

ROCHESTER CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK

This handbook is intended to be used in conjunction with the Rochester Christian University Student Handbook. The faculty reserve the right to revise this handbook.

2024-2025 School of Nursing

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I. SCHOOL OF NURSING MISSION STATEMENT AND CURRICULUM CONCEPTS

MISSION STATEMENT The mission of the Rochester Christian University School of Nursing is to *develop socially conscious professional nurses who are empowered to address inequities in healthcare through civic engagement, inter-professional collaboration, and servant leadership. Students will utilize clinical reasoning in the context of an inclusive Christian environment to provide holistic care for diverse populations.*

The EPIC learning goals guide each student's academic journey at Rochester Christian University and support the mission by emphasizing preparation for professional and personal success. EPIC stands for Exploring, Preparing, Integrating, and Calling. The EPIC learning goals, detailed below, provide a framework for all curricular and co-curricular offerings at Rochester University. Through these goals, students continually engage with God's world, gain experiences, knowledge and skills, and develop pathways to purpose and meaning. The result of this work is well-educated and compassionate graduates who can change their lives and the world for the better.

Rochester Christian University's EPIC learning goals are:

Exploring: Students will broaden their understanding of the world in its beauty, diversity, and complexity.

Preparing: Students will acquire knowledge and develop skills to serve in their neighborhoods, organizations, and businesses.

Integrating: Students will connect and apply knowledge and skills to their personal and professional lives.

Calling: Students will discern what God has called them to be and do.

These EPIC learning goals provide a framework for all curricular and co-curricular offerings at Rochester Christian University. Furthermore, Rochester Christian University uses these learning goals to continuously evaluate and improve programs through ongoing assessment of student learning.

II. ACCREDITATION

Rochester Christian University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. The Baccalaureate in Nursing program at Rochester Christian University School of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, (202)887-6791.

III. PRE-LICENSURE BSN

The pre-licensure nursing program requires completion of prerequisite coursework in the pre-nursing degree plan prior to 4 levels of coursework within the nursing major. Additional General Education requirements complete the degree requirements. Graduates of the RCU SON Undergraduate program receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and may sit for the National Council Licensure Examination-RN (NCLEX-RN®) to become a Registered Nurse. The pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program is comprised of the following requirements:

a. GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES (41 credit hours)

Requirements for the General Education Core can be found at the following link:

[General Education Core](#)

b. REQUIRED SUPPORT COURSES

BIO 1013/1011 Biological Science I/Lab
 BIO 2011 Intro to Anatomy and Physiology Lab
 BIO 2013 Intro to Anatomy and Physiology Lecture
 BIO 3324 Microbiology/Lab
 CHE 1314 Intro to Chemistry I
 CHE 1324 Intro to Chemistry II
 PSY 2223 Life Span Development

c. NURSING COURSES

FALL-1ST YEAR

NUR 2102 Introduction to Professional Nursing
 NUR 2203 Integrated Pathophysiology
 NUR 2304 Health Assessment

NUR 2402 Fundamentals of Nursing with clinical

SPRING-1ST YEAR

NUR 2503 Nursing Skills Acquisitions
 NUR 2604 Innovative Pharmacology
 NUR 2705 Medical/Surgical Nursing I with clinical

FALL-2ND YEAR

NUR 3215 Medical/Surgical Nursing II with clinical
 NUR 3314 Mental Health Nursing with clinical
 NUR 3412 Applied Nursing Research I

SPRING-2ND YEAR

NUR 3422 Applied Nursing Research II
 NUR 3514 Maternal-Infant Nursing with clinical
 NUR 3614 Pediatric Nursing with clinical

FALL-3RD YEAR

NUR 4115 Medical/Surgical Nursing III with clinical
 NUR 4214 Population Based Nursing with clinical

SPRING-3RD YEAR

NUR 4415 Pre-Licensure Capstone Practicum
 NUR 4613 Comprehensive Nursing

CAN BE TAKEN EITHER FALL OR SPRING-3RD YEAR

LDR 3653 Strategic Leadership Theory and Practice

LEVEL 1 COURSES	LEVEL 2 COURSES	LEVEL 3 COURSES	LEVEL 4 COURSES
NUR 2102	NUR 2503	NUR 3422	NUR 4415
NUR 2203	NUR 2604	NUR 3514	NUR 4613
NUR 2304	NUR 2705	NUR 3614	
NUR 2402	NUR 3215	NUR 4115	
	NUR 3314	NUR 4214	
	NUR 3412		

IV. BSN PROGRAM OUTCOMES

End of Program, Leveled Outcomes

At the end of Level IV, and at the end of the program, the RCU-SON graduate will be able to:

1. Support individuals, families, and communities as an advocate. (Challenge of Spirituality)

- Level III: Evaluate the impact of spiritual beliefs.
- Level II: Interpret impact of spiritual beliefs and values on life, health, illness, and death.

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- Level I: Identify own personal attitudes, values, and beliefs.

2. Synthesize knowledge from liberal arts, applied sciences, and current research in the delivery of nursing care. (Critical Thinking)

- Level III: Examine research as a tool for seeking answers to clinically significant nursing problems.
- Level II: Demonstrate the use of the nursing process as a systematic approach for thinking through practice issues.
- Level I: Define conceptual/theoretical frameworks to organize nursing practice.

3. Evaluate communication techniques utilized in the teaching-learning process. (Communication)

- Level III: Compare and contrast different communication strategies.
- Level II: Apply therapeutic communication principles during interactions with others.
- Level I: Describe verbal and non-verbal language that conveys the intended meaning.

4. Model behaviors associated with Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring/Caring Science. (Caring)

- Level III: Demonstrate Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring/Caring Science behaviors.
- Level II: Discuss Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring/Caring Science
- Level I: Define Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring/Caring Science

5. Develop commitment to community involvement and leadership. (Community Oriented)

- Level III: Appraise own practice of nursing through leadership and community service.
- Level II: Demonstrate health promotion and disease prevention activities in a variety of settings.
- Level I: Identify health promotion and disease prevention strategies in a variety of settings.

6. Advocate for culturally diverse healthcare practices. (Cultural Understanding)

- Level III: Appraise culturally diverse healthcare practices.
- Level II: Demonstrate cultural assessment.

- Level I: Recognize diverse cultural practices.

Description of Competencies and Alignment with Professional Standards [<i>Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice (AACN, 2008); Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice (ANA, 2015)</i>]				
RCU-SON Concepts	Level 1 Courses (Outcome) Competency	Level 2 Courses (Outcome) Competency	Level 3 Courses (Outcome) Competency	Level 4 Courses (Outcome) Competency
Challenge of Spirituality	(Identify own personal attitudes, values, and beliefs.) Recognize personal attitudes, values, and beliefs during treatment of illness. Examine how personal values relate to contemporary ethical issues. (AACN Essential I, II, VII, IX) (ANA Standard 7,8, 14)	(Interpret impact of spiritual beliefs and values on life, health, illness, and death.) Examine personal and client attitudes, values, and beliefs, and its effects on health, illness, and death. Incorporate legal/ethical standards and accountability into professional nursing practice. (AACN Essential I, VI, VIII, IX) (ANA Standard 8,9)	(Evaluate the impact of spiritual beliefs.) Evaluate and modify care plans in recognition of client practices/beliefs. Honor client practices to promote health and wellness. (AACN Essential I, VI, IX) (ANA Standard 7, 9)	(Support individuals, families, and communities as an advocate.) Demonstrate genuine interest in others. Practice loving-kindness, associated with Jean Watson's theory of Human Caring/Caring Science, and equanimity. (AACN Essential I, VI, IX) (ANA Standard 9,13, 14)
Critical Thinking	(Define conceptual/theoretical frameworks to organize nursing practice.) Complete basic nursing skills using the nursing process. Apply Standards of Practice in the nursing care of individuals. Comprehend the critical thinking process and its relevance to nursing practice. (AACN Essential III, V, VII, VIII, IX) (ANA Standard 5, 7)	(Demonstrate the use of the nursing process as a systematic approach for thinking through practice issues.) Utilize the nursing process as a systematic approach for thinking through practice issues. Examine how the teaching-learning process is related to the nursing process. Determine care management needs of clients, and identify resources that affect delivery of care and client outcomes. (AACN Essential III, V, VII, VIII, IX) (ANA Standard 13, 14)	(Examine research as a tool for seeking answers to clinically significant nursing problems.) Critique the value of his/her critical thinking process. Utilize research as a tool for seeking answers to clinically significant nursing problems. Manage complexities of clients. Identify needs, and anticipate coordination of services. (AACN Essential III, V, VII, VIII, IX) (ANA Standard 9, 13, 14, 15)	(Synthesize knowledge from liberal arts, applied sciences, and current research in the delivery of nursing care.) Evaluate and revise decisions. Critically evaluate nursing care issues, and develop appropriate actions for clinical situations. Collaborate with the healthcare team to promote achievement of client outcomes. (AACN Essential III, V, VII, VIII, IX) (ANA Standard 10, 13, 14, 16, 17)
Communication	(Describe verbal and non-verbal language that conveys the intended meaning.)	(Apply therapeutic communication principles during interactions with	(Compare and contrast different communication strategies.) Affect	(Evaluate the communication techniques utilized in the teaching-

	<p>Differentiate between therapeutic, social, and professional communication. Apply principles of therapeutic communication with assigned clients. (AACN Essential I, IV, VI, VII, IX) (ANA Standard 9)</p>	<p>others.) Demonstrate effective communication skills during nurse-client and professional interactions. Demonstrate ability to communicate in writing with a variety of audiences. (AACN Essential I, IV, VI, VII, IX) (ANA Standard 9,10)</p>	<p>patient care through initiation of effective communication (written and verbal) with clients and colleagues. Evaluate own communication skills. (AACN Essential I, IV, VI, VII, IX) (ANA Standard 9,10, 13,14)</p>	<p>learning process.) Communicate effectively with health care team in the role of the leader/manager. Communicate effectively with communities and non-nursing officials to promote health care initiatives. (AACN Essential II, III, IV, VI, VII, IX) (ANA Standard 9, 10, 13, 14, 15)</p>
Caring	<p>(Define Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring/Caring Science) Recognize the core concepts of the theory. Describe various ways of caring. (AACN Essential I, VI, VII, IX) (ANA Standard 7, 8,9,10)</p>	<p>(Discuss Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring/Caring Science.) Apply concepts of the theory to support a caring and healing environment and teamwork. Educate the client in making informed choices. (AACN Essential I, VI, VII, IX) (ANA Standard 12, 13)</p>	<p>(Demonstrate Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring/Caring Science behaviors.) Engage in caring-healing practices. Engage in genuine teaching-learning within the client's frame of reference. (AACN Essential I, VI, VII, IX) (ANA Standard 13,15, 17)</p>	<p>(Model behaviors associated with Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring/Caring Science.) Embrace altruistic values and practice loving-kindness with self and others. Practice discernment in evaluating circumstances and situations vs. being judgmental. (AACN Essential I, II, III, VI, VII, IX) (ANA Standard 11,15,16)</p>
Community Oriented	<p>(Identify health promotion and disease prevention strategies in a variety of settings.) Explain basic key health promotion and risk reduction strategies. Describe health determinants relevant to the individual, family, and community. (AACN Essential I, V, VII, VIII, IX) (ANA Standard 7,11)</p>	<p>(Demonstrate health promotion and disease prevention activities in a variety of settings.) Educate clients about disease prevention and risk reduction strategies. Analyze the importance of cultural and global factors on perception of health and illness. (AACN Essential I, V, VII, VIII, IX) (ANA Standard 7, 17)</p>	<p>(Appraise own practice of nursing through leadership and community service.) Identify vulnerable populations. Apply disease prevention and risk reduction strategies to vulnerable populations. (AACN Essential V, VII, VIII, IX) (ANA Standard 7, 13, 16, 17)</p>	<p>(Develop commitment to community involvement and leadership.) Examines the role of nurses beyond the acute care setting. Examine policies and practices affecting health care. Identify strategies to remedy social or institutional ethical issues. (AACN Essential II, V, VII, VIII, IX) (ANA Standard 7,10, 11,12, 16, 17)</p>

Cultural Understanding	(Recognize diverse cultural practices.) Situate professional nursing in the treatment of disease within the cultural context. Perform appropriate assessments for diverse clients. (AACN Essential I, VIII, IX) (ANA Standard 1,2, 8)	(Demonstrate cultural assessment.) Situate health assessment within the cultural context. Implement nursing interventions that reflect understanding of diversity. (AACN Essential III, VII, IX) (ANA Standard 1,2,3, 4, 8)	(Appraise culturally diverse healthcare practices.) Differentiate between cultural and social determinants of health. Develop plan of care for culturally diverse vulnerable populations. (AACN Essential III, VII, IX) (ANA Standard 4,5a, 5b, 8)	(Advocate for culturally diverse health care practices.) Identify barriers to a diverse workforce in nursing. Identify strategies that will improve workforce diversity in nursing. Examine strategies to improve cultural competence in the clinical settings. (AACN Essential III, VII, IX) ANA Standard 5a, 5b, 6, 8)
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V. ACADEMIC ADVISING

The Academic Coordinator will help students with class scheduling, transcript updating, transfer evaluation and general questions about Rochester Christian University. **It is the student's responsibility to meet with the Coordinator at least once each semester to ensure that the student is meeting requirements for the nursing program and is progressing satisfactorily towards graduation.** Students will be assigned a **Nursing Faculty Adviser** who will advise students about professional/academic direction and other nursing questions.

VI. ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR NURSING STUDENTS

ACEMAPP clinical placement (annual)	\$50
Drug Screen (annual)	Check w/PCP/possible ins. coverage
Michigan Background Check (annual)	\$10
Immunizations/titers (1 st year if not up-to-date) [MMR, Varicella, Hep B, Tdap(every 10 years)]	Varies
Check with PCP/possible insurance coverage	
Tb skin test (annual)	varies (Check with PCP)
COVID vaccine (may qualify for exemption)	Check with Coordinator regarding exemptions
Flu vaccine (annual)	Varies/May be covered by insurance at PCP
Physical exam (1 st year only)	Varies/May be covered by insurance at PCP
BLS/HCP certification (every 2 years)	\$80 (if completed at Rochester Christian University)
Must be Basic Life Support (BLS) Health Care Provider (HCP) American Heart Association (AHA)	
Uniform scrubs with RCU patch/logo (1 st year only)	\$150-\$220
Kaplan NCLEX test prep (every semester)	\$134
Lab fee (1 st year only)	\$300
Stethoscope	Varies
National Student Nurse Association membership	\$37/1st year; \$40/2nd & 3rd years
Replacement Nursing Student ID (if lost)	\$35
Replacement Nursing Uniform Patches (if lost)	\$5

VII. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO RCU SON

All official documents are to be completed before a student is allowed to attend lecture/clinical. Rochester Christian

University uses ACEMAPP as our clinical placement tool. Upon acceptance into the Rochester Christian University School of Nursing, new student names and email addresses will be provided to ACEMAPP.

Once the student has an ACEMAPP account, the following requirements will be uploaded, by the student, to ACEMAPP. Please use the uploading instructions from the following ACEMAPP link:

<https://acemapp.org/kb/57>

To be uploaded to ACEMAPP:

Physical Exam. Complete the student information portion of the **Comprehensive Clinical Health Form (Appendix A)** and take it to your appointment. The top portion is to be filled out by the student; the bottom portion by the healthcare provider. You can complete this at your private physician's office and bill to your health insurance company (if applicable).

Drug Screen. A urine drug screen is to be obtained at the student's private physician's office. The drug screen will need to be submitted to ACEMAPP at the beginning of **each** school year.

Background Check. RCU SON requires a Michigan State Police online background check in order to comply with clinical agency requirements. The background check will be required at the beginning of **each** year of nursing school. If the student provides a background check from another source it must be a statewide Michigan search. Please follow the procedure listed below for obtaining clearance:

Log on to <https://apps.michigan.gov/Home/Login?q=MIGPpWZJC+eyoP6U6CpNUg==%27>. Choose the "Get Started" tab. Log in as a guest user and follow instructions. Review the information provided, follow the requirements, and print your search. **Print the sheet with results** and not the payment confirmation page. (There is a \$10 charge [Visa, Discover, or MasterCard] by the Michigan State Police for this service).

Immunization Records. Students must provide documentation of all vaccines received. Without proof of vaccine, titers will need to be obtained to show immunity. Proof of immunization will be needed for **Hepatitis B, MMR (Mumps, Rubella and Rubeola), Tdap (pertussis must be a part of this), Varicella (disease history of chicken pox is not proof), and flu** (immunization offered later in Fall). Students should keep a copy for their records. **Tb screen must be done annually and submitted.**

BLS Healthcare Provider. Students must have a valid **American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support (BLS) Healthcare Provider** card prior to starting class. The BLS card will be valid for 2 years. Re-certification must be completed and uploaded to ACEMAPP prior to expiration. The BLS card must be kept current throughout nursing school.

Proof of Health Insurance Coverage. Each student must upload proof of health insurance coverage at the beginning of each academic year.

COVID Vaccination Policy. As a condition of participating in clinical rotations or educational experiences onsite at clinical partners of Rochester Christian University School of Nursing, all students and faculty members must be vaccinated for COVID-19 unless exempt for medical or religious reasons. Vaccination card or exemption letter must be uploaded to ACEMAPP within the rotation assigned.

- **Process for requesting a Religious Exemption to the COVID-19 immunization:**

Student will create a document with full name, email address, date, and SON cohort (i.e. Graduating class of 2022), then provide a statement describing sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance and how the COVID-19 vaccination will violate this belief. The statement should explain the religious belief, establish that it is sincerely held, and explain in what ways receiving the COVID-19 vaccination conflicts with this religious belief. Other documents may be included to support the statement.

- **Process for requesting Medical Exemption to the COVID-19 immunization:**

Student will create a document with full name, email address, date, and SON cohort (i.e. Graduating class of 2022), then provide a statement describing the medical condition, including diagnoses, prognosis, tests and interventions currently undergoing. A medical exemption also requires an opinion from the provider(s) stating that they do not advise getting the COVID shot at this time. This may be in the form of a document attached to the request.

VIII. Clinical Requirements Student Checklist

REQUIREMENT	FREQUENCY	PROOF OF REQUIREMENT
Background check	Annually	Copy of criminal record response
MMR (Mumps, Rubella, Rubeola)	One time	Documented dates of 2 vaccinations OR Titers indicating immunization
Varicella	One time	Documented date of vaccination OR Titer indicating immunization
Hepatitis B	One time	Documented dates of 3 vaccinations OR Titers indicating immunization OR signed waiver (Appendix B)
TDaP	Every 10 years	Documentation of injection (Pertussis must be included)
TB Test (PPD)	Annually	Date and result of skin test. Chest X-ray with negative result will be accepted if student has a history of positive skin test
Drug Screen	Annually	Copy of drug screen result
BLS/HCP/AHA	Every 2 years	Copy of BLS/HCP/AHA card
COVID vaccine	as required by hospitals	Documented dates of vaccine or covid exemption letter from Dean of School of Nursing
Flu Vaccine	Annually	Documentation of injection
Health Insurance	Annually	Documentation of coverage

GENERAL POLICIES

RCU SON CRIMINAL BACKGROUND POLICY

Admission to RCU School of Nursing academic program is conditional upon review of prospective student's criminal background check.

Policy:

- A. Students must submit an annual criminal background check prior to the start of each fall semester.
- B. Any applicant with a misdemeanor on their record must meet with the Director of RCU SON prior to the beginning of the academic year.
- C. Any active RCU SON student who commits a misdemeanor will be subject to the State of Michigan Board of Nursing rules.
- D. If a student commits a felony while enrolled in the RCU School of Nursing, the student will be dismissed from the RCU School of Nursing.

CLINICAL REQUIREMENT POLICY

- A. Rochester Christian University School of Nursing Clinical requirements, as outlined in the clinical requirement student checklist, are to be updated/completed and uploaded to ACEMAPP **two weeks prior to the fall semester**.
- B. Any requirement, as outlined in the clinical requirement student checklist, that expires within the academic year must be updated and submitted prior to the expiration date.
- C. **Students may not attend clinical with any undocumented or expired clinical requirements.**

MATH POLICY

In order to demonstrate competency in calculating safe medication dosages, the student is required to pass a math

competency examination each semester, beginning in the Spring semester of the student's first year, with a score of 100% prior to administering medication in clinical. Students have three (3) attempts to achieve this benchmark. The 2nd/3rd attempt can occur no earlier than 48 hours after the previous attempt, allowing time for remediation. Completion timeline for 2nd and 3rd attempts must be established with the faculty of record for the course. Students who are not successful after the 3rd attempt are deemed unsafe in clinical practice and will receive a grade of "unsatisfactory" for the clinical component of that course. No additional attempts may be given and no alternative assignments may be utilized in place of this competency examination.

TESTING POLICY

In order to receive a passing score in a NUR course with clinical, a student must average a cumulative score of 80% on examinations. This average is to include all course-native examinations. Kaplan product testing will not be included. A student receiving less than an 80% average on examinations will be required to repeat the course before progressing to the next semester. The highest possible overall grade for the course is a C+.

GRADING SCALE

A	93.00-100%	B-	80.00-82.99%	D+	67.00-69.99%
A-	90.00-92.99%	C+	77.00-79.99%	D	63.00-66.99%
B+	87.00-89.99%	C	73.00-76.99%	D-	60.00-62.99%
B	83.00-86.99%	C-	70.00-72.99%	F	0.0-59.99%

PROGRESSION POLICY

- All NUR courses required for the nursing education program will be evaluated based on satisfactory completion of class, lab, and/or clinical competencies. The classroom competency standard requirement is 80% or higher. Students are required to achieve a satisfactory evaluation in the lab and clinical components of each NUR course. Numerical grades below 80% in the NUR courses and/or an unsatisfactory lab and/or clinical evaluation for the semester are considered unsatisfactory attainment of course competencies.
- If unsuccessful in clinical/lab, the student will receive a grade of C+ even if they are passing the didactic portion of the course. If successful in clinical and final didactic course grade is below 80%, student receives didactic grade earned and is unable to progress to the next semester of the nursing program.
- One Unsatisfactory course evaluation in a class, lab and/or clinical will result in the student's failure to progress in the NUR course sequence. Students who complete a nursing course with a 79.99 average or below will not progress in the nursing program.
- If unsuccessful in non-clinical courses, the final course grade will reflect the actual grade earned by the total body of work in the course.
- Progression to the next level of NUR courses cannot occur without successful completion of the previous level NUR courses.
- Students who experience non-progression in a single course in the nursing program and who desire to remain must first meet with the nursing coordinator to discuss the future plan of study. A student must then submit a reflective summary, including a plan for improvement and a statement of intent to remain in the program to the Dean of Nursing within six months. Reinstatement to the nursing program will be allowed one time only. Acceptance is contingent upon:
 - Meeting the current admission, advanced placement, and graduation requirements in effect at the time of consideration for reinstatement.
 - Submitting a reflective summary and statement of intent to remain in the program with a plan for improvement.
 - Meeting with the lab coordinator, by appointment only, to revalidate clinical skills prior to the first clinical day.
 - Program completion must occur within four years of entry into the School of Nursing.

REPEATING COURSES

If a student is repeating a course, submissions must be new and original for each assignment. Assignments that were previously submitted including, but not limited to, nursing care plans, papers, presentations, study guide assignments, case studies, etc. will not be accepted.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

While in the nursing program, students must earn a minimum of 2.0 (73%) in all general education courses. A lower grade will result in the student repeating the course to attain the 2.0 before graduation.

DISMISSAL FROM NURSING PROGRAM

Students will be dismissed from the RCU SON when any of the following occur:

- Failure of two or more NUR courses/clinical.
- A student engages in any act that is in violation of the Criminal Code of Michigan or compromises the welfare or integrity of another person.
- A student experiences physical, behavioral or psychological difficulties that would interfere with his or her ability to meet academic or professional standards.
- A student produces a drug screen that reflects illicit drug use or a background check that reveals a criminal record.

REAPPLICATION TO NURSING SCHOOL

A student who is dismissed from RCU SON due to failure in two or more NUR classes has the option to reapply. Reapplication can take place one academic year after the dismissal semester. Reapplication would follow the traditional application process.

WITHDRAWAL FROM NURSING PROGRAM POLICY

Withdrawal from RCU SON may have both academic and financial aid consequences. Students are encouraged to understand the consequences of withdrawal. The student is responsible for completing the withdrawal form found at the following link: [Course Add/Drop/Withdrawal form](#).

BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES

Students in the RCU SON are expected to hold themselves to the highest standard of integrity in all learning environments in which they participate. They should be respectful of peers, instructors, and patients with whom they come in contact. Students should be accountable for all supplies and equipment that are issued to them. Posted guidelines in the skills lab must be followed. Students found in violation will be reviewed under the Rochester Christian University Code of Academic Integrity. RCU nursing students should demonstrate professionalism at all times, as is expected of all professional healthcare practitioners.

PLAGIARISM REPORTING PROCESS

Any instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Director and Registrar who will follow the guidelines detailed in the Rochester Christian University Code of Academic Integrity.

CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION

When a situation involving conflict arises, whether in the classroom or clinical setting, the student is expected to discuss the issue with the peer, clinical instructor or course faculty with whom they are having conflict. This meeting should be face-to-face at a mutually agreed upon time. If resolution cannot be achieved an appointment should be made with the Faculty of Record **prior** to involving the Dean of the School of Nursing. For clinical or skills related concerns, it may be appropriate to include the Lab Coordinator as well. This will be done at the discretion of the clinical or course faculty.

LAPTOP COMPUTER

Students are **required** to have a **laptop computer** for nursing classes. Laptops must have a microphone and camera for online learning activities. iPads, Chromebooks, and other tablets are not sufficient.

COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Cell phones and other communication devices should be in the silent mode during classes and while in the skills lab. Computers will be utilized for learning purposes only. Taping of lectures and presentations require prior consent of the instructor, and completion of Recording Class Lectures Form. **(Appendix C)**

APA WRITING STYLE

All formal papers must be completed using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA)*.

HOMEWORK

Course assignments are due by the date and time indicated by the instructor. Late assignments will not be accepted, and will receive a zero. It is the student's responsibility to ensure Canvas dropbox submissions are on time and complete. Blank submissions will receive a zero.

KAPLAN

A Kaplan subscription is a requirement every semester during the nursing program. Failure to subscribe by the beginning of the semester will result in a zero for each missing assignment.

EXAM PROCEDURES

The following guidelines will be adhered to in all testing sessions:

1. No food or drink will be allowed during the administration of an exam.
2. Students may take a pen or pencil to their seat, and their personal computer. All other electronic devices, including smartwatches, will be left in a designated area in the room where students do not have access to them during the exam.
3. Book bags, backpacks and other personal items will be placed in a designated area in the room.
4. Students may be subject to assigned seating.
5. Students may leave the testing room ONLY when the exam is complete.
6. No talking is allowed during an exam.
7. Faculty reserve the right to investigate any suspicious activity.
8. Students arriving late for an exam will be given the amount of time remaining in the regularly scheduled timeframe to complete the exam. If any student has completed the test and left the room prior to the arrival of the late student, the late student will not be allowed to take the exam.
9. Students are responsible for protecting the integrity of their own exam.
10. Review of exams shall not occur during class time. Review of the exam is at the discretion of the instructor.
11. It is expected that students will take exams on the scheduled date and time.

INVASIVE PROCEDURE GUIDELINES

Students are not permitted to perform invasive procedures on other students for practice purposes.

IX. GUIDELINES FOR CLINICAL AND NURSING LAB EXPERIENCES
GENERAL STUDENT ATTIRE EXPECTED IN ALL SETTINGS

1. RCU SON Student Identification Badge and identification required by agency
2. Fingernails must be short and trimmed, no fingernail polish
3. Hair clean and off collar
4. Decorative hair accessories are not allowed.
5. No eyelash extensions
6. Neatly trimmed beard or mustache allowed
7. No visible tattoos
8. Watch with second hand required.
9. Plain wedding band, and one small post earring per ear lobe optional

ADDITIONAL STUDENT ATTIRE FOR ACUTE CARE/LAB SETTING

1. Neither shoes nor scrub uniform should be worn outside of acute care/lab setting.
2. White lab coat may be required in some clinical settings.
3. Uniform with RCU SON patch, that is clean and wrinkle free
4. May wear a white long sleeve t-shirt under uniform, and/or approved SON warm up jacket
5. Stethoscope with diaphragm and bell, blood pressure cuff, simple calculator, and bandage scissors
6. Undergarments required and must be covered by uniform
7. Closed toe shoes, white, black or gray, with socks or hose

ADDITIONAL STUDENT ATTIRE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

1. Professional attire (no denim)
2. White lab coat may be required.

COMMUNICATION RECORDS

A student reflection of the event in which a communication record is submitted will be due one week after the communication record is received by the student. Completion date of clinical lab referral time will be within one week or as determined by the clinical instructor and the lab coordinator.

CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

Protected Health Information Policy (PHI):

1. **All RCU SON students will agree to maintain patient confidentiality through the NURSING STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT (Appendix F).**
2. **Confidentiality and Use of Medical Records:**
 - a. Students and faculty with any access to a clinical setting must comply with HIPAA rules and regulations, and cooperating clinical agency guidelines for training.
 - b. Students and faculty are required to follow agency policies regarding use of and access to electronic medical records.
 - c. Cooperating agency compliance modules must be completed as per cooperating clinical agency protocols.
 - d. Patients' PHI must be de-identified. PHI includes sufficient information about a patient such that the patient could be identified.
3. **Use of Technology and Social Media**
 - a. Any technology, tool, or online space in clinical agencies cannot be used for personal business. This applies to social media platforms. Students must follow clinical agency policies regarding use of technology or social media. At times, a clinical setting may allow use of technology or online space or use of social media for work purposes. They are only to be used as they relate directly to patient care or specified agency activities.
 - b. Agency computers cannot be used for personal business such as checking e-mail or social media sites.
 - c. Any personal communication such as cell phone use or texting must be done outside of agency clinical areas on the student's personal time.
 - d. Posting or discussing any information about faculty, staff, other students or external clients (i.e. patients and families) on social media or online space is not permitted.
4. **HIPAA Guidelines for Travelers and Alternative Clinical Experiences**
 - a. Regardless of laws and practices at foreign sites, students who violate HIPAA while abroad will face the same consequences they would for a violation committed here at home. Students should be especially mindful of those consequences when writing about and posting images of their experiences on social media.
 - b. In the event of alternative clinical experiences in which facilities do not accept insurance, or for other reasons are not subject to HIPAA compliance, patient confidentiality is expected to be maintained and treated in accordance with HIPAA guidelines.
5. **Violation of HIPAA and Patient Confidentiality**
 - a. Non-compliance with policies regarding HIPAA, the use of technology and social media, patient confidentiality, or respecting patient privacy will result in a course failure and may be subject to dismissal from the RCU SON.

ATTENDANCE POLICY-THEORY COURSES

Rochester Christian University attendance policy allows each instructor to determine the number of absences allowed in each course. RCU SON has adopted a universal attendance policy for all NUR didactic courses. Students will be allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences in each seated 16-week course. Students will be allowed a maximum of one unexcused absence in an eight-week hybrid course. Any additional unexcused absences will result in automatic failure and the student will receive a grade of F for the course.

Institutionally approved absences for athletic contests, performances, or other activities (note: absences will not be approved for practices for the above activities) for which advanced notification is given by the appropriate university employee, are granted without penalty. Athletes, performers, and others engaged in institutionally approved activities taking them out of class are responsible for informing SON faculty in advance of the missed class and must make up work missed during these absences. To this end, athletes and performers must provide an electronic copy of the schedule of games, matches, meets or performances to their SON instructors no later than the first week of class meeting (or by the first practice if a sport begins later in the semester).

The student is expected to manage their attendance so that their academic performance is not compromised.

ATTENDANCE POLICY-CLINICAL ROTATION

Rochester Christian University School of Nursing students are not permitted to engage in employment during the 12 hours prior to the beginning of a required clinical rotation experience. Further, it is expected that students do not take part in other extramural activities that distract from preparation for the clinical learning experience during this same 12 hour time period. This preparation period is reserved such that the student will be well-rested, alert and engaged during the clinical teaching-experiential learning period.

CLINICAL ABSENCE

- Students and faculty are expected to complete all orientation requirements for their respective cooperating clinical agencies. This must be accomplished as established by cooperating clinical agency protocol.
- In accordance with the RCU SON attendance policy, two tardies at clinical is counted as an unexcused clinical absence.
- Two missed clinical days result in a course failure.
- All clinical absences will be made up at the discretion of individual course instructors, and will be comparable to the missed clinical experience. This will still be counted as a missed clinical day for the student. In order to be eligible for a makeup, the student must fill out an appeal (found on the last page of the communication record) for the Dean of RCU SON's approval.
- Acceptable clinical make-up experiences will be assigned by the course Faculty of Record and approved by the Dean of Nursing.

CLINICAL AND CLASS CANCELLATION

Clinical Cancellations due to Inclement Weather policy.

- In the event that classes are canceled by Rochester Christian University due to inclement weather, clinical rotations will also be canceled.
- There may be times when a decision must be made by individual faculty about clinical and classroom experiences **when there is no official cancellation**. In this event, the RCU SON faculty, in communication with the dean of the School of Nursing, will make a decision with the safety of all involved as top priority.
- In the event that clinical faculty cancels clinical when there is no official cancellation, clinical faculty will contact the students and the healthcare facility, as early as possible, to inform the manager that students will not be on site that day. The clinical faculty will also contact Faculty of Record (FOR) to inform FOR that clinical has been canceled.
- Students enrolled in NUR 4415 are permitted to attend clinical in the event on-campus classes are officially canceled or not in session, such as Spring Break.

STUDENT PARKING

Faculty at the clinical site will provide information regarding parking for students at the site. Students are expected to adhere to the clinical site policy.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Students should leave books, purses and other personal items locked in their car or at home. Small items that are needed, such as identification and money, should be carried in uniform pockets.

X. OTHER INFORMATION

CHAPEL/COMMUNITY LIFE + WORSHIP (CLW)

Please refer to the Rochester Christian University Community Life + Worship guidelines provided by the Center for Student Life.

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for the state board examination and licensure (NCLEX) can be found at:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Nursing_517651_7.pdf

The BSN program at RCU meets the requirements of the Michigan Board of Nursing. Students planning on licensure outside of Michigan should check with the Board of Nursing for licensure requirements of that state. <https://www.ncsbn.org/14730.htm>

INSURANCE

All RCU SON students carry a \$1 million/\$5 million liability insurance policy, covered by Rochester Christian University within an umbrella policy.

XI. CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Rochester Christian University School of Nursing adheres to the Rochester Christian University Code of Academic Integrity found at this link: [Code of Academic Integrity](#)

XII. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Students requesting a letter of recommendation/verbal recommendation must seek approval from the faculty member directly and submit the [Letter of Recommendation/Verbal Reference Release form](#) found at the link provided. Once the form is completed and submitted, the faculty member will complete the recommendation.

APPENDIX A

**COMPREHENSIVE CLINICAL HEALTH FORM
ROCHESTER CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING**

TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT (PLEASE PRINT)

Name (Last, First, M.I.) _____

Birth Date: _____ Gender: ___ Female ___ Male RC email: _____

Are you being treated for any disease, disability or condition?		Yes (Please explain)		No

Current Medications:	Current Allergies:
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*This record will become part of the student's School of Nursing file and disclosed to school officials with a legitimate interest.

I hereby represent that each answer to a question herein and all other information otherwise furnished is true and correct. I further represent that such answers and information constitute a full and complete disclosure of my knowledge with respect to the question or subject to which the answer or information relates. I understand that any incorrect or false statements or information furnished by me will subject me to disqualification from the Rochester Christian University School of Nursing at any time.

Authorization to release this medical record to Rochester Christian University School of Nursing

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

Height: _____ Weight: _____ Blood pressure: _____ / _____ Pulse: _____

Distance vision: right 20/_____ corr. to 20/_____ left 20/_____ corr. to 20/_____

Examining Health Care Provider: _____ **Examining Health Care Provider:** _____

Please Print

(Signature Required)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Normal	Abnormal	Check each item in appropriate column. Enter NE if not evaluated.	Normal	Abnormal	Check each item in appropriate column. Enter NE if not evaluated.
		SKULL, SCALP, FACE, NECK, THYROID			ANUS and RECTUM (OPTIONAL) (Prostate, if indicated)
		NOSE and SINUSES			ENDOCRINE SYSTEM
		MOUTH (tongue, gingivae, teeth)			G.U.SYSTEM (OPTIONAL) (Pap test-optional)

		THROAT and TONSILS			UPPER EXTREMITIES
		EARS (Int. and Ext. Canals)			FEET (lateral pain, infection)
		EYES (Pupils, E.O.M. conjunct.)			LOWER EXTREMITIES
		LUNGS and CHEST (include breasts)			SKIN, OTHER MUSCULOSKELETAL
		HEART (rhythm, sounds, murmurs)			LYMPHATIC GLANDS
		ABDOMEN and VISCERA (include hernia)			NEUROLOGIC

This section must be completed by Health Care provider

Physical examination date: _____ (Attach health assessment form)

TB Test date: _____ **mm** **If positive:**
(completion needed for all students) **Chest X-ray date (within last 5 years):** _____ **Pos/Neg (circle one)**

Tetanus (tdap) date: _____

Rubella Titer date: _____ immune/not immune (circle one)

Rubeola Titer date: _____ immune/not immune (circle one)

Mumps Titer date: _____ immune/not immune (circle one)

Or MMR Vaccination 1st date: _____ MMR Vaccination 2nd date: _____

Varicella Titer date: immune/not immune (circle one) _____ **Or** Varicella Vaccination date: _____

Hepatitis Titer date: immune/not immune (circle one) _____

Or Hepatitis B Vaccination 1: _____

Hepatitis B Vaccination 2: _____

Hepatitis B Vaccination 3: _____

Or Hepatitis B Acknowledgment and Release Form (Signed): _____

Health Care Provider Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

APPENDIX B

This section should be completed and submitted ONLY in the case of a student choosing not to acquire the Hepatitis B vaccinations.

**HEPATITIS B VACCINE ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RELEASE
ROCHESTER CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF NURSING STUDENTS**

I understand that due to my occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials I may be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection. However, I have declined the hepatitis B vaccination at this time. I agree to release, exonerate and forever unconditionally discharge and hold harmless Rochester Christian University, its Board of Trustees, officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents and assigns and the facility where I receive my clinical training, from any and all liability, claims or causes, known or unknown, now or hereafter arising directly or indirectly out of or relating in any way to my declining the Hepatitis B vaccinations. I acknowledge that I am placing myself and others at risk of serious illness should I contract a disease that could have been prevented through proper vaccination.

Student Name: _____
(Please Print)

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPENDIX C

Recording Lectures Agreement Form

Live lectures are considered to be the property of the speaker. Students who receive accommodations have the legal right to record faculty lectures; all other students must obtain permission. Recordings must be used for educational purposes only and cannot be reproduced or posted online.

Students with accommodations should reference the ADA & Rochester Christian University Accommodation Policy: Recording Class Lectures. All students who wish to use a device to record lectures for other uses such as publications, transcriptions, duplications, etc. must first obtain written approval from their instructor for that specific purpose. Any use of recordings without the instructor's approval is considered academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.

Semester: _____

Student ID Number: _____

I, _____, agree that I will not release the recordings, or transcription, or
(Student's Name)

otherwise hinder _____'s ability to obtain copyright on lectures that I have
(Instructor's Name)

taped in _____.
(Course Title & Course Number)

(Student Signature) (Date)

(Instructor Signature) (Date)

**A copy of the signed agreement should be sent to Academic Services (registrar@rcu.edu)

APPENDIX D

RCU SON: NURSING STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

I understand that I may have access to confidential patient information and confidential information about the business and financial interests of the clinical facilities where I care for patients. I understand that Confidential Information is protected in every form, such as written and/or electronic records and correspondence, oral communications, images, and computer programs and applications.

I agree to comply with all existing and future policies and procedures of the clinical agencies to protect the confidentiality of Confidential Information. I agree not to share confidential information through electronic means such as texting, nor any social media platforms. I agree not to use, copy, make notes regarding, remove, release, or disclose Confidential Information with another individual. I agree not to share or release any authentication code or device, password, key card, or identification badge to any other person, and I agree not to use or release anyone else’s authentication code or device, password, key card, or identification badge.

I agree not to allow any other person, except those authorized by the clinical agency, to have access to the clinical agency information system under my authentication code or device, password, key card, or identification badge. I agree to notify the appropriate administrator immediately if I become aware that another person has access to my authentication code or device, password, key card, or identification badge, or otherwise has unauthorized access to the clinical agency’s information system or records.

I agree that my obligations under this Agreement continue after my role as a student ends.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX E

ROCHESTER CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING
STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

I have read the RCU SON Student Handbook and agree to adhere to all guidelines and policies.

Printed Name

Signature

Date