



***BVCTC School of Nursing Program
Student Handbook
2023-2024***

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Welcome Letter

Welcome to the BridgeValley Community and Technical College (BVCTC) School of Nursing. Our program is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and has been since the program's inception in 2006. Admission to BridgeValley Community and Technical College and this program is evidence of your academic achievements and ability. The nursing and support faculty are committed to a creative and supportive environment in which you will grow and develop critical thinking and communication skills throughout the teaching learning process. I trust that you will find your course of study exciting yet challenging. The BVCTC Nursing Program Student Handbook contains all policies and procedures specific to the nursing program and will serve in addition to the BVCTC Student Handbook as a resource. I wish you every success at BridgeValley Community and Technical College and in your future professional nursing career. Congratulations on taking an important step in your life to achieve your career goal of becoming a Registered Nurse!

B. Kent Wilson, MSN, RN, CNE
Professor / Dean of Nursing and EMS
Chancellor's Leadership Fellow, West Virginia Community and Technical College System

Accreditation Status

Our Nursing Program has been fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Nursing (ACEN) and the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses since 2007.

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Foreword

The BridgeValley Community and Technical College Nursing Student Handbook is designed to provide nursing students with a ready reference manual for the nursing program. This handbook deals specifically with the policies and procedures for the nursing program and serves to assist nursing students toward successful completion in their course of study. As such, it is intended to supplement, not replace, the policy and procedure publications to which all students of BridgeValley Community and Technical College are subject, such as the:

- BridgeValley Community and Technical College Catalog
- BridgeValley Community and Technical College Student Handbook

It is the responsibility of each student to review this handbook regularly and to understand its contents. Nursing students may want to consult nursing course syllabi for further guidance with program policies and specific course requirements. This handbook is not a contract expressed or implied and the contents herein are subject to change, revision, cancellation, or withdrawal without published notice and without liability. The faculty reserves the right to modify, change, or delete any or all of these policies and procedures, in whole or part- as such; students will be notified in writing in a timely fashion.

History

Plans to develop a nursing program at BVCTC began with the College's movement towards independent accreditation. Under the leadership of Dr. Ervin Griffin, the administration sought guidance from the National League for Nursing on personnel, financial, and physical resources necessary to implement an associate degree nursing program. The *Intent to Plan* was filed with the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Professional Registered Nurses (WVBOERN) and received approval in October 2004, which permitted advertisement to prospective students. Dr. Martha Sue Forsbrey served as the institution's first Nursing Program Director in 2004.

The following year (2005), a *New Nursing Program* application was submitted to the WVBOERN and the first faculty member was hired for program development. The first class of 43 students was admitted in August 2005. Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) approached the BVCTC nursing program to provide a mid-year class composed of employees in an effort to address their registered nurse shortage. A contract was developed and the first cohort of 23 students began in January 2006.

The WVBOERN Board awarded provisional accreditation in October 2005 and 2006. Full accreditation could not be awarded until the first class's licensure exam success was calculated. The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) and the WVBOERN gave full accreditation status in 2007.

In 2008, an *LPN-RN Bridge* was developed, which was later revised in 2010 to meet educational and local industry healthcare needs. Dr. Martha Sue Forsbrey retired in 2010 and B. Kent Wilson became the second Nursing Program Director. Since the program's inception, grants, and in-kind contributions of more than \$2 million dollars have been received and allocated for a basic nursing skills lab and an advanced patient simulation lab for innovative teaching strategies for the BVCTC students.

On March 20, 2014, BridgeValley Community and Technical College was founded with the consolidation of Bridgemont and Kanawha Valley Community and Technical Colleges. Existing campus locations were maintained in Montgomery and South Charleston, along with the addition of a new Advanced Technology Center in South Charleston.

Mission

The mission of the BridgeValley Community and Technical College Nursing Program is to educate competent and caring nursing professionals through a quality Associate of Applied Science (2-year) Degree in Nursing. A combination of general education, related cognates and courses from the professional major provide students with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to practice in a variety of direct client care settings as well as providing the educational foundation for lifelong learning and further study in nursing. Successful completion of the program fulfills the academic eligibility requirement to make application for the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

Vision

We at BridgeValley Community and Technical College are a forward-looking educational institution. We are dedicated to crafting an environment of learning that embodies a powerful collaborative, professional culture where teachers and students work together to improve instruction. We will create an environment of learning, cooperation, and mutual respect. The school will serve all students with high-quality, interactive, in-depth, and engaging instructional approaches. Faculty will strive to be professionally proficient, passionate educators who enthusiastically help students reach the highest academic standards. Students will be encouraged to live inspiring, meaningful, purpose driven lives.

Philosophy

The BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Program is committed to a quality educational environment.

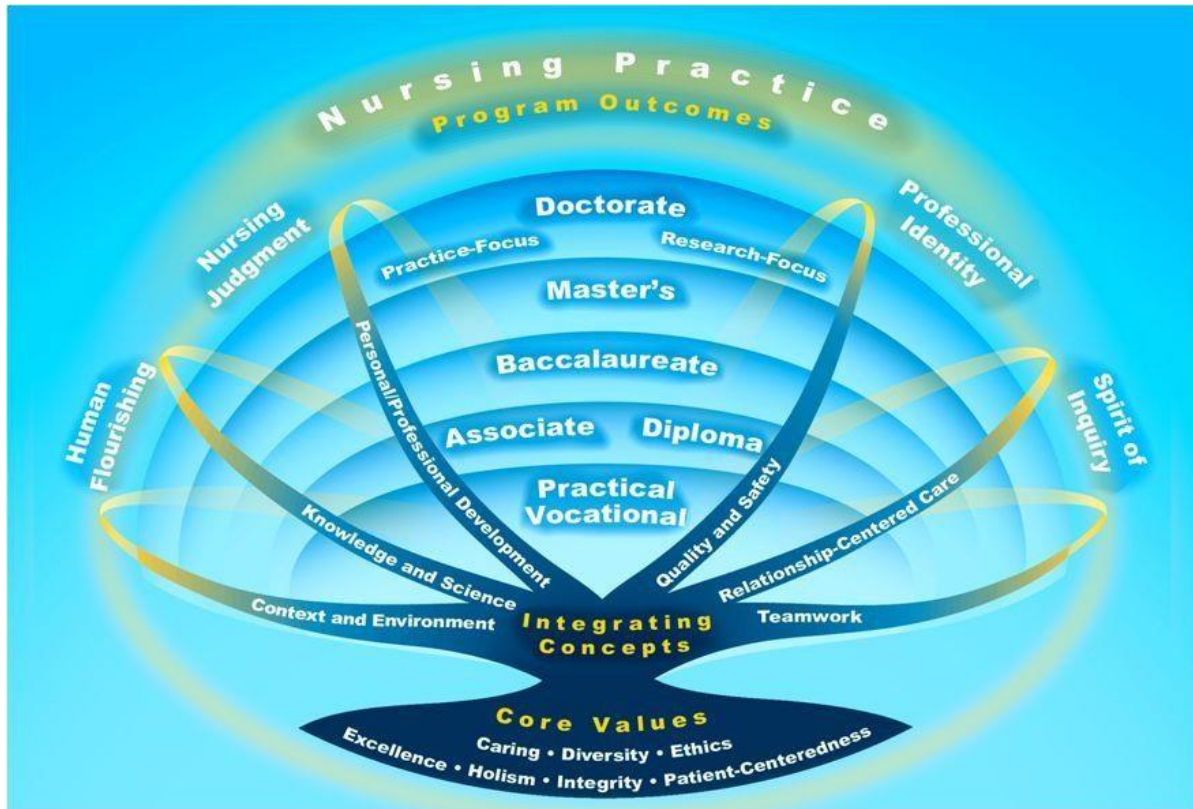
The educational philosophy of the BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Program incorporates the seven core values of the National League for Nursing Competencies Framework, which includes caring, diversity, ethics, excellence, holism, integrity, and patient centeredness

(NLN, 2010). We believe that “all nurses should display integrity, respect diversity in all forms, uphold given legal and ethical responsibilities and strive for excellence while promoting caring, holistic, patient centered care” (NLN, 2010).

The BridgeValley Community and Technical College supports education as a life-long process incorporating a spirit of inquiry, supported by evidence-based research. The faculty believes that students need to develop nursing judgment in their practice, develop a professional identity as a nurse, and learn to support patients and families in development of their ongoing growth as

human beings. Lifelong learning consists of acquiring knowledge, demonstrating proficient skills, and developing ethical attitudes and values.

Conceptual Framework



(National League for Nursing, 2010, pg. 8)

The BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Program's conceptual framework is based on the National League for Nursing (NLN) Educational Competencies Model and the components within it. The model consists of the following components (National League for Nursing, 2010):

Core Values: Seven core values, implicit in nursing's historic paradigm, are foundational for all nursing practice. These values are **caring, diversity, ethics, excellence, holism, integrity, and patient-centeredness**. They are shown at the root of the model, to indicate that each type of nursing program and each type of competency must be grounded in these fundamental values (p.

8). Integrating Concepts: Emerging from the seven core values are six integrating concepts: **context and environment; knowledge and science; personal and professional development; quality and safety; relationship-centered care; and teamwork**. These concepts are shown as bands around the program types, illustrating their progressive and multidimensional development in students during their learning experiences. The critical feature of the bands is an enveloping feedback mechanism that acknowledges the ongoing advancement of nursing education, as new graduates return new learning, gleaned from multiple sources, to nursing practice through nursing education. In this way, nursing practice and nursing education remain perpetually relevant and accountable to the public and all those in need of nursing (p. 8).

The BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Programs upholds the core values of the National League for Nursing: caring, diversity, ethics, integrity, patient-centeredness, excellence, and holism as evidenced by the following program student learning outcomes.

Integrating Concepts

The Integrating Concepts of the BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Program's curriculum emerge from the seven core values identified by the National League for Nursing (2010). The six integrating concepts include:

- Context and environment
- Knowledge and science
- Personal and professional
development
- Quality and safety
- Relationship-centered care
- Teamwork

Within the Conceptual Framework schematic, these concepts are shown as bands around the program types, illustrating their progressive and multidimensional development in students during their learning experiences. The critical feature of the bands is an enveloping feedback mechanism that acknowledges the ongoing advancement of nursing education, as new graduates return new learning, gleaned from multiple sources, to nursing practice through nursing education. In this way, nursing practice and nursing education remain perpetually relevant and accountable to the public and all those in need of nursing (National League for Nursing, 2010, p.8.).

Program Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the Associate Degree Nursing Program, graduates will be prepared to:

Human Flourishing

Advocate for patients and families in ways that promote their self-determination, integrity, and ongoing growth as human beings.

1. Collaborate with the patient or designee to plan and provide nursing care that respects the patient's individual values and needs.

Nursing Judgment

Make judgments in practice, substantiated with evidence, that integrate nursing science in the provision of safe, quality care and that promote the health of patients within a family and community context.

2. Generate safe and effective patient centered care using the nursing process.
3. Incorporate effective communication strategies to reduce risk and injuries in the healthcare environment.

Professional Identity

Implement one's role as a nurse in ways that reflect integrity, responsibility, ethical practices, and an evolving identity as a nurse committed to evidence-based practice, caring, advocacy, and safe, quality care for diverse patients within a family and community context.

4. Create caring relationships with patients and support systems consistent with the ANA Standards of Nursing Practice and the Code of Ethics.
5. Evaluate the utilization of healthcare system resources to manage care efficiently and effectively.

Spirit of Inquiry

Examine the evidence that underlies clinical nursing practice to challenge the status quo, question underlying assumptions, and offer new insights to improve the quality of care for patients, families, and communities.

6. Integrate current best practices to plan and implement safe and effective patient care.

Definition of Terms

Definition of Terms

Caring means "promoting health, healing, and hope in response to the human condition." (NLN, 2010b). "A culture of caring, as a fundamental part of the nursing profession, characterizes our concern and consideration for the whole person, our commitment to the common good, and our outreach to those who are vulnerable. All organizational activities are managed in a participative and person-centered way, demonstrating an ability to understand the needs of others and a commitment to act always in the best interests of all stakeholders" (NLN, 2007).

Context and Environment, in relation to organizations, refer to the conditions or social system within which the organization's members act to achieve specific goals. Context and environment are a product of the organization's human resources, and the policies, procedures, rewards, leadership, supervision, and other attributes that influence interpersonal interactions. In health care, context and environment encompass organizational structure, leadership styles, patient characteristics, safety climate, ethical climate, teamwork, continuous quality improvement, and effectiveness.

Core Competencies are the discrete and measurable skills, essential for the practice of nursing, that are developed by faculty in schools of nursing to meet established program outcomes. These competencies increase in complexity both in content and practice during the program of study. The core competencies are applicable in varying degrees across all didactic and clinical courses and within all programs of study, role performance, and practice settings. They structure and clarify course expectations, content, and strategies, and guide the development of course outcomes. They are the foundation for clinical performance examinations and the validation of practice competence essential for patient safety and quality care.

Course Outcomes are expected culmination of all learning experiences for a particular course within the nursing program, including the mastery of essential core competencies relevant to that course. Courses should be designed to promote synergy and consistency across the curriculum and lead to the arraignment of program outcomes.

Diversity means recognizing differences among "persons, ideas, values and ethnicities," while affirming the uniqueness of each," within the context of nursing care (NLN, 2010b). "A culture of diversity embraces acceptance and respect. We understand that each individual is unique and recognize individual differences, which can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies. A culture of diversity is about understanding ourselves and each other and moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the richness of each

individual. While diversity can be about individual differences, it also encompasses institutional and system-wide behavior patterns” (NLN, 2007).

Excellence means “creating and implementing transformative strategies with daring ingenuity.” “A culture of excellence reflects a commitment to continuous growth, improvement, and understanding. It is a culture where transformation is embraced, and the status quo and mediocrity are not tolerated” (NLN, 2010b).

Ethics “involves reflective consideration of personal, societal, and professional values, principles and codes that shape nursing practice. Ethical decision-making requires applying an inclusive, holistic, systematic process for identifying and synthesizing moral issues in health care and nursing practice, and for acting as moral agents in caring for patients, families, communities, societies, populations, and organizations. Ethics in nursing integrates knowledge with human caring and compassion, while respecting the dignity, self-determination, and worth of all persons,” (NLN, 2010a).

Holism “is the culture of human caring in nursing and health care that affirms the human person as the synergy of unique and complex attributes, values, and behaviors, influenced by that individual's environment, social norms, cultural values, physical characteristics, experiences, religious beliefs and practices, and moral and ethical constructs within the context of a wellness-illness continuum,” (NLN, 2010a).

Human Flourishing can be loosely expressed as an effort to achieve self-actualization and fulfillment within the context of a larger community of individuals, each with the right to pursue his or her own such efforts. The process of achieving human flourishing is a lifelong existential journey of hope, regret, loss, illness, suffering, and achievement. Human flourishing encompasses the uniqueness, dignity, diversity, freedom, happiness, and holistic well-being of the individual within the larger family, community, and population. The nurse helps the individual in efforts to reclaim or develop new pathways toward human flourishing.

Integrity means "respecting the dignity and moral wholeness of every person without conditions or limitation," (NLN 2010b). "A culture of integrity is evident when organizational principles of open communication, ethical decision making, and humility are encouraged, expected, and demonstrated consistently. Not only is doing the right thing simply how we do business, but our actions reveal our commitment to truth telling and to how we always were ourselves from the perspective of others in a larger community" (NLN, 2007).

Knowledge and Science refer to the foundations that serve as a basis for nursing practice, which, in turn, deepen, extend, and help generate new knowledge and new theories that continue to build the science and further the practice. Those foundations include (a) understanding and

integrating knowledge from a variety of disciplines outside nursing that provide insight into the physical, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural functioning of human beings; (b) understanding and integrating knowledge from nursing science to design and implement plans of patient-centered care for individuals, families, and communities; (c) understanding how knowledge and science develop; (d) understanding how all members of a discipline have responsibility for contributing to the development of that disciplines' evolving science; and (e) understanding the nature of evidence- based practice.

Nursing Judgment encompasses three processes: namely, critical thinking, clinical judgment, and integration of best evidence into practice. Nurses must employ these processes as they make decisions about clinical care, the development and application of research and the broader dissemination of insights and research findings to the community, and management and resource allocation.

Critical Thinking means identifying, evaluating, and using evidence to guide decision-making by means of logic and reasoning. Clinical judgment refers to a process of observing, interpreting, responding, and reflecting situated within and emerging from the nurse's knowledge and perspective (Tanner, 2006). Integration of best evidence ensures that clinical decisions are informed to the extent possible by current research (Craig & Smith, 2007).

Patient-Centeredness “is an orientation to care that incorporates and reflects the uniqueness of an individual patient’s background, personal preferences, culture, values, traditions, and family. A patient centered approach supports optimal health outcomes by involving patients and those close to them in decisions about their clinical care. Patient centeredness supports the respectful, efficient, safe, and well-coordinated transition of the patient through all levels of care,” (NLN, 2010).

Personal and Professional Development is a lifelong process of learning, refining, and integrating values and behaviors that (a) are consistent with the profession’s history, goals, and codes of ethics; (b) serve to distinguish the practice of nurses from that of other health care providers; and (c) give nurses the courage needed to continually improve the care of patients, families, and communities and to ensure the profession’s ongoing viability.

Professional Identity involves the internalization of core values and perspectives recognized as integral to the art and science of nursing. These core values become self-evident as the nurse learns, gains experience, and grows in the profession. The nurse embraces these fundamental values in every aspect of practice while working to improve patient outcomes and promote the ideals of the nursing profession.

Professional identity is evident in the lived experience of the nurse, in his or her ways of “being”, “knowing,” and “doing.”

Quality and Safety is the degree to which health care services 1) are provided in a way consistent with current professional knowledge; 2) minimize the risk of harm to individuals, populations, and providers; 3) increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes; and 4) are operationalized from an individual, unit, and systems perspective.

Relationship Centered Care positions (a) caring; (b) therapeutic relationships with patients, families, and communities; and (c) professional relationships with members of the health care team as the core of nursing practice. It integrates and reflects respect for the dignity and uniqueness of others, valuing diversity, integrity, humility, mutual trust, self-determination, empathy, civility, the capacity for grace, and empowerment.

Spirit of Inquiry is a persistent sense of curiosity that informs both learning and practice. A nurse infused by a spirit of inquiry will raise questions, challenge traditional and existing practices, and seek creative approaches to problems. The spirit of inquiry suggests, to some degree, a childlike sense of wonder. A spirit of inquiry in nursing engenders innovative thinking and extends possibilities for discovering novel solutions in ambiguous, uncertain, and unpredictable situations.

Teamwork means to function effectively within nursing and inter-professional teams, fostering open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision making to achieve quality patient care.

(National League for Nursing, 2010)

***Program Student Learning Outcomes** are the expected culmination of all learning experiences occurring during the program, including the mastery of essential core nursing practice competencies, built upon the seven core values and six integrating concepts.

***Course Student Learning Outcomes** are expected culmination of all learning experiences for a particular course within the nursing program, including the mastery of essential core competencies relevant to that course. Courses should be designed to promote synergy and consistency across the curriculum and lead to the arraignment of program student learning outcomes.

***Student Learning Outcome** statements of expectations written in measurable terms that express what a student will know, do, or think at the end of a learning experience.

*Definition written/modified by BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Program

The Nursing Program at BridgeValley Community and Technical College further defines:

Nursing Practice

Nursing practice employs the dynamic combination of art and science in meeting the health-related needs of individuals and their significant others, throughout all stages of life. As unique and holistic beings, human's manifest physical, emotional, intellectual, socio-cultural, and spiritual needs requiring prudent clinically and culturally competent nursing care. Health is a dynamic and individually perceived state of functioning, defined in accord with cultural beliefs and values. It is an ever-changing interplay among the physical, social, spiritual, cultural, and emotional dimensions of people. Through the application of critical thinking and creative problem solving, the nurse promotes wellness, assists with the support and restoration of health, adaptation to chronic illness, or preparation for a dignified death. The nurse utilizes the roles of practitioner, client educator, and advocate, manager of care and consumer of research to assist clients achieve a sense of balance between self and a rapidly changing environment.

Nursing Education

Nursing education is designed to prepare a diverse student population to provide competent care to a variety of populations in a multi-cultural community. Learning encompasses the active participation of the learner and educator and occurs in the affective, cognitive, and psychomotor domains. Optimal learning occurs in a supportive, caring, and interactive environment, which takes into account the diversity of culture and experience that students bring to the learning situation. Learning is enhanced when content is presented in a progressive sequence whereby complex knowledge and skills build upon previous learning. The General Education core provides a common, broad based educational experience.

The educator facilitates learning by acting as a role model and a resource person who makes use of structured and serendipitous learning experiences. Throughout the educational experience, the student becomes self-aware, responsible, and accountable to clients as consumers of healthcare. A periodic appraisal of performance using a variety of methods provides reinforcement of desired behaviors and/or guidance toward change, and measures progress toward program outcomes.

The Practice of the Associate Degree Nursing Graduate

The Associate Degree Nursing Graduate functions as an accountable and adaptable generalist who uses a problem-solving process in providing and managing care of clients in all stages of the life cycle in a variety of settings. The ADN Graduate communicates, coordinates, collaborates, and delegates within an interdisciplinary approach to providing

prudent and skillful health care. He/she embodies caring through manifesting empathy, integrity, and respect within the ethical and legal parameters of registered nursing practice. The graduate diagnoses and treats human responses to actual and potential health problems through such services as case finding, health teaching, health counseling, executing the prescribed medical regimen, and providing care supportive to and/or restorative of life and well-being.

Purposes

The purposes of the BVCTC Associate Degree Nursing Program are to:

1. Prepare graduates who are ethically, professionally, and academically qualified for licensure as Registered Nurses.
2. Maintain an innovative learning environment that encourages creativity and the acquisition of knowledge and skills, which enables graduates to contribute to the profession as associate degree nurses and to society as responsible citizens.
3. Integrate general education, technology, and nursing learning experiences to encourage performance excellence, professional growth, and lifelong learning.

General Education Learning Outcomes

Students are also expected to demonstrate they have met the institution's General Education Learning Outcomes, which are:

1. Communicate effectively by listening, speaking, and writing using appropriate technology.
2. Use quantitative and scientific knowledge effectively to solve problems, manipulate and interpret data, and communicate findings.
3. Demonstrate interpersonal skills and ethical behavior appropriate for living and working in a diverse society.
4. Apply critical thinking skills to analyze problems and make informed decisions.

Admission Requirements

General Requirements

1. High school graduate or equivalent (USA GED)
2. English proficiency
3. 2.5 GPA from high school or college courses
4. Eligible to take college English and Math
5. Pre-nursing admission exam composite score of 60.5 or higher on the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS VI).

TEAS VI composite scores must be within the last 3 (three) years. Pre-nursing admission exams may be completed one time per semester for a maximum of three times for consideration for admission.

Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Policy

BridgeValley Community & Technical College (BVCTC) is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution. BVCTC does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin in the administration of any of its educational programs, activities, or with respect to admission or employment.

Admission Process

BVCTC admits two nursing classes per year. Students applying to the nursing program are required to be admitted to the college, as described in the Catalog, through the admissions office. Students may take non-nursing courses but should seek advice from an academic advisor. Applicants will obtain a Nursing Program Application online and complete the specified standardized entrance test through the nursing program office or Testing Center. Requirements for all BVCTC School of Nursing Programs must be completed and submitted by dates published on the BVCTC website.

Advanced Placement

Program Description

The Advanced Placement LPN to RN Bridge/Paramedic to RN Bridge Program (Bridge Program) is a three-semester program in which graduates meet the academic requirement to apply to take the NCLEX-RN licensing examination upon graduation.

Students admitted into the LPN/Paramedic to RN Bridge Program will have one semester of Bridge courses. Upon successful completion of the first semester of the Bridge Program, the students will merge into the third semester of the Traditional Nursing Program. All non – nursing courses must be completed with a minimum grade of a “C”. Nursing courses must be completed with a minimum grade of a “B”. Students unsuccessful in a Bridge course may request readmission into the first semester of the Traditional Nursing Program.

16-Month Accelerated Program

Program Description

The Accelerated Program option is a continuous 16-month option allowing the nursing student to graduate after four continuous semesters. The 16-month Accelerated Program graduate meets the academic requirement to apply for the NCLEX-RN licensure exam upon graduation. Nursing courses will run continuously for 16 months with second or third semester nursing courses offered during the Summer term. Students have the option to apply for the Accelerated Option by mid-term of the Spring semester of the nursing program. Requirements for the Accelerated Program include the minimum final course grade of 80%. Completion of General Education Courses is not required. All non-nursing courses require a minimum grade of a “C”. Nursing courses must be completed with a minimum grade of a “B” per program policy.

Students applying complete the “16-Month Accelerated Program Request” form (see addendum). Requests are reviewed and considered by nursing faculty as the number of students admitted may be limited due to seat availability.

Licensure

License requirements vary among states. It is the responsibility of the student to know the requirements of the state in which they wish to seek licensure. Admission to the nursing program does not guarantee the state of West Virginia will grant the graduate the opportunity to sit for the exam. The decision to grant licensure is within the sole discretion of the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses.

Transfer Policy

Applicants applying for transfer into the nursing program from an accredited nursing program will provide transcripts and all course syllabi the student requests to transfer into BVCTC to the nursing program director for evaluation and determination.

WVBOERN Letter to Prospective Students

Laura S. Rhodes, M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Director

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STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620

To Prospective Nursing Applicant:

Individuals who are considering entering the nursing profession and who may have a criminal history often ask about potential barriers to licensure following successful completion of an approved nursing program. While it would be nice to know this prior to making a decision to enter the program, obtaining that information is not possible under current West Virginia law.

The West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board) makes decisions about licensure based upon a number of questions on the application, results of the criminal background check and on an individual basis. The application (or the background screening) that indicates a criminal history is considered a non-routine application and must be reviewed by the Board staff and possibly referred to the Board's Disciplinary Review Committee.

Each application is reviewed on its own merits. The Board of Nursing has created guidelines for specific offenses to be approved in the Board office; however, the staff cannot make determinations in advance as laws and rules do change over time. Felony convictions, violent crimes, other more serious misdemeanors and repeat offenders are required to go before the Disciplinary Review Committee. Simple misdemeanors, such as some traffic violations, loitering and disturbing the peace can be approved by the disciplinary section of the Board. Any evidence of rehabilitation is important to the Board members when making a licensure decision.

Board applications require the applicant to provide the Board with an original certified copy of all court documents relative to a conviction. This means the applicant must go to the county or other appropriate authority where the conviction occurred and have the clerk of the court certify with a raised seal that the documents are a complete copy of the record. Applicants cannot pick and choose what documents are provided to the Board. A complete copy of the criminal record must be provided. The Board's applications require the applicant to provide a letter of explanation as to the events surrounding the conviction. This means the applicant must write in his/her own words what happened to cause the conviction.

Board applications also require an applicant who has a drug or alcohol problem provide to the Board a copy of all treatment records. The applicant must sign a release with the treatment provider and have the documents sent directly from the provider to the Board office. A letter of explanation from the applicant must also be provided with this information. This letter should explain the applicant's history of use/abuse of drugs and/or alcohol and his/her progress since treatment.

Technical Standards

Personal Attributes and Capabilities Essential for Admission, Progression, and Graduation from BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Program:

The curricula leading to a degree in Nursing from participants of BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Program requires students to engage in diverse and complex experiences directed at the acquisition and practice of essential nursing skills and functions. Unique combinations of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, physical, and social abilities are required to perform these functions satisfactorily. In addition to being essential to the successful completion of the requirements of a nursing degree, these skills and functions are necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, fellow students, faculty, and other health care providers.

The following technical standards describe the non-academic qualifications required in addition to academic qualifications that the college considers essential for entrance to, continuation in, graduation from its nursing degree program. Candidates for a nursing degree must be able to meet these minimum standards with or without reasonable accommodation for successful completion of degree requirements.

Technical Standards

A. Visual, Auditory, and Tactile Abilities

- Sufficient abilities to allow him/her to gather data from written reference materials, oral presentations, demonstrations and observations of a patient and his/her environment.
- Sufficient ability to perform health assessments and interventions; observe diagnostic specimens; and obtain information from digital, analog and waveform representations of physiologic phenomena to determine a client's condition.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Visual acuity sufficient to draw up the correct quantity of medication in a syringe or detect changes in skin color or condition.
- Auditory ability sufficient to detect sounds related to bodily functions using a stethoscope or to detect audible alarms generated by mechanical systems used to monitor patient physiological status.

- Tactile abilities sufficient to detect unsafe temperature levels in heat-producing devices used in patient care or detect anatomical abnormalities, such as edema or small nodules.

B. Communication Abilities

- Ability to communicate with accuracy, clarity and efficiency with patients, their families, and other members of the health care team (including spoken and non-verbal communications, such as interpretation of facial expressions, affect and body language).
- Required communication abilities, including speech, hearing, reading, writing, language skills and computer literacy.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Abilities sufficient to give verbal directions to or follow verbal directions from other members of the health care team and to participate in health care team discussions of patient care.
- Ability sufficient to elicit and record information about health history, current health state, or responses to treatment from patients or family members.
- Ability sufficient to convey information to clients and others as necessary to teach, direct, and counsel individuals.

C. Motor Abilities

- Sufficient motor function to execute movements required to provide general care and treatment to patients in all health care settings.
- Required motor functions include gross and fine motor skills, physical endurance, physical strength, and mobility to carry out nursing procedures, perform basic laboratory tests and provide routine and emergency care and treatment to patients.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Fine motor skills sufficient to obtain assessment information by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers.

- Physical endurance sufficient to complete assigned periods of clinical practice.
- Mobility sufficient to carry out patient care procedures, such as tracheostomy care or performing emergency airway suctioning.
- Strength sufficient to carry out patient care procedures, such as assisting in the turning and lifting of patients.

D. Behavioral, Interpersonal, and Emotional Abilities

- Ability to relate to colleagues, staff and patients with honesty, integrity, and nondiscrimination.
- Capacity for the development of a mature, sensitive, and effective therapeutic relationship with clients.
- Ability to work constructively in stressful and changing environments with the ability to modify behavior in response to constructive criticism.
- Capacity to demonstrate ethical behavior, including adherence to the professional nursing and student honor codes.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Emotional skills sufficient to remain calm in an emergency.
- Interpersonal skills sufficient to communicate effectively with patients and families of diverse religious, cultural, and social backgrounds.
- Behavioral skills sufficient to demonstrate the exercise of good judgment and prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of clients.

E. Cognitive, Conceptual, and Quantitative Abilities

- Ability to read and understand written documents in English and solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis.
- Ability to gather data, develop a plan of action, establish priorities, and monitor treatment plans and modalities.
- Ability to comprehend three-dimensional and spatial relationships.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Cognitive skills sufficient to calculate appropriate medication dosage given specific patient parameters.

- Conceptual ability sufficient to analyze and synthesize data and develop an appropriate plan of care.
- Quantitative ability sufficient to collect data, prioritize needs and anticipate reactions.
- Ability to comprehend spatial relationships adequate to properly administer IM injections or assess wounds of varying depths.

*Adapted from the Technical Standards for Admission, Progression, and Graduation from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with permission.

Admission to, and graduation from, the nursing program does not guarantee that the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses will endorse the graduate as a candidate to sit for the licensure examination.

BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Programs reserves the right to amend this document, upon recommendation of the Schools of Nursing, without notice to ensure the integrity of the program and safety of the students, colleges, and community at large.

Professional Standards & Safe Clinical Practice Standards

Students enrolled in BridgeValley Community Technical College are held accountable to uphold the **Professional Standards** and **Safe Clinical Practice Standards**. Any student who engages in unethical, illegal, or dishonest behavior, or poses imminent danger to the safety of a patient, health care member or a visitor, may face immediate dismissal/permanent suspension from the Nursing Program.

Overview

Assess patient health problems and needs, develop, and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. May advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management.

Tasks

- Monitor, record, and report symptoms or changes in patients' conditions.
- Maintain accurate, detailed reports and records.

- Record patients' medical information and vital signs.
- Order, interpret, and evaluate diagnostic tests to identify and assess patient's condition.
- Modify patient treatment plans as indicated by patients' responses and conditions.
- Direct or supervise less-skilled nursing or healthcare personnel or supervise a particular unit.
- Consult and coordinate with healthcare team members to assess, plan, implement, or evaluate patient care plans.
- Monitor all aspects of patient care, including diet and physical activity.
- Instruct individuals, families, or other groups on topics such as health education, disease prevention, or childbirth and develop health improvement programs.
- Prepare patients for and assist with examinations or treatments.

Skills

- **Social Perceptiveness** — Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
- **Active Listening** — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- **Coordination** — Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.
- **Speaking** — Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- **Critical Thinking** — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems.
- **Reading Comprehension** — Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- **Service Orientation** — Actively looking for ways to help people.

- **Monitoring** — Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.
- **Judgment and Decision Making** — Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.
- **Science** — Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems.

Abilities

- **Problem Sensitivity** — The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.
- **Inductive Reasoning** — The ability to combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events).
- **Oral Comprehension** — The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.
- **Deductive Reasoning** — The ability to apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense.
- **Information Ordering** — The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).
- **Oral Expression** — The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.
- **Written Comprehension** — The ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing.
- **Speech Clarity** — The ability to speak clearly so others can understand you.
- **Speech Recognition** — The ability to identify and understand the speech of another person.

- **Written Expression** — The ability to communicate information and ideas in writing so others will understand.

Work Activities

- **Assisting and Caring for Others** — Providing personal assistance, medical attention, emotional support, or other personal care to others such as coworkers, customers, or patients.
- **Documenting/Recording Information** — Entering, transcribing, recording, storing, or maintaining information in written or electronic/magnetic form.
- **Getting Information** — Observing, receiving, and otherwise obtaining information from all relevant sources.
- **Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates** — Providing information to supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates by telephone, in written form, e-mail, or in person.
- **Making Decisions and Solving Problems** — Analyzing information and evaluating results to choose the best solution and solve problems.
- **Identifying Objects, Actions, and Events** — Identifying information by categorizing, estimating, recognizing differences or similarities, and detecting changes in circumstances or events.
- **Establishing and Maintaining Interpersonal Relationships** — Developing constructive and cooperative working relationships with others and maintaining them over time.
- **Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work** — Developing specific goals and plans to prioritize, organize, and accomplish your work.
- **Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance with Standards** — Using relevant information and individual judgment to determine whether events or processes comply with laws, regulations, or standards.

- **Updating and Using Relevant Knowledge** — Keeping up-to-date technically and applying new knowledge to your job.

Work Styles

- **Concern for Others** — Job requires being sensitive to others' needs and feelings and being understanding and helpful on the job.
- **Integrity** — Job requires being honest and ethical.
- **Dependability** — Job requires being reliable, responsible, and dependable, and fulfilling obligations.
- **Stress Tolerance** — Job requires accepting criticism and dealing calmly and effectively with high stress situations.
- **Self-Control** — Job requires maintaining composure, keeping emotions in check, controlling anger, and avoiding aggressive behavior, even in very difficult situations.
- **Attention to Detail** — Job requires being careful about detail and thorough in completing work tasks.
- **Cooperation** — Job requires being pleasant with others on the job and displaying a good-natured, cooperative attitude.
- **Adaptability/Flexibility** — Job requires being open to change (positive or negative) and to considerable variety in the workplace.
- **Initiative** — Job requires a willingness to take on responsibilities and challenges.
- **Independence** — Job requires developing one's own ways of doing things, guiding oneself with little or no supervision, and depending on oneself to get things done.

*Information retrieved from: <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-1141.00>

Clinical Practice Requirements

Each student admitted into BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Program must complete the following:

Drug Screening

BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Program supports drug-free communities. Therefore, all students admitted to and enrolled in the School of Nursing are subject to the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy.

To that end, students in all Nursing Programs may be required to submit to randomized, mandatory drug screening without notice. Failure to cooperate will result in administrative dismissal from the Nursing Program. Students who test positive for alcohol, illegal usage of a controlled substance, or illicit drugs will be immediately dismissed from the program and will not be eligible for readmission.

Any student demonstrating behaviors of reasonable suspicion or impaired capacity will be required to undergo immediate drug/alcohol testing. All costs incurred because of this action is the responsibility of the student.

Background Check

Criminal background checks are required for all students entering the BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Programs. Cost associated with the state and federal criminal history checks will be the responsibility of the student. A clinical facility has the right to refuse a student access to clinical experiences based on results of the criminal background check, which may prevent progression in the Nursing Program. The BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Program reserves the right to nullify a student's admission based on the results of his or her background check.

Providing false information and/or failure to disclose background information on the application to the Nursing Program is grounds for immediate dismissal/permanent suspension.

Confidentiality Statements and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Training

Students in the Nursing Programs are subject to institutional, state, and federal regulations. Completion of required documentation is necessary for participation in clinical and community experiences. Students will sign a HIPAA confidentiality statement at the start of each semester.

The BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Program is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution. The school of nursing do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin in the administration of any of their educational programs, activities, or with respect to admission or employment. Further, faculty, staff, students, and applicants are protected from retaliation for filing complaints or assisting in an investigation under the Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Plan of each respective school.

Clinical Site Adherence

During the clinical experience, the student is expected to keep the nursing instructor or preceptor informed of the nursing activities being performed upon their assigned client(s). All nursing procedures and medication administration should be performed under the DIRECT OBSERVATION of the clinical nursing instructor, preceptor, or with the permission of the nursing instructor.

Students are expected to come prepared for each clinical / lab experience and to provide safe and effective nursing care. The student will be dismissed from clinical if the faculty member determines that the student:

1. Is not properly prepared for the clinical experience,
2. Demonstrates clinically unsafe nursing practice which jeopardizes or has the potential to jeopardize client welfare,
3. Fails to perform skills previously learned,
4. Fails to demonstrate physical and mental competence in the clinical areas
5. Demonstrates behavior which jeopardizes or potentially jeopardizes the operation or management of the health care facility including physical or mental problems, knowledge

deficits, problem-solving skills deficits, anxiety, use of chemicals, and oral or written communication skills deficit, or insubordination.

6. Fails to conform to the dress code policies, and/or is wearing artificial nails.
7. Fails to keep the instructor informed of patient condition or seek instructor supervision for nursing activities student is performing on assigned clients.
8. If a student is sent home for the above reasons, the student will have to make up the assigned clinical hours. This will be considered a lab absence and must be made up as previously described under Attendance Policies and will not replace the deficient grade for that lab period.

On-Campus Laboratory Practice

The Nursing Skills Laboratories provide environments for the students to learn, practice and demonstrate skills and procedures utilized in nursing practice. Students are expected to act in a professional manner during all on-campus laboratory experiences. All equipment should be handled safely and respectfully. Equipment should not be removed from the premises of the Nursing Skills Laboratories. After the on-campus laboratory experience, the student should leave the clinical work site neat, clean, and restored to previous condition unless otherwise instructed.

Only beverages in sealable containers are allowed in the classroom area (tables and chairs) of the Nursing Skills Laboratory. Food is restricted in this area at all times. No food or drink is permitted in the computer, simulation, or skills laboratory rooms.

Arrangements are made with the Nursing Simulation Lab Coordinator if a student needs access to the Nursing Skills Laboratories to practice psychomotor skills, review videos, or complete computer assisted learning activities.

Students are to wear their nursing program polo top while in scheduled nursing skills laboratory times. Students with a clinical absence will make up the clinical at the conclusion of the semester. Students missing clinical days at the conclusion of a semester will receive an incomplete, regardless of their course grade, until the clinical component is satisfied.

Universal Precautions are to be utilized in all nursing labs.

All individuals utilizing sharps in the laboratories are responsible for safe disposal of items in designated impermeable needle boxes and never into regular trash.

All needles and injectable syringes purchased for the laboratories will be equipped with safety devices.

All unused needles and syringes must be returned to their designated carts.

When available, latex free items are ordered; however, some items within the lab including manikins may contain latex. It is the responsibility of the individual student or instructor to make it known if they are latex sensitive and to take appropriate precautions.

Only nitrile gloves can be used in the simulation laboratory.

Please do not apply povidone-iodine, ink, or any substance to the manikins or patient simulators.

No pens or markers are permitted in the simulation labs.

Students using the laboratory should request assistance from the Simulation Lab Coordinator if unfamiliar with any equipment or supplies in the laboratory.

All individuals using the laboratories are expected to leave the laboratory in an orderly and clean condition, including disposing of trash, returning equipment to designated locations, and organizing the laboratory after each use.

Hours of availability for the skills and simulation laboratories and scheduled class times are posted outside of each laboratory room. Scheduling additional laboratory sessions/rooms are available by request.

Do not discuss simulation scenarios with other students prior to their experience.

Hours will be posted as to open lab availability.

Students are invited to attend open labs for skill practice at any time the lab is available.

Students attending open lab sessions will be required to sign in and out for lab usage documentation purposes.

Please notify the Nursing Simulation Lab Coordinator if additional supplies are needed for open lab experiences.

Open lab time does not require the presence of a faculty member.

All sharps must be disposed of properly in the provided sharps containers. If there should be a sharps or other injury, please fill out an incident form and notify Kent Wilson, Dean of the Allied Health Programs, at (304) 205-6689.

Suggestions for additional experiences are welcome at any time.

Clinical Hour Completion Policy

In concept-based courses (Nursing 134, Nursing 144, Nursing 234, and Nursing 244) students will complete 90% of the clinical hours in the hospital and/or simulation setting to pass the clinical component of the course.

In the event the student is absent, they will be required to make up the missed clinical/ simulation hours. The time and date of the make-up will be at the discretion of the course instructor(s) and/or simulation coordinator. If the student's clinical absences exceed two occurrences or more than 16 hours, they will not meet the clinical requirement to proceed to the next semester, resulting in clinical failure. If the student fails to attend the make-up session, they will not be given a second opportunity to make-up that absence.

Clinical Readiness

Basic Life Support

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) by the American Heart Association, Health Care Provider certification is required of all students to participate in clinical assignments. **Students are responsible for obtaining certification for two years from the date in which they begin nursing courses to be valid through their graduation maintaining certification throughout the Nursing Program.** Documentation of certification must be on file. Certification may be obtained through classes given by the American Heart Association. Arrangements may be made directly with this group; the course must be for **Health Care Providers**.

Student Health Record

For incoming students Fall 2019 and thereafter, the required forms and health records are accessed and uploaded to the electronic record tracking system Castle Branch. Students will create an account and pay the required fee and submit records on time to be compliant for clinical. **Students entering the program in the fall of the second, third or fourth semester will submit to their instructor at the start of the semester record of obtaining a PPD (TB Test) test and completion of required agency in-service education and may not participate in clinical until their health records are completed.** The Health Record has a three-year limit after which time the student must submit a new Health Record. Readmitted students may be required to obtain current health records.

Health care facilities affiliated with the Nursing Program will not allow students to attend clinical until the student is cleared for the following:

1. **Measles-Mumps-Rubella(MMR)**

Student must have a positive titer to all three diseases or have some documentation of **two** MMR injections.

2. **Varicella(Chickenpox)**

A history of having chickenpox is not acceptable. Student must have a positive titer or have documentation of **two** injections.

3. **Hepatitis B**

The series or titer must be completed and documentation in the Nursing Office before beginning the program. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to complete this in a timely manner.

a. For those who have completed the series, a quantitative Hepatitis B titer (within the past 5 years) is required. For those who have not completed the series, the time frame is:

- 1st injection prior to entering the program
- 2nd injection one month after the 1st injection
- 3rd injection 6 months after the 1st injection
- Hep B titer 1-2 months after 3rd injection (must be quantitative)

4. **TDap**

Vaccine must be within 10 years.

5. **Flu Vaccine and TB(PPD)**

On admission to the nursing program and each fall by November 1, the current flu vaccine is required, and documentation uploaded to Castle Branch. The Mantoux TB skin test or the Quantiferon Gold blood test is required on admission to the nursing program and documentation uploaded to Castle Branch. Each fall thereafter, students are required to complete the TB Questionnaire located on Castle Branch and uploaded once completed by the first day of class.

6. **COVID-19**

BVCTC School of Nursing complies to clinical guidelines by requiring proof of the COVID-19 vaccination.

Required Annual In-services

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and Det Morske Veritas Germanischer Lloyd (DMVGL) requirements and HIPAA education and documentation is required prior to starting the first, second, third and fourth semesters of this program. Annual in-services are obtained through the Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) website at

www.camc.org. Once completed, students will submit the record of test scores to their Castle Branch account.

Background Checks

Background checks and drug screens are performed prior to entering the nursing program and prior to or during the third semester. Any student with a background check that is in violation of a BVCTC Nursing Program or clinical facility policy, or requirement will not be allowed to progress in the program. Students are responsible for the fees associated with background checks and drug screens.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

BVCTC Nursing Program requires drug testing as follows:

1. Reasonable Suspicion: Any student who demonstrates unusual, unexplained behavior in the agency environment or during clinical hours. Observable signs might include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Slurred speech
 - b. Glassy, red eyes
 - c. Excessive sleepiness and disorientation in class
 - d. Odor of alcohol on breath or person
 - e. Unsteady gait
 - f. Disoriented or confused behavior
 - g. Significant changes in work habits
 - h. Hallucinations
 - i. Unexplained accident or injury
 - j. Other clinical observations consistent with impairment
 - k. Sloppy, inappropriate clothing and/or appearance
 - l. Physically assaultive, unduly talking, exaggerated self-importance, making incoherent or irrelevant statements in the agency setting
 - m. Excessive sick days, excessive tardiness when reporting for clinical or class.
 - n. Missed deadlines, careless mistakes, taking longer than customary to complete work.
2. Any students who have access/or direct responsibility for controlled substances and known drugs of abuse that are missing or otherwise unaccounted for. This determination will be made on a case-by-case basis by the agency manager or administrator and the Director of Nursing.
3. Informed consent will be obtained. Fees associated with testing will be the responsibility of the student.
4. The collection site will be in a standard collection area laboratory, or emergency department.

5. The collection shall be performed by qualified medical personnel specifically trained in the collection procedure. Collection procedures will adhere to the required “chain of custody” protocol.
6. The student will be escorted to the collection site with the appropriate BVCTC representative and will remain at the collection site until the required specimens are obtained.
7. All Consented tests results will be reviewed with the student by a health care provider designated by the agency.
8. The student’s confidentiality will be strictly maintained. These results will be communicated only to the student, the Vice President for Student Services, the physician reviewing the results with the student, and the Program Chair of the BVCTC Nursing Program.
9. Records will be maintained in a separate file by the nursing program in a secured area. Requests for information will require a court order or may be released by the student signed written consent and liability waiver.
10. The drugs to be tested may include, but not limited to:
 - a. Cannabinoids
 - b. Barbiturates
 - c. Alcohol
 - d. Amphetamines
 - e. Cocaine
 - f. Propoxphene
 - g. Benzodiazepines
 - h. Opiates
 - i. Phencyclidine
 - j. Methaqualone

Students who refuse drug testing for any reason will be dismissed from the nursing program. Positive results without a current prescription will result in dismissal from the nursing program. Dismissed students have the option to reapply to the nursing program after a period of five years. The student will submit documentation of participation in a substance abuse program and /or substance abuse counseling to be determined by the program director in addition to completing the entire admission process. Students are not guaranteed admission to the nursing program. It is the responsibility of the Nursing Program Director to notify the WVBOERN of the positive drug screen result.

Use of CBD Oil

In accordance with the BridgeValley Community and Technical College Drug Policy, students using CBD Oil for medicinal purposes that test positive on scheduled or random drug screens are immediately dismissed from the nursing program and will not be eligible for readmission.

Professional Dress in the Clinical Setting

As representatives of BridgeValley Community & Technical College, students are expected to maintain a well-groomed, professional appearance consistent with medical asepsis and policies of the clinical facilities. Failure to adhere to the specified guidelines can result in students not being permitted to participate in the clinical experience and will be counted as a laboratory absence.

The approved uniform consists of:

1. BVCTC polo top or uniform top. Pressed and wrinkle-free.
2. Charcoal Gray uniform pants hemmed to the appropriate length. Pressed and wrinkle-free.
3. White leather or simulated leather clinical or athletic shoe without mesh/ holes, minimal coloring of logo and soles (clarify with faculty).
4. White socks or white or neutral hose.
5. BVCTC student name ID badge in provided holder. Students may not use personal badge holders with logos or decoration.
6. BVCTC uniform “warming jacket” with logo (purchased on own from Charleston Department Store) if desired.
7. BVCTC lab coat.
8. Students are required to purchase a white polo bearing the school logo to be worn during on – site laboratory experiences. Refer to nursing course syllabi for specific course requirements. Students may wear a long sleeve white shirt underneath the white polo for warmth.

Additional Student Requirements in the Clinical Setting

1. Hair must be neatly groomed, off the face and off the collar. No ribbons or colored barrettes. Ponytails must be secured with a clip so as not to fall forward.
2. Hair that is colored must be a color that is a natural hair color.
3. Hairstyles cannot be eccentric or distracting and must be in accordance with clinical agency policies (ex: Mohawks).
4. Facial hair must be shaved or neatly trimmed and groomed.
5. Make-up, if used, should be applied lightly. Fingernails may not extend beyond fingertips.
6. No nail polish and /or acrylic nails.

7. No perfume, cologne or scented lotions or hand sanitizers.
8. Appropriateness of hairstyle and professional dress of students is at the discretion of nursing faculty.
9. Good hygiene must be maintained including hair and oral hygiene.
10. No jewelry, including body jewelry, is to be worn with the uniform except plain smooth wedding band and /or pierced earring studs limited to one in each ear lobe. Students are not permitted to wear gauge ear piercings, facial piercings, septal piercing jewelry or tongue piercings. All visible gauges or piercings should be sealed with a clear/nude spacer or covered with a band-aid.
11. A watch with a sweep second hand or a digital second counter is required.
12. All uniform dress is to be complete from the time the student enters the clinical agency until he/she leaves the clinical agency.
13. No smoking or use of tobacco in any form will be tolerated as it is seen as inappropriate student behavior and a violation of the program and clinical facilities' policies.
14. No gum chewing while in uniform.
15. Tattoos are required to be covered. Faculty will advise students with large visible tattoos on their arms to purchase a warmup jacket for coverage.

Students are expected to present a neat and clean appearance in uniform. The uniform is to be worn only in the hospital and/or specified clinical setting. The lab coat is not to be worn over the uniform while having patient contact. When not in the clinical setting, the student must wear a buttoned lab coat over the uniform or change clothes completely. Students working in the health care field are not permitted to wear work uniforms on campus after working at their facility.

The lab coat and student ID badge are worn over appropriate street clothes when researching assignments or at designated times. No blue jeans, mini-skirts, low necklines, or bare-foot type sandals are to be worn in any clinical settings. Clothing will be expected to meet in the middle of the body even when seated. In accordance with clinical agency policy, ALL tattoos must be completely covered during clinical experiences. Body piercing jewelry must be removed during clinical experiences.

Uniforms bear the school logo and when worn, represent the student as a part of BVCTC Nursing Program. Therefore, if a student should withdraw for any reason or be dismissed from the program and the school uniforms have not yet been distributed, they shall remain the property of BVCTC.

Malpractice Insurance

For the protection of the nursing student, malpractice insurance is required for the entire period of enrollment in clinical nursing courses. This insurance will be provided by a group policy for the State of West Virginia when you are registered in a clinical nursing course.

This policy covers nursing students regardless of setting, so long as the student is functioning within the student's role. Nursing students are **legally** responsible for their own actions. Nursing students must not provide any type of nursing care that they have not been taught. This policy does not cover employment.

Incident Reports

An incident is any event that is inconsistent with the routine operation of the health care institution or with quality patient care. An incident report must be completed when an event occurs that jeopardizes a patient's care, for example, a medication error. It may be an accident or a situation, which might result in an accident. The incident may result in legal action against the institution, student, or faculty member, and adequate reporting is essential. Incident reports must be completed by the student/faculty involved in the incident. The following procedures should be followed in reporting incidents:

1. The procedure of the agency where the incident occurs should be followed in filing the report in that agency.
2. Faculty will document the incident on the appropriate nursing program forms and place them in the student file.
3. Documentation of the incident should include:
 - A summary of the incident, excluding patient and agency identification
 - Description of actions taken as a result of the incident.
 - Description of the remedial instruction interventions taken with the student.
4. The Documentation of the incident becomes a part of the advising record which is kept on file in the Department of Nursing.

Student Responsibilities in Medication Administration

In the process of giving medication to patients each student must:

1. Be supervised in all steps of administering all types of medications.
2. Notify the instructor before giving the medication unless otherwise instructed.
3. Mark the medication record and inform the medication nurse of those patients to whom he is giving medications.
4. The student is unable to take any orders for medications.
5. Check the accuracy and currency of the medication record against the physician's order prior to administration.
6. Be able to state indications, actions, usual dosage, route of administration, precautions, and nursing implications for every medication he intends to give to patients and/or for every medication his patient receives.
7. Demonstrate safe knowledge and proficiency in drug administration or will not be allowed to give the drug.
8. Refuse to give any medication that is not properly labeled or is outdated as indicated by the expiration date.
9. Adhere to the prescribed technique for administering medications as taught in the Nursing Program.
10. Demonstrate the ability to accurately calculate and measure drug dosage.
11. Adhere to hospital policies for proper documentation and signature for narcotic and controlled drugs.
12. Have charting of all drugs administered cosigned by an instructor.
13. Advise his instructor(s) of any deficiencies in his preparation and/or experiences in giving medications, and plan with the instructor(s) means of gaining proficiency in this area.

Latex Allergies

When working in the clinical setting or nursing skills lab, students may be exposed to latex and other allergens. Students who are identified as allergic to Latex, or at a high risk to develop a latex allergy, are educated regarding the risk factors and ways to prevent negative outcomes. Latex-sensitive students will use only non-latex supplies. Latex free gloves will be made available to them.

Incoming students will complete a questionnaire during orientation to determine the risk or presence of latex-related allergies. The questionnaire is uploaded to Castle Branch.

Prior to admission to the Nursing Skills Lab and clinical rotations, all students that are latex sensitive must have a letter from a physician stating the treatment that will be required in the event of an adverse reaction. The Nursing Program Clinical Coordinator will meet with the student and develop a safety plan together with a copy placed in the student file.

The student must always keep emergency medications with them when involved with school related functions/activities.

Procedure:

1. Identification of known or suspected latex sensitive students is accomplished through the use of latex allergy questionnaire at the time of acceptance in the program that becomes part of the student's permanent record.
2. All students will be provided information regarding the health risk associated with latex including the prevalence of latex sensitization, risk factors for sensitization, mechanism to report potential problems with latex and basic management for latex sensitive students. This education will be provided to all students at orientation.
3. All students with evidence of latex sensitivity by questionnaire, medical history, or physical examination will be directed to a physician.
4. All students with evidence of latex sensitivity will be responsible for obtaining and wearing a medical alert bracelet, carry non-latex gloves and emergency medical instructions to include medications if applicable; this will be required prior to admission to the Nursing Skills Lab and clinical activities.
5. Faculty will counsel students on the potential for latex sensitivity and identifying latex containing items so that the student can avoid them whenever possible.
6. Latex-free gloves will be available to latex-sensitive students. It is the responsibility of all students and faculty to ensure compliance with this policy.

In case of life-threatening reaction, (anaphylaxis) in a nursing lab, an ambulance will be summoned.

Any faculty member or student **may dial 911, state that you have a life threatening "latex emergency" and need an ambulance.**

Do not handle the victim with any latex products.

Student/faculty members will be transferred to a hospital in the community by ambulance. It is helpful for the ambulance personnel to know the victim's allergies, current medications, and any medical conditions.

Course Descriptions

Nursing 134: Introduction to Nursing Concepts

This foundational course is designed to introduce concepts to the beginning nursing student that will focus on maintaining health and promoting wellness throughout the lifespan. Concepts and core values basic to the foundation of nursing practice are presented. Classroom and laboratory experiences provide an opportunity for understanding of the nursing process, clinical judgment and decision making.

- *Prerequisite:* Admission to Nursing Program
- *Pre/Co-requisites:* BIOL 201 (Anatomy and Physiology I), ENG 101
- *Co-requisite:* Drug Dosage and Calculation I; Health Assessment and Diagnostics I
- *Course Credit Hours:* Eight (8) credit hours. Five (5) credit hours classroom; three (3) credit hours lab / clinical (9 contact hours).

Nursing 144: Nursing Concepts of Health and Illness I

This course builds upon foundational concepts across the lifespan while introducing the concepts of the wellness-illness continuum and the individual and family response. Classroom and laboratory experiences provide an opportunity for application of the nursing process and development of clinical judgment and decision making.

- *Prerequisite:* Introduction to Nursing Concepts
- *Pre/Co-requisites:* BIOL 202 (Anatomy and Physiology II)
- *Co-requisite:* Drug Dosage and Calculation I & NURS 125 (Nursing Pharmacology)
- *Course Credit Hours:* Nine (9) credit hours; five (5) contact hours classroom; four (4) credit hours lab /clinical (12 contact hours).

Nursing 234: Nursing Concepts of Health and Illness II

This course expands the concepts of the wellness-illness continuum, with emphasis on the expanding family and tertiary care within the community. Classroom and laboratory experiences provide an opportunity for analysis within the nursing process and application of clinical judgment and decision making.

- *Prerequisite:* Nursing Concepts of Health and Illness I, NURS 125 (Nursing Pharmacology)

- *Pre/Co-requisites:* Psychology, BIOL 245 (Nutrition)
- *Course Credit Hours:* Nine (9) credit hours. Five (5) credit hours classroom; four (4) credit hours lab/clinical (12 contact hours).

Nursing 244: Synthesis of Nursing Concepts

This course focuses on the integration of interrelated concepts across the wellness-illness continuum. Classroom and laboratory experiences provide an opportunity for synthesis of the nursing process and integration of clinical judgment and decision making.

- *Prerequisite:* Nursing Concepts of Health and Illness II
- *Co-requisite:* Professional Nursing and Health System Concepts
- *Pre/Co-requisites:* General education elective / BIOL 230 (Microbiology)
- *Course Credit Hours:* Nine (9) credit hours. Four (4) credit hours classroom; five (5) credit hours lab/clinical (15 contact hours).

Nursing 245: Professional Nursing and Health Systems Concepts

This capstone course will focus on current issues in health care and the nursing profession and is designed to facilitate the transition from student to professional registered nurse. Topics of discussion will include national health policy and politics, ethical and bioethical issues, career development, application for state licensure and preparation for the NCLEX-RN examination.

- *Prerequisite:* Nursing Concepts of Health and Illness II
- *Co-requisites:* Synthesis of Nursing Concepts
- *Course Credit Hours:* Three (3) credit hours. Two (2) credit hours classroom; one (1) credit hour laboratory (3 contact hours).

Nursing 133: Health Assessment and Diagnostics I

This course is designed to introduce the nursing student to the knowledge and skills required to perform a health assessment across the lifespan and to document appropriate findings. The nursing student will be introduced to normal lab values and basic diagnostic procedures.

- *Prerequisite:* Admission to Nursing Program
- *Pre/Co-requisites:* BIOL 201 (Anatomy and Physiology I)
- *Co-requisites:* Introduction to Nursing Concepts, Drug Dosage and Calculation I

- Course Credit Hours: Two (2) credit hours. One (1) credit hour classroom; one (1) credit hour laboratory (3 contact hours).

Nursing 132: Drug and Dose Calculations I

This course is designed to enhance the nursing student's ability to read, interpret, and solve dosage calculation problems. Critical thinking skills are applied to medication situations to emphasize the importance of accuracy and the avoidance of medication errors.

- *Prerequisite:* Admission to nursing program
- *Pre/Co-requisites:* BIOL 201 (Anatomy and Physiology I)
- *Co-requisites:* Introduction to Nursing Concepts, Health Assessment and Diagnostics I

Nursing 142: Drug and Dose Calculations II

This course expands the nursing student's ability to read, interpret, and solve increasingly complex dosage calculation problems. Critical thinking skills are applied to age and acuity specific variations in select populations.

- *Prerequisite:* BIOL 201 (Anatomy and Physiology I), Drug and Dosage Calculation I, Introduction to Nursing Concepts Health and Diagnostics I
- *Co-requisites:* BIOL 202 (Anatomy and Physiology II), Health Assessment and Diagnostics
- *Pre/Co-requisites:* NURS 125 (Nursing Pharmacology)

Nursing 172: Advanced Drug and Dosage Calculations

This course is designed to enhance the nursing student's ability to read, interpret and solve simple-to-complex dosage calculation problems built upon knowledge learned in a practical nursing or emergency medical services technology program. Critical thinking skills are applied to medication situations to emphasize the importance of accuracy and the avoidance of medication errors when applied to age and acuity specific variations in select populations.

- *Prerequisite:* BIOL 201 (Anatomy and Physiology I), BIOL 202 (Anatomy and Physiology II), English 101
- *Co-requisites:* NURS 125 (Nursing Pharmacology), NURS 173 (Adv Health Assessment and Diagnostics), NURS 174 Transitions to Professional Nursing
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Nursing 173: Adv Nursing Assessment and Diagnostics

This course is designed to build upon knowledge learned in a practical nursing or emergency medical services technology program in building the skills necessary to perform a normal or abnormal health assessment across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on expanding detailed health history-taking, differentiation, interpretation, and documentation of normal and abnormal findings

- *Prerequisite:* BIOL 201 (Anatomy and Physiology I), BIOL 202 (Anatomy and Physiology II), English 101
- *Co-requisites:* NURS 125 (Nursing Pharmacology), NURS 172 (Adv Drug and Dosage Calculations), NURS 174 Transitions to Professional Nursing

Nursing 174: Transition to Professional Nursing

The course is designed to facilitate the transition from Licensed Practical Nurse or Emergency Medical Services Technician to the role of a Professional Registered Nurse. The content is intended to build upon knowledge learned in a practical nursing or emergency medical services technology program and learned basic competencies. This course includes an overview of fundamental nursing concepts, essential nursing skills, and culturally competent nursing care of individuals, families, and communities throughout the lifespan. After successful completion of this course with a grade of “B” or better, the student will merge with traditional nursing students into the third semester.

- *Prerequisite:* BIOL 201 (Anatomy and Physiology I), BIOL 202 (Anatomy and Physiology II), English 101
- *Co-requisites:* NURS 125 (Nursing Pharmacology), NURS 172 (Adv Drug and Dosage Calculations), NURS 173 (Adv Health Assessment and Diagnostics)

Course of Study

Year One:	Course	Credit		Course	Credit
First Semester			Second Semester		
	Biology 201: Anatomy and Physiology I	4		Biology 202: Anatomy and Physiology II	4
	Nursing 132: Drug & Dose Calculations I	1		Nursing 142: Drug & Dose Calculations II	1
	Nursing 133: Health Assessment & Diagnostics I	2		Nursing 125: Nursing Pharmacology	3
	Nursing 134: Introduction to Nursing Concepts	8		Nursing 144: Nursing Concepts of Health and Illness I	9
	English 101: English Composition I	3			
Total		18			17
Year Two:	First Semester		Second Semester		
	Psychology 201: Life Span Development	3		Nursing 244: Synthesis of Nursing Concepts	9
	Nursing 234: Nursing Concepts of Health and Illness II	9		Nursing 245: Professional Nursing and Health Issues Concepts	3
	Biology 245: Nutrition and Diet Therapy	3		Biology 230: Microbiology	3
Total		15			15

Grading Scale

Students enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing Program must earn at least 80% of the total points possible for each of the nursing courses to pass the course. Failure to achieve an 80% will result in a nursing course failure. There is no rounding of course or final grades.

The Nursing Program grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Scale
A	90-100
B	80-89.99
C	70-79.99
D	60-69.99
F	0-60

Exam Policy

Students in concepts courses (Nursing 134, Nursing 144, Nursing 234, and Nursing 244) will be assigned a course grade based on the following grading system:

Exams	85%
Assignments	5%
ATI	10%
Total	100%

Concept courses will have 5 exams, each with a minimum of 50 questions. There will be no rounding of grades; if a student receives a grade of 79.8% as a final grade, this will be the recorded grade.

Exam Guidelines

The following exam guidelines apply to all nursing courses.

1. Test Security
 - a. All exams are administered on the student's personal computer. The student is responsible for ensuring the device is compatible, charged, and updated prior to the exam.
 - b. No cell phones, smart watches, iPod, PDAs, or any other electronic device which has recording, texting, or photographic capabilities will be allowed in the classroom during testing.
 - c. All personal items are to be left at the front of the classroom, with cell phones turned off. Students must remove their hats. No drinks permitted at the table.
 - d. Bring a pair of earphones (not wireless) for all exams.

Clinical Performance Evaluation

Students will be evaluated periodically on their performance of clinical behaviors that reflect progress toward the achievement of the program student learning outcomes. Each course student learning outcome is listed on the Clinical Performance Evaluation Tool with expected behaviors. Students will receive formative clinical evaluations on a weekly basis. Students will also receive a formal graded summative evaluation at the end-of-term for each semester of the Nursing Program. Clinical performance within a nursing course is graded as pass/fail. An 'unsatisfactory' on the final Clinical Performance Evaluation Tool will result in a clinical failure. Students who receive a clinical failure will receive a grade of "F" for the corresponding nursing course.

Graduation Requirements

BVCTC Graduation requirements

1. A minimum of 3.0 (C) grade point average for all courses in the major, as well as 2.0 overall, is required for graduation with an associate degree.
2. Students must have completed at least 15 of the last 21 credit hours of the total hours required at BVCTC.
3. Portfolio assessment of the general education core curriculum is required.
4. A formal application for graduation must be filed in the Office of Student Services by the date listed in the academic calendar.

Community Service

Community service is an important component and expectation of the educational experience with the BVCTC School of Nursing. Students are required to complete and document a minimum of 12 hours of community service prior to graduation. Hours should be submitted within the semester in which they were completed. Hours earned during the summer should be submitted by the end of the first week of the fall semester. Community Service Tracking Forms can be found on any Nursing Blackboard course site. Each tracking form must be submitted to the Director of Nursing Education Programs-School of Nursing.

Community service is defined as “Action taken to meet the needs of others and to better the community as a whole” (Campus Compact, 1998). To qualify as a service, the student may not be paid or compensated in any way, nor may the student use any activity required within a course or program of study. The activity must be sponsored by the college, an agency, or an organization.

School Organized Opportunities (e.g., tutoring at the Student Success Center or participating in college-sponsored events such as Alternative Spring Break, American Red Cross blood drives and MLK Jr. Day of Service) Non-School Organized Opportunities (e.g., volunteering at hospitals, animal shelters, libraries or other educational or non-profit agencies)

Pinning

Graduates are encouraged to participate in both Pinning and Graduation. Dress requirements for Pinning include a white nursing uniform and white uniform shoes for both male and female participants and the nursing cap for females. Professional dress code policies in the Nursing Student Handbook apply to the Pinning Ceremony. To participate in graduation the graduate is required to wear graduation regalia.

Progression

Student achievement is assessed using a variety of assessment measures including written examinations and quizzes, individual and team course learning activities, discipline specific computer assisted learning activities, and performance of assessment and clinical psychomotor skills and congruent with the nursing program’s technical standards.

Appropriately leveled rubrics and skills assessment are utilized in each semester to evaluate student behaviors, performance, and assignments.

Students are expected to obtain an average of 80% on all written examinations and quizzes to be assessed as having “satisfactory” achievement of the course content. Students are expected to

obtain a 90% on all Math Competency Exams. Examination and quiz scores will determine nursing course final grades only. Classroom activities and assignments will be evaluated using assessment tools, which will include the *Written Assignment Rubric*, the *Group Interaction Rubric*, the *Presentation Rubric*, the *Nursing Critical Thinking and Judgment Rubric*. Clinical performance will be evaluated using the *Clinical Performance Evaluation Tool (CPET)*
Exception to Program Grading Policy: Nursing 245 is a capstone course. Grades are calculated by exams, assignments, and ATI conversion score.

Medication Calculation Examination

All students returning, or being readmitted, into the third or fourth semester must attend a *mandatory* Test-Taking Strategies and Calculation Seminar prior to the beginning of the next semester. Dates will be scheduled by the Director of Nursing Education Programs in consultation with the Seminar Facilitator. Dates will be communicated to students via the Learning Management System prior to the conclusion of the prior semester and announced in the lecture setting.

Following the mandatory seminar, students will be assigned a minimum of 75 practice questions to complete before their return to the following semester.

A grade of 90% is required to successfully pass “stand alone” drug and dosage calculation examinations in NURS 234 and NURS 244. Every “stand alone” drug and dosage calculation examination will consist of 30 questions and have a 60-minute time limit.

The first drug and dosage calculation exam will be scheduled during the second week of each semester.

If students are unsuccessful on their first attempt at drug and dosage calculation examination in NURS 234 or NURS 244, students must attend mandatory weekly calculation remediation sessions until successfully passing the exam. Date and time of remediation sessions will be determined by the Seminar Facilitator.

The second drug and dosage calculation exam will be scheduled during the eighth week of the semester.

The third, and final, drug and dosage calculation exam will be scheduled as determined by the Seminar Facilitator.

If unsuccessful on the third attempt, a grade of “F” will be entered in the clinical component of NURS 234 or NURS 244.

To ensure client safety, students cannot pass medications in the clinical setting until they have passed a drug and dosage calculation exam for each semester.

Fourth semester students cannot begin their preceptor experience until they have successfully passed their dosage calculation exam. An “Incomplete” in the course will not be assigned. A grade of “F” will be assigned in the clinical component of NURS 244.

Examinations

Since class attendance is required, students are expected to be present at the time of the examination and quizzes. Quizzes for courses may be scheduled or impromptu, but examinations will always be scheduled.

Contact your instructor **PRIOR** to the exam or quiz as directed in the specific course syllabi. If the instructor is not available when you call, leave a phone message on the answering machine, and notify the instructor by e-mail. If you fail to notify the instructor prior to the exam, you may not be permitted to make up the exam.

Student access to exams is limited to the periods of testing and scheduled reviews in secure environments. Tests are SECURE materials and the property of the BVCTC Nursing Program. It is illegal to reproduce these materials in any form, to have access to secure materials outside of the classroom, or to release secure materials or testing information to students or any other individual or group.

Students taking examinations in Student Services will decide with the course instructor on an appropriate time for the student to schedule to take exams. It is the responsibility of the student to make testing arrangements with Student Services and to notify the instructor.

A make-up exam must be taken within three days of returning to class. Make-up exams will cover the same course content but may have different questions or format. *Refer to individual nursing course syllabi for make-up exam policies.*

Exam Review Policy

Students who score below 80% on any given exam are encouraged to meet with faculty to review the exam. Students will have one week from the exam date to review their respective exam. If students would like to review an exam, they will need to e-mail the faculty member to schedule an appointment either in person, through Zoom, or Teams. Scheduling an exam review is the responsibility of the student, not faculty.

Assignments

Assignments are due on the date and time identified by the course calendar/instructor unless prior arrangements are made with the instructors. Late assignments will only be accepted by the instructor if the student has an excused absence (Refer to Make-Up Policy for Examination and Quiz). Assignments will be worth no more than 5% of the course grade. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Students failing to submit an assignment will not receive points for the assignment. *Please note the Capstone course does not follow this Assignment Policy.*

Academic Dishonesty

Students at BVCTC are expected to maintain academic honesty when completing all learning activities. BVCTC has zero tolerance regarding academic dishonesty.

Students will violate academic honesty when:

1. Committing plagiarism by representing the work of others as their personal work,
2. Failure to use quotation marks when directly quoting from the work of others,
3. Failure to document the ideas of others if paraphrasing a citation,
4. Inventing or providing false documentation of sources,
5. Altering the record of any grade or grade book,
6. Cheating on tests,
7. Sharing test content with other students who are to take the test,
8. The use of notes, text messaging systems, or sources of information during tests of any kind,
9. Unauthorized possession of a test or portion of a test prior to, during, or after completion of an examination or quiz,
10. Stealing, modifying, or destroying materials which other students may need access to such as computer discs or library material,
11. Failure to report patient-care errors to the instructor in the clinical setting,
12. Falsifying all or part of any clinical record,
13. Copying and removing client records from the clinical setting,
14. Failure to maintain client confidentiality, and
15. Stealing drugs or clinical agency supplies.
16. The above list of offenses is not intended to be fully exhaustive of all potential instances of academic dishonesty. Faculty and administrators may identify cases of academic dishonesty not herein contemplated.

A violation of this policy will result in the initiation of the Academic Dishonesty Policy found in the BVCTC College Catalog.

Students in violation of this policy will be dismissed from the BVCTC Nursing Program and receive the grade of an “F” for the course. Students dismissed from the nursing program for academic dishonesty are not eligible to reapply for readmission.

ATI Mastery Exam

1. Minimal competency benchmarks:

- Level 2 on Content Mastery exams
- 91% likelihood of passing NCLEX on RN Comprehensive Exam

2. Use of Content Mastery Exams in didactic courses:

Content Mastery Exam will count as 10% of the course grade.

Test 1 (First attempt):

- Level 3 score = 100/100 points
- Level 2 score = 90/100 points
- Level 1 or below = 0 points, expected remediation, and required retesting

Retest (Replaces first attempt score):

- Level 2 score and above = 80/100 points
- Level 1 score = 70/100 points
- Below level 1 = 60/100 points

Required Remediation for both exams:

- Follow remediation plan per faculty guidance. The grade of 0/100 is placed into the gradebook until remediation is complete by due date.
- Level 1 score: Complete ATI- Nurse Logic – Testing and Remediation
- Below Level 1 score: Complete ATI- Nurse Logic – Testing and Remediation and meet individually with faculty.

3. Absence from ATI exams:

- Make-up dates cannot be scheduled for ATI exams.
- If the student misses Test 1, the student will earn 0 points and will take the test on the retest date.

Scoring on the retest will be:

- Level 3 score = 100/100 points
- Level 2 score = 90/100 points
- Level 1 score = 70/100 points
- Below level 1 = 60/100 points

ATI Exit Exam

The ATI Exit Exam for the nursing program is administered during the fourth semester. Students must meet the 90% (71.3% - 71.9%) benchmark on the ATI RN Comprehensive Predictor examination. Students will be given a second attempt at the examination. If students do not meet the 90% benchmark on the second attempt, they will need to purchase and complete an NCLEX remediation product of the nursing faculty's choice. Students are allowed to graduate and participate in Pinning, but their transcripts will not be sent to the WV Board of Nursing until the Nursing Program Chair determines the student has met set requirements.

ATI Remediation

Students will not be eligible to apply for readmission the following semester if ATI remediation is not completed. All deadlines for readmission must be met. A grade of "0" will be entered under final exam grade if remediation is not completed.

Final Grade Appeal

The grade appeal process should only be initiated if the student believes the grade in the nursing course or clinical was a result of capricious, arbitrary, or discriminatory evaluation by the instructor. Students wishing to appeal a final grade in the lecture or clinical portion of a nursing course must follow the procedure outlined in the BVCTC Catalog under Academic Policy, *Grade Appeal*. The appeal process must be initiated in writing within 24 hours after receiving notification of the failing grade in either lecture or clinical portion of the nursing course. The student must notify the following: the course instructor, Program Chair, and the Vice-President of Academic Affairs. The appeal letter must identify and include evidence of a capricious, arbitrary, or discriminatory act by the instructor. If a student initiates the appeal process for a failing clinical grade during the nursing course due to unsafe practice, breach of confidentiality, falsification of documentation, or violation of program or the clinical facility's policies, the student will be allowed to continue in the didactic portion of the nursing course during the appeal process. An alternative clinical learning experience will be provided during the appeal process. The appeal process will render a decision of appeal granted or appeal denied. If the appeal is

granted, the student will be allowed to progress, with or without stipulations, to ensure student success in the current or following nursing courses. If the appeal is denied, the student receives the nursing course or clinical grade documented by the faculty. The appeal process can be found online in the BVCTC College Catalog.

Withdrawal/Reinstatement

A leave of absence for one semester will be considered a withdrawal from the Nursing program and require formal readmission. The student must submit a readmission letter, which should clearly define the need for the absence and a plan for returning to the nursing program. Readmitted students will be required to take all nursing courses in the level in which they are admitted.

Students who return to a subsequent class for any reason must meet the curriculum requirements currently in effect for the class with which they will graduate.

Requirements for Readmission to the Nursing Program

Any student who “drops out” of the Nursing Program, regardless of the reason, is subject to readmission criteria established by the Nursing Department; meeting the criteria does not guarantee there will be space available for readmission. Students may write a letter to the Nursing Program Chair requesting readmission the next semester following their withdrawal.

Readmitted students that were unsuccessful in clinical, students that withdrew, or students returning in one year will meet with a full-time nursing faculty member (student will be contacted via email) to demonstrate skill competency in the laboratory. Students will have one attempt to successfully pass skills competency check-off with a minimum of 80% to return to the nursing program.

Skills included in the Skills Competency Checkoff's are:

- Wet-to-dry dressing change
- Foley catheter insertion
- NG insertion
- Tracheostomy care
- Sterile Suctioning

Students who have been unsuccessful twice or who have withdrawn twice must wait 5 years to reapply; this includes students who have been admitted in the first semester twice.

Option To Apply to PN Program

Students who are unsuccessful twice in the ADN program are eligible to apply for admission to the PN program.

Dismissal/Permanent Suspension from Program

Reasons for dismissal/permanent suspension from BridgeValley Community and Technical College Associate Degree Nursing Programs include but are not limited to the following:

1. Academic or clinical dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating, falsifying records, etc.).
2. Infractions of academic standards, rules, and regulations (e.g., behavioral expectations, required grade point average, course failures/withdrawal, etc., as stated in Student Nurse Handbook and college catalog).
3. Failure to meet clinical objectives by conducting oneself in a manner considered harmful and/or unsafe concerning patient safety.
4. Failure to uphold the standards for professional nursing practice as identified in Series 9 and 10 of the Legislative Rules for the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses.
5. Violation of the “Professional Standards and Safe Clinical Practice Standards.”

Recommendation to dismiss/permanently suspend a student from BridgeValley Community and College Associate Degree Nursing Programs may be made by a faculty member or members. This recommendation should be forwarded to the respective school of nursing’s Nursing Program Director/Chairperson/Dean.

Final decision for program dismissal/permanent suspension shall be made by the Program Director/Chairperson/Dean of the school of nursing at which the student is enrolled. Written notice shall be sent to the student with further notifications consistent with the School of Nursing’s procedures. Dismissal/permanent suspension from the Nursing Program renders the student ineligible for readmission.

When the decision to dismiss/permanently suspend a student from the Nursing Program has been made, the student may choose to institute an academic appeal. The appeal process in the BVCTC Student Handbook will be followed.

Series 9 & 10

Professional Conduct of Nursing Students

The State of West Virginia has Code and Legislative Rules governing Registered Professional Nurses. Title 19 Series one is Policies and Criteria for the Evaluation and Accreditation of Colleges, Department or Schools of Nursing. This series states that “Students shall adhere to the standards for professional conduct as stated in the board’s rule, Standards for Professional Nursing Practice, 19CSR10, and are subject to disciplinary action by the board as stated in the board’s rule, Disciplinary Action, 19CSR9.

Attendance

Attendance/Absenteeism

Lecture: Punctual attendance is required. Students must contact faculty by phone in the event they will be absent and follow up with an email to the team. The student is responsible for all material covered during the missed class. Patterns of absenteeism will result in the student being placed on a learning contract and remain a part of the student file through graduation. **There will be a 10% deduction off the final grade for three or more absences.** When two absences occur, student services will be notified via Early Alert as well as the Director of the School of Nursing.

Tardiness

The student will notify the instructor by phone prior to being late to clinical and follow-up with an email the course instructors. The student will receive a verbal warning for the first late occurrence. If the student is late a second time they will need to follow up with their instructor and course instructors to determine semester protocol. *See course syllabi for specific course policies.*

Inclement Weather

In the case of inclement weather, check the main internet page for BridgeValley Community & Technical College, and/or tune in to local radio stations to determine if campus-wide classes have been cancelled. Students are encouraged to enroll in BridgeValley Connect. However, your personal safety should always be taken into consideration when traveling to and from regular class meetings as well as clinical assignments- notify the instructor in these circumstances following course syllabi.

Service Members

The rigor of the nursing program requires all students be present for all lectures and clinical experiences. Active service members absent for clinical, or lecture, involuntarily will present written orders to faculty in advance. Faculty will evaluate each case individually assisting the service member to fulfill obligations and be successful in the nursing program. In the event the length of the absence negatively effects the student's potential for success, faculty may recommend the student withdraw from the current semester.

Students

Electronic Devices

Unauthorized electronic devices are expected to be turned off during all class, on-campus laboratory, and clinical site experiences since they interrupt the concentration and learning of the student. In the event of an emergency, students are to notify the instructor of the situation and maintain the cell phone or device in the "silent" mode. The student may then leave the classroom to communicate with the connecting party. All phone conversations should occur only outside the classroom setting. This includes text messaging as well. Cell phones are frequently prohibited in many clinical agencies due to the equipment disruption that may occur. Students should follow the policies of the agencies as per cell phone use. Refer to nursing course syllabi for policies on cell phones during class. The use of cellular telephones is prohibited during testing. Recording of lectures is prohibited.

Social Media

(Includes, but not limited to blogs, discussion forums, online collaborative information that is accessible to internal and external audiences, Wikis, syndication feeds, electronic media, video sharing, photo and audio sharing, and social networks like Facebook, Snap Chat, Twitter, and Instagram)

Currently enrolled nursing students may not disclose any confidential or proprietary information of or about BVCTC or any clinical agency used by the nursing program.

Students may not use or disclose patient identifiable information of any kind on any social media. Any information, whether the individual is identified by name or not, may constitute a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the student will be dismissed from the nursing program.

Currently enrolled nursing may not say or suggest that the views and opinions they express related to BVCTC, or any clinical agency creates the impression that they are communicating on behalf or as a representative of BVCTC or the clinical agency.

Students may not publish content to any social media that includes representation of BVCTC or a clinical agency including but not limited to activities while in the role of a student nurse; this includes policies and procedures, performance or financial information, photos or videos taken on the premises, clients and family, management, employees, physicians, or other members of the healthcare team.

Any student found to be non-compliant with this procedure will face disciplinary action up to dismissal from the nursing program.

Shared Governance

Class Representatives

Each class will elect one student to represent them at regularly scheduled nursing faculty meetings. Class representatives serve as a liaison between the class and nursing faculty and will attend specified nursing faculty meetings. Time will be provided on the agenda for representatives to provide input into faculty deliberations. Issues with individual faculty and/or courses should be thoroughly addressed with those involved before bringing them to the faculty meeting. Students have the right and responsibility to participate in the decision-making process and significantly contribute to program assessment. Elections will take place each semester to allow a variety of students to serve. Students may serve two nonconsecutive semesters during their nursing education. Class representatives must be in good standing with the college and nursing program. Class representatives may be relieved from their position at the discretion of the director of nursing program education.

Student Forums

Nursing students in the second and third semesters are encouraged to attend bi-annual Nursing Forums between the Nursing Program Director and students only. Information gathered from forums is utilized for program improvement.

Student Organizations

Student Nurses' Association

BVCTC has an active Student Nurses' Association (SNA) in which all nursing students are invited to join. The SNA's purposes are:

1. Create opportunities for personal and professional growth and in doing so, reinforce the commitment and responsibility that professional nursing has with society.

2. Develop opportunities to be collaborative partners with the communities in which we serve through outreach, volunteer work, and other community service.
3. Participate in fundraising opportunities and making contributions to those in need.

Sigma Tau Nu Honor Society

Membership into Sigma Tau Nu Honor Society is evaluated after completion of the nursing program. Students attaining membership will be presented with an honor cord at the pinning ceremony.

Notification of Address Change or Changes in Health Status

Students with an address change or change in health status will need to obtain the appropriate forms from the Administrative Secretary for the Nursing Department. Forms should be completed and returned within one week.

Personal Data Form

Personal Data Forms will be completed during orientation and at any time deemed pertinent by the Nursing Program Chair.

Student Records

Official student records are maintained in the nursing office.

Transportation

Students are expected to provide their own transportation to and from the clinical facilities and other laboratory experiences. Carpooling is encouraged; however, clinical assignments are made by the nursing faculty.

Zoom and/or Team Etiquette Policy

At the beginning of class, the instructor will remind students of basic Zoom and/or Team etiquette:

- Students will turn on their cameras, preferably in a well-lit area.
- Students will use their real name in order to identify themselves.
- Students will look at the camera in order to make eye contact when they're talking.
- Students can consider closing their camera to conserve bandwidth if there is a lag/freeze.
- Students will mute mics when they aren't contributing.
- Students can ask questions in the chat.
- Students will use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling when using the chat feature.

- Students will speak or write clearly and concisely when asking a question or making a comment.
- Students will participate in breakout sessions when assigned.
- Students will dress appropriately like they would in a face-to-face class.
- Students will assume that lecture is being recorded and be appropriate/professional about the content discussed.

Disclaimer Policy

- The instructor reserves the right to alter the course calendar, syllabus, dates of presentations or exams/ projects, or the way in the material is delivered (in person teaching, live on Zoom and/or Teams, or a recorded lecture posted to Blackboard) throughout the semester to better facilitate the learning process for the student. Students will be notified via Blackboard in the event any change is made to the course.

Resources

Tutoring Services

Tutoring services are available through the Student Success Center.

Library

BVCTC's Digital Library is located on campus in Room 119. The resources of this library are available for BVCTC faculty and students' use, and include a printer, computers, print magazines and textbooks and a digital library hosting over 45,000 reference books and 3,500 full-text academic journals as well as additional resources hosting free eBooks, eMagazines, etc.

BVCTC subscribes to EBSCOhost and the following databases are available for use:

1. Academic Search Premier: A multi-disciplinary database covering topics such as computer sciences, engineering, physics, chemistry, language and linguistics, arts & literature, medical sciences, and ethnic studies. Over 4,600 of the included journals are full text.
2. CINAHL: The *Certified Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature* contains about 70 full text journals, plus legal cases, clinical innovations, critical paths, drug records, research instruments and clinical trials. Topics cover nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, alternative/complementary medicine, consumer health and 17 additional allied health disciplines.

3. Community College eBook Collection: A collection of over 45,000 full text eBooks covering Arts & Architecture, Biographies, Business & Economics, Computer Science, Education, Engineering & Technology, Health & Medicine, History, Law, Literature & Criticism, Math, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Religion, Science, Self-Help, and Social Sciences as well as Study Aids & Language Learning resources.

BVCTC's digital library can be accessed from any location with internet access. All user ID's and passwords are provided through the Resources section of the library page which can be found under the *Academics* drop-down tab.

Library Code of Conduct or Student Library Use Procedures

Please see Board of Governors Policy # 24 *Appropriate Use of Computer Resources* for the complete policy determined by BridgeValley Community and Technical College.

These procedures are an addendum to this policy specified to the use of Room 119 and its facilities.

I. Inappropriate Computer Use & Disruptive Behavior

- a. The librarian has the authority to approach any person using a BVCTC computer or wireless connection in Room 119 to inform them that the content they are viewing/accessing is reasonably inappropriate or unacceptable and to ask that they refrain for continuing to access this content on campus property.
- b. If said person(s) fails to comply with the librarian's request(s), the librarian then has the right to ask them to leave the library and/or to call security if necessary.
- c. Definition of inappropriate or unacceptable use is accessing content the librarian judges to be offensive, obscene, or disturbing to fellow library users. This content may include, but is not limited to, pornography, graphic violence, racial or ethnic slurs, nudity, or offensive language. The librarian has the authority to make the final judgment call in all situations.
- d. Disruptive behavior, including but not limited to, excessive noise or the harassment of fellow patrons or staff is prohibited.

II. Food & Drink

- a. Only beverages contained in pre-approved containers are permitted into the library. Acceptable beverage containers have screw on / sealed lids and are spill proof. All other beverages may be left on the front desk in Room 119.
- b. Food is prohibited in the library.

III. Use of Copyright and Licensed Databases

- a. Appropriate use of copyrighted and licensed material is the responsibility of the user. Any unauthorized use of these materials is prohibited.

IV. Electronic Resource & Internet Use by Minors

- a. In any case in which a minor uses the library facilities of BVCTC, it is the responsibility of the parents or other adult care-providers to monitor computer & internet use by said minors. All BVCTC students are considered adults.

West Virginia University- Learning Resource Center

The Learning Resources Center is located at the West Virginia University Medical WVU Learning Center, Charleston Division, adjacent to CAMC - Memorial Division on the first floor. The resources of this library are available for faculty and students of BVCTC's nursing program through the use of an Alliance for Ventures in Education library card.

Students and faculty may use library resources and copy machines are available for photocopying materials.

The LRC subscribes to over 625 journals, books, and audiovisual materials in the following fields:

1. Medicine, clinical
2. Medical specialties such as pediatrics, surgery, internal medicine
3. Psychology and social medicine
4. Pharmacology
5. Dentistry
6. Nursing

The following indices to the journal literature are available for use in the library:

1. Index Medicus
2. Hospital Literature Index
3. Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature
4. International Nursing Index
5. Psychological Abstracts
6. Dental Literature
7. Dental Abstracts
8. Psychopharmacology Abstracts

The following policies apply to the Alliance for Ventures in Education library card:

1. Application and issuance of card is through WVSU Library.
2. The card is valid for one semester and must be revalidated each semester at WVSU Library.
3. The card provides access to libraries at WVU, its Tech and Charleston campuses, WV State University; and U.C.

4. Alliance card users may borrow only two items concurrently from any one institution.
5. The student ID must be presented at each use of the Alliance card.
6. All libraries have the right to determine which materials may be borrowed and for the length of time.
7. Interlibrary loan requests must be placed through WVSU.
8. Alliance libraries may refuse to loan materials to users who do not maintain good standing.

WV Library Commission

Computer Search Guidelines & Policy

The West Virginia Library Commission Reference Library offers online searching of computerized databases as an extension of its traditional reference services. The databases are computer-readable versions of printed indexes and abstracts. Most of the databases cover a period of 5 to 10 years.

Patrons who want to use the service should call the Reference Library (348- 2045) directly. Results will be mailed to the patron. There is no charge for the service to residents of the state. Because of the costs involved for the Library Commission, however, casual use and use of the service for class assignments is discouraged.

Guidelines and policy for use of the service are as follows:

1. Requests must be made in person or by telephone by the person needing the search. Requests via the Commission's toll-free number are not acceptable as this precludes the necessary interview.
2. Topics must be appropriate for computerized searching. Appropriateness is determined by the WVLC searcher after an interview with the patron.

Topics must require the inter-relationships of at least 2 concepts; (example: A search on "psychological tests" is not appropriate; a search on using a specific psychological test to determine reading readiness is very appropriate.)

Concepts must be represented by single words or brief phrases.

The search must have a clearly defined scope.

Only two computer searches will be permitted for each individual during a 30-day period.

3. The SVLC searchers will determine the databases to be searched and the number of years searched in each database. The number of citations printed will also be at the discretion of the searcher. Normally a patron can expect approximately 35 of the most recent citations on a topic. The patron will be informed of the limitations on his search through inclusion on the printout of the search strategy. Abstracts will be included only on those rare occasions when less than 5, highly relevant citations are retrieved.
4. The equipment used to conduct computer searches will be used only by trained WVLC staff members.



***BVCTC Nursing Program
Student Handbook
Addendum***



BridgeValley Community and Technical College
Consent form for Alcohol, Drug and Substance Testing

I hereby consent for the contracted agency's laboratory to collect blood, urine, or saliva samples from me to conduct the necessary medical tests to determine the presence or use of alcohol, drugs, or other controlled substances. Further, I give my consent for the release of test result(s) and other relevant medical information to the Nursing Program Director for and the Vice President for the Student Services at BVCTC. I also understand that if I refuse to consent, I may be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or dismissal from the nursing program at BVCTC.

AGREED TO:

Student Signature _____

Date _____



BridgeValley Community and Technical College
Nursing Learning Contract

Student _____ B# _____

Instructor _____ Contract Completion Date _____

TERMS OF CONTRACT

_____ is currently enrolled in _____. As the course instructor, I have identified certain clinical, program or course performance areas that you have not met at this time. _____ must achieve a satisfactory level of performance in the areas outlined below by _____. Successful completion of the following is necessary to achieve a passing grade in each course enrolled.

Learning Objective	Strategies and Resources Required to Meet the Objective	Evidence	Criteria for Evaluation and Means of Validation

--	--	--	--

Our signatures below indicate that we are in agreement with the intents / objectives / competencies and identified plans and strategies.

Failure to meet the terms of the Learning Contract or unsatisfactory performance in relation to this Learning Contract will result in failure of the course or dismissal from the program.

It is expressly understood that successful completion of this Learning Contract does not automatically result in successful completion of the course. All related intents / objectives / competencies of the course must be met by the end of the course (includes written and verbal feedback discussed at the final evaluation) in order to pass the course.

Student Signature _____ Date Signed _____

Nursing Faculty Signature _____ Date Signed _____

Nursing Program Director Signature _____ Date Signed _____



**Community Service/
Nursing Program**

Student Name: _____ **B #:** _____

Community service is an important component and expectation of the educational experience with the BVCTC School of Nursing. Students are required to complete and document a **minimum of 12 hours** of community service prior to graduation. Hours should be submitted within the semester in which they were completed. Hours earned during the Summer should be submitted by the end of the first week of the Fall semester. Each tracking form can be found on any Nursing Blackboard course site. **Each tracking form must be submitted to the Director of Nursing Education Programs-School of Nursing.**

Community service is defined as “Action taken to meet the needs of others and to better the community as a whole” (Campus Compact, 1998). To qualify as a service, the student may not be paid or compensated in any way, nor may the student use any activity required within a course or program of study. The activity must be sponsored by the college, an agency, or an organization.

School Organized Opportunities (e.g. tutoring at the Student Success Center or participating in college-sponsored events such as Alternative Spring Break, American Red Cross blood drives and MLK Jr. Day of Service)

Non-School Organized Opportunities (e.g. volunteering at hospitals, animal shelters, libraries or other educational or non-profit agencies)

Date of Service: _____

Name of sponsoring agency and/or event: _____

Location: _____

Service Coordinator/Agency Contact Name: _____

Service Coordinator/Agency Contact Information: Email: _____

Phone _____

Hours Served: _____

Please describe the main type of activity you completed:

.....
Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Email: _____ Expected Graduation Date: _____

Please return this form to the Dean of Nursing and EMS, B. Kent Wilson.



Coronavirus Policies for the BVCTC School of Nursing are in effect during the worldwide pandemic. The following policies are a response to the novel coronavirus outbreak in an effort to ensure student safety, stop the spread of the virus, and ensure students meet course and program objectives.

Screening Guidelines:

BVCTC School of Nursing complies with BVCTC's coronavirus policies and CDC guidelines. Please refer to the BVCTC webpage for policies and additional information:
<http://www.bridgevalley.edu/coronavirus>

Policies:

I. COVID-19 Vaccination

BVCTC School of Nursing complies to clinical guidelines by requiring proof of the primary series of COVID-19 vaccinations to be qualified as fully vaccinated. Students are encouraged to complete the booster vaccine(s) when eligible.

II. Wearing Masks

BVCTC School of Nursing complies with clinical guidelines by requiring mask use in the clinical setting. Mask use on campus may be mandated at the discretion of faculty members.



Nursing Student Handbook Acknowledgement of Receipt and Agreement to Comply:

**BridgeValley Community and Technical College
Nursing Program Student Handbook**

I have read, reviewed, understand, and agree to comply with the contents of the Nursing Student Handbook.

Date: _____

Signature

Printed Name

16 Month Accelerated Option Request

Make sure your typed application has your name, ID number, and contact information. The signed application can either be dropped off with Tammy Morris; or scanned and emailed to Tammy Morris at Tammy.Morris@BridgeValley.edu and Kent Wilson at Kent.Wilson@BridgeValley.edu.

The typed application should be received by mid-term of the Spring semester. Applications will be reviewed and approved by nursing faculty - the number of students admitted may be limited due to space availability.

Name: _____ B# _____

Email: _____ Current GPA: _____

Course	Grade	Final Exam Score
1st Semester Students		
NURS 132		
NURS 133		
NURS 134		
2nd Semester Students		
NURS 125		
NURS 142		
NURS 144		
General Education		
ENGL 101		
BIOL 201		
BIOL 202		
PSYC 201		
BIOL 230		
BIOL 245		

Signature: _____

Date: _____