



Utica College

**Traditional Bachelor of
Science Nursing Program**

FINAL 2020

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Evergreen Statement: Please refer to the most current version of the [Utica College Student Handbook](#).

Welcome from the Director

Welcome Future Nurses!

You have made an important decision in your education to pursue a career in nursing and we are glad you chose Utica College. Our faculty are honored to be part of your journey into this profession. To be a nurse is an honor and a privilege. Your nursing education will require passion, determination, integrity, and commitment. Our faculty will challenge you in ways you probably have not experienced before in your education. Over the next four years we will prepare you to become a nurse and teach you the skills and knowledge that you will use for your entire career

The faculty and staff of the Utica College Traditional Nursing program are committed to your success! We will provide you with the resources and knowledge you need to achieve your goals to become a nurse. We continue to evaluate our policies, processes, and curriculum to ensure we are delivering the most effective and up to date evidence-based education to you. The faculty will be your greatest source of support during your courses. Please do not hesitate to reach out to them with questions or concerns. The faculty have office hours to meet with you or you can schedule an appointment with them.

Regardless of what led you to make this decision to pursue a nursing career, we are confident that your Utica College education in the Nursing program will prepare you to be a successful Registered Professional Nurse.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can be of any assistance along the way.

Sincerely,

James H. Monahan MS, RN, EMT-P

Director of Traditional Nursing Program

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PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook is to be used in conjunction with the [Utica College Student Handbook](#), and students are responsible for adhering to the content of both handbooks. Changes in policies and procedures may be made annually and communicated to students via the updated handbook.

The information included in this handbook has been chosen with two purposes in mind. First, an informed student is a better student. We want students to understand the educational goals and mission of the entire program in order to facilitate integration of individual course content into your overall view of the nursing profession.

Second, the faculty and staff take seriously the responsibility of providing students with a quality education that will prepare them to fulfill their responsibilities as a professional nurse. However, the student is the one ultimately responsible for taking full advantage of the program. This handbook provides students with the information necessary for them to take on that responsibility.

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE

The Department of Nursing adheres to the statement of equal opportunity in every aspect of student recruitment, admission, and retention. It is the policy of Utica College to admit students who can benefit from the educational opportunities it offers and whom the College has the capability to serve. Students are admitted on the basis of their potential for intellectual, social, personal, and professional growth. Please refer to the [Utica College Non-Discrimination Policy](#).

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide high quality, innovative, and transformational education to diverse learners and professionals. We prepare nurses to excel in critical reflection, clinical competency, collaboration, caring, and leadership through evidenced based nursing science. Nurses prepared at Utica College are a vital component of the interprofessional healthcare team, responding to health needs across the lifespan locally and globally.

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING VISION STATEMENT

The Utica College Department of Nursing will be recognized as an innovative center of nursing excellence for learners and professionals regionally, nationally, and internationally. The schools educators, clinicians and researchers will inspire the next generation of nurse leaders to respond to the challenges of the dynamic and diverse healthcare environment.

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING GOALS

1. Liberal Education Foundation: Assimilate theories and concepts from liberal education into generalist foundation practice.
2. Leadership: Practice leadership concepts to deliver high quality health care.
3. Professional Behavior: Incorporate professional standards of moral, ethical, and legal conduct into practice.
4. Clinical Competence: Provide safe, competent care across the life-span.

TRADITIONAL NURSING PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the Utica College Traditional Nursing program, the graduate will:

1. Integrate the arts and sciences with nursing science as a foundation for nursing practice, utilizing technological, verbal and written methods of communication
2. Apply interprofessional, management and leadership principles based on current evidence that supports quality outcomes in nursing practice.
3. Demonstrate ethical, moral and legal standards of professional behavior with individuals, families and groups across diverse health care settings
4. Use critical reflection, current evidence and diagnostic reasoning in the promotion of health, reduction of risk and management of illness with diverse populations across the life span.

TRADITIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

Admission Criteria:

Freshman

Track

- Required overall GPA of 85% or equivalent.
 - Satisfactory completion of three years of science and mathematics on high school transcripts, with a required minimum grade of 85% or equivalent letter grade.
 - Letters of recommendation and personal essay consistent with College application requirements.
- SAT or ACT required.
 - Students must complete both General Education Core and major related courses with a GPA of 2.80 prior to beginning the nursing courses.

Transfer Track

- Qualify for admission to the College.
- Transfer students, either internal or external to the College, must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or better with minimum grade of C+ in nursing and a minimum grade of C for major-related courses for admission to the nursing program. Applicants may receive individual consideration from the Nursing Admissions Committee.
- Students must complete both General Education Core and major-related courses with a GPA of 2.80 prior to beginning the nursing courses. ● Transfer students from another nursing program must also submit 2 letters of reference from nursing faculty in the Transfer College or university **prior to acceptance into the nursing major.**

All students seeking admission to the nursing program shall adhere to all current departmental requirements.

FEES

Tuition and fees for undergraduate campus programs can be found on the following website:

<https://www.utica.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid/tuition-and-fees/tuition-and-fees-undergraduate-campus>

Traditional Nursing Curriculum

At Utica College, the nursing program is designed to provide students with a liberal education as well as a professional foundation that integrates nursing theory with skills required for nursing practice. The program leads to a bachelor's of science (BS) degree in nursing. **During the first two years of the traditional undergraduate nursing curriculum, students will complete all General Education Core and prerequisite liberal arts and sciences courses. The nursing courses will be taken in four (4) semesters at the junior and senior level. Students must successfully complete all of the nursing courses in each semester before they can take courses in the next semester; they must follow the program sequence.**

Professional nurses are liberally educated practitioners who function as primary providers of health care services to individuals, families, groups, and communities. Nurses work collaboratively with physicians, social workers, therapists, and other health professionals. Graduates of the program have opportunities in a variety of settings including acute care, community agencies, home care, and schools. All students enrolled in clinical courses must hold current certification in American Heart Association CPR, Healthcare Provider, have health and liability insurance, and meet the health requirements of the respective agencies. Transportation is the responsibility of the student.

The nursing program is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), and is approved by the New York State Education Department. Graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nursing (NCLEX-RN).

COURSES

Following is a description of the major and major-related course offerings required in the nursing program.

BIO 101 and 102 - Human Anatomy and Physiology (4 credits each) These courses are offered in consecutive semesters and provide the student with the background necessary to understand the way the body normally functions.

CHE 211 - General Chemistry I (4 credits) The study of chemistry is necessary for an adequate understanding of the physical and chemical properties of all matter. Concepts of acid base, organic, and biochemical structures are required for the appropriate understanding of specific treatment modalities.

BIO 203 - Microbiology (4 credits) This course contributes to the student's understanding of

pathogenic microorganisms, their role in disease, their inhibition and destruction, and principles and techniques of bacteriology.

BIO 205 - Human Nutrition (3 credits) The application of nutritional principles by nurses is essential in health promotion and prevention and/or minimizing complications of illness. To accomplish these goals, nurses need a sound background of nutrition.

PSY 101 - Introduction to Psychology (3 credits) Whether you are working in an acute care agency, home health setting, or the community, your clients will demonstrate a variety of psychological strengths and needs. An understanding of psychological processes is necessary to adequately understand and respond to those needs.

PSY 223 - Life-Span Developmental Psychology (3 credits) or HLS 245 - Human Development Process (3 credits) In nursing practice, it is important to understand how normal psychosocial, neuromuscular, perceptual, cognitive, physical, and socio-cultural development proceeds in order to identify strengths and weaknesses in the development of clients across the life span.

SOC 151 - Human Society (3 credits) Clients exist in a society and it is necessary that the nurse understand how sociological systems influence their behaviors and decisions. An understanding of how such systems operate also assists the nurse to make appropriate professional decisions within the working environment.

PHI 107 - Ethics (3 credits) or PHI 108 - Professional Ethics (3 credits) Technology, economics, and changes in societal attitudes about life and death have helped to create some of the ethical dilemmas in health care. This course studies major ethical theories and examines ethical dilemmas encountered by health care professionals.

MAT 112 - Basic Statistics (3 credits) or PSY 211 - Statistics in the Behavioral Sciences (3 credits) It is important that nurses understand statistical methods and their application to research. This knowledge will facilitate understanding of nursing research literature and methodologies.

NURSING COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Following is a description of the major and major-related course offerings required in the nursing program. Courses are listed with the relevant credit hour distribution—lecture, lab and clinical.

First Semester = 16 credits

NUR 311 Socialization to Professional Nursing (3) (3 Lecture)

Sets the foundation for professional practice that is built upon throughout the curriculum. Students are introduced to all aspects of the nursing profession, including an overview of nursing roles, theory, and professional practice.

NUR 321 Foundations for Nursing Care (4) (2 Lecture, 1 Lab, 1 Clinical)

Foundations of nursing practice and the nurse-patient relationship. The essential elements of caring, critical thinking, teaching, assessment, communication, and professionalism are addressed. Includes lab and clinical.

NUR 326 Health Assessment (3) (2 Lecture, 1 Lab)

Provides opportunity through classroom and laboratory sessions for students to learn the theories and skills involved with assessment of physical, psychological, social, cultural, and environmental aspects of clients across the life span.

NUR 332 Pathophysiology (3) (3 Lecture)

Basic principles and processes of pathophysiology including cellular communication, genetics, forms of cellular injury, fluid and electrolytes, acid- base balance, immunity, stress, coping, illness, and tumor biology.

NUR 346 Care of Populations and Communities (3) (2 Lecture, 1 Clinical)

Health of populations and communities through study of epidemiology, health promotion, and disease prevention across the life span. The influences of environment, genetics, culture, economics, and access to care are analyzed.

NUR 356 Introduction to NCLEX Test Taking Strategies (1 credit) (Lecture) This course will assist students in beginning to prepare for the NCLEX-RN style questions. The course focuses on developing critically thinking and application techniques in answering NCLEX style questions.

Second Semester = 17 credits

NUR 312 Leadership and Informatics in Professional Nursing (3) (3 Lecture) Differentiates nursing leadership from nursing management and describes how nurses lead professionally. Additionally, this course will explore the impact of informatics and technology on nursing, patient care, and health care delivery.

NUR 365 Care of the Obstetric Population (8 weeks, 3 credits) (2 Lecture, 1 Clinical)

Focuses on maternal, paternal, fetal/neonatal, physiologic, and psychosocial responses to childbearing. Family theory provides framework for interpreting and understanding the way the family adjusts to pregnancy, birth, and the addition of the newborn.

NUR 366 Care of the Aging Population (8 weeks, 3 credits) (2 Lecture, 1 Clinical)

In-depth look at older adults who constitute a majority and growing proportion of people who receive nursing care. Includes learning strategies to assist the aging population to maintain optimal health with chronic illness.

NUR 371 Medical/Surgical Nursing Care I (5) (2 Lecture, 1 Lab, 2 Clinical)

Builds upon theoretical concepts, integrating the nursing process to facilitate individual and family adaptation to acute stressors within medical-surgical nursing. Common physiological and psychosocial stressors and related principles of care management are explored.

NUR 333 Pharmacology (3) (3 Lecture)

Information for safe, effective nursing care related to pharmacology. Covers actions, uses, administration alerts, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, adverse effects, contraindications, interactions with other drugs, herbs and food, and treatment of overdose and antidotes.

Third Semester = 16 credits

NUR 411 Management in Professional Nursing (Health Policy) (2) (2 Lecture)

Expands the knowledge of nursing management in practice, education, political, and community settings. It emphasizes the essential elements of management, including different management techniques and routine tasks such as budgeting, planning, supervision, and delegation.

NUR 421 Medical/Surgical Nursing Care II (4) (2 Lecture, 2 Clinical)

Focuses on increasing complexity of illness, nursing process in the adult population, complex physiological and psychosocial stressors, and related principles of patient care management.

NUR 423 Senior Nursing Care Seminar Lab I (1) (Lab)

Seminar based course which explores patient scenarios through case studies, laboratory experiences, and simulation. Students work in teams to analyze patient situations and develop critical thinking skills in the effective delivery of holistic patient care.

NUR 444 Care of Populations With Psychiatric Concerns (8 weeks, 3 credits) (2 Lecture, 1 Clinical)

The nurse-client relationship and therapeutic communication techniques as they relate to those with mental health considerations. Includes neurobiological processes and therapeutic techniques.

NUR 446 Care of the Pediatric Population (8 weeks, 3 credits) (2 Lecture, 1 Clinical)

The nurse's role in promoting adaptation in the childbearing family. Particular stressors include perinatal complications, well-child health promotion, and childhood illness.

NUR 445 Introduction to Research Methods and Designs (3) (Lecture)

Research methods employed in clinical settings. Quantitative and qualitative methods; research designs related to clinical situations.

Fourth Semester = 13 credits

NUR 412 Trends in Professional Nursing (5) (3 Lecture, 2 Clinical)

Focuses on preparation for the transition from student to professional baccalaureate generalist nurse. Trends and issues regarding nursing education, research, and practice are analyzed within a historical, social, and multicultural systems framework.

NUR 455 – NCLEX: Test Taking Strategies (1) (Lecture)

This course will assist students and graduates in preparing for the NCLEX-RN Examination. The course focuses on the NCLEX-RN test plan to develop and refine test-taking strategies to perform successfully on the NCLEX-RN examination upon graduation.

NUR 465 End-of-Life and Palliative Care Practice (2) (Lecture)

Physical, psychological, social, and spiritual concerns of patients and families as they relate to pain and comfort care, and end-of-life decisions.

NUR 471 Advanced Medical/Surgical Nursing (5) (3 Lecture, 2 Clinical)

Integration of theoretical, clinical, and professional concepts to provide care for patients with complex health issues. Emphasis on assessment, differential diagnosis, pathophysiology, pharmacology, critical thinking skills, and clinical judgment.

NUR 473 Senior Nursing Care Seminar Lab II (1) (Lab)

Nursing care, communication within healthcare teams, delegation of care, and cultural, legal, and ethical implications. The role of the registered professional nurse as leader in the management of patient care.

Total required nursing credits = 59, Clinical hours = 588, Lab hours = 225

Transfer Students** For transfer students without transferable nursing credits, the baccalaureate nursing curriculum at Utica College includes a minimum of four (4) semesters of study in nursing. All General Education Core and major-related courses must be fulfilled before entering the nursing courses. **Determination of transfer credit for nursing courses completed at another institution will be made conjointly between the College Registrar and the Director of the Traditional Nursing Program.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

In addition to the Utica College regulations regarding academic honesty ([Utica College College Catalog](#)), and the [Code of Student Conduct](#), the Department of Nursing faculty has developed the following policy statement:

The faculty and students of the Department of Nursing believe that ethical behavior in the American Nurses' Association Code for Nurses implies the highest standards of honesty and integrity, and applies equally to nursing students and practicing nurses. All aspects of the Department of Nursing life and culture are designed to further the achievement of these standards.

Students should maintain academic honesty at all times. Students must do their own work on all tests and assignments. Any quoted or paraphrased phrases or sentences from published material, Internet sources, or other individuals' work must be correctly referenced. Students may not resubmit their own previously graded work when retaking a course or for a grade in a different course without faculty approval. Resubmitting earlier work will be considered self-plagiarism and treated as any other form of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Utica College [Academic Honesty site](#).

PROFESSIONAL NURSING CODE OF CONDUCT

Since students are preparing for a professional role, professional conduct is expected in all aspects of the course. The Utica College DON will additionally uphold the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics as the standard for professional conduct of nurses. Nursing students are referred to <http://nursingworld.org/codeofethics>. The Utica College DON is committed to the development of a professional nurse who will practice within the ANA Nursing Code of Ethics and whose practice is guided by the values of altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity and social justice. Our goal is to graduate

students will practice with these inherent values and to ensure the profession continues to be accountable to and trusted by the communities we serve. Behavior that deviates from the ANA Nursing Code of Ethics will not be tolerated within the nursing program and can result in course failure and or dismissal from the Utica College DON Nursing Program.

AMERICAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS FOR NURSES (2015)

1. The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.
2. The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, or community or population.
3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health and safety of the patient.
4. The nurse has authority, accountability and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions: and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal care.
5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence and continue personal and professional growth.
6. The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe quality health care.
7. The nurse in all roles and settings advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development and the generation of both nursing and health policy.
8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy and reduce health disparities.
9. The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

All students are required to be familiar with and comply with the Standards of Professional Behavior while enrolled in the Utica College nursing program. Confidentiality is a critical element to a professional health care provider and compliance is required by law in order to protect the privacy rights of patients. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) mandates standards that ensure privacy and security of patients' health information, as well as electronic medical records. Students are required to know these privacy rules and will comply at all times.

- Students in clinical have access to protected health information (PHI) of patients on a "need to know" basis and it is solely for use within the scope of duties relating to patient treatment.

- Students may only access the PHI of patients if they are directly participating in their treatment.
- Students may not record PHI of patients (such as name, social security number, date of birth, etc.) on forms which are turned in for clinical or class assignments. PHI will not be removed from the health care facility. This includes oral, written, and electronic disclosures.
- Students may never discuss PHI in public or inappropriate areas to include but not limited to hallways, elevators, restrooms, cafeterias, etc., or with friends/family at any time.
- Failure to protect PHI may be considered a violation of a patient's right to privacy. Properly dispose of documents containing PHI by discarding them in assigned containers marked for proper disposal; do not throw these documents in the trash.
- If a student is unsure whether his or her actions will be in violation of these policies, he or she must consult the instructor *prior* to taking action with the PHI.
- Any student in violation of these policies may be terminated from a clinical position, fail the class, and/or be removed from the nursing program, depending on the circumstances of the violation.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Nursing students may not video or audio record at any time in a clinical setting. They may not post any material that could potentially violate patient confidentiality on social media sites. Students may be subject to disciplinary action by the school and the clinical agency for comments that are either unprofessional or violate patient privacy. HIPAA regulations apply to comments made on social networking sites, and violators are subject to the same prosecution as with other HIPAA violations.

There has been an increase in the use of electronic communication and social media methods within businesses, healthcare environments and academic learning institutions. It is important when using these types of communication methods to be mindful of consequences of their use. See below for a list of guidelines

- Recognize obligation to maintain privacy and confidentiality
- Do not disseminate information that will degrade or embarrass the patient
- Do not transmit patient related information
- Do not post information that could reasonably identify the patient
- Do not refer to patients in a disparaging manner

- Do not take photos or videos of patient, unless authorized
- Maintain professional boundaries
- Consult employer policies
- Report breaches of confidentiality of privacy
- Be aware of employer and hospital policies on the use of computers, cameras, and other electronic devices etc.
- Do not post disparaging remarks about students, faculty or staff member

ALCOHOL, DRUG AND SUBSTANCE POLICY

It is expected that all students adhere to the Utica College alcohol and other drug policies. Refer to [Utica College's Annual Notice Regarding Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Policies](#). It is the policy of the Department of Nursing that students be free of chemical impairment during participation in any part of their program including classroom, laboratory, and clinical activities. A chemically impaired student is defined as a person who, while in the classroom, laboratory, or clinical setting, is under the influence of, or has abused, either separately or in combination: alcohol, over-the-counter medication, illegal drugs, prescribed medications, inhalants, or synthetic designer drugs. Students who are chemically impaired in the clinical setting may jeopardize the lives of their clients.

Advisor/Advisee Role and Functions

“Utica College believes that the role of the advisor is a critical, mentoring one. Students are assigned an advisor from their major at the time of their admission to the college. Every attempt is made to maintain continuity by keeping the same advisor throughout your program. In order to maximize benefits of the advisor/advisee role, **it is recommended that students communicate with their advisor on a regular basis**. Students are responsible for knowing where their advisor’s office is and introducing themselves.

All matriculated full-time students are required to meet with their advisor each semester prior to registering for courses. Upon selection of courses, the student advisor will provide the alternate pin number for registration on-line. A different pin number will be assigned to each student. Subsequent course schedule changes will also require approval.

The faculty advisor will:

1. Assist the student in developing his/her course load for registration.
2. Meet with the student, as needed, particularly at mid-semester, concerning the advisee's academic status.
3. Discuss and assist with academic or related problems, making appropriate referrals for additional guidance and/or counseling.

The student advisee will:

1. Identify and contact his/her advisor during the orientation period or early in the first semester on campus. Each faculty member has voice mail, posted office hours, and a mailbox in the College mailroom.

2. Discuss and confirm course selection for the registration process with the advisor.
3. Contact his/her advisor periodically during the semester relative to academic progress.
4. Be responsible for notifying advisors as soon as academic difficulties arise. *Do not wait until the end of the semester because it may be too late to offer adequate assistance.*
5. Discuss any problem that may potentially interfere with your academic progress. If your advisor is unable to assist you directly, he/she will refer you to an appropriate resource.
6. Be ultimately responsible for meeting all academic requirements of Utica College and the Department of Nursing.

COMMUNICATION POLICY

COMMUNICATION

Electronic communication is the required method of communication used in the RN to BS Program. Students are required to check their Utica College webmail for college wide announcements and messages from their success coach, advisor and course faculty. Engage email will also be utilized for course related issues/concerns.

STUDENT COMMUNICATION POLICY - ACADEMIC CONCERNS

When students have a concern about their learning experience, the following is the best path to a *resolution.

1. The student(s) shares the concern with the class, clinical or lab **faculty member** directly involved with the concern.
2. If unresolved, the student(s) may request an appointment and send a written description of their concern to the **Director of the Nursing Program**

*Seeking a resolution *without* going directly to the faculty member, will risk a longer and more complicated response. However, the student(s) may wish to discuss the concern with their **success coach and/or advisor** to seek support and direction regarding the best way to articulate the concern, identify their need and identify suggestions *for collaborative problem solving*.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Utica College welcomes the physically challenged and in compliance with Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended) and The Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA), does not discriminate on the basis of handicap.

Students are responsible to inform the faculty of any need for accommodations as identified by the [Office of Student Learning Services](#).

RETENTION

Success in the nursing curriculum requires that students demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors expected of an entry-level registered nurse. Knowledge and skills are examined in a variety of formats including written assignments, testing, and clinical observation.

The faculty at Utica College strive to provide a successful educational experience for every student. Each student is required to meet the following criteria in order to remain in the nursing program:

The student must:

- Complete **all** General Education Core and major-related courses prior to progression into upper-division nursing courses.
- Be aware of prerequisite course requirements. Prerequisites will not be waived. Program courses are listed and scheduled in semester sequence, thus making them pre-requisites for successive semesters.
- Achieve and maintain a minimum **2.8 cumulative G.P.A.** in order to progress into upper-division nursing courses. A minimum grade of C is required for all major- related courses
- A student who achieves a grade of **less than a C** in a major-related course has one (1) opportunity to repeat the course. A maximum of two major-related courses may be repeated. Failure to achieve the **minimum grade of C** in the repeated course will result in academic dismissal from the nursing program.
- Achieve and maintain a minimum cumulative **G.P.A. of 2.8 in all major-related courses.**
- Have earned 65 credits prior to entering the nursing courses.
- Demonstrate the professional and ethical behaviors required for successful performance of professional nursing practice as noted by faculty and clinical instructors.
- Successfully complete **all** of the nursing courses in a semester before moving on to the next semester of courses. Failure to achieve the minimum grade of C+ in the repeated course will result in academic dismissal from the nursing program.
- Adhere to established course sequence in nursing major.
- Adhere to Utica College academic rules and regulations .
- A student who withdraws from any nursing course jeopardizes his or her progression in the program.

RETENTION CRITERIA

1. Students are expected to maintain standards of professional behavior within academic and clinical settings. The student who fails to meet these standards may be subject to dismissal from the Nursing program. Expected behaviors include but are not limited to:

- a. Attend all labs, exams, and clinical experiences, and arrive on time. In the case of illness or an emergency, the appropriate faculty member must be telephoned **prior to** lab/exam/clinical.
- b. Prepare for class/lab/clinical according to course requirements identified in each course syllabus.
- c. Complete all assignments according to the time frame posted in the syllabus.
- d. Demonstrate respect and courtesy toward faculty, staff, and fellow students.
- e. Demonstrate honesty and integrity in all academic and clinical settings.
- f. Contribute to the educational growth of self and fellow students.
- g. Wear appropriate attire for course as identified by syllabus, faculty or organizational partners.

2. It is the responsibility of the student to check Banner and make sure all requirements are met and posted.

3. For graduation requirements, students are encouraged to review the College Catalog and their individual degree evaluations.

GRADING POLICY

The Nursing Program's policy is defined by a numerical rating system as follows:

Acceptable Grades – Pass

A = 94 – 100%

A- = 90 – 93%

B+ = 87 – 89%

B = 83 – 86%

B- = 80 – 82%

C+ = 77 – 79%

C = 73 – 76%

C- = 70-72%

D+	=67-69%
D	=63-66%
F	=62%

* Incomplete (I) grades may be granted according to the College policy (see College catalog)

A minimum of C+ (77%) must be achieved to successfully pass a nursing course.

A minimum grade of C+ (77%) will be required for all nursing courses. A student who achieves a grade of less than a C+ in a nursing course has one opportunity to repeat the course. A maximum of one nursing course may be repeated. Failure to achieve the minimum grade of C+ in the repeated course will result in academic dismissal from the nursing program.

Grading Policy for NUR 321, 371, 421 and 471 courses

- To achieve a passing grade, the student must meet the following criteria:
- Exam grade of 77% or higher based on weighted average of unit exams and final exam.
- Course grade of 77% or higher when all theory components are added to the exam grade.
- Successfully pass clinical as outlined in the clinical evaluation measurement tool.
- Successfully pass lab (NUR 321 and 371) as outlined in the lab (comp) packet.

GRADING OF CLINICAL AND LAB EXPERIENCES

All clinical experiences are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. A grade of Pass is achieved when the student consistently meets or exceeds clinical expectations and has met clinical course objectives satisfactorily. The student must pass the theory, lab, and clinical components to pass the course.

TESTING POLICY

All material provided within the course, and all class activities, lectures, and PowerPoint presentations, are testable on the exams.

1. Examinations are to be taken when scheduled.
2. An excused absence is one that has been arranged with the permission of the Program Director or course faculty prior to the scheduled exam. Unexcused absence from a test will result in a zero (0).
3. If an excused absence is granted and prior arrangements are made, a make-up test will be allowed. The make-up test will be based on the original test objectives and the format of the test will be at the discretion of the instructor. Make-up tests must be taken within one week of the

originally scheduled exam. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the examination.

4. Students must arrive on time for the examination. Any student who arrives late for a test, can be denied entry into the classroom and the test. If a student is experiencing an emergency and will be late for the exam, the student must contact the course faculty prior to the start of the exam. The student may be allowed to take the exam but will not be granted extra time for the exam.

5. The only items students are allowed in the examination room are their identification badge, Laptop and a writing utensil. A piece of scrap paper will be provided for exams if needed. Students may be asked for their identification prior to entering the examination room and anytime during the exam. Students may not talk to or otherwise communicate with any other student for any reason during the testing period.

6. If students need assistance, they may raise their hand to attract the attention of the proctor.

7. Students seen talking or accessing the internet during the exam may be asked to leave the room and forfeit their test. Students may not assist their fellow students with anything during the test. Doing any of the above constitutes cheating and poor ethical integrity. If caught, both students will be subject to the College academic dishonesty policy. All papers, including scrap papers, must be submitted to the instructor/proctor before leaving the classroom. No materials may be removed from the examination room.

TEST REVIEW POLICY

A group test review will be done in person per the course schedule. Students will be able to review their exams for fifteen minutes (15) during class at the time identified. This is an opportunity to visualize the test questions and answers. Individual questions will not be answered at this time. The only items allowed in the test review is their Lap Top computer.

After the test review, students may schedule a meeting with their course faculty to review specific individual test questions based on their exam only. Students may only schedule this meeting with their faculty if they have attended the in-person review.

Test review can only be done regarding the exam up until the next exam. Previous exams will not be reviewed.

This policy may change at any time; students will be notified of such changes.

PROCEDURE FOR MODIFIED PROGRESSION OR DISMISSAL FROM NURSING PROGRAM

Academic Probation A student will be placed on College academic probation if his/her cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0. Academic probation is a College policy to which the Department of Nursing adheres. The Academic Standards Committee rules on all cases related to academic probation or dismissal according to the *Utica College Undergraduate Catalog*. [Utica College Catalog](#)) **Any student placed on College academic probation will be dismissed from the nursing program.**

Modified Progression or Dismissal Students in the nursing program are required to comply with specific requirements regarding progress in academic, clinical and behavioral criteria. When a student fails to meet these requirements, the student may be put on a modified completion schedule or dismissed from the program. The student receives written notification regarding this change in their progression. The student may appeal this decision to the nursing faculty and/or the Dean of the School of Health Professions and Education as outlined in this handbook.

- **Modified Progression** means that the student must retake and successfully complete the course they did not earn a C+ or better or grade of P before moving forward in the program.
- **Dismissal** means that the student has been officially dismissed from the nursing program. If a student believes he or she has been treated unfairly by the College please see the **Grievance and Complaint Procedure** in the Utica College Catalog.

A student who has been placed on a program modification from the nursing program receives a letter presenting the specific criteria necessary for progression in the program. When the requirements for progression have been fulfilled, the student must provide written evidence to the program chair.

The nursing faculty determines whether the requirements for progression have been satisfied. The student is notified in writing, within fifteen business days of that meeting, of the program faculty's decision to reinstate or dismiss the student from the nursing program.

Students who do not maintain standards for academic progress will be dismissed from the program.

IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM NURSING PROGRAM

Immediate dismissal may be considered for students engaging in egregious acts of professional misconduct, including but not limited to:

- HIPAA violation
- Theft
- Physical Violence or abusive behavior
- Falsification of documents
- Conviction of a felony

UNIFORM POLICY/DRESS CODE

As representatives of the Utica College nursing program and the nursing profession, students are expected to behave and dress in an appropriate manner. The instructor and the agency have the prerogative to send students away from a clinical unit if they do not meet the appropriate dress criteria. The purpose of the uniform policy is to identify personnel in agencies and to promote safety for both student and client in the prevention of cross-infection. The uniform is a representation of the Utica College Department of Nursing and therefore should be worn in all professional settings. All students should have a minimum of two (2) Utica College nursing uniforms, one (1) white lab coat, and a set of non-skid white closed toe uniform shoes.

Most agencies allow a white lab coat to be worn over the uniform. It is preferred that the Utica College Department of Nursing warming jacket be worn. Check the uniform policy for the agency.

The student uniform and student photo ID must be worn and visible when in the clinical area. It is understood that the uniform is clean, has no stains, and is not wrinkled. Under clothing must be white. Shoes must be white and clean, but may have light colored insignia.

Psychiatry/Community Health Students will wear street clothes which portray a professional image with the college photo ID and flat, close-toed shoes. Jeans, “low-rider” pants, shorts, cut-offs, tank tops, or any other tight-fitting clothing that exposes the torso or under clothing is not acceptable.

Jewelry

1. A watch with a second hand must be worn with the uniform.
2. A plain wedding band may be worn, but in some settings must be removed when caring for patients in isolation and when working in the operating room, delivery room or nursery.
3. Only small post-type earrings are acceptable (limited to 2 per ear). No hoop or pendant earrings. Other body-piercings (eyebrows, nose, lips, tongue) are not acceptable.

4. No other jewelry is worn with the uniform; it has the potential for scratching clients and for harboring bacteria.

Grooming

1. It is assumed that high standards of personal appearance, neatness, and hygiene will accompany wearing of the uniform.
2. All hair must be off the collar and neat. Unnatural hair color (orange, blue, green, purple, or red) is not allowed.
3. No nail polish or false fingernails (including acrylic or gel nails) may be worn.
4. Fingernails may not extend beyond the fingertips; otherwise they can scratch clients and impede manual dexterity.
5. Makeup is to be moderate and unobtrusive.
6. Fragrances (perfume, cologne, after-shave) are not to be worn since they may induce discomfort, nausea, or an allergic reaction in clients.
7. Tattoos must be covered.

HEALTH CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS POLICY

In accordance with the New York State Health Department and by the terms of the contractual agreements between the college and host facilities, students must adhere to the following policy regarding health requirements. Students must be prepared to complete any additional state or agency/facility health requirements required by their specific placement site. These requirements promote the protection of students, clinicians and individuals served at the host facilities.

HEALTH CLEARANCE POLICY

Each student is required, at their own expense--paid directly to **American DataBank**--to have an ANNUAL physical examination and specified immunizations/titers. The Utica College Health Form must be used and completed in full. The students' programs will provide a list of those immunizations/titers that are required. The Student Health Center has information regarding the location of area clinics that provide these services.

Other requirements are specific to the students' programs but may include: current Basic Life Support certification, proof of personal health insurance, drug testing, and/or background check.

These requirements must be completed by the due dates established by the students' programs. Students should plan in advance to ensure that the required items are submitted on time and are current and valid

for the duration of the clinical education experiences. It is strongly suggested that students keep valid and current copies of these health records at all times.

Failure to observe the stated deadlines and requirements will prevent the student from participation in clinical education, which in turn will delay or prevent progress in the student's program. **EXCEPTIONS WILL NOT BE MADE.**

Utica College has contracted with American DataBank to provide compliance tracking with these requirements. Physical exams and additional health requirements are submitted directly by the student to [American DataBank](#) using directions provided by the students' programs.

The following **must be completed and documented six (6) weeks prior** to the first day of the clinical experience. Failure to meet these requirements will prohibit your attendance at clinical experiences. These requirements **must** be updated as indicated:

- Documented Physical examination including all body systems within 1 year of beginning clinical and updated every 12 months
- Mantoux within one year - unless otherwise required every 6 months by the clinical site
- DT within 10 years
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella Titer
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccinations if indicated by titer results
- Hepatitis B vaccine (includes a series of 3 injections (initial, 1 month, 5 months over a 6- month period)) or written waiver refusing vaccination
- Varicella (chicken pox) titer
- Influenza vaccine annually
- Meningococcal Meningitis vaccine or signed refusal form

BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG TESTING

All nursing students are required to complete a level II background check, fingerprinting, and drug screening prior to the first nursing course. Compliance with these requirements is essential for clinical placement and program progression. Students who fail to submit a toxicology screen, or students whose toxicology screen results are positive, will be dismissed from the program. Students who fail to submit a background check or students whose background checks indicate a conviction may be dismissed from the nursing program. A history of past arrest and conviction may prohibit students from being licensed as a Registered Nurse. Students should contact their state board of nursing to determine their eligibility for licensure based on the criminal background prior to submitting an application to the nursing program.

CPR: The CPR/BLS certification is a prerequisite for all clinical nursing experiences. Certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation AHA Healthcare Provider must be obtained

through the **American Heart Association**, and be kept current throughout the nursing program. Failure to meet these requirements will prohibit your attendance at clinical experiences. Please submit a copy to American DataBank.

Predisposing Medical Conditions Prior to any clinical experience, it is in the student's best interest that he or she informs faculty of any predisposing medical condition that may compromise his or her health and safety and/or patient safety. Such conditions/treatments include but are not limited to pregnancy, medications which may alter alertness or judgment, etc. Confidentiality will be maintained and all reasonable accommodations will be made to facilitate student progress.

Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Strict adherence to barrier precautions and infection control practices that decrease the opportunity for blood to blood exposure for both health care personnel and patients is required. Any student who has an exposure to a bloodborne substance that places the student at risk **must seek medical care immediately while following the clinical agency policy and protocol**. Such exposure should first be reported to the clinical instructor who will direct the student for appropriate care. (All students are responsible for the personal medical care costs accrued.)

HEALTH INSURANCE

All students enrolled in clinical experiences **must** have personal health insurance. Students may obtain such insurance through individual/family health insurance policies or through the College. Health insurance policy forms are available in the College Student Health Center.

MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

Students must have professional liability (malpractice) insurance. The College participates in a group malpractice insurance plan in which the student will be included upon registration in clinical nursing experiences.

RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical experiences are designed to provide support and integration of the academic coursework. A nursing faculty member will provide direct, on-site supervision for clinical experiences except for selected clinical courses. Attendance is required at ALL scheduled clinical experiences.

"Students who are unable to attend clinical for any reason will not be able to meet the objectives of a clinical course which will result in course failure. They may withdraw from the course and return at a later date when they are able to engage in all elements of the course (didactic, lab and clinical) to meet all the objectives resulting in successful

course completion."

1. All students must provide their own transportation to clinical settings. Parking at clinical facilities is at the student's expense.
2. All students must meet orientation and health requirements for each clinical prior to clinical start date. Clinical orientation is mandatory. Failure to complete health requirements or clinical site orientation may result in the student not being able to proceed in the clinical course.
3. Clinical assignments may occur anywhere within a 60-mile radius of students' assigned campus.
4. Cell phones can be used for emergencies only; otherwise, frequent use of cell phones may be included as a mark of unprofessional behavior.
5. If a student must miss clinical due to illness or personal emergency, he or she must call the clinical instructor and course faculty prior to the start of the clinical shift. The course faculty will determine if the absence will be excused or unexcused. All missed clinical experiences must be made up in order to meet the determined clinical hours for each course. The course faculty will determine how and when the missed clinical time will be made up.
6. Unexcused absences from clinical (no call, no show) will result in failure of the clinical course.
7. In the case where a student has a legitimate reason to reschedule clinical for example:
 - (military obligation or scheduled medical leave), the student must provide official, written proof of the obligation to the course faculty. Only after this has been received will the change be considered.
8. Clinical experiences are graded on a pass/fail (P/F) basis. Outcome criteria for clinical evaluation are clearly stated in the course syllabus and clinical evaluation tool.
9. A student who is found to endanger the health/welfare of a client will be considered to have engaged in misconduct. **The following constitute cause for immediate dismissal from the clinical setting and failure of the clinical course, as well as dismissal from the nursing program:**
 - a. Coming to clinical practice under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
 - b. Emotional or physical jeopardy. This includes any action by the student toward a patient, family/significant other of patient, or staff member(s) such as, but not limited to the following: threat to emotional and/or physical well-being; willfully harassing; physically, verbally, or emotionally abusing; use of intimidation.
 - c. Student actions incongruent with Utica College Nursing Department policies, actions incongruent with clinical partner organizations, actions inconsistent with course objectives, and actions inconsistent with the principles of patient safety, professional behavior, and ethics.
 - d. Actions and behaviors that demonstrate persistent disregard for client, colleague,

religious, ethnic, and cultural practices.

10. Students who commit acts judged by the clinical instructor to be unsafe may be dismissed from the clinical setting and/or course. Examples of unsafe acts include, but are not limited to:

- a. Error in medication administration.
- b. Administration of a medication without having knowledge of the drug.
- c. Inaccurate recording or failure to record medication administration.
- d. Error in administration of intravenous fluids.
- e. Failure to report changes in patient's condition.
- f. Failure to seek supervision when necessary.
- g. Failure to report and document nursing care.
- h. Compromising patient care by inadequate preparation for clinical experience.
- i. Breach of confidentiality.
- J. Neglecting personal safety.
- k. Creating or causing personal safety hazards.
- l. Sleeping in the clinical area.
- m. Disregard for clinical faculty instructions.

Upon the incidence of an unsafe act by a student, the clinical instructor will:

- i. Inform the student immediately of the unsafe act.
- ii. Provide the student with written documentation concerning the unsafe act.
- iii. Review the incident and counsel the student, recommending remediation as needed.
- iv. Place copy of incident report in student's academic file.
- v. Follow the policy for reporting an incident as required by the clinical agency or institution.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NURSING STUDENT

The student, with the support of the clinical instructor/preceptor and faculty course coordinator, has the responsibility for his or her learning and is expected to actively participate in the clinical learning experience. The student is expected to:

1. Prepare for each clinical experience as instructed.
2. Conduct himself/herself in a professional manner.
3. Maintain confidentiality of client information per Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines.
4. Adhere to nursing ethical standards congruent with the American Nurses' Association Code of Ethics.
5. Adhere to agency contractual agreements.

Placement of Students in Clinical Groups For all clinical experiences, the nursing faculty assigns students to clinical groups. Students will register into their assigned clinical groups. **Any changes are subject to faculty review and may be granted only under exceptional circumstances.** Changes to clinical sites may incur an administration fee. Under no circumstances may students negotiate a clinical placement directly with the clinical setting.

For all *preceptor* clinical experiences, students are assigned clinical experiences with a registered nurse preceptor. Students participate in clinical learning activities under the supervision of the registered nurse preceptor and the nursing faculty member responsible for the course. Preceptors are assigned through a joint process between the Department of Nursing faculty and the participating agency.

Student Absences The clinical instructor, preceptor, and course coordinator **must be notified in advance** in the event that the student will be absent from clinical. Unexcused absences will result in a grade of F for the clinical experience. Please refer to the clinical grading rubric to determine how an absence can affect your final clinical grade.

Completion of the Clinical Requirement In all cases, students *must complete the required number of clinical hours assigned to the course* through on-site clinical experience or completion of an assignment determined by the faculty member. All hours must be completed within the scheduled semester. If justified according to College policy, an incomplete grade may be assigned. An incomplete grade may prevent the student from progression in the program.

EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE NURSING MAJOR

Uniform: UC Nursing scrubs which can be purchased at the Utica College Bookstore

Stethoscope** (Sprague or Rappaport type, with bell, diaphragm, and pediatric adapter)

**It is essential that you buy a good stethoscope. You will use this for the remainder of your professional career, and the cheap ones do not permit reliable assessment.

*The photo ID badge should be obtained through the Campus Safety at least two(2) weeks prior to clinical experience (contact Campus Safety 315-792-3046).

Additional supplies may be purchased at any uniform or medical supply store.

In addition to tuition and fees for all students attending Utica College, the following fees associated with this program may be found at: <https://www.utica.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid/tuition-and-fees>

LABORATORY USE

The nursing program at Utica College offers its students the opportunity to practice, review, or refine clinical skills in the laboratory setting. Located in 2nd Floor Romano Hall, a variety of equipment and audiovisual materials is available for student use. The students may utilize the laboratory facilities by arrangement with faculty members and by attendance during open lab hours (hours posted on lab door). During scheduled open lab hours, the Laboratory Coordinator or designated Lab Assistants are available to assist with and supervise learning activities.

Guidelines for Student Use

To ensure that all students have equal opportunity to utilize the laboratory and to ascertain that the environment remains safe and conducive to learning, the following policies regarding laboratory use are in effect:

1. Non-nursing students may be present in the laboratory only with permission of an instructor in advance of the requested time.
2. Teaching aids (e.g., videos), blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, and/or other equipment is not to be removed from the laboratory.
3. Students will assume responsibility for conducting themselves in a safe manner during laboratory/activities.
4. Students will assist with necessary clean-up duties after laboratory use.

KAPLAN

The Department of Nursing has contracted with Kaplan Inc. to provide integrated testing. Kaplan's Integrated Testing program consists of a series of online tests designed to evaluate the nursing knowledge of students in an undergraduate program leading to RN licensure.

Comprehensive Assessment and NCLEX-RN Pre-Testing

All nursing students are required to participate in the designated assessment and review program. The program involves assessment of critical thinking, assessment of nursing knowledge after selected nursing courses, and a comprehensive diagnostic predictor examination that is administered in the senior year prior to graduation.

In preparation for the NCLEX-RN, assessment testing will be required by all students in the spring semester of senior year. In addition, all seniors will participate in a **mandatory 3 day review** course. It is strongly recommended that the NCLEX-RN Licensing Examination be

completed within 90 days of graduation. Outcome data show that graduates who take the exam within this time period after graduation tend to have higher pass rates than those who choose to delay taking the exam.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student Representation on Department of Nursing Committees

Students are invited to participate in the decision-making process in a variety of ways, one of which is to become a member of a Department of Nursing Committee. Student representatives are needed on the following committees: Curriculum, Assessment, and Resources, as well as on the Nursing Advisory Board.

Student Nurses Association

The Student Nurses Association is a campus-based student-run organization open to all students in the Utica College Nursing Program. Its purposes are to promote interaction among students and professional persons, engage in activities that benefit the local community, and to promote a wider understanding of the nursing profession.

Graduation Requirements

1. You must have satisfied all requirements listed for your major in the College Catalog.
2. You must have satisfied all requirements concerning standards of professional behavior

Professional Licensing Procedure

Upon fulfilling all academic requirements, the graduate is eligible to file an application with the New York State Board of Nursing (**or to any other state in which the graduate wishes to be registered**) to take the NCLEX-RN for licensure as a Registered Professional Nurse (RN). NCLEX-RN application packets and instructions for New York State are available through the Department of Nursing.

At the time of graduation, students must submit the completed NCLEX-RN either online or mailed to New York State Department of Education. The application form and submission will be reviewed with students prior to the end of their final semester.

Note: Students should be aware that a felony conviction may cause a state to deny licensure.