

# **VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



## **Associate of Applied Science Nursing Program**

### **Nursing STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021-2022**

**Virginia Community College System common curriculum and policies for all AAS  
Nursing programs are represented in the student handbook.**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This Handbook presents information and policies of the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing Program (AAS Nursing Program) at Virginia Western. All enrolled students are subject to the current handbook. You will be asked to sign a statement annually that verifies you have read its contents and agree to comply with the terms and conditions contained herein while a student in the AAS Nursing Program.

It is important to understand a career in nursing requires discipline, commitment, mature behavior, a professional attitude, and responsible decision making. Flexibility in meeting the rigorous requirements of the AAS Nursing Program is needed by all program participants. Prepare for unexpected changes that may require adjustments to your personal schedule in order to meet program requirements. Clinical, lab or class hours scheduled during evenings, nights or weekends are possible.

If you have challenges, please do not hesitate to consult your nursing faculty advisor, course instructors, or the program director for assistance. The nursing faculty team members are committed to helping you acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities to become a competent nurse. We look forward to working with you in the accomplishment of your educational goals.

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### ***Mission for the Concept Based Curriculum***

The mission of the Virginia Western nursing program is to provide affordable, community access to quality nursing education. The Virginia Western nursing program prepares qualified students to provide safe, competent, entry-level nursing care in 21<sup>st</sup> century healthcare environments. Students are prepared to meet the ever-increasing complexity of the healthcare needs of the citizens of Virginia.

### ***Philosophy - Concept Based Curriculum***

The Virginia Western nursing faculty ascribe to the core competencies for nursing and nursing education. While firmly based in science and the arts, the essence of nursing is caring and compassionate patient centered care. Ethical standards, respect for individual dignity, and consideration of cultural context are implicit in the practice of patient centered care. The nurse advocates for patients and families in ways that promote self-determination, integrity, and ongoing growth as human beings. Nursing care is provided in collaboration with the patient, the family and members of the health care team. The nurse displays a spirit of inquiry by examining evidence to improve quality of care, promote safety and improve patient outcomes. Nursing judgment is integral to making competent decisions related to the provision of safe and effective nursing care. Information management essential to nursing care is communicated via a variety of technological and human means.

### ***Shared Beliefs***

AAS Nursing Program faculty are dedicated to improving the health of our community through development of future nurses who are distinguished as safe, competent professionals, dedicated to the highest standards of care. Faculty believe in the potential of adults to learn and master new knowledge. To that end, faculty engage students in classroom, lab, and clinical settings to help students apply and master new knowledge, necessary to prepare them for the nursing profession. Faculty believe lifelong learning is required of all nurses who have stewardship in the care of our community. Students are encouraged to acquire a firm educational foundation for practice that continues throughout their careers from novice to expert nurses.

### ***Nursing Profession Code of Ethics***

The profession of nursing requires students and graduates to provide quality, safe, nursing care while adhering to ethical obligations unique to the profession. The AAS Nursing Program recognizes and adheres to the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses (2015). Students of the program are expected to be familiar with and abide by the code. For detailed information, visit the American Association of Nurses website at [www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org).

The code of ethics document can be accessed at <http://nursingworld.org/DocumentVault/Ethics-1/Code-of-Ethics-for-Nurses.html>

### ***Student Learning Outcomes for the Concept Based Curriculum***

Students will be able to:

1. Provide client centered care promoting therapeutic relationships, caring behaviors, and self-determination across the lifespan for diverse populations.
2. Practice safe nursing care that minimizes risk of harm across systems and client populations.
3. Demonstrate nursing judgment through the use of clinical reasoning, the nursing process, and evidence-based practice in the provision of safe, quality care.
4. Practice professional behaviors that encompass the legal/ethical framework while incorporating self-reflection, leadership and a commitment to recognize the value of lifelong learning.
5. Manage client care through quality improvement processes, information technology, and fiscal responsibility to meet client needs and support organizational outcomes.
6. Demonstrate principles of collaborative practice within the nursing and interdisciplinary teams fostering mutual respect and shared decision-making to achieve stated outcomes of care.

### ***End of Program Outcomes***

Virginia Western is committed to the overall excellence of its AAS Nursing program through the following end-of-program outcomes:

1. Kaplan Testing and Clinical Evaluation methodologies will demonstrate that Virginia Western AAS Nursing students have achieved each end of program student learning outcome (EPSLO).
2. Virginia Western AAS Nursing program will attain a National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) ***pass rate of 80% on all first-time test-takers during the same 12-month period.***
3. Virginia Western AAS Nursing program will demonstrate a program ***completion rate of at least 65%*** within three years of each student's admission to the nursing program.
4. Virginia Western anticipates that ***90% of graduates seeking employment will acquire nursing jobs as RNs within 12 months of graduation.***

### ***Accreditation/Approval***

**The associate nursing program at Virginia Western Community College located in Roanoke, Virginia is accredited by the:**

**Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)**  
Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)  
3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400 Atlanta, GA 30326  
(404) 975-5000

The most recent accreditation decision made by the ACEN Board of Commissioners for the associate nursing program is *Initial Accreditation*.

View the public information disclosed by the ACEN regarding this program at <http://www.acenursing.us/accreditedprograms/programSearch.htm>

***The program is approved by the Virginia Board of Nursing.***

Virginia Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center  
9960 Maryland Drive, Suite 300,  
Henrico, VA 23233-1463  
<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Nursing/>

### ***Expected Qualities for Success***

The following lists of abilities/qualities, with or without reasonable accommodation, are necessary for success in the Nursing Program. Reasonable accommodation is a modification or adjustment that enables an otherwise qualified individual with a disability to have the opportunity to attain the same level of performance or to enjoy equal benefits and privileges that are available to a similarly situated individual without a disability. A reasonable accommodation is defined on a case-by-case basis and must take into consideration:

1. Specific abilities and functional limitations of the individual
2. Specific functional requirements of the nursing program

Reasonable accommodations are directed toward providing an equal educational and/or employment opportunity for the disabled individual while providing for the safety of the individual, patient, and agency staff.

### ***Physical Functioning***

- Tolerate sitting, standing, bending, reaching, stooping, and walking for long periods of time

- Lift, carry, push, pull, or support objects, extremities or persons: i.e., during ambulation, transferring from bed to chair, turning, moving and lifting patients in bed, supporting arms or legs
- During treatments or procedures and lifting children onto chairs, beds, scales or examining tables. (50 – 100 lbs. occasionally, 25 – 50 lbs. frequently and 10 – 25 lbs. constantly).
- Moving efficiently enough to meet the needs of several patients in a timely fashion.
- Demonstrate motor coordination and manual dexterity required to handle and operate equipment (i.e., wheelchairs, beds, IV pumps, blood pressure cuffs, computer keyboard, syringes), open packages and perform procedures.
- Accurately hear physiological and environmental sounds, i.e., lung sounds, heart rate, blood pressure, bowel sounds, infusion pump alarms, etc.
- Accurately distinguish colors, odors, body language and body alignment, i.e., skin color, drainage, nonverbal communication, and position of a person.
- Maintain optimal physical well-being.

#### *Cognitive Skills*

- Accurately calculate basic algebraic equations required to determine exact medication dosages, solutions, IV drop rates and IV flow rates.
- Collect and interpret data for purposes of planning and evaluation of patient care.
- Accurately and efficiently interpret and communicate information in English, both written and spoken. For example:
  - responding to physician's orders;
  - reading and recording information;
  - directing assistive staff.
- Organize, prioritize and plan work in a logical sequence.

#### *Psycho/Social Skills*

- Cope effectively while working in a stressful environment using patience, tact and flexibility.
- Communicate therapeutically and effectively with others.
- Respect persons of diverse cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds.
- Demonstrate caring, empathy, accountability, honesty, integrity and a neat, clean professional appearance.
- Maintain an alert level of consciousness and orientation to time, place and person at all times.
- Maintain optimal mental well-being

#### *Concept Based Curriculum*

The AAS Nursing Program follows the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) common nursing curriculum utilizing 49 different concepts in four semesters of nursing courses. The curriculum flows from simple to complex concepts and covers health and illness, client

recipient, and professional nursing concepts with integration of lifespan across the curriculum. Students are required to engage in the classroom, lab and clinical courses as active learners. Preparation to class, termed “tickets to enter or TTEs” are required of all enrolled students. The table below illustrates the sequence of courses required in the curriculum.

Students may access detailed course descriptions through the college’s course catalog at <http://catalog.virginiawestern.edu/>

Course Number	Course Title	Theory Hours (1:1)	Skills Lab Credit/ Clock Hours (1:3)	Clinical Credit/ Clock Hours (1:3)	Total Course Credit
<b>Prerequisites</b>					
BIO 141	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	3	1 (45 clock hours)		4
ENG 111	Composition I	3			3
PSY 230	Developmental Psychology	3			3
SDV 101*	Introduction to Health Professions	2			2
<b>First Semester (Fall)</b>					
Bio 142	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	3	1 (45 clock hours)		4
NSG 100	Introduction to Nursing Concepts	3		1 (45clock hours)	4
NSG 106	Competencies for Nursing Practice	1	1 (45 clock hours)		2
NSG 130	Professional Nursing Concepts	1			1
NSG 200	Health Promotion and Assessment	2	.78 (35 clock hours)	.12 (10 clock hours)	3
<b>Second Semester (Spring)</b>					
BIO 150	Microbiology	3	1 (45 clock hours)		4
NSG 152	Health Care Participant	2		1 (45clock hours)	3
NSG 170	Health/Illness Concepts	4	.3(10 clock hours)	1.7 (80 clock hours)	6
<b>Third Semester (Fall)</b>					
Elective**	See below	3			3
NSG 210	Health Care Concepts I	3		2 (90clock hours)	5
NSG 211	Health Care Concepts II	3		2 (90clock hours)	5

Fourth Semester (Spring)					
NSG 230	Advanced Professional Nursing Concepts	2			2
NSG 252	Complex Health Concepts	4			4
NSG 270	Nursing Capstone	0		4 (180 clock hours)	4
PHI 220	Ethics	3			3
<p>Nursing courses include 90 lab contact hours and 540 clinical and simulation direct care patient hours.  Total Required Credits for AAS Nursing Program Degree: <b>65 Credits</b>  Credit hour definition as followed by Virginia Western can be found at the following site  <a href="https://www.viriniawestern.edu/about/policies/I-20.php">https://www.viriniawestern.edu/about/policies/I-20.php</a>  * or previously, SDV 100 for 1 credit and SDV 101 for 1 credit.  ** ENG 112 (College Comp II), SOC 200 (Principles of Sociology), or HLT 230 (Principles of Nutrition and Human Development)</p>					

### *Advanced Placement for LPN's: LPN to AAS Nursing Program Bridge*

The LPN to AAS Nursing Program Bridge grants advanced placement credits to LPNs who have been admitted to the Virginia Western Community College Associate of Applied Science Nursing program and meet prerequisite requirements. This program is designed to recognize the common competencies of nurses and to bridge the difference between LPN and RN knowledge base, allowing bridge students to finish the AAS Nursing courses within a 12-month period.

Students who are LPNs are required to complete at least 16 hours of general education courses before beginning the LPN to AAS bridge classes. The length of this track depends on the amount of time needed to complete the general education courses. The nursing courses can be completed in one year.

Students who meet the eligibility requirements for the advanced placement option will take NSG 115, NSG 200, and BIO 150 in the summer term and then be eligible to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> year courses and graduate within one (1) academic year with an AAS in Nursing degree. At the successful completion of the summer semester of the LPN to AAS Nursing bridge, the student will be awarded credit for NSG 115 (including an additional 125 clinical hours as permitted by VBON) and credit for the first year of courses: NSG 100, NSG 106, NSG 130, NSG 152, NSG 170.

Additionally, the advanced placement option is available only to students who possess an unrestricted Virginia LPN license. Maintenance of a valid license is required throughout

application and enrollment in the AAS Nursing program. Failure to maintain licensure and/or failure to report a change in licensure status will result in immediate dismissal from the AAS Nursing program. The advanced placement option is not available to applicants who are part of the Virginia Healthcare Monitoring Program.

***LPN to AAS Nursing Bridge Curriculum***

Course Number	Course Title	Theory Hours (1:1)	Skills Lab Credit/Clock Hours (1:3)	Clinical Credit/Clock Hours (1:3)	Total Course Credit
<b>Prerequisites</b>					
BIO 141	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	3	1 (45 clock hours)		4
BIO 142	Human Anatomy & Physiology 2	3	1 (45 clock hours)		4
PSY 230	Developmental Psychology	3			3
ENG 111	Composition I	3			3
SDV 101	Introduction to Health Professions	2			2
<b>Semester 1 (Summer)</b>					
Bio 150	Microbiology	3	1 (45 clock hours)		4
NSG 115	Healthcare Concepts for Transition	3	1 (45 clock hours)	1 (45 clock hours)	5
NSG 200	Health Promotion and Assessment	2	.78(35 clock hours)	.12(10 clock hours)	3
<b>Semester 2 (Fall)</b>					
Elective**	See below	3			3
NSG 210	Health Care Concepts I	3		2 (90clock hours)	5
NSG 211	Health Care Concepts II	3		2 (90clock hours)	5
<b>Semester 3 (Spring)</b>					
NSG 230	Advanced Professional Nursing Concepts	2			2
NSG 252	Complex Health Concepts	4			4
NSG 270	Nursing Capstone	0		4 (180 clock hours)	4
PHI 220	Ethics	3			3

Per Virginia Board of Nursing, LPN students will be awarded 150 clinical hours due to licensure.  
 \*Credit hour definition as followed by Virginia Western can be found at the following site  
<https://www.virginiawestern.edu/about/policies/I-20.php>

\*\* ENG 112 (College Comp II), SOC 200 (Principles of Sociology), or HLT 230 (Principles of Nutrition and Human Development)

*\*Successful completion of NSG 115 includes 11 advance placement credits and 125 clinical hours.*



### ***Estimated Costs of AAS Nursing Program***

Students enrolled in the AAS Nursing Program have costs associated with enrollment and program progression that exceeds tuition. Expenses are subject to change based on tuition increases, costs of textbook bundles and learning resources, vendor fees associated with background checks and drug screening, immunizations, uniforms, and supplies. Students are also required to maintain health insurance at their own expense while in the nursing program. Students may access detailed estimates of current student expenses at <http://www.virginiawestern.edu/academics/health/nursing/cost.php>

### ***Virginia Board of Nursing (VBON) Statutes and Regulations***

The Virginia Board of Nursing (VBON) requires a background check and fingerprinting when applying for nursing licensure. VBON reserves the right to deny licensure to any applicant who has ever been convicted, pled guilty or nolo contendere to the violation of any federal, state or other statute or ordinance constituting a felony or misdemeanor. This may also include any applicant who has a mental, physical or chemical dependency condition that could interfere with his/her ability to safely practice nursing. For more information, visit Virginia Board of Nursing guidance document 90-55 at <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/guidelines/90-55CriminalConvictions.doc>. For additional information about statutes, regulations, nursing scope of practice, and legal definitions for nurses, visit the board of nursing website at: <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Nursing/PractitionerResources/LawsRegulations/>

Successful completion of the AAS Nursing program does not guarantee licensure or eligibility to practice nursing. All successful graduates are subject to application of licensure rules and fees as set forth by the Virginia Board of Nursing. (Licensure requires all program graduates to fulfill all requirements to register and pass the NCLEX-RN.)

### ***National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN)***

Upon successful completion of the AAS Nursing program course of study, students may be eligible to take the NCLEX-RN leading to licensure as determined by VBON. Registration for NCLEX-RN is a two-step process that begins with application to VBON and ends with registration with Pearson VUE through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing

(NCSBN). Fees are required for both steps. Please visit NCSBN website for specific requirements/ information at <https://www.ncsbn.org/nclex-application-and-registration.htm>. Tutorials and candidate bulletin information can be found at <https://www.ncsbn.org/1213.htm>. Students enrolled in their 4<sup>th</sup> semester of the program should review all candidate information and plan to apply for licensure 2 weeks prior to graduation.

### ***Student Resources***

#### ***Computer Lab***

The computer labs are quiet areas for computer use and individual study. Assignments may require students to access computer resources in preparation for class or Nursing Skills Lab (NSL). Please leave the computer lab if you need to use your cell phone. Students wishing to study as small groups are encouraged to use designated areas on campus. The college has several other computer labs for student use. The Guidelines and Policies for Computer Use at Virginia Western are available at [www.viriniawestern.edu/iet/standards.php](http://www.viriniawestern.edu/iet/standards.php).

#### ***Nursing Practice Lab***

Nursing Practice Lab is located HP 354. On specified days and times, it may be necessary to close the nursing practice lab for a nursing class or other events. The nursing practice lab provides computers, study areas, and equipment for skills practice. Students are required to leave the computer lab and practice equipment in order. Appropriately clothed mannequins should be in the bed, linens properly arranged, bed left in lowest, locked position. Failure to maintain an orderly space or any misuse or abuse of equipment will result in loss of access to computer/practice lab.

#### ***Student Printing/copying***

Students are responsible for their own printing and copying. There are multiple printing kiosks located across campus. Location of printing kiosks and additional information can be found at <http://viriniawestern.edu/iet/tech4students/printing/index.php>. A black and white copier is available in Brown Library for student use; copies are 10¢ per page (copier only accepts correct change).

#### ***Academic Link***

The [Academic Link](#) connects students to academic success by providing the academic support that fosters the acquisition of the critical learning skills that make students better

learners. The Link's free services include academic success coaching; one-on-one, group, and online tutoring; and math, science, and writing walk-in tutoring centers. Additional information on the Academic Link and other learning resources can be found at <http://www.virginiawestern.edu/learning/index.php>.

### ***Disability Services/ Accommodations for Learning***

Students with diagnosed/documentated learning or other disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations in the classroom, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is the responsibility of the student to meet with the faculty member and bring the appropriate form(s) from Office of Disability Services (ODS) to request accommodations. It is recommended that this meeting take place as early as possible in the semester to facilitate an optimal learning environment. Please contact the instructor after class or during office hours during the first weeks of the semester to discuss your needs.

Virginia Western is dedicated to the belief that all people should have an equal opportunity to develop and expand their skills and knowledge. The college does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, national origin, political affiliation, age, sex, or disability. The Office of Disability Services will assist in facilitating accommodations for all eligible students. For more information, call 540-857-7286 to schedule an appointment to speak with a Disability Counselor. Additional information:

<https://www.virginiawestern.edu/disability/accommodations.php>.

### ***Nursing Student Records***

The AAS Nursing Program at Virginia Western maintains student records according to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guidelines, VCCS and VBON regulations. Admission and academic files for current students are maintained in locked cabinets within a locked office, ensuring limited access. Current students who wish to access admission or academic files may email the program director to request access to their files. An appointment for record review with the program director or designated faculty will be granted within 14 business days.

Student files for active courses are maintained by nursing faculty. Students wishing to review information in the course file must make this request to their course instructor through email. Faculty office hours may be utilized.

Students may not copy information from any test questions. Student access to tests is limited by the test review policy. A faculty member must be present during review of any record content.

Following completion or withdrawal from the program, all student records are maintained in the program file room for three years. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.viriniawestern.edu/records/righttoprivacy.php>

In addition, all enrolled students are required to register with Castle Branch, a third-party vendor, that tracks compliance with all students' health requirements and any criminal record activity. Access to student virtual health records at Castle Branch is limited to members of the nursing administrative team. Each individual student must maintain and manage their own record to ensure compliance.

### ***Nursing Club***

The Virginia Western Community College Nursing Club provides opportunities for continuing personal and professional growth through community service, mentoring, and collegiality among students. Nursing Club works collaboratively with other Virginia Western clubs to enhance campus culture and improve student life. The Nursing Club is also responsible for planning, fundraising and organizing the graduating class pinning ceremony in collaboration with faculty/ club advisors.

Students meeting certain eligibility requirements may run for positions on the executive board as specified by club by-laws. Club by-laws are accessible to enrolled students through Canvas. Nursing faculty advisors support and coach executive board members in providing leadership for all club functions. Annual club elections will be announced through Canvas and student email. Two students, one from each level, may serve as lead class representatives; Vice-President with one President. In addition, the club president coordinates and leads all club initiatives. Club representatives are invited to a minimum of one faculty meeting per semester to enhance communication between students and faculty. All enrolled students are invited and encouraged to participate in club meetings and functions.

## *Nursing Program Policies and Procedures*

### *Academic Progression*

In order to achieve a passing grade in a nursing course, the student must obtain a score of 80% for the final course grade. The final course grade will be rounded (79.5% rounds to 80%) to reflect final scores. If the final course average is below 80% (after rounding); the student will not progress. All courses, general education and NSG courses, must be completed in sequence prior to moving on to the next semester. Any student that fails to successfully complete a course(s) in a semester, will be dismissed from the program. Students may be eligible to reapply based on overall GPA and subject to the readmission policy for the program.

Any first semester NSG course failure results in reapplication to the nursing program. Students are not guaranteed readmission. The admission process is competitive with limited seats.

If a student drops **NSG 106**, they must also drop **NSG 100** as the student will not be eligible for clinical.

Failure from **NSG 100** but passing **NSG 106** requires a student to re-apply to the program.

If a student withdraws from **NSG 152** or **NSG 170**, they must withdraw from both courses as these courses are co-requisites.

If a student withdraws from **NSG 252** or **NSG 270**, they must withdraw from both courses as these courses are co-requisites.

Failure to pass math competency exams in semesters 1-4 may require a student to withdraw from the program and be subject to readmission policy.

### *Math Competency Exam*

A math competency exam will be administered during **NSG 106**, **NSG 170**, **NSG 210** and **NSG 252**.

The math competency exam administered in **NSG 106** will count as a quiz or test grade in the course. Students failing to achieve 90% on first attempt must remediate with their instructor or the Math Center at Brown Library and retest until 90% is achieved or three attempts are completed. The first test grade will be recorded in Canvas as part of your course grade.

A math competency exam will be administered during the first week of class for **NSG 170**, and **NSG 210**. Students will be given a maximum of three opportunities to achieve 90%.

Students failing to achieve 90% on the first or second math test must remediate at the Math Center at Brown Library or with a faculty member prior to retest. Proof of remediation in the form of an email from Math Center staff or from nursing faculty must be provided to the course instructor for students to be eligible to take the retest. The first math competency exam will count as a quiz or test grade in the course.

Students failing to achieve 90% after remediation and 3 attempts will not be allowed to administer medications in the clinical setting. This may negatively affect clinical evaluation and may result in a clinical failure and dismissal from the AAS Nursing Program.

Students enrolled in **NSG 252** will receive a math competency exam during the first week of class. Students failing to achieve 100% on the first attempt must remediate at the Math Center at Brown Library or with a faculty member prior to retest. Proof of remediation in the form of an email from Math Center staff or from nursing faculty must be provided to the course instructor for students to be eligible to take the retest. The first math competency exam will count as a quiz or test grade in the course. Students failing to achieve 100% after remediation and 3 attempts will not be allowed to administer medications in the clinical setting. This will negatively affect clinical evaluation and may result in a clinical failure and dismissal from the AAS Nursing Program.

### ***Grading, Course Sequence and Retention Policies*** ***Clinical Evaluation and graded clinical work***

All students will be evaluated for clinical performance using a midterm and/ or final evaluation tool in NSG 100, NSG 170, NSG 210, NSG 211, NSG 270. Each tool evaluates student learning outcomes based on student levels 1-4. **See Appendix A.** Students will also submit a self-evaluation midterm and/ or final to their clinical instructor. Students must meet with their clinical instructors during post conference to review their evaluations for joint signatures. Clinical evaluation tools are maintained as part of the student's academic record. Clinical instructors will submit both the student's self-evaluation and the instructor evaluation to course faculty through the clinical coordinator. Due dates for submission for students and faculty are posted in course schedules/syllabi in Canvas.

All clinical evaluations are graded on a pass/fail basis. A passing grade means a student has achieved a "satisfactory" (S) evaluation for each component on the evaluation tool ***by the***

***final evaluation.*** Students who receive "needs improvement" (NI) must meet with clinical faculty to discuss opportunities for improvement. Students who fail to make improvements following (NI) feedback may earn an "unsatisfactory" (U) evaluation. Students that receive "unsatisfactory" (U) during midterm evaluation must meet with clinical instructor, develop a written clinical remediation plan, and complete an Individual Clinical Plan (ICP) blue form. Faculty and students in remediation must meet weekly to discuss and document weekly progress. A copy of the remediation plan must be given to the clinical coordinator and course faculty must be notified within one week. Failure to earn "satisfactory" (S) by the final evaluation results in a failing clinical grade and the student will not pass the course. Students passing the classroom portion of the course but **not** “satisfactory” in clinical by the final evaluation, will earn a course grade of “D”. A student earning a classroom grade of “D” and **not** “satisfactory” in clinical by the final evaluation will earn a course grade of “D”. A student earning a classroom grade of “F” and satisfactory or unsatisfactory in clinical by the final evaluation will receive a final grade of “F”. This will affect academic progression and result in program termination.

Students are required to submit clinical assignments for evaluation as directed by clinical faculty. All clinical assignments are graded on a pass/fail basis. Any student that receives an "unsatisfactory" (U) grade has 3 days to re-submit their assignment for regrading.

If a nursing course contains a classroom, and lab/clinical component, the student must earn a grade of "C" (80%) or higher in the classroom component and must achieve a satisfactory grade in lab/clinical performance in order to receive a passing grade ("C" or higher) for the course. A failing grade ("D" or "F") necessitates repeating all components of the failed course.

**Students must achieve a grade of "C" or better in all nursing program required courses.**

### **BIO 142: Anatomy and Physiology II**

A student who fails to complete BIO 142: Anatomy and Physiology II, with a grade of “C” or better by the end of the first semester of the program will not be able to advance to the second semester.

### **BIO 150: Microbiology**

A student who fails to complete BIO 150: Microbiology, with a grade of "C" or better by end of summer semester following second semester courses will not be able to advance to the 3rd semester of the program.

### **Third Semester Elective (ENG 112, or SOC 200, or HLT 230)**

A student who fails to complete required 3rd semester elective (ENG 112, or SOC 200, or HLT 230) with a grade of “C” or better will not be permitted to advance to the 4th semester of the program.

## **PHI 220: Ethics during Fourth Semester**

A student must pass PHI 220 with a “C” or better to advance to graduation.

### ***Grading Scale for NSG Courses***

92-100 = A

84-91.99 = B

**80-83.99 = C Minimum Passing**

70-79.99 = D

0-69.99 = F

Test grades, assignments and the final exam grades are recorded as is. They will not be rounded. with the exception of the rounding rule exception applies to final grades only. See page 21 under academic progression.

**Any student failing to complete a required course in a semester with a “C” or better will be dismissed from the program and are subject to the readmission policy.**

### ***Student Documentation***

Students must follow faculty instructions for submitting all coursework. It is also the student’s responsibility to maintain their clinical hour sheets and skills-check off sheets throughout each semester. It is recommended to take pictures or make copies of these documents in case duplicates are necessary. Final grades will not be posted until clinical hour sheets and skills check-off sheets are received and reviewed for completion of all course components. Instructions will be given at the end of each semester for collection of this paperwork.

Training is required by clinical partners, annually. Students will be given training packets, check-off lists, and online training to complete. Paperwork must be submitted by deadlines to ensure clinical placement. Incomplete packets will not be accepted and will prevent a student from attending clinical and maintaining placement in the program.

Instructions regarding necessary paperwork and deadlines are communicated via email from the Nursing Support Specialist throughout the summer and school year. It is the student’s responsibility to read and comply with all deadlines. Students are responsible for all program information and instructions sent via email. Only the students’ VCCS email will be utilized for program communication while the student is enrolled.

### ***Attendance Policy***

It is required that students attend ALL classes, Nursing Skills Labs (NSL), simulation lab and clinical experiences.

1. When absence is necessary, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the faculty prior to the absence (by telephone) or email. For clinical absence, follow the instructions given by the clinical instructor for your current rotation. A message may be left on voice mail.
2. Work missed in classroom or lab as a result of extenuating circumstances defined as absences due to illness, mandatory quarantine, personal or family emergency, court dates, or death in the family may be made up if the absences are appropriately documented. Falsification of



documentation is considered a violation of the Virginia Western Student Conduct Policy and may result in dismissal from the program. All other absences are considered unexcused and work missed may not be made up. The student will receive a grade of “0” for any missed work.

3. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the instructor to make up missed learning experiences in all areas of classroom, lab, or clinical.
4. Make up tests are to be taken on the day of return following an absence or a day scheduled by the instructor. Make up tests may be in a different format from the original test. Note: test make up is allowed only when the absence is a result of one of the extenuating situations as noted above. Tests that are missed due to unexcused tardiness are subject to a grade penalty of 10 points.
5. Assignments are due on the day of return following an absence or as arranged by the instructor. Acceptance of late assignments is at the sole discretion of the instructor. A minimum of ten (10) points will be deducted for each day late if late assignment is accepted. The instructor may waive point deductions based on documentation of extenuating circumstances.
6. Business, physician/healthcare provider, and dental appointments should be made after nursing program hours.
7. A healthcare provider’s medical release will be required for the student to return to clinical after an illness or condition resulting in three (3) or more consecutive days of absence.
8. A maximum of three (3) class absences (per course) is permitted. Excessive absenteeism is defined as more than three (3) days of missed classroom or in-person instruction.
9. All scheduled NSL and clinical attendance are mandatory. MISSED CLINICAL OR LAB EXPERIENCE MUST BE MADE UP. Clinical/lab absence in excess of 10% of the schedule may make it impossible for the student to complete the clinical objectives. Therefore, it may result in course failure and dismissal from the program. Decisions regarding failure/dismissal due to excessive absence will be made at the discretion of the Program Director with faculty input.

Note: All make-up NSL, simulation and clinical hours are subject to faculty and facility availability. Make up experiences must be scheduled through the lab and clinical coordinators for the program and are not guaranteed. Failure to complete the lab and clinical course requirements may result in course failure, and/ or removal from the program. In select circumstances, with permission of the director, students may earn an “incomplete” as a course grade. Students must seek faculty advising should questions regarding course completion arise.

The AAS Nursing Program’s attendance policy exceeds that of Virginia Western Community College, which may be viewed at: <https://www.viriniawestern.edu/about/policies/I-47.php>

### ***Tardiness***

Tardiness is not acceptable in classroom, lab, or clinical. Students arriving late to class may not be admitted until break, or as directed by faculty, to maintain the learning environment. Students who arrive late to a test are not permitted into the testing environment and must see the course instructor for further instructions. Students are responsible for any missed classroom

material. The number of times a student is tardy is counted in the total number of days of absences. Three tardies counts as one absence. A tardy is assessed for any lateness following the scheduled beginning of class, lab or clinical. An Individualized Clinical Plan (ICP) or a Laboratory Remediation Plan (LRP) may be initiated by faculty (see Appendix B for ICP). Tardiness to clinical may result in dismissal from the clinical setting and an unexcused clinical absence. Students should notify their clinical instructor immediately if lateness appears imminent due to unforeseen circumstances. It is the discretion of the clinical instructor to allow a student to participate in the clinical experience based on patient assignments, pre-conference requirements, and clinical report.

### ***Test Review Policy***

Test reviews will be in a format determined by course faculty and cover commonly misunderstood concepts and/ or exemplars. Individual test questions are not part of test review. Students participating in reviews are expected to maintain the professional and communication standards outlined in the nursing handbook. Test reviews will be conducted at a date/time determined by course faculty and communicated to all students via Canvas or email announcement. Any student who scores below 80% on a test is encouraged to meet with faculty during office hours for individual performance review. Students may schedule a review of their test performance up to the time of the next administered test. After that time, the test will be filed and unavailable for performance review.

### ***Kaplan Focused/Integrated Review Tests***

Students are required to complete Kaplan Review and Integrated Tests (IT) each semester. These tests are mandatory for successful completion of nursing courses. Focused Review tests may be completed at home or on campus, as these tests are not proctored and may be completed at any time prior to the due date. ITs are scheduled by the nursing program and are proctored in computer labs on campus or via Zoom proctoring from home computers. Testing times will be arranged for the ITs and communicated to students. Test due dates will be as outlined in the class schedule. Remediation is required for Integrated Tests and highly encouraged for Focus Review tests. Students scoring below benchmark on ITs must complete a minimum of 30 minutes of remediation. All ITs are scheduled outside of classroom, lab, and clinical experiences. Failure to complete all tests and remediation will result in incomplete (I) course grade and the student will not be allowed to graduate, or progress in the program.

### ***Annual KAPLAN Review for NCLEX-RN***

Students must attend the week-long Kaplan Live Review seminar held for Virginia Western at the end of the 4th semester (Spring). The schedule for the Kaplan review seminar will be posted in syllabi for 4th semester courses. Attendance is mandatory. Failure to complete this requirement will prevent students from completing 4th semester nursing course, NSG 252, and will delay graduation. A student who does not complete the Kaplan review seminar will earn an incomplete for NSG 252. The Kaplan review course identifies student's readiness for NCLEX-RN. The review course identifies areas of content strength and weaknesses requiring additional study. The course is typically scheduled during final exam week for spring semester.

### ***APA Documentation***

The APA citation system is the expected documentation system for all papers and written assignments in the Nursing Program. The writing center in Brown Library can provide information and specifics regarding citations. Students are reminded that **not all** internet material/sites are acceptable as professional references. Students are encouraged to see faculty for questions regarding documentation for specific assignments.

### ***Social Media Policy***

The use of social media is prohibited in campus classroom, labs, and clinical. In addition, students are prohibited from use of **any** patient/client, clinical agency, or Virginia Western information, data, or images in any social media. Students are never permitted to photograph patients or patient information and cameras are not permitted in any patient care areas where a student is assigned to clinical. Social media includes, but is not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, Instagram, Myspace, etc. Students are required to maintain confidentiality and privacy laws. Failure to abide policy and laws may result in termination from the program, and/ or legal liability. The AAS Nursing Program subscribes to NCSBN and VBON guidance regarding social media. Students are responsible to review and follow information in both links provided: NCSBN

[https://www.ncsbn.org/NCSBN\\_SocialMedia.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/NCSBN_SocialMedia.pdf) and VBON

[https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/guidelines/90-48\\_SocialMedia.doc](https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/guidelines/90-48_SocialMedia.doc)

### ***Grievance Policy and Procedure***

A grievance is a formal written allegation by a student charging unlawful or unfair treatment with respect to the application of laws, rules, policies, procedures, or regulations under

which the college operates. Each student has the right to express an opinion, make suggestions, and submit a grievance. Students are expected to follow the chain of command as defined in the grievance policy. Additional information may be found at:

<https://www.viriniawestern.edu/about/policies/I-19.php>

### ***Student Conduct***

Students are required to adhere to Virginia Western's Policy on Student Conduct that includes definitions and requirements of academic integrity:

<http://www.viriniawestern.edu/about/policies/I-21.php>

A student who is found in violation of academic integrity standards (as set forth in the college policy) during a test or any graded assignment will receive a grade of "0" for the test or assignment. Violations of student conduct and academic integrity standards are subject to faculty committee review. A second student conduct or academic integrity offense while enrolled in the nursing program will result in termination from the program and a final course grade of "F".

The highest standards of student conduct are required when attending clinical and must be maintained for participation in the nursing program.

### ***Background Checks and Employment Verification***

Per contract agreements with clinical affiliates, all nursing students are required to complete a Criminal History and Sex Offender Crimes against Minors Background Check prior to beginning the nursing program. The background check also includes review of GSA or OIG exclusion lists, US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control list or Specially Designated Nationals. Employment verification indicates students are eligible for rehire. The fee for the background check will be paid by the student directly to the approved vendor. Nursing students are personally responsible for completing the required background check. If the student feels a positive finding on a background check was in error, it is the student's responsibility to resolve this issue with the vendor.

The Program Director will review all positive findings on background checks and will determine whether the student will be able to enter the program. Background clearance and employment verification may preclude a student from attending clinical rotations and prevent the student from meeting the program learning outcomes. Disclosure of background check findings to clinical partners is done by the student to the clinical partner and may be required for a student

to enter the clinical setting. In such instances, students may refuse disclosure which would require meeting with the program director to address clinical placement and continuance in the program. A student's inability to attend clinical will result in course failure and an inability to continue in the program.

If there are new criminal charges pending against a student while enrolled in the nursing program, the student is responsible for reporting these to the Program Director immediately. Due to clinical affiliation agreements, pending charges may interfere with the student's ability to attend clinical experiences. If faculty become aware of a new criminal conviction without notification by the student during a student's enrollment in the nursing program, the student may be dismissed from the program immediately.

### ***Drug Screening***

Clinical site affiliates require that students submit to urine drug screening. Contracts with specific clinical affiliates dictate the frequency of urine drug screening for students to be approved to enter clinical sites. Drug screen issues (positive screens) must be resolved between the student and vendor. If the issue remains unresolved, the student may be dismissed from the program. The student may reapply for admission to the program in future admission cycles.

**Note:** Any student failing to complete required program/ clinical documentation for admission, return, or progression to next semester will be ineligible to attend clinical. Failure to attend clinical may result in course failure and dismissal from the nursing program. It is the student's responsibility to adhere to posted deadlines for all clinical requirements to maintain placement in the program. Frequency of drug screening is determined by the clinical affiliates and may be annual, prior to each semester, or random.

### ***Add/drop Courses***

Students are advised to confer with the course instructor, nursing faculty advisor, or program director before adding, dropping, or withdrawing from any course while enrolled in the Nursing Program. Students who drop or withdraw from any course are advised to complete an exit interview with their faculty advisor and/or Program Director. If a student withdraws from all nursing (\*NSG) courses, he/she will not retain a seat within the AAS Nursing Program. Mitigating circumstances will be reviewed with the Program Director on an individual basis to discuss student eligibility to return to the program. Students receiving financial aid are strongly

advised to meet with a financial aid officer prior to dropping a course(s) or withdrawal from the program to determine the impact this may have on immediate and future aid eligibility.

### ***Course Failure***

A student failing to attain a grade of “C” or better in a core nursing course (NSG) may repeat the nursing course once if eligible per the readmission policy. If a student fails to obtain grade of “C” or better in any nursing course throughout the program, they will be dismissed from the program and subject to the readmission policy.

A student who has been dropped from the program because of a failing grade in a Natural Science course may apply for readmission after the course has been completed successfully (C or better.)

### ***Readmission Policy***

The student who fails a nursing course must submit in writing a request for readmission. Requests are to be made to the Nursing Program Director within two (2) weeks after the final course grade is posted. The request must identify strategies to increase chances of success in the program. A student is eligible to re-apply to the program only once when dismissed for academic failure. Students who leave the program for additional reasons are also subject to the readmission policy and will be considered for readmission by the nursing admissions committee. Readmission must be achieved within 12 months of initial program failure or departure. If not accepted under the readmission policy- a student must reapply to the program and begin the program of study from the first semester if accepted for a second attempt.

Students who drop a course must also request readmission within two weeks of the last day of the semester. If a student drops a course after the eighth (8th) week of the semester with a failing grade, it will be considered a course failure.

The student’s GPA must remain 2.5 or greater to be considered for readmission.

The Program Director will notify the student in writing by either letter or e-mail of the decision to re-enter prior to the registration period for the applicable semester. If the student is denied readmission to the program and wishes to further address this issue, an appeal in writing must be submitted within ten days to the Dean of Nursing.

If readmission is approved, criteria to be met prior to readmission will be outlined in the acceptance letter.

### ***Tuition Refund***

Students enrolled in the AAS Nursing Program are subject to Virginia Western's policy on tuition refunds. The college's policy can be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.virginiawestern.edu/about/policies/I-17.php>

### ***Communication***

Communication between, student peers, faculty, patients, families, staff, clinical partners, and others must demonstrate courtesy and respect. Slang, vulgar terms, curse words, or rude, aggressive, or abusive speech are not permitted.

Students must use Virginia Western student email address to contact faculty. Faculty are also available through office hour appointments and office phone numbers. Students receive communication through Canvas announcements and Canvas course files. Students are encouraged to check email/ Canvas daily for information. Students are responsible for all information communicated through Canvas and student email.

Faculty will respond to phone calls or email communication within 48 hours. Requests after 5pm on Friday, will be addressed on the following Monday by 5pm. Requests over a holiday will be addressed 48 hours following the holiday.

### ***Name/Address or Phone Number Change***

A student who has name, address, email or phone number changes must notify the Nursing Support Specialist, Ms. Carrie Speck, Email: [Cspeck@virginiawestern.edu](mailto:Cspeck@virginiawestern.edu) Office: HP 332, Phone 540-857-6239, Office Fax 540-857-6085. Students are responsible for keeping their contact information current in SIS.

### ***Faculty Office Hours***

Faculty maintain weekly office hours. Students are encouraged to utilize faculty office hours for assistance with course requirements and academic advising. Faculty post office hours outside of their campus offices, in Canvas, Navigate and on the course syllabi.

### ***Student-Faculty Advising***

Each student will be assigned to a nursing faculty advisor for academic assistance. Students must meet with their assigned faculty advisor at least one time per semester and more

often if needed. The advising relationship is a continuous developmental process involving open communication in an atmosphere of mutual respect and honesty.

The focus of the advising program is on enhancing student success. Each student will complete an advising worksheet prior to the scheduled meeting with their advisor. The student will bring the advising worksheet as well as unofficial copy of transcripts (if requested by advisor) to facilitate the advising session.

### ***Inclement Weather***

Students are encouraged to sign up for the VWCC alert system. The Inclement Weather policy and procedure and announcements are found at:

<https://www.viriniawestern.edu/about/inclementweather.php>

### ***Clinical During Inclement Weather/ Clinical Cancellation Policy***

All clinical experiences will be cancelled separate from Virginia Western campus closure and delayed opening announcements. In the event Virginia Western campus is closed, students must wait for a second announcement confirming or cancelling in person clinicals scheduled at area healthcare facilities. Clinical announcements will be posted in the AAS Nursing 1st Year and 2nd Year Clinical Canvas organizations.

In most cases, students should expect virtual simulation assignments and Zoom debriefing experiences to occur as scheduled. Canvas announcements will confirm virtual experiences and Zoom debriefing in the event of campus closure.

*NOTE: Students must use their own best judgment regarding safety of travel to and from any clinical experience. Students unable to attend a clinical experience that is confirmed during a campus closure will be offered a make-up clinical based on available resources. Per the AAS Nursing attendance policy, all missed clinical experiences must be made up. Students will be offered make-up clinical experiences based on days, times, faculty and facility availability. Incomplete grades may occur in cases where circumstances fall within Virginia Western's incomplete grade policy.*



### ***Recommendation/ References Requests***

Students may request letters of recommendation including references for jobs, program admissions, or scholarships from faculty members. It is the discretion of faculty to honor the request. All students making a request must comply with college student release of information policy and submit the following available at:

<https://www.viriniawestern.edu/records/docs/informationReleaseForm.pdf>

Faculty may require additional information in order to provide an effective reference/letter. This may include but is not limited to: a current resume, work history, prospective employer information. See faculty member for specific requirements.

### ***Gifts***

It is inappropriate to accept gratuities or gifts from patients/clients. It is recommended that students not present gifts to faculty members.

### ***Health Insurance/Injury***

Evaluation and/or treatment of injury or illness related to lab, clinical or classroom experience is the responsibility of the student. It is required that each student carry health insurance in case of an injury or illness while in the lab, classroom or clinical facility. In lieu of health insurance, students assume all financial liability for expenses incurred should treatment be required for continued participation in the nursing program.

### ***Professional Liability Insurance***

Virginia Community College System (VCCS) provides liability coverage for each student up to 2,000,000 per claim. Students wishing additional liability insurance may contact a variety of organizations for additional coverage at their own expense.

### ***Professionalism***

Nursing students are representatives of Virginia Western AAS Nursing Program, and the nursing profession. Students are expected to portray the highest levels of professional and ethical behavior.

Expectations of professional behavior include but are not limited to the following areas:

1. Communication between peers, faculty, patients, families, staff, clinical partners, etc. must demonstrate courteous and respectful discourse. Slang, vulgar, rude, curse words, and aggressive or abusive speech are prohibited. Students should address faculty by their last names using their proper title.

2. Arriving on time and prepared for classroom, labs, and clinical experiences demonstrates professional behavior. This includes taking exams as scheduled, completing assignments on time, and meeting commitments to maintain clinical readiness.
3. Adhering to the program's dress code includes maintaining a neat, and clean appearance.
4. Students must remain free of the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other substances that impair judgment and critical thinking. Random drug testing at the student's expense may be required.
5. Students must refrain from smoking while in the AAS Nursing Program uniform. This includes use of any tobacco products including smoke/smokeless e-cigarettes and vaping.

Students are responsible and accountable for their actions at all times. This includes taking responsibility for mistakes. Incidences that potentially jeopardize patient/client safety, and/or lapses in unprofessional behavior will require completion of the Virginia Western Event Report and/or ICP/LRP. The report will be filled out by the student and instructor and given to the Program Director within 24 hours. The Program Director may request a conference with the student and/or faculty. Documentation by ICP/LRP forms will become part of the student's record.

### ***Clinical Suspension***

Documented unprofessional behaviors including those that create a patient safety concern will be subject to review by the nursing faculty admissions committee. During the review process, a student will receive written notification by the Program Director that they are suspended from clinical including all patient care, pending a committee review. The committee may request a hearing with the student to review facts surrounding the unprofessional behaviors and/or safety concerns. The committee will document recommendations for student continuance in the nursing program which may include remediation or dismissal. Committee decisions will be communicated to the student by the Program Director within 48 hours of a hearing. All issues surrounding patient safety must be resolved prior to a student engaging in patient care.

Any behavior that compromises patient/client health or safety, college or AAS Nursing Program standing, clinical partnerships, or nursing profession standards of conduct, are subject to clinical suspension and subsequent committee review. (**Note:** Students who have completed a remediation plan but who fail to adhere to program policies after a remediation period is concluded, may be immediately removed from the program for continued violations.)

## *Clinical, NSL, Simulation Lab Policies and Requirements*

### *Clinical Rotations*

Students will be assigned to clinical agencies on a rotating basis which will involve day, evening, night and weekend clinical experiences. Transportation to the clinical facilities is the responsibility of each student. Clinical experiences in community settings may require further travel to patient homes in the clinical agency service region.

**NOTE: No cell phone use in patient care areas is allowed at any time.**

Students are prohibited from contacting patients/staff/ administrators at any affiliated clinical facilities in relation to the clinical experience without permission of the clinical instructor or clinical coordinator. Failure to comply with the above mandate may result in clinical failure and program dismissal.

Students are required to adhere to all clinical guidelines to participate in the clinical experience. Please see Clinical Guidelines posted each semester in Canvas. Students may not participate in clinical experiences without their skills check-list with all current faculty signatures and check-off dates. Failure of students to maintain the skills checklist and present this checklist to clinical faculty **prior** to performance of any patient skills is a violation that may result in program dismissal due to unsafe patient care.

(Note: students may not give medications to patients during their clinical rotation in NSG 100 or NSG 200, the first semester of the program. **Student may only administer medications to patients during semesters 2, 3, or 4 of the program with their assigned clinical instructor.** Staff or agency nurses may not administer medications with students unless a preceptor agreement is in place.)

All clinical assignments must be completed by the due dates established by the faculty. Failure to complete clinical assignments may affect the student's ability to meet course objectives and may result in clinical and course failure. In order to pass a nursing course with a clinical component, the student must pass both the classroom portion and the clinical portion of the course.

### *Post Exposure Management Procedure-Clinical*

In the event of a needle-stick/exposure to body fluids in the clinical, NSL, or simulation, the facility's post-exposure procedure will be followed. The exposure must be reported to the Program Director and clinical affiliates where exposure occurred per facility policy. A Virginia

Western incident report must be completed. The clinical faculty will notify the Clinical Coordinator and the Program Director of the occurrence immediately.

### ***Event Reporting***

Any unusual occurrence that jeopardizes safety or has the potential to result in harm to students, faculty, clinical partners, or patients, requires documentation via an incident report. Instructors and students work together to document the incident. All events must be reported to the Clinical Coordinator and Program Director for follow up.

### ***Clinical Health Requirement***

The following must be maintained in every student's virtual health file and is required by the first day of class or by deadlines instituted by the clinical affiliate, whichever comes first. Students will be notified of the deadlines for compliance with health records in writing through email and compliance with health record will be further discussed in new student orientation. All required health records must be uploaded by the student to Castle Branch for clinical tracking. Failure to keep updated requirements prevents students from clinical attendance and may result in course failure and dismissal from the program.

- A physical examination within the specified time period.
- Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) two step, first new student entry followed by one step annually, or clear chest x-ray (CXR), or QuantiFERON Gold blood test.
  - It is the student's responsibility to keep TST requirements current throughout the program and to upload verification to the student's virtual health record with the required vendor (annual verification is required).
- MMR/ Measles, Mumps, Rubella titer demonstrating immunity or vaccination x2.
- Chickenpox/Varicella titer demonstrating immunity or vaccination.
- Tetanus immunization or verification of previous immunization within the past ten years
- Hepatitis B vaccination series of (3) started or a signed declination, if allowed by clinical affiliate
- Criminal background check and urine drug screen annually or more frequently as required by clinical affiliate contract
- Current **American Heart Association Healthcare Provider BLS** (CPR certification)
  - It is your responsibility to keep your CPR current throughout the program and to submit verification to Castle Branch to the student's virtual health file.
  - If your CPR lapses at any point during the program you will not be allowed to attend clinical rotation until recertified and may be in danger of course failure that could result in program dismissal.
- Current LPN license from the Commonwealth of Virginia required of all students enrolled in LPN to AAS nursing bridge program.

- ***\* Please note that an Influenza (Flu) vaccination is required each fall season as mandated by clinical facilities. Evidence of vaccination must be submitted in Castle Branch to the student's virtual health record.***

### ***Nursing Skills Lab (NSL), and Simulation Lab***

Nursing skills lab and simulation lab offer student “hands-on” experience and the opportunity to practice and apply knowledge gained in classroom instruction. Both labs support student acquisition of critical thinking skills necessary for clinical practice. The labs consist of demonstrations, discussion, practice time and simulated experiences.

#### ***Lab Guidelines for NSL and Simulation***

- Bring skills check off list, nursing skills tote and lab skills book to NSL each week
- Simulation lab requires students to bring clinical hours documentation form.
- No food in lab. Covered drinks are permitted.
- NO CHILDREN will be allowed in Skills/Simulation Lab
- No cell phone use in lab unless directed by faculty
- Students are expected to show respect to faculty, fellow students, and equipment at all times.
- No materials are to be removed from the Skills/Simulation Lab
- Preparation for Skills/Simulation Lab is essential. Students are expected to thoroughly review any assigned materials (skills guidelines/checklists; homework assignments, videos, etc.) prior to attending Skills/Simulation Lab and performing skills check-off.
- Review course syllabi for due dates.
- **Do not move manikins or manikin parts without faculty direction of faculty.**
- **Do not use betadine** on manikins. Use lubricant spray for tubes if directed by faculty.
- Use tape **sparingly** on the manikins. Use **beds** for practice and testing purposes only.
- Individuals serving as patients are to remove their shoes when lying on the beds.
- Report any malfunctioning, unsafe, or damaged equipment to faculty.
- If you are aware that you have a **latex allergy, or suspect** that you do, it is your responsibility to notify the faculty.
- Wipe down workstations and lab equipment with designated cleaning wipes as directed by faculty after lab session.

### ***Nursing Skills Lab Grade***

The skills lab grade is part of the overall grade in NSG 106, NSG 170, & NSG 200 See course syllabi.

### ***Nursing Skills Lab Final***

The skills lab final will consist of pertinent skills to be performed by the student. These skills may be from any semester prior to the final. Each student will have only one (1) attempt to complete each skill in the end of semester final checkoff. Failure of any skills final may result in remediation for course completion. See specific course syllabi and lab instructions.

### ***Policy for Use of Nursing Supply Kit***

Students are required to purchase a Nursing Supply Kit (Nursing Tote) at the beginning of the first year. Some items in the kit are to remain in the NSL at all times. These items include, but may not be limited to:

- Syringes
- Needles
- Vials
- Ampules
- IV Fluids and Equipment
- Sample Medications

The nursing supplies will allow for practice in the practice lab, home, or NSL and will promote proficiency in performing nursing skills in the clinical area.

When not in use, medication administration items will be stored in a secured area.

Medication administration supplies will be discarded after use in biohazard containers as directed by faculty. Nursing supply kits are not for human use and are practice supplies only. Misuse of the nursing supply kits is deemed an unprofessional behavior and is subject to review and/or dismissal.

### ***Simulation Lab***

Due to video recording in simulation for debriefing exercises, students will sign a consent for videotaping and confidentiality. A post evaluation is obtained after each simulation session. All lab/clinical guidelines apply to the simulated learning events.

### *Clinical, NSL, Simulation Lab Dress Code*

**All approved navy-white student uniforms are sold by Update Uniforms located at 2740 Franklin Road, SW, Roanoke, VA 24014. Phone: (540) 982-8438. Order forms and ordering procedures will be reviewed at new student orientation.**

#### **Female student uniform**

Female uniform includes clean, non-wrinkled uniform, full white socks covering the ankles, and clean close-toed shoes (neon colors are not permitted). The uniform dress (optional) must be of an appropriate length, no higher than mid-knee and no lower than the ankle and be worn with white hosiery with no runs. The white uniform tops must fit loosely over the hips and buttocks; no undergarments such as t-shirts should be visible below the hem. Under garments should be flesh colored and not be visible through the white top. Navy blue uniform pant leg must reach the student's ankle. Students may wear a white fitted single layer under the uniform top to cover forearms as desired. Only students enrolled in the AAS Nursing program may wear the female program uniform.

#### **Male student uniform**

Male uniform includes clean, non-wrinkled, uniform, full white socks covering the ankles and clean closed toed shoes (neon colors are not permitted). The white uniform tops must fit loosely over the hips and buttocks; no undergarments such as t-shirts should be visible below the hem. The navy-blue uniform pant leg must reach the student's ankle. Students may wear a white fitted single layer under the uniform top to cover forearms if desired. Only students enrolled in the AAS Nursing program may wear the male program uniform.

#### **The Virginia Western Nursing program patch**

The Patch is to be sewn two inches below the left shoulder seam on uniforms tops. The nursing program patch is sold in the campus bookstore.

#### **The Virginia Western student nurse identification (ID)**

ID with full legal name and title (VWCC Student Nurse) must be embroidered on all uniform tops. Lab coats may be embroidered or worn with visible name badge. School uniforms must be worn only in the associated facility and are worn in addition to the school name badge, not in place of. Full uniform and ID badges must be worn for all campus skills lab experiences.

ID badges may be obtained during the first week of classes for fall semester. Only students to whom the badge is issued may wear the ID badge.

### **Virginia Western white lab coat**

A lab coat may be worn during clinical. Sweaters or other light jackets are not acceptable in-patient care areas of clinical. The student ID badge must be visible on the lab coat when worn. Lab coats do not require student name embroidery like the uniform top.

### **Jewelry and Piercings**

Students may wear a plain wedding band and one pair of small, plain, post earrings (one per earlobe); no exceptions. Dangling or hoop earrings are not acceptable. No other jewelry is permissible. No other visible piercings with jewelry are allowed in clinical. Clear spacers are permitted for piercings. No tongue rings or other forms of jewelry are allowed.

### **Tattoos are to be covered.**

All body tattoos must be covered by clothing, or other methods.

### **Makeup**

Makeup must be light and unobtrusive.

### **Wristwatch**

Every student is responsible for wearing a **wristwatch with a secondhand** function.

### **Hair**

Hair must be clean, off the collar, and styled conservatively. No unnatural hair color is allowed. No hair ornaments are to be worn with the uniform. Plain barrettes and clips that match hair color may be worn.

Fitted hair/ head caps that match the uniform colors of navy and white are permitted and must fit securely to the head while holding hair off the collar.

### **Grooming**

Students should be clean and well-groomed at all times. Males should be neatly shaven; if any facial hair is present, it must be neatly groomed. Facial hair growth may not interfere with requirements to don personal protective equipment such as face masks, N-95 masks, etc.

### **Nails**

Nails must be cut short and groomed. Nail polish and artificial nails are not permitted.

### **Scents**



Perfume, cologne, or aftershave lotion must **not** be worn in the clinical areas. (Some clients have severe allergies).

### **Smoking, Vaping, Chewing, Alcohol**

No smoking, vaping, consumption of alcoholic beverages, use of any tobacco is permitted while wearing student uniform or lab coat in any location, including personal transportation. Students are not allowed to wear the nursing uniform into any establishment that could be viewed as unacceptable (bars, clubs, etc.).

### **Gum**

No chewing of gum is permitted in clinical, NSL or simulation experience.

### **Uniform on Campus**

Student must come to Clinical, NSL, and simulation dressed in full VWCC nursing uniform with monogram and name badge. When the uniform must be worn back to campus, the student is expected to abide by the above dress code. Only students enrolled in the AAS Nursing program may wear the program uniform.

### **Compliance with the Dress Code**

Students who do not adhere to the dress code will be rated unsatisfactory for clinical that day and may be asked to leave the clinical site. An Individual Clinical Plan for remediation will be completed. Students who do not adhere to the dress code in lab may be asked to complete an Individual Lab Plan or may be required to leave the lab and will receive an absence.

*While wearing the nursing student uniform, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the AAS Nursing program, college, and the profession of nursing. Professional behavior and communication are required at all times. Students must comply with all policies, practices, and standards as set forth in the college and nursing program handbooks. Students will be held accountable for their actions. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.*

### ***Confidentiality and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)***

During clinical experience, students have access to confidential information of the facility, including patient health information. Students will hold confidential all patient and facility information obtained as a participant in these activities and will not disclose any personal, medical, or confidential information to third parties, family members or other students and other teachers.

Students are not to remove any confidential information from the clinical agency. Any patient data and/or clinical notes must be discarded in locked shred bins at clinical facilities.

***Penalties for HIPAA Violation***

Violators of the HIPAA Privacy Rule can face civil and criminal penalties. Respecting and maintaining patient privacy and confidentiality of all personal and medical information is each student's responsibility. It is important that you familiarize yourself with each agency/institution's policy on HIPAA and privacy compliance. This is discussed at the following website: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/index.html>

Students who breach patient/ client confidentiality may be dismissed from the program and subject to legal liability.

### *List of Common Abbreviations*

AAS – Associate of Applied Science degree

ACEN – Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, <http://www.acenursing.org/>

CDC- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/>

FERPA - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

LPN – Licensed Practical Nurse

NCSBN – National Council of State Boards of Nursing, <https://www.ncsbn.org/index.htm>

NCLEX-RN – National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses

NSL – Nursing Skills Lab

QSEN – Quality and Safety Education for Nurses, <http://qsen.org/>

RN – Registered Nurse

VBON – Virginia Board of Nursing, <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/>

VCCS – Virginia Community College System

VDH- Virginia Department of Health <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>

VWCC – Virginia Western Community College

## ***Disclaimers and Acknowledgements***

The Nursing Student Handbook is provided as a general guide to understand academic and conduct expectations during your enrollment in the AAS Nursing Program at Virginia Western Community College. Information contained herein is not a substitute for academic advising. The college and nursing program reserve the right to make changes to any provision or requirement stated herein to ensure patient safety and maintenance of an effective learning environment for all program participants. This may include curriculum and procedural changes during a student's enrollment. Students will be notified of any changes in writing and through student meetings, Canvas announcements or email communications. All enrolled students are subject to the current handbook.

Each student should review and maintain understanding of existing college wide academic and student policies located on the Virginia Western website. Please review content at the following link: <https://virginiawestern.edu/about/policies/stuaffairs.php>

### **COVID-19 Pandemic and Increased Program Costs**

All enrolled students should stay abreast of Virginia Western college information regarding COVID-19 through the student information portal at the following link

<https://www.virginiawestern.edu/covid19/>

Learning during a pandemic requires additional flexibility and preparation by all program participants. This includes maintenance of all precautions as stipulated by Virginia Western, CDC and Virginia Department of Health and posted at the above link. Links to the referenced organizations are available on the abbreviations list (page 41) of the Handbook.

Students should expect delays in course scheduling related to ongoing management of COVID-19 by clinical partners who host student clinical experiences. While every effort is made to manage program costs, additional student expenses may be necessary for clinical placements including the expense of periodic COVID-19 lab testing. Additional expenses for virtual simulation packages may be necessary to meet course requirements and VBON clinical experience regulations. Prevalence of COVID-19 in our community may decrease in-person direct patient care opportunities- necessitating use of virtual simulation.

Students may also be required to engage in distance learning to complete course requirements in the event of mandatory classroom, lab or campus closure related to COVID-19 exposure or stay-at-home orders issued by the Governor of Virginia or other college guidance.

Distance learning through online resources requires computer access with a web camera and high-speed internet and should be accessible outside of campus by enrolled students. Software downloads required for distance learning and testing include Zoom and Respondus LockDown Browser. Students must also be able to access Canvas, Kaplan, and Lippincott course materials virtually throughout enrollment in all nursing courses.

Student tutorials, Canvas resources, download requirements for Respondus LockDown Browser and email assistance can be accessed through Virginia Western at the following link

<https://www.viriniawestern.edu/learning/elit/students/index.php>

*Appendix A: Clinical Evaluation Tools and Definitions*

**Level 1 Clinical Evaluation Tool**

Virginia Western Community College		Student Name:			
AASN Program		Student Learning Outcomes and Competencies			
Level 1		Midterm S/NI/U	Midterm Comments & Suggestions	Final S/U	Final Comments
<b>Client-Center Care: Demonstrate the use of therapeutic communication, caring behaviors and client self-determination in the provision of basic nursing care.</b>					
<b>Competencies</b>	Perform client centered care with sensitivity and respect.				
	Identify learning needs of client.				
	Discuss importance of client self-determination in making healthcare decisions.				
	Identify therapeutic communication skills when interacting with clients and the client's support network.				
	Identify the needs of diverse individuals across the lifespan.				
<b>Safety: Report client safety issues and risks.</b>					
<b>Competencies</b>	Recognize human factors and safety design principles.				
	Identify hazards, near misses and errors.				
	Identify client safety initiatives.				
	Practice safe client care as a level 1 student.				
<b>Clinical Judgment: Summarize the components of clinical reasoning, evidence-based practice and the nursing process.</b>					
<b>Competencies</b>	Define a standardized plan of care based on client values, clinical expertise and reliable evidence.				
	Recognize changes in client status and intervene appropriately.				
	Identify the steps in the nursing process to guide care.				
	Identify principles of prioritization in the provision of client care.				
	Define evidence-based practice and problem solving.				
<b>Professional Behaviors: Demonstrate professionalism and professional behaviors.</b>					
<b>Competencies</b>	Identify ethical behaviors and the importance of confidentiality when caring for clients.				
	Demonstrate responsibility and accountability for the delivery of safe client care with direct supervision.				

	Identify the scope of nursing practice for a beginning level student.				
	Identify professional behaviors in interactions with clients, families, and healthcare providers.				
	Discuss the purpose of reflective thinking in improving nursing practice.				
	Define the role of lifelong learning in the nursing profession.				

**Quality Improvement: Identify the role of quality improvement and informatics in client care.**

<b>Competencies</b>	List common quality measures encountered in clinical practice.				
	List technology and information management tools used to identify and prevent potential errors in client care.				
	Define fiscal responsibility in the delivery of client care.				

**Collaboration: Define the roles of the health care team.**

<b>Competencies</b>	Recognize the effect nursing and other interdisciplinary team members have upon care processes and outcomes for clients and families within any healthcare setting.				
	Identify how members of the interdisciplinary team provide safe interventions to achieve positive outcomes.				
	Recognize different communication styles and cultural differences within the interdisciplinary team.				
	Identify management skills and principles of delegation when working with other members of the health care team.				
	Recognize own strengths and weaknesses to improve individual as well as team performance.				

**Grade: Pass or Fail (circle one)**  
*Note: Passing Grade for Final Evaluation requires Satisfactory performance in all areas.*

**Objectives for Future Evaluation/Remediation Needs:**  
*Use ICP to document remediation plan for unsatisfactory performance*

<b>Midterm Signatures</b>	<b>Final Signatures</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Instructor:	Instructor:
Student:	Student:

\*Attach separate form if room for additional comments is needed\*

**Level 2 Clinical Evaluation Tool**

Virginia Western Community College		Student Name:			
AAS Nursing Program		Instructor or Student Evaluation (circle one)			
Level 2 Student Learning Outcomes and Competencies		Midterm S/NI/U	Midterm Comments & Suggestions	Final S/U	Final Comments
<b>Client-Centered Care</b>	<b>Assess diverse client values, beliefs, and attitudes as well as community resources related to health in the provision of client-centered care.</b>				
<b>Competencies</b>	Deliver client centered care with sensitivity and respect.				
	Develop teaching plan based on assessed learning needs.				
	Discuss the nurse's role in client self-determination in making healthcare decisions.				
	Demonstrate therapeutic communication skills when interacting with clients and the client's support network.				
	Discuss the needs of individuals, families, and communities across the lifespan.				
<b>Safety</b>	<b>Use safety measures when caring for clients in the community and health care agencies.</b>				
<b>Competencies</b>	Examine human factors and safety design principles.				
	Report hazards, near misses and errors to members of the health care team				
	Summarize client safety initiatives.				
	Practice safe client care as a level 2 student.				
<b>Clinical Judgment</b>	<b>Demonstrate the use of the nursing process and evidence based care in making clinical judgments.</b>				
<b>Competencies</b>	Individualize a standardized plan of care based on client values, clinical expertise and reliable evidence.				
	Interpret changes in client status and intervene appropriately.				
	Develop a plan of care that demonstrates the nursing process with guidance.				
	Use prioritization in planning client care with supervision.				
	Compare and contrast evidence-based practice and participate in problem solving.				
<b>Professional Behaviors</b>	<b>Recognize the impact of personal beliefs, values, and attitudes in developing professionalism and professional behaviors.</b>				
	Recognize ethical behaviors and breaches in confidentiality that occur in client care situations.				



<b>Competencies</b>					
	Demonstrate responsibility and accountability for the delivery of safe client care with guided supervision.				
	Provide nursing care within the scope of nursing practice with supervision.				
	Compare appropriate and inappropriate professional behaviors demonstrated in interactions with clients, families, and healthcare providers.				
	Demonstrate reflective thinking for the purpose of improving nursing practice at the beginning level.				
	Discuss the importance of lifelong learning in the nursing profession.				
<b>Quality Improvement</b>	<b>Use technology and information management tools in providing quality client care.</b>				
<b>Competencies</b>	Describe common quality measures encountered in clinical practice.				
	Discuss technology and information management tools used to identify and prevent potential errors in client care.				
	Summarize fiscal responsibility in the delivery of client care.				
<b>Collaboration</b>	<b>Examine the roles of the nurse and the health care team in community and acute care settings.</b>				
<b>Competencies</b>	Explain how nursing and other interdisciplinary team members influence care processes and outcomes for clients and families within various healthcare settings.				
	Discuss how members of the interdisciplinary team work together to provide safe and effective care.				
	Discuss the relevance of various communication styles and cultural differences when collaborating with members of the healthcare team.				
	Compare and contrast skills and principles of delegation when working with other members of the health care team.				
	Respond to constructive feedback to improve individual as well as team performance.				
		<b>Grade: Pass or Fail (circle one)</b> <i>Note: Passing Grade for Final Evaluation requires Satisfactory performance in all areas.</i>			
<b>Objectives for Future Evaluation/Remediation Needs:</b> <i>Use ICP to document remediation plan for unsatisfactory performance</i>					
<b>Midterm Signatures</b>			<b>Final Signatures</b>		
<b>Date:</b>			<b>Date:</b>		
Instructor:			Instructor:		
Student:			Student:		
*Attach separate form if room for additional comments is needed*					

**Level 3 Clinical Evaluation Tool**

Virginia Western Community College		Student Name:			
AAS Nursing Program		Student Learning Outcomes and Competencies			
Level 3 Student Learning Outcomes and Competencies		Midterm S/U	Midterm Comments & Suggestions	Final S/U	Final Comments
<b>Client-Centered Care: Apply principles of client centered care to clients across the lifespan.</b>					
<b>Competencies</b>	Organize client centered care with sensitivity and respect.				
	Implement teaching plan based on assessed learning needs.				
	Promote client self-determination in making healthcare decisions as a level 3 student.				
	Examine communication skills when interacting with clients and the client's support network.				
	Advocate for diverse individuals, families, and communities across the lifespan with guidance.				
<b>Safety: Incorporate factors for improvement of client safety for clients across the lifespan</b>					
<b>Competencies</b>	Analyze human factors and implement safety design principles.				
	Examine hazards, near misses and errors to members of the health care team				
	Analyze client safety initiatives.				
	Practice safe client care as a level 3 student.				
<b>Clinical Judgment: Apply the nursing process, evidence-based care and clinical reasoning in making clinical judgments.</b>					
<b>Competencies</b>	Develop an individualized plan of care based on client values, clinical expertise and reliable evidence.				
	Prioritize changes in client status with guidance and intervene appropriately.				
	Independently develop a plan of care that demonstrates the nursing process.				
	Prioritize client care using evidence based practice with guidance.				
	Incorporate evidence-based practice into clinical problem solving.				
<b>Professional Behaviors: Incorporate legal/ethical principles and professional nursing standards in the care of clients.</b>					
<b>Competencies</b>	Demonstrate ethical behaviors and confidentiality when caring for clients.				

	Demonstrate increased responsibility and accountability for the delivery of safe client care with guidance.				
	Organize nursing care to encompass the scope of nursing practice.				
	Demonstrate professional behaviors in interactions with clients, families, and healthcare providers.				
	Engage in reflective thinking for the purpose of improving own nursing practice.				
	Identify resources for creation of a lifelong learning plan.				

**Quality Improvement: Examine the impact of quality improvement processes, information technology and fiscal resources in the provision of nursing care.**

<b>Competencies</b>	Apply common quality measures encountered in clinical practice.				
	Utilize technology and information management tools used to identify and prevent potential errors in client care.				
	Performs fiscally responsible of client care.				

**Collaboration: Participate as a member of the health care team in the delivery of nursing care to clients across the lifespan.**

<b>Competencies</b>	Differentiate how interdisciplinary team members influence care processes and outcomes for clients and families within various healthcare settings.				
	Collaborate with members of the healthcare team to provide safe and effective care with guidance.				
	Demonstrate the ability to collaborate with members of the interdisciplinary team with various communication styles and cultural differences.				
	Apply management skills and principles of delegation when working with other members of the health care team.				
	Implement self-appraisal process as a member of the interdisciplinary team.				

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade: Pass or Fail (circle one)**  
*Note: Passing Grade for Final Evaluation requires Satisfactory performance in all areas.*

**Objectives for Future Evaluation/Remediation Needs:**  
*Use ICP to document remediation plan for unsatisfactory performance*

<b>Midterm Signatures</b>	<b>Final Signatures</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Instructor:	Instructor:
Student:	Student:

\*Attach separate form if room for additional comments is needed\*

**Level 4 Clinical Evaluation Tool**

<b>Virginia Western Community College</b>		<b>Student Name:</b>			
<b>AASN Program</b>		<b>Student Learning Outcomes and Competencies</b>			
<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Midterm S/U</b>	<b>Midterm Comments &amp; Suggestions</b>	<b>Final S/U</b>	<b>Final Comments</b>	
<b>Provide client centered care promoting therapeutic relationships, caring behaviors, and self-determination across the lifespan for diverse populations.</b>					
Coordinate client centered care delivery with sensitivity and respect.					
Evaluate the effectiveness of teaching plans and outcomes and revise for achievement of desired outcomes.					
Promote client self-determination in making healthcare decisions as a level 4 student.					
Integrate therapeutic communication skills when interacting with clients and the client's support network.					
Advocate independently for diverse individuals, families, and communities across the lifespan.					
<b>Practice safe nursing care that minimizes risk of harm across systems and client populations.</b>					
Evaluate human factors and safety design principles.					
Participate in the analysis of errors and designing system improvements.					
Incorporate client safety initiatives into the plan of care.					
Practice safe client care as a level 4 student.					
<b>Demonstrate nursing judgment through the use of clinical reasoning, the nursing process, and evidence-based practice in the provision of safe, quality care.</b>					
Evaluate an individualized plan of care based on client values, clinical expertise and reliable evidence.					
Independently prioritize changes in client status and intervene appropriately.					
Apply the nursing process to guide care.					
Prioritize client care using evidence based practice independently.					
Evaluate existing practices and seek creative approaches to problem solving.					
<b>Practice professional behaviors that encompass the legal/ethical framework while incorporating self-reflection, leadership and a commitment to recognize the value of life-long learning.</b>					

Incorporate ethical behaviors and confidentiality when caring for clients.				
Assume responsibility and accountability for delivering safe client care.				
Deliver nursing care within the scope of nursing practice.				
Evaluate professional behaviors in interactions with clients, families and healthcare providers.				
Engage in reflective thinking for the purpose of improving nursing practice.				
Develop a plan for lifelong learning in the nursing profession.				
<b>Manage client care through quality improvement processes, information technology, and fiscal responsibility to meet client needs and support organizational outcomes.</b>				
Assess the common quality measures encountered in clinical practice.				
Evaluate technology and information management tools used to identify and prevent potential errors in client care.				
Justify fiscal responsibility in the delivery of client care.				
<b>Demonstrate principles of collaborative practice within the nursing and healthcare teams fostering mutual respect and shared decision-making to achieve stated outcomes of care.</b>				
Compare and contrast the effectiveness of the members of the interdisciplinary team to promote optimal client outcomes.				
Participate in the interdisciplinary plan of care to promote optimal client outcomes.				
Evaluate communication strategies that are inclusive of various communication and cultural differences.				
Evaluate management skills and principles of delegation when working with other members of the health care team.				
Reflects at a professional level on individual and team performance.				
	<b>Grade: Pass or Fail (circle one)</b> <i>Note: Passing Grade for Final Evaluation requires Satisfactory performance in all areas.</i>			
<b>Objectives for Future Evaluation/Remediation Needs:</b> <i>Use ICP to document remediation plan for unsatisfactory performance</i>				
<b>Midterm Signatures</b>		<b>Final Signatures</b>		
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Date:</b>		
Instructor:		Instructor:		
Student:		Student:		
*Attach separate form if room for additional comments is needed*				

### ***Definitions for Clinical Evaluation Tools***

All clinical evaluations are graded on a pass/fail basis. A passing grade means a student has achieved a "satisfactory" (S) evaluation for each component on the evaluation tool ***by the final evaluation***. Students who receive "needs improvement" (NI) must meet with clinical faculty to discuss opportunities for improvement. Students who fail to make improvements following (NI) feedback may earn an "unsatisfactory" (U) evaluation. Students that receive "unsatisfactory" (U) during midterm evaluation must meet with clinical instructor, develop a written clinical remediation plan, and complete an Individual Clinical Plan (ICP) blue form. Faculty and students in remediation must meet weekly to discuss and document weekly progress. A copy of the remediation plan must be given to the clinical coordinator and course faculty must be notified within one week. Failure to receive "satisfactory" (S) by the final evaluation results in a failing clinical grade and the student will not pass the course. This will affect academic progression and may result in program termination. Students are required to submit clinical assignments for evaluation as directed by clinical faculty. All clinical assignments are graded on a pass/fail basis. Any student that receives an "unsatisfactory" (U) grade has 3 days to re-submit their written assignment for regrading.

#### **Satisfactory Performance (S)**

- Functions satisfactorily with minimum guidance in a clinical situation.
- Demonstrates accurate and appropriate knowledge consistent with student level as defined by clinical objectives.
- Requires occasional prompting to engage in self directed learning.
- Identifies own learning needs and seeks appropriate assistance to deliver safe patient care.
- Consistently prepared for clinical experience.
- Demonstrates consistent safe nursing practice.

#### **Needs Improvement (NI)**

- Functions safely with moderate amounts of guidance in a clinical situation.
- Demonstrates adequate knowledge but requires moderate assistance integrating knowledge with skills resulting in partially met clinical objectives.
- Requires frequent direction in recognizing and utilizing learning opportunities but is able to function safely in the clinical setting with frequent support.
- Limited and/or inconsistent preparation for clinical experience.
- Demonstrates inconsistent nursing practice, compromising patient safety.

#### **Unsatisfactory Performance (U)**

- Requires intense guidance for the performance of clinical activities at a safe level.
- Unable to recognize safe nursing practice.
- Demonstrates significant gaps in necessary knowledge to provide safe nursing care and is unable to meet clinical objectives.
- Requires frequent and intense 1:1 faculty supervision during majority of clinical experience.
- Requires detailed instructions regarding learning opportunities in the clinical setting resulting in the inability to utilize learning opportunities.
- Unable to identify own learning needs and neglects to seek appropriate assistance.
- Unprepared for clinical experience.
- Breaches in professional or ethical conduct.

*Appendix B: ICP Form*

**Individual Clinical/Laboratory Plan  
Virginia Western Community College  
Associate of Applied Science Nursing Program  
Laboratory/Clinical Experience**

**INDIVIDUAL CLINICAL PLAN (ICP)  
&  
LABORATORY REMEDIATION PLAN (LRP)**

\_\_\_\_\_ has not demonstrated passing behavior in Clinical Experience.

**Nature of the problem:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Disrespectful or unprofessional behaviors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Unprepared for Lab/clinical (e.g., lack of preparation, dress code violations, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Unsafe Lab/clinical practice (e.g., med errors, inability to perform skills, practice outside scope as a student nurse, patient safety violations, etc)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inability to communicate effectively or appropriately with patients, families, faculty, peers, or agency staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Repeated tardiness
- \_\_\_\_\_ Repeated deficiencies in written work
- \_\_\_\_\_ Smoking while in uniform
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please identify):

Expanded description of the problem(s):

In order for the above student to meet the course objectives and pass the course, the following behavior(s) must be demonstrated in the ***established timeline***:

This plan is mutually developed and agreed upon by:

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Faculty Notes on Progress:** When a Clinical Remediation Plan is instituted; the student and faculty should meet on a **weekly basis** to evaluate progress and the faculty will keep this record in the student's assigned folder. Record faculty notes regarding meetings below

- Disciplinary Actions:
1. Individual Care Plan
  2. Sent Home From Lab/Clinic
  3. Must see Program Director for further disciplinary Actions

Overall Evaluation (based on established timeframe)

**Resolution:** Once Plan has been completed, faculty and the student will sign below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## *Appendix C: Remote Testing Guidelines*

### **Remote Test-Taking Guidelines: Respondus Lockdown with Monitor**

**Failure to adhere to any of the items below may result in the test being discarded.**

You will be recorded during the test to ensure you are not using unauthorized resources. While taking an online quiz or exam, please follow these guidelines:

- Before beginning the quiz or exam:
  - Make sure you have taken care of any personal needs prior to the environmental scan.
  - Make sure you have a reliable internet connection.
  - Your computer must be on a stable surface. You may not take your exam in your bed or on the floor.
  - Do not attempt to take your quiz or exam in a moving vehicle.
  - The area must be well lit. However, do not sit with your back to a window as this creates difficulty in seeing the student's face.
  - You should not have any resources on your testing surface; this includes cell phones, tablets, computers, books, papers or other references. If blank paper is allowed per your instructor you may have one piece of paper and you must show the front and back in the environmental scan as well at the end of the exam.
  - Turn off all mobile devices, phones, etc.
  - Refrain from wearing hats or sunglasses during testing as your eyes need to be visible.
  - Refrain from wearing headphones or earbuds during testing.
  - You must present a valid driver's license or student ID for testing when prompted that clearly displays your full name.

During the environmental scan:

- Using an external camera or built-in laptop camera, complete the environmental scan. The scan must include:
  - A slow 360-degree scan of your environment
  - The area your computer will be resting on during testing
  - The area around your feet
  - For laptops with a built-in webcam or desktop computers with large monitors such as Macs, use a hand-held mirror to assist with the scan or desktop computers with large monitors such as Macs, use a handheld mirror to assist with the scan. (The other option is to purchase an external webcam).
- You should not leave the testing area after completion of the environmental scan.
- Please note you are being recorded from the start of the environmental scan until you end the quiz or exam.

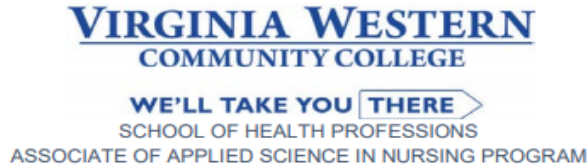
**Failure to complete the environment scan and show your desktop may be deemed as an unreliable testing environment and the test may be discarded at faculty discretion.**

During testing:

- Do not move your computer or leave the area during testing.
- Your face should be located in the center of the camera view for the entire quiz or exam. Slouching or changing positions can move your head out of the camera area.
- If suspicious eye movement away from the screen is detected upon video review the test may be discarded.

**Failure to adhere to all testing standards may result in an unreliable testing environment and the test may be discarded at faculty discretion. Based on faculty investigation, a discarded test may result in a retest. Instances of student misconduct do not allow for retest and a grade of "0" is awarded. All academic integrity policies will be enforced. Please see the academic integrity policy for further information.**

*Appendix D: Nursing Program Disclosure*



**Nursing Program DOE Disclosure**

Pursuant to United States Department of Education (US DOE) regulation 34 CFR 668.43 (a) (5) (v), the Virginia Western Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Nursing program provides the following information for all prospective and current students:

The Virginia Western AAS Nursing program meets all Virginia Board of Nursing requirements for pre-licensure nursing education programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition, the Virginia Western AAS Nursing program meets all requirements for nationally recognized accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

The Commonwealth of Virginia participates with 32 other states in the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) National Licensing Compact (NLC) to allow nurses licensed in one state to provide nursing care across state lines in other compact states. The Uniform Licensing Requirements (ULRs) are found at: [https://www.ncsbn.org/NLC\\_ULRs.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/NLC_ULRs.pdf).

States currently in the NLC are found at: <https://www.ncsbn.org/nlcmemberstates.pdf>. Prospective and current students are strongly encouraged to evaluate all state requirements in jurisdictions where they intend to practice nursing. A list of all state requirements is found at: <https://www.ncsbn.org/14730.htm>.

Virginia Western Community College has not determined if the AAS Nursing program meets the requirements of any other states.

This statement serves to meet the USDOE regulation until further notice.

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Enrolled Student Name: Please Print

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Enrolled Student Signature

***Nursing Student Handbook Signature Page***

I have received, read, and agree to adhere to the Nursing Student Handbook and will abide by the guidelines, policies, requirements, and standards contained therein. My signature further acknowledges that many policies and requirements of the nursing program exceed student policies described by Virginia Western Community College.

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**Printed Name**

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**Signature**

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**Date**