

# BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING RN-BSN PROGRAM

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STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2022 - 2023

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UPDATED: AUGUST 2022

**NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING RN  
to BSN PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>I. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>II. ORGANIZATION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
History of the School of Nursing.....	7
Master of Science in Nursing Program Development .....	9
University Mission Statement .....	10
Mission of the School of Nursing.....	10
School of Nursing Philosophy .....	10
Professional Standards and Guidelines.....	10
Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct Standards.....	11
Nursing Program Valued Ends/Outcomes.....	12
BSN Program Student Learning Outcomes .....	13
Faculty and Staff.....	14
Sigma .....	16
Honor Society of Nursing, Mu Eta Chapter .....	16
Graduation Awards.....	17
Latin Honors .....	17
<b>III. CURRICULUM.....</b>	<b>18</b>
Program Structure.....	18
Vizient/AACN Nurse Residency Program & .....	19
NUR-440 Caring Nursing Leadership for Professional Nurses .....	19
Admission to the RN to BSN Program.....	19
Center for Caring with Technology.....	21
<b>IV. PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>V. ADVISEMENT: FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS.....</b>	<b>25</b>
Advisement.....	25
<b>VI. GUIDELINES AND POLICIES: PROGRESSION TO GRADUATION .....</b>	<b>26</b>
Progression in the Nursing Major.....	26
Appeals Process for Dismissal from RN to BSN Nursing Program.....	27
Incomplete Grade.....	29
Leave of Absence .....	29
Withdrawal from the University.....	30

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Graduation .....	31
<b>VII. COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES.....</b>	<b>33</b>
Nursing Student-Faculty and Staff Communication.....	33
Cancellation/Rescheduling of Classes.....	33
Inclement Weather Information.....	33
Formal Complaint Procedure.....	34
<b>VIII. CLASSROOM GUIDELINES .....</b>	<b>36</b>
Attendance .....	36
Cell Phones.....	38
Children in Class.....	38
Collaborative Learning.....	38
Course Schedule .....	39
Grade Appeal for Assignment(s).....	39
Grade Reports.....	39
Grading Scale.....	39
Pre-Course Information .....	40
Student Access to Academic Records .....	40
Studying in the RN to BSN Program.....	40
WebAdvisor.....	40
Written Requirements in Nursing Courses.....	41
<b>IX. REQUIRED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING GUIDELINES .....</b>	<b>42</b>
Clinical Agency Requirements.....	42
Confidentiality in Outside Settings.....	42
Conduct during Required Experiential Learning Activities.....	43
Non-Academic Requirements for Experiential Learning Activities .....	44
<b>X. BEHAVIOR STANDARDS .....</b>	<b>46</b>
Honor Code.....	47
Social Media Policy.....	48
Substance Abuse Policy.....	50
Procedure for Reasonable Suspicion Drug Testing.....	51
Confidentiality of Drug Testing Results.....	52
Consequences of Suspected Substance Abuse .....	52
<b>XI. REGISTRATION, BILLING, AND PAYMENT INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>54</b>
Registration.....	54

---

Billing Information .....	55
Payment and Tuition Remission Plans .....	55
Federal Financial Aid .....	56
Payment .....	56
Return of Title IV Funds.....	57
Veterans Assistance .....	57
<b>XII. RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES .....</b>	<b>57</b>
Accessibility Support Services .....	57
Bookstore.....	58
Campus Computer Technologies.....	58
Campus Ministry .....	58
Counseling Center .....	59
Food Service .....	59
ID/One Card.....	60
Loyola/Notre Dame Library .....	60
Parking.....	62
Study Abroad .....	62



Welcome to the School of Nursing at Notre Dame of Maryland. Extending the mission of the University, the School of Nursing operates within a caring science model. Our way of being together in authentic relationships enact a 'respect for person,' compassion for each other, and empathic presence with the intention to 'care for,' 'care with,' and 'care about' that honors and values each person. Faculty and staff are committed to caring science and the success of each student, I am confident that everyone will create teaching and learning opportunities that are firmly grounded in evidence-based nursing and caring science.

As Dean, I ensure the creation of a learning environment where faculty and staff are supported to offer their creative ideas; collaborate and innovate with fellow colleagues, staff, students, and our clinical practice partners. Within a healthy and caring work environment that incorporates authenticity, transparency, and trust, I assure students they will receive a quality education.

We take great pride in graduating students who are uniquely equipped to transform the world as caring, compassionate, and competent nurses.

Sincerely,  
*Dean Wisser*

Kathleen Z. Wisser, PhD, RN, CNE  
Dean, School of Nursing  
Notre Dame of Maryland University

## I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to provide guidelines, policy and procedural information about the School of Nursing to guide students on the journey through the RN to BSN program.

Information contained in this *RN to BSN Student Handbook* is supplemental to the:

1. Notre Dame of Maryland University Handbook [University Student Handbook](#)
2. Notre Dame of Maryland University Undergraduate Catalog [Current Undergraduate Catalog](#)
3. School of Nursing Course Syllabi

The contents of this *Handbook* are provided for the information of the student. Contents are accurate at the time of printing and reflect current guidelines, policies, and procedures, but is subject to change from time to time as deemed appropriate by the university and/or School of Nursing in order to fulfill its role and mission or to accommodate circumstances beyond its control. Changes may be implemented without prior notice and without obligation, unless specified otherwise. Changes are effective when made. The School of Nursing may notify students of any changes through announcements distributed in class, NDMU email, Learning Management System (LMS), and/or U.S. Mail. Students are responsible to keep themselves upto-date with the current information and are accountable to the policies herein.

## II. ORGANIZATION

### History of the School of Nursing

**Overview** — The SON is one of four Schools in the University. The SON offers three programs: an Entry-level BSN program through the Women’s College, an accelerated RN to BSN program through the College of Adult Undergraduate Studies (CAUS) and a MSN program through the College of Graduate Studies.

**1974** The Faculty and Administration of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland (now Notre Dame of Maryland University) identified that many adult workers needed more innovative schedules and teaching methods to enable them to pursue baccalaureate education. In response to this need, the Weekend College was initiated. This format, which was the first of its kind in Maryland, combined traditional on-campus classroom experience with guided independent study.

**In 1979** RN to BSN nursing program began at the College of Notre Dame, now Notre Dame of Maryland University. This program received approval from the Maryland Board of Nursing in 1985 and in the fall of 1986 the program was accredited by NLNAC. The program has been offered through the College of Undergraduate Studies and is taught in a variety of locations; hospitals and educational centers across the state of Maryland.

**1979-1981** The first Registered Nurses enrolled in the program in September 1979 with nursing courses first offered in Summer 1980. By August 1981, 30 of the 47 students who finished the nursing courses had completed all the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree and received their degrees. During the first 10 years of the program, approximately 1,000 RNs earned their BSN degrees through the Weekend College.

**2003** Faculty submitted changes to the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) and the Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON) for a redesigned curriculum. Both agencies approved the new curriculum and subsequently, the SON admitted its first students.

**2006** The curriculum design for a 21 months long Master of Science in Nursing was completed. It was designed with two concentrations: Leadership in Nursing Education and Leadership in Nursing Administration. The first cohort of the MSN program entered in 2007 with 17 students enrolled in the education concentration and 15 students in the administration concentration. In the following years, the ongoing success of the MSN program has been realized. Partnerships with Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) and the University Center (formerly HEAT Center) allowed the MSN program to expand to new sites across the state of Maryland.

**2007** MSN program began enrolling students in two concentrations: Leadership in Nursing Administration and Leadership in Nursing Education. The first class graduated with a Master of Science in Nursing in May 2009.

**2009** RN to BSN program received full (eight years) continuing accreditation and MSN program received initial accreditation (five years)

**2013** School of Nursing accepted its first students into the Entry-Level nursing major. The Center for Caring with Technology opened to support the curriculum with simulation and other clinical nursing practice opportunities.

**2014** Entry-Level BSN program received initial accreditation; RN to BSN received continuing accreditation. Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (formerly National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission) and the MSN program received full (eight years) accreditation

**2015** Inaugural Entry-level class graduated 26 students.

**2016** In 2015, School of Nursing faculty and staff agreed to switch accreditation bodies to the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)\*. It was faculty and staff consensus that CCNE was a better match with the vision and direction of AACN and CCNE.

**2017** All programs received initial accreditation from CCNE for five years, extending to December 31, 2022.

**2019** An Accelerated Second-Degree Bachelor of Science program was implemented. The first cohort of 34 students started in June 2019.

**2020** Inaugural Entry-Level Hybrid Accelerated Second-Degree BSN class enrolled.

**2021** Planning began for new Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner programs to be added to the master's degree programs offered by the SON. Work on the curriculum design and CCNE and BON approvals continued through spring and summer of 2022.

**2022** Inaugural Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner students enrolled.

\*Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education  
655 K. Street, NW, Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20001  
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## **Master of Science in Nursing Program Development**

In summer 2006, planning began for a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with two concentrations: Leadership in Nursing Administration and Leadership in Nursing Education. During fall 2006 planning continued with the nursing department (now School of Nursing) Curriculum/Evaluation committee and the program was approved by that body. Also in fall 2006, the MSN program was presented to the Graduate Council for approval and to the Board of Trustees. In February 2007, the new MSN program was submitted to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) for initial approval. The inaugural cohort of masters' students began the MSN program in August 2007 and graduated in May 2009.

Candidacy status from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC)\* was obtained in early spring 2008. The MSN program received full initial NLNAC accreditation for five years in July 2009. The MSN program was re-accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) in July 2014 for a full eight years. In 2015, School of Nursing faculty and staff agreed to switch accreditation bodies to the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)\*. It was faculty and staff consensus that CCNE was a better match with the vision and direction of AACN and CCNE. CCNE granted accreditation to the master's degree program in nursing for five years, extending to December 31, 2022.

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## **University Mission Statement**

Notre Dame of Maryland University educates leaders to transform the world. Embracing the vision of the founders, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the University provides a liberal arts education in the Catholic tradition. Distinctive undergraduate and graduate programs challenge women and men to strive for intellectual and professional excellence, to build inclusive communities, to engage in service to others, and to promote social responsibility.

## **Mission of the School of Nursing**

The School of Nursing educates students to transform nursing and healthcare through authentic presence, caring connections with patients, students, colleagues, and the discipline of nursing, and by preserving care and compassion as the ethical foundation of nursing practice and scholarship.

## **School of Nursing Philosophy**

Nursing and the teaching of nursing is a journey through deep caring connections with patients, students, colleagues, and the discipline of nursing. Nursing is imagined and known through caring authentic presence with others and multiple ways of knowing. Nursing is a presence to life lived with those entrusted to our care, a beacon, attentive to the extraordinary in the mundane and boldly entering questions of meaning. All stories of individuals and of the discipline are valued as necessary to the growth and advancement of the profession. Healing practice is possible in partnership relationships; nursing creates safe welcoming places, encouraging growth, seeking to understand, and knowing each other's hearts.

Nurses are called to care through advocacy, action, 'power-with' and trusting relationships with persons and groups in diverse settings. Nursing embraces diversity and commitment to social justice. With perseverance and fortitude, caring and compassion are preserved as the ethical foundation of nursing practice and scholarship.

A nursing way of being requires reflective practice, a listening, that allows for meaning-making in all dimensions of academic and practice endeavors. Nursing practice is characterized by thoughtfulness and necessarily lived out with intention. This way of being a School of Nursing in all aspects allows for possibilities for our mission to be realized—educating nurses to transform the world.

## **Professional Standards and Guidelines**

The BSN Program utilizes the following documents: *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (ANA, 2010); *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* (AACN, 2008); *American Nurses Association Code of Ethics* (ANA, 2015); *Institute of*

*Medicine's Health Professions Education, A Bridge to Quality Report (2003); and Quality and Safety Education for Nurses Competencies (2014).*

### **Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct Standards**

The BSN Program adopts the American Nurses Association (ANA, 2015) Code of Ethics and the State of Maryland Code of Ethics for Nurses, which is contained within the Nurse Practice Act, specifically Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.27.09.02 as a guide for professional nurse behavior. These standards are based on an understanding that to practice nursing as a RN, the student agrees to uphold the trust with which society has placed in the profession. The statements of the Code and Standards provide guidance for the RN student in the personal development of an ethical foundation. They are not limited strictly to the academic or clinical environment, but can assist in the holistic development of the person.

## **Nursing Program Valued Ends/Outcomes**

### *Presence*

Cultivate a caring environment that reveals authentic nursing presence for the provision of meaning making, cultural understanding and reflective practice in diverse settings.

### *Praxis*

Engage in reflective practice through multiple ways of knowing to assure optimal quality of life for those entrusted to our care.

### *Advocacy*

Respond to the call to be an active voice and collaborate with others in the spirit of the welfare of those persons and entities in our care.

### *Scholarship*

Value critical inquiry to promote and advance evidenced based practice.

### *Self-care*

Create a place for healing, personal and professional growth, and a culture of caring for self and others.

### *Leadership*

Inspire excellence in nursing practice and advancement of the profession through shared leadership practices.

(Updated: May 2016; Reviewed 2019)

## BSN Program Student Learning Outcomes

### *Presence*

Create a space for being with patients, families, communities, and health care colleagues that reveals authentic nursing presence.

### *Praxis*

Demonstrate praxis through the synthesis of an active thoughtful commitment to the watchfulness of safety and quality.

### *Advocacy*

Influence change by serving as an active voice through altruistic behaviors for patients, families, and community regarding health policy and social justice within an ethical framework.

### *Scholarship*

Integrate innovative thinking and multiple ways of knowing to promote a lively spirit of critical inquiry.

### *Self-Care*

Value a place for healing, personal and professional growth, and a culture of caring for self and others.

### *Leadership*

Integrate evidence-based practice with lived experiences to promote excellence in nursing practice.

## Faculty and Staff

The RN to BSN program operates through the university's division of the College of Undergraduate Studies (CAUS) and Graduate Studies. Nursing faculty and staff report to the Dean of the School of Nursing; the Dean reports directly to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. SON faculty and staff collaborate with the staff of CAUS and Graduate Studies for recruitment and enrollment management.

The School of Nursing is located in the University Academic Building (UAB). The administrative office is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of UAB.

### Dean

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## **Sigma Honor Society of Nursing, Mu Eta Chapter**

Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society of Nursing, Mu Eta Chapter, is open to baccalaureate and masters nursing students who have demonstrated superior academic achievement and leadership potential. Membership encourages, fosters, and actively supports further professional development, thus promoting nursing scholarship, leadership, creativity and commitment to nursing.

The School of Nursing Honor Society had its first induction ceremony in May 1987. Through the diligent work of two faculty members, Dr. Katharine Cook and Eileen Fox, the honor society was formed; the goal was to evolve into a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society of Nursing by 1990. In 1989, Sigma Theta Tau conducted a site visit to the College of Notre Dame of Maryland and recommended chapter status. In April 1990, the chartering ceremony was held at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, and all honor society members were inducted into the newly formed Mu Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. The Mu Eta Chapter remains in good standing with Sigma Theta Tau International.

There are three classifications of membership:

1. Undergraduate Student—Junior or senior students enrolled in our baccalaureate programs who have completed at least 1/2 of the nursing curriculum, rank in the upper 35 percent of their graduating class and have achieved academic excellence (at schools where a 4.0 grade point average system is used, this equates to at least a 3.0).
2. Graduate Student—Master's students enrolled who have completed at least 25% of the nursing curriculum, have achieved academic excellence (at schools where a 4.0 grade point average system is used, this equates to at least a 3.5).
3. Nurse Leader—The candidates are legally recognized to practice in their countries, have at least a baccalaureate degree in nursing or other field and demonstrate achievement in nursing.

The Mu Eta Chapter inducts new members annually.



## Graduation Awards

All undergraduate BSN students in the TBSN, ABSN, H-ABSN, and RN to BSN programs are eligible for School of Nursing Graduation Awards. During commencement week, nursing faculty recognize students for outstanding achievement.

*Nursing Presence Award* – Recognizes a student who best demonstrates authentic nursing presence and caring humanistic approach to nursing.

*Nursing Praxis Award* – Recognizes a student with outstanding caring approaches and clinical abilities who best integrates the art, science, and the spirit of nursing.

*Advocacy Award* – Recognizes a student who exhibits initiative, enthusiasm, and compassion to promote social justice and welfare of others.

*Nursing Scholarship Award* – Recognizes a student with a deep curiosity for life-long learning, a lively spirit of critical inquiry, and whose academic performance has been judged to be outstanding.

*Self-Care Award* – Recognizes a student who best exemplifies a strong commitment to the values of civility, resilience, and professional development based on reflective practice.

*Katherine Cook Legacy Award for Leadership* – Recognizes a student demonstrating outstanding commitment, caring leadership, and service to the profession of nursing.

## Latin Honors

The University confers Latin honors upon undergraduate students who achieve the following grade point average based on work at Notre Dame of Maryland University:

3.90 for the distinction *Summa Cum Laude*

3.70 for the distinction *Magna Cum Laude*

3.50 for the distinction *Cum Laude*

To earn honors at graduation, students must earn a minimum of 60 credits in graded coursework at NDMU. This excludes credits earned in Pass/Fail courses (including standardized testing, petitioning for credit and transfer). Students are limited to four Pass (P) grades on graded courses.

### III. CURRICULUM

#### Program Structure

##### Overview of Program

**The total number of credits for graduation is 120:** Nursing majors must complete a minimum of 120 credits and all University and School requirements to earn the Bachelor of Science degree. The required credits include 24 general education credits, 21 credits of school requirements, 30 upper-level nursing credits per the Maryland RN to BSN Articulation Agreement, and 30 upperlevel nursing credits earned at Notre Dame.

##### General Education Requirements

- English Composition
- Literature
- History
- Philosophy (200-level)
- Religious Studies (200-level)
- Religious Studies (300/400-level)
- Basic Statistics

##### Nursing Major Requirements\*

Human Anatomy & Physiology	6-8
Human Growth & Development	3
Introduction to Psychology	3
Microbiology	3-4

\*These courses are transferred in or taken prior to the Upper Division

##### Nursing Courses

##### Upper Division Nursing Courses

NUR-309 Foundations of Caring Science	3
NUR-306 Writing for Professionals	1
NUR-314 Nursing Situations in Palliative Caring (elective) <i>or</i>	3
NUR-315 Advocacy, Politics, & Power (elective)	3
NUR-319 Holistic Health Assessment and Nutrition	-
Across the Life Span for Professional Nurses	5
NUR-400 Information Systems for Caring Practice	3
NUR-411 Healthy Aging for Professional Nurses	3
NUR-412 Population Health through a Caring Lens	4
NUR-420 Nursing Research for Professional Nurses	3
NUR-440 Caring Nursing Leadership for Professional Nurses	3
NUR-450 Capstone Experience	2

Students and faculty meet for 37.5 hours for each 3-credit nursing course offering, including the theory portion of the health assessment course and clinical course.

Course with required Experiential Learning: NUR-412 *Population Health through a Caring Lens*  
This 4-credit course includes a variety of required experiential learning activities, including simulation experiences and a comprehensive community assessment. Students work with social workers, teachers, and other members of the interdisciplinary team of an organization in the community to develop a health promotion activity to meet the identified need. Examples include the Center for Addictions and Pregnancy at Johns Hopkins Bayview, St. Vincent de Paul Head Start, the Caroline Center, and the Lighthouse Shelter.

### **Vizient/AACN Nurse Residency Program & NUR-440 Caring Nursing Leadership for Professional Nurses**

Students who have successfully completed a Vizient/AACN Nurse Residency Program in the past 5 years may qualify to receive three (3) credits for NUR-440 *Caring Nursing Leadership for Professional Nurses*. Students should inform the Adult Student Advisor when they have successfully completed the residency program and can present a certificate of completion. The Adult Advisor will complete a *Petition for a Course Substitution* form and send to students for signature prior to submission to the Registrar Office.

### **Admission to the RN to BSN Program**

1. All students who matriculate with a nursing major must meet the admission requirements for students entering the College of Adult Undergraduate Studies (CAUS). Applicants must matriculate prior to taking courses in the College of Adult Undergraduate Studies.
2. Graduation from a diploma or associate degree in nursing program with a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.5 (on a four-point scale). Students with a GPA between 2.0 and 2.49 may be required to take and pass the Adult Placement Exam in order to qualify for admission and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. Students must have earned a grade equivalent to “C” (2.0 or higher) in all courses that *must* be completed prior to beginning the upper division nursing major courses. Examples of courses that must be completed are: *English Composition; Anatomy and Physiology I and II; Microbiology; Introduction to Psychology; and Human Growth and Development*.
4. When previous coursework has not been completed, for example *Human Growth and Development*, admission to the program and timeframe to complete courses will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

5. Students who matriculate into the nursing major must meet additional requirements:

- Active RN license or verification of licensure through a “compact” state in which they currently reside; or NCLEX-RN eligible.
- Students who begin the RN to BSN program without a RN license will not be permitted to enroll in NUR-412 *Population Health through a Caring Lens* and NUR 450 *Capstone* until they receive a license. The Adult Student Advisor must be notified when students receive a RN license.
- Students who are considered Associate to Bachelor (ATB) students cannot enroll in NUR-412 *Population Health through a Caring Lens* and NUR-450 *Capstone* until they receive a license. The Adult Student Advisor must be notified when students received a RN license.

6. Additional Information

- The Registrar Office determines the maximum number of credits accepted for transfer. Generally, up to 68 credits can be transferred.
- No community college *nursing* credits will be transferred.
- All RNs with an active license in Maryland or a compact state will be granted 30 upper-level nursing credits per the Maryland Articulation Model.
- RNs will complete the remaining 30 upper-level nursing credits and any additional program requirements through Notre Dame

## Center for Caring with Technology

At the School of Nursing, the Center for Caring with Technology (CCT) is a space for learning and practicing the art and science of nursing using simulation technology that is grounded in caring. It is a place where learning experiences are created that lead students to uncover and respond to that which matters in patient situations, uncovering patterns of meaning for each person or family member, and what Benner (2010) calls the sense of salience. Spaces within the CCT are intentionally designed to support caring, reflection, learning, multiple ways of knowing, and transformation. Learning opportunities using human patient simulators and/or standardized patients will involve simulation scenarios using best practices of simulation learning.

Simulation, whether low or high fidelity (the level of realism), can have a transformative effect on student learning. The creation of simulation learning experiences for all clinical courses will support the achievement of the School of Nursing program outcomes of Presence, Praxis, Advocacy, Leadership, Scholarship, and Self-care. The philosophy of the caring science curriculum is infused into each simulation experience with an emphasis on authentic human caring and presence.

Every attempt will be made to include all experiential factors to make the students' learning experience realistic and authentic. For enhanced learning, all students are expected to come to the CCT prepared. The faculty will provide students with constructive feedback and debriefing of their performance, while students will self-analyze their performance and use critical thinking during the reflection process.

Located on the third floor of the University Academic Building, the CCT is an 8300 square foot space that includes two health assessment labs, two adult medical-surgical labs, a maternal/child lab with a home health component, two standardized patient examination rooms and a medication room. At the NDMU Elkridge Learning Center, the CCT is a 9,000 square foot space with a 12-bed health assessment/skills laboratory, two all-purpose simulation labs, a home health simulation lab, three simulation-debriefing rooms, and two classrooms.

High fidelity human patient simulators include:

- SimMan 3G manikins
- NOELLE with Newborn HAL
- 5 year-old HAL
- SimBaby Infant

Other simulators include:

- SimPad capable Nursing Kelly and Nursing Anne
- Super Chloe
- Advanced Geri manikin

In addition, the CCT has a variety of task trainers and other equipment for clinical skills training and practice. The Center is equipped with a state-of-the-art audio/visual capture system that

facilitates design, storage, and management of simulation case scenarios, real-time and archived documentation of participant performance, live streaming capabilities, and other functions such as scheduling, inventory management, and utilization reports.

#### IV. PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES

The RN to BSN Program evaluation processes are folded into current University-wide SON evaluation practices. The purposes of the School of Nursing’s program evaluation are to systematically assess curriculum, instruction, student outcomes, identify areas of challenge and opportunities for improvement, and facilitate program improvement. The processes of collecting, analyzing, and providing data for reports to State agencies, accrediting agencies, and governing bodies are essential to program evaluation. Multiple data sources from students, faculty, and employers are used to assess student learning and evaluate the RN to BSN Program. The following table provides a snapshot of these data sources:

<b>Source</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
<i>Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes</i>	Assess student learning	Course faculty	At end of course
<i>SmartEvals</i>	Evaluate faculty’s teaching effectiveness.	Students	At end of course
<i>Course Reviews</i>	Evaluate course and offer suggestions for improvement	Course faculty	At end of course and a full review as designated in the Systematic Plan for Evaluation
<i>Clinical Practice Site and Preceptor Evaluations</i>	Evaluate experience and preparation of student	Associate Dean	At end of course
<i>Employment Rates</i>	Determine if graduates are employed as RNs	Associate Dean	Six and twelve months after graduation
<i>Completion Rates</i>	Determine if graduates complete within the specified timeframe and if not, reason(s) for not completing program	Associate Dean Retention and Success Specialist	Annually
<i>Satisfaction with CCT</i>	Evaluate hours and support in CCT	CCT Director	Every other year
<i>University Graduate Survey</i>	Provide data about graduates	Institutional Research, Director	Every year

Data from the above evaluation methods are summarized annually during a nursing faculty meeting using the *Systematic Evaluation Plan* as a guide. The plan is comprehensive and designed to evaluate all aspects of the program based on CCNE Standards; starting with the mission and philosophy and continuing through with goals and program learning objectives. The Associate Dean, Undergraduate and Graduate Nursing Programs will be responsible for gathering, interpreting and presenting the data to the nursing faculty and the Graduate and Outcomes Circles. Through these mechanisms, the faculty will evaluate the overall curriculum and make appropriate changes.

Students and faculty will be engaged in the ongoing process of reflection and self-evaluation to assess their personal and professional development as they develop competencies and apply knowledge. These opportunities for self-evaluation will foster professional independence and critical thinking. Student success will be judged by each student's mastery of the knowledge and competencies, combined with their understanding of the attitudes and values that link their Masters education to responsible professional practice as they continue to develop their professional expertise in an increasingly complex health care environment.



## **V. ADVISEMENT: FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS**

### **Advisement**

#### **Academic Advisor**

The Associate Dean is available by appointment to discuss curriculum, career, and/or academic or practicum concerns.

#### **Professional Advisor**

The Adult Student Advisor in the SON serves as the RN to BSN Professional Advisor. Students in the RN to BSN program are introduced to their advisor after completing the admissions process, and will continue to contact their advisor as needed throughout the course of their program. Primary responsibilities of the advisor are facilitating the registration process, (when applicable), reviewing course check sheets to determine progress in program, advising students who want a leave of absence and/or withdraw, as applicable, and overseeing the graduation application process. To schedule an appointment, please contact Carol Kurtz-Stack at (410) 532-5135 or email [ckurtzstack2@ndm.edu](mailto:ckurtzstack2@ndm.edu)

## VI. GUIDELINES AND POLICIES: PROGRESSION TO GRADUATION

### Progression in the Nursing Major

1. Prior to starting the sequence, students must complete:
  - Human Anatomy & Physiology
  - Human Growth & Development
  - Introduction to Psychology
  - Microbiology
  - Sociology (any Sociology focused course)
2. Students must complete course work for prerequisite courses, as listed above, before progressing to Upper Division nursing courses.
3. Students must be nursing matriculants and must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher to register for any NUR courses.

### Reasons for Appeal

- Only *final course grades* may be appealed. A final course grade may be appealed if a student believes there is evidence that the grade was not given in accordance with the grading policies set forth in the course syllabus or announced syllabus modifications.
- The principle of seeking a reasonable, fair and speedy resolution prevails throughout the process. All information related to the appeal and the appeals process will remain confidential.

### Process for Final Nursing Course Grade Appeal

- Timelines for an appeal are tight due to the quick switch between Term A and Term B.
- When a student wishes to appeal a final nursing course grade, the student must email/write to the faculty member setting forth the basis for the appeal, provide evidence documenting the alleged discrepancy between the syllabus grading policy and the grade received, and the remedy sought.  
The faculty member will respond in writing to the student's appeal within three business days of the official posting of grades on WebAdvisor. Note that a text message about a grade appeal, with or without screen shots, is not an acceptable form of communication between a student and NDMU faculty.
- The student should also submit a copy of the appeal materials to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate and Graduate Program.

- Prior to informing a student of the faculty member's decision, the Associate Dean will review the response and may agree or disagree with the response. If the Associate Dean should disagree, then the Associate Dean collaborates directly with the faculty member prior to informing a student.
- If not satisfied with the response, the student may, within five business days of the response, appeal to the School of Nursing Dean. The student makes the appeal in writing, setting forth the basis for disagreement with the faculty member's and Associate Dean's response.
- The Associate Dean informs the Dean of the student's appeal and obtains a copy of the course syllabus and the faculty member's written response to the student. The Associate Dean then reviews the submitted evidence with the Dean. In some cases, the Dean may request to speak directly to the student and/or faculty member.
- The Dean writes a response, including a description on the steps taken in the review process. The written response of the Dean is sent to the student, the Associate Dean, and faculty member, within one week of the conclusion of the review process. The decision of the Dean is final.
- If a grade change is authorized, the Registrar will be directed in writing to make the change in grade in WebAdvisor.

### **Appeals Process for Dismissal from RN to BSN Nursing Program**

#### **Appeals Process\***

\*The Appeals Process described below supersedes the Appeal Process as described in the Undergraduate Catalog

Students have the right to appeal dismissal from the nursing major. Students who wish to submit an appeal must adhere to the process below.

- Upon receipt of letter of dismissal, the student may write a letter of appeal to the Associate Dean, Adult Undergraduate and Graduate Program. The Associate Dean must receive the letter of appeal within seven business days of receipt of notification.
- The letter of appeal includes the following:
  - Submit a formal letter to the Associate Dean both electronically and in hard copy.
  - Identify any extenuating circumstances leading to academic difficulty. The student uses her judgment as to what information is shared in the letter.
  - Propose a plan for success

- Once the Associate Dean receives the letter, the appointed Reinstatement Circle composed of nursing faculty convenes to review the appeal. As part of the review process, the committee will have access to the student’s academic record, letter of appeal, and all other documents provided by the student. The Reinstatement Circle members will also reach out to faculty of courses the student has taken.
- The chair of the Reinstatement Circle will notify the student of the date and time of the meeting.
- The student may invite a faculty member, Academic Success and Advising Coordinator or the Academic Success Coach to be present at the meeting to provide support. This person will not be an active participant in the meeting.
- The student will meet with the Reinstatement Circle as an opportunity to engage in caring conversation directed toward the academic welfare of the student. During this conversation, the student may advocate for self and elaborate on submitted materials. This is also an opportunity for members to ask questions of the student for increased understanding.
- After a full review, the Reinstatement Circle makes a recommendation to the Associate Dean and Dean regarding appeal decision.
- The Dean and Associate Dean will notify the student and appropriate faculty in writing of the appeal decision. This decision of the Dean is final.

**Timeline**

Action	Fall semester	End of Term A Fall and Spring	Spring and Summer Semesters
Student notified of dismissal decision and process for appeal.	Within 7 business days of the posting of final course grades and before the university closes for winter break	Within 7 business days of the posting of final course grades	Within 7 business days of the posting of final course grades
Student submits appeal packet to the Associate Dean (electronic and hard copy).	Within 5 business days after receiving letter of dismissal		
Associate Dean notifies Reinstatement Circle members of appeal and forwards materials.	Within 1 business day after receiving student appeal		

Reinstatement Circle agrees on date and time to meet. Student is notified by the chair. Circle convenes to deliberate. Student participated in an invited portion of the Circle meeting.	The Circle meets within 5 business days after notification of appeal
Reinstatement Circle Chair communicates in writing to the Associate Dean and Dean.	Within 24 hours of Reinstatement Circle meeting
Associate Dean and Dean write response to student's letter with decision about appeal and notify appropriate faculty of the decision.	Within 3 business days of receiving the recommendation from the Reinstatement Chair

### **Incomplete Grade**

A semester officially ends on the date specified in the academic calendar. An Incomplete grade (I) can be granted only for reasons clearly beyond the student's control and under the following circumstances:

- The request must be made by the student to the course faculty. It is the course faculty's decision to accept/deny the request.
- The student request must be based on a serious illness or emergency preventing the student from completing the work for the course.
- The student must have satisfactorily completed at least half the course work at the time the Incomplete is requested.

The final determination of the 'Incomplete' grade is the responsibility of the course faculty. It is the student's responsibility to submit all the required work to the course faculty so that a grade may be substituted by the mid-point of the following semester. Work not submitted to the course faculty on time will result in the grade being converted to an "F" at the mid-point of the following semester. The course faculty will submit the final grade to the registrar. An extension may be granted only by the registrar at the request of the course faculty.

### **Leave of Absence**

Students who are matriculated may request a leave of absence through the Registrar's Office for up to one full academic year. Forms can be found at [Student Forms](#)

A student must be in good academic standing at the time the leave of absence is requested. A student who is on a leave of absence maintains status as a matriculated student and therefore is not eligible to earn credit at another institution during the absence from Notre Dame.

## Withdrawal from the University

The University reserves the right to request at any time the withdrawal of a student for reasons of poor scholarship, attendance policy violations or unsatisfactory conduct. Students who voluntarily withdraw from the University for any reason must file an official withdrawal request form with the Dean of the School of Nursing. The date when the form is submitted will be the one used to determine whether a refund of tuition is applicable. Failure to notify the University of withdrawal will prompt termination of matriculancy. A withdrawal is not permitted on the last day of the course.

A student who withdraws from the University or who requests a leave of absence on or before the official withdrawal date forfeits credit for the work done in that semester. A grade of "W" will be recorded in all courses for the semester. A student who withdraws from the University or requests a leave of absence after the official withdrawal will be responsible for all course work and graded accordingly.

Students who officially withdraw receive the grade of "W" which will appear on the student's transcript. Deadlines are published in the University's academic calendar and on the Web site. Students who fail to officially withdraw from a course and stop attending will receive a grade of "F" and be liable for full payment of tuition and fees.

## Withdrawal for Medical Reasons

NDMU recognizes that, on rare occasions, serious extenuating circumstances may prevent a student from completing a term/semester. Resignation is reserved for students who find themselves in this situation after the end of the withdrawal period until the last day of the semester.

Keep in mind, however, that the University *strictly adheres* to its published policies, procedures and deadlines. Only in *extraordinary circumstances* will resignations be considered and approved. The burden of proof of these circumstances falls upon the student. Also note that action taken as a result of this request will only impact the student's academic record; resignation from a term does not release the financial obligation for the term.

Students must resign in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or above in all nursing courses. If approved by the School of Nursing Dean, the resignation will be processed by the Registrar's Office. **All decisions are final.** The student will be notified via NDM e-mail of the outcome of the request. The checklist obtained from the Academic Success and Advising Coordinator is below:

**Resignation Checklist** (please obtain signatures in the order provided on the form)

- Completed Resignation Form (See Academic Success and Advising Coordinator).
- Meet with Academic Success and Advising Coordinator to review options/ability to complete term, obtain signature.
- Meet with Financial Aid to discuss the impact this resignation will have on your current and future Financial Aid needs, obtain signature.
- Meet with Business Office to discuss your financial current and future financial obligations to the institution, obtain signature.
- Detailed explanation for this request.
- Supporting Documentation (Resignation requests submitted without supporting documents will not be considered).
- Medical Records (Submit to Office of Accessibility and Health Promotions)
- Accident Reports
- Police Reports
- Letters/Email from attorneys, faculty, advisor etc.
- Email completed Institutional Resignation Form and full documentation to the Registrar's Office (registrar@ndm.edu). MAKE SURE THAT THE SUBJECT LINE INCLUDES ATTN: RESIGNATION. Check WebAdvisor or with the Registrar's Office for the outcome of the appeal.

Students who resign from the nursing program due to non-academic reasons may be reinstated on a space available basis. University admission policies are followed.

Please note prior to any type of withdrawal, it is the student's responsibility to seek guidance from the Financial Aid Office if receiving any type of merit scholarship, Pell Grant, or other type of financial aid. Students are ultimately responsible for paying back expenses incurred at NDMU.

**Graduation**

The University holds its commencement ceremony annually in May. Students who complete their degree requirements the previous August, December and May are invited to participate in this annual event.

All students must file a graduation application to initiate the graduation process. Filing the application will prompt a formal review of credits and requirements by the Registrar's staff. Graduation applications are located at: [Student Forms](#)

The deadlines for submitting this application are as follows:

- May graduation.....October 15

- August graduation..... April 15
- December graduation..... June 15

Failure to submit this application on time may result in postponement of the conferring of the degree until the next graduation event. Participation in commencement exercises requires the fulfillment of all degree requirements. Students with outstanding financial obligations to the University will not receive their diploma until all obligations have been met.

**Credits for Graduation:** 120 credits for graduation.

**Credits Needed from Notre Dame**

A minimum of 30 earned credits from Notre Dame is required for graduation. The final 30 credits for the degree must be earned at Notre Dame.

*Please note:* In order to have Latin Honors noted on transcript and announced at Commencement, students must complete a *minimum* of 60 credits in graded course work at NDMU. This excludes credits earned through Pass/Fail courses, standardized testing, petitioning for credit, transfer, and CLEP examinations.



## VII. COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

### Nursing Student-Faculty and Staff Communication

All messages for students in the BSN program are provided through NDMU email including announcements posted on Learning Management System (LMS) course sites. Some communications may also be handled by the U.S. Mail or announced in relevant courses.

All email communication will be through NDMU student email accounts. E-mail is the primary means of communication. **Students are expected to check NDMU email on an ongoing basis** and notify relevant SON staff and faculty if email/internet access is disrupted for any reason.

Students may send messages to nursing faculty/staff through the University voice mail or email systems (see numbers and addresses listed in the Handbook); email is the preferred method of communication.

### Cancellation/Rescheduling of Classes

RN to BSN cancellations and delays will be determined by NDMU. Any RN to BSN class canceled due to inclement weather will be made up by arrangement of the faculty. This may be done by holding a virtual class.

Text-alert message notifications for University closings or delays are available. NDMU offers a mass notification system. The system sends messages instantly and simultaneously to registered text-message-capable cell phones, and email addresses. For information, go to [Emergency Notification Procedures](#) and to sign up for this service go to [e2Campus](#)

Whenever the main campus is closed for inclement weather, generally all locations are canceled, including off-site cohorts. However, check with the assigned faculty member to ascertain if a class is cancelled. Cancellation of classes for reasons other than weather will be communicated to students via an announcement on the course site in The Learning Management System (LMS) and NDMU email.

### Inclement Weather Information

For information about the University closing, call the **NDMU Weather Line at 410-532-5151** or listen to WBAL-AM 1090, WPOC-FM 93.1, WIYY-FM 98, WCAO-AM 600, WQSR-FM 105.7, WLIF-FM Lite 102, WCBM-AM 680, or watch WJZ-TV Channel 13, WBAL-TV Channel 11 or WMAR-TV Channel 2 for announcements regarding the closing of the University. In the Washington D.C. area, listen to WTOP-AM 1500. Under adverse weather conditions, students are expected to make a reasonable attempt to be on time for class. However, students must exercise their own judgment for safe driving under these conditions.

## Formal Complaint Procedure

### Overview

The SON defines a formal complaint as a written expression of serious dissatisfaction related to any aspect of NDMU nursing programs. A formal complaint is distinguished from a dispute about a grade in a course or other course evaluation matter, which is handled under the NDMU academic appeal procedures. The SON handles harassment complaints in accord with guidelines and policies set forth in the University Student Handbook. The SON's guiding principle is to settle disputes in a prompt and fair manner. Anonymous complaints are not accepted.

### First Level

In general, the operational principal that should be followed is to maintain open communication at the most immediate point of access and to work upwards when appropriate. This means that the student should work with the faculty member with whom she/he has the dispute.

### Second Level

The next level would be the Associate Dean. When a NDMU faculty member receives a formal complaint, the Associate Dean is also notified. The Associate Dean initially screens the formal complaint, unless the complaint directly involves the Associate Dean, in which case the Dean, School of Nursing screens the complaint.

### Third Level

If the complaint involves a complex, multi-department, or site issue, the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs may get involved. Additionally, the Dean or Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs may appoint an ad hoc panel to seek resolution of the complaint. Complaints about discrimination/sexual harassment will be directed to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of the President.

### Steps

1. A student having complaints about instruction or grading should attempt to resolve those issues directly with the instructor. The student should send an email to the instructor using his or her official NDM email account within seven business days.
  - This email should briefly outline the complaint and be copied to the Associate Dean.
  - If the complaint is not resolved with the instructor within seven business days of sending the email, then the student may reach out to the Associate Dean.
2. The Associate Dean's decision will be rendered within seven additional business days.
3. After the Associate Dean's decision, the student may appeal to the School of Nursing

Dean's Office. Complaints must be submitted in writing within 20 business days of the Associate Dean's decision.

4. The written statement should describe the complaint, indicate how it affects the individual and include the remedy or outcome sought from the Dean.
5. The decision of the Dean or her designee will be rendered within seven business days. The Dean's decision is final.
6. A copy of all written complaints and a written record of all subsequent actions will be filed in a confidential Academic Grievance File in the SON Dean's Office.

## **VIII. CLASSROOM GUIDELINES**

### **Academic Confidentiality**

Faculty will maintain strict confidentiality regarding both personal and academic information about students.

Academic records and transcripts are also housed in the Registrar's Office. Notre Dame of Maryland has a commitment to protect the confidentiality of student records. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ([FERPA](#)), as amended, and associated regulations establishes requirements regarding the privacy of student records and provides students with certain rights with respect to their education records.

Additional information about privacy are located at:

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Student Records](#)

### **Attendance**

#### **Face-to-Face and Virtual Classes**

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class regardless if in-person or virtual; however, faculty understands that extreme circumstances may occur. In these cases, exceptions may be granted and faculty may assign additional assignments/activities to ensure that course outcomes and/or unit objectives are met. The responsibility for coursework missed due to any type of absence rests with the student. Students are expected to attend scheduled classes prior to holidays and University breaks, and as well schedule vacations and other discretionary events outside of the class schedule. Students are also expected to arrive on time and remain in class for the entire period scheduled.

Students are expected to notify faculty of an absence(s) from class as soon as possible and to turn in all assignments on time or at a time agreed by the faculty. Tardiness and early departure disrupts the educational process. Students are expected to arrive for class on time and to remain until the class has ended. Course faculty may have additional or modified attendance requirements, which will be noted in course syllabi and/or announced in class.

#### **Online Courses**

Students should be in the online course room at least 4 days/week and plan to spend 3 times the number of credit hours on coursework. Each course syllabus will indicate class participation and online assignments. Missed class quizzes and graded activities may not be made up. Assignments and postings must be completed by the designated time.

## **Caring Science**

Human caring science is the study of caring as the grounding and inspiration of the discipline of nursing. Within a caring model, the way of being together in authentic, relationships enact respect for person, loving kindness, and empathic presence, with the intention to care that honors and values each person. Caring science requires full attention to what matters most to persons about their health, caring science calls for courage, humility, technological competence and multiple ways of knowing in order to create a more humane just and compassionate world. All graduate courses are guided through the lens of caring science.

## **Circle Practice**

As a School of Nursing, we believe that having important conversations in circle about issues that matter creates an environmental container that at once is inclusive and protective. A meeting is transformed into a circle, among other ways, through invitation, preparation for the conversation, intention, setting agreements, and reflection. Circle provides a structure by which shared leadership may occur. The components of circle differentiate the structure from the traditional business meeting. These are listed and translated as needed:

- Personal Preparation – each member is prepared to contribute to the discussion/decision
- Invitation – is sent and accepted
- Setting the intention – purpose of the gathering
- Start-point – intention is verbalized and agreed upon. Often a reflection is offered to guide initial deliberations
- Circle Agreements – each circle has a set of norms that members agree and adhere
- Check-in – this important step signifies that everyone present is open to the discussion and brings her/his own perspective. This may open with “what’s new,” or a more intentional question about the work to be done
- Rotating leadership – while there may be a formal leader all participate as leaders
- Sharing responsibility – members speak up to say or do what needs to be said or done – volunteering service
- Reliance on wholeness – we are part of a bigger picture
- Three practices are active listening, intentional speaking, and attending to the well-being of the group
- Recognizing there are members of the group needed for the decision and including these members
- Decisions are made by consensus
- Closing check-out is an affirmation or statement that dialogue must continue.

## Cell Phones

Students are asked to keep all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices in the silent mode and are expected to return phone calls during the break or after class, unless the call is an emergency. Texting, emailing, or checking email during class is not permitted. Students engaging in these activities may be asked to leave the classroom until they are prepared to fully participate in the class.

## Children in Class

No children are allowed to accompany students inside the classroom or in the hallways. Children are not to be left unattended at any time when visiting the campus.

## Collaborative Learning

Collaborative learning is an integral part of the classroom experience in the BSN program. The following chart explains how a collaborative learning classroom might be different from previous classroom experiences.

<b>Traditional</b>	<b>Collaborative</b>
Student is listener / note-taker/ observer	Student is contributor / discussant / problemsolver
Source of authority – professor & text “sage on the stage”	Source of authority – group of which professor is a member
Low – Moderate class preparation	High expectations for class preparation
Learning independently	Learning interdependently
Attendance by personal choice	Attendance by group expectation
Private classroom presence	Public classroom presence
Competition with peers	Collaboration with peers
Some engagement with peers	Committed to supporting and encouraging one another

In summary the characteristics of collaborative learning are:

- Active participants who engage in active listening, discussion, and conversation rather than speech-making and debate
- Learning partnerships equalizes the relationship between professor and student.
- Community created where divergent opinions are tolerated.
- Locus of knowledge is in the community and each member develops a sense of commitment and responsibility to the group for learning.

- Creation of knowledge by examining and challenging each other's ideas; judging each other's ideas not the person them self.

### **Course Schedule**

The cohort course schedule is developed as a guide only. Course sequence and meetings dates are subject to change. Students will be notified of changes in advance.

### **Grade Appeal for Assignment(s)**

A student has a seven (7) day period of time, beginning with the date a graded assignment, exam, etc. is returned, to discuss questions of concerns with the faculty member about a grade received. After this time, grades are final. Students are encouraged to present documentation to support their concerns.

### **Grade Reports**

Final course grades are posted on WebAdvisor.

### **Grading Scale**

The grading scale in the RN to BSN program is equivalent for all courses. Grades represent the instructor's evaluation of a student's achievement in the course. Each letter grade in a course is interpreted as follows:

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Numerical Range</b>
A	92 - 100%
B+	87 - 91%
B	82 - 86%
C+	77 - 81%
C	70 - 76%
D	60 - 69%
F	Below 60%
AU	
W	
I	

## **Pre-Course Information**

Students are responsible for accessing all pre-course information and complete pre-course assignments outlined on the cohort Learning Management System (LMS) site. Pre-course information will be posted at least one week prior to the start of a course. Students must be registered for the course in order to gain access to the course Learning Management System (LMS) site. The web address for Notre Dame Learning Management System (LMS) is <https://brightspace.ndm.edu/>. Students will be directed to login to assigned NDMU account.

## **Student Access to Academic Records**

Refer to the website: [Student Records--Academic Record Policy](#)

## **Studying in the RN to BSN Program**

The weekly class hours are augmented by guided, independent study in which the student is responsible for assuming good study and writing skills needed to facilitate learning. Faculty and students work collaboratively in class as students complete a variety of in-class facilitative learning activities designed to enhance critical thinking, communication abilities, and therapeutic nursing interventions.

All courses employ collaborative learning methods, requiring students to be active participants in the classroom. A goal of collaborative learning is equalizing the relationship between professor and learner through community interaction within the context of the caring classroom environment. An outcome of this learning process and the cohort delivery model is the creation of a sense of community within the cohort.

Students are expected to spend a significant amount of time outside of the classroom preparing for class and completing assignments. According to the University credit hour policy and federal and state regulations, students should expect to prepare for classes at a rate of 2-3 hours per every one hour of class time. Course syllabi guide students in studying and classroom activities. This guide is available to registered students on the Learning Management System (LMS) site for the course.

## **WebAdvisor**

WebAdvisor is real-time information for students that provides grades, class schedules, advisor information and email contact, request forms for transcripts and enrollment verifications, and financial aid award information.



## Written Requirements in Nursing Courses

In all nursing courses, APA (American Psychological Association) format is required for major papers and reference citations. The NDMU/Loyola library website provides tutorials and other supportive materials to enhance student skill development in this area. While some class time is dedicated to an overview of this format in the first course, students are expected to progress independently in their competency of APA throughout the program.

### *Turnitin*

Turnitin is a 'text-matching' software that is designed to assist students regarding appropriate citation and referencing techniques. Turnitin does this by comparing a student submission against an archive of Internet documents, Internet data, a repository of previously submitted papers, and subscription repository of periodicals, journals, and publications. Turnitin then creates an 'Originality Report' that can be viewed by both faculty and student. This report identifies where the text within a student submission has matched another source.

NDMU uses Turnitin both as a tool to educate students regarding appropriate citation and referencing techniques as well as to provide us with confidence in the academic integrity of students work. Turnitin also provides faculty with online grading capabilities and enhances the way in which students receive their grades and feedback on assessment items. It is important to understand that Turnitin is not a punitive tool. The primary purpose of using Turnitin is to provide students with an interactive means of understanding and applying citation and referencing techniques in their work.

After close review of the originality report, faculty may request that a student resubmit an assignment. A similarity index of > 15% will likely need to be revised and resubmitted and will be subject to a 10% deduction in final grade on the assignment. Should course faculty request this, it must be completed within 72 hours of notification. Failure to do so may result in a grade of "0" on the assignment. A similarity index of greater than 50% is subject to an automatic grade of zero and referral to the Honor Board. A description of the Honor Board is found here:

[NDMU Honor Board](#)

## **IX. REQUIRED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING GUIDELINES**

### **Clinical Agency Requirements**

Students must also abide by policies set by clinical agencies regarding documentation of specific competencies and health data. Students are required to provide health information, licensure documentation and, in some cases, proof of required background check before the start of their practicum. Students are encouraged to provide this information in advance of the practicum semester. Failure to comply may delay the start of the practicum including requiring the student to delay the practicum until the next semester.

### **Confidentiality in Outside Settings**

The School of Nursing faculty of Notre Dame of Maryland University believes that information concerning patients is privileged and must remain confidential. Appropriate information regarding patients, students, and organizations' employees, which needs to be shared among classmates or for educational purposes, will only be discussed in a private setting away from patient care areas.

Nursing students must abide by state and federal laws and agency regulations to safeguard patient and student information. This means that a student may be held legally responsible for disclosure of information. Faculty believes that confidentiality has ethical dimensions demanding respect for patients as persons and is an important issue in providing patient care.

All curricular standards related to patient confidentiality in the Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Nursing are based on published legal, regulatory, and ethical standards found in the Code of Ethics for Nurses (2015) and the Maryland Nurse Practice Act (2006). The standards and policies in these documents are consistent and congruent with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

1. "The student has a duty to maintain confidentiality of all patient information" (Code of Ethics, 3.2), "...and safeguard a client's right to privacy by maintaining confidentiality of information" (Maryland Nurse Practice Act (2006), 10.27.09.03-b).
2. "The rights, well-being, and safety of the individual patient should be the primary factors in arriving at any professional judgment concerning the disposition of confidential information received from or about the patient whether oral, written, or electronic." (Code of Ethics, 3.2,)
3. The student should only access patient health information on assigned clients.

4. The student is responsible for communicating to the patient/client the purpose and disposition of all health and other assessment data collected.
5. The student should inform patients of their right to refuse to give health information for academic purposes.
7. All electronic, oral, and written assignments will be shared in such a manner that no specific, identifiable patient information is provided (e.g., full name, social security number, phone number, address, name of employer).
8. Information to the family, significant others and other members of the health care team cannot violate the client's confidentiality. Only information pertinent to a patient's treatment and welfare should be disclosed, and only to those directly involved with the patient's care (Maryland Nurse Practice Act, 10.27.09.02-f).
9. The student is expected to clarify any questions regarding confidentiality with his/her professor or appropriate agency contact person (e.g., questions about mandatory disclosure).
10. All students must sign the School of Nursing confidentiality form.

Any violation of this confidentiality policy is deemed serious and may result in course failure and/or possible dismissal from the Program.

### **Conduct during Required Experiential Learning Activities**

Any student participating in required experiential learning is expected to demonstrate behaviors that lead faculty to believe that the student is physically and mentally competent to work with clients and/or others. Examples of behaviors that might be indicative of potential impairment include: slurred speech, uncoordinated movements, ineffective attention, inability to follow simple commands, and/or an odor of alcohol. In addition, aggressive behaviors such as the raising of voice, arguing, and/or infringing on the personal space of others will not be tolerated. Such actions may be considered a violation of the Notre Dame Honor Code. Nursing faculty and preceptors will exercise their right and responsibility to require a student to leave the required experiential learning activity setting immediately, if the student's behavior is deemed unsafe or disturbing.

A decision to re-enter the learning setting will be based upon the student's overall performance and the criteria for satisfactory performance. Recommendations from the student's health care provider may be requested and considered in the final decision. See Classroom and Clinical Policies, Honor Code, and both the University's and School's Substance Abuse Policy for additional information.

## **Dress Code for Required Experiential Learning Activities**

Students are expected to maintain a professional appearance when participating in required experiential learning activities. Professional attire is required. Students are to adhere to the dress code followed by the agency.

The SON considers clothes options, noted below, as non-professional attire and unacceptable when representing the SON and/or the nursing profession in public forums, such as Blessing of the Hands, BSN Symposium:

- miniskirts, jeans, shorts, pajama bottoms, sweatpants, leggings, jeggings;
- slacks, skirts or pants that expose skin below the waist;
- sweatshirts, tee shirts, tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, spaghetti string or off the shoulder tops; and
- clothes that are torn, sheer, low cut, revealing or tops that do not cover to the waist.

No tongue studs or lip studs are allowed. A Notre Dame student ID must be displayed at all times. Lanyards can be purchased through the NDMU Bookstore.

## **Non-Academic Requirements for Experiential Learning Activities**

Students are responsible for following requirements of the agency attended for experiential learning activities. These may include the following requirements:

### **Background Check**

Some clinical and education organizations may require a background check. Students need to meet the agency requirements related to background checks.

### **Confidentially Form**

All students may need to sign a Confidentially Agreement prior to beginning their experiential experience.

### **Current CPR Certification**

Certification must be by the American Heart Association or an approved CPR provider. The course must be *Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Provider* its equivalent. This course includes the skills of CPR for victims of all ages (including ventilation with a barrier device, a bag-mask device, and oxygen); use of an automated external defibrillator (AED); and relief of foreign body airway obstruction (FBAO). Students must submit a copy of both the front and back of the card verifying this certification; all signatures, including the student's, must be present.

**Drug Screening**

Some clinical agencies may require a drug screening test be completed prior to clinical. If this requirement is mandated by the clinical agency, students will be notified prior to the start of the experience.

**COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster**

Students are required to be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. In addition, some clinical agencies may require mask-wearing and eye protection on premises when contagion levels are high. Students are expected to adhere to the policies of the clinical agency.

**Maryland RN License**

Initial licensure information is verified by Enrollment Management staff. Prior to the start of the practicum course, licensure is verified by School of Nursing staff using the Maryland Board of Nursing on-line license verification process. If the RN license is due for renewal during practicum courses, the license will be verified again. Students are responsible for renewing their license *before* the expiration date.

**Other**

Some clinical agencies may require documentation of additional health-related requirements. Health-related requirements could include, but are not limited to: flu vaccines and mandatory events training (provide written evidence from hospital). Students will be notified of these requirements as soon as possible and will be expected to pay any expenses associated with these requirements.

All documentation of compliance with these requirements must be uploaded to Castle Branch (formerly known as Certified Background) and approved before the start of the practicum. Sign on information and details of required documentation will be sent out the semester before practicum requirements are due.

Students who do not present updated documentation in a timely manner will be unable to attend their practicum until the proper documentation is received by the School of Nursing. Practicum grades will be adversely affected by noncompliance with the policy.

## X. BEHAVIOR STANDARDS

### Professionalism

Professionalism is defined as the active demonstration of the attributes of a professional. These attributes include knowledge and skills of the profession, commitment to self-improvement of skills and knowledge, service orientation, pride in the profession, covenantal relationship with patient, creativity and innovation, conscience and trustworthiness, accountability for one's work, ethical sound decision making and leadership.

Professional socialization is the process by which an individual develops the attitudes, values and beliefs of a professional. The goal of professional socialization is to develop professionalism as described below and this process must begin at the beginning of an individual's professional education. Therefore, as consistent with expectations of the practice environment, professional behavior and attitudes are expected for all students enrolled in the School.

Communication and interpersonal interactions encompass the student:

- Using appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication;
- Communicating assertively – actively and appropriately engages in dialogue or discussion;
- Demonstrating an attitude of open-mindedness towards others and situations; does not “stereotype” others or prejudge situations;
- Demonstrating regard for self, standardized patients, peers, faculty, staff and University property;
- Appreciating others' positions; attempts to identify with others' perspectives; demonstrates consideration towards others;
- Using diplomacy by showing fairness and tactfulness in all dealings with patients, peers, faculty and staff;
- Acts and communicates in a self-assured manner, yet with modesty and humility; □ Acts cooperatively in a non-argumentative manner; and
- Expresses truthful in all interactions by being straightforward.

#### *Work Ethic*

- Is punctual, reliable, dependable, accountable for one's actions
- Behaves in an ethical manner
- Produces quality work
- Accepts constructive criticism and modifies behavior if necessary
- Is self-directed in undertaking tasks, self-motivated
- Handles stress – remains calm, levelheaded and composed in critical, stressful or difficult situations
- Is an active learner – seeks knowledge; asks questions, searches for information, takes responsibility for own learning

- Follows through with responsibilities – if task is left incomplete or problem is not resolved, student seeks aid

Adapted with permission from the School of Pharmacy, NDM

## Honor Code

### Introduction

The Honor Code of Notre Dame of Maryland University has been a tradition since 1936. It is founded on a pledge each student takes to act with integrity in academic and personal life.

Based on the personal integrity of the individual and an active concern for others, the Honor Code is motivated by personal values, religious conviction, good taste, and the common good.

Its purpose is to establish a University community founded on personal honor and mutual trust.

This combination of personal commitment and community responsibility helps to strengthen each student as an individual and helps to develop mature powers of judgment and reason, and intellectual and social honesty. The Honor Code signifies the ideal of academic and personal integrity that each student is expected to model. Living the Honor Code strengthens the entire community and cultivates an atmosphere of unity founded on trust.

Belonging to the Notre Dame community is both a privilege and a responsibility. It is a privilege to those who qualify and carry the responsibility to abide by the Honor Code. Adhering to the Honor Code is a responsibility shared by the entire campus community. Its effectiveness depends upon individual acceptance of responsibility and the reciprocal cooperation of students, faculty, staff and administration.

Ultimately, each member of the community is expected to assume responsibility for her/his own conduct and to assume reasonable responsibility for the conduct of others. This results in mutual respect and a commitment of each member of the community toward civility. Within the spirit of the Honor Code, this may mean kind and courteous admonition when one observes another's inappropriate conduct. At other times, it means cooperation when authorities are investigating allegations of violations of academic or behavioral standards or encouraging the violators to report themselves. The Honor Code is located at: [University Student Handbook](#)

Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Nursing students are expected to achieve and display high standards of character. Honesty and ethical behavior are hallmarks of the nursing profession and are essential qualities for any person who aspires to be a professional nurse. The nursing profession requires Registered Nurses and nursing students to be of impeccable character living professional and private lives that exemplify high standards of ethical conduct.

### Honor Pledge

*With a keen sense of responsibility, I accept this symbol of my entrance into the world of scholarship. And I give this pledge of my purpose to wear it worthily. I shall try to follow all truth,*

*I shall try to see all beauty, I shall try to be all goodness, and thus to come to that Eternal Wisdom which is the Word of God.*

### **Honor Commitment**

*I agree to adhere to academic and social integrity in furthering my education, as well as the welfare of University of Notre Dame, my classmates, and myself. In fulfilling my obligations under the Honor Code, I agree to abide by all academic and social policies and standards at Notre Dame of Maryland University and School of Nursing.*

The Honor Code is located at: [University Student Handbook](#)

### **Social Media Policy**

Nursing students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with standard professional and ethical practices and abide by state and federal laws regarding privacy and confidentiality at all times. Social networking sites can be an effective way to collaborate with colleagues and enhance learning. While this creates new opportunities for communication and collaboration, it also creates vulnerabilities for individuals and institutions. Violations of privacy and confidentiality may occur intentionally or inadvertently and may result not only in dismissal from the nursing program but also possible civil and criminal penalties.

Use of social media is prohibited while performing direct patient care activities unless social media use in these areas has been previously approved by SON faculty. Social media includes, but is not limited to:

- Blogs, and microblogs such as Twitter and Instagram
- Social networks, such as Facebook
- Professional networks, such as LinkedIn
- Video sharing, such as You Tube and vlogs (video weblogs)
- Audio sharing, such as podcasts
- Photo sharing, such as Flickr and Photobucket
- Social bookmarking, such as Digg and Redditt
- Public comment sections on WebPages (such as those for online news sites)
- User created web pages such as Wikis and Wikipedia, and
- Any other internet-based social media application similar in purpose or function to those applications described above.

The following guidelines are intended to assist NDMU nursing students in adhering to professional and ethical standards for social media. Students will first exemplify the following:



- Maintain professional boundaries surrounding the nurse-patient relationship in the online environment in addition to the classroom and testing areas.
- Promptly report any identified breach of confidentiality of privacy to clinical faculty.
- Familiarize themselves with and use conservative privacy settings regardless of the content on their social media profiles.
- Practice restraint when disclosing personal information on social networking sites. Even seemingly innocuous pictures and comments can impact the respect and trust patients and peers have for students, now and in the future.

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

- Take any pictures in any clinical, laboratory, or practice site without approval.
- Share, post, or transmit any personal information, health information, or images of other by way of any electronic media. Sharing this information is a violation of patient rights to confidentiality and privacy.
- Engage in communication with patients and their family members or legally appointed decision makers on social networking sites.
- Post on behalf of NDMU or present as an official representative or spokesperson for the University or School of Nursing.
- Refer to anyone or any group in a disparaging, disrespectful, or threatening way, even if the person or group has not been identified. This includes, but it is not limited to patients, families, faculty and staff.
- Access websites and/or applications in a manner that interferes with or disrupts classroom, clinical, or simulation lab instruction.
- Violate the Information Management policies or clinical agencies.
- For more information, please refer to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) White Paper: A Nurse's Guide to the Use of Social Media found at the website below:
- The National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2011). A nurse's guide to the use of social media. Retrieved from [https://www.ncsbn.org/Social\\_Media.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/Social_Media.pdf)

## Substance Abuse Policy

The SON adheres to the University's Substance Abuse Policy located at this link: [University Student Handbook: Substance Abuse Policy](#). Additionally, policy about heroin and opioid addiction and prevention is located on the website at this link: [Heroin and Opioid Addiction and Prevention Policy](#)

The SON also functions under the parameters of the Maryland Nurse Practice Act, Annotated Code of Maryland Health Occupations Article, Title 8, and Code of Maryland Regulations, Title 10, Subtitle 27.

In accordance with the Maryland Nurse Practice Act (§8-316, [7]), a nurse is prohibited from providing "professional services while (i) under the influence of alcohol; or (ii) Using any narcotic or controlled dangerous substance, as defined in §5-101 of the Criminal Law Article, or other drug that is in excess of therapeutic amounts or without valid medical indication."

Students in the Notre Dame of Maryland University's Nursing Program are considered to be providing professional services during all clinical labs and while participating in all aspects of designated clinical experiences.

For health and safety concerns, students, faculty, and staff must conduct health care and educational activities fully in control of their manual dexterity and skills, mental facilities, and judgment. The presence or use of drugs or alcohol, lawful or otherwise, which interferes with the judgment or motor coordination of nursing students, faculty, and staff in a health care setting, poses an unacceptable risk for patients, colleagues, the University, and affiliating clinical agencies. The SON recognizes its responsibility to provide a safe, efficient academic environment for students, faculty, and staff and to cooperate with clinical agencies in providing for the safe and effective care of their patients during nursing students' clinical experiences in their facilities. Therefore, the following policy has been adopted to:

1. Prevent substance abuse and/or activities or behaviors a) that are prohibited by the University's Drug-Free Workplace Policy, state or federal laws or b) which may subject the involved student, other individuals, and the University to legal penalties or consequences, or c) which may cause a deterioration of the atmosphere and circumstances under which the care of patients and the nursing educational programs are conducted;
2. Cooperate with affiliating clinical agencies by requiring nursing students, faculty, and staff reporting to such agencies to consent voluntarily a) to allow those agencies to drug test the student in accordance with their policies, and b) to disclose any drug testing results to appropriate SON officials; and
3. Require all students enrolled in clinical and practicum courses in the SON to submit to mandatory drug testing based upon reasonable suspicion of substance abuse. Reasonable suspicion testing means that evidence exists which forms a reasonable basis for concluding that it is more likely than not that a student, faculty, or staff has engaged in

substance abuse. Facts which could give rise to reasonable suspicion include, but are not limited to: the odor of alcohol or drugs, impaired behavior such as slurred speech, decreased motor coordination, difficulty in maintaining balance, marked changes in personality or job performance, and unexplained accidents. Such evidence may come from a professional or expert opinion, layperson opinion, scientific tests, or other sources or methods.

### **Procedure for Reasonable Suspicion Drug Testing**

1. Any student who demonstrates behavioral changes reasonably suspected to be related to substance abuse as defined herein will be subjected to testing. A decision to drug test based on reasonable suspicion of substance abuse may be made by a faculty/staff member and/or the clinical agency. The nursing student request to drug test will be documented and may be based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to:
  - a. observable phenomena such as direct observation of drug use and or physical symptoms or manifestations of being under the influence of a drug;
  - b. erratic behavior, slurred speech, staggered gait, flushed face, dilated/pinpoint pupils, wide mood swings, or deterioration of work or academic performance;
  - c. information that a student has caused or contributed to an accident that resulted in injury requiring treatment by a licensed health care professional; and
  - d. substance abuse-related conviction by a court, or being found guilty of a substance abuse-related offense in another administrative or quasi-legal proceeding.
2. Drug testing for reasonable suspicion will be arranged by the SON, unless done in cooperation with the affiliating clinical agency. The cost of this drug testing will be assumed by the student.
3. Drug testing will be conducted by a certified collector in accordance with established methods and procedures. Confidentiality of the student as well as the validity of the sample will be protected by the testing facility. The procedure for collection as determined by the collection site, will involve a witness to the voiding of the urine sample, securable urine containers, and chain of custody procedures. This procedure ensures that the samples identified to a student, faculty, or staff actually contain materials from that individual, that the samples are protected from tampering, and that the analysis of them is done in accordance with federal guidelines.
4. The test shall screen for the use of drugs whose use is either illegal, or which are prone to abuse (including alcohol), as determined at the discretion of the Medical Review Officer of the testing facility, clinical facility, SON, or for the use of any drugs which are reasonably suspected of being abused or used by the student.
5. Non-negative test results will be confirmed by additional testing. If the test is positive, the entirety of the relevant available evidence, including health history, will be used to determine

the presence or absence of substance abuse. Positive test results shall be documented in the student's record in the SON.

6. The Dean of the SON will notify a student who has a positive drug test. If the results of a laboratory tests confirms the presence of a prescribed drug (verified negative) the person may be required to obtain a written statement from the prescribing physician or a Substance Abuse Professional (at the discretion of the Dean) stating that the drug level is within prescribed limits and that the level does not indicate abuse. The prescribing physician or a Substance Abuse Professional must indicate that the drug will not interfere with safe practice in the clinical area.
7. If the initial screening test is negative, that fact will be noted in the student's record. Unless there is compelling evidence to do otherwise, the preliminary investigation will cease and the student will be released from further action.
8. Failure to submit to drug testing for reasonable suspicion may result in dismissal from the program or termination from the SON.
9. A positive substance abuse test may result in dismissal from the program or termination from the SON.

### **Confidentiality of Drug Testing Results**

The SON treats all drug testing results as information that it receives in confidence and shall not be disclosed to third parties unless:

- disclosure is required by law,
- the information is needed by appropriate school officials to perform their job functions,
- disclosure is needed to override public health and safety concerns, or
- student, faculty, or staff has consented in writing to the release of the information.

The SON and the University shall have the right to use and disclose the results of drug testing, required by this policy. In connection with internal academic purposes and in connection with the defense of any student grievance and any claims filed by a student or by his/her personal representative, in any court of law or with any state or federal administrative agency.

### **Consequences of Suspected Substance Abuse**

Students who are suspected of substance abuse or appears impaired\* while providing professional services as a nursing student will be subjected to actions that include, but are not limited to:

- Immediate dismissal from the lab/clinical setting;
- Reporting the incident to the Dean, School of Nursing;
- Informing Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities;

- Initiating drug testing if reasonable suspicion is present; and
- Development and implementation of a course of action in compliance with the NDMU Substance Abuse Policy.

The student will not be permitted to return to the lab/clinical setting and the corresponding classes until a thorough assessment has been completed and an intervention plan has been developed and implemented.

\*Impaired means that a person's mental or physical capabilities are reduced below their normal levels (with or without any reasonable accommodation for a disability). An impaired student manifests deterioration in the level of function as compared to that previously observed, or the student does not function at a level normally expected under the prevailing circumstances. Impairment may exist in one or more multiple domains, including psychomotor activity and skills, conceptual or factual recall, integrative or synthetic thought processes, judgment, attentiveness, demeanor and attitudes as manifested in speech or actions. Impairment will include addiction to and/or physical dependence upon chemical substances.

### **Appeal Process**

A student may appeal the SON's decision to dismiss or not re-admit a student through the established Formal Complaint procedure.

Substance Abuse policy adapted with permission:  
Christie Shelton, PhD, RN, CNE, NEA-BC  
Dean, School of Health Professions & Wellness  
Jacksonville State University

## **XI. REGISTRATION, BILLING, AND PAYMENT INFORMATION**

### **Registration**

Students are given a cohort schedule at the beginning of their program. The cohort schedule is subject to change; however, students will be notified prior to changes. Students register for their first semester on paper with the RN to BSN Student Advisor. In subsequent semesters, students are responsible for registering for courses. It is the responsibility of each student to register for courses directly through Self-Service. Directions for registration are located at: [Registration & Course Schedules](#) Failure to do so may result in substantial late registration fees or having registration denied for that course. No student may not attend a class for the course in which they are not officially registered.

Confirmations of registration are mailed from the Registrar's Office before the start of each semester. A complete bill is sent to each student on the 15th of every month. Payment of fees and tuition or the first FACTS Payment Plan payment is due approximately four weeks before classes begin each term.

### **Change of Registration (Dropping/Adding/Withdrawing)**

Students requesting a change in registration must immediately complete the necessary paperwork to officially have the change recorded by the Registrar's Office. Changes in MSN registration (dropping or adding a course) **MUST** be made prior to the first class meeting. MSN students may withdraw from a course prior to the fourth class meeting. Students who stop attending class, and do not officially withdraw, will be assigned a grade of F and are financially responsible for the full tuition charged for the course.

**Note:** The withdraw date is based on the date the form is received in Registrar's Office.

Students should consult the tuition refund policy on the website: [Tuition and Fees--Refund Policy](#) to identify term deadlines for tuition refund eligibility due to a change in registration.

The student must consult with the Financial Aid Office prior to dropping a course to determine if the student will maintain financial aid eligibility after dropping or withdrawing from a course. If any questions regarding the final grade report, registration, drop/add, or withdrawal forms please contact the Registrar's Office at [Registrar@ndm.edu](mailto:Registrar@ndm.edu) or 410-532-5327.

Students receiving Federal Financial Aid must maintain six credits per semester to remain eligible for funding. The student must consult with the Financial Aid Office prior to dropping a course to determine if the student will maintain financial aid eligibility after dropping or withdrawing from a course.

## **Billing Information**

Tuition is due one month before the start of the term. Statements are mailed to the billing address indicated in WebAdvisor. Failure to pay by the date indicated will result in a monthly late payment fee. Follow-up billings reflecting additional charges or adjustments are emailed to WebAdvisor for students' review.

If students have a balance of greater than \$1500, the Business Office will place a 'hold' on the account. A business hold prevents students from registering for a course(s) for the upcoming semester. Business holds will be placed on a student's account on the Tuition Due Date if the amount exceeds \$1500.

Financial obligations incurred or billed during a semester must be settled before a student may register or receive final grades. Transcripts and diplomas cannot be released until all financial obligations have been met. Students should confer with the Business Office regarding additional payment options. Refer to the website for additional information: [Billing Information](#)

The University reserves the right to require cash or cashier's check at its discretion. If you have any questions regarding your tuition bill, the Official Payment Plan, the Employer Tuition Reimbursement plan, or need a receipt please contact the Business office:

1. Mary Alice Adams at 410-532-5745, [madams@ndm.edu](mailto:madams@ndm.edu); or
2. Charmaine Hood at 410-532-5365, [chood@ndm.edu](mailto:chood@ndm.edu); or
3. Megan Rivera at 410-532-5363, [mrivera@ndm.edu](mailto:mrivera@ndm.edu)

## **Payment and Tuition Remission Plans**

### **Official Payment Plans**

The Official Payment Plan enables students to register and make monthly payments during the year against their outstanding balance. Payments can be made using a credit card or with a direct debit from checking or savings. Please note that students will be charged a 2.5% processing fee if paying by credit card. Online applications and information about the plan are available on the University's website: [Tuition Payment Plans](#)

### **Employer Tuition Remission Payment Plan**

The Employer Tuition Remission Payment Plan enables students to register and partially defer tuition. At the time of registration all fees and 15% of the total tuition is due. The balance of your tuition is payable 60 days after the last class of each semester. See the form for full details and requirements. A "Employer Tuition Remission Repayment Plan" form must be completed and attached to the registration form each semester that the plan is used. The form is available at the University's website: [www.ndm.edu](http://www.ndm.edu). Click "academics" then "Records and

**Registration.”** The form can be found under “**forms.**” This form is also available in your cohort’s Learning Management System (LMS) site under “**Information/ Forms.**”

## **Federal Financial Aid**

### **Eligibility Requirements**

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) Notre Dame’s federal school code is 002065. Students complete a FAFSA for each academic year, which runs from the beginning of the fall semester through the end of the summer semester.
2. Be accepted as a degree seeking student in your program.
3. Be enrolled for at least six credits each fall and spring semester to receive Federal loans.

### **Types of Federal Financial Aid**

1. Federal Pell Grant – Need based grant from the Federal Government. It is prorated based on the number of credits for which the student is enrolled and her/his need level determined by the FAFSA. Only extremely high need students receive this grant.
2. Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan – This is a need-based, low-interest loan guaranteed by the federal government with deferred repayment (up to 10 years after graduation) and subsidized interest payments by the government, while the student is enrolled in six credits in college.
3. Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan – This is a non-need-based loan with the same terms as the Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan, except the federal government does not pay the student’s interest.
4. The Federal Stafford Loan may be used to purchase textbooks, to purchase a computer and/or software, daycare, transportation, and living expenses. The NDMU Financial Aid office awards enough aid to cover tuition and books automatically. If a student desires funds for other expenses, the students should contact the NDMU Financial Aid office at 410-532-5369.

## **Payment**

Checks for all expenses are made payable to Notre Dame of Maryland University. There is a penalty for returned checks and for overdue payments. If the tuition payment is not made by the due date, the student’s registration could be cancelled. The University reserves the right to drop from classes, without prior notice, any student who does not pay billed tuition by the due date period.

Non-payment is not a valid means of withdrawing from classes. If the University exercises its right to drop a student for nonpayment, the student may re-register, with full payment, for a class on a first-come, first-served basis until the first day of class. Space in class will not be reserved.



Only those courses still open will be available to students who are re-registering. A new registration form and full tuition are required for re-registration.

### **Return of Title IV Funds for Federal Financial Aid Recipients**

Refer to [Leave of Absence & Return of Title IV Funds](#) on the website.

### **Veterans Assistance**

Refer to [Veterans Services](#) on the website.

## **XII. RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES**

### **Accessibility Support Services**

#### **Overview**

Learning support services and accommodations are available to students covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Academic accommodations are set up on an ongoing basis when students request and submit the necessary documentation.

Students seeking academic accommodation from Accessibility and Health Promotion (AHP) are doing so because they have a documented disability and/ or health condition that impacts learning or suspect they do. Students seeking accommodations should work with a medical professional who can assess the disability/ conditions and identify how it impacts the students learning. Based on what is discovered, the provider will generate a list of recommended accommodation.

Accommodations related to mental health; it is not uncommon for mental health providers to see a client for a minimum of 4 sessions before making any diagnosis and accommodation recommendations.

Setting up accommodations can be a quick process if students have information about their learning style/ challenges/ disability. However, if a student is ‘figuring out’ or investigating their learning style due to challenges/ disability/ chronic health conditions, then the process may take longer as a medical professional can speak best to the diagnosis and its impact on the student’s learning.

#### **Procedure**

1. If a student requires accommodations in a course, she/he must contact the Director of Accessibility and Health Promotion at 410-532-5401.

2. When requesting academic accommodations for *the first time*, please prepare a copy of the 504 plan, Psycho-Education evaluation, or the AHP accommodation request form. Direct your questions about acceptable documentation to [accessibility@ndm.edu](mailto:accessibility@ndm.edu).
3. The Director will schedule a time to meet and review the documentation and discuss the services offered and identify any accommodations required for specific courses.
4. It is extremely important that a student begins this process at the beginning of the semester. Students are encouraged not to wait until the first test or paper.
5. It is the student's responsibility to share the accommodation plan with course faculty prior to the due date for tests or other assignments.
6. Please note there are times where setting up academic accommodations at the end of the semester or before a final project or exam may not be possible.

### **Bookstore**

The NDMU Bookstore, in lower level Gibbons, sells schools supplies, snacks, apparel and a variety of personal items during the academic year. Apparel and spirit wear can also be purchased via the Barnes and Noble website [NDMU Bookstore](#). Textbook purchasing is now available online only [NDMU Bookstore](#). For questions regarding textbook or merchandise orders, gift shop hours, or other bookstore matters please email [bookstore@ndm.edu](mailto:bookstore@ndm.edu).

### **Campus Computer Technologies**

The networked computer labs feature 70 workstations in the IBM and Mac labs. All PC and Mac workstations support current computer applications including word processing, databases, graphics, multimedia and many specialty applications. Both networks include laser printers, scanners, CD-ROM and ZIP drives. Using the latest web tools, students may browse the Internet and also access the Loyola/Notre Dame electronic library system, as well as send email to and receive email from other users around the world.

From various locations on campus, students have the ability to access the Internet and their personal email accounts. These locations include the campus computer labs located in Technology Hub in UAB, Rice Hall, Doyle and Meletia Lounges, and appropriately configured classrooms.

### **Campus Ministry**

The primary mission of the Office of Campus Ministry at Notre Dame of Maryland University is to strengthen the faith tradition upon which the University is built and to foster the spiritual development of the entire campus community. Campus Ministry provides such opportunities as Eucharistic liturgies, ecumenical and sacramental prayer services, discussion and prayer groups, retreats, counseling and spiritual direction. Community Service is also a vital part of Campus

Ministry, providing students with opportunities to volunteer in Baltimore and throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Several student organizations are integral to the office of Campus Ministry: the student Campus Ministry Team, the Community Service Organization, Peer Ministry, and the Liturgical Music Group. Catholic in its truest sense, Campus Ministry welcomes people of all faiths.

### **Career Center**

NDMU's Career Center helps to formalize a career identity for nursing students and alumnae/alumni to support informed career decision making and major selection. The office facilitates a job candidate's language and narrative for their job search communications in order to secure positions in a candidate's targeted employers. Individuals learn to successfully interface with increasingly automated hiring and selection tools. The Career Center uses Handshake to connect with employers and also collaborates with consortiums of other local colleges to maximize the possibilities for internships, experiential learning, and jobs. For additional information, click [Career Center](#)

### **Counseling Center**

The Counseling Center offers confidential services to all full-time students at no cost, and to part-time students for a modest fee. Primary services provided are individual counseling (both brief and long-term) and group counseling (with topics varying depending on client needs). Consultations, referrals, and programs/workshops are offered as well. The Counseling Center is committed to promoting the psychological and emotional wellness of students and, as such, is well utilized throughout the academic year.

### **Financial Aid Office**

The Financial Aid Office is responsible for preparing and communicating information on financial aid. This office assists students apply for and receive student loans, grants, scholarships, and other types of financial aid. The Office is in the best position to facilitate answering students' questions. Call or email the Office directly with financial aid questions. For additional information, click on this link [Financial Aid](#)

### **Food Service**

The campus dining hall (main level) and Gator Grind café (lower level) are located in Doyle Hall. Both are open to students, faculty, staff and guests. All students, faculty, staff and guests can use a credit card or [load flex dollars](#) on to their NDMU swipe card to use in the dining hall or at Gator Café. Please visit our [Dining Services webpage](#) for hours, FAQ regarding dining operations and

meal plans, and daily menu. A mini-Starbucks (Gator Grind) is located on the bottom level of Doyle Hall.

### **Help Desk**

The Information Technology Help Desk is available to answer campus technology questions regarding campus software, email, LMS, etc. from students, faculty or staff. Other services provided by the Help Desk include production and distribution of the official Notre Dame ID card, distribution of email account information, and assistance with phone mail. For information and hours, call 410-532-5200 or send email to [HelpDesk@ndm.edu](mailto:HelpDesk@ndm.edu).

### **ID/One Card**

Each student is entitled to receive a free NDMU picture ID card / One Card. The ID / One-Card is non-transferable and is the property of Notre Dame of Maryland University. ID cards of students who do not register for classes during a specific semester will be disabled for that semester. The ID card will be reactivated once the student registers for classes. The student is responsible for immediately reporting a lost or stolen card to the NDMU Information Technology Help Desk at (410)532-5200 or [HELPDESK@ndm.edu](mailto:HELPDESK@ndm.edu) and paying a \$15.00 fee for a replacement card.

The ID card / One card provides Notre Dame students door access to some classroom buildings after hours and the resources of the Loyola/Notre Dame Library as well as 200 free print pages per semester in the Rice Hall Computer Labs. The ID card /One card may also be set up to be used as a debit card in the Doyle Hall Dining Room (see *Food Service*).

Students using federal financial aid can also use their ID card /One card as a debit card to pay for NDMU Bookstore purchases if sufficient funds are available. Students should visit Rice Hall room 105 to have the picture ID made as soon as possible. IDs are available approximately one week after a new student has registered for their first semester of courses at Notre Dame. Check with the Adult Student Advisor, Carol Kurtz-Stack for assistance in obtaining an ID card.

### **Loyola/Notre Dame Library**

In the valley below Knott Science Center is the Loyola/Notre Dame Library, which provides the information services and resources required to support the education programs of the two institutions. The Library's website is the gateway to a wealth of information, including numerous full-text databases, the Library's shared catalog (books from 3 other college/university libraries can be requested online and will be sent within 48 hours), and the full resources of the Internet, it

also provides links to many other Internet sites that are particularly useful to students. Databases the Library subscribes to can be accessed from any computer on the campus network and are also available off-campus to current students. The Library's collection consists of 440,000 volumes, 1800 print and 14,000 electronic periodical subscriptions, and 30,000 media items (many of which are videos, DVDs, and CDs). Books or articles not owned by the Library can be acquired through interlibrary loan. Reference librarians are available seven days a week to guide students using the Library and its resources. You can contact the Library at 410-617-6800 or [www.lndl.org](http://www.lndl.org).

### **LNDL Login**

Notre Dame students login to LNDL resources using their using their email address and Network\Campus password (the same log in used for PCs in campus Labs and WebAdvisor). <http://guides.lndllibrary.org/ezproxy>

If unable to login with Network\Campus credentials, please contact the Notre Dame IT Help Desk at 410-532-5200 to have password reset.

### **Office of Inclusion and Community Standards**

The Office of Inclusion and Community Standards provides leadership, partnership, support and resources for all diversity initiatives in order to foster diversity, inclusion and belonging. The office collaborates with key offices:

- To ensure equal opportunity and compliance with related governmental requirements and anti-discrimination laws
- Works with the Title IX Office to investigate discrimination and harassment
- Address accommodation concerns with the Office of Accessibility and Health Promotion.

In addition, the Office of Inclusion and Community Standards is responsible for administering the student conduct system and ensures that all student conduct proceedings are carried out in accordance with University policies and procedures and provides comprehensive services to maintain the University's standard of conduct and the Honor Code. Some services include, but not limited to:

- Follow-up of behavioral and academic incidents
- Referral and support of students of concern
- Advisement of the University Honor Board
- Educational programmatic initiatives and response to emergency situations in conjunction with Public Safety via the Student Life Duty team

The office overseen by the Associate Dean for Inclusion and Community Standards. Contact information: [oics@nmd.edu](mailto:oics@nmd.edu), office is located in Theresa Hall 116 and more information can be found at: [Inclusion and Community Standards](#)

## **Parking**

Students must register their vehicle with the security office located in the front hallway of Gibbons. Students may park in any area designated for student parking, except those posted as reserved. No parking is allowed in areas designated with white painted curbs or painted in nontraditional parking lanes. Illegally parked or unregistered cars may be ticketed or towed at the owner's risk and expense. A student's grades may be withheld until outstanding parking tickets are paid.

## **Study Abroad**

The study abroad course NUR-428, *Global Nursing Grounded in Caring*, may replace one of the following courses:

- NUR-412 *Population Health through a Caring Lens*
- NUR-440 *Caring Nursing Leadership for Professional Nurses*

Students who take NUR-428 *Global Nursing Grounded in Caring*, engage in service-learning in Haiti.

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