



Ouachita Baptist University Department of Nursing BSN Student Handbook

Fall 2025-2026

FORWARD

This handbook is provided to the student to serve as an overall guide to the Ouachita Baptist University Department of Nursing. Information and policies contained herein are current at the time of printing; however, policies, procedures, and information contained within require continual evaluation, review, and approval. Therefore, the faculty and administration of the department reserve the right to change the policies, procedures, and general information at any time without prior notice, according to policy. Students will receive electronic notification of all new and revised policies. Additionally, changes will be made on the website version. Students are expected to remain informed by checking their university email daily and reviewing the university website (obu.edu) regularly.

Students enrolled in the Ouachita Baptist University Department of Nursing are responsible for information contained in the current Student Handbook and current Catalog. Student are expected to comply with all policies of: a) Ouachita Baptist University, b) all institutions with which the department is affiliated, and c) the department of nursing.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Ouachita Baptist University (Ouachita) Nursing Department. The nursing profession is one of the most respected professions in the nation. Nursing is challenging, rewarding, and allows for multiple opportunities. The field requires knowledge of spiritual beliefs, physical, biological, behavioral, and nursing sciences. Nurses use evidence-based knowledge to make important decisions that demonstrate sound judgement when caring for clients/groups/communities.

Ouachita faculty are dedicated to assisting you reach your educational and career goals. We provide equal educational opportunities for all according to university guidelines. Ouachita's academic nursing program is rigorous and will require immense commitment on your part.

Ouachita's Nursing Program is a residential four-year program offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing on the Ouachita campus in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

The BSN program option consists of 65-68 credit hours of core/pre-requisite courses and 61 credit hours of BSN courses from Ouachita. Clinical experiences will be conducted in community and hospital settings throughout Central and Southern Arkansas with partnerships between the facilities and Ouachita. Ouachita nursing courses with a clinical component include a 1:1 credit hour to contact hour ratio for theory and a 1:3 credit hour to contact hour ratio for clinical. Students will have 112.5 clinical hours in Concepts in Nursing Foundations, Concepts of Adult Nursing I, II, III, 135 clinical hours in Leadership and Management in BSN Practice, and 90 clinical hours in Concepts of Family Health and Concepts of Community Health. Ouachita nursing courses will be conducted 100% face-to-face with the use of the learning management system to enhance courses.

MISSION, VALUES, AND PHILOSOPHY

The BSN program at Ouachita prepares the graduate for entry into professional practice as a generalist nurse. The program is built upon the liberal arts, the philosophy of Christian ideals, nursing standards, and nursing ethics. Core values of faith, scholarship, growth, community, service, and character are emphasized. Students are prepared to utilize evidence-based research findings to provide holistic care to diverse individual clients and communities locally and across the globe throughout the lifespan in structured and unstructured health care settings.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- | | |
|----------|--|
| EPSLO #1 | Integrate interprofessional and intraprofessional skills to communicate effectively with healthcare professionals, individuals, families/groups to provide cost effective and quality care. |
| EPSLO #2 | Analyze appropriate concepts synthesized from the humanities, social, physical, and behavioral sciences in meeting the physiological, psychological, spiritual, and sociocultural principles to foster self-growth as well as meet the needs of the individual/group or community. |
| EPSLO #3 | Evaluate the effectiveness of competent care to individuals, families/groups, and global areas across the life span in structured and unstructured settings using critical thinking, clinical judgement, and decision making while using the nursing/research process. |

- EPSLO #4 Manage professional, cultural, spiritual, and ethical competent congruent care that reflects dignity and uniqueness to individuals, families/groups, and communities both locally and globally.
- EPSLO #5 Assess leadership and management skills and knowledge of health policy and health services guided by the Christian faith to improve interventions used to promote and maintain healthy lifestyles.
- EPSLO #6 Apply the knowledge and skills of information management and patient care technology to deliver nursing care that addresses legal, ethical, and emerging issues.

ACCREDITATION, APPROVAL, LICENSURE, AND MEMBERSHIP

The BSN program has the following accreditations/approvals:

The baccalaureate program at Ouachita Baptist University at the Ouachita Baptist University campus located in Arkadelphia, Arkansas is accredited by the: Accreditation 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 baccalaureate nursing program is initial accreditation.

Arkansas State Board of Nursing
State Approval Agency
Full Approval
1123 S University Ave #800
Little Rock, AR 72204
(501) 686-2700

Higher Learning Commission
Institutional Accreditor
Approval
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 70604-1411
800-621-7440

GENERAL INFORMATION AND POLICIES

*The policies provided in the Department of Nursing BSN Student Handbook relate to the BSN major. Students are also responsible for being familiar with and abiding by other academic policies listed in the University Student Handbook (Tiger Handbook).

ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION CONDITIONS OF THE BSN PROGRAM

To be *considered* for the BSN degree program the student must:

1. Be admitted to Ouachita.
2. Declare nursing as a major.

Transfer Student

To be *considered* for the BSN degree program the student must:

1. Be admitted to Ouachita.
2. Declare nursing as a major. Nursing courses transferred must be from an accredited nursing program and approved by the Ouachita Registrar and Director of Nursing.
3. Provide the following documents to the Office of Admissions and Registrar: Valid ACT or SAT scores (if available); completed high school transcript or GED scores; college transcripts through the previous semester; and required immunization records. Students entering this program will have official transcripts evaluated for appropriate application of previously earned credit and will receive individual guidance in maximizing prior credit to meet CORE and nursing program requirements for the degree. Admission to the University does not mean automatic admission to the Department of Nursing Program. International students must contact the International Student Services Office.
4. Completion of Ouachita CORE courses, pre-requisites for the nursing program, and one Ouachita BSN pre-nursing course (NSCI 3103 Healthcare Pathophysiology) are required prior to making application to the Ouachita BSN program (courses may be in progress at time of application).

To be *admitted* into the BSN program

1. Students must be an active Ouachita nursing major in good standing, or a transfer student who is admitted to Ouachita and approved by the Director of Nursing to apply to the BSN program.
2. Selection of students is based on a competitive review of the applicant's GPA in nursing curriculum support courses (NCSCs) (see how to calculate NCSCs below), an overall Ouachita GPA of 2.5 or better at the end of the sophomore first semester (or transfer GPA of 2.5 or greater), number of courses completed at the time of application, TEAS score of 63% or above, and academic history in collegiate and nursing study.
3. Students must have a grade of "C" or better in the Ouachita BSN pre-nursing course, BSN prerequisite courses, Ouachita core courses, and courses transferred to Ouachita.
4. Twelve courses are required to be completed prior to beginning the BSN program of study. These courses must be completed or in progress at the time of application.

MATH 1003 College Algebra

PSYC 1013 General Psychology

BIOL 1014 General Biology I

CORE 1023 Contemporary World

CHEM 1024 Fundamentals of Chemistry

CORE 1043 Composition I

BIOL 2014 Human Anatomy & Physiology I

PSYC 2033 Human Development *or* DIET 3053 Nutrition

BIOL 2024 Human Anatomy & Physiology II

BIOL 2604 Applied Microbiology

ENGL 3013 Technical & Professional Writing

NSCI 3103 Health Care Pathophysiology

5. Students must score 78-80 internet Based Test (iBT), or 550 Paper Based Test (PBT) or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam. The test must have been taken within the last two (2) calendar years of admission. All transfer credit must be evaluated by International Education Evaluations, Inc. (www.foreigntranscripts.com), the evaluator of choice for our institutional needs or by Educational Credential Evaluator (www.ece.org) or World Education

Services (www.wes.org). Official TOEFL exam score report reflecting successful completion must be received no later than one (1) month after the application deadline date. Only TOEFL test scores received directly from International Education Evaluations, Inc. will be accepted as valid.

*If the applicant's entire educational experience has been in the United States, the applicant does not have to take the TOEFL. To document this, the applicant must provide records/transcripts from the time that the applicant entered school in the seventh grade through high school and college. If the applicant cannot provide this documentation, the applicant may appeal first to the Director of Nursing, then to the Dean of J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences.

6. Complete and submit the BSN program option application to the Department of Nursing. Students will be notified of admission after faculty review of applications.

Progression in the program option is dependent upon:

- Maintaining a GPA of 2.0 or greater after acceptance into the BSN nursing program in Ouachita BSN nursing courses throughout the program, and successful completion of all BSN courses in sequence.
- Lack of success of the same BSN nursing course twice, or failure of two BSN nursing courses at any point within the curriculum prevents students from progressing in the BSN nursing program.
- Students must earn a "C" or higher in all nursing courses to proceed throughout the program. If unsuccessful, a student is allowed to retake one BSN nursing course.

Students who do not meet progression rules will be advised to take an alternate educational pathway other than the Ouachita BSN program.

ANA CODE OF ETHICS FOR NURSES

Provision 1. The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

Provision 2. A nurse's primary commitment is to the recipient(s) of nursing care, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.

Provision 3. The nurse establishes a trusting relationship and advocates for the rights, health, and safety of recipient(s) of nursing care.

Provision 4. Nurses have authority over nursing practice and are responsible and accountable for their practice consistent with their obligations to promote health, prevent illness, and provide optimal care.

Provision 5. The nurse has moral duties to self as a person of inherent dignity and worth including an expectation of a safe place to work that fosters flourishing, authenticity of self at work, and self-respect through integrity and professional competence.

Provision 6. Nurses, through individual and collective effort, establish, maintain, and improve the ethical environment of the work setting that affects nursing care and the well-being of nurses.

Provision 7. Nurses advance the profession through multiple approaches to knowledge development, professional standards, and the generation of policies for nursing, health, and social concerns.

Provision 8. Nurses build collaborative relationships and networks with nurses, other healthcare and non-healthcare disciplines, and the public to achieve greater ends.

Provision 9. Nurses and their professional organizations work to enact and resource practices, policies, and legislation to promote social justice, eliminate health inequities, and facilitate human flourishing.

Provision 10. Nursing, through organizations and associations, participates in the global nursing and health community to promote human and environmental health, well-being, and flourishing.

References

American Nurses Association (2025). *Code of ethics for nurses*, American Nurses Publishing. Silver Spring, MD.

ATI STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT POLICY/GRADING RUBRIC

Using a combination of practice and proctored assessments to achieve 10% of the course grade. Course Exams and ATI scores must average at least 70% before other course grades can be included. The exception is in the Junior Fall semester where the total combined exam average must be at least 65%.

ATI Practice Assessments

- Students will be assigned Practice A Assessment. Students will complete templates based on the score received.

ATI RN Content Mastery Series 2023, ATI Recommended Cut Scores

Column	Below 1	1	2	3
Adult Medical Surgical	Below 60.4%	60.5% to 71.0%	71.1% to 83.6%	83.7% to 100%
Community Health	Below 59.5%	59.6% to 74.7%	74.8% to 85.2%	85.3% to 100%
Fundamentals	Below 49.8%	49.9% to 65.4%	65.5% to 79.3%	79.4% to 100%
Leadership	Below 60.2%	60.3% to 76.4%	76.5% to 87.7%	87.8% to 100%
Maternal Newborn	Below 56.0%	56.1% to 68.2%	68.3% to 81.9%	82.0% to 100%
Mental Health	Below 54.4%	54.5% to 68.4%	68.5% to 85.1%	85.2% to 100%
Pediatric Nursing	Below 50.8%	50.9% to 63.7%	63.8% to 78.3%	78.4% to 100%
Nutrition	Below 50.5%	50.6% to 66.8%	66.9% to 82.7%	82.8% to 100%
Pharmacology	Below 52.6%	52.7% to 71.0%	71.1% to 86.2%	86.3% to 100%
Column	Below 1	1	2	3

Requirements	Must complete: Minimum of 4 Hours of Focused Review Start with lowest scoring areas; complete 15 templates as directed in your focused review.	Must complete: Minimum of 3 Hours of Focused Review Start with lowest scoring areas; complete 12 templates as directed in your focused review.	Must complete: Minimum of 2 Hours of Focused Review Start with lowest scoring areas; complete 10 templates as directed in your focused review.	Must complete: Minimum of 1 Hour of Focused Review Start with lowest scoring areas; complete 5 templates as directed in your focused review.
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- All templates with the Individual Performance Profile showing completed Focused Review time requirements should be submitted as directed by the assigned professor. All areas of templates should be completed with several examples. One word or one sentence answers will not be accepted.
- Templates should be typed or written neatly. Name and Date should be written in the top right corner of each template.
- Use reliable evidence-based resources to remediate each topic (ATI eBook, course textbook, etc.). (Online sources should only end in .gov, .edu, or .org.) Cite your sources in APA 7th ed. format.
- At the course coordinator's discretion, students will submit completed templates to CANVAS or turned in at class by assigned due date.
- Students will receive 2/2 points for all completed templates assigned. Failure to complete all assigned templates, or if turned in late, the student will receive 0/2.
- Students will repeat the above process for Practice B Assessment.

ATI Proctored Assessments

- Students will be assigned Proctored Assessment Attempt 1. Students will complete templates based on the score received.

Proctored: Below 1	Proctored: Level 1	Proctored: Level 2	Proctored: Level 3
Must complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 4 Hours of Focused Review • Start with lowest scoring 	Must complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 3 Hours of Focused Review 	Must complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 2 Hours of Focused Review • Start with lowest scoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No remediation required. • Two points for remediation given automatically.

areas; complete 15 templates as directed in your focused review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start with lowest scoring areas; complete 12 templates as directed in your focused review. 	areas; complete 10 templates as directed in your focused review.	
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- All templates with the Individual Performance Profile showing completed Focused Review time requirements should be submitted as directed by the assigned professor. All areas of templates should be completed with several examples. One word or one sentence answers will not be accepted.
- Templates should be typed or written neatly. Name and Date should be written in the top right corner of each template.
- Use reliable evidence-based resources to remediate each topic (ATI eBook, course textbook, etc.). (Online sources should only end in .gov, .edu, or .org.) Cite your sources in APA 7th ed. format.
- At the course coordinator's discretion, students will submit completed templates to Canvas or turned in at class by assigned due date.
- Students who receive a **Level 3** on **ATI Proctored** Assessment First Attempt **will not have remediation due** and do not have to retake the exam.
- Students who receive a Below 1, Level 1, or Level 2 must complete remediation and take ATI Proctored Assessment Second Attempt.
- No templates due for Proctored Assessment Attempt 2.
- Students can earn **1 point maximum** when the second attempt increases one level or more. Highest level will stand for grading purposes.

	Points Assigned after ATI Proctored First Attempt with All Remediation					
	Practice A	Practice B	Proctored Attempt 1 Level Score	Proctored Attempt 1 Remediation	Proctored Attempt 2	Total
Below 1 Column Below 1	2/2	2/2	0/4	2/2		6/10
Must take Attempt 2 Increase Level					1 Max	7/10
Level 1 Column 1	2/2	2/2	1/4	2/2		7/10
Must take Attempt 2 Increase Level					1 Max	8/10
Level 2 Column 2	2/2	2/2	2/4	2/2		8/10
Must take Attempt 2 Increase Level					1 Max	9/10
Level 3	2/2	2/2	4/4	Automatic		10/10

Column 3				2/2		
No attempt 2 No remediation						

- Students will receive 2/2 points for all completed templates assigned. Failure to complete all assigned templates as directed, or if turned in late, the student will receive 0/2.
- Points from Practice A, Practice B, Proctored Attempt 1 and Proctored Attempt 2 will be tallied and recorded in Canvas.
- Instructors will add the final ATI total score to Canvas after the second proctored attempt.

ATHLETICS

The Department of Nursing supports students that are involved in all Ouachita Baptist University athletic programs. While the department encourages the use of athletic talents alongside academic pursuits, the department acknowledges that there may be times when athletic participation creates academic challenges for the student in relation to attendance and academic/athletic work-life balance. In these circumstances, the nursing faculty and administration will make every effort to collaborate with the student on a plan that allows for both academic and athletic success. However, success in the nursing program is contingent upon students meeting program theory and clinical requirements and ultimately achieving all End of Program Student Learning Outcomes. It is the student's responsibility to initiate communication, if needed, between and/or related to athletics and the Department of Nursing.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In an effort to ensure promptness and attendance in the classroom and clinical/simulation areas, the following attendance policy will be adhered to by all Ouachita nursing students.

- A tardy is defined as ten (10) minutes after the official start of class or clinical/simulation, as noted on the nursing education center smartboard ("ClearTouch") or the clinical instructor's cell phone. For example, if a class or clinical/simulation begins at 0800, and the student arrives at 0810, the student will be considered tardy.
- Three tardies will be converted into one absence.
- If a student misses more than fifteen (15) minutes of class, the student will be considered absent. If a student misses more than fifteen (15) minutes of clinical, the student will receive an unsatisfactory grade for the clinical day.
- Students are required to notify the appropriate faculty of an absence as soon as possible by phone call only. Students may utilize text message and/or email to notify a faculty member of an absence only as a follow-up after attempting to call the faculty member.
- Nursing students who are absent for student functions representing the University will receive an excused absence only from the theory portion of a course. There will be no excused absence from the clinical/simulation experience unless prior permission is obtained by the student from the course coordinator and the Director of Nursing.
- All students are required to obtain a mandated number of clinical hours each semester regardless of individual circumstances.

Theory

The Department of Nursing has the following policy regarding absences.

In adherence to the Ouachita Baptist University attendance policy, students are expected to attend all classes that they are enrolled in. Course coordinator will ensure that students maintain the appropriate

academic standing, absences will be counted as the following: 2 absences- Verbal Warning, 3 absences- Written warning and OBU campus alert initiated, 4 absences- Guidance advising will be implemented. Students are responsible for any missing material.

Clinical

All students are required to obtain a mandated number of clinical hours each semester regardless of individual circumstances. Students who miss clinical days must meet with the course faculty to appeal for alternative clinical days, if available, to meet the course requirement. Students must pass clinical as well as the theory course to progress forward. Missing clinical days can result in an unsatisfactory grade and failure to progress in the course. Again, all students are required to complete all course clinical hours as identified within the course syllabus.

AWARDS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE NURSE AWARD

Awarded annually by nursing faculty to a graduating BSN degree student who has demonstrated scholastic and leadership ability and exemplifies an enthusiastic commitment to professional nursing.

This student consistently:

- Demonstrates outstanding class and clinical preparation
- Commits to the ideals of the nursing profession
- Demonstrates competence in nursing situations
- Participates in extracurricular activities that promote nursing
- Communicates professionally with other students and faculty
- Supports classmates as a role model with positive attitude
- Portrays compassion and empathy

ADDITIONAL AWARDS TO BSN STUDENTS

Awarded annually by nursing faculty to Junior or Senior nursing students, three awards are awarded as follows:

- *Academic Excellence Award* – Student with 4.0 GPA
- *Florence Nightingale's Spirit of Human Kindness Award* – Student who demonstrates compassion and care and exhibits the characteristics of a nurse
- *Most Likely to Exceed* – Student who exhibits characteristics that will achieve leadership skills and meet the needs of society.

BLS (CPR) CERTIFICATION

All nursing students are required to be certified in Basic Life Support (BLS) upon application. Students are to be re-certified every two years, as indicated on each BLS card. The BLS Certification is to be the **American Heart Association for Health Care Providers BLS course**. This is the only BLS certification that is acceptable. Students must provide proof of certification (COPY not the original) to the nursing administrative assistant.

BODY SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE PROTOCOL

Health care providers are at risk for body fluids that may carry blood borne pathogens. Conversely, the provider may be a host for pathogens that may be transmitted to clients and others. Pathogens at risk for transmission in health care environments include the tuberculosis bacilli; staphylococcus; hepatitis B, C, D; and the human immunodeficiency virus, as well as others. All health care agencies have specific policies, and it is the student's responsibility to be informed of such a policy for each clinical site you attend.

Exposure Guidelines:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) implemented federal legislation in 1991 to reduce risks to health care workers from blood-borne pathogen exposure. All health care facilities are required to have a policy that complies with the Department of Labor guidelines. There is a protocol for reporting any needle stick or cut that must be followed in the clinical facility. Students will be required to follow the institutional protocol. If exposure occurs, the student will complete an Accident Form as soon as possible and submit the form to their clinical faculty. The student may choose to follow up with University Health Service or their personal health care provider if exposure occurs.

CALCULATION OF NURSING CURRICULUM SUPPORT COURSE (NCSC) GPA

A minimum 2.5 NCSC GPA is required to enter the applicant pool for the nursing program. The following guidelines are used to calculate the NCSC GPA:

1. Applicants who receive a course waiver will be noted as receiving an “A.” (Example: The applicant who does not have to take Composition I due to a high ACT or SAT score will record an A for Composition I.)
2. Transfer courses that follow Ouachita Baptist University’s Articulation Agreement will be calculated into the NCSC GPA. Courses not identified as transferable by the course title and Ouachita Baptist University’s Articulation Agreement will not be included in the NCSC GPA.
3. No “D” or “F” grades in NCSCs are acceptable.
4. All grades in repeated courses will be used for calculation of NCSC GPA. GPA will be calculated on ALL required science courses ever taken.
5. The Department of Nursing follows Ouachita Baptist University policies regarding academic clemency.

CLASSROOM RESPONSIBILITIES

Students must:

1. Participate in discussion; ask questions when unsure about major concepts.
2. Request clarification of any information presented in reading materials, clinical experiences, or lectures.
3. Achieve a minimum of 70% to maintain acceptable standing in the course.
4. Submit assignments in a timely manner. Late work may be accepted at the faculty member’s discretion, but with a 5% penalty per day for 7 days; a zero (0) will be awarded after the 7th day. Discussion Boards and quizzes will not be considered for late penalties.
5. Attend local and/or regional conferences and lectures as required. When appropriate and available to enhance learning, students will be asked to attend such programs as part of the class assignment and for professional growth. A minimal registration fee may be required at the student’s expense for some educational opportunities.
6. Adhere to the University Covenant of Academic Honor Policy.
7. Adhere to the University Technology Policy.
8. Adhere to the classroom/clinical dress code.
9. Cell phones in the classroom during lecture/learning activities are at the discretion of the teaching faculty. If allowed, cell phones are to be turned OFF or turned to vibrate during class time and are not to be accessible during class time unless an exception is made by the faculty for an in-class activity. It is NOT appropriate behavior to answer the phone during class.

Appropriate breaks are given during lecture time to return phone calls without interrupting fellow students and faculty.

10. No children are to be brought to class/clinical or left unattended while the adult is attending class or participating in clinical. **ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE PAID FOR THE COURSE WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM/CLINICAL SITE.**
11. Adhere to the Nursing Code of Ethics.

CLINICAL DISMISSAL

Any student who performs in an **unsafe*** manner may be dismissed from the clinical setting. Permanent exclusion from the clinical will result in **FAILURE** of the course, and the student *being advised to take an alternative educational pathway other than the Ouachita BSN program.*

***Unsafe** is defined as any measure which the student does or fails to do that may result in physical or psychological harm to the client, other personnel, or to the individual student.

CLINICAL EVALUATION – STUDENT

1. The student will be evaluated on the following aspects:
 - a. Accepts responsibility as a leader. Prepares adequately prior to arriving at clinical site.
 - b. Honesty for admission of error and seek assistance from preceptor/faculty as needed.
 - c. Continual communication between the student and preceptor/faculty as it relates to clinical situations.
 - d. Responsible for meeting specific learning focus/outcomes for the day.
 - e. Provides meaningful contributions and sharing of ideas with other health care professionals.
 - f. Demonstrates interest and inquiry related to assignments.
 - g. As a leader, ensures safe and therapeutic nursing care.
 - h. Adheres to nursing policies/implications when in a leadership role and or in a volunteer role.
 - i. Evidence of professional behavior through accountability, excellence, duty, service, honor, integrity, and respect for others.
2. A student not meeting the required course outcomes will be given special assistance by the clinical faculty. *If the student does not show satisfactory progress within a period of time designated by the faculty, the student will be advised to drop the course in accordance with university policy.* Students who fail to remove a deficiency from the clinical evaluation tool for the specific course by the final evaluation will fail the course.
3. Clinical Dismissal: Any student who performs in an **unsafe** manner may be dismissed from the clinical setting. Permanent exclusion from the clinical will result in **FAILURE** of the course, and the student may drop in accordance with university policy. Anytime a student makes an error/near miss that could or does result in harm to the client, the Clinical Instructor and student are required to fill out a “**Notification of Unsatisfactory Clinical/Classroom Grade**” form, which will be filed in the student’s file. This following information should be included:
 - a. Hospital name
 - b. Date and time
 - c. Student’s name
 - d. Instructor’s name
 - e. Client’s initials, age, and diagnosis if applicable
 - f. Description of the incident
 - g. Action by the instructor

- h. Action by the student
- i. Environmental factors contributing to the incident/near-miss
- j. Steps taken to prevent recurrence of incident, if applicable
- k. Additional comments or remarks as needed
- l. Signatures of instructor and student

If a student's behavior results in an unsafe act, it is the responsibility of the student to:

- Notify the instructor, staff, and client's health care provider of the error.
- Fill out the hospital's standard incident form.
- Fill out the "**Notification of Unsatisfactory Clinical/Classroom Grade**" form.

4. After this action, the student is **dismissed from the clinical area** and must appear before the nursing faculty for a review of the situation. The faculty will then determine whether the student will be reinstated or permanently dismissed from the clinical. Permanent dismissal will require the student to be administratively dropped from the current clinical course.

CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The student must:

1. Maintain professional ANA Code of Ethics standards <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/>
2. Keep client information confidential (See Department of Nursing HIPAA policy and Technology Use Policy in addition to the Ouachita Baptist University Code of Computing Practice and Use of Network policies.)
3. Perform safely in all areas of client care. Discuss areas of uncertainty of nursing care with the faculty or preceptor PRIOR to entering the client area.
4. Appear in the clinical area on time and follow the Uniform Regulations Policy.
5. Secure clinical assignment per course instructions, come to the clinical experience with the required written work, and be prepared to administer the anticipated nursing care.
6. Responsible for his or her own nursing care behavior. Each student is expected to be able to perform all activities taught in the nursing course.
7. Secure the consultation and/or assistance of the preceptor in nursing care situations where you are unsure and/or inexperienced. Make a specific time arrangement with the faculty member for evaluation at mid-term, final evaluation, or anytime the student/preceptor wishes to discuss issues/problems.
8. Realize that the clinical is a **learning** experience rather than work experience. As with any learning experience, the process must occur within the learner. Students are encouraged to seek out learning opportunities in the clinical setting.
9. Demonstrate an appropriate knowledge base in implementing client care by integrating and applying theoretical and general educational content.
10. Share learning experiences in journal reflections.
11. Evaluate own learning experiences and progress. Students are expected to take initiative in seeking learning experiences.
12. Provide care with respect to human dignity and uniqueness of the client without regard to social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of the health problem.
13. No misrepresentation of educational or professional status.
14. Sign name within chart as required by facility protocol. Student Amy Morris would sign her name as: *A. Morris, NS*. Students will be instructed by clinical facility regarding the requirements of each clinical site to add the Ouachita Baptist University initials to the student

signature. If the facility requires the school initials to be added to the student signature, the required signature would be *A. Morris, NS, Ouachita Baptist University*.

15. Complete a Background Check and Drug Screening through a vendor of the Department of Nursing's choice.
16. Adhere to the Department of Nursing Technology Policy and The Ouachita Baptist University *Code of Computing Practice and Use of Network* policies. See <https://obu.edu/its/students/policies/computing-practices.php>

COMPUTER LABORATORY

The Department of Nursing adheres to the University policy regarding use of the computer laboratory located in JSC. **Food and drink are not allowed in the computer laboratory next to the equipment (computer, printer) under any circumstances by students, faculty, staff, or visitors.** Games and other software not licensed to be on the computers in the clinical are not to be downloaded. Student projects and assignments should be saved to a personal data storage resource, not the computer hard drive. Any student found in violation of computer laboratory policies will not be permitted to use the laboratory for the remainder of the semester.

COVENANT OF ACADEMIC HONOR

The faculty believe that honesty is a hallmark of professionalism, and academic dishonesty is viewed in the Department of Nursing as unprofessional conduct and will not be tolerated. The faculty follow the Covenant of Academic Honor policy. *Please review the Covenant of Academic Honor in the **Tiger Handbook**, https://obu.edu/_resources/docs/Tiger-Handbook-2025-2026-m.pdf*

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG SCREENING INFORMATION

To comply with mandates from clinical agencies utilized by the Ouachita Baptist University Department of Nursing, students enrolled in all Department of Nursing programs are required to have criminal background checks, child maltreatment checks, and urine drug screens to remain enrolled in Department of Nursing clinical courses. Failure to comply with background and drug screening mandates will result in immediate administrative dismissal from the program. Re-entry into the program is based upon evidence of drug counseling and/or rehabilitation, negative drug screen, and agreement to submit to drug screening at random times at the student's expense. A background check typically takes 7-14 normal business days to complete, and turnaround time of the drug screening results is determined by a variety of factors. The required screenings listed above must be conducted by an outside background check service utilized by the Department of Nursing that allows students to purchase their own background and drug screen. Each student will be instructed regarding the specific background and drug screen process. *Each individual student is responsible for screening expenses.*

The Arkansas State Board of Nursing has updated the Criminal Background Check criteria in the Nurse Practice Act.

Criminal background checks (17-87-312)

- A. (1) Each first-time applicant for a license issued by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall apply to the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police for a state and national criminal background check, to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2) At the time a person applies to an Arkansas nursing educational program, the program shall notify the applicant in writing of the provisions and requirements of this section.

- B. The check shall conform to the applicable federal standards and shall include the taking of fingerprints.
- C. The applicant shall sign a release of information to the board and shall be responsible to the Division of Arkansas State Police for the payment of any fee associated with the criminal background check.
- D. Upon completion of the criminal background check, the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police shall forward to the board all releasable information obtained concerning the applicant.
- E. For purposes of this section, the board shall follow the licensing restrictions based on criminal records under § 17-3-102.
- F. (1) The board may issue a nonrenewable temporary permit for licensure to a first-time applicant pending the results of the criminal background check. (2) The permit shall be valid for no more than six (6) months.
- G. (1) Any information received by the board from the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police under this section shall not be available for examination except by: (a) The affected applicant for licensure or his or her authorized representative; or (b) The person whose license is subject to revocation or his or her authorized representative. (2) No record, file, or document shall be removed from the custody of the Division of Arkansas State Police.
- H. Any information made available to the affected applicant for licensure or the person whose license is subject to revocation shall be information pertaining to that person only.
- I. Rights of privilege and confidentiality established in this section shall not extend to any document created for purposes other than this background check.
- J. The board shall adopt the necessary rules to fully implement the provisions of this section.
- K. (1) The board may participate at the state and federal level in programs that provide notification of an arrest subsequent to an initial background check that is conducted through available governmental systems. (2) The board may submit an applicant's fingerprints to the federal Next Generation Identification system. (3) The fingerprints may be searched by future submissions to the Next Generation Identification system, including latent fingerprint searches. (4) An applicant enrolled in the Next Generation Identification system is not required to re-fingerprint when a subsequent request for a state or federal criminal history background check is required if: (a) A legible set of the applicant's fingerprints is obtained when the applicant enrolls in the Next Generation Identification system; and (b) The applicant is subject to the Rap Back service of the Next Generation Identification system.
- L. The Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation may maintain fingerprints in the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

17-3-102. Licensing restrictions based on criminal records.

(a) An individual is not eligible to receive or hold a license issued by a licensing entity if that individual has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any of the following offenses by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of any similar offense by a federal court, unless the conviction was lawfully sealed under the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, § 16-90-1401 et seq., or otherwise previously sealed, pardoned or expunged under prior law:

- (1) Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;
- (2) Murder in the first degree and second degree as prohibited in §§ 5-10-102 and 5-10-103;
- (3) Manslaughter as prohibited in § 5-10-104;
- (4) Negligent homicide as prohibited in § 5-10-105;

- (5) Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;
- (6) False imprisonment in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-11-103;
- (7) Permanent detention or restraint as prohibited in § 5-11-106;
- (8) Robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-102;
- (9) Aggravated robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-103;
- (10) Battery in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-13-201;
- (11) Aggravated assault as prohibited in § 5-13-204;
- (12) Introduction of a controlled substance into the body of another person as prohibited in § 5-13-210;
- (13) Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility as prohibited in § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony;
- (14) Terroristic threatening in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-13-301;
- (15) Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;
- (16) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110, if the offense is a felony;
- (17) Sexual extortion as prohibited in § 5-14-113;
- (18) Sexual assault in the first degree, second degree, third degree, and fourth degree as prohibited in §§ 5-14-124 — 5-14-127;
- (19) Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;
- (20) Offenses against the family as prohibited in §§ 5-26-303 — 5-26-306;
- (21) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-201;
- (22) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205;
- (23) Permitting the abuse of a minor as prohibited in § 5-27-221;
- (24) Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media, transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct, pandering or possessing visual or print media depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, or use of a child or consent to use of a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child, as prohibited in §§ 5-27-303 — 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and 5-27-403;
- (25) Possession or use of child sexual abuse material as prohibited in § 5-27-603;
- (26) Computer exploitation of a child in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-605;
- (27) Felony adult abuse as prohibited in § 5-28-103;
- (28) Theft of property as prohibited in § 5-36-103;
- (29) Theft by receiving as prohibited in § 5-36-106;
- (30) Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301;
- (31) Burglary as prohibited in § 5-39-201;
- (32) Felony violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, § 5-64-101 et seq., as prohibited in the former § 5-64-401, and §§ 5-64-419 — 5-64-442;
- (33) Promotion of prostitution in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-70-104;
- (34) Stalking as prohibited in § 5-71-229;
- (35) Criminal attempt, criminal complicity, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy, as prohibited in §§ 5-3-201, 5-3-202, 5-3-301, and 5-3-401, to commit any of the offenses listed in this subsection; and
- (36) All other crimes referenced in this title.

(b)

- (1) If an individual has been convicted of a crime listed in subsection (a) or subsection (e) of this section, a licensing entity may waive disqualification or revocation of a license based on the conviction if a request for a waiver is made by:
 - (A) An affected applicant for a license; or
 - (B) The individual holding a license subject to revocation.
- (2) A basis upon which a waiver may be granted includes without limitation:
 - (A) The age at which the offense was committed;
 - (B) The circumstances surrounding the offense;
 - (C) The length of time since the offense was committed;
 - (D) Subsequent work history since the offense was committed;
 - (E) Employment references since the offense was committed;
 - (F) Character references since the offense was committed;
 - (G) Relevance of the offense to the occupational license; and
 - (H) Other evidence demonstrating that licensure of the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of the public.
- (3) The waiver requirements of this section are not required for a renewal of a license if an individual has been convicted of a crime listed in subsection (a) of this section and has either:
 - (A) Completed the waiver requirements of this section at his or her initial licensure;
 - (B) Been licensed in this state before the enactment of subsection (a) of this section; or
 - (C) Attended a professional or occupational school, program, or training in pursuit of an occupational license before the enactment of subsection (a) of this section and would have been qualified to hold an occupational license on or before July 24, 2019. (c) If an individual has a valid criminal conviction for an offense that could disqualify the individual from receiving a license, the disqualification shall not be considered for more than five (5) years from the date of conviction or incarceration or on which probation ends, whichever date is the latest, if the individual:
 - (A) Was not convicted for committing a violent or sexual offense; and
 - (B) Has not been convicted of any other offense during the five-year disqualification period.
- (d) A licensing entity shall not, as a basis upon which a license may be granted or denied:
 - (1) Use vague or generic terms, including without limitation the phrases “moral turpitude” and “good character”; or
 - (2) Consider arrests without a subsequent conviction.
- (e) Due to the serious nature of the offenses, the following shall result in disqualification for licensure, regardless of the date of conviction or the date on which probation or incarceration ends unless a waiver is granted under subsection (b) of this section:
 - (1) Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;
 - (2) Murder in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-10-102 and murder in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-10-103;
 - (3) Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;
 - (4) Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility as prohibited in § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony;
 - (5) Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;
 - (6) Sexual extortion as prohibited in § 5-14-113;

- (7) Sexual assault in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-14-124 and sexual assault in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-14-125;
 - (8) Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;
 - (9) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-201;
 - (10) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205;
 - (11) Adult abuse that constitutes a felony as prohibited in § 5-28-103;
 - (12) Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301; and
 - (13) Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media, transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct, pandering or possessing visual or print media depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, or use of a child or consent to use of a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child, as prohibited in §§ 5-27-303 — 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and 5-27-403.
- (f) This chapter does not preclude a licensing entity from taking emergency action against a licensee as authorized under § 25-15-211 for the sake of public health, safety, or welfare.
- (g) The disqualification for an offense listed in subsection (a) of this section and the disqualification for an offense listed in subsection (e) of this section do not apply to:
- (1) An individual who holds a valid license on July 24, 2019;
 - (2) An individual who holds a valid license on or before July 24, 2019, but failed to renew his or her license for any reason; or
 - (3) An individual who was a student on or before July 24, 2019, in a professional or occupational school, program, or training in pursuit of an occupational license and would have been qualified to hold an occupational license on or before July 24, 2019.
- (h) This section does not apply to licensure or certification:
- (1) Of professions not governed by this title;
 - (2) Of polygraph examiners and voice stress analysis examiners under § 17-39-101 et seq.; (3) Of private investigators and private security agencies under the Private Security Agency, Private Investigator, and School Security Licensing and Credentialing Act, § 1740-101 et seq.;
 - (4) Of body artists under § 17-26-601 et seq. who hold a valid license on or before July 1, 2024; or
 - (5) Of cosmetologists licensed under Title 17, Chapter 26, Subchapter 3.

DRESS CODE POLICY

1. **Uniforms:** See course syllabi for dress code for specific clinical experiences. It is expected that students dress in a professional manner. Dress attire will include a white laboratory coat with the Ouachita Baptist University Nursing patch, embroidered emblem and scrubs, or business casual dress with white laboratory coat with the Ouachita Baptist University Nursing patch and embroidered emblem. The scrub color will be black. The faculty will provide you with the approved uniform name and number.
2. **Ouachita Baptist University Nursing Patch and Embroidered emblem:** The patch should be attached on the left arm of white laboratory coat and the emblem on the right front. Available for purchase at Print Mania in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.
3. **Badges** will be ordered by Junior level students during the Junior orientation. Badges will be placed on the upper left chest of the clinical coat.

4. **Stethoscope:** Students must purchase their own stethoscope. It should have two heads (diaphragm and bell type).
5. **Nursing Shoes:** Students will wear white or black nursing shoes that cover the entire foot. The following will not be allowed: Shoes with holes, cloth tennis shoes, slides, sandal-type, MaryJane, open toes/heels, or clogs due to safety and infection control purposes.
6. **Other:** Bandage scissors, watch with a second hand, a pen light, and a black pen are required for clinical experiences. Charting cannot be in colors such as purple, pink, green, etc.

Uniform Regulations:

1. It is expected that all clothing including shoes, shoestrings, and hose/socks will be clean and neat at the beginning of each clinical session. All parts of the uniform must be clean and pressed. As a nursing student, you are always an ambassador of the Nursing Program and the University and judged not only as an individual, but also as a typical student representing the entire student body. The student uniform must be worn with dignity and pride reflecting credit on the University, the Nursing Program, and the nursing profession. The nursing student is embarking in a profession that promotes health; therefore, the student uniform must always be impeccably clean. Students may wear a short-sleeved shirt for coverage of chest hair or cleavage if the sleeves are not visible past the sleeves of the scrub top and the shirt hem is not visible from underneath the scrub top. Students may opt to wear a long-sleeved shirt for additional coverage if the sleeves are not past the wrist and the shirt hem is not visible from underneath the scrub top. All undershirts should match the color of the uniform.
2. All students must wear appropriate undergarments for professional appearance. No undergarment lines will be visible through the uniform pants.
3. Neat, careful grooming is a part of the uniform. Inappropriate and unusual methods of grooming are to be avoided. Make-up should always be kept at a minimum and be appropriate for the clinical setting. No nail polish or artificial nails (including acrylic) are permitted; nails must be kept to the tip of the finger. A daily bath and the use of an effective deodorant are necessary requirements for good grooming. Perfume or aftershave should **NOT** be worn.
4. Coordinating color socks to match shoes must be worn over the ankle. No runs or patterns in hose are acceptable.
5. Hair styles for male and female students must be worn off the collar. Hair must be clean and natural colors. No decorative hair ornaments are allowed. Long hair must be securely tied back and should not fall on the student's face.
6. A wedding ring, solid band without stones and small silver or gold colored stud earrings are the only articles of jewelry permitted while in the clinical setting. Wearing rings in the operating room, nursery, and the delivery room is not permitted in some of the hospitals used for clinical experiences, and the student will be required to comply with hospital policy. No visible body piercing is acceptable (including pierced tongues). A clear piercing retainer should be worn while in the clinical setting. Visible tattoos will be addressed on an individual basis and in accordance with the clinical facility policy. All nursing students must wear a watch with a second hand for the purpose of taking vital signs. A medical alert bracelet or necklace may be worn while in uniform.
7. Name tags are to be worn by all students in the clinical area.
8. Students in the operating room, delivery room, and nursery will wear the uniform designated by the department in that hospital. Also, students in the operating room and delivery room will wear special conductive shoes or shoe coverings, caps, and/or masks in accordance with hospital policy.
9. When appearing in the hospital or at educational conferences, in a student role, appropriate attire must be worn with laboratory coat and name tag. (No jeans, shorts, flip-flops etc.). Clothing

should be free of stains, tears, and wrinkles. ***Students should not wear the uniform to any healthcare facility without faculty approval.***

Facial Hair Guidelines: A clean, neatly trimmed mustache may be worn **IF** it does not hang over the upper lip into the mouth, extend below the corner of the lips, or can be twisted or curved at the ends toward the upper cheekbone. Male students in uniform may wear no flared sideburn, sideburns below the earlobes, or beards.

10. Laboratory Jackets: To be worn over the scrubs. May be removed if doing actual client care.

Any violation of the uniform regulations will result in an unsatisfactory clinical grade for the day of the first offense; thereafter, repeated offense will result in dismissal from clinical for that day.

Classroom Attire

Students will wear appropriate clothes in the classroom to support student learning.

EQUIPMENT POLICY

Pre-nursing/nursing students are not allowed to take equipment and/or audiovisual resources from the nursing classroom or Simulation Clinical Learning Center unless authorized by nursing faculty.

EXAM POLICY

1. **Exam sessions:** Unit, final, and/or exit exams may be a form of evaluation. Exams for face-to-face classes will be proctored exams. Exams may be completed by paper and pencil, or by computer.
2. **Exams** consist of, but are not limited to multiple choice, select all that apply hot spot, enhanced hot spot, ordered response, graphics, cloze, extended drag and drop, matrix, etc.
3. **Make-up exams** will be given in the event of necessary absence (i.e., personal illness or death in the immediate family) that occurs on the date of a regularly scheduled examination. The student must:
 - Notify the appropriate faculty prior to the scheduled exam, and
 - Schedule the make-up exam with the appropriate faculty within one week of the missed exam. In the event the student does not schedule or complete a make-up exam within one week's time, a zero will be assigned for that exam. The exam will be of equivalent credit to the exam missed.
4. **Exam Review:** Appointments to review an exam must be scheduled with the instructor who covered the exam content within five working days, including the date of the exam. For example, if the exam is taken at 9:00 AM Wednesday, the student must make their request by 5:00 PM the following Wednesday. After that week, access to the exam will not be allowed.
5. **Calculation of Examination Grades and Final Grade:** Junior students in their first semester must earn at least a 65% and all other students must earn at least a 70% overall examination average before other evaluation methods completed in the course are added to calculate the final grade. **The calculation of all examination grades will not be rounded. For example. 69.5% will NOT round to 70%.** If a student does not successfully earn 70% (65% for first semester juniors) or greater on the overall examination average, the student will not progress in the course and will be required to retake the course. If the student achieves the required examination average, the other assignments will be included to determine the student's final grade. The final grade will be rounded to the nearest tenth.

FEES AND EXPENSES

See “Fees and Expenses” sheet in University Handbook/Catalog for tuition, etc. Expenses may vary with your choice of products, style, color, etc., making the following list an *estimated* cost. All prices are approximate and are not guaranteed.

Nursing Clinical Fee (each semester) (Clinical Courses)	\$ 950.00
Miscellaneous Fees	\$ 200.00
Hepatitis Immunization (available at University Health Services; 3 injections)	\$ 100.00
TB Skin Test (available at a variety of locations, required yearly)	\$ 30.00
BLS American Heart Association, Healthcare Provider Ouachita Baptist University BLS course (offered before each fall / spring semester).	\$ 70.00
Certified Background check with drug screen and child maltreatment check for clinical sites	\$125.00
Uniforms and laboratory coat	\$150.00 -\$200.00 \$ 30.00 – \$ 75.00
Nursing shoes	5.00
School Patch for Uniform	\$11.00
Name Badge	
Travel to and from Clinical Sites (DEPENDENT ON GAS PRICES and DISTANCE TRAVELED)	\$200.00 Semester
Books and Electronic Resources - Prices are for students purchasing new books and differ according to nursing program and current course level.	\$2000.00-2500.00
Ouachita Baptist University Nursing Pin with or without Pin Guard for pinning ceremony	\$ 60-\$100
Individual graduation picture for class composite (optional – packages available vary)	\$ Price varies
Student Nurse Association	\$40.00 X2 annually

FOOD/SMOKING POLICY

Only drinks with lids are allowed in the classrooms. Food may be allowed at the discretion of the instructor. There is no smoking allowed on university property. The nursing program follows University policy and state legislation regarding a smoke-free environment.

GRIEVANCE

During the semester, if a student has an informal concern about a course, the student should follow the steps listed below:

1. Contact the course instructor and/or course lead (if the course has multiple faculty) to request a meeting. The meeting should be in person.
2. If the issue is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student, then the student has the option to contact the Director of Nursing and request a meeting. The meeting should be in person.
3. If the issue remains unresolved, then the student may request to meet with the Dean of the J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences. The meeting should be in person.

4. If a student's concerns remain unresolved or the concerns are related to student academic appeal procedures, the students will follow the Ouachita Baptist University Complaint Policy which can be found at: <https://obu.edu/about/complaintpolicy.php>

HEALTH INSURANCE

Ouachita Baptist University and the Department of Nursing strongly recommend the student purchase and maintain personal health insurance. The clinical agencies agree to provide first aid for clinical related accidents and illnesses, such as blood and body fluid exposures, to students. The charges for such medical services shall be filed with the student or their insurance carrier. The University and clinical agency assume no responsibility, financial or otherwise, beyond the initial first aid provided immediately after the injury, and any services or other liability shall not be borne by the University or clinical agency but shall be the responsibility of the individual student regardless of whether these services are covered by the student's insurance.

HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA)

What does the HIPAA Privacy Rule do?

HIPAA provides national standards to protect individuals' medical records and other personal health information.

- HIPAA gives clients more control over their health information.
- HIPAA establishes appropriate safeguards.
- HIPAA holds violators accountable with civil and criminal penalties that can be imposed if they violate clients' privacy rights.

Privacy regulations were written to protect every client's health information in any form:

- Written
- Oral
- Electronic

Security regulations were written to ensure integrity and protect health information from:

- Alteration
- Destruction
- Loss
- Disclosure to unauthorized persons

HIPAA Terms

Protected Health Information (PHI) applies to individually identifiable health information transmitted or maintained that relates to past, present, or future health conditions health care provided payment for health care. PHI is any health information by which an individual client could be identified. There are currently 18 elements of PHI.

Names	Account Numbers
All Geographics	Certificate/License Numbers
All Dates	Vehicle IDs and Serial Numbers
Telephone Numbers	Device Identifiers
Fax Numbers	URLs
E-mail Addresses	Internet Protocol Address Numbers
Social Security Numbers	Biometric Identifiers

Medical Record Numbers
Health Plan Numbers

Photographic Images
Any other unique numbers or code

- USE is sharing of PHI *within* the hospital.
- DISCLOSURE is the release of PHI *outside* the hospital.
- AUTHORIZATION is required for the use and disclosure of health information for reasons other than treatment, payment, and health care operations, or when required by law.

Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP)

- The hospital must provide clients with a notice that describes privacy practices and includes:
- How they use and disclose PHI
- Clients' rights
- Their responsibilities under HIPAA

Minimum Necessary

- HIPAA requires hospitals to use or disclose the least amount of information necessary to accomplish their job functions.
- Hospitals may designate job classifications for electronic client folder access.

“Need-to-Know” Rule

- Before looking at a client's PHI, ask yourself this question, “Do I need to know this to do my job?”
- Even doctors and nurses do not have the right to look at every client's medical record.
- If you need to see client information to perform your job, you are allowed to do so.

Business Associates

- Business Associates (BA) are companies or individuals that provide services to hospitals or who perform, or assist with, a function of the hospital. Nursing schools qualify as “Business Associates” under HIPAA regulations.
- The hospital may disclose PHI to BA without client authorization if satisfactory assurances are obtained through written contract that the BA will appropriately safeguard the information, referred to as a Business Associate Agreement.

The focus for nursing programs is security and privacy of client information.

Enforcement

- Clients cannot sue for violations.
- Civil Money Penalties - \$100 per violation with a \$25,000 annual cap on violations of any one single requirement. This is enforced by the Office of Civil Rights.
- Criminal Penalties - \$50,000 to \$250,000 in fines and up to 10 years in prison enforced by the Department of Justice.

HIPAA Resources and Web Sites

- DHHS Administrative Simplification <http://aspe.hhs.gov/admsimp>
- Office of Civil Rights Privacy (OCR) <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa>
- Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) <http://www.wedi.org>
- Arkansas State Board of Nursing www.arsn.org
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing www.aacn.nche.edu

“Confidentiality is everyone’s job, not everyone’s business.”

Source: HIPAA-The Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996

By Pat E. Thompson, EdD, RN, FAAN, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences 2003.

Other Reference:

Gajwani, A., Shah, A., Patil, R., Gucer, D., & Osier, N. (2023). Training undergraduate students in HIPAA compliance. *Accountability in research*, 30(7), 530–541. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08989621.2022.2037428>

INCIDENT/ERROR/NEAR-MISS POLICY

Student learning within the clinical/simulation areas includes experiences that may lead to an unintentional incident, error, or near-miss. This policy includes the steps to identify the error, investigate the error, and provide further learning opportunities for the student(s) to prevent this incident/error/near miss again.

As faculty, we educate students to be safe practitioners. If an incident/error/near-miss occurs where the safety of patients, students, or faculty are involved, the faculty member will determine if the student behavior warrants an unsatisfactory clinical/simulation grade. If the behavior is deemed unsatisfactory, the faculty will follow/complete the *NOTIFICATION OF UNSATISFACTORY CLINICAL/CLASSROOM GRADE* procedure/form policy.

If faculty deem the incident/error/near miss does not reach the level of unsatisfactory, the *CLINICAL COACHING/MENTORING PROCESS/FORM* will be initiated. This process will identify potential student deficiencies in meeting student clinical learning outcomes (see CET), build a developmental plan for the student, provide resources for students to achieve clinical learning outcomes, and prevent further incidents/errors/near-misses.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Ouachita Baptist University recognizes that transportation problems result from inclement and hazardous road conditions; however, the campus may not close. When conditions dictate, excusing late arrivals or permitting early departures may revise the normal work schedule. Decisions will be made on an individual case basis (each incident of bad weather or hazardous road conditions). Please monitor your devices for direct instructions from faculty and/or the Director.

ORGANIZATION OF LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Each learning experience is designed to assist the student in meeting the defined course outcomes. Throughout the nursing education experience, you may be exposed to the following:

Classroom Experiences: These are large class meetings, which may include general announcements, instructor lectures, group presentations, special guest lecturers, and examinations/quizzes.

Small group sessions: These are small group meetings utilized for theory discussion and student participation.

Computer testing: These will be assigned by the class coordinator according to the class schedule. The Department of Nursing adheres to the University Policy regarding computer work and plagiarism.

Clinical experiences: Each clinical course is designated clinical contact hours (these vary depending on the clinical course). The clinical facilities may include hospitals, doctor's offices, nursing homes, county health departments, and other designated health agencies.

Simulation experiences: Each clinical experience may also include simulation learning experiences. See the Whisenhunt Nursing Education Center (WNEC) Simulation Clinical Learning Center (SCLC) Policy and Procedure Manual for further information.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the act of taking and or using the ideas, work, and/or writings of another person as one's own, including artificial intelligence. Plagiarism is not acceptable for any required written work. Any student who plagiarizes may be subject to receiving a zero on written work, may fail the course, and may be dismissed from the program. See *Covenant of Academic Honor in the Tiger Handbook*,

https://obu.edu/_resources/docs/Tiger-Handbook-2025-2026-m.pdf

Students should use the following guidelines when referencing material:

1. The use of exact words from the writings of another requires direct quoting and an appropriate reference using scientific notations.
2. Paraphrasing is defined as a restatement of a text, passage, or work, but not the use of the original writer's exact words. Paraphrasing requires an appropriate reference using scientific notation.
3. Tables, photographs, models, figures, and illustrations as well as written text constitute "works of another" and must be referenced.
4. Inaccurate information on references and scientific notations, while not falling within the definition of plagiarism, constitutes questionable writing methods and is negatively sanctioned on grading.

QUIZ POLICY

No make-up opportunities for quizzes will be offered.

READMISSION POLICY

Students are **not automatically eligible** to repeat a nursing course the next time a course is offered. **All BSN students who need to repeat a nursing class must adhere to the requirements listed below.**

1. Email a letter of intent to the Director of Nursing, by **November 1st** for a spring semester and **May 15th** for a fall semester for residential students. The email must **include the following information:**
 - a. Student Name (the one used while in the nursing program)
 - b. Ouachita Baptist University Student ID number
 - c. Current mailing address and working phone number
 - d. Resolution for the problem that previously resulted in the need to withdraw from or inability to achieve a satisfactory grade in the last nursing course or nursing curriculum support course.
2. Include in the email to the Director of Nursing updated transcript of **all** college courses.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

The student will:

1. Exhibit a clear understanding of the guidelines for written work using APA FORMAT. See [APA Style](#) for assistance.

2. Demonstrate organizational ability.
3. Express ideas with clarity. Spell correctly, punctuate properly, and write legibly and neatly.
4. Exhibit scholarship by depth and breadth of content and extent of references.
5. Show originality and creative thinking.
6. Demonstrate critical thinking, relate, and correlate knowledge gained from resource materials.
7. Complete projects on schedule.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID TO STUDENTS

Recognizing that many students need help in meeting their post-secondary expenses, the University makes every effort to encourage and assist students by providing scholarships, grants, loans, and employment to those who meet established criteria. Contact the Student Financial Services:

[Financial Services](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Introduction: The faculty and staff of the Ouachita Baptist University Department of Nursing recognize two guiding principles: 1) Nurses have an ethical and legal obligation to always maintain client privacy and confidentiality and 2) there is no such thing as privacy in social media. While most social media policies only apply to nursing programs and clinical settings, this document strives to offer guidelines for assisting students to use social media responsibly, acknowledging that inappropriate use may result in personal and professional consequences punishable by law and the inability to attain or maintain licensure.

The faculty and staff of the Ouachita Baptist University Department of Nursing also recognize the benefits of social media for nursing students in a rural setting. It allows student nurses to interact with friends and other student nurses separated by geography or other factors. It is an excellent tool for exchanging knowledge among peers and classmates. It builds relationships, develops a professional presence online, and promotes timely communication. It can bring healthcare issues to individuals not familiar with current nursing and healthcare trends and is a wonderful platform for sharing research and best practices.

Social networking offers the potential for both positive and negative consequences. Nursing students should consider several principles when functioning within the virtual world of social media to maintain their own reputation, the reputation of Ouachita Baptist University's Nursing programs and the parent institution, and, ultimately, the image of the nursing profession.

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to define social media (SM), describe the acceptable use of SM within the Ouachita Baptist University Nursing program, offer guidelines for appropriate SM behaviors and consequences for violations of this policy.

Definitions:

- **Social media: Media** designed to be disseminated through social interaction, created using universally accessible and easily manipulated publishing techniques. Examples include but are not limited to LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, and Myspace.
- **Social media: Content** Including but not limited to text, files, profiles, concepts, opinions, images, photos, videos, sounds or other materials that are transmitted, communicated, shared, submitted, displayed, published, broadcast, or posted.

Types of Social Media:

Social media platforms may include but are not limited to the following:

- Blogging – Blogger, LiveJournal, Tumblr, Wix, Medium, Threads
- Social Networking – Facebook, X, LinkedIn, SnapChat
- Social News sharing – Reddit, Twitch, Discord
- Social Bookmarking/social tagging: Digg, Tumblr, Mix, Pinterest
- Video hosting – YouTube, Instagram, TikTok

Rules for Non-Acceptable Use of Social Media within Ouachita Baptist University Nursing Programs

Student Nurses will not:

- Take photos or videos of clients on personal devices, including cell phones, or violate clinical facility policies at any time.
- Share, post, or otherwise disseminate any information that can identify a client, or in any way violate a client's privacy. Limiting access through privacy settings of social media platforms is not sufficient to ensure the privacy of self or clients.
- Refer to anyone in a disparaging manner, even if the person cannot be identified with the information stated.
- Make threatening, harassing, sexually explicitly, or derogatory statements regarding any person's race ethnicity, gender, age, citizenship, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, religious beliefs, political views, or educational choices.
- Make disparaging remarks about any college, university, school of nursing, or clinical site, including the students, faculty members, and staff.
- Post content or otherwise speak on behalf of any college, university, school of nursing, or clinical site unless authorized to do so.
- Video lectures may not be recorded without a prior written agreement signed by the presenter. The agreement must include a copyright statement for audio/visual materials and presentations to reflect the video lecture is the property of Ouachita Baptist University/Department of Nursing. The video lecture will not be made public without permission.

Violations: Violations of this policy can result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the nursing program.

Guidelines for Appropriate Social Media Use by Nursing Students:

The nursing student must be aware that academic, professional, and personal social media sites are not independent of each other. What is posted on one is easily transferable to another creating a potential for irreparable damage to all. While nursing students may think their personal lives are their own and bear no reflection on their competence in nursing school and client care rendered in the clinical facilities, they must recognize that social media sites are public forums. Those who use these forums privately for personal purposes may not realize the degree to which their activities are visited by the public; it is advisable to refrain from making any statement on social media sites that you would not be comfortable saying aloud in public. Employers and recruiters are looking for social media activity when reviewing résumés for job opportunities. Therefore, it is best to observe the following rules.

- **Think twice before posting.** Search engines can turn up posts years after they are created, and comments can be forwarded or copied. If you are unsure, do not post it.

- **Strive for accuracy.** Get the facts straight before posting them on social media. Review content for grammatical and spelling errors as this may negatively affect your professional image. Remember that potential employers review social media sites before hiring prospective candidates.
- **Be respectful.** Understand that content contributed to a social media site could encourage comments or discussion of opposing ideas. Responses should be considered carefully considering how they would reflect on the person, profession, and academic institution of affiliation.
- **Remember your audience:** As well as being respectful, be aware that anything posted can be available to the public at large. This includes prospective nursing students, current students, current employers, colleagues, and peers. Consider this BEFORE publishing to ensure the post will not alienate, harm, or provoke any of these groups.
- **On personal sites:** identify your views as your own and make it clear that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the nursing program or student group with which you are affiliated.
- **Photographs:** Photos posted on social media sites can be easily appropriated by visitors and passed along. Adhere to the guidelines above before posting any images that may be harmful or damaging to anyone and the institutions they are affiliated with. Remember that HIPAA not only applies to the written word, but also images.

References

- Geraghty, S., Hari, R., & Oliver, K. (2021). Using social media in contemporary nursing: risks and benefits. *British journal of nursing (Mark Allen Publishing)*, 30(18), 1078-1082. <https://doi.org/10.12968/bjon.2021.30.18.1078>
- Daigle A. (2020). Social media and professional boundaries in undergraduate nursing students. *Journal of professional nursing : official journal of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing*, 36(2), 20–23. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.profnurs.2019.08.007>
- Gum, L., Brown, A., Royals, R., Matricciani, L., & Kelly, M. A. (2024). Digital professionalism in preregistration nursing and midwifery students: A scoping review to explore perceptions of professionalism when using social media. *Nurse education in practice*, 80, 104128. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nepr.2024.104128>

STUDENT ACCESS TO RESOURCES

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Academic advising occurs within the nursing department. Each student who declares nursing as a major will be assigned a nursing faculty advisor upon entering Ouachita Baptist University. Students will make appointments with their nursing faculty advisor each semester to ensure positive progress and that the student is on the correct academic pathway.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

The purpose of the Academic Success Center is to provide students with the resources to succeed in college by maintaining a program of support services that addresses their educational needs. The Center provides resources for students facing difficulties in the following areas: homework, classroom concepts, study skills, time management, note-taking strategies, or simply assisting in their transition from high school to college. The Center offers a variety of services such as tutoring, success courses teaching study skills, workshops, and one-on-one meetings with the Student Success Coordinator. The Academic Success

Center staff is committed to helping underprepared students prepare; prepared students advance; and advanced students excel. Visit [Academic Success Center](#) for more information.

CAREER & CALLING

The Career & Calling staff assists students in assessing personal strengths and interests, defining academic goals, and preparing for successful internship, graduate school, or employment searches. Career & Calling works with individuals throughout their years of study at Ouachita, from first-year students to recent graduates. Additional services include coordinating employment interviews, assisting with resumes and applications, and offering educational events designed to help individuals prepare for lives of meaningful work. Career & Calling is in Cone-Bottoms Hall, Suite 111, and may be contacted at careerandcalling@obu.edu or 870.245.5593 or [Career & Calling](#).

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Residential and online students will find the library open and with librarian and staff assistance Monday through Thursday from 7:45 am to 11 pm; Friday from 7:45 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday 12:00 pm to 5 pm; and Sunday 6 pm to 11 pm, except holidays. Students may also contact librarians for assistance by email, phone, or a chat/question posting line via the webpage for assistance during library hours.

Riley-Hickingbotham Library

All students enrolled at Ouachita Baptist University have access to the Ouachita Baptist University [Library](#).

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

Certain behaviors are considered inappropriate when exhibited by nursing students. This includes behaviors both in the classroom and at the clinical sites or anywhere the student is representing the Ouachita Baptist University Department of Nursing. Inappropriate student conduct which will not be tolerated by the nursing faculty includes but is not limited to showing disrespect or contempt of clients, hospital personnel, other students, or nursing faculty; being loud, argumentative, and disrupting the classroom or clinical setting; failing to comply with the written or oral directions of the nursing faculty; inappropriate e-mails, phone calls, messages. **THE STUDENT WILL RECEIVE AN UNSATISFACTORY CLASS or CLINICAL DAY IF THIS OCCURS.** If impairment by either alcohol or medication is suspected while at the clinical setting, the guidelines of the clinical site related to suspected alcohol and drug misuse while on site will be followed. If a student refuses to be tested, they are to be removed from the clinical area and are not allowed to return.

The first-time inappropriate conduct occurs, the faculty who is involved in the incident will address the student, and the incident will be discussed privately between the faculty member and the student. Documentation of the incident will be placed in the student's Department of Nursing file. The second time inappropriate conduct occurs, the faculty member involved, the course coordinator, and the Director of Nursing will meet with the student. Documentation of this incident will be placed in the student's Department of Nursing file. If a third incident of inappropriate conduct occurs the student will be referred to the Dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Vice President for Academic Affairs with the recommendation that he/she be dismissed from the program.

Any inappropriate conduct may result in immediate dismissal from the classroom or clinical for the day. The student who is dismissed from clinical will receive an Unsatisfactory for the clinical day. The behavioral incidences are cumulative while in the nursing program.

Some behaviors are considered totally unacceptable and may result in recommending to the Dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Vice President for Academic Affairs immediate dismissal from the nursing program. Such behaviors would include but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, or forgery; alteration of University records, documents, or identification; putting in jeopardy the physical safety of another person; attempting or threatening to strike, kick, or otherwise subject another person to nonconsensual physical contact; drug and alcohol abuse; making obscene or threatening remarks, gestures, or displays; threatening phone calls or e-mails, using harassing, slanderous, or libelous language to a person; engaging in a course of conduct or repeatedly committing acts that are disorderly; and violations of state and federal criminal statutes.

Should such unacceptable behavior occur, the student would be given a hearing before the nursing faculty, who will review the facts. A majority vote by the nursing faculty will determine if the student will be recommended to remain in the program. Based on appropriate measures regarding the circumstances and the seriousness of the incident, the student may be recommended for dismissal, suspension, or expulsion from the University.

List of Unacceptable and/or Inappropriate Behaviors (not a conclusive list):

- Having more than one medication error on the same clinical day.
- Making offensive comments to client, clinical site staff, Ouachita Baptist University faculty, or fellow students.
- Unwilling to perform tasks according to accepted protocol or routine.
- Decline in quality and quantity of documentation.
- Ineffective use of work time.
- Does not follow medication administration protocols.
- Refuses to ask for assistance when performing a task or skill unfamiliar to student.
- Irritable; unpredictable mood swings; social isolation.
- Receive complaints about performance from clients, nurses, client's family, and/or fellow students.
- Challenges departmental policy and procedures repeatedly.
- Solicitous of clients, families, and/or supervisors.
- Rationalizes negative feedback.
- Defensive beyond expectation when questioned about errors/poor client care.
- Rudeness to client, clinical site staff, Ouachita Baptist University faculty, and/or fellow students.
- Questionable integrity/truth of charting/assignments.
- Does not follow appropriate guidelines for use of physical restraints, side rails, or other safety issues.
- Communicates poorly and/or ineffectively with client, clinical site staff, Ouachita Baptist University faculty, and fellow students.
- Frequently not prepared for daily expected activities.
- Refuses to admit mistakes or errors in judgment.
- Continually disappearing from assigned unit without appropriate notification to instructor/preceptor.
- Repeatedly does not bring required paperwork to clinical areas.
- Procrastination of assigned duties during the clinical day.
- Unwillingness to assist fellow students with tasks when asked.
- Inappropriate use of terms and abbreviations.
- Inappropriately dressed or not dressed according to policy established by Department of Nursing at Ouachita Baptist University.

- Refuses to adhere to clinical site policy regarding smoking.
- Sleeping during clinical or pre/post conference.
- Copying chart materials without the explicit consent of the facility and clinical preceptor.
- Violating HIPAA policies from either the University and/or clinical agency.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Student Employment Program assists currently enrolled students in finding on-campus employment. Students may review descriptions of current job openings submitted by faculty and staff. Students register with the office by completing an application form [Student Employment Opportunities](#).

STUDENT HOUSING

See [Residence Life & Housing](#) for more information.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All students admitted to the Ouachita Nursing program are required to have access to the following technology resources. This outlines the minimum technology requirements to ensure access to essential educational resources, communication, and clinical learning tools.

- A laptop with a reliable internet connection is required in the nursing program. iPads will not meet the minimum requirements to support software applications.
 - Minimum specifications:
 - Processor: Intel Core i5 or equivalent
 - RAM: 8GB or higher
 - Storage: 256GB SSD or higher
 - Webcam and microphone for virtual meetings and assessments
 - Updated operating system (Windows 10/MacOS 15/or later equivalent)
- Software
 - Microsoft Office Suite or equivalent
 - PDF reader software
 - Updated web browser (Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari)
 - Security Software (antivirus and firewall protection)
 - ATI (specific requirements: <https://www.atitesting.com/technical-requirements>)
 - ExamSoft (specific requirements: <https://examsoft.com/resources/examplify-minimum-system-requirements/>)
- Internet Access
 - Reliable high-speed internet with a minimum download speed of 10 Mbps
 - Backup internet access plan in case of connectivity issues
- Learning Management System (LMS)
 - Students must regularly access Canvas for coursework, assignments, and communication.
- Clinical and Simulation Technology
 - Access to simulated client charts through SimEMR
 - Access to virtual simulation software through ATI
- Technical Support and Maintenance
 - Students are responsible for maintaining their devices, keeping software updated, and troubleshooting basic technical issues.
 - IT Services are available to provide assistance, as needed.

TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY

Overall Goal: To support the infusion of technology into the nursing curriculum which will allow enhanced evidence-based information and data usage.

1. Students will be able to utilize handheld and computerized technology rapidly and efficiently to access course content and pertinent nursing data upon which to provide safe and appropriate classroom and clinical judgments. When at clinical sites, students will be expected to follow the stricter policy regarding technology use.
2. Technology is the use of all electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, PDAs, tape recorders, digital recorders, laptop computers, smart watches, or any other device that would maintain photographs, video recordings, or a written record of persons and/or conversations. Violation of this policy is considered a breach of confidentiality, a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and unprofessional conduct.
3. Cell phones must be kept out of the student's access during class or clinical time. An exception may occur if the instructor allows for an in-class or clinical activity. Otherwise, cell phone usage will not be allowed during the classroom or clinical experience. Should the student need to be contacted by a family member for an emergency, students should provide the family with the Department of Nursing Administrative Assistant's office phone number and/or phone number of the clinical site. Personal phone calls should be limited to scheduled breaks and mealtimes.
4. Laptops are allowed in the classroom only for the purpose of the current class-related discussion and lecture. Students are not allowed to access email, social networking websites, or any other internet website(s)/activities not related to the current course content. Should a student be caught abusing the laptop policy, the student's laptop will be taken on the first offense by the faculty. The student will be allowed to pick up the laptop after class but will not be allowed to use the laptop for ANY classroom purposes thereafter.
5. Recording of lectures in the classroom is at the discretion of each faculty member, and permission must be granted by the course faculty member prior to recording any portion of a class.
6. Students shall not remove, download, or copy confidential client information onto their devices. Only client information that is non-identifying (e.g., age, race, height, weight) may be input into the device (i.e., for formula/drug calculations).
7. Students will not store passwords, verification codes, or electronic signature codes onto their personal device. Students will not use any device to send individually identifiable health information via email or text messaging, as electronic messages may be intercepted by others.
8. Taking pictures or video and audio recordings in the clinical setting is absolutely forbidden as a violation of client privacy. Students are strictly prohibited from taking photos or videos of the clinical area, clients, client records, staff, faculty, or peers.
9. Students will not use any device in the presence of clients and/or family members. Faculty reserve the right to dismiss a student from the classroom or clinical setting if the use of electronic devices becomes disruptive and/or for any inappropriate use of such devices.
10. Students not following this policy, or the policy of the clinical site as applicable, will be subject to disciplinary action up to and/or including being dismissed from the nursing program.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

The Department of Nursing of Ouachita Baptist University endorses a Drug Free School/Workplace Policy. The Department of Nursing recognizes the need to protect individual student's rights granted by state or federal law and to set professional standards leading to education and clinical success. At the same time, the individual student providing care for clients in the clinical setting must respect the client's rights to receive care according to standards of nursing practice. To maintain ethical and legal standards, it is necessary to comply with the substance abuse policies established by the University, Department of

Nursing, and individual clinical agencies. Individuals not in compliance shall be subject to sanctions, which may range from required enrollment in a drug and alcohol course to expulsion from the University. Evidence of serious offenses such as manufacture, sale, or distribution will be referred to state and/or federal enforcement authorities, in addition to dismissal from the nursing program. Students will submit to testing upon admission into the program and yearly thereafter. Students will also sign the consent for random drug screening at the beginning of the semester.

Confidentiality Ouachita Baptist University is committed to protect the individual student's privacy rights. Positive drug testing and other incidents involving drugs or alcohol will be kept confidential unless there is a statutory requirement for mandatory reporting. Confidentiality will be maintained under the supervision of the Director of Nursing. The Director of Nursing **HAS** the right to notify the student's clinical faculty, the appropriate state board of nursing, Course Coordinator, and University of the results of the drug and/or alcohol test.

Random Screening Procedure

The Department of Nursing will conduct drug testing of students by random selection including up to ten students each time. Special request testing may be required as well. Certain students may have testing stipulations ordered by different jurisdictions, and these students will be tested in addition to the ten random students. The testing will also be performed upon reasonable belief by faculty that a student has a substance abuse problem. The nursing faculty will provide a written document of any concerns of a student with a drug/alcohol problem. It will be the responsibility of the Director of Nursing or representative to coordinate and maintain accuracy in drug testing. The student will be notified to report for testing by written letter and verbal communication. The student will be identified by a photo ID. The preliminary urine drug test is performed at a facility chosen by the nursing department. A private laboratory provides confirmation testing on positive preliminary urine samples.

Penalty

Failure to present as instructed to clinic for testing will be treated as a positive drug screen and will require dismissal from the nursing program. From the time of notification, the student will have **3** hours to report to the clinic for testing. If a student tests positive regardless of route of consumption without prescription documentation, he/she will be dismissed from the program. Students who have documentation for medications (including letter from prescribing health care provider stating that the functions of a nurse can still be fulfilled while taking the medicine) showing positive results during drug screening will be allowed to continue in the program but will be subject to retesting as faculty requests. The Director of Nursing may require counseling. Documentation of participation in counseling will be required. The Nursing Program adheres to university policy regarding manufacture, sale, or distribution of drugs/alcohol.

A student suspected of being under the influence of alcohol/drugs will be dismissed from the classroom/clinical and, subsequently, a hearing with a faculty quorum will be held. Another faculty member or staff of the university/clinical site will witness the verbal warning, and documentation will be added to the student's file.

Prescription Medication Effects

If prescription medication impairs clinical judgement, the student will be dismissed from the clinical setting with an unsatisfactory grade for that day.

Behaviors Warranting Drug or Alcohol Screening Request by Faculty (not a conclusive list):

- Deteriorating job performance.
- Decreased responsibility; withdrawal from activities.
- Dismisses details; forgetfulness in routine duties; cuts corners.
- Decline in quality and quantity of documentation.
- Ineffective use of work time.
- Irritable, unpredictable mood swings.
- Social isolation.
- Inability to get along; receive complaints about performance from clients, nurses, families, and/or fellow students.
- Challenges departmental policies and procedures repeatedly.
- Solicitous of clients, families, supervisors, and clinical site staff.
- Rationalizes negative feedback.
- Defensive beyond expectation when questioned about errors/poor client care.
- Decline in grooming and care of clothing.
- Weight gain or loss.
- Skin changes in tone and integrity around the face and arms.
- Slight, noticeable hand tremors.
- Sluggish pupillary size change and/or bloodshot eyes.
- Increase in pain medications administered during the student's clinical time.
- Clients complain that pain medication is ineffective when previously relieved by the same medication.
- Preoccupied with medications/narcotics.
- Frequently checks narcotic supply.
- Frequently asks health care providers on unit for prescriptions.
- Frequently visits the emergency room for prescriptions during clinical rotation.
- Frequently visits the emergency room for problems and/or injuries occurring during the clinical day.
- Waits for other personnel to leave and enters narcotic area alone and unsupervised.
- "Disappears" unexpectedly or without notifying supervisor, team leader, or nursing faculty.
- Takes a break or visits the restroom immediately after visiting medication room or assessing narcotics.
- Excessive tardiness at first of shift or after breaks.
- Volunteers to give narcotics to clients not assigned to the student's care.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) SKIN TEST

All students must provide a copy of a baseline TB test results as recommended by CDC and Arkansas Department of Health guidelines, and/or assigned clinical site prior to the clinical experience.

The Department of Nursing will NOT be responsible for original documentation. Only COPIES are to be provided for the student's file. For BLS Certification, Hepatitis B Vaccination, TB skin test, and Flu Vaccination, the student is responsible for providing a copy of this information.

UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE OFFICE

Students have access to the University Compliance Officer who refers complaints to the appropriate department or official. Persons who wish to file a complaint or grievance may contact the University's tollfree number, 1-800-342-5628 or email consumerinfo@obu.edu

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

Located Health Services, 410 Ouachita Street, Ouachita Baptist University Box 3687, Arkadelphia, AR 71998, Phone: 870-245-5244, the University Health Services Office is open MW: 8:30-2:00, M&W 12:00-1:00 for allergy shots only 1:00 – 2:00 for telemed only), T&TH: 8:30-3:30 and F 8:30 – 1:00. Some of the services provided include emergency and first aid treatment, blood pressure checks, allergy injections, TB testing, Hepatitis immunization injections, general health evaluations, and assisting in scheduling doctor appointments. Most of the services are free for all students. Visit [Health Services](#) for more information.

VACCINATION – HEPATITIS

All students must present evidence (**COPY**, not the original) to the Department of Nursing having begun the Hepatitis Vaccine series **upon application**. The only allowed vaccination exemption is documentation from a student's primary healthcare provider regarding an allergy or other medical or religious reason. Students who qualify for the allowed exemption must provide a declination form signed by the student's primary healthcare provider to the **applicable course coordinator by February 1st of the Spring semester**. The declination form can be found in the Student Handbook appendix.

VACCINATION - INFLUENZA (FLU)

All students must provide documentation (a **COPY**, not the original) of an annual influenza (flu) vaccination to the applicable course coordinator prior to clinical experience. This is in accordance with influenza vaccination policies set forth by clinical affiliates. The only allowed vaccination exemption is documentation from a student's primary healthcare provider regarding a medically verified allergy to the flu vaccine, verified history of Guillain Barre's Syndrome, or other significant adverse reaction to the flu vaccine. Students who qualify for the allowed exemption must provide a declination form signed by the student's primary healthcare provider to the applicable course faculty upon application. The declination form can be found in the Student Handbook appendix.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM

I authorize the release of documentation of a current TB skin test (or chest x-ray), Hepatitis vaccination, Influenza vaccination, BLS (CPR) certification, drug screening, criminal background screening, and child maltreatment screen to the clinical facility being used for my clinical rotation.

PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

**STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING NEED TO UTILIZE CANVAS® AS A
LEARNING TOOL**

I understand that it is my responsibility to check the Ouachita Baptist University Canvas® Learning Management System for class announcements, course materials, class information, assignments, due dates, e-mail, lecture notes, grades, and other classroom information, as instructed by the faculty. I understand that it is also my responsibility to check Canvas® e-mail for information that may only pertain to me.

I also understand that should I fail to retrieve needed classroom information from Canvas® that could hinder my receiving a passing grade, the faculty is not responsible. This form applies to all courses I am enrolled while in the nursing program at Ouachita Baptist University.

PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

General Confidentiality Agreement– I, the undersigned, reviewed and understand the following statements:

- All client and student information are considered confidential and should not be used for purposes other than its' intended use.
- I have an ethical and legal obligation to protect confidential information used or obtained in the course of delivering healthcare or performing other duties and understand that all policies on confidentiality apply equally to data stored both in the computer and on paper records.
- Authorization to disclose information is made only by the Director of Nursing and only on a need-to know basis as part of healthcare delivery, education, or research.
- Media contacts concerning any client, student, or research project must be referred to the instructor.
- The Ouachita Baptist University faculty are responsible for communicating Ouachita Baptist University's confidentiality policy to their students.
- Unauthorized use of, or access to, confidential information may result in discipline up to and including dismissal from the academic program. Violation of confidentiality may also create civil and criminal liability.

Computer Access Confidentiality Agreement-*Persons with Computer Access*- I, the undersigned, acknowledge that in the course of my study at Ouachita Baptist University or during clinical, I will be privileged to information confidential to Ouachita Baptist University or to an individual client. I acknowledge receipt of my sign-on code to the facility and understand the following:

- I will be responsible for any use or misuse of my network or application system sign-on code(s).
- I will not attempt to access information on the Ouachita Baptist University or clinical facility's network except to meet learning needs to my job/position.
- I, the undersigned, further understand and agree that the consequences of a violation of the above statements may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination, dismissal from an academic program, loss of privileges, or termination of the relationship.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Print Name: _____

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

**THIS AGREEMENT IS TO BE SIGNED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER AND
TURNED IN TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.
DRUG/ALCOHOL TESTING CONSENT FORM**

The Ouachita Baptist University Department of Nursing is hereby granted permission to test for drugs/alcohol during my enrollment in the nursing program at Ouachita Baptist University. I agree to cooperate by providing a specimen for testing, and I understand that should the test prove positive, I would be subject to dismissal from the nursing program. **Failure to submit to testing will result in dismissal from the nursing program.**

Please print:

Name:

(LAST)

(FIRST)

(MIDDLE)

Address:

Student ID Number _____

I hereby declare that I have read the Drug/Alcohol Testing Consent Statement above and fully understand the policy of the Ouachita Baptist University Department of Nursing in regard to substance abuse and testing.

SIGNATURE

DATE

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIVED CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK & LICENSING
RESTRICTIONS INFORMATION**

I have received, acknowledged, and understand this information on Criminal Background Checks and
Licensing Restrictions Based on Criminal Records.

PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ABILITIES STATEMENT

Students enrolled in the Department of Nursing must possess the intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve the level of competence required for safe professional practice. The student must have the mental and physical abilities necessary to perform at each level within the nursing curriculum. Certain technical abilities and expectations are expected of all students admitted to the nursing program. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, the student will not be allowed to continue in the nursing program.

The student must:

1. Be able to work in a standing position and walk frequently in campus/clinical setting.
2. Have physical abilities sufficient for movement from room to room and in small spaces.
3. Be able to lift and transfer clients up to six inches or more from a stooped position, then push/pull weight up to three feet (e.g., bed to stretcher; wheelchair). Be able to lift and transfer clients from a stooped to an upright position to accomplish bed-to-chair and chair-to-bed transfers.
4. Have gross and fine motor abilities sufficient for providing safe, effective nursing care.
5. Be able to apply up to 10 pounds of pressure to bleeding sites or in performing CPR.
6. Have auditory ability sufficient for monitoring and assessing health needs; respond and react immediately to auditory instruction, request, and or monitor equipment; perform auditory auscultation without auditory impediment.
7. Perform up to twelve hours in a clinical setting.
8. Have visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care. Perform close and distance visual activities involving objects, people, and paperwork, as well as discriminate depth and color perception.
9. Have tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment; discriminate between sharp/dull and hot/cold.
10. Perform mathematical calculations for medication administration and be able to reason, analyze, and synthesize information.
11. Have interpersonal abilities sufficient for interaction with individuals, families, and groups from various social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds; and communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, using appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and word usage.
12. Have critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment; make quick decisions under stressful situations; and respond and act immediately to emergency situations.

My signature below reflects my understanding of the required performance of these mental and physical expectations during the nursing program.

PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY

Ouachita Baptist University and the Department of Nursing strongly recommend the student purchase and maintain personal health insurance. Clinical agencies agree to provide first aid for clinical-related accidents and illnesses, such as blood and body fluid exposures, to students. The charges for any medical services shall be billed to the student or their insurance carrier. The University and clinical agency assume no responsibility, financial or otherwise, beyond the initial first aid provided immediately after the injury, and any services or other liability shall not be borne by the University or clinical agency but shall be the responsibility of the individual student regardless of whether these services are covered by the student's insurance.

Please print:

Name:

(LAST)

(FIRST)

(MIDDLE)

I hereby declare that I have read the Department of Nursing personal health insurance statement and fully understand the policy of the Ouachita Baptist University Department of Nursing in regard to health care insurance.

SIGNATURE

DATE

HEPATITIS B VACCINE DECLINATION FORM

Student Name: _____

Student ID#: _____

I, _____, understand that due to my potential exposure, to blood and/or other potentially infectious materials, I may be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection during activities related to my enrollment in nursing courses. However, with this knowledge, I decline the Hepatitis B vaccination series at this time. I understand that by declining this vaccine, I continue to be at risk of acquiring Hepatitis B, a serious disease. I also understand that by refusing this vaccine I may be denied access to a clinical site.

I agree to provide proof of vaccination to my clinical course coordinator if I decide at a later date to receive the Hepatitis B vaccine series through my selected primary care provider. I understand that it is my responsibility to provide proof of starting the vaccination series to the appropriate course coordinator. If I fail to provide proof of documentation **or** the completed Declination Form by the announced course deadline, I understand that I will be administratively dropped from my clinical nursing courses.

SIGNATURE

DATE

SEMESTER AND YEAR:

INFLUENZA (FLU) VACCINE DECLINATION FORM

Student Name: _____

Student ID#: _____

All nursing students are required to receive the flu vaccine. If you decline the vaccine, you must provide proof of a medically verified allergy to the flu vaccine, verified history of Guillain Barre Syndrome, or other significant adverse reaction to the flu vaccine. Students who qualify for the allowed exemption must provide a declination form signed by the student's primary healthcare provider to the **applicable course coordinator upon application**. Request for declination of the vaccine will be considered by nursing program administration and/or the medical facility administration where the student assigned clinical experience is scheduled.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Reason for declination (may attach documentation)

Primary Health Care Provider Name (printed)

Primary Health Care Provider Signature

UPDATE OF HEALTH STATUS

This is to certify that I, _____, a nursing student at Ouachita Baptist University, have recently had a change in my health status or medication since completing my original health condition form.

I have been informed by my health care provider of the risks that may be involved to me under my new treatment/medication, and hereby release the faculty of the Department of Nursing and the University from any ill effects, which may result from performing the required functions in order to meet the outcomes of the course.

I understand that the faculty may require me to show documented evidence of my new prescriptions and that I may be required to submit a letter from my health care provider stating that I am physically able to participate in my clinical assignment and am able to perform while under the influence of my new medication.

New physical conditions, limitations and/or disorders including medications currently prescribed and in use (list medications below):

SIGNATURE

DATE

STUDENT ACCIDENT FORM

Date _____

Name _____

Date of Occurrence _____ Time _____

Place of Occurrence _____

Type of Accident _____

Specific Activity Engaged In _____

Summary of Accident

Witnesses: (Name, Address, Phone Number)

Health Care Provider: (Name, Address, Phone Number)

Action Taken: _____

NOTIFICATION OF UNSATISFACTORY CLINICAL/CLASSROOM GRADE

Instructions: This report is to be completed by the instructor when a student is given a grade of unsatisfactory clinical or classroom performance. A copy of this report is to be included in the student's file. An example of unsatisfactory classroom performance includes, but is not limited to sleeping in classroom, failure to complete assignments on time, etc. An example of unsatisfactory clinical performance includes but is not limited to medication errors, lack of preparedness for clinical experience, dress code violations, etc.

A STUDENT WHO ACCUMULATES A TOTAL OF THREE UNSATISFACTORY CLINICAL/CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE GRADES WHILE IN THE NURSING PROGRAM WILL APPEAR BEFORE FACULTY AND MAY BE DISMISSED FROM THE PROGRAM.

NOTIFICATION OF UNSATISFACTORY CLINICAL/CLASSROOM GRADE

Student's Name	
Instructor's Name	
Date	
Description of Incident	
Action by Instructor	
Action by Student	
Remarks	

Student _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Instructor _____
Signature _____ Date _____



OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
Department of Nursing
CLINICAL COACHING/MENTORING PROCESS/FORM

STUDENT NAME: _____ Date: _____ Meeting # 1 2 3 other

Reason for coaching/mentoring session: Clinical deficiencies ☐ Incident/Error ☐ Near-miss ☐
Counseling ☐

Other:

Student's description of incident/error/near miss:

Faculty's description of incident/error/near miss:

<i>Student Learning Outcome from CET</i>	<i>Deficiency</i>
<i>Skills/intervention</i>	<i>Deficiency</i>

Student developmental plan:

Refer to Coordinator of Skills/Simulation: Yes ☐ No ☐

Date

Student Signature

Faculty/ Coordinator of Skills/Simulation Signature

Achievement of developmental plan:

<i>Student Learning Outcome from CET</i>	<i>Achievement</i>
<i>Skills/intervention</i>	<i>Achievement</i>

Student Comments:

Faculty Comments:

Student Signature Faculty/ Coordinator of Skills/Simulation Signature _____ Date

STUDENT HANDBOOK VALIDATION

This nursing student handbook is inclusive of all the policies that govern the nursing curriculum.

Items/Issues not covered in the handbook will be addressed by faculty. Students will be notified as soon as the items/issues occur. Students will be notified in writing either in LMS or email of any changes or revisions to the student handbook or course policy as they occur. Course policies are addressed in each course and located in the nursing syllabus. Students are held accountable to current policies. It is the student's responsibility to be knowledgeable and abide by each of the policies. Students are encouraged to contribute helpful and positive suggestions to improve the student handbook.

Any variation from the policies in this handbook will be in writing and signed by faculty making the agreement, the course coordinator, and Director of Nursing.

Student Handbook Validation Form:

This is to certify that I, _____, a nursing student at Ouachita Baptist University have received the *Department of Nursing BSN Student Handbook*. My signature indicates receipt of this book and the responsibility for reading all policies enclosed. This form must be completed and turned into the Administrative Assistant within two (2) weeks of the FIRST DAY OF CLASS. I understand that if changes regarding the student handbook occur during my course of study, I will be notified and will be expected to abide by the changes as they apply.

SIGNATURE

DATE