Nursing (NURS 101) and Nursing of Adults I (NURS 111) with a minimum grade of B.

For more information about the Dual Admission AAS to BSN tract at Kean University, please contact the Kean University Program Coordinator at 908-526-1200 Ext. 8917. The Kean University – School of Nursing office is located in Somerset Hall, first floor, opposite The University Center near the library. The website is <https://www.kean.edu/academics/programs/nursing>

B. Transfer and Articulation Agreements

Multiple articulation agreements exist with other colleges which facilitate smooth admission into baccalaureate programs. Students are urged to retain the college catalog, student handbook, course manuals and essential course materials for use during possible transfer to other institutions. Transcripts are available through Enrollment Services. Consult the RVCC University Center for information and cost. For additional information, call 908-526-1200 Ext. 8939 or email Univcen@raritanval.edu

VI. NURSING PROGRAM MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

A. Teaching and Learning Modalities

First Year Courses – This includes, but are not limited to, experiences in a variety of health care facilities and in the community

1. Classroom Instruction
2. Nursing Simulation Laboratory
3. Faculty Supervised Clinical Practice and /or Virtual Clinical Simulation Experiences
4. On Campus Clinical Days and/or remote instruction
5. Computer-Assisted Technology and online coursework
6. Assessment Technology Institute (ATI) Testing
7. Media Center Resources
8. High/Low-fidelity Patient Simulation Exercises

Second Year Courses – This includes, but are not limited to, experiences in a variety of health care facilities and in the community with Service Learning opportunities.

1. Classroom Instruction
2. Nursing Simulation Laboratory
3. Faculty Supervised Clinical Practice and/or Virtual Clinical Simulation Experiences
4. On Campus Clinical Days and/or remote instruction
5. Computer-Assisted Technology and online coursework

6. Assessment Technology Institute (ATI) Testing
7. Media Center Resources
8. High/Low-fidelity Patient Simulation Exercises
9. Virtual simulation
10. Honors Option Sections
11. Service Learning Projects
12. NCLEX Review Format

Lecture -On Campus Clinical Days and Online Course Activities

On Campus Clinical Days and /or synchronous and asynchronous online course activities (formerly known as Marathon Lectures) are lectures and/or other learning activities occurring at the beginning and end of each clinical nursing course. These days may be scheduled in addition to the regularly scheduled course lectures for each course. During this time there is a large amount of theory and/or skills taught. The number of On Campus Clinical and /or synchronous and asynchronous online course activities varies by course. Students are reminded to consult specific course calendar for these dates and times. These dates have also been placed on Lion's Den in course schedule/course registration. The purpose of On Campus Clinical and/ or synchronous and asynchronous activities are to maximize student preparation, competency and safety to administer care to patients in the clinical setting.

Assessment Technology Institute (ATI) Testing

In accordance with current evidence-based practice literature on NCLEX-RN success, continued assessment and exit/predictor examinations have been proven to support successful completion of nursing programs and NCLEX-RN licensure examination pass rates. After careful review, the nursing faculty at RVCC has selected the testing resources from Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI). The testing resources available from ATI, which are purchased prior to attending the Nursing Program orientation (Camp I Can), are used to assess the student's specific content mastery throughout the nursing program, and in addition for assessing their comprehensive knowledge base prior to graduation. ATI provides students with tools to identify areas where additional academic work is needed and to support student success throughout the nursing program. Students will use the results of these ATI tests to validate their strengths and identify areas in need of improvement. Students can access their test results and take non-proctored exams at <http://www.atitesting.com> . ATI scores are final.

ATI Progression Testing Policy: All students are required to take the ATI test related to the specific course content at the end of each nursing clinical course. Each course syllabus will have course-specific ATI policies and ATI scores are final. The use of a third-party remote proctoring platform may be used and students must comply with remote proctored test policies.

RVCC Policy for use of ATI™ Nursing Education Materials:

Raritan Valley Community College Nursing Program, like many other nursing programs nationally, uses Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) educational materials throughout the program.

During each of the nursing courses, instructors will require assignments, assessments and/or remediation activities to enhance your learning, identify strengths and weaknesses and improve your nursing knowledge and predict your success on the NCLEX-RN licensing examination.

The following are the components of the ATI program:

- Modules/eBooks
- Tutorials
- Assessments – Practice, Non-proctored and Proctored
- Focused Reviews/Active Learning and Templates/Remediation
- Remote proctoring via a third- party proctoring platform

Each student is encouraged to complete the Steps to Success module in the ATI PLAN-STUDENT ORIENTATION section to familiarize yourselves with the scope of these supplemental educational materials.

Please note: The ATI Educational Materials are used in addition to each nursing course’s required textbooks and course materials. Content for course examinations is taken from required textbooks, unless otherwise indicated by instructor(s).

ATI Comprehensive Predictor Examination Policy:

Students are required to complete the proctored ATI Comprehensive Exit Examination which is a required component of a final semester course. The ATI Comprehensive Predictor Examination is an exam used to predict success on the NCLEX-RN. This multiple-choice, proctored ATI exam is an accurate way to measure NCLEX-RN preparedness.

Honors Options Courses

All clinical courses in the second year offer Honors Options opportunities. Students engage in enriched and expanded clinical/class activities and projects utilizing an organized plan and objectives. In order to participate, student must have a 3.5 GPA, express an interest in the nursing specialty and apply for acceptance into the Honors Option.

Service Learning Projects

Learning and service are closely intertwined at Raritan Valley Community College in a program called Service Learning. By successfully creating a required Service Learning Project, second year students are offered a unique opportunity to work directly within the community in Adults II and their Trends in Nursing course. Each year, community agencies become more aware of our Trends in Nursing projects, and have contacted us to solicit help in creating and disseminating information into the community. Students develop critical thinking skills, individuality and civic pride by partnering with community businesses, schools and agencies.

B. Nursing Simulation Laboratory

The laboratory is equipped with the latest technology, such as computers, tablets for manikins, high and low fidelity manikins or simulators allowing students to participate in a variety of lab-based curricular simulation activities intended to strengthen critical thinking, decision making, and delegation and teamwork skills. The main lab space is configured for both psychomotor skills practice and high fidelity simulation. Students practice technical skills within a deliberate simulation environment. The lab features acute beds, a computer lab, a simulated home area, high and low fidelity manikins or simulators, such as SIMMAN, SIMBABY, NURSING ANNE, NURSING KELLY.

Simulation Lab Policies: Students must register for a DEMO Lab section at the time of registration for the following clinical course – Foundations of Nursing (NURS 101) and Nursing of Adults I (NURS

111). When a Demo and/or Learning Lab section is filled, changes cannot be made unless a seat opens. Section sizes are determined by faculty contracts and room size, which cannot be exceeded.

There will be a sign in sheet for Demo. Students will get their check off sheet signed that they attended demo. If Demo is not signed off, the student cannot be checked off in the Wednesday skills lab that corresponds with that Demo skill. All absences from Demo and/or Skills Lab Check Off must be made up within one week. If not, students must bring appropriate written documentation for the absence to the course coordinator explaining the inability to accomplish the make up with the one week time period. Students can have a maximum of two (2) absences from demo or check off. If they miss a third demo or check off they need to meet with the course coordinator to discuss strategies to improve skills performance. Students are expected to spend time in independent study in preparation for Simulation/Learning Lab. Minimal prep time is 2 hours for each hour of lecture time and one hour of prep time for each hour of clinical and learning lab time. Students will be required to sign in and out of the laboratory in order to document time spent in independent study.

Students coming from work requiring a uniform or from clinical experience where the RVCC uniform is required may not wear this apparel to the learning lab. These uniforms are considered contaminated and students trying to come to the lab wearing these clothing articles will not be allowed into the lab. Please change out of contaminated uniforms before entering the laboratory at school.

C. Clinical experiences

Essential Functions Required for Success in the Nursing Clinical Courses:

A successful candidate for the nursing program at Raritan Valley Community College must possess certain abilities and skills necessary to administer safe and effective nursing care. The candidate must be able to function on an independent level without an intermediary. These skills and abilities include: observation, communication, motor skills, cognitive and intellectual skills, behavioral and social attributes. (Adapted from the ANA-Standards of Nursing Practice, 2010).

- Observation – The candidate must have the ability to observe a patient. In order to observe a patient, the nurse must possess the ability to utilize the senses skillfully. The nurse must have the ability to see, hear, smell and touch the patient.
- Communication – The candidate must be able to speak, read, comprehend, write and listen attentively in the English language. These abilities are essential for patient contact, as well as with the patient's family and when collaborating with members of the health team.
- Motor – The candidate must have sufficient motor function such that they are able to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. The candidate must be able to administer physical care to patients in different settings (i.e. assisting the patient in the activities of daily living, feeding, bathing, assisting the patient to get out of bed, lifting and transferring); operate various equipment utilized in the patient's care; have stamina for clinical work; possess gross and fine movements for operation of certain equipment (i.e. taking blood pressure, handling syringes and needles or maintaining aseptic technique for dressings); ability to push, pull, support, roll adult patients, as well as the ability to lift infants and children is required.
- Cognitive-Intellectual – The candidate must possess the ability to think critically (i.e. comprehend, interpret, analyze, synthesize and evaluate) which is essential to the problem-solving technique necessary for patient care. Application of theory to practice is mandatory in affording the patient safe, quality care.
- Behavioral and Social Attributes – The candidate must possess emotional stability which

includes adapting quickly to changing environments, focusing attention on task, accountability for monitoring/controlling own emotions, dealing with the unexpected, and performing multiple responsibilities concurrently. In addition, the candidate must possess honesty and integrity that provides the capacity to function effectively in a healthcare setting.

- Hearing and Visual – The candidate must be able to hear normal speaking levels, faint noises, faint body sounds, hear in situation when not able to see lips, hear auditory alarms and to see objects up to 20 feet away such as computer screen and/or the patient in the room.

Assignment to a Clinical Group: Students register for all clinical sections with the Coordinator of Health Science Education. Appointments are scheduled based on timely completion of required health maintenance and clinical contract requirements. The New Jersey Board of Nursing requires that no more than 10 students be assigned to a clinical group with one instructor. When a potential for conflict and/or potential HIPAA violation exists, faculty reserve the right to reassign students to another clinical facility. In order to prevent a possible conflict or HIPAA violation, students cannot register for a clinical rotation at the agency they are employed at.

Clinical site student placement and registration is done by Ms. Larson, Coordinator of Health Science Education. Students are prohibited from contacting the clinical site and/ or clinical site staff directly. Students who attempt to contact clinical site and/or clinical site staff for purposes of changing or requesting clinical site placement, obtaining ID badges or computer access information will be dismissed from the clinical component and may be dismissed from the program and will be referred to the Divisional Dean and the Dean of Student Affairs for violation of code of conduct and nursing program policy.

Please note: Students who wish to change clinical sites after registration may only do so by an even exchange with another student prior to first day of the semester. Such an exchange is the responsibility of the student(s). All students involved in the exchange must meet with the Coordinator of Health Science Education to complete the process prior to the first day of the semester.

Clinical Sites – A wide variety of clinical sites throughout the state are used to achieve clinical objectives. Clinical times, days and sites are **subject to change** without notice based on availability of clinical sites and faculty. Faculty will attempt to notify students about these changes as soon as possible, but there may be times when there is no advance notice. Admission to the nursing program guarantees a clinical seat, however it may not be the student's first choice.

On-campus clinical experiences and simulation may be used in lieu of clinical sites.

Please note: Some hospitals distribute temporary identification badges and/or parking tags (for which there may be a fee). These are hospital property and there may be a fee for non-returned items. The student is responsible to return hospital issued ID badges and/or parking passes. Failure to return a hospital issued ID badge/pass may incur a fee payable to the hospital and student will be ineligible to register for subsequent term

Confidentiality – All students must maintain confidentiality and never discuss patient information outside of the agency. Students are required to comply with privacy and confidentiality regulations as outlined in the healthcare agencies in which they practice as per the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996(HIPAA) <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/index.html>

Each clinical site will have mandatory HIPAA learning modules for students to complete. Failure to

successfully complete mandatory HIPAA training or violation of HIPAA can result in immediate and permanent program dismissal.

Social Media Policy

Social media includes (but is not limited to) social networking sites, video sites, chat rooms, forums, blogs, texting, and online communications. Internet postings may be discoverable by a court of law even after deleted. Prohibited actions include, but are not limited to: discussion, posting, photo or reference to the student's clinical experience via social media; any discussion in reference to patients, employees, procedures, students, faculty and/or the clinical institution; taking of photos, videos, audio recordings and other images including the grounds/exterior of the clinical site; posting of faculty and staff emails or documents. Violation can result in immediate and permanent program dismissal.

Travel Arrangements for Clinical Experiences – All students are required to travel varying distances during a portion of their clinical experiences due to restrictions in numbers imposed by the cooperating hospitals and by curriculum. No changes in clinical assignment can be made unless the student requesting a change can find a student in the alternate hospital to switch places. These changes must be made prior to Monday of the first clinical week. Students may find it useful to car-pool and in many instances hospital agencies limit the amount of parking available and request car-pooling. Parking fees are the responsibility of the student. Students who are unable to arrange to attend clinical practice in the assigned facility and cannot make arrangements to switch will be unable to continue in their studies. Such students are requested to inform the Course Coordinator during the first week of the course.

Student Illness - Students who are absent due to communicable illness, change in health status or level of functioning are required to present a health care provider note stating that the student can return to clinical with specific restrictions listed if any.

Emergency Contact for Students – Please note that it is the responsibility of the student to give the proper contact information to those who will need to reach you in case of emergency. Cell phone use is prohibited during all classroom, lab and clinical settings except in cases of extreme emergency. All phones should be on silent or vibrate and emergent calls taken out of the classroom, lab or clinical setting.

Uniform Policy for the Clinical Experience –

Uniforms are purchased by each student, as noted below. Uniform shirts, pants, and lab coats are required to be purchased online from *Meridy's Uniforms* at www.meridys.com. Sizing issues should be called into *Meridy's* customer service number at 1-800-237-9164. Students will follow the policy of their clinical facility. All additional personal items must meet the following guidelines faculty:

1. White cotton "scrub" shirt with gold sleeve trim and RVCC logo embroidery.
2. Hunter green uniform pants to the ankle/shoe length.
3. Hunter green short lab jacket with RVCC logo embroidered on left breast pocket.
4. Shoes – Clean white oxford type shoes are to be worn by both men and women. No clogs, sandals or slippers. Sneakers, if worn, must be all white and washable.
5. Stockings/Socks – white, non-textured.
6. Undergarments – Must not be visible. White or beige and in an appropriate style.

7. Hair must be off the collar, away from the eyes and neatly contained. No bows, large barrettes or combs.
8. Beards/Mustaches – Clean, well-groomed and appropriate length and style for patient care.
9. Tattoos – Coverage as per specific hospital/agency policy.
10. Piercing – As acceptable by specific hospital/agency policy.
11. Jewelry – A plain watch with a sweeping second hand is required, wedding rings are permitted, and a small pair of earrings limited to the earlobes are permitted. No other jewelry is to be worn.
12. Make-up – Appropriate amount of make-up is acceptable. Strong perfumes, colognes or aftershave are not to be worn.
13. Fingernails should be short, clean and well-manicured. Acrylic, artificial, tips or painted /polished nails are not permitted.
14. Proper Identification is a requirement for both RVCC and clinical facilities. RVCC Photo ID/Hospital ID badges must be worn. RVCC Photo ID badges are obtained in the Admissions office by contacting studentid@raritanval.edu.
15. The student is responsible to return hospital issued ID badges. Failure to return a hospital issued ID badge may incur a fee payable to the hospital and student will be ineligible to register for subsequent term.
16. Mandatory Equipment – All students are required to purchase the Nursing Skills Lab Nurse Pack for NURS 101 and NURS 111 at the start of each respective semester. A watch with a second hand and a stethoscope are required equipment for the clinical experience. These are separate from the Nurse Pack and are the responsibility of the student to obtain.
17. Faculty will monitor the appearance of students, and will determine if their appearance is consistent with facility policies. Faculty reserve the right to ask a student to leave the clinical area if their appearance is not consistent with this uniform policy or the clinical facility uniform policy.

Accidents/Injury/Incidents during Clinical Experience:

If a student is injured during a clinical agency experience they must be examined in the Emergency Room or Hospital Employee Health and/or by their private health care provider. Health clearance documentation must be submitted to the HSE Student Services Specialist before the student can return to the clinical agency. Relevant incident/occurrence reports for the agency and RVCC must be completed by the agency staff, RVCC faculty and student as needed. Students who experience a change in a health status during the semester are required to submit documentation with new Health Maintenance Clearance to the HSE Student Services Specialist. Students must receive clearance from their private health care provider prior to returning to clinical. Clearance document must state “Medically cleared for clinical”.

Pregnancy and Reproduction:

While pregnancy and reproduction are considered a healthy life events, clinical nursing may expose students to reproductive hazards (chemical, physical or biological) in the clinical site. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides information on reproductive hazards in the workplace. <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/reproductivehazards/hazards.html> .

A student who is pregnant must obtain her healthcare provider’s clearance for attendance in the clinical area and submit the clearance to the HSE Student Services Specialist. This initial medical clearance needs to be obtained within 1 week of the confirmation of the pregnancy. Additional and

more frequent medical clearance from the student's healthcare provider will be requested as the pregnancy advances in trimesters and at post-pregnancy return to clinical experiences. It is the student's informed decision as to whether to continue in the program during a pregnancy.

Clinical Evaluation of Student Performance:

The faculty believes that the purpose of evaluation is to assess clinical performance as measured by specific course stated objectives. The expectation is that students will give evidence of increasing competency as they progress through the program. Students are expected to show evidence of retention of previous learning carrying out increasingly skillful assessments and interventions. The evaluation process is formative, occurring throughout the experience, and summative which is evident at the conclusion of the experience. The clinical instructor is responsible for evaluating student performance in the clinical area. Faculty has the expertise to determine which behaviors constitute acceptable nursing practice, satisfactory, unsatisfactory or unsafe. These evaluations will be based upon the objectives for each clinical course as listed in its clinical evaluation tool.

First year clinical courses: In order to meet clinical practice requirements and pass the course, students must demonstrate clinical competence at the assisted (A) level or higher in learning outcomes 1 through 3 of the specific course clinical evaluation tool. For learning outcomes 4 through 12 which encompass the affective domain criteria of the clinical evaluation tool, clinical competence at the satisfactory or higher level must be achieved.

Second year clinical courses: In order to meet clinical practice requirements and pass the course, students must demonstrate clinical competence at the supervised (S) level or higher in 80% of learning outcomes 1 through 3 of the specific course clinical evaluation tool. For items 4 through 12, which encompass the affective domain criteria of the clinical evaluation tool, clinical competence at the satisfactory or higher level must be achieved.

Medication Administration, Treatments and Procedures : Students are prohibited from administering medications , treatments and procedures without faculty approval and supervision. Students who administer medication, treatments and procedures without faculty approval and supervision will be subject to dismissal from the clinical experience and/or subsequent program dismissal.

Unsatisfactory Clinical Performance– The purpose of clinical evaluation is to assess clinical performance as measured by the stated clinical objectives. Evaluation is the sole responsibility of the clinical instructor, since her or she alone observes you on a continuing basis. If your performance is unsatisfactory, a written unsatisfactory clinical performance evaluation form will be issued by the clinical instructor and reviewed with the student. A clinical absence is also considered “unsatisfactory performance”. This will include clinical objectives in question, specific behaviors which have been unsatisfactory, and a recommended plan for improvement. If students fail to satisfactorily complete the clinical objective(s) by the end of the course, they shall receive a failing grade for the course. Clinical faculty have the expertise to determine unsatisfactory behaviors in the clinical area. Students have the right to appeal this decision through the college grade appeal process.

Unsafe Clinical Performance – If students demonstrate unsafe behaviors in the clinical area, they may be dismissed immediately from the clinical setting and the nursing program by the clinical instructor. Unsafe is defined as performance in the clinical setting which endangers the safety or welfare of the patient(s), instructor, staff or student peers. Along with standards applicable to first year nursing courses, unsafe clinical performance also includes breach of confidentiality, boundary violations and dual relationships. The unsafe clinical performance evaluation is the responsibility of the clinical instructor and is based upon documented clinical behaviors. Clinical faculty have the expertise to determine unsafe behaviors in the clinical area. Students have the right to appeal this decision through the college grade appeal process.

Dismissal from Clinical -Students may be withdrawn from the program based on behaviors or pattern of behaviors documented in the Unsatisfactory/Unsafe Clinical Practice Report. Students who demonstrate unsafe or unsatisfactory behaviors in the clinical area may be dismissed from the clinical setting by the clinical instructor and dismissal from the Nursing program may follow.

Clinical facilities reserve the right to refuse a student or students to attend clinical experiences at their site(s). Nursing faculty may restrict and/or dismiss a student from clinical attendance and activities due to behavioral, affective, safety or other performance issues.

VII. NURSING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A. Health Maintenance and Immunization, and Criminal History Background Check and Drug Screening Policy:

**Health Science Education Department
Immunization & Nursing Program Requirements
Health Maintenance Policies
2021-2022**

Students are required to follow the Immunization & Nursing Program Requirements that are found in this document, as well as presented at Health Maintenance Meetings. These meetings take place with the Coordinator of Health Science Education upon admittance to the Nursing program at RVCC and will do so yearly after.

All nursing students, 1st year, 2nd year, Nursing Seminar, and PNAD's will make a class registration appointment with the Coordinator of Health Science Education, nadine.larson@raritanval.edu once ALL health maintenance requirements are complete and uploaded to the online student health document tracking account with Sentry MD. Each student must receive an email confirmation from Sentry MD before emailing the Coordinator of HSE for a class registration appointment. **Students should forward the email from Sentry MD to Nadine.larson@raritanval.edu to show evidence that health maintenance and program requirements for the 2020-2021 academic year have been completed. In the body of this email students can include a few dates and times of suggested class registration appointment. No paper documents will be dropped off, emailed, or faxed to the Coordinator of Health Science Education- they all will be uploaded to the Sentry MD student account.**

Students are not eligible to register for Summer 2021, Fall 2021, and Spring 2022 nursing classes

without all health maintenance and nursing program requirements (this includes degree requirements) being up to date, as well as having all the documents respectively uploaded and verified as complete by Sentry MD.

Deadline Dates for Health Maintenance Record and ALL required documents (see checklist):

**Students are to upload health maintenance forms & requirements NO later than the following dates:
2020-2021 PNAD Option Students..... May 15, 2021
Second year nursing students..... June 1, 2021
First Year Generic Nursing Students (Early Admission) June 15, 2021
First Year Generic Nursing Students (Late Admission & Nursing Seminar) August 1, 2021

I understand that it is under the jurisdiction of the Nursing Program Coordinator to remove me from course(s) where requirements have not been met. This jeopardizes my progression and completion of the nursing program if I do not comply with the above health maintenance deadlines. These deadlines are made in accordance with clinical agency contracts and the need for student clearance review and submission to the hospitals. A student who is not clinically cleared is ineligible to participate in clinical rotations, and therefore, effects a students' progression in the nursing program. I understand once I enroll in nursing classes, I cannot change my nursing class schedules unless I evenly exchange a section with another student. The last day to complete an even exchange of schedule with another student is 8/23/2021 for fall 2021 nursing classes and 1/10/2022 for spring 2022 nursing classes and is done with the Coordinator of HSE.

Clinical agencies mandate immunizations for all individuals engaged in patient care. Failure to receive immunizations may prevent fulfillment of the nursing course objectives. Failure to be immunized may prevent the student from meeting nursing course objectives, and therefore, jeopardizes the students' successful completion of the courses and nursing program.

Students can be removed from course(s) where requirements have not been met. This jeopardizes a students' progression and completion of the nursing program if they do not comply with health maintenance deadlines and all requirements. All health maintenance requirements and costs associated with health maintenance are a students' responsibility. These deadlines and requirements are made in accordance with clinical agency contracts and are needed for student clearance, review, and submission to the hospitals.

A student who is not clinically cleared is ineligible to participate in clinical rotations, and therefore, cannot continue in the nursing program. Health maintenance requirements can change at any time and may include COVID testing/s COVID vaccination at the students' expense at the students' expense. All health maintenance requirements are at the students' expense.

Once students enroll in nursing classes after health maintenance clearance, schedules cannot be changed unless evenly exchanging a section with another student. The last day to complete an even exchange of schedule with another student is 8/23/2021 for fall 2021 nursing classes and 1/10/2022 for spring 2022 nursing classes, and is done with the Coordinator of HSE

Physical Clearance

Yearly, each student will be required to have their health care provider sign off that they have been examined, that they are in good physical health, and have no restrictions when taking part in clinical rotations. This information will be filled in on a health maintenance record. The health care provider will also verify/sign off on the students' health history.

If the student has a change in physical or medical condition while enrolled in a clinical nursing course, it is the students' responsibility to notify the Coordinator of Health Sciences and submit a note from the healthcare provider that states "Medically cleared for clinical ."

Background Check

Clinical nursing students will perform a criminal history background check on a yearly basis. This is done in order to be authorized to attend clinical site rotations to fulfill clinical course objectives. This is a requirement of the clinical agencies and the New Jersey Board of Nursing for RN licensure and is intended to protect patients in all practice setting. ***It is important to know that students with an unfavorable criminal history will not be admitted to the nursing program at RVCC. 2nd year & Nursing Seminar II students need to order their background check no later than 04/01/2020. Nursing Seminar I students must order their background checks no later than 07/01/2020. 1st year students must submit a copy of their background check that was attached to their clinical application with their health maintenance packet. CHBC's must be done through www.adamsafeguardstudents.com – school code- rvcn. Students are required to notify the Nursing Program Coordinator in writing if they have any change in that could affect their CHBC during the academic year.*** The cost associated with this is the responsibility of the student. Clinical agencies reserve the right to require a more frequent or additional background check, fingerprinting, or any requirement deemed by them & needed to clear a clinical nursing student. These additional requirements would as well, be the responsibility of the student.

Hepatitis B Immunization & Titer *2nd year and continuing nursing students only need to prove a positive titer result for Hep B one time.*

1. **Documented immune titer –Hepatitis B Surface Antibodies (anti-HBs) is required.**
2. If student has not previously completed a vaccination series, the course of vaccination requires 3 doses at 0, 1 month & 6 months.
3. **The first 2 doses are required before the deadline of form submittal.** Subsequent doses must adhere to the above schedule. **(Titer must be done 2 months after vaccination is complete).** If titer is negative for antibodies, a second Hepatitis B series is required if no previous positive Hep B Ab serology has been documented on the student. If student previously had a positive Hep B Ab serology, only a booster is required. Documentation of the re-titer is **required in all circumstances.**
4. Contraindications can be viewed at - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>
5. If student declines the Hepatitis B vaccine series, a medical reason must be listed on the declination statement. Additional paperwork and documentation will be required- please see Coordinator of HSE.
6. Students need to submit with their health maintenance packet proof of all future appointment dates for immunizations and titer. The packet will not be complete without this information.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Immunization & Titer; 2nd year and continuing nursing students only need to prove a positive titer result for MMR one time.

1. **Documented immune titer is required.**
2. If you were born in 1957 or later and have not had the MMR vaccine, or if you don't have an up-to-date blood test that shows you are immune to measles or mumps (i.e., no serologic evidence of immunity or prior vaccination), get 2 doses of MMR (1 dose now and the 2nd dose 8 weeks later.)
3. Students that are continuing the MMR vaccine series while in clinical rotations must sign a statement regarding this- see Coordinator of HSE for details. Students need to submit with their health maintenance packet proof of all future appointment dates for immunizations and titer. The packet will not be complete without this information.
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>
4. One dose of MMR vaccine should be considered for HCP with no laboratory evidence of disease or immunity to rubella. For these same HCP who do not have evidence of immunity, 2 doses of MMR vaccine are recommended during an outbreak of measles or mumps and 1 dose during an outbreak of rubella.
<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2017.pdf>
5. Contraindications can be viewed at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>

Varicella Immunization or Positive Immune Titer; 2nd year and continuing nursing students only need to prove a positive titer result for Varicella one time.

1. **Documented immune titer or proof of completed immunization series required (if have received the series prior)**
2. Persons with history of the active disease should have it documented on the health maintenance record by a health care provider with a copy of a positive immune titer.
3. Persons who received the varicella immunization series must have it documented on the health maintenance record by a health care provider.
4. Anyone who presents with a weak titer with no history of varicella vaccination must receive the varicella immunization series- 2 doses at 0 and 2 months. This is required before starting clinical rotations.
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/varicella/hcp-vacc.html>
5. Contraindications can be viewed at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>

-A COPY OF EACH TITER RESULT IS NEEDED FOR THE STUDENTS' FILE Immune titers are good for the entire time a student is in the nursing program. Required titers must be drawn upon admission to the nursing program.

Tetanus and Diphtheria/Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis

5. A tetanus and diphtheria (TdaP) booster is required within the last 10 years if the student has a documented history of receiving a primary series of diphtheria and tetanus (DT) or diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DPT) in infancy. Students under age 65 years of age are strongly advised to receive a Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap) booster if they are due for a booster and NEVER had one (a Tdap vaccine).

6. If never immunized against tetanus or diphtheria, the student should speak to their health care provider and receive the immunization series.
7. Contraindications can be viewed at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>

Tuberculosis Testing

8. **TB testing cannot be completed before 5/1/2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.** All nursing students are required to have TB testing in one of the following forms:
 - a. TSPOT (copy required to be submitted with documents)
 - b. QuantiFERON GOLD TEST (copy required to be submitted with documents)
 - c. 2 STEP PPD (tests placed 1-3 weeks apart)
9. All PPDs be completed and read and documented at the time the health maintenance form is submitted to Sentry MD. Persons with a history of having the BCG vaccine must speak to their health care provider regarding TB testing.
10. PPD test must be assessed within 48-72 hours after placement and measurement of the size (in mm) of induration noted. **Then a 2nd PPD test must be placed 1-3 weeks later and assessed within 48-72 hours after placement**-the area is to be measured in mm and documented. PPD testing should start no earlier than 4/29/2021.
11. If a positive PPD or positive TSPOT/QUANTIFERON GOLD test occurs, follow the following procedure:
 - a) A follow up chest x ray is required – results must be attached the radiology report to health form.
If chest X ray is negative, health care provider clearance is needed.
 - b) If chest X ray is positive, clearance from the health care provider or Infectious Disease health care provider must be obtained to continue in the nursing program.

TB testing is completed yearly for all nursing students TB testing completed 4/08/21 is **NOT acceptable** because it will not be valid through the entire Spring 2022 semester. Please do not complete TB testing before 5/1/2021.

Malpractice Insurance for Student Nurses

All students entering or continuing the program for the June 2021 (PNAD) or September 2021 Semester must purchase their Malpractice Insurance before their health maintenance deadline date. The policy date will go from on or about **May 1 2021- May 1, 2022 (late admission students may date their policies accordingly since admission is after this date)**

The policy can be purchased immediately- today. Students can request specific dates via the insurance company

- a. Liability amounts for this policy **MUST** be 1,000,000 per 6,000,000
- b. Please pick registered nursing student status (our program is an associate degree, registered nurse student level)
- c. **The only form of proof of having a malpractice insurance policy is to upload to Sentry MD, a copy of the malpractice insurance declaration page. No receipts of payment will serve as proof of being insured – you must have the declaration page emailed to you to print out/save on your computer after 24 hours of purchasing, or get the original**

declaration page in the postal mail. See additional handouts for examples of companies to purchase registered nursing student malpractice insurance.

Drug Screening

Urine drug screening will be done at a designated time period each year for nursing students prior to the start of clinical rotations and classes. **Urine drug screening must be paid for and scheduled via www.adamsafeguardstudents.com during the designated drug testing period (see addition handout for dates and instructions)**. Ordering school code is **rvcd** **DO NOT ORDER THE DRUG TEST OUTSIDE THE TESTING DATES- Please do not order ahead of time!**

Urine drug screening is a mandatory requirement for admission to the clinical component of the nursing program. **A positive drug screen, drug testing outside the designated time period, not going for drug testing, or refusal to submit to testing will result in dismissal from the nursing program.** Students will be subject to drug tests while enrolled in the clinical nursing program. Results of a dilute urine drug test may necessitate repeat and/or random drug screening while students are enrolled in the clinical nursing program at RVCC. The cost of initial and any repeat urine drug screen/s is the responsibility of the student. The clinical agencies determine the eligibility of a student being clinically placed at their facility. A negative drug test is required for admission and for the progression in the nursing program.

NOTE: The Urine Drug Screening is NOT part of your Health Care Provider's routine physical exam.

CPR Certification

All students must provide a copy of a valid **BLS/Healthcare Provider CPR** card from the **American Heart Association**. **No other CPR providers are accepted.** **CPR certification cannot expire within an academic year.** Letters showing a class was attended or skills checklists are not acceptable as documentation of certification. **Students MUST take a full, in person class to obtain this CPR certification- online classes are not accepted. A copy of a CPR card with the expiration date and student's name is the only documentation accepted. CPR cannot expire before 5/1 of any academic year.**

PNADs should take their CPR class as soon as possible. Early admission Generic RN's should take their CPR class in May 2021. Late admission Generic RN's should take their CPR class no later than early July 2021. Students will need to upload an AHA BLS CPR card with their health documents to Sentry MD – no other documents are accepted as AHA CPR BLS completion proof. CPR certification cannot expire within an academic year or before 5/1

Influenza

In accordance with many of our clinical facilities, an influenza vaccine is **mandatory annually during the fall semester.**

- a. There is a separate form for each student (1st year, 2nd year, Nursing Seminar I & II and PNAD students) will need to get filled out after receiving an influenza

vaccine. PNADs will need to prove they had an influenza vaccine for the 2021-2022 influenza season as well.

- b. Influenza vaccination is a mandatory requirement of the RVCC Nursing Program. All current nursing students must comply with hospital requirements for seasonal flu vaccine by November 1, 2021 in order to continue in the nursing program, as well as participate in required clinical rotations within the nursing program. The following documentation form must be uploaded to each students' Sentry MD account. *Some students may need to get the influenza vaccine earlier due to clinical agency policies – these students will be contacted. Do not get this vaccine any earlier than the end of August 2021 when the **2021-2022** seasonal influenza vaccination is available.
- c. Some students may need the influenza vaccine earlier due to contractual agreements with clinical agencies – those students will be contacted.
- d. Contraindications can be viewed at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/vaccines.htm> – please see the Coordinator of HSE regarding the need for declining an influenza vaccine and what information is needed.

COVID-19 Vaccination

- a. COVID-19 vaccination is required without exemption for clinical nursing students effective Summer 2021. As the global pandemic continues to evolve requirements remain subject to change pending guidance from public health authorities and, in consideration of clinical site conditions and mandates. “Boosters” or third doses, annual doses of the COVID-19 vaccine may be required as guidance evolves. Testing may be required by the clinical sites in addition to vaccination.

Failure to comply with required vaccinations, testing, drug screening or documents for health clearance will result in dismissal from the nursing program. All costs for immunization, testing, health maintenance and hospital clearance items are the responsibility of the student. Requirements are subject to change.

Pregnancy and Reproduction:

While pregnancy and reproduction are considered a healthy life events, clinical nursing may expose students to reproductive hazards (chemical, physical or biological) in the clinical site. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides information on reproductive hazards in the workplace. <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/reproductivehazards/hazards.html> .

A student who is pregnant must obtain her healthcare provider's clearance for attendance in the clinical area and submit the clearance to the Coordinator of HSE. This initial medical clearance needs to be obtained within 1 week of the confirmation of the pregnancy. Additional and more frequent medical clearance from the student's healthcare provider will be requested as the pregnancy advances in trimesters and at post-pregnancy return to clinical experiences. It is the student's informed decision as to whether to continue in the program during a pregnancy.

PNAD, 1st year, 2nd year and Nursing Seminar students: All students who do **not** understand/have questions regarding the health maintenance requirements should contact the Coordinator of HSE- Nadine.Larson@raritanval.edu Email is the fastest and easiest way of contact. **All documents must be**

uploaded to the Sentry MD student portal at one time when they are completed- partial documents are not accepted for upload. Students will not be permitted to register for nursing classes until they have met all health maintenance requirements- you may forward Nadine.larson@raritanval.edu proof that Sentry MD has accepted your documents and deemed them complete, as each student will receive a confirmation email from Sentry MD within 3-5 business days of uploading completed documents. In the body of the email sent to Nadine.Larson@raritanval.edu students may suggest a few days and times to meet for class registration. **Students will need to bring a copy of a degree audit and proof of no RVCC account holds at the time of their class registration appointment.**

Please make an appointment with the Coordinator of HSE to register for upcoming Summer/Fall nursing classes once health maintenance documents are accepted by Sentry MD and deemed complete. **At this registration appointment, students will make an appointment for a time during a designated period to register for Spring 2021 nursing classes.**

All health maintenance requirements subject to change at any time- all health maintenance and hospital clearance costs are the responsibility of the student.

B. Health Insurance Coverage:

All RVCC students are referred to the following website to assist them in determining the best solution for their personal health coverage needs:

<https://commons.raritanval.edu/admin/finance/Pages/insurance.aspx>

C. Attendance Policy

It is expected that students will attend theory classes, learning laboratories and clinical rotations in health care facilities. Absences in any of these areas may impeded student's successful progress. When a student has been absent for one-fifth (1/5 or 20%) of any component of a course (class and/or laboratories and/or clinical rotations) the student may be in jeopardy of not successfully achieving all the required student learning outcomes for the course. If you are unable to attend class and will miss an exam, you must notify the appropriate faculty member as soon as possible via voicemail or RVCC email. It is the student's responsibility to obtain notes from any classes missed from peers.

VIII. COURSE AND PROGRAM COMPLETION

A. Required Academic Grade Policy:

Students are required to obtain a minimum of 78%, a satisfactory clinical practice grade and satisfactory completion of laboratory practicum (where applicable) in all nursing courses. A letter grade of "C" or better in all required science courses (Microbiology, Anatomy and Physiology I & II) is required.

Final Grades: Students may view final semester grades on the web by using the Lion's Den-Student Services tab at www.raritanval.edu Grades become available as the instructors report them to the Office of Enrollment Services (taken from RVCC Student Handbook). **Please note:** Due to Academic Calendar schedules, final grades for Module I may not be available prior to the start of Module II. In the event that a student has not passed the respective nursing course in Module I, the student will not be able to continue in the Module II nursing course.

Program Dismissal: A student is dismissed from the nursing program if they fail any of the required science courses, any two nursing courses, or one science and one nursing course with a grade of below 78%. The courses do not have to be consecutive nursing courses. A Withdrawal ("W") or an Audit ("AU") after the 10th day of a science or nursing course is also considered a failure.

B. Nursing Program Grading System:

Numerical Grand Range for Graduating Class of 2020 (current 1st year nursing students)and all future classes	Letter Grade Equivalent
93.00-100.00	A
90.00-92.99	B+
83.00-89.99	B
81.00-82.99	C+
78.00-80.99	C
65.00-77.99	D
00.00-64.99	F

Please note: ROUNDING-UP OF GRADES IS NOT PERMITTED

C. Clinical Performance Grading Policy:

Students must receive a minimum of one written clinical evaluation each semester. This grade is determined by clinical performance and the documentation from student clinical portfolios. The portfolio is a record of the student's progress and is to be maintained throughout the educational program.

In order to pass a clinical course (NURS 101, NURS 111, NURS 122, NURS 123, NURS 124 and NURS 125), the student must receive either an "assisted" or "satisfactory" clinical grade (as described earlier in this manual) and a theory grade of 78% or better in each course. For example, a Foundations of Nursing (NURS 101) theory grade of "A", "B" or "C" combined with a clinical grade (NURS 101) of "U" would result in an "F" grade for the Foundations of Nursing (NURS 101) course. For further information regarding academic policies refer to the RVCC Student Handbook.

D. Nursing Program Examination Policy:

EXAMS

In order to preserve the integrity of your examinations (examinations, quizzes, tests) and to foster an atmosphere of fair evaluation of your successful achievement of the course objectives, the following policy will be used throughout all courses in the Nursing Program:

1. You need to report for the exam at the scheduled time with a photo ID.
2. Any educational, test preparation or study materials and all personal belongings, including cell/mobile/smart phones, MP3 players, fitness bands, jump drives, smart watches, cameras or other electronic devices must be placed in the front of the classroom/testing area (in accordance with NCLEX-RN testing policy, <https://www.ncsbn.org/1268.htm>). No food or drinks can be kept at your seat during testing. These must remain at the front of the classroom/testing area.
3. You are only permitted to take pencils and faculty approved calculators to your testing seat.
4. All cell phones and pagers must be turned off and remain with your personal items in the front of the classroom/testing area.

5. You must provide your own #2 lead pencils and, if you are using a calculator, you must have your own. Sharing of calculators is not permitted and none will be provided. Only one calculator per student is allowed.
6. If you are using a calculator, it must be a simple calculator and must be approved by the faculty/staff proctor before each exam.
7. You are not permitted to utilize a calculator that is integrated into a cell phone, hand held computer/electronic device or any other communication device.
8. Students must show all math work on any exam question requiring math dosage calculations. If requested, please circle your final answer for each math dosage calculation on the test booklet, or as directed by the faculty/staff proctor.
9. You will need to be cleared by the faculty/staff proctor before leaving the examination room. When you leave the examination room, you will submit the entire exam booklet and grid sheet. Please collect your belongings and immediately exit the testing area.
10. Please exit the testing area in an expeditious manner, as talking outside the testing area is distracting to other students who are still completing their exams.
11. Only answers that appear on the submitted Scantron form will be counted towards your grade.
12. Once you have submitted your exam grid, you are not permitted to make changes.
13. All exams must be submitted at the specified time, or they will receive a grade of zero.
14. For every course exam, test or quiz, students are limited to one attempt. Re-testing is not permitted.
15. For those students who may feel that they are easily distracted during testing, the faculty strongly recommends that they use small foam earplugs/hearing protectors as an aid in concentration and as a noise buffer.
16. Exams will be reflective of previously learned content. Students are responsible for all prior content.
17. Students taking exams in the RVCC Testing Center, must follow the rules and policies of the RVCC Testing Center.
18. Students taking remote proctored exams must follow the rules and policies of the proctoring authority and /or remote faculty proctoring procedures as directed.
19. Once the student submits an online test, no changes can be made and no retakes are permitted. Omitted answers will be scored as “Zero” points.
20. The student is responsible for maintaining a working computer with ability to function in Canvas, ATI and proctoring platforms. Platform and program use is subject to change.
21. The student is responsible for ensuring a comfortable testing environment during remote, online exams.

***Please note:** Final exams are scheduled by RVCC and are posted in Lion's Den (RVCC website). Students are responsible to check the RVCC website for location, date and time for course final exams. Dates are subject to change.

Policy for Student's Late Arrival to an Examination:

In the event that a student arrives late for an examination that is in progress (past the time when the other students have begun testing) or, accesses an online exam past the start time, the student will be given the opportunity to select from **ONE** of the following two options:

1. If a student has not already utilized a make-up exam during that specific course, the student can select the option of a make-up exam (see individual course syllabi for policies regarding make-up exams). Please note only ONE make up exam is permitted per course.

OR

2. The student will be advised of the time left in the testing period which has already begun and the student can elect to take the exam within the remaining time in the testing period already in progress. The student is responsible for determining the time left in online exams.

PLEASE NOTE: The student's selection of either of the above two choices for a student's late arrival to an examination will be final. Only one make-up exam is permitted per course.

Examination, Quiz, Test Reviews:

Unit or Multi-Unit Exam (Exam, Quiz, Test) Reviews: The purpose of a unit or multi-unit exam, quiz, test if for formative evaluation. As such, the unit or multi-unit exam, quiz, test review gives the student the opportunity for enhanced learning and to develop strategies to improve content knowledge and future testing performance. These reviews will be set up and implemented by the course faculty. These reviews will be conducted in a manner of mutual respect of all participants and are not for purpose of critiquing the style of questions, the format of the questions or content included.

Final Exam Inspection: The purpose of the cumulative final exam inspection is to provide the student with the opportunity to examine their educational record, which includes an exam booklet, their GRID sheet and their Par Score analysis sheet for that exam. This exam, as part of summative evaluation, is conducted to collect data at the end of the course to measure student competency with course objectives and to determine their readiness to progress to the next clinical course, or to graduate. Final exam inspections are done at the end of the semester, specific time frame and conditions for reviews of this exam are determined by the course faculty.

Make-up Examinations: Only one make-up examination is allowed for each course. Students must notify faculty by voicemail or email prior to missing an examination. Additional missed exams will receive a zero grade unless documented extenuating circumstances develop and at the discretion of the faculty in relation to the situation.

Suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism will be reported to the Divisional Dean. Upon confirmation of the student's offense by the appropriate Divisional Dean, the student will be subject to warnings and penalties up to and including suspension or dismissal from the College.

ATI Assessments and Activities

The student is responsible for completion of all assigned ATI Activities and Assessments as designated in each course syllabus and/or as assigned by instructor(s).

ATI assessment questions, exams and activities are the copyrighted property of Assessment Technologies Institute®, LLC. The removal or attempt to remove questions or other assessment material from the test site is prohibited. It is forbidden under federal copyright law to copy, reproduce, record, distribute, or disclose these assessment questions by any means, in whole or in part. A violation of this type can result in civil and criminal penalties.

Suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism will be reported to the Divisional Dean. Upon confirmation of the student's offense by the appropriate Divisional Dean, the student will be subject to warnings and penalties up to and including suspension or dismissal from the College.

ATI Proctored and non-proctored assessment scores are final and ATI does not discuss proctored content. ATI provides students with topic areas for review and remediation.

External proctoring via Proctorio may be used for remote ATI assessments. Students are responsible for their testing environment during remote exams and will follow proctoring policies and procedures as set by the instructor or Proctorio.

E. RVCC Grade Appeal Process:

The HSE department, as in every RVCC Academic department, follows the RVCC Grade Appeal Process that can be found in the RVCC Student Handbook.

If the student has not been successful in the course, a letter will be sent to them via postal mail from the department chairperson, approximately 2 weeks after the completion of the semester with applicable options. **Please refer to Section IX. Reinstatement into the nursing program** in this manual for more information.

F. ATI Comprehensive Predictor:

Students will take an ATI comprehensive predictor examination as a requirement of a course in the final semester. This proctored examination is for the student to see where their strengths and weaknesses are. An exam result report will identify sources to use to strengthen weak areas and improve NCLEX-RN exam success. ATI scores are final.

G. New Jersey Board of Nursing Licensure Requirements:

The New Jersey Board of Nursing regulates the practice of professional nursing and requires the following criteria be met before the individual may receive an application for a licensure to practice professional nursing.

In accordance with the **New Jersey Board of Nursing Statute 45:11-26, Professional Nurses** (njconsumeraffairs.gov) “An applicant for license to practice professional nursing shall submit to the board evidence in such form as the board may prescribe that said applicant: (1) has attained his or her eighteenth birthday; (2) is of good moral character, is not a habitual user of drugs and has never been convicted or has not pleaded nolo contendere, non vult contendere or non vult to an indictment, information or complaint alleging a violation of any Federal or State law relating to narcotic drugs; (3) hold a diploma from an accredited 4-year high school or the equivalent thereof as determined by the New Jersey State Department of Education; (4) has completed a course of professional nursing study in an accredited school of professional nursing as defined by the board and holds a diploma therefrom” (njconsumeraffairs.gov).

Licensure for professional nursing requires submission to a criminal background check and fingerprinting.

Nursing students are encouraged to contact the New Jersey Board of Nursing for information if there are limitations of issuance of professional or occupational licenses related to citizenship/immigration status.

Nursing students are encouraged to research New Jersey Board of Nursing Laws and Regulations at <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/nur/pages/applications.aspx> The Health Science Education Department Chairperson and/or the New Jersey Board of Nursing can be consulted for clarification of New Jersey Board of Nursing statutes found on their website. The Board of Nursing rules mandate that any student who is known to engage in any illegal practices must be reported. The Board of Nursing will investigate the matter under the auspices of the Attorney General. Please refer, also, to the drug and alcohol laws information in the RVCC Student Handbook.

IX. REINSTATEMENT INTO THE NURSING PROGRAM

A. Nursing Program Exit Interview:

Students who leave the program before graduation must schedule and complete an Exit Interview with the HSE Coordinator of Health Science Education.

B. Requirements for Reinstatement into the Nursing Program:

The following are guidelines for students requesting continuance into the nursing program following withdrawal or failure of a nursing course or a decision not to return to the nursing program during a particular semester. Requests to reenter are only considered on a space available basis and after students meet additional mandatory requirements. Once placed into a course, no schedule changes may be made. Guidelines are defined for students who reenter within two years of departure from the program. **Students reentering any Nursing course will be required to satisfy the admission criteria for that year.** **Students who do not reenter within two years of departure must reapply for admission to NURS 101: Foundations of Nursing (for Generic students) or NURS 130: Nursing Transition (for PNAD students).**

1. **EXIT FORM:** In order to be eligible for readmission consideration, an exit form, (included in this packet), must have been completed by the deadlines provided below. It is the student's responsibility to obtain and return the exit form in a timely manner.

Note: It is the responsibility of the student to **officially withdraw** from nursing courses in order to avoid an automatic "F" grade if the student leaves during a semester and/or following pre-registration for the next semester.

2. **REQUEST TO BE REINSTATED:** The student requesting to reenter the nursing program must email a written letter of intent to the Coordinator of Health Science Education no later than January 15 to reenter a Fall semester course and June 15 for a Spring semester course. The letter of intent should describe an explanation of factors that contributed to the unsuccessful first attempt and description of actions that will be taken to enhance the opportunities for success. Request to be reinstated does not guarantee space availability.

3. **PLACEMENT UPON REENTRY:** Because nursing courses build on the knowledge in previous nursing courses, mastery of content and up-to-date clinical competence is vital. Therefore, students requesting readmission to the Nursing Program are required to participate in mandatory remediation and/or validation of previous nursing course content. Additional mandatory requirements for reinstatement into the nursing program must be met. Information will be sent to the students in regards to these additional mandatory requirements in a timely manner.

4. **CLINICAL PLACEMENT:** The Nursing Program Coordinator reserves the right to place returning students in an appropriate clinical group on a space available basis. No

student will be eligible to be placed back into the program until all health maintenance/program requirements are up to date for the upcoming academic year. Additional mandatory requirements for reinstatement into the nursing program must be met.

5. STATUS: Clinical placement for returning students is on a space-available basis and is not guaranteed. Students who demonstrated passing course grades at the time of exit may be placed first. These procedures, policies, and method of reentry is not guaranteed and methods of re-entry are subject to change.

6.TIME LIMIT: Students must reenter the Nursing program within two years of exit, or they will be required to reapply and meet all current admission criteria at that time.

Failures of NURS 101 or NURS 130 must reapply to the program for entry and meet all current admission criteria.

7. ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS: Students who have requested reinstatement must contact the Coordinator of Health Science Education and update all health maintenance/program requirements, insurance, drug testing and CHBC, according to current policies. Students returning to courses other than NURS 101 and NURS 130 will be allowed to register only after all current students have had the opportunity to register and all additional mandatory requirements for reinstatement into the nursing program are met.

Please Note: These seats are limited and will be granted upon the order in which all the mandatory requirements have been fulfilled.

C. Nursing Program Readmission Appeal Process

In accordance with due process, any student has the right to appeal for readmission into the Nursing Program. Readmissions granted are on a space-available basis and seats are not guaranteed.

1. The student must submit a written appeal explaining the specific circumstances involved; addressing the specific semester(s) in which the ineligible grade(s) were earned; submitting all appropriate documentation which the Readmission Appeal Committee will review. This appeal letter must also include:
 - a. Letter addressing the specific circumstances involved in failure(s), addressing the specific semester(s) in which the ineligible grades were earned.
 - b. If medical issue caused failure(s), supporting documentation from health care provider must be included.
 - c. Include an in- depth plan for academic improvement (i.e. include study plan, tools etc.)
 - d. Unofficial RVCC transcript
 - e. Document with ATI remediation activity (non- proctored exam, tutorials, etc. that student has worked on) and ATI transcript (proctored exams)

- f. VSim transcript (if applicable)
 - g. Any additional documentation that student feels will support appeal for readmission.
2. For readmission into the spring semester student letter of appeal must be received by December 31 and student will be notified of decision by January 15; for readmission into the fall semester student letter of appeal must be received by May 30 and student will be notified of decision by June 15. Dates subject to change.
3. All documentation must be sent to the Coordinator of Health Science and the Nursing Program Coordinator via email.
4. Readmission Appeal Committee will be composed of an uneven number of nursing faculty with at least one member outside of the Nursing Program. Faculty who failed student will not be a voting member of the Readmission Appeal Committee, but may be present at meeting.
5. All re-entry appeals will be reviewed by the Readmission Appeal Committee and all decisions regarding readmission will be rendered in a timely manner.
6. The Readmission Committee will make a decision to approve OR to deny the request for readmission into the nursing program.
7. The Nursing Program Coordinator will notify the student in writing of the Readmission Committee's decision with either instructions for reenrollment on a space available basis if approved or other program options, such as MA and HIT programs at RVCC or LPN programs at other New Jersey institutions.
8. Approval for Readmission to the Nursing Program does NOT guarantee a seat. All appeal readmissions are on a space-available basis and do not guarantee a seat. Students whose appeal is approved for readmission will be notified if a seat is available. These procedures, policies, and reentry is not guaranteed and methods of re-entry can change at any time.

X. NURSING FACULTY/STAFF SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATION

A. 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, staff, health care agency, staff, patients and families. If concerns with a specific course of issue arise, the student is expected to discuss these concerns openly and honestly with the appropriate faculty/staff member.

B. Please note: Only school email will be used. The student is responsible to set-up and maintain their school email and check email daily.

C. It is the students' responsibility to check school emails daily. Faculty and Support Staff may be contacted by email or by phone at 908-526-1200 and then dialing their extension. Please note you can expect responses to emails or phone messages within 48 hours, Monday- Friday.

D. Faculty and Staff Contact Information

Name	Extension	Room	Email Address
Balut, Mary – Professor	8907	H-200	Mary.Balut@raritanval.edu
Campoli, Alison – Associate Professor, Nursing Program Coordinator	8232	H-217	Alison.Campoli@raritanval.edu
Demeter, Jeanne-Academic Department Assistant HSE	8877	H 220	Demeter.jeanne@raritanval.edu
Giffin, Jennyfer-Instructor	8208	H212	Jennyfer.giffin@raritanval.edu
Heithoff, Heather – Assistant Professor	8517	H-218	Heather.Heithoff@raritanval.edu
Keegan, Tracey- Instructor	8877	H216	Tracey.Keegan@raritanval.edu
Larson, Nadine – Coordinator of Health Science Education	8610	H-200	nadine.larson@raritanval.edu
Ludwigsen, Karen -Learning Lab Coordinator	8461	H-227	Karen.Ludwigsen@raritanval.edu
del Carmen Molle, Maria-Assistant Professor	8207	H218	Maria.molle@raritanval.edu
O'Neill, Elizabeth – Assistant Professor	8928	H-213	Elizabeth.Oneill@raritanval.edu
Patterson, Carol –Professor	8552	H-212	Carol.Patterson@raritanval.edu
Roop, Joan – Assistant Professor	8591	H-213	Joan.Roop@raritvanval.edu
Sarah Cuss- Instructor	8643	H-216	Sarah.cuss@raritanval.edu
Youngblood, Ardath - Instructor	8658	H-213	Ardath.Youngblood@raritanval.edu

D. Faculty Office Hours:

Each full-time Nursing faculty has scheduled office hours as posted on their office door and H-220 in the Health Science Education Department. These are to be used for scheduling student conferences. Any student conferences relating to clinical experiences are to be made with the assigned clinical instructor. Students are encouraged to meet with their instructors as often as needed.

E. Department Administrative Support:

The HSE Department Assistant (H-220) is support personnel for faculty and should not be contacted for academic information. The Coordinator of Health Science Education (H-217) disseminates information to potential students, guiding students through the nursing program admission process and manages the program's admission list and health maintenance and other program requirements.

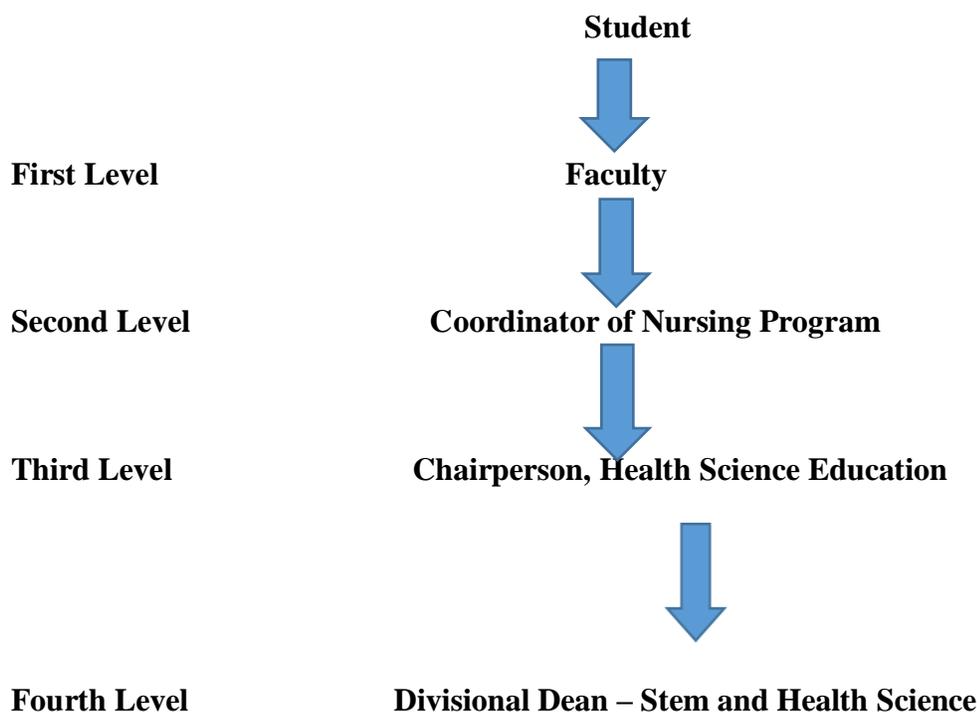
F. Complaints and Chain of Command:

Complaints: Student complaints refer to a grievance, protest, objection or dissatisfaction including but not limited to: academic program, college environment, food service, physical plant, counseling, etc. Please follow procedures in the RVCC Student Handbook for grade appeals, complaints about faculty or administrators, discrimination and sexual harassment.

The following applies for all complaints and suggestions for improvement: Students are expected to be aware of the RVCC policy for "Academic Complaints", which can be found in the RVCC Student Handbook. "Student complaints of an academic nature should initially be discussed with the responsible instructor. Failing a satisfactory resolution of the problem at this level, the student should send a written appeal to the Department's Chairperson. Should the student still feel that a satisfactory resolution has not been arrived at, the student may request the Dean of Academic Affairs to review the matter" (RVCC Student Handbook). It is expected that all students follow the appropriate procedure if a complaint occurs.

In the Nursing Program, students should first discuss the matter with the responsible instructor, then, if matter is unresolved, notify in written form to the Nursing Program Coordinator and then the Department Chairperson and, finally the student may request a review from the Dean of Academic Affairs if the matter still remains unsatisfactorily resolved.

CHAIN OF COMMAND – PROBLEM SOLVING STEPS



Please Note: Experience has shown that 95% of all student problems can be solved at the first or second level.

XI. GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION

A. Nursing-Related General Information:

1. The ANA Code of Ethics For Nurses:

The Code of Ethics for Nurses was developed in 1969 by the American Nurses Association and has undergone several revisions. It serves as a guide for carrying out nursing responsibilities in a manner consistent with quality in nursing care and the ethical obligations of the profession. Students who are preparing to enter the profession of nursing must abide by the rules and regulations of RVCC and the Nursing Program, and are expected to adhere to the standards of academic integrity. Students also conduct themselves with professional decorum and responsibility and comply with the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses.

There are nine provisions of the Code of Ethics for Nurses which include addressing the nurse's role in compassion and respect; maintenance of dignity and unique attributes of individuals; the nurse's commitment to patients, individuals, family, group and community populations; the nurse as an advocate that promotes the rights and safety of patients; the nurse's authority, accountability and responsibility to administer ethical and safe care, the nurse's responsibility to maintain competence, personal and professional growth, to maintain an ethical work

environment, the nurse's role in advancing research and scholarly inquiry, to collaborate with health team to protect human rights and to maintain the integrity of the nursing profession - American Nurses Association, *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretative Statements*, 2015. All rights reserved. www.nursingworld.org

2. Nursing Student Code of Conduct:

The Nursing Faculty at Raritan Valley Community College has adopted the following Nursing Code of Conduct to which all nursing students will be held accountable. This Code of Conduct is derived from the principles in the ANA Code of Ethics (www.nursingworld.org/) and the National Student Nurses Association (www.nsna.org/). 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.

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 patients.
3. Maintain confidentiality of clinical health information from health care agencies.
4. Act to ensure the safety of self, patients, and others.
5. Provide quality care for the patient in a timely, compassionate, and professional manner.
6. Act with honesty in all dealings with faculty, staff and other students.
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 any unnecessary risks to the patients, 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 College policy.

Note: Under no circumstances will children be allowed to attend lecture, learning lab, or clinical practices. Proper child care arrangements must be made and are the student's responsibility.

While on campus and in class, nursing students are expected to follow the RVCC Code of "Campus Conduct" found in the RVCC Student Handbook. Students who disrupt classes, labs or clinical learning experiences will be asked to leave so as not to disturb other students' ability to learn.

Academic Integrity: Honesty, integrity and civility are the necessary preconditions of academic freedom. Consequently, the maintenance of academic integrity and civility is the obligation of every member of the RVCC community, and breaches of conduct in these areas constitute serious offences. For these reasons, the nursing program strictly follows policies outlined in the RVCC Student Handbook section entitled “*Academic Dishonesty, Cheating and Plagiarism*”. All students are expected to conform to these policies throughout the program.

3. Nursing Practice Act: 45:1-21- State of New Jersey:

45:1-21: Grounds for refusal to admit to examination, refusal to issue or to suspend or revoke any certificate, registration or license.

<http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/nur/pages/applications.aspx>

The New Jersey Board of Nursing may refuse to admit a person to an examination or may refuse to issue or may suspend or revoke any certificate, registration or license issued by the Board upon proof that the applicant or holder of such certificate, registration or license;

- Has obtained a certificate, registration, license or authorization to sit for an examination, as the case may be, through fraud, deception or misrepresentation;
- Has engaged in the use or employment of dishonesty, fraud, deception, misrepresentation, false promise or false pretense;
- Has engaged in gross negligence, gross malpractice or incompetence;
- Has engaged in repeated acts of negligence, malpractice or gross incompetence;
- Has engaged in professional or occupational misconduct as may be determined by the Board;
- Has been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude or any crime relating adversely to the activity regulated by the Board. For the purpose of this subsection a plea of guilty, non vult, nolo contendere or any such disposition or alleged criminal activity shall be deemed a conviction;
- Has had his authority to engage in the activity regulated by the Board revoked or suspended by any other state, agency, or authority for reasons consistent with this section;
- Has violated or failed to comply with the provisions of any act or regulation administered by the Board;
- Is incapable, for medical or any other good cause, of discharging the functions of a licensee in a manner consistent with the public’s health, safety and welfare.

4. NCLEX-RN Test Plan:

Go online to www.ncsbn.org for NCLEX-RN testing information. Go online to for the current NCLEX-RN test plan <https://www.ncsbn.org/testplans.htm>

5. Social Media Policy:

Students accepted to the nursing program at RVCC and current RVCC nursing students should be cautious in using social networking such as Facebook, Twitter, blogging, etc. The nursing profession is founded on the highest standards of conduct because of the great level of trust patients place in nursing professionals. The ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses was developed as a guide for carrying out nursing responsibilities in a manner consistent with quality in nursing care and the ethical obligations of the profession. The Code also provides the standards that call for nurses to act ethically (ANA, 2015). After you are admitted to the nursing program at RVCC, enrollment remains contingent on your integrity and accountability. Posting items on social networking sites that represent unprofessional/unethical clinical behavior, releasing patient health information, or violating the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) standards may result in disciplinary action by RVCC and the affected clinical agency. Students are advised that only communications received from the course faculty regarding course information; from the coordinator of health science education related to health maintenance, program requirements and registration; and department chairperson related to the nursing program are valid. Communication from or on unauthorized social media sources are not valid and should not be used for school/program information as those sources are not sanctioned or used by the nursing program.

Tips on Social Networking:

- **Always represent yourself professionally.** As an RVCC nursing student, you are entrusted with a wealth of confidential patient information. Sharing patient information verbally or electronically is illegal and unethical. As a nursing professional in training, it is your responsibility to uphold a professional, discreet demeanor in all of your correspondences and posts.
- **Protect your online profile and identity.** It is important to scrutinize all materials you post on personal pages. It is equally important to speak to family and friends and request that no embarrassing or unprofessional materials be posted and “tagged” to you. Be selective about who you accept as a friend on a social network.
- **Assume that everything posted is permanent.** Be mindful of what you post. Even if you remove embarrassing or inappropriate materials from a site, or delete your account all together, those materials will remain in cyberspace forever. Anyone on the internet can easily print photos or save text, images and videos to a computer. Once material is posted, it is out of your control forever.
- **Privacy Settings.** Take the time to establish privacy settings on all social networking sites you use. These settings will help to protect your identity and personal information.
- **Be aware.** Student should be aware that postings on social networking sites may be viewed by potential employees and reflect negatively on the individual and/or by the College.
- **Search yourself.** On a regular basis, search yourself online to audit what is posted about you.

6. Additional Information:

Nursing students have the ability to become CNAs within 12 months of passing NURS 101. For more information you can contact:

New Jersey Department of Health

P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
(866) 561-5914
Fax: (609) 633-9087
<http://www.nj.gov/health/>

For a copy of the Nurse Aide Examination Candidate Information Bulletin refer to this link
https://candidate.psiexams.com/bulletin/display_bulletin.jsp?ro=yes&actionname=83&bulletinid=493&bulletinurl=.pdf

B. RVCC – Related General Student Information

1. Academic and Course Calendars:

RVCC Academic Calendars are posted on Lion’s Den, they identify important dates such as first and last day of classes, days school is closed, dates for withdrawals and final exam week. The course calendar is developed by the Course coordinator in consultation with the Health Science Education Department Chairperson and is **SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Course Calendars will be either given to you by the course coordinators and/or located in the course syllabi.

2. Final semester grade reports:

Final Grades: Students may view final semester grades on the web by using the Lion’s Den-Student Services tab at www.raritanval.edu Grades become available as the instructors report them to the Office of Enrollment Services (taken from RVCC Student Handbook). **Please note:** Due to Academic Calendar schedules, final grades for Module I may not be available prior to the start of Module II. In the event that a student has not passed the respective nursing course in Module I, the student will not be able to continue in the Module II nursing course.

3. ADA Compliance Statement and Disability Services:

Raritan Valley Community College is committed to providing equal access to employment and to all college programs, services, and activities to persons with disabilities and fully complies with the regulations and stipulations of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The nursing program will, if requested, provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified enrolled students unless: (a) such accommodations impose undue hardship to the institution ; or (b) direct threats of substantial harm to the health and safety of others due to the disability cannot be eliminated by any reasonable accommodations available that would allow the students to perform the essential functions; or, (c) such accommodations fundamentally alter the educational program or academic standards.

Any student who has a documented disability and wishes to self-identify should contact the Center for Accessibility and Inclusive Education at (908) 526-1200 ext. 8534, or email caie@raritanval.edu. Accommodations are *individualized* and in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. In order to receive

accommodations, students must be registered with the Center Accessibility for Inclusive Education. Students should register with the office as soon as possible. No accommodation is official until the Accommodation Letter is issued from the student to their instructor via email.

4. RVCC Anti- Discrimination & Harassment and Safety Reporting Policy: Students in the Work Environment

It is the policy of the College to promote and maintain a work and academic environment in which all members of the College Community are treated with dignity and respect. The College recognizes the human dignity of each member of the College Community and expects all employees and students to promote respect and dignity for others so that all employees and students are free to pursue their goals in an open environment, able to participate in the free exchange of ideas, and able to share equally in the benefits of the College's employment opportunities and educational programs and activities.

The College is committed to ensuring that all current and prospective employees and students are given equal opportunity and treatment and providing its students with an academic environment and its employees with a work environment free from discrimination and harassment. No student or employee shall be denied participation in, the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity or in employment based upon membership or perceived membership in a protected class.

Discrimination and harassment are strictly prohibited on the College campus and at any other location where the College offers programs or activities or sponsors events. Discrimination and harassment are also prohibited in connection with College programs, activities, and events and in terms and conditions of employment. Harassment or discrimination through social media or other electronic communication is also prohibited. This prohibition against discrimination and harassment applies to all students, prospective students, employees, and prospective employees of the College, including student workers, and to all consultants, contractors, and other individuals performing work for the College.

REPORTING DISCRIMINATION OR HARASSMENT

Potential violations of this policy must be reported immediately to: Cheryl Wallace, Executive Director of Human Resources Cheryl.wallace@raritanval.edu ext 8260.

An individual does not have to be the direct target of the discrimination or harassment to report it.

Any faculty member, manager, supervisor, or administrator who observes, receives a report of, or otherwise becomes aware of potential or actual harassment or discrimination or any potential violation of this Policy, shall immediately report it to the Executive Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations or the Vice President of Finance & Facilities. Failure to make such report will subject the manager, supervisor, or administrator to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Upon receipt of a report under this Policy, a prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation will be conducted. The College is committed to handling reports of discrimination and harassment swiftly, fairly, and with sensitivity. Upon completion of the investigation, the College will take corrective action, as appropriate and consistent with the results of the investigation.

To the maximum extent feasible, the privacy of all persons involved will be respected during the course of any investigation. However, an adequate investigation of any report under this Policy will generally require disclosure to the accused party and other witnesses in order to conduct a meaningful investigation.

All members of the College community are expected to cooperate with any investigation arising from alleged violations of this policy.

Retaliation against any individual reporting apparent violations of this policy and/or participating in an investigation is also strictly prohibited. Retaliation must be reported and will be investigated and corrected in the same fashion as other violations of this policy.

Students found to be in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary penalties, under the Student Code of Conduct, up to and including expulsion from the College. Employees found to be in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary penalties, up to and including termination of employment.

Questions regarding this Policy should be directed to the Vice President of Human Resources and/or the Vice President of Finance.

PROFESSIONAL DEMEANOR AND INTERACTION

Employees and students are expected to interact professionally and treat each other with the dignity and respect expected of mature adults in a professional setting. Unprofessional, disrespectful, undignified, or inappropriate conduct or communications will not be tolerated irrespective of whether such conduct otherwise violates this Policy.

The following administrators has been designated to handle inquires/complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and Section 504: Cheryl Wallace, Executive Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations, Cheryl.wallace@raritanval.edu 908-526-1200 ext 8260

<https://www.raritanval.edu/general-information/policies-and-consumer-information/anti-discrimination-policy>

SAFETY

All RVCC students have the right to work in an environment that is safe. Students' physical and emotional safety are of the utmost concern. Healthcare experiences have inherent and often unanticipated risks such as accidental needle sticks, exposure to chemical or biologic agents. During the course of a student's work placement, there may be risks related to the experience and uncertainty of future events. Following are examples of some potential hazards or risks:

- Outdoor exposure to weather, pollution, noise, or other hazards
- Unsafe neighborhood or being sent to unsafe locations
- Remote, poorly lit, or unsecured parking areas
- Dangerous intersections or roadways
- Being left alone in a building or at the work site
- Indoor exposure to machinery, extreme temperatures, or other structural hazards
- Dangerous, infected, or contagious animals, plants or other hazards
- Office or laboratory equipment and chemicals (toner, chemicals, cleaning products)

Please note: An examples of potential risks in health care programs are accidental needle sticks, falls, exposure to chemical or biologic agents.

There are four basic steps in assessing and managing risk:

1. Identify potential hazards, risks, or concerns.
2. Understand guidelines and expectations of the internship or job site and supervisor.
3. Consider solutions to potential problems.
4. Follow the procedure for reporting an incident or concern as stated below.

REPORTING AN INCIDENT OR CONCERN

No RVCC student should feel unsafe or uncomfortable at his/her worksite. Students are encouraged to report any incidents of discrimination or harassment or any safety concern or discomfort at the worksite. If you feel that your safety and/or well-being are at risk or that you are being harassed, please leave the Site immediately and report the situation immediately to:

- 1) Human Resources at the worksite **AND**
- 2) Wendy Schnall, Career Services Advisor at 908-526-1200 X8338, wendy.schnall@raritanval.edu **AND**
- 3) Cheryl Wallace, Executive Director, Human Resources at 908-526-1200 ext. 8260 or Cheryl.Wallace@raritanval.edu
- 4) <https://www.raritanval.edu/general-information/policies-and-consumer-information/anti-discrimination-policy>

This allows both the "employer" and the College the opportunity to promptly respond. Report the incident and your concerns after you have removed yourself from possible harm. RVCC would never expect a student to stay at any site that is, or has the potential to be, an unsafe environment. Document all facts including, but not limited to, date, time, and persons involved, and the situation as you observed it. RVCC will work with the student to remedy same and/or remove the student from any unsafe environment immediately. Know that RVCC will act as soon as possible in accordance with the College's procedures and with the student's protection as a priority.

Students reporting an incident or concern under this policy are assured that such a report shall have no impact on the student's grade or academic standing within the College.

Personal counselors are available for assistance in the Advising and Counseling Office, College Center 163.

STUDENT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND JOB EXPECTATIONS

- During this work experience, you are representing yourself, RVCC, its students, faculty, staff and alumni.
- Your performance and attitude will have implications beyond you and beyond this internship/job.
- You are governed by the internship/job site's employment policies, procedures, dress code, privacy or confidentiality agreements, and standards of conduct. It is recommended that you obtain clear guidelines from your employer before you begin your internship/job.
- For experiential learning opportunities, your commitment to on-site work is important. You are responsible for notifying the RVCC Department Coordinator of absences according to their policies and procedures. Any changes in your status (layoff, cutback of hours, or dismissal) must be reported immediately to the RVCC Department Coordinator.
- You may not withdraw from the placement without prior authorization from the RVCC Department Coordinator except in severe and justifiable circumstances, which is determined by the RVCC Department Coordinator in consultation with the site.

5. Confidentiality Information and FERPA:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 protects the privacy of education records, establishes the right of students to inspect and review their education records, and provides guidelines for contesting information in these records that is believed to be inaccurate or misleading.

Students have the right to inspect and review all of their education records maintained by the College. The College is not required to provide copies of records unless it is not reasonable convenient for students to inspect their records.

Students have the right to request that the College correct records believed to be inaccurate or misleading. If the College decides, in response to such a request, not to amend a student's record, the student has the right to a formal hearing before the Dean of Student Services. After the hearing, if the College maintains its position that the student's record should not be amended, the student has the right to enter a statement into his/her records commenting on the contested information.

The College will not release any confidential information from a student's record without the written consent of the student, except for releasing information to:

- College officials with a legitimate educational interest
- Other institutions at which a student intends to enroll
- Certain government officials for the purpose of carrying out their lawful functions
- Appropriate parties involved with the awarding of financial aid to a student
- Organizations conducting appropriate research for the College
- Accrediting agencies
- Individuals who have obtained appropriate court orders or subpoenas
- Persons who have need for the information in cases of health and safety emergencies

The College may disclose Directory Information without the written consent of the student. Directory Information includes the following:

- Name, address, telephone number, and email address
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Enrollment status
- Previous institutions attended
- Major field of study
- Awards and honors
- Degrees and/or Certificates awarded including date of conferral
- Past and present participation in officially recognized College activities
- Height and weight of student athletes

Students may request the withholding of Directory Information. To ensure that such a request is properly processed, it must be submitted on the official "Request to Withhold Directory

Information” form, which is available in the Office of Enrollment Services. The request to withhold information will remain in effect until the student submits a signed authorization for the release of Directory Information.

Students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning an alleged failure by the College to comply with the requirements of FERPA. For further information regarding the filling of complaints, students should contact the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202.

6. Academic Support Center:

The Academic Support Center (ASC), located on the lower level of Somerset Hall, provides academic support services at no additional charge to registered RVCC students. The ASC offers:

- Drop-in Tutoring – Math and English tutors are available during all hours of operation. Tutoring for many other RVCC courses is available according to published schedules. ASC tutors are employed by the College and participate in regular training in accordance with CRLA (College of Reading and Learning Association) requirements.
- Learning Support Materials – Reference books, current text books, DVDs, computer software, and manipulative learning tools for math and science are available at the ASC. State-of-the-art assistive technologies are accessible to accommodate special needs for students.
- Computers – Internet access and learning support software are available for writing papers, doing research, and completing homework. The ASC staff is trained to help students with online learning systems and course software.
- Online Tutoring – ASC writing tutors provide prompt feedback for papers submitted online to asctutor@raritanval.edu. *Smarthinking*, a web-based tutoring o Thursday, 9amservice covering multiple subjects is accessible 7 days a week. Please visit our website or contact the ASC for details.
- Hours of Operation – Fall and spring semesters: Monday to Thursday, 9am-8pm, Friday, 9am-3pm, Saturday, 10am-2pm. For summer and intersession hours, visit the website or stop by for an updated schedule.

For more information about the ASC, call 908-526-1200 Ext. 8393 or visit <https://www.raritanval.edu/student-life/student-services/tutoring-services>

7. Online Services and Educational Support:

The College’s website at www.raritanval.edu offers comprehensive about services and programs at RVCC. The general public has easy access to up-to-date information about the campus, from news and events to course descriptions and curriculum outlines.

In addition, a wide variety of online services are available to RVCC students through Lion’s Den, the online student information system at Raritan Valley Community College. The Lion’s Den is the official communication channel used for RVCC business and teaching purposes.

Students should check it daily to ensure that they read all communication in a timely manner. Most services require the College ID number and a password. Students can:

- Apply for admission and view status of application processing
- View status of admission document processing
- View and print the course schedule
- View HOLDS that may limit or restrict registration
- Register for classes
- Apply for financial aid
- View financial aid status
- View and print class schedule
- Add or drop classes
- Request enrollment verification
- View and print final grades
- Generate and print a degree evaluation
- View and print unofficial transcripts
- Request official transcripts
- Receive important college mail, including bills, grades, and academic standards correspondence
- Sign up for emergency and inclement weather notifications
- Advising and counseling <https://www.raritanval.edu/admissions-info/advising-and-counseling>

8. Computer Facilities:

Raritan Valley Community College is a fully networked campus. Personal computers are available in over 30 instructional laboratories. Many application software packages for computer science and other discipline are available. All labs are equipped with high-speed laser printers. All computers have access to the Internet. The campus has complete Wi-Fi coverage and students can register their portable computing devices at MIS Helpdesk to make use of it. Students also have access to personal and laptop computers in the library. Here, software is specially configured for research and library related activities.

Personal computers, the campus network and the Internet are also used in 80 classrooms known as CATT (Center for Advanced Teaching and Technology) rooms. A wireless network is available across the entire campus.

All students are provided with email accounts via the Lion's Den Google hosted system. This system together with the College's "SunGard Higher Education Banner" administrative system allows online registration for classes, grade lookup, email to faculty, and announcement of campus event. Online courses are provided via the CANVAS system, a feature rich Learning

In addition to the computer facilities that are offered at RVCC, the nursing program has their own special purpose computer lab (H-225) which contains discipline-specific software to assist students in the nursing program.

9. Library Services:

The Evelyn S. Field Library is located on two floors near the main entrance of the College. The circulation desk and the reference desk are both on the first floor. The circulating book collection is located on the second floor.

- **Library Card:** The College ID card serves as the library card. Patrons must activate their library card at first use.
- **Group Study Rooms:** Group study rooms, which are located on the upper level, may be reserved for groups of two or more students for up to three hours at a time. Groups are also welcome to use the Library Lounge located outside the Library.
- **Study Space:** The Library has carrel and table seating available for studying on both levels. Silent study is offered on the second floor. We try to maintain a quiet environment on the first floor.
- **Computers:** Computers are available for library research, writing papers, College email services and general Internet access.
- **Library Instruction:** The Library's instructional program offers a wide variety of classes at the developmental level, through basic instruction to advanced subject-specific classes. Classes are conducted in our computer classroom by the Library faculty.
- **Photocopying Service:** Photocopying is available with the use of copy cards.
- **Collection:** The Library's collection of books, DVDs, videos, audio books, journals and newspapers has been selected in consultation with the faculty to support the curriculum of the College and to provide academic, cultural and informational enrichment. The Library catalog, which is available from the Library's website, provides access to books, videos and audio books. Dozens of databases give access to current information in journals, magazines and newspapers.
- **Remote Access:** The Library's website serves as the gateway to the virtual library. Users may conduct research from home or office using their RVCC network login to access subscription databases. Users may electronically request inter-library loan for materials that the RVCC Library does not own. Research questions may be sent to an RVCC librarian through the Ask-a-Librarian service directly from the website.
- **Hours:** The Library is open day, evening and weekend hours as posted in the Library and online at <http://library.raritanval.edu>

10. Financial Aid:

Financial aid is available to full and part-time students. Their goal is to provide funds from the federal government, State of New Jersey, and internal sources for students who would not be able to complete their college education without financial assistance. Student financial aid is not a supplement to the student's income for meeting normal living expenses, but is available to help the student offset the additional expense incurred directly by his or her education. Most financial aid awards are based on demonstrated financial need, which is the difference between the cost of attendance and the expected family contribution. In order to apply for any RVCC Scholarships, a student must complete the RVCC Scholarship Application. The application is available on the RVCC financial aid website at <http://www.raritanval.edu/studenterv/finaid/index.html>

For additional information, contact the Financial Aid Office (C-128) at 908-526-1200, Ext. 8273 or email finaid@raritanval.edu Please feel free to explore additional financial aid and student loan options at <http://www.raritanval.edu/studenterv/finaid/scholarships/html>

11. Graduation:

- a. Eligibility: It is the student's responsibility to check that all program requirements have been met for graduation. Students may consult Student Online Planner of Academic Advisor for policies concerning eligibility for graduation.
- b. Expenses: Information will be provided in the final semester about graduation expenses and fees that are not covered under usual college graduation expenses and fees. In the nursing program examples of these fees are NCLEX-RN related expenses that are independent of the College expenses, but are costs that the Nursing graduate will incur to take the NCLEX-RN exam.
- c. When all nursing program requirements have been completed, degree conferred and RVCC financial status is clear, the registrar notifies the HSE department that this has been accomplished and student has no financial holds. Then the student's name and letter of program completion will be submitted to the Board of Nursing

12. Mental Health Resources

The nursing faculty understand the impact of challenges that arise from work, school and family responsibilities. RVCC provides free, confidential counseling. Students may contact Advising and Counseling at <https://www.raritanval.edu/admissions-info/advising-and-counseling> . Additional mental health resources can be found at <https://www.njmentalhealthcares.org/>.

13. COVID-19 Resources and updates regarding RVCC's pandemic response for AY 2021-2022 can be found at <https://www.raritanval.edu/>

XII. CLINICAL AGENCIES- Sites are subject to change

Carrier Foundation (Belle Mead) from RVCC

Route 22 East to Route 28 East. Route 28 East to Somerville Circle. Go around circle 1/4 turn on Route 206 South. Route 206 South approx. 11 miles to Y in the road. Take right at Y (Belle Mead - Harlingen Rd.) to hospital on right. Hospital main phone # 908-874-4000.

Children's Specialized Hospital (Mountainside) from RVCC

Route 78 East, to Exit 43 toward Berkley Hts/Watchung, then merge onto Connell Dr. Stay straight to go onto Oak Way. Turn left onto Valley Rd/County Hwy 655. Turn left onto Park Ave/County Hwy 655, continue to follow Park Ave. Turn slight right onto US Highway 22/US-22 E. Continue to follow US – 22 E. Turn slight right, then right onto New Providence Rd/County Hwy -645. Hospital on the left at 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside, N.J/

Children's Specialized Hospital (New Brunswick) from RVCC

Route 22 East to Route 287 South to Easton Avenue exit. Stay on Easton Avenue until right turn on Somerset Street. Hospital phone #732-258-7000.

Hunterdon Medical Center (Flemington) from RVCC.

Route 22 East to Somerville Circle. South of Route 202 to Church Street in Flemington. Right on Church St, Right on Route 31 North, Left at light across from BJ's.

Matheny School (Peapack) from RVCC

1-287 North to exit 18B (Netcong-Bedminster/202-206). Route 202-206 North to Route 202 North (Far Hills-Morristown). At flashing light on 202 north, yield to the right. Take first left (Rt. 512-Peapack Rd). After passing Far Hills/Bedminster Rescue Squad (Rescue Squad is on the right). Route 512-Peapack Rd. approx. 1 1/2 miles to Matheny School on right. Look for white sign and 2 stone/brick pillars at entrance. Cannot see these from the road-driveway is very rough. School main phone # is 201-234-0011, x236.

Overlook Hospital (Summit) from RVCC

Lamington Road to Route 78 East to exit 45 (Summit/Glenside Avenue). Left at the traffic light. Go to the end of the ramp onto Glenside Avenue. Continue on Glenside Ave. for 2 miles to the blue hospital (H) sign. Parking in the parking deck. (Approx. \$2.75/Day). Hospital main phone # is 908-522-2000.

Princeton Hospital – University Medical Center of Princeton

Route 206 S then left onto Georgetown Franklin Turnpike/County Hwy-518. Continue to follow County Hwy -518, then right onto Crescent Avenue. Turn slight right on Kingston Rd. Continue to follow County Hwy – 518. Turn right onto Princeton Kingston Rd/ NJ-27. Continue on NJ-27, then turn left on S Harrison St. Then turn left onto US Highway 1/US-1N. Merge onto Plainsboro Rd. Turn left onto Punia Blvd. Go straight, then run left and then right to arrive at University Medical Center of Princeton, 1 Plainsboro Road, Plainsboro, N.J.

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (New Brunswick) from RVCC.

(Please note: Individual parking cost is approximately \$10-\$15/daily. Parking passes are available for the semester for a fee. Car Pooling is requested by the hospital, due to limited parking availability).

Take Route 22 East to Route 287 South to Easton Avenue exit. Stay on Easton Avenue until into New Brunswick at Train Station- make right onto Route 27 South. Go to 2nd traffic light (Patterson St) make left turn on Patterson St to Parking Deck. (Next to Medical Education Building) Hospital main phone # (732)-828-3000.

From Route 1: Take Route 1 to Route 18 exit and follow the above directions.

Robert Wood John son University Hospital (Somerset) formerly Somerset Medical Center (Somerville) from RVCC

Route 22 East to Gaston Avenue Exit (just past Somerville Dodge and a Sunoco Station). Stay on Gaston Avenue until the first traffic light and make a left on Union Avenue. Go 1 1/2 blocks to Rehill Avenue. Make a right on Rehill Ave. The hospital is on the left. Hospital main phone # 908-685-2200.

XII. APPENDICES

On the following pages are important appendices for you to read and/or sign.

Document	Page
FAQ to apply to the Generic RN Program and PNAD Program - 2022	66
Verification for Student Health Maintenance Documentation 2020-2021	68
Health Maintenance Requirements	70
Nursing Program Readmission Appeal Policy	78
Criminal History Background Check and Drug Screening Policy For Clinical Placement	79
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Acknowledgement of Nursing Program Student Handbook	91

RVCC Nursing Program: PNAD (LPN-RN) and Generic RN pathways Information to apply to the Fall 2022 Generic RN Program & Summer 2022 PNAD program

1. What pre-requisites are required?

- Developmental English and ESL courses complete
- Math through Elementary Algebra
- Anatomy and Physiology I & II (met within past 5 years)- 2 grades of D, F, or W in any required science course will disqualify you from application to the Generic RN program
- Overall college GPA of 2.75 & must have taken 6+ credits at RVCC
- Technological Competency (met within the past 7 years)
- ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) and scheduled outside RVCC via www.atitesting.com - as of Summer 2020, ATI TEAS is the entrance test **for both** the Generic RN and PNAD program. *There are minimum section scores needed to be considered eligible to apply to the nursing program – ATI Overall score must be 60% or higher, English & Reading ATI scores each must be 58.7% or higher to apply.* Teas can be only taken once every 4 months. We will accept results from 9/1/20-present time only, with all 4 sections of the test taken.
- Must have completed high school and must be 18 years of age by August 15th to start the clinical Generic nursing program for Fall 2022.
- PNADS must graduate their LPN school with a 3.25%/85% GPA
- PNADS must be a licensed LPN in the state of NJ

- Clear criminal history background check 2 months before applying via Adamsafeguard
- Attend a Nursing Information Session the semester before finishing prerequisites to receive a clinical application (this is the only place to receive a clinical application)
-

2. How long is the waiting list? How long will it take me to complete this program?

- There is no waiting list **as of FALL 2010**. Students will be ranked according to scores/grades in pre-requisites via selective admission criteria. Students who are not admitted must reapply for the next year.
- The Generic RN program and PNAD program has minimum 2 semesters of prerequisites. The sequence of clinical courses takes 2 years (4 semesters) to complete. There are no summer session Nursing courses in the Generic program. The PNAD program has 3 semesters of nursing courses.

3. How do I apply? Is there a separate Nursing application?

- RVCC Application- www.raritanval.edu or with the RVCC Admissions office. Have all prior college transcripts sent to the RVCC Registrar's office - registrar@raritanval.edu .
- Send high school completion proof to Admissions office admissions@raritanval.edu
- Attend a Nursing Information Session to obtain an Application to Clinical, which is submitted to Sentry MD when all prerequisites are completed. Fall 2021 Nursing Info Session dates- <https://www.raritanval.edu/career-training/nursing-program-information-sessions>
- Schedule/plan prerequisites with Advising & Counseling- <https://www.raritanval.edu/reopening-student-services>

4. How much does it cost?

- The first semester is the most expensive, due to one-time costs such as immunizations, background check, uniforms and basic books. It is approximately \$5000+. Subsequent semesters will cost around \$4000+ A tuition calculator can be found at <https://www.raritanval.edu/paying-for-college>

5. Am I eligible if I live out-of-county?

- If you live out-of-county, you may claim residency if you are a permanent employee of a company in Somerset or Hunterdon County. This may be part-time, but may not be seasonal or temporary. We prioritize in county residents and employees first.
- Many students who do not live or work in Hunterdon or Somerset County apply to both RVCC and another nursing school to have a back-up plan.

For more detailed information, information about all RVCC health programs, and to review all nursing curriculum pages, visit our website at <https://www.raritanval.edu/health-professionprograms> <https://commons.raritanval.edu/academics/dept/hs/Pages/index.aspx> The nursing program information and criteria is subject to change at any time. Immunizations, including COVID and INFLUENZA vaccine are required for the nursing program.

Verification for Student Health Maintenance Documentation Nursing Students 2021-2022 1st year, 2nd year, and PNAD students

Requirement	expiration date	NOTES for student
Professional Policy, HSE Immunization and Progression Form/Health and demographics- PART I	Fill out and scan to Sentry MD account within one week of accessing the Sentry MD student account	Must be on file to proceed with rest of requirements
Original Health Maintenance form completely filled out, all signatures of students and doctor's office completed	5.1.2021 all forms expire RVCC provides form to student with deadlines	Upload to Sentry MD with other completed documents on this checklist
Malpractice insurance declaration page 1,000,000/6,000,000 RN student status	Cannot expire before 5/1/2022	Declaration page only valid proof, please submit with packet
Current American Heart CPR card COPY, valid through entire school year	Cannot expire before 5/1 of any academic year	Copy of card needed for submission- AHA BLS CPR
TB testing	2 Step PPD or TSPOT or Quantiferon GOLD blood test	TB testing with results must be uploaded to Sentry MD
MMR titer	Program requires lab result- one time requirement	All immunization records needed with form
Hep B titer	Program requires lab result- one time requirement	All immunization records needed with form
Varicella immunization required if no positive titer is reported. +titer OR immunization series needed on file	Program requires lab result- One time requirement	Students may have a positive titer OR proof of 2 varicella vaccinations to meet this requirement
Criminal hx background	Student must provide a copy	All students need current CHBC
Tdap (within 10 years)	Please be sure one Tdap given	health care provider will

	in lifetime, then TD every 10 years	indicate on health form, student can scan in this area to meet requirement
Influenza immunization (no earlier than 8/2020)	Can be given 8/2021-11/1/2021	Due no later than 11/1/21
PNAD Influenza documentation	PNADS only must give a 2020-2021 nfluenza vaccination proof	Submit with entire packet to Sentry MD
Drug screen waiver agreement (2 forms)	Signed and scanned in- PART I of forms	Must have forms signed and dated and uploaded within 1 week of accessing Sentry MD
Drug testing	See dates for specific cohort	Students upload results to sentry md after testing period
Latex allergy question & all signatures on health form?	Please be sure your healthcare provider answered this	Student will upload a copy of this part of the form to show it was filled out
COVID Vaccine and COVID testing	Mandatory vaccination for COVID-19, testing can be done per hospitals at any time	You are welcome to upload the COVID vaccine or testing if you receive it to Sentry MD!
Sentry MD Student Consent Statement	Part V for student to fill out	Please upload this form with your other Sentry MD documents

118 Lamington Road • Branchburg, NJ 08876-3315
• www.raritanval.edu • 908-526-1200



**Health Science Education Department
Immunization & Nursing Program Requirements
Health Maintenance Policies
2021-2022**

Students are required to follow the Immunization & Nursing Program Requirements that are found in this document, as well as presented at Health Maintenance Meetings. These meetings take place with the Coordinator of Health Science Education upon admittance to the Nursing program at RVCC and will do so yearly after.

All nursing students, 1st year, 2nd year, Nursing Seminar, and PNAD's will make a class registration appointment with the Coordinator of Health Science Education, nadine.larson@raritanval.edu once ALL health maintenance requirements are complete and uploaded to the online student health document tracking account with Sentry MD. Each student must receive an email confirmation from Sentry MD before emailing the Coordinator of HSE for a class registration appointment. **Students should forward the email from Sentry MD to Nadine.larson@raritanval.edu to show evidence that health maintenance and program requirements for the 2020-2021 academic year have been completed. In the body of this email students can include a few dates and times of suggested class registration appointment. No paper documents will be dropped off, emailed, or faxed to the Coordinator of Health Science Education- they all will be uploaded to the Sentry MD student account.**

Students are not eligible to register for Summer 2021, Fall 2021, and Spring 2022 nursing classes without all health maintenance and nursing program requirements (this includes degree requirements) being up to date, as well as having all the documents respectively uploaded and verified as complete by Sentry MD.

Deadline Dates for Health Maintenance Record and ALL required documents (see checklist):

****Students are to upload health maintenance forms & requirements NO later than the following**

dates:

2020-2021 PNAD Option Students	May 15, 2021
Second year nursing students.....	June 1, 2021
First Year Generic Nursing Students (Early Admission)	June 15, 2021
First Year Generic Nursing Students (Late Admission & Nursing Seminar)	August 1, 2021

I understand that it is under the jurisdiction of the Nursing Program Coordinator to remove me from course(s) where requirements have not been met. This jeopardizes my progression and completion of the nursing program if I do not comply with the above health maintenance deadlines. These deadlines are made in accordance with clinical agency contracts and the need for student clearance review and submission to the hospitals. A student who is not clinically cleared is ineligible to participate in clinical rotations, and therefore, effects a students' progression in the nursing program. I understand once I enroll in nursing classes, I cannot change my nursing class schedules unless I evenly exchange a section with another student. The last day to complete an even exchange of schedule with another student is 8/23/2021 for fall 2021 nursing classes and 1/10/2022 for spring 2022 nursing classes and is done with the Coordinator of HSE.

Clinical agencies mandate immunizations for all individuals engaged in patient care. A student may be exempt from any required immunization if they have a medical contraindication or religious exemption. Failure to receive immunizations may prevent fulfillment of the nursing course objectives. The nursing department shall provide reasonable accommodations to those students whose medical conditions or religious beliefs prevent them from being immunized. However, failure to be immunized may prevent the student from meeting nursing course objectives, and therefore, jeopardizes the students' successful completion of the courses and nursing program.

Under the jurisdiction of the Nursing Program Coordinator students can be removed from course(s) where requirements have not been met. This jeopardizes a students' progression and completion of the nursing program if they do not comply with health maintenance deadlines and all requirements. All health maintenance requirements and costs associated with health maintenance are a students' responsibility. These deadlines and requirements are made in accordance with clinical agency contracts and are needed for student clearance, review, and submission to the hospitals. A student who is not clinically cleared is ineligible to participate in clinical rotations, and therefore, cannot continue in the nursing program. Health maintenance requirements can change at any time and may include COVID testing/s COVID vaccination at the students' expense at the students' expense. All health maintenance requirements are at the students' expense. Once students enroll in nursing classes after health maintenance clearance, schedules cannot be changed unless evenly exchanging a section with another student. The last day to complete an even exchange of schedule with another student is 8/23/2021 for fall 2021 nursing classes and 1/10/2022 for spring 2022 nursing classes, and is done with the Coordinator of HSE

Physical Clearance

Yearly, each student will be required to have their health care provider sign off that they have been examined, that they are in good physical health, and have no restrictions when taking part in clinical rotations. This information will be filled in on a health maintenance record. The health care provider will also verify/sign off on the students' health history. It is the students' responsibility to notify the Nursing Program Coordinator of any changes in their health status.

Background Check

Clinical nursing students will perform a criminal history background check on a yearly basis. This is done in order to be authorized to attend clinical site rotations to fulfill clinical course objectives. This is a requirement of the clinical agencies and the New Jersey Board of Nursing for RN licensure and is intended to protect patients in all practice setting. ***It is important to know that students with an unfavorable criminal history will not be admitted to the nursing program at RVCC. 2nd year & Nursing Seminar II students need to order their background check no later than 04/01/2020. Nursing Seminar I students must order their background checks no later than 07/01/2020. 1st year students must submit a copy of their background check that was attached to their clinical application with their health maintenance packet. CHBC's must be done through www.adamsafeguardstudents.com – school code- rvcnd. Students are required to notify the Nursing Program Coordinator in writing if they have any change in that could affect their CHBC during the academic year.*** The cost associated with this is the responsibility of the student. Clinical agencies reserve the right to require a more frequent or additional background check, fingerprinting, or any requirement deemed by them & needed to clear a clinical nursing student. These additional requirements would as well, be the responsibility of the student.

Hepatitis B Immunization & Titer *2nd year and continuing nursing students only need to prove a positive titer result for Hep B one time.*

1. **Documented immune titer –Hepatitis B Surface Antibodies (anti-HBs) is required.**
7. If student has not previously completed a vaccination series, the course of vaccination requires 3 doses at 0, 1 month & 6 months.
8. **The first 2 doses are required before the deadline of form submittal.** Subsequent doses must adhere to the above schedule. **(Titer must be done 2 months after vaccination is complete).** If titer is negative for antibodies, a second Hepatitis B series is required if no previous positive Hep B Ab serology has been documented on the student. If student previously had a positive Hep B Ab serology, only a booster is required. Documentation of the re-titer is **required in all circumstances.**
9. Contraindications can be viewed at - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>
10. If student declines the Hepatitis B vaccine series, a medical reason must be listed on the declination statement. Additional paperwork and documentation will be required- please see Coordinator of HSE.
11. Students need to submit with their health maintenance packet proof of all future appointment dates for immunizations and titer. The packet will not be complete without this information.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Immunization & Titer: 2nd year and continuing nursing students only need to prove a positive titer result for MMR one time.

6. **Documented immune titer is required.**
7. If you were born in 1957 or later and have not had the MMR vaccine, or if you don't have an up-to-date blood test that shows you are immune to measles or mumps (i.e., no serologic evidence of immunity or prior vaccination), get 2 doses of MMR (1 dose now and the 2nd dose 8 weeks later.)
8. Students that are continuing the MMR vaccine series while in clinical rotations must sign a statement regarding this- see Coordinator of HSE for details. Students need to submit with their health maintenance packet proof of all future appointment dates for immunizations and titer. The packet will not be complete without this information. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>
9. One dose of MMR vaccine should be considered for HCP with no laboratory evidence of disease or immunity to rubella. For these same HCP who do not have evidence of immunity, 2 doses of MMR vaccine are recommended during an outbreak of measles or mumps and 1 dose during an outbreak of rubella. <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2017.pdf>
10. Contraindications can be viewed at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>

Varicella Immunization or Positive Immune Titer; 2nd year and continuing nursing students only need to prove a positive titer result for Varicella one time.

12. **Documented immune titer or proof of completed immunization series required (if have received the series prior)**
13. Persons with history of the active disease should have it documented on the health maintenance record by a health care provider with a copy of a positive immune titer.
14. Persons who received the varicella immunization series must have it documented on the health maintenance record by a health care provider.
15. Anyone who presents with a weak titer with no history of varicella vaccination must receive the varicella immunization series- 2 doses at 0 and 2 months. This is required before starting clinical rotations. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/varicella/hcp-vacc.html>
5. Contraindications can be viewed at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>

-A COPY OF EACH TITER RESULT IS NEEDED FOR THE STUDENTS' FILE Immune titers are good for the entire time a student is in the nursing program. Required titers must be drawn upon admission to the nursing program.

Tetanus and Diphtheria/Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis

16. A tetanus and diphtheria (Tdap) booster is required within the last 10 years if the student has a documented history of receiving a primary series of diphtheria and tetanus (DT) or diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DPT) in infancy. Students under age 65 years of age are strongly advised to receive a Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap) booster if they are due for a booster and NEVER had one (a Tdap vaccine).
17. If never immunized against tetanus or diphtheria, the student should speak to their health care provider and receive the immunization series.
18. Contraindications can be viewed at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>

Tuberculosis Testing

19. **TB testing cannot be completed before 5/1/2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.**
All nursing students are required to have TB testing in one of the following forms:
 - a. TSPOT (copy required to be submitted with documents)
 - b. QuantiFERON GOLD TEST (copy required to be submitted with documents)
 - c. 2 STEP PPD (tests placed 1-3 weeks apart)
20. All PPDs be completed and read and documented at the time the health maintenance form is submitted to Sentry MD. Persons with a history of having the BCG vaccine must speak to their health care provider regarding TB testing.
21. PPD test must be assessed within 48-72 hours after placement and measurement of the size (in mm) of induration noted. **Then a 2nd PPD test must be placed 1-3 weeks later and assessed within 48-72 hours after placement**-the area is to be measured in mm and documented. PPD testing should start no earlier than 4/29/2021.
22. If a positive PPD or positive TSPOT/QUANTIFERON GOLD test occurs, follow the following procedure:
 - c) A follow up chest x ray is required – results must be attached the radiology report to health form.
If chest X ray is negative, health care provider clearance is needed.
 - d) If chest X ray is positive, clearance from the health care provider or Infectious Disease health care provider must be obtained to continue in the nursing program.

TB testing is completed yearly for all nursing students TB testing completed 4/08/21 is NOT acceptable because it will not be valid through the entire Spring 2022 semester. Please do not complete TB testing before 5/1/2021.

Malpractice Insurance for Student Nurses

All students entering or continuing the program for the June 2021 (PNAD) or September 2021 Semester must purchase their Malpractice Insurance before their health maintenance deadline date. The policy date will go from on or about **May 1 2021- May 1, 2022** (late admission students may date their policies accordingly since admission is after this date)

The policy can be purchased immediately- today. Students can request specific dates via the

insurance company

- a. Liability amounts for this policy MUST be 1,000,000 per 6,000,000
- b. Please pick registered nursing student status (our program is an associate degree, registered nurse student level)
- c. The only form of proof of having a malpractice insurance policy is to upload to Sentry MD, a copy of the malpractice insurance declaration page. No receipts of payment will serve as proof of being insured – **you must have the declaration page emailed to you to print out/save on your computer after 24 hours of purchasing, or get the original declaration page in the postal mail.** See additional handouts for examples of companies to purchase registered nursing student malpractice insurance.

Drug Screening

Urine drug screening will be done at a designated time period each year for nursing students prior to the start of clinical rotations and classes. **Urine drug screening must be paid for and scheduled via www.adamsafeguardstudents.com during the designated drug testing period (see addition handout for dates and instructions)**

Ordering school code is **rvcd** **DO NOT ORDER THE DRUG TEST OUTSIDE THE TESTING DATES- Please do not order ahead of time!**

Urine drug screening is a mandatory requirement for admission to the clinical component of the nursing program. **A positive drug screen, drug testing outside the designated time period, not going for drug testing, or refusal to submit to testing will result in dismissal from the nursing program.** Students will be subject to drug tests while enrolled in the clinical nursing program. Results of a dilute urine drug test may necessitate repeat and/or random drug screening while students are enrolled in the clinical nursing program at RVCC. The cost of initial and any repeat urine drug screen/s is the responsibility of the student. The clinical agencies determine the eligibility of a student being clinically placed at their facility. A negative drug test is required for admission and for the progression in the nursing program.

NOTE: The Urine Drug Screening is NOT part of your Health Care Provider's routine physical exam.

CPR Certification

1. All students must provide a copy of a valid **BLS/Healthcare Provider CPR** card from the **American Heart Association**. **No other CPR providers are accepted.** **CPR certification cannot expire within an academic year.** Letters showing a class was attended or skills checklists are not acceptable as documentation of certification. **Students MUST take a full, in person class to obtain this CPR certification- online classes are not accepted.** **A copy of a CPR card with the expiration date and student's name is the only documentation accepted.** **CPR cannot expire before 5/1 of any academic year.**

PNADs should take their CPR class as soon as possible. Early admission Generic RN's should take their CPR class in May 2021. Late admission Generic RN's should

take their CPR class no later than early July 2021. Students will need to upload an AHA BLS CPR card with their health documents to Sentry MD – no other documents are accepted as AHA CPR BLS completion proof. CPR certification cannot expire within an academic year or before 5/1

Influenza

2. In accordance with many of our clinical facilities, an influenza vaccine is **mandatory annually during the fall semester**.
 - e. There is a separate form for each student (1st year, 2nd year, Nursing Seminar I & II and PNAD students) will need to get filled out after receiving an influenza vaccine. PNADs will need to prove they had an influenza vaccine for the 2021-2022 influenza season as well.
 - f. Influenza vaccination is a mandatory requirement of the RVCC Nursing Program. All current nursing students must comply with hospital requirements for seasonal flu vaccine by **November 1, 2021** in order to continue in the nursing program, as well as participate in required clinical rotations within the nursing program. The following documentation form must be uploaded to each students' Sentry MD account. *Some students may need to get the influenza vaccine earlier due to clinical agency policies – these students will be contacted. Do not get this vaccine any earlier than the end of August 2021 when the **2021-2022** seasonal influenza vaccination is available.
 - g. Some students may need the influenza vaccine earlier due to contractual agreements with clinical agencies – those students will be contacted.
 - h. Contraindications can be viewed at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/vaccines.htm> – please see the Coordinator of HSE regarding the need for declining an influenza vaccine and what information is needed.

Pregnancy and Reproduction:

While pregnancy and reproduction are considered a healthy life events, clinical nursing may expose students to reproductive hazards (chemical, physical or biological) in the clinical site. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides information on reproductive hazards in the workplace.

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/reproductivehazards/hazards.html> .

A student who is pregnant must obtain her healthcare provider's clearance for attendance in the clinical area and submit the clearance to the Coordinator of HSE. This initial medical clearance needs to be obtained within 1 week of the confirmation of the pregnancy. Additional and more frequent medical clearance from the student's healthcare provider will be requested as the pregnancy advances in trimesters and at post-pregnancy return to clinical experiences. It is the student's informed decision as to whether to continue in the program during a pregnancy.

PNAD, 1st year, 2nd year and Nursing Seminar students: All students who do **not** understand/have questions regarding the health maintenance requirements should contact the Coordinator of HSE- Nadine.Larson@raritanval.edu Email is the fastest and easiest way of contact. **All documents must be uploaded to the Sentry MD student portal at one time when they are completed- partial documents are not accepted for upload.** Students will not be permitted to register for nursing classes until they have met all health maintenance requirements- you may forward Nadine.larson@raritanval.edu proof that Sentry MD has accepted your documents and deemed them complete, as each student will receive a confirmation email from Sentry MD within 3-5 business days of uploading completed documents. In the body of the email sent to Nadine.Larson@raritanval.edu students may suggest a few days and times to meet for class registration. **Students will need to bring a copy of a degree audit and proof of no RVCC account holds at the time of their class registration appointment.**

Please make an appointment with the Coordinator of HSE to register for upcoming Summer/Fall nursing classes once health maintenance documents are accepted by Sentry MD and deemed complete. **At this registration appointment, students will make an appointment for a time during a designated period to register for Spring 2021 nursing classes.**

All health maintenance requirements subject to change at any time

Nursing Program Readmission Appeal Process

In accordance with due process, any student has the right to appeal for readmission into the Nursing Program. Acceptance for readmission does NOT guarantee a seat in the program. Seats are on a space-available basis. **These procedures, policies, and reentry is not guaranteed and methods of re-entry can change at any time.**

9. The student must submit a written appeal explaining the specific circumstances involved; addressing the specific semester(s) in which the ineligible grade(s) were earned; submitting all appropriate documentation which the Readmission Appeal Committee will review. This appeal letter must also include:
 - h. Letter addressing the specific circumstances involved in failure(s), addressing the specific semester(s) in which the ineligible grades were earned.
 - i. If medical issue caused failure(s), supporting documentation from health care provider must be included.
 - j. Include an in- depth plan for academic improvement (i.e. include study plan, tools etc.)
 - k. Unofficial RVCC transcript
 - l. Document with ATI remediation activity (non- proctored exam, tutorials, etc. that student has worked on) and ATI transcript (proctored exams)
 - m. VSim transcript (if applicable)
 - n. Any additional documentation that student feels will support appeal for readmission.
10. For readmission into the spring semester student letter of appeal must be received by December 31 and student will be notified of decision by January 15; for readmission into the fall semester student letter of appeal must be received by May 30 and student will be notified of decision by June 15. Dates subject to change.
11. All documentation must be sent to the Coordinator of Health Sciences and the Nursing Program via email by the deadline date.
12. Readmission Appeal Committee will be composed of an uneven number of nursing faculty with at least one member outside of the Nursing Program. Faculty who failed student will not be a voting member of the Readmission Appeal Committee, but may be present at meeting.
13. All re-entry appeals will be reviewed by the Readmission Appeal Committee and all decisions regarding readmission will be rendered in a timely manner.
14. The Readmission Committee will make a decision to approve OR to deny the readmission into the nursing program.
15. The Chairperson will notify the student in writing of the Readmission Committee's decision.

16. Readmission does NOT guarantee a seat. Seats are on a space-available basis. **These procedures, policies, and reentry is not guaranteed and methods of re-entry can change at any time.**

Background Checking and Drug Screening Policy for Clinical Placement

Students enrolled in Raritan Valley Community College Health Professions Programs/Health Science Education that involves potentially supervised or unsupervised contact with children, the disabled, or the elderly, or which includes a clinical affiliation, internship, or field placement with a private or public healthcare provider, may be required to undergo statewide and/or national criminal background checks, including but not limited to New Jersey Criminal Offender Record Information and Sex Offender Record Information (SORI), and FBI Fingerprinting checks. Depending on the results of the background checks, a student may be deemed ineligible to participate in such academic or clinical activities, which may impact a student's ability to complete respective program requirements. In addition, please be advised that eligibility to participate in College academic and/or clinical activities following a background check does not guarantee your eligibility to sit for a professional credentialing examination(s) or employment in the field upon graduation. It is your responsibility to contact the certification or licensure board for your particular healthcare profession to determine the standards that must be met for credentialing, licensing and/or employment in that field.

Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) is committed to high-quality education and providing excellent clinical experiences to students in the health professions. Students are expected to perform at their highest functional level during all educational and clinical experiences in order to maximize the learning environment and ensure patient safety. Thus a student's performance at all times must be free of any impairment caused by prescription or non-prescribed drugs or alcohol use. Students enrolling in Health Professions programs are required to undergo and pass a drug and/or alcohol screening analysis in order to be eligible for placement in a clinical facility. Students assigned to clinical education experiences at our contracted facilities may also be required to undergo and pass random drug screening analysis in order to

remain at that clinical facility and in the program. Students who fail a screening, or refuse to submit to a screening within the designated time frame will be ineligible for clinical placement, which will affect their status in the program. Students with a positive drug test may challenge the results of the test within seven (7) business days of notification of the drug test results. This challenge must be in writing and delivered to the college's Dean of Health Science Education. Students may re-apply for re-entry into a health program after one year. Requests for re-admission will be considered on a case by case basis in consultation with the Program Director/Chair.

Students who are notified of a negative-dilute from the testing laboratory will submit to a random drug test within three (3) days of the previous test in order to confirm the negative status of the screening. Additional random testing may also be required under the guidelines listed in your program's handbook. A student who claims that he/she tested positive due to a prescription drug and was unable to clarify this matter with the medical review officer (MRO) from the drug testing lab shall be required to provide evidence from a health care provider of the type of prescription, dates of permissible use and dosage amounts within five (5) days of notification of the drug test results to the college's Dean of Health Science Education. Failure to complete this notification will result in the student being ineligible for clinical placement, which will affect their status in the program

Students who test positive for marijuana are unable to be placed in a clinical placement, which will affect their status in the health program. A student who has a prescription for Medical Marijuana and tests positive for marijuana will also be ineligible to participate in clinical placement due to the federal restriction on the use of marijuana. While the use of Medical Marijuana is permitted in New Jersey, marijuana remains classified as a controlled substance under federal law and its use, possession, and/or cultivation at educational institutions remains prohibited.

PRINTED STUDENT NAME:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

118 Lamington Road ■ Branchburg, NJ 08876-3315
 ■ www.raritanval.edu ■ 908-526-1200



Department of Health Science Education
Clinical Nursing Student Influenza Vaccination Record
Academic Year 2021-2022

2020 DEADLINE.....November 1, 2021*

All current nursing students with clinical assignments must comply with the Center for Disease Control (CDC's) recommendations for seasonal flu immunization by **November 1, 2020 in** order to continue their clinical rotations at their respective clinical agency. The following documentation form must be uploaded to each students' Sentry MD account. *Some students may need to get the influenza vaccine earlier due to clinical agency policies – these students will be contacted. Do not get this vaccine any earlier than the end of August 2020 when the 2020-2021 seasonal influenza vaccination is available.

STUDENT NAME: _____
 DOB _____

Please check appropriate box

_____ **Injectable** influenza vaccination, for the 2020-2021 influenza season, was given on _____ (Date)
 _____ (Check if applies) This student is unable to receive the influenza vaccine.

REASON/DIAGNOSIS:

***** Please be aware that students may be asked by the clinical facilities to wear a mask if they do not to receive an influenza vaccination. Some clinical sites will not accept any student without an influenza vaccination, therefore, jeopardizing the student's progression in the nursing program.**

_____ Declination form on file at RVCC, along with a detailed note from a health care provider

***Please see Coordinator of Health Science Education regarding this – additional paperwork is **REQUIRED**

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER INFORMATION

Print name: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

OFFICE STAMP or pharmacy sticker required: _____

Please return completed form to your Sentry MD student account no later than November 1, 2021 Forms with missing components will not be accepted and will be deemed incomplete.

118 Lamington Road ■ Branchburg, NJ 08876-3315

■ www.raritanval.edu ■ 908-526-1200



NURSING PROGRAM DRUG TESTING POLICY- Student Agreement & Acknowledgement

- I understand that as a requirement for admission to the clinical component of the nursing program, I must submit to a drug test at a designated laboratory, which will provide the result of the test to Adamsafeguard who will then post the result to my Sentry MD student account. The RVCC nursing program administrator will acknowledge my drug test results via RVCC email within 10 business days of going for the drug test.
- I will order, pay for, and go for drug testing within the provided test dates.
- I understand that if the test result is positive, I refuse testing, I do not go for my drug test as directed, or order my drug test and go outside the provided dates, I will be denied admission to the nursing program and its' clinical component. I will forfeit my nursing program seat for not adhering to the drug testing policy.
- I further understand that I will be subject to drug tests while enrolled in the nursing clinical component.
- Result of a dilute urine drug test will necessitate repeat and/or random drug screening while I am enrolled in the clinical nursing program at RVCC, due to contractual clinical agency requirements. All additional testing must be paid for by the student. I have read the additional handout re: dilute specimens.

- The clinical agencies determine the eligibility of a student being clinically placed at their facility.
- A positive drug screen, refusal to submit to testing, or completing the urine drug screen outside the designated drug testing periods will result in dismissal from the nursing program. This policy is subject to change

BY SIGNING THE DOCUMENT, I INDICATE THAT I HAVE READ, I UNDERSTAND, AND I AGREE TO THE NURSING PROGRAM DRUG TESTING POLICY. I UNDERSTAND THAT A NEGATIVE DRUG TEST IS REQUIRED FOR ADMISISON AND FOR PROGRESSION IN THE NURSING PROGRAM. THIS SIGNED DOCUMENT CONSTITUTES MY CONSENT FOR DRUG TESTING BY A DESIGNATED LABORATORY. IT ALSO CONSTITUTES CONSENT FOR THE LABORATORY TO RELEASE THE RESULT OF MY DRUG TESTING TO SENTRY MD AND THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NURSING PROGRAM.

_____ Printed Name of Student

_____ Student Signature

_____ Date signed

Please upload this form to your Sentry MD account with the entire packet of health maintenance documents.



Adam Safeguard & Inquiry Systems, Inc.
Nationwide Screening Services

Dear Student,

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) now requires all healthcare students to have their identity verified and a criminal history search conducted prior to being allowed to participate in any cooperative educational program. In order to facilitate these requirements, Raritan Valley Community College has engaged Adam Safeguard to provide necessary service.

The fee is \$51 for the base package to include a Social Security Trace, National Sex Offender Search, OIG Sanction Search, Multi State Database Criminal History Search and New Jersey Criminal History Search. Your Social Security Trace will dictate what venues are searched. If any address in any additional state is found, we are required to search the county found in that state. The fees for additional locations are as listed and are in addition to the package price above (NJ Sales Tax will be added):

- NY - \$105
- PA - \$32 (currently for St. Luke's Warren students only)
- All other states by county - \$10 each (plus any county court fees, if any)

Also included with this package is the Compliance Tracking service. The fee for this service is \$25 + NJ Sales Tax. You will receive your Healthcare Packet and submission information via e-mail within 2 business days.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Go to www.adamsafeguardstudents.com
- Click on “Order Student Background”
 - You will be required to enter School Code: rvcn2
 - *Be sure to include newupdate_automail@adamsafeguard.com in your address book so the completed background report will not go into your spam mail.*

PLEASE NOTE:

- The charges on your credit card will reflect the name **Nationwide Screening Services**.
- For those not utilizing a credit card you should complete the form, print it and send it with a bank check or money order to Nationwide Screening Services, 501 Madison Ave., 12th Floor, Suite #1202, New York, NY 10022

Please note that because of the timeframe involved in the return of the NJ Statewide Criminal History Searches (10 business days) we ask that you do not contact Adam Safeguard with inquiries regarding completion of searches before the 10 day mark. Unfortunately we cannot inquire the status of these reports, nor can we expedite them in any way. If you need to contact Adam Safeguard, please call us at (732) 506-6100.

Although we are approved by Raritan Valley Community College, you are Adam Safeguard’s client. You are entitled to our support and our best service.

Frequently Asked Questions ADAMSAFEGUARD:

- Will I be charged if I have lived outside of NJ? If so, how much?
 - *Yes. The charge is \$10 for each County (plus county court fees if any - excluding NY & PA). The charge for a NY Search will be \$105 and PA will be \$32.*
- Will my prior arrest, criminal history, conviction, etc. show up?
 - *We do not know what arrests, convictions, etc. will show up until the searches have been run.*
- How long does the search take?
 - *The search will take about 10 business days to complete if the record is clear. If a hit is recovered, it could take about two, even three weeks, to come back depending on the availability of any additional information that may be required to obtain. Unfortunately we cannot expedite this process, nor can we contact the State Police for updates on results.*
- What crimes/convictions/arrests will keep me out of the program?
 - *The education and/or medical facilities will determine which applicants they will accept and deny based on the Background Report. Adam Safeguard does not have any authority to make these decisions.*
- Who will have access to/see my report? My credit card number? My SS Number?

- Adam Safeguard will have access to all three indicated above. The medical facility will have access to the reports, which will contain your SS Number.

- When/How will the school receive my report?
 - The education and/or medical facility will be directly linked to our system and they will be able to log in and view your report as soon as it is completed.

- What do I do if an arrest/conviction shows up on my report and it is not me?
 - Adam will provide you with information on how to dispute/deny/admit/correct any discrepancies in your criminal history. These are one page forms that can be found on our web site under “JCAHO Compliance”.

- What do I do if an address that isn’t mine shows up on my Social Security Trace?
 - You may download a form from the web site listed above that will direct you on how to correct any discrepancies found in your Social Security Trace.

- What if I had a PO Box in another state but never lived there?
 - We will still need to run a criminal search in that state, because the general idea is that you still had the opportunity to commit a crime in that area, resident or not.

1187 Washington Street – Suite #2
Toms River, NJ 08753
(732) 506-6100
www.adamsafeguard.com

**Raritan Valley Community College
Health Science Education Department
Nursing Program Acknowledgement of Reentry Process**

I have received the information describing the process for reentry to the nursing program following either withdrawal or failure of a nursing course.

In addition, I have been advised that clinical placements for all returning students are on a space-available basis and are NOT guaranteed. I understand additional mandatory requirements for reinstatement into the nursing program must be met and will be sent to me in a timely manner. I understand I must then return within 2 years of exit or reapply to Foundations of Nursing. These procedures, policies, and reentry is not guaranteed and methods of re-entry can change at any time.

I have attached my letter of intent to the exit form.

Student Signature

Date

Nursing Department Signature

Date

STUDENTS: Please keep a copy of your forms and letter of intent before submitting to the nursing department.

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HEALTH SCIENCE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
NURSING PROGRAM EXIT FORM**

NAME: _____

COURSE: _____

DATE: _____

- Withdraw- passing
- Withdraw- failing
- Failure- D or F

REASON(S) FOR LEAVING PROGRAM:

Academic: _____

Personal: _____

Other (list):-- _____

ELIGIBLE TO RETURN? **Yes- check reinstatement plan below**

No- review alternate academic and career plans outlined in end of semester letter

READMISSION PLAN:

- For return to NURS 101 - Foundations of Nursing or NURS 130 - Nursing Transitions:** Students must reapply for entry to Foundations of Nursing or Nursing Transitions and meet all admission criteria for that application year. **NO letter of intent is required. Students reapply to program with a new clinical application obtained at a nursing information session.**
- For return to NURS 111 - Adults I:** A letter of intent to return and current proof of residency must be sent to the Department Chair by June 15 with this exit form. Additional mandatory requirements for reinstatement into the nursing program must be met and will be sent to the student in a timely manner. Students must return within 2 years of exit or reapply to Foundations of Nursing. All reinstatements are then based on a space-available basis and is not guaranteed.
- For return to NURS 123 - Adults II:** A letter of intent to return and current proof of residency must be sent to the Department Chair by January 15 with this exit form. The student must participate in mandatory remediation before reentering the program.

Additional mandatory requirements for reinstatement into the nursing program must be met and will be sent to the student in a timely manner. Students must return within 2 years of exit or reapply to Foundations of Nursing. All reinstatements are then based on a space-available basis and is not guaranteed.

- For return to NURS 122 - Psych:** A letter of intent to return and current proof of residency must be sent to the Department Chair by January 15 with this exit form. The student must participate in mandatory remediation before reentering the program. Additional mandatory requirements for reinstatement into the nursing program must be met and will be sent to the student in a timely manner. Students must return within 2 years of exit or reapply to Foundations of Nursing. All reinstatements are then based on a space-available basis and is not guaranteed.
- For return to NURS 211 - Trends, NURS 124 - Peds or NURS 125 - OB:** A letter of intent to return and current proof of residency must be sent to the Department Chair by June 15 with this exit form. The student will be required to participate in mandatory remediation and/or validation of previous nursing course content. Additional mandatory requirements for reinstatement into the nursing program must be met and will be sent to the student in a timely manner. Students must return within 2 years of exit or reapply to Foundations of Nursing. All reinstatements are then based on a space-available basis and is not guaranteed.

These procedures, policies, and reentry is not guaranteed and methods of re-entry can change at any time.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Nursing Department Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Withdrawal Approval: _____ **Date:** _____

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RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S ATI USAGE POLICY

The student is responsible for completion of all assigned ATI Activities and Assessments as designated in each course syllabus and/or as assigned by instructor(s).

ATI assessment questions, exams and activities are the copyrighted property of Assessment Technologies Institute®, LLC. The removal or attempt to remove questions or other assessment material from the test site is prohibited. It is forbidden under federal copyright law to copy, reproduce, record, distribute, or disclose these assessment questions by any means, in whole or in part. A violation of this type can result in civil and criminal penalties.

Suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism will be reported to the Divisional Dean. Upon confirmation of the student's offense by the appropriate Divisional Dean, the student will be subject to warnings and penalties up to and including suspension or dismissal from the College.

ATI Proctored and non-proctored assessment scores are final. ATI provides students with topic areas for review and remediation. ATI does not discuss or release proctored content.

External proctoring via Proctorio may be used for remote ATI assessments. Students are responsible for their testing environment during remote exams and will follow proctoring policies and procedures as set by the instructor or Proctorio.

Please Print Name

Date

Student Signature

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NURSING PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK

I have received and reviewed the Raritan Valley Community College Nursing Program Student Handbook. As a nursing student at Raritan Valley Community College, I accept responsibility to read the contents of this handbook and comply with the information contained within.

Print Name: _____

Print G#: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

STUDENT COPY

