

# College of Nursing University of Rhode Island

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

### Admission to the College of Nursing

#### **University College Students**

Those who attend University College must successfully complete a minimum of 24 credits, including required foundation courses, before they are eligible for admission into the College of Nursing. These foundation courses are: CHM 103, CHM 124, NUR 103, PSY 113, BIO 121, BIO 242, 244, and one writing (CW) course. Students must obtain a minimum overall QPA of a 2.5, plus a QPA of 2.2 in the foundation courses, with a minimum grade of C in each foundation course, before entering the College of Nursing. Students are usually admitted to the College of Nursing the semester they are accepted into NUR 203. The last two foundation courses, MIC 201 and NFS 207, are usually taken with NUR 203. The student must obtain a minimum of a C in these courses also.

#### **Transfer Students**

Those students, who transfer more than 45 credits from other universities or colleges, come directly into the College of Nursing. They spend whatever time is needed accumulating the required pre-requisite courses and then join the University College students in a pool of students eligible to begin clinical nursing courses. See Admission to NUR 203 policy, below. Because the number of students accepted into clinical courses is limited, transfer students are advised to contact the associate dean before applying for admission to ascertain their chances of placement in a specific course.

### Admission to NUR 203

In any given semester, if there are more students eligible to start clinical than there are spaces available, the Scholastic Standing Committee will determine the students who receive the allotted clinical spots, according to current policy. Generally, this decision will be based on: completion of pre-requisite courses, overall Q.P.A. at the end of semester prior to beginning clinical, Q.P.A. in the foundation courses, and number of semesters with a nursing code.

### Minimum Grade of C in Nursing and Foundation Courses

1. A minimum grade of C (73 or higher) is required in all foundation courses and in all required NUR coded courses. Students who achieve less than a grade of C must repeat the course obtaining a C grade or better before continuing in the program.
2. A student who receives less than a C in any undergraduate nursing course may repeat the course only one (1) time. **If a student receives less than a C grade twice in the same nursing course, the student is dismissed from the College of Nursing.**
3. Students who must repeat a course are "out of sequence" and placement in further NUR courses is on a "space available" basis and is *NOT* guaranteed. Students may have to wait a semester to repeat the course, pending evaluation by the College's Scholastic Standing Committee.

4. Students must successfully complete pre-requisite courses in order to progress in the curriculum. **All** courses in any level must be completed before advancing to higher level courses (e.g. all 200 level courses completed prior to any 300 level course).
5. Students who fail nursing courses will not be allowed to "double up" (e.g. NUR 203 w/NUR 233/234, or NUR 333 with 433/434), in order to progress in the nursing curriculum.

### **Scholastic Standing Committee**

The academic records of any nursing student, who receives a C- or lower grade in a nursing course or a GPA below 2.2, will be reviewed by the College of Nursing Scholastic Standing Committee. This committee is composed of the Associate Dean, a University College Advisor, the Undergraduate Director, and other College of Nursing faculty. This committee is responsible for enforcing the academic policies set forth in the *University Manual*. Students (and their academic advisors) have the right to attend meetings in which their performance is being discussed and to speak on their own behalf.

### **Academic Conduct**

(See *University Manual*, 8.27.17)

Life in the academic community must be one of integrity, honesty, acceptance of responsibility, and a willingness to clearly and accurately represent oneself, one's work, and one's activities. Failure to meet these standards must be treated as a failure to accept responsibility as a student, and may make one subject to separation from the University. The University has cited specific expectations and requirements regarding student conduct, including those related to cheating and plagiarism. Please refer to the *URI Student Handbook*, the *University Manual*, and the *University Bulletin* for information.

Faculty in the College of Nursing believe that professional conduct is critical to the practice of nursing and fully support the University policies. Breach of professionalism is a serious offense which will be dealt with firmly. The faculty reserve the right to require withdrawal from the College of Nursing of any student who gives evidence academically and/or personally of inability to carry out safe, professional practice in nursing.

### **Grievance Procedure**

In the event that a student thinks a particular academic decision is unjust, the student has the right to file a formal grievance. It is recommended, however, that the student first initiate and attempt a resolution with those parties directly involved. For example, if the complaint involves a grade, the student should first consult with the professor. If satisfaction is not reached at this level, the student should consult the lead teacher of a clinical course, then discuss the issue with the Undergraduate Director and then, the Associate Dean. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be obtained through this process, the student should contact secretary of the Dean to make an appointment or contact the University Ombud.

The following offices are available to advise and inform students concerning such complaints:

- Affirmative Action Officer, Administration Bldg. 874-2442
- Office of Student Life, Memorial Union 874-2101
- University Ombud, Memorial Union 874-2863

- Counseling and Student Development, Roosevelt Hall 874-2288

### **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes, exams and clinical days. **NOTE: Do not plan vacations during classes or exam week during the semester. This pertains to non-nursing courses as well as nursing courses.**

### **National Testing**

National proficiency testing through the Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) is required as part of upper level course requirements.

These tests are considered an assessment of the basic knowledge required for beginning practice; all aspects of nursing process are covered on the tests. The results are a predictor of success on the licensing exam (NCLEX) taken after graduation. Students who actively study and practice using these tests are more likely to achieve success on the licensure examination.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with documented disabilities from Disability Services in the Office of Student Life, Memorial Union are expected to notify faculty at the onset of the semester if any special accommodations are required in the classroom or during exams.

### **Beepers, Walkie-talkies and Cell Phones**

Electronic devices, e.g. beepers, walkie-talkies, cell phones, etc., worn to class, lab or clinical must be in a non-auditory mode.