



Undergraduate Nursing Student Handbook

For Junior and Senior Students admitted to the Nursing Program

2021-2022

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Welcome to the Nursing Major

Welcome to Georgia College & State University, the College of Health Sciences, and the School of Nursing. At Georgia College, tomorrow's nurses are educated as if lives depend on it! Students are uniquely prepared for nursing through liberal arts integration in the curriculum leading to students' understanding of clients as unique, holistic individuals.

As a student of nursing you will be challenged to acquire the scientific knowledge base and critical thinking skills of the discipline of nursing, internalize the behaviors of a professional nurse, develop technical and decision-making skills, incorporate ethics into your practice, and develop awareness of your own and others' value systems as a context for professionalism. This will require hard work and commitment on your part but will be a remarkable experience you will treasure for a lifetime, resulting in a career that will give you an endless sense of having made a difference in the world.

This will be an incredible journey. We are excited that you have chosen GCSU for that journey and we, the faculty, will do everything we can to support your success as we take the journey alongside you.

~ The Nursing Faculty~

Purpose of the Undergraduate Nursing Student Handbook

This handbook, prepared for undergraduate students admitted to the nursing program, provides specific information about nursing that supplements – but does not replace – the University's Undergraduate Catalog. You are expected to read this handbook, abide by the policies, and be directed by its many features to help you be successful in the nursing major. As a part of your orientation to the BSN program you will be required to take a validation exam that indicates your receipt, review and intent to follow the policies in this handbook.

Georgia Board of Nursing Approval and CCNE Accreditation

The School of Nursing is fully approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing. The BSN program leads to a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Nursing. Approval by the GBON means that BSN graduates are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN --- the national licensure examination is required for becoming a Registered Professional Nurse.

The contact information for the Georgia Board of Nursing is:

237 Coliseum Drive
Macon, Georgia 31217
478-207-2440

The program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The contact information for the CCNE is:

655 K Street NW Suite 750
Washington, D.C.
202 463-6930

School of Nursing Mission, Vision, Philosophy, Concepts

Mission

In concert with the Georgia College liberal arts mission, the School of Nursing is committed to the formation of nurse leaders to engage in evidence-based practice, lifelong learning, and civic participation in a health information intensive environment through the development and mastery of clinical reasoning, professional nursing skills, and values. The BSN program prepares nursing professionals who are life-long learners and have the knowledge and skills to support the healthcare needs of diverse populations.

Vision

The Georgia College School of Nursing aspires to be recognized as a national leader in nursing education. Georgia College nurses will serve at the forefront of the changing healthcare delivery system.

Philosophy

Georgia College's School of Nursing builds the philosophy by defining the basic concepts that comprise the discipline and science of nursing. These concepts are health, nursing, environment, education, and person.

Health

Health is the dynamic integration of the physical, psychological, spiritual, cognitive, and socio-cultural well-being of individuals, families, groups, and communities. The meaning of health varies between individuals and cultures, and is universally accepted as more than being free of disease or infirmity. Health beliefs and practices are impacted by the affordability and accessibility of health care.

Nursing

Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response to actual or potential health problems for health promotion, disease prevention, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, and populations. (American Nurses' Association, 2010a, p. 1)

Environment

The environment is the accumulation of physical, physiological, social, cultural, spiritual, economic, and political conditions that interact with and influence the human experience. The interaction is constant and the environment can be altered to influence health outcomes. Nursing can create and sustain a culture of safety and quality health care that can transform the environment by creating a safe workplace that produces optimal patient outcomes.

Education

Nursing education is an active process where the student develops and masters clinical reasoning, professional nursing skills and values that enable graduates to thrive in a health information intensive environment. The minimal level of education for entry to professional nursing practice occurs at the baccalaureate level and mastery occurs through graduate education and life-long learning.

- *Clinical reasoning is a cognitive process of thinking where data is reviewed and analyzed to improve health outcomes.*
- *Professional nursing skills are developed through integration of theoretical knowledge and guided clinical practice.*
- *Professional nursing values are the consistent demonstration of altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity, and social justice.*

Person

Person is a complex, unique, holistic individual with inherent worth and dignity. The meanings a person attaches to life experiences are influenced by the environment, developmental level, group membership, culture, and ethnicity. The person has the power to identify their own life choices.

Approved NFO, last updated 4/4/2011

Undergraduate Program Outcomes

1. Provide leadership within the healthcare team to ensure safe, effective, patient-centered care in a variety of settings.
2. Integrate liberal arts foundation, scientific evidence, and clinical reasoning into nursing care delivery for diverse individuals, families, and populations.
3. Incorporate life-long learning, ethical principles, health policy, and professional standards into socially responsible care for individuals, communities and populations.
4. Provide compassionate, competent, holistic nursing care across the lifespan.
5. Demonstrate effective communication through writing, speaking, listening, and using technology necessary for collaboration and quality nursing care.
6. Advocate for improved population health initiatives and systems of health care delivery locally, nationally, and globally.

ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses

All professional nurses are expected to provide ethical care. All students should review the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses at this link:

<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/>

Academic Advising/Mentoring

Students are advised by professional advisors in the Academic Advising Center. Advising guidelines and policies are available at this link: <https://www.gcsu.edu/advising>. Additionally, faculty mentors are available based on the interests of the student, for example, nursing student organizations, undergraduate research, and study abroad activities.

Nursing Policy and Procedure Listing

The policies and forms listed below are located in the Appendix.

Testing Policy #1000

- **Appendix:** **Clinical Absence/Tardiness/Missed Exam Form**

The purpose of this policy is to provide information and guidelines to nursing students regarding testing in the program. See also: missed exam policy

Campus Laboratory Policy & Guidelines Policy #1001

- **Appendix:** **Lab Rules- Appendix A**

The goal of this policy is to support safety and professional practice in campus laboratory activities.

Dress Code Policy #1002

The Georgia College School of Nursing believes that professionalism begins with appearance and attire. The SON Uniform Policy is formulated to ensure high standards of dress and appearance that represent our university to area hospitals and community settings.

Standard & Transmission-Based Precautions Policy #1003

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the prevention of pathogen transmission in the laboratory and clinical setting. Guidelines for education and post-exposure treatment are also included.

Student Accident/Injury Policy #1004

- **Appendix:** **Incident/Injury Report Form**

In the case of a student injury or exposure to blood or body fluids during a nursing clinical experience, the safety and well-being of the student is the first priority. When injury or exposure occurs, the procedures outlined in this policy will be followed.

Substance Abuse-Nursing Students Policy #1005

The purpose of this policy is to assure students are free of impairment from drugs and/or alcohol to allow for an effective learning and provision of safe effective patient/client patient care.

SON Approval Process for Special Projects Policy #1006

Projects that require any form of printing using Georgia College & State University name and/or logo(s) which are undertaken by either faculty group(s) or student group(s) must be approved by the School of Nursing Director and University Communications.

GC Sim Policy & Procedure Manual Policy #1010

BSN Student Orientation & Onboarding Policy #1101

All students accepted into the School of Nursing BSN program are required to complete the orientation and onboarding process for the program as described in this policy.

Course & Clinical Guidelines Policy #1102

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for students and faculty related to course and clinical experiences.

Student Signatures for Charting Policy #1103

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for pre-licensure students when signing clinical documents in health care facilities.

Clinical Attendance & Absences Policy #1104

- **Appendix: Clinical Absence/Tardiness/Missed Exam Form**

This policy provides guidelines for student clinical attendance and absences.

BSN Admission Progression and Dismissal Policy #1107

The School of Nursing (SON) will adhere to a standard process for admission, progression and dismissal from the BSN Program of Georgia College.