

# College of Nursing University of Rhode Island

## CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN CLINICAL SETTINGS

1. Students are expected to observe the standards of professional conduct and ethics in the clinical setting, including respect for patient's rights to: considerate and respectful care, information, informed consent, privacy, confidential communication, and continuity of care. Students are expected to conduct themselves as representatives of the College of Nursing and the University.
2. If a student is unable to attend a clinical class, the clinical professor must be notified in advance. In addition, the student should discuss make-up policy with the professor.
3. Transportation to and from a clinical agency is the responsibility of each student. Students are expected to have car insurance as required by the State of RI.
4. Students are not to transport patients/clients to or from appointments etc.
5. It should be understood that while the College of Nursing makes every attempt to keep clinical hours within those listed in the course bulletin, there may be occasions when a clinical day or hours may change. In most instances sufficient notice will be provided.
6. While the University does carry basic malpractice insurance for all students officially registered at the University and engaging in nursing care as part of an educational experience, optional malpractice insurance can be obtained through national nursing organizations and private insurance carriers if desired.

### CARDIO-PULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR) CERTIFICATION

Students are required to be certified in CPR for adults and children (Professional level) during NUR 203 and to maintain current certification by yearly renewals or as certification requires. It is the student's responsibility to obtain CPR certification through the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. URI Health Services Education offers courses every semester, but courses may be taken elsewhere. A xeroxed copy of the certification should be submitted to the instructor in NUR 203 or NUR246 along with your immunization record. Evidence of continued certification must be submitted as certification expires.

### CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

It is the policy of the College that, as a pre-requisite to each student's participation in any clinical nursing experience, the College will obtain a criminal background check of each student by one or more agencies, which perform criminal background checks. In Rhode Island and other states, criminal records of adults are public information and may be disclosed to any party by law enforcement agencies and courts. Accordingly, the student's consent is not required.

If a student's criminal background check discloses a conviction of any one or more of the following crimes, the student will be disqualified from clinical nursing experiences in the College of Nursing which involve contact with patients or residents: murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, first degree sexual assault, second degree sexual assault, third degree sexual assault, assault on persons sixty years of age or older, assault with intent to commit certain specified felonies (including murder, robbery, rape and burglary, felony assault, child abuse,

patient abuse, neglect or mistreatment of patients, first degree arson, robbery, felony drug offenses, larceny or felony banking law violations.

You should be aware that a) hospitals and other agencies with whom you will have a clinical experience or with whom you may seek employment in the future may also undertake similar criminal background checks and b) conviction of certain felonies may render an applicant ineligible for licensure as a registered nurse in Rhode Island and other states.

If you anticipate an issue arising from your criminal background check or if you have any questions, please contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

In addition, fingerprinting may be required by specific agencies.

### **Math Calculation--Proficiency Requirements**

The faculty believe that all nursing students must have mastery of math calculations in order to safely calculate drug dosages. During the curriculum students expand their basic knowledge of math calculations and apply it to a variety of medication calculations. Basic math knowledge is assessed in NUR 234. Drug dose proficiency tests are administered--without the use of calculators--in all subsequent clinical nursing courses throughout the curriculum. Each course syllabus identifies requirements in this area as well as the accepted passing grade of **85%** and policy in the event of failures. ***The math test in each course must be passed in order to continue to the next nursing course.*** Three points will be subtracted from the student's grade for each test failure.

### **Psychomotor Skills Learning**

Many psychomotor skills, e.g. bed making and tracheostomy care, are part of student learning. Each nursing course identifies specific psychomotor skills that need to be learned as part of the course completion requirements. The skills are either taught directly by course faculty or students are referred to the learning laboratories for study, practice and testing. Each skill must be satisfactorily demonstrated and explained to lab or clinical faculty to successfully complete the course and progress to the next level of the curriculum.

Psychomotor skill testing of new and previously learned skills may be a part of upper level nursing courses. ***Students are expected to be self-directed and identify their own skill level and seek remedial learning or extra practice as necessary to remain competent in the clinical agencies.***

**Skills Check-offs:** It is each student's responsibility to practice each skill BEFORE asking a lab instructor or your clinical instructor, to verify your proficiency as you redemonstrate a skill. It is required that YOU demonstrate the skill not the instructor.

Practicing a skill means that the student:

1. Thoroughly reads about the skill in the text or completes the self-learning module before class/lab/clinical.
2. Mentally "walks through" each step of the skill.
3. Practices each step of the skill in the lab using the appropriate equipment.
4. Repeats step 3 over and over until the skill can be performed smoothly and correctly.
5. Now the student is ready to make an appointment with faculty to redemonstrate the skill.