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Nursing

# FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

# Nursing Student Handbook

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Ann Blanton Edwards  
School of Nursing & Health Sciences  
BSN program

**2025-2026**

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## Welcome to the BSN Program

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The faculty and staff of the Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Florida Southern College welcome you to our baccalaureate nursing program. I know you will find your educational experience both challenging and rewarding, and that you will experience the caring that is the focus of our nursing program. Faculty have adopted “***Caring, The Human Mode of Being***” by Sister Simone Roach as a guiding theory across all programs (BSN, MSN, PMC, and DNP). “While nursing is rooted in knowledge and evidence-based practice, it’s equally rooted in caring for the whole person, not just the illness.”

This *BSN Student Handbook* is designed as a resource to the academic policies and procedures of Florida Southern College specific to students enrolled in the baccalaureate nursing program. The information presented throughout the handbook will be helpful as you progress through the baccalaureate nursing program. Our expectation is that you will use the handbook as your first point of reference when you have questions concerning your program of study, course scheduling and academic policies.

It is important that you check the electronic version available through the BSN Communications Page in Canvas (<https://flsouthern.instructure.com/>). You will receive emails when changes are made. **Students will be held accountable for these changes.**

You have embarked on an exciting and rewarding journey. The exceptional faculty and dedicated staff of the nursing program are here to walk alongside you and support you in your educational and career endeavors. While the primary responsibility for your success lies with each of you, we can help you develop the skills so that you’re prepared for any challenging situation. Please use this handbook and other resources as you progress in the BSN program.

Sincerely,

Laly Joseph, DVM, DNP, CNE, RN,C, MSN, APRN, ANP-BC, FNAP  
Dean & Professor

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## Instructions Concerning this Handbook

The *BSN Student Handbook* provides information on program expectations, requirements, and procedures. Students are responsible for information contained within this handbook and should review it at the time of program entry and at least annually thereafter. The Handbook is updated at least annually to reflect the most current information.

It is also the student's responsibility to be cognizant of and to comply with all SNHS requirements and FSC policies delineated in the *Florida Southern College Academic Catalog* and the *Florida Southern College Undergraduate Student Handbook*. Students should review information in the FSC Academic Catalog and in the Undergraduate Student Handbook at the time of program entry and at least annually thereafter.

## Florida Southern College Resources

### School of Nursing & Health Sciences

Telephone: (863) 680-3951; Fax: (863) 680-3860

Web page: <https://www.flsouthern.edu/about/leadership/schools-divisions/nursing-health-sciences/home.aspx>

### FSC Undergraduate Student Handbook

Web page: <https://www.flsouthern.edu/campus-offices/student-accountability/home.aspx>

- Student Code of Conduct
- Student Accountability Process
- Policies and Procedures: Student Records
- Student Records Policy: FERPA
- Anti-Harassment: Statement of Policy

### FSC Academic Catalog

Web page: <https://www.flsouthern.edu/academic-life/academic-catalog>

- Financial Information
- Academic Policies including:
  - Academic Standing, Progress, Probation, Suspension, Expulsion
  - Academic Integrity
  - The Florida Southern College Honor Code
  - Grade Appeals
- Programs of Study Information

Student Complaint Procedures: <https://www.flsouthern.edu/campus-offices/offices-directory/office-of-the-provost/student-complaint-procedures>

## I. General Information

### BSN Nursing Program Directory

#### Dean, School of Nursing and Health Sciences

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### **School of Nursing and Health Sciences Mission**

Preparing health professionals to provide quality care for diverse populations.

### **Nursing Programs Mission**

The Florida Southern College nursing program is committed to educational excellence, providing opportunities that integrate caring, cultural competence and ethics into nursing practice and fostering personal and professional growth for the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral level nursing student. A strong emphasis is placed on engaged learning, student-faculty collaboration and academically based service to the community.

### **Nursing Programs Philosophy**

The faculty of the Florida Southern College School of Nursing & Health Sciences believes that the minimum educational preparation of the professional nurse is at the baccalaureate level and that a liberal arts education provides a foundation for learning and professional inquiry. A liberal education foundation stimulates the desire for lifelong learning and provides the professional nurse with the tools necessary to become an effective leader and to pursue advanced nursing degrees.

We believe that a quality education provides the professional nurse with a framework for holistic care of culturally diverse individuals, families, aggregates and communities. We facilitate learning experiences that emphasize bio-psycho-social-spiritual health care, and promotion, maintenance and restoration of wellness. Each faculty member is dedicated to enabling the nursing student to master new skills, critically evaluate research and theory, and integrate the new knowledge and skills into nursing practice.

Students are prepared in an atmosphere of compassionate caring to uphold professional standards and ethics, and to reflect Judeo-Christian values and ideals. We consider it essential that the nurse understands the impact of a changing health care delivery system upon patient health and the profession of nursing. Toward this end, nursing students at Florida Southern College are prepared to communicate effectively as part of an interprofessional team and to provide compassionate patient-centered care.

### **Nursing Programs 6 Cs of Caring**

The faculty have adopted Caring, The Human Mode of Being by Sister Simone Roach as a guiding framework across all the nursing programs. This conceptual model evolved in response to the question, 'what is a nursing doing when she or he is caring?' Specific manifestations of caring as represented by such behaviors as taking the time to be with, checking factual information, identifying and using relevant knowledge, performing technical procedures, showing respect, maintaining trusting relationships, keeping a commitment and comportment in

dress and language were generalized into the Six Cs. The Six Cs are compassion, competence, confidence, conscience, commitment, and comportment (Roach, 2012).

### **BSN Program Mission**

The mission of our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program is to educate and empower future nursing professionals who are compassionate, critically thinking, and comprehensively prepared to transform healthcare. We are dedicated to developing nursing leaders who integrate scientific knowledge, ethical principles, and holistic care approaches to address the complex and evolving healthcare needs of diverse populations. Our program is committed to fostering a learning environment that cultivates advanced clinical judgment through the integration of liberal arts, sciences, and evidence-based practice, promotes person-centered care that respects individual dignity, cultural diversity, and unique healthcare needs, and develops professional nurses who are skilled communicators, collaborative partners, and agents of positive healthcare transformation. We emphasize ethical scholarship, quality improvement, and innovative use of healthcare technologies while nurturing a commitment to lifelong learning, professional growth, and leadership development. Ultimately, we aim to prepare nurses who not only provide exceptional, safe, and equitable care but who also actively contribute to improving population health outcomes, strengthening healthcare systems, and advancing the nursing profession with compassion, integrity, and excellence.

### **Technical Standards Policy**

Florida Southern College School of Nursing and Health Sciences has a responsibility to educate competent nurses to care for patients with clinical judgment, broadly based knowledge, and polished technical skills. The FSC nursing programs have academic as well as technical standards that must be met by students in order to successfully progress in and graduate from its programs.

FSC nursing programs provide the following description of technical standards to inform prospective and enrolled students of the technical standard requirements for completing the nursing programs. These standards are not requirements for admission to the program and the examples provided are not all-inclusive. Students and prospective students should review these standards and assess their own ability to be successful in completing the program. Key areas for technical standards in nursing include having abilities and skills in the following areas: 1) observation, 2) communication, 3) motor, 4) cognitive, and 5) behavioral/social. Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in certain of these areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner and exercise independent judgment.

Observation: The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and participate in didactic courses and simulated learning opportunities. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation requires the use of common sense, as well as the functional use of the senses of vision, audition, olfaction, and palpation.



Communication: Candidates must communicate effectively using English in clinical and classroom settings. A candidate must be able to elicit information from patients, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with all members of the health care team in both immediate and recorded modes.

Motor: Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion and other assessment techniques. A candidate should be able to perform nursing skills requiring the use of gross and fine motor skills (e.g. IV insertion, venous blood draw, urinary catheter insertion). A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide nursing care and emergency response to patients.

Examples of emergency responses reasonably required of nurses are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, medication administration, and application of pressure to stop bleeding. Candidates must perform actions, which require the use of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Candidates should also be able to assist and/or participate in various lifting activities.

Conceptual-Integrative: These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, synthesis, and retention of complex information. Critical thinking requires all of these intellectual abilities in order to provide optimal nursing care. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

Behavioral-Social: Candidates must possess the emotional health required for the full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities, attendant to the care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress in the classroom and clinical area.

They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical environment. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that are assessed during the admissions and educational process.

Reasonable accommodations will be considered on a case-by-case basis for individuals who meet eligibility under applicable statutes. Any person expecting to need accommodations should request them prior to beginning the program, as some accommodations may not be considered reasonable and may impact an applicant's ability to complete all components of the program. Students requesting accommodations should contact Dr. Marcie Pospichal, Coordinator of

Student Disability Services, Carlisle Rogers Building Room 120, telephone: (863) 680-4197, email: [disabilityservices@flsouthern.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@flsouthern.edu). Documentation of disabilities can also be faxed to Dr. Pospichal at (863) 680-4195. For more information on disability accommodations and access, please also visit our website at <https://www.flsouthern.edu/campus-offices/offices-directory/office-of-student-disability-services>

## **AACN Essentials (AACN, 2021)**

AACN schools are moving to a competency-based nursing education model. This model will better prepare new graduates for actual practice, as they will have demonstrated in care ‘essential’ aspects of professional nursing practice. It also aligns with competency-based education of other health care professionals and provides a clear view of nursing for employers, consumers, and the interprofessional team. Included in the model are 10 domains, each with multiple sub-competencies, 8 concepts, applied across domains and competencies, two levels of competencies across each domain encompassing 4 spheres of care. Level one is the entry-level professional nursing education.

### **Domains for Nursing:**

1. Knowledge for nursing practice
2. Person-centered care
3. Population health
4. Scholarship for nursing practice
5. Quality and safety
6. Interprofessional partnerships
7. Systems-based practice
8. Information and healthcare technologies
9. Professionalism
10. Personal, professional and leadership development

### **Concepts for Nursing Practice:**

1. Clinical judgement
2. Communication
3. Compassionate care
4. Diversity, equity and inclusion
5. Ethics
6. Evidence-based practice
7. Health policy
8. Social determinants of health

### **Spheres of Caring**

1. Wellness and Disease Prevention
2. Regenerative / Restorative Care
3. Chronic Disease Management
4. Hospice / Palliative Care

### **BSN Program Goals**

1. Provide nursing students with a value-based liberal arts foundation for their first professional degree.
2. Prepare the student for lifelong learning.
3. Advance individual critical thinking skills.
4. Prepare the student for graduate school

### **Expected BSN Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the Bachelor's degree program, the student will be able to:

1. Integrate knowledge of liberal arts and sciences to develop clinical judgement in nursing practice.
2. Practice compassionate, holistic, person-centered care using an individualized, coordinated, and evidence-based approach.
3. Use collaborative partnerships for the improvement of population health outcomes with an emphasis on diversity, equity, inclusion and ethics.
4. Apply ethical scholarship for the nursing discipline to transform healthcare and improve health outcomes.
5. Apply principles of quality improvement to contribute to patient, provider and work environment safety.
6. Integrate collaborative partnerships with care team members, patients, families, communities and other stakeholders to strengthen health outcomes.
7. Apply knowledge of complex healthcare systems and the coordination of resources to provide safe, quality, cost-effective and equitable care to diverse populations.
8. Integrate communication technologies and informatics processes to inform care decisions and improve healthcare outcomes.
9. Demonstrate professional identity that reflects the characteristics and values of nursing including compassion, professional comportment, and emotional intelligence.
10. Demonstrate a commitment to personal and professional growth, lifelong learning and advancement of leadership skill.

## **Nursing Program Accreditation**

*"The (baccalaureate degree program in nursing/master's degree program in nursing/Doctor of Nursing Practice program and/or post-graduate APRN certificate program) at (institution) is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791." (<https://www.aacnnursing.org/ccne-accreditation/accreditation-resources/faqs/accreditation-disclosure-statement#:~:text=If%20a%20program%20elects%20to,and%20its%20affiliation%20with%20CNE>)*

## **II. Academic Information**

### **Academic Advising**

Students' initial advising comes through the Office of Student Success by the BSN pre-nursing advisor for their first year. They are then assigned a nursing faculty advisor at the start of their sophomore year and/or when they become nursing majors. Advising is to occur at least once per semester during the college advising period. Meeting with a student includes assessing progress in current semester courses, course planning for the upcoming semester, monitoring degree requirements, and providing student support as they navigate their college experience. Documentation of each meeting and placement of this documentation into the student's chart is required. Once a meeting has occurred, the advisor is to release the student to register for courses. Advisors must remain cognizant of any scholarship /grant requirements when planning courses with the student. Upon completion of 75 credits, a student should have a 'graduation check' completed by the registrar's office. Students are notified by FSC to evaluate their advising experience each academic year during the spring semester.

### **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classroom, skills lab and clinical sessions and to be in place when class begins. Any absence should be due to unavoidable documented reasons. It is the student's responsibility to inform the professor of any anticipated absences and request to make-up any missed work. Individual faculty may have more specific criteria and may, per the FSC Student Handbook, remove a student from a course for non-attendance. Be sure to read each class syllabus for specifics. Students who miss a clinical or skills lab day are required to make-up that day. Arrangements for the make-up day need to be made and approved by the faculty (*see section III. Clinical Information: Clinical and Experiential Learning for specifics*)

### **Grading Scale for BSN Program**

A = 92-100

B = 84-91

C = 76-83

D = 68-75

F = below 68

## **Nursing Program Progression**

Please refer to the FSC Student Handbook and Catalog for college rules and regulations regarding academic probation, suspension, expulsion, grade grievance, academic integrity, and the Florida Southern College Honor Code.

At the end of each semester, the Progression Committee reviews the academic progress of pre-licensure nursing students. For students in academic difficulty, the action taken by this committee is governed by two sets of policies--those of the college and those of the Nursing Program. Any academic action is based upon the cumulative grade point average (GPA) for the entire time a student is enrolled at FSC (including pre-nursing and nursing course work). To remain in good standing in the school, a student must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. Students must also earn a grade of "C" or higher in all prerequisite, concurrent, and major courses, while still maintaining the overall GPA of at least 3.0.

*An Academic Improvement Plan (AIP)* will be given to any student who is not meeting program progression requirements of maintaining an overall GPA of 3.0. Students have one semester to raise the GPA to 3.0. The AIP will include, at a minimum, a meeting with the advisor to identify areas for focused study, but may include other actions such as remediation, tutoring or referral to Student Solutions. The completed form will be forwarded to the Program Director for review and inclusion in the student's file. Students are required to meet the overall GPA of 3.00 at the end of each academic year to progress in nursing.

Students must maintain at least a 76% average in course exams, not including quizzes, ATI exams, or homework. There is no rounding of the unit exam scores, comprehensive final or exam average at the end of the course. Exam scores are recorded to the hundredth (0.00) place. Students who fail to meet the 76% test average at the end of the semester will receive their earned test average as the final course grade. Final course grades are rounded only in the following circumstances: 91.5% or higher to a 92%; 83.5% or higher to an 84%; 75.5% or higher to a 76%. The clinical performance exam (CPE) is not identified as a unit exam grade. No in class exam review will occur. Students may make an appointment with the course instructor to review their exam within two (2) weeks of posting of the exam grade to review individual results.

All pre-licensure nursing students are required to score 90% or higher each semester (beginning fall of year 2) on the course assigned Drug Dosage Calculation test. Students are permitted three attempts to reach the passing level for each of the tests. After a failure the student is required to attend remediation. Should a student not pass a Drug Dosage Calculation test on the third attempt, the student will receive a failing grade for the course and is at risk for not continuing in the program. Successful completion of the Drug Dosage Calculation test is required to participate in the clinical portion of a nursing course.

A student who is unsuccessful in a NUR course (as long as it is the only NUR course failed), must wait until the course is offered again and request in writing to the BSN Program Director to repeat the course. Failure of a NUR course will delay progression in the nursing program. For

NUR classes with a clinical component, students must successfully pass the required clinical experience (see clinical course syllabi for additional details). A failing grade will be assigned should a student not successfully pass any portion of the course (clinical, didactic, or lab).

All nursing courses (NUR) must be completed in curriculum sequence associated with year of entry into FSC.

Failure in a foundational nursing course (NUR 1105, NUR 1106, NUR 3104, NUR 3204, or NUR 3302) will not result in an automatic nursing program progression delay. Students must complete foundational courses prior to below academic semester/year while maintaining the required GPA of at least 3.00:

- NUR 1105- must be successfully completed prior to the start of Spring Semester of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year nursing sequence.
- NUR 1106 must be successfully completed no later than the end Spring Semester of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year nursing sequence.
- NUR 3104 and NUR 3204 must be successfully completed prior to the start of the Fall Semester of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year nursing sequence.
- NUR 3302 must be successfully completed prior to the start of the Fall Semester of the 4<sup>th</sup> year nursing sequence.

### **Ethical and Professional Standards**

All students enrolled in the Nursing Program are expected to follow the Florida Southern College Honor Code outlined in the FSC Catalog and FSC Student Handbook. Students are expected to adhere to the Drug-Free Campus rules and regulations.

Additionally, students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner directed by conscience. Conscience motivates one to increase the knowledge and skills needed to respond appropriately to moral, ethical, and legal issues faced by one and others. Each nurse is legally accountable and responsible for professional conduct and ethics. Professional nurses are held to the American Nursing Association's Code of Ethics for Nursing. Nursing students enrolled in any nursing program are expected to adhere to this same code. Professional nurses must possess knowledge, skills, and attitudes to deliver safe, effective care as outlined in the Quality and Safety Education in Nursing (QSEN) project.

### *Academic Dishonesty Policy*

#### Statement of Purpose

The nursing profession demands the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and ethical conduct. As future healthcare professionals, nursing students must demonstrate these values throughout their academic journey. Academic dishonesty undermines the educational process, compromises professional development, and violates the trust placed in healthcare providers by patients and society.

### Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Cheating on examinations, quizzes, or other assessments
- Plagiarism in written assignments, presentations, or projects
- Unauthorized collaboration on individual assignments
- Falsification of clinical documentation or patient data
- Submitting work completed by another person
- Using unauthorized materials or resources during assessments
- Sharing examination content with other students
- Misrepresenting attendance or clinical hours
- Tampering with grades or academic records

### Progressive Disciplinary Action

The nursing program enforces a progressive disciplinary system for academic dishonesty violations:

#### First Violation-

- Student receives a written warning that becomes part of their academic record
- Assignment receives a grade of zero with no opportunity for resubmission
- Student required to complete academic integrity remediation program

#### Second Violation-

- Student receives a failing grade (F) for the entire course
- Academic probation status imposed
- Student must meet with academic advisor and program director
- Mandatory ethics counseling required before readmission consideration

#### Third Violation-

- Student is immediately dismissed from the nursing program
- Student is no longer eligible to remain in or return to the program
- Dismissal is permanent and final

### Reporting and Investigation Process

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be thoroughly investigated according to institutional policies. Students have the right to due process, including the opportunity to respond to allegations and appeal decisions through established academic grievance procedures.

### Student Responsibility

Students are expected to:

- Familiarize themselves with academic integrity policies
- Seek clarification when uncertain about academic expectations
- Report suspected violations to faculty or administration
- Uphold the ethical standards expected of healthcare professionals



### Commitment to Excellence

The nursing program is committed to preparing competent, ethical practitioners who will serve as trusted healthcare professionals. Maintaining academic integrity is essential to this mission and reflects the values we expect our graduates to carry into their professional practice.

### Patient Safety

Students are expected to comply with all state and federal laws and statutes governing patient care. These include, but are not limited to:

- Florida Nurse Practice Act
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
  - Personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Blood borne pathogens
  - Infection control
- Centers for Disease Control
  - Hand hygiene
- Healthcare Information Portability and Accountability Act
- Child and Adult Protection regulation

Nursing students are required to adhere to all the rules and regulations set by the clinical agency during clinical site rotations and experiences. Comportment is always expected when students interact with peers, faculty, clients, families, visitors and staff. Comportment is a nurse's professional behavior demonstrated through words, action and presence. Any student may be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including dismissal from the nursing program if comportment is not demonstrated and/or rules, regulations and guidelines are not followed.

Instructors of any FSC nursing course own the copyright in all original course materials they create, including written and recorded lectures, power point presentations, study materials and exams and the selection of readings/assignments for their course. Course materials are protected by copyright because they exist in a tangible medium and are the original works of the faculty. Persons who publicly distribute or display copies or modified copies of an instructor's course materials may be considered in violation of the Florida Southern College Honor Code.

Students may receive a *Corrective Action Form* from the clinical instructor, course faculty or skills lab coordinator for issues including tardiness, absence, unprofessional behavior, and safety concerns and/or skills deficiencies. The form will outline suggested remediation and final actions. The completed form will be forwarded to the Program Director for review and inclusion in the student's file. Corrective Action Forms may be used for disciplinary procedures that can lead to clinical failure, academic probation, suspension or dismissal from the nursing program.

### *Voluntary Withdrawal from Course*

Any student who voluntarily withdraws from a course, and with approval from the instructor, will be considered for re-entry to the program subject to course and program availability. There is no guarantee for returning to the program at the placement requested. If a student withdraws from a NUR course will have a delay in their program sequence.

### *Involuntary Withdrawal from a Course*

A student may be removed from a course at the discretion of the course faculty or Dean. This action may result in an involuntary withdrawal from the respective course for the following reasons:

- Unexcused absence on the first day of class.
- Repeated number of unexcused absences.
- Unprofessional behavior as specified in the ANA Code of Ethics, student nurse handbook, and/or the FSC Student Handbook and Catalog.

A student who has been involuntarily withdrawn from a course must request, in writing, and be granted permission from the Dean to re-take the course at the next offering in the following academic year.

### *Probation*

Students must refer to the FSC catalog for policies regarding academic warnings, probation, and suspensions. The BSN Program may place the student on probation for:

- Cumulative GPA below 3.0 as listed earlier in this handbook.
- Any breach of patient safety, competencies, or other unprofessional acts or omissions.

When placed on probation, the student must meet with the Program Director and faculty advisor to establish criteria for removal of probation and a timeline for completion of the objectives.

### *Removal from the Nursing Program*

A student may be removed from the Nursing Program for the following reasons:

- Student who receives a grade less than “C” for two NUR courses
- Student who is unable to raise cumulative GPA to 3.0 after one semester of being on an AIP
- Student who demonstrates an inability to competently and safely perform patient care.
- Student who fails to maintain ethical and professional standards.
- Student who commits violations of the HIPAA law.
- Student who commits any act or omission of any act that are so egregious that it results in compromised patient care, or criminal or overt malpractice activities, or acting outside the scope of practice for a nursing student.
- Student who engages in any act or behavior, which is disruptive, unprofessional or uncivil.

A student who is removed from the nursing program is no longer eligible to receive the BSN degree from Florida Southern College. This student may be advised to pursue another major, at Florida Southern College if eligible according to college policy.

### **Graduation Requirements**

Graduation requirements are listed in the FSC catalog. In addition, the student must reach all program specific requirements regarding grades, clinical performance, documented professionalism, and documented completion of all course and all program outcomes.

Nursing students must complete all college coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher for nursing courses is required and will be reviewed at least

on an annual basis.

*Diagnostic Testing for the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN)*  
In the final semester of study, students are required to take a diagnostic test to measure NCLEX preparedness. Students must achieve an equivalent to 91% probability of passing the NCLEX exam. Students who do not achieve an equivalent to 91% after the second attempt will not successfully pass NUR 4210 Senior Seminar or meet graduation requirements. Students will receive an incomplete for NUR 4210 and will have one term to pass a diagnostic test.

Upon successful completion of all program requirements and graduation, a student will be released by the Dean to sit for the NCLEX exam.

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

The NCLEX-RN exam is a standardized exam that each state board of nursing uses to determine whether a candidate is prepared for entry-level nursing practice. The NCLEX-RN tests application and analysis using the nursing knowledge you learned in school. It will test how candidates use critical thinking skills to make nursing judgments. Pre-licensure students are preparing for NCLEX-RN throughout the program. Students must meet all legal requirements for licensure established by the Florida Board of Nursing or the designated state if other than Florida.

**Summary of Degree Requirements** (begins with class of 2025/see academic catalog for class of 2024)

<i>Pre-licensure BSN Curriculum</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
<i>A. General Education Requirements</i>	40
<i>B. Major Requirements</i>	96
<i>Prerequisites (prior to sophomore year)</i>	
BIO 2215 Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIO 2216 Anatomy & Physiology II	4
CHE 1011 Chemical Foundations of the Biological Sciences	4
<i>Prerequisites (concurrent sophomore year)</i>	
BIO 2280 Applied Microbiology	4
<i>Prerequisites (prior to or concurrent junior year)</i>	
MAT 2022 Applied Statistics or MAT 2023 Biostatistics	4
<i>Nursing Core</i>	
NUR 1101 Nursing Seminar (FTIC only)	1
NUR 1105 Nursing Foundations I	2
NUR 1106 Nursing Foundations II	2
NUR 2202 Nursing Fundamentals	6
NUR 3104 Applied Pathophysiology	4
NUR 3106 Basics of Health Assessment	4
NUR 3204 Applied Pharmacology	4
NUR 3302 Clinical Nutrition	3

NUR 3510 Psychiatric Nursing Care	4
NUR 3530 Maternal and Newborn Nursing Care	4
NUR 3540 Pediatric Nursing Care	4
NUR 3585 Adult Health Nursing Care I	6
NUR 4110 Evidence Based Healthcare	4
NUR 4210 Senior Seminar	3
NUR 4570 Community Health Nursing Care	4
NUR 4575 Introduction to Global and Population Health	3
NUR 4585 Adult Health Nursing Care II	6
NUR 4590 Nursing Leadership	3
NUR 4595 Adult Health Nursing Care III	6
NUR 4961 Senior Practicum	3
<i>C. Electives</i>	<i>0</i>
NUR 4310: Transition to Practice (Pilot- Spring 2026)	<i>1</i>
<i>D. Total</i>	<i>136/ 138</i>

### **Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI)**

Students in the pre-licensure nursing program are required to purchase and utilize the ATI Program. The cost of the program is divided into 4 payments and added to the student accounts. ATI is a focused remediation resource that students will use throughout the program. This program offers multiple remediation tools, including traditional and online reading materials, videos, practice assessments, clinical skills, and virtual simulation. Students will also receive help from an ATI support team.

Throughout the program, students take proctored ATI Content Mastery Series (CMS) tests. These standardized examinations are designed to prepare the student for success on the NCLEX-RN. To pass a CMS test, the student must achieve a minimum of a level 2. The ATI CMS test will represent no more than 10% of the course grade. Please refer to individual course syllabi for details and rubric.

Included in the ATI Program are post-graduate products. These include an online Capstone Classroom Course, comprehensive 3-day Live NCLEX Review, and a Virtual-ATI NCLEX-Review. These products are used in the final semester of the program in NUR 4210 Senior Seminar.

### **AI Use**

Artificial intelligence (AI, e.g. ChatGPT) has benefits to student learning that can enhance educational outcomes. AI tools can provide personalized learning experiences, enabling students to receive instant feedback and tailored support that addresses their unique needs and learning styles. Additionally, AI can assist in developing key skills such as problem-solving by offering real-time examples, practice scenarios, and interactive simulations. AI can serve as a valuable complement to traditional learning methods and empower students to take ownership of their education and achieve their full academic potential. That said, nursing is a profession that demands a high level of critical thinking and clinical judgment. The ability to assess, analyze,

and make informed decisions in complex, real-life situations is paramount to patient safety and quality care. While AI can provide support in certain aspects of education, they cannot replace the human element of nursing, which includes empathy, ethical decision-making, and the ability to think critically in high-pressure situations.

Therefore, the use of AI to complete graded work of any form is permissible for specific assignments in specific courses. If the course assignment does not expressly mention the approved use of AI for that assignment, the use of AI to complete work is prohibited.

In keeping with academic integrity, you will be expected to cite in APA format and disclose every use of A.I., and this should be done in the fullest, most transparent way possible. For example, “I used ChatGPT for this assignment to...” and “The prompt(s) I used in ChatGPT are...”. Failure to disclose the use of AI or using AI when not approved in submitted work for a course will constitute a violation of course policy and the Honor Code.

### **III. Clinical Information**

**Registration for Clinical Agency Placements:** Students will register for clinical placements for the following semester during the FSC registration period. Registration often occurs before agency locations, days and times are finalized by the BSN Program Director and Clinical Coordinator. In addition, due to changing numbers of students within cohorts, the number of clinical and/or lab sections may require adjustment. For these reasons, there is no guarantee of clinical agency placement choices and/or lab times and days. Students may be moved from their original clinical or lab section to another at the discretion of the BSN Program Director. Students will be notified by email of any changes to their schedules.

#### **Student Clinical Dress Code Policy**

The dress code policy for students is established by FSC Nursing and Health Sciences and reflects area agency employee requirements. However, there may be additional individual agency requirements. All students must adhere to the dress code policy when a uniform is needed for clinical study. Personal appearance must demonstrate neatness, cleanliness, and good hygiene. Extremes in appearance or accessory attire potentially interfering with patient care or perception are not acceptable. Anyone in violation of this policy will be required to leave the clinical setting.

For clinical settings, students must wear the FSC designated nursing student uniform which is purchased from a designated vendor. The cost for uniforms is the responsibility of the student.

All students reporting for a clinical, simulated lab, and community experience assignments must adhere to the following:

1. FSC Student identification badge must always be worn.
  - a. Identification badges are to be clearly visible, above the waist.
  - b. Student photographs on identification badges must be worn face out, with no defacement (pins, personal stickers).

2. Hair must be clean, neatly groomed and controlled.
  - a. Long hair must be secured away from the face and not fall forward during procedures.
  - b. Hair decorations must be kept plain and simple.
  - c. Extreme styles are not permitted.
  - d. Facial hair must be kept neat and well-trimmed.
  - e. Fashion headscarves or skullcaps are not permitted.
  - f. Hairbands are permitted if they are white, or match scrubs or hair color.
3. Nails must be neat, clean, and support the functional use of hands and fingers.
  - a. Artificial fingernails, gel, lacquer (regular nail polish), and dip nails are prohibited.
4. Jewelry must be plain and inconspicuous. Jewelry must not interfere with patient care or present a hazard to the employee.
  - a. One pair of small post earrings that do not dangle from the earlobes is permitted.
  - b. No necklaces are permitted.
  - c. Bracelets or armbands are not permitted unless they are a Medical Alert bracelet.
  - d. Only one ring or ring set is allowed.
  - e. A form-fitting wristwatch is permitted.
  - f. Facial piercing jewelry (i.e. eyebrow, nose, tongue, lip, etc.) is prohibited.
5. Fragrances must be minimally evident. With some patient care populations, fragrances may not be worn.
6. Tattoos must be covered.
7. Footwear should be clean, appropriate for clothing, protective, and fit securely.
  - a. Shoes should be non-permeable entirely white or black.
  - b. Shoes must have a closed toe and closed heel.
  - c. Canvas shoes or “cros” with holes are not permitted in patient care areas.
8. Uniform/Clothing Standards:
  - a. Undergarments must be worn and inconspicuous under uniform or clothing.
  - b. Clothing must be clean, in good repair and neatly pressed.
  - c. Tops:
    - i. FSC uniform top is to be worn in the clinical area.
    - ii. A solid white or black shirt (long or short sleeves) may be worn under the scrub top.
    - iii. It is strongly suggested that you stand in front of a mirror and raise your hands over your head. If your abdomen is exposed by this movement, your attire is inappropriate – the pants are hanging too low and/or the top is too short.
  - d. Pants:
    - i. FSC scrub pants must be worn in the clinical area.
    - ii. Scrub pant bottoms are not permitted to drag on floor.
  - e. Hoodies and sweatshirts are not permitted.
  - f. Professional Equipment

- i. Students are expected to have their stethoscope, pen light, and a watch with a second hand during clinical experiences.

Nursing students attending skills lab and open lab hours at designated lab time or for open practice time must:

1. Treat the skills lab as a clinical site.
2. Student Clinical Dress Code Policy is required in all lab and simulation settings.
3. Wash hands upon entering the skills lab and before working with simulation manikins.
4. Before leaving the skills lab, put away any supplies and equipment. "Patient" beds must be in lowest position, with bed linens placed neatly, and the over-the-bed table and side table neat and clean.

### **Requirements for Clinical Courses**

For all clinical nursing courses, students must meet school and clinical agency requirements. Students who have not met the requirements by the established due date will be removed from clinical course sections. Students who remain out of compliance by the start of the semester may be removed from the nursing course completely. Students may be eligible to re-enroll in the course in a subsequent semester.

The Nursing Program contracts with Castle Branch tracking system for the management and tracking of Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Level II background checks, Urine Drug Screening (UDS), and immunizations. The student is responsible for the cost of these services. Urine and Drug Screenings may need to be repeated based on requirements of the clinical agencies where students have clinical learning.

All information obtained through FDLE and other background checks is kept confidential unless there is a legal reporting requirement for licensed Nurses.

### **Health Requirements**

Health requirements are necessary for students for the protection of their own health as well as for that of the patients and clients for whom they will be caring in the nursing program. The health requirements in place for students are based on those requirements set by the health care agencies where students are assigned for clinical study. As agency health requirements change, health requirements for students enrolled in the College of Nursing may also change. Some health requirements require a YEARLY update and it is the student's responsibility to assure that the tests are completed, and the report is submitted to Castle Branch tracking system.

Health requirements include:

- Tetanus diphtheria acellular pertussis (Tdap) booster within the last 10 years and valid for the entire academic program.  
*(If you already have only Tetanus, you will need to revaccinate with Tdap)*
- Verification of immune status or vaccine administration for the following infectious diseases:
  - A. Hepatitis B – immunization or positive titer
  - B. MMR - immunization or positive titer



C. Varicella – two doses of vaccine or positive titer

- Verification of non-active exposure
  - A. **Annual** PPD after initial blood test. If there is a history of a positive PPD, then an annual tuberculosis screening form is required.
  - B. **Hepatitis C (HCV)** antibody testing prior to the start of clinical courses. A negative titer is needed. If positive, please see the director of your program for additional procedures.
- **Annual** Flu Vaccine by October 1.

It is the student's responsibility to make sure the results of these immunizations are reported to the Castle Branch reporting system. Students must Failure to maintain all requirements is a violation of the School's agency contracts and will prohibit a student's ability to maintain clinical practice.

**COVID-19:** Students who are not up to date on COVID 19 vaccinations and do not want to take the vaccine must contact the clinical agency they are assigned to for an exemption request if the agency requires vaccination. Clinical agencies are not required to provide such exemptions to students. Failure to be vaccinated could result in a student not being able to be placed in a clinical site, and so the student may not be able to complete a required component of the educational program.

### **Mandatory Drug Screening**

All students enrolled in a clinical course will be required to provide a sample for a urine drug screen. This is a requirement among agencies that accept our students for clinical experience. Students will have a drug screen before they begin their initial clinical experience and, if needed, any additional drug screening for just cause. After students purchase their Castle Branch account, the required documents to obtain the mandatory drug screen will be available through Castle Branch. No other previous drug screen results will be accepted. Students who have not completed a drug screen will not be permitted in any clinical setting. Students will be responsible for the cost of subsequent screening for just cause.

### **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Requirement**

Students are required complete a "Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers" CPR course before they can participate in clinical course work. The CPR course must include adult, child, infant, and AED training. Nursing students will upload a copy of their valid CPR card into Castle Branch. The student is required to provide the certificate of completion or the front and back sides of their SIGNED CPR card that indicates compliance for the entire upcoming academic year prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Once a CPR card has been established, the student must maintain a current CPR card on file. Failure to maintain current CPR certification will prohibit a student's entry into or continuation in the clinical portion of the program.



### **HIPAA Training**

Every student in the nursing program is required to complete training regarding the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) prior to participation in clinical courses. These Computer Based e-Learning (CBL) modules are purchased through Castle Branch. Failure to complete the CBL modules will prohibit a student's entry into the clinical portion of the program.

### **HIPAA Violation**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires health care providers to abide by the regulations for privacy and confidentiality of protected health information and covers all individually identifiable health information whether the information is electronic, paper or spoken. All students are provided HIPAA training for conduct regarding protection of patient/client information prior to entrance into clinical courses and are responsible for implementing HIPAA standards and procedures in each clinical setting in which students are placed. Violation of HIPAA may result in required additional training or dismissal from the nursing program.

### **Professional Liability Insurance**

Students are covered for general and malpractice insurance by FSC Nursing Program's blanket nursing liability policy during program required student activities. An annual fee is assessed to the student account for this insurance (annual cost approximately \$23).

### **Clinical and Experiential Learning**

It is expected that all students are physically, mentally, emotionally and cognitively prepared to fulfill clinical assignments in a safe manner. Students who are unable to meet these expectations and/or are deemed unsafe to self or others in the clinical setting will be asked to leave the unit/agency. A follow-up assessment with the appropriate personnel must be completed prior to return to the clinical setting. Patient safety and welfare are paramount. Any student who places a patient in an actual or potentially hazardous or unsafe situation due to insufficient judgement or clinical preparation/competence may receive an unsatisfactory grade for clinical performance and may be dismissed from the program regardless of academic standing in other classes.

Students who are suspected of being chemically impaired due to alcohol or drug use will be removed from the clinical setting and may be required to submit for testing and/or evaluation and to provide written verification of fitness to return to the clinical arena prior to resuming clinical or practicum hours. The Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences is the final authority relative to progression in these situations.

Students are expected to attend every session of a clinical experience. An absence, for any reason, requires the student to make up the missed time in order to receive a passing grade in the course. More than one missed clinical day will result in failure to meet course requirements. In addition to making up the missed clinical hours, the student must also complete a research paper on a topic chosen by the lead faculty for the course. This assignment will be due to the instructor no later than two weeks after the missed clinical day. The paper should follow APA guidelines and be 3-5 pages in length (not including the title page and reference page).

All nursing students are expected to arrive promptly to and be prepared for their clinical/lab or experiential learning experience. Students are expected to be professional, to show respect, to have integrity, to follow safety rules, and any other rules and expectations of the FSC nursing student in the clinical agency. Students who are tardy, unprepared, disruptive, unprofessional or not appropriately attired may be asked to leave the clinical area or skills lab and this will be counted as a missed clinical/lab day.

Transportation to and from clinical sites is the responsibility of the student. FSC does not cover travel liability for transportation to and from clinical sites, including partnering agencies, home visits, or visits to community sites. Students are expected to follow all traffic and agency parking rules.

## **IV. Student Life**

### **Nursing Programs' Communications**

Nursing student representation occurs through selected students invited for membership on the SNHS Dean's Student Advisory Committee; this committee meets twice each semester and provides an opportunity for all student groups within the school to interact and advise the Dean.

The Dean and Program Directors meet as needed with student groups for addressing issues such as: program event planning, suggestions for program improvements, nominations for awards and services to the program, as well as continued communications with students and with alumni.

### **BSN Communication Page**

First year nursing students, during the spring semester, will be required to join the "BSN Pre-licensure Castlebranch Page" located in Canvas. Beginning year 2, nursing students are required to join the 'BSN Student Communication Page' located in Canvas. These pages will have announcements and information regarding Castle Branch and clinical requirements. This page will contain the electronic version of the current *BSN Student Handbook*.

<https://flsouthern.instructure.com/>

### **FSC Student Nurses Association (SNA)**

The FSC Student Nurses' Association is open to all pre-licensure nursing students. Officers of SNA must be currently enrolled in the sophomore, junior, or senior nursing courses of the pre-licensure program.

**FSC Nursing Christian Fellowship Chapter (NCF)**

NCF is a network of Christian nurses, students, and educators who are dedicated to living out God's purposes in their lives, professionally and personally. This group is open to all pre-licensure nursing students.

**SIGMA**

SIGMA is the International Honor Society of Nursing. FSC's chapter is Upsilon Omega. The organization recognizes superior achievement and the development of leadership qualities, fosters high professional standards, encourages creative work and strengthens commitment to ideals of the profession. Membership is by invitation only. Invitations will be sent to candidates selected by the faculty who have leadership and research abilities, who have completed the required portion of the nursing programs, and who have the required cumulative grade point average. <https://www.sigmanursing.org/>

**FSC Social Media Policy**

The College's students are required to comply with the guidelines and requirements in this policy when conducting social networking activities. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Even if social networking or social media activities take place off campus, what is said can have an adverse effect on the College's legitimate business interests and its students' ability to live and learn in an academic environment free from hostility, harassment, discrimination and defamation. Further details on this policy are located in the Florida Southern College Undergraduate Student Handbook at <https://www.flsouthern.edu/FSC/media/student-life/handbooks/FSC-Student-Handbook.pdf>

## **Appendix A**

### **Incident Policy**

#### *Incident Occurring on Campus:*

In the event of a student accident (that does not require 911 assistance), **call FSC Campus Safety at 863-680-4305.**

Campus Safety will file an incident report and take the student back to their room (if living on campus). Campus Safety will also notify the Office of Student Life at 863- 680-4206 who will decide if the student's emergency contact person should be notified.

Beyond providing emergency measures or routine first aid, faculty and staff should not attempt to diagnose or treat students who are ill or injured.

If an employee of FSC is involved in an accident/injury on campus contact Human Resources at 863-680-5079 and Campus Safety at 863-680-4305 to complete an incident report.

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences Dean's Assistant will maintain a log in the network file share of all incidences reported to the Dean's office.

#### *Incident Occurring Off Campus:*

In the event of a life-threatening emergency call 911.

If a student has an incident at an off-campus location during their clinical, contact the BSN Lead Faculty/Graduate Faculty of Record or Program Director immediately.

The BSN Lead Faculty/Graduate Faculty of Record will collect a dated statement that includes the following information: (1) Statement from the student, (2) Statement from the student's faculty/preceptor, and (3) Statement from the agency as applicable.

These statements will be given to the School of Nursing and Health Sciences Dean's Assistant within 72 hours of the incident to be placed in the student's advising file

## **Appendix B**

### **Change in Health Status Policy**

Students who experience a change in health status that could potentially affect their ability to meet course, laboratory, and/or clinical requirements will be required to submit clearance from a qualified health provider (M.D., D.O., Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant). The clearance form must specifically indicate that it is safe for the student to resume or continue participation in course, laboratory, and/or clinical experiences. The form must also define any limitations of the student relative to resuming or continuing participation. Copies of the clearance form must be submitted to the Course Lead Faculty and Program Director. Continuation or resumption of participation in clinical experiences will be in accordance with student and/or employee policies of the respective affiliated clinical agencies. If the student is unable to meet the requirements for participation in class, laboratory and/or clinical experiences, the student may be required to withdraw from the course. Examples of health status changes that must be reported may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Injury
- Pregnancy / Delivery
- Major illness: i.e. physical or mental
- Communicable disease(s)
- Splint / Brace / Cast / Sling
- Surgery

Any student with a health status change that results in disability will be referred to the Florida Southern College Student Disability Services.

## NOTES