



C.A.S. - Practical Nurse 2026 Student Handbook



Updated July 18, 2025 for January 2026 cohort

Nightingale Pledge

I solemnly pledge myself here, in the presence of this assembly, to practice my profession with integrity.

I will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.

I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession.

I will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping.

I will devote myself to the healing, protection, and welfare of those entrusted to my care.

I will act with compassion and equality in all ethical matters.

I will commit to interdisciplinary collaboration and lifelong learning.

I fully acknowledge the seriousness of the responsibility that I accept in my calling,

And I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honor.

~1893

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To keep up with the rapidly changing healthcare delivery system, the Nursing Department posts the Nursing Student handbook on the website and the Nursing Information page. The student is responsible for partnering with the Nursing Department in staying abreast of changes. The Nursing Department will notify the students of changes that are made to the handbook.

Mission and Vision of Helena College

Mission Statement

Helena College supports our diverse community by providing paths and tools necessary to assist learners in achieving their educational and career goals.

Vision Statement

Helena College aspires to empower our students through impactful, affordable, life-long education that is responsive to the needs of our community, in ways that are enriching, collaborative, and equitable.

Guiding Principles

Helena College identified the following guiding principles using campus-wide open forums and listening sessions.

- Effectiveness
- Stewardship
- Impact
- Equity

Mission and Philosophy of Helena College Nursing Program

Mission:

To provide exceptional nursing education using innovative academic, simulated, and clinical experiences that prepare our graduates as safe, competent, direct-care nurses poised to meet the diverse healthcare needs of our community.

Philosophy:

The Helena College Nursing Department's educational philosophy supports the belief that professional nursing is best served by highly educated members who meet the ever-changing healthcare needs of the population in their care. The C.A.S. – Practical Nurse graduate is an entry-level practitioner who is competent to practice as a direct caregiver in a variety of healthcare settings, which include diverse patient populations. The faculty of the Nursing Program believe the following:

- **Communication** is an integral part of all nursing interactions and facilitates caring, compassionate, and culturally aware patient care.
- **Professional behaviors** are important. Graduates of nursing programs function within the ethical and legal framework of nursing and are responsible for providing and maintaining high standards of nursing practice.
- Solid **assessment** skills and the ability to effectively apply the nursing process to identify actual and potential healthcare needs form the foundation for clinical nursing judgments.

- **Managing care** is achieved through the use of the nursing process, in collaboration with the client, their support persons, and interdisciplinary professionals.
- Nurses strive to provide **caring interventions** and to create supportive, caring environments that promote the well-being of the patient.

In addition, the Nursing Faculty believe nursing education is driven by the application of critical thinking and clinical judgment, and so, teaching/learning strategies using innovative approaches and evidence-based research are incorporated into nursing courses. To address varied learning styles, curriculum experiences are structured from simple to complex and are delivered in varied methodologies to connect with all learning domains.

Nursing education is seen as a collaborative process that requires the involvement of college administrators and staff, nursing faculty, and nursing students. Every nursing student entering the nursing program brings unique experiences, capabilities, learning styles, and motivation for learning. The nursing faculty recognizes the need for a holistic approach toward students who bring individual challenges as they enter the program. Faculty strive to connect students with all available resources on campus to facilitate student success.

Embracing this philosophy, the Nursing Faculty at Helena College address the Program Student Learning Outcomes by incorporating the Educational Competencies* for graduates of Practical Nursing programs identified by the National League for Nursing (2010). All of the coursework and material covered in the program is intentional to prepare the student to function in the nursing role and to facilitate the student's ability to pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) that is taken after graduation and is a requirement of licensure to practice as a nurse.

Educational Competencies

- ✚ *Human Flourishing-* Practical Nurses use their skills and knowledge to promote human dignity, integrity, self-determination, and personal growth of patients, themselves, and members of the health care team.
- ✚ *Nursing Judgment-* Practical Nurses provide a rationale for judgments used in the provision of safe, quality care and for decisions that promote the health of patients within a family context.
- ✚ *Professional Identity-* Practical Nurses assess how one's personal strengths and values affect one's identity as a nurse and one's contributions as a member of the healthcare team.
- ✚ *Spirit of Inquiry-* It is important that nurses approach all issues and problems within a spirit of inquiry. Practical Nurses question the basis for nursing actions, considering research, evidence, tradition, and patient preferences.

The courses of the Helena College C.A.S. - Practical Nursing Program are designed to meet the requirements of the Montana State Board of Nursing and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

Conceptual Framework

In addition to applying the vision and core themes of the college, the purpose of the HC Nursing Department is to prepare qualified nurses for entry-level positions to meet the workforce needs of our diverse healthcare community. To achieve this, the framework for the curriculum is an adaptation of Benner's novice-to-expert theory and the principles of adult learning theory. Benner's theory focuses on

the construct of knowledge and skill development progressing over time, with proper educational information and experiences. This relates to the concepts of adult learning theory in that adults (1) need to understand why they are learning something, (2) learn best by doing, and (3) learn best when they can see the concept and apply it to real-life situations.

Learning is an active process that includes cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. Faculty facilitates the learning process by introducing concepts and building on those concepts in each subsequent semester, implementing active learning techniques in class to meet the needs of students with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Learning occurs through participation in specified experiences and exercises designed to help the student learn to identify, understand, and apply nursing concepts and principles. Adhering to Benner's theory and including the revised Bloom's Taxonomy, nursing instruction in the first semester will target "remembering, understanding," and introduce "applying". The last semester builds on this foundational knowledge and moves on to "applying and analyzing" concepts and patient scenarios to help guide the student toward independent practice as an entry-level nurse.

The C.A.S. - PN graduate uses critical thinking, clinical judgment, and demonstrates clinical competence and accountability as an entry-level practical nurse who provides nursing care under the supervision of a licensed healthcare professional.

C.A.S. - Practical Nursing Program Student Learning Outcomes

1. Use the Nursing Process to provide safe, effective, and individualized care, to address the assessed needs of the client within the Licensed Practical Nurse scope of practice.
2. Utilize communication skills to provide relationship-centered care.
3. Demonstrate teamwork in an inter-professional environment.
4. Provide inclusive care in a professional manner according to legal and ethical standards within the Licensed Practical Nurse scope of practice.
5. Safely and accurately perform all nursing skills under the pressure, distractions, and interruptions of an actual nursing experience.

Expected Program Outcomes for the C.A.S. - Practical Nursing Graduate

1. Graduates will meet or exceed the national average for first-time takers for the NCLEX-PN (National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses).
2. Eighty percent (80%) of students admitted to the program will complete the program within one (1) academic year (two semesters).
3. Ninety percent (90%) of graduates will be employed as a Licensed Practical Nurse within six months of graduation.
4. Ninety (90%) of the surveys returned by graduates will indicate that they are satisfied with their education.
5. Ninety (90%) of the surveys returned by employers will indicate satisfaction with the graduate's performance.

Armstrong, P. (2010). Bloom's Taxonomy. Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching. Retrieved August 16, 2021, from <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/blooms-taxonomy/>.

Benner, P. (2001). *From Novice to Expert Excellence and Power in Clinical Nursing Practice*. Commemorative Edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall Health.

National League for Nursing. (2010). Outcomes and Competencies for Graduates of Practical/Vocational, Diploma, Associate Degree, Baccalaureate, Master's, Practice Doctorate, and Research Doctorate Programs in Nursing (pp. 7-37). New York, New York: National League for Nursing.

Application and Program Entry

The Certificate of Applied Science Practical Nurse Program prepares graduates to provide direct care to clients, individuals, or groups in a variety of structured settings with clear policies and procedures. Due to limited clinical sites for client care experiences and State Board of Nursing regulations regarding student-to-faculty ratio, the director and nursing faculty will determine acceptance into the program.

Prerequisite coursework must have been taken within the last fifteen years (within the last 5 years for science courses) prior to admission to the Nursing Program to fulfill program requirements. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis after review by the Registrar's Office and at the discretion of the Director of Nursing. General education requirements. Students may repeat TWO general education courses to achieve a "C" grade or above, prior to the student's admission to the nursing program and courses. *A maximum of 2 prerequisite retakes are allowed.* Written permission from the Director of Nursing is required before taking any prerequisite course a third (3) time. If permission is not obtained, the second grade will be used to calculate GPA.

Students must obtain a 2.5 GPA in the prerequisite courses to apply to the C.A.S. – Practical Nursing Program.

In addition to the prerequisite coursework, students must complete the TEAS exam with a minimum score of 65%. The TEAS exam may be taken up to four (4) times, and the student may submit their highest score.

Transfer Students

Transfer Students will be required to have their transcripts evaluated by the Registrar's Office prior to applying to the Nursing Program. Transferability and acceptance of non-core curriculum nursing credits into the Helena College Nursing Program is not guaranteed.

Nursing Program Requirements

CPR Requirement

- The student must have a current Basic Life Support CPR certification **for the healthcare provider** prior to the start of the clinical experience. Hands-on skills testing must be included, and online only courses are not accepted. It is the student's responsibility to register, prepare for, and pass the CPR course. The cost of CPR requirement is at the student's expense. Current CPR must be maintained, and a copy of the card is kept in the student's file.

Basic Health Screening

- A current (within the last 6 months) physical examination by the student's health care provider is required prior to entrance into the clinical setting. The physical form is located in the application packet.

Immunizations/ Vaccinations

- Current immunization records, including Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis A & B vaccine, documentation of Varicella (chicken pox) vaccination or titer, MMR, and Polio, must be provided prior to the start of classes. Proof of absence of active TB must be documented prior to starting clinicals (negative PPD, negative QuantiFERON TB gold, or negative chest X-ray).
- Students must provide evidence of the year's current **Influenza (Flu) vaccine**. Waivers are at the discretion of the clinical facility.
 - Students must complete all clinical requirements and hours to progress forward to the next semester and to graduate. If a student is unable to complete clinicals due to being out of compliance with clinical facility requirements, the student will not be able to progress in the program.
- The costs associated with immunizations, titers, or other is the responsibility of the student.

Criminal Background Checks

Clinical agencies utilized by the Nursing Department require criminal background checks prior to acceptance of the student into the program. The student will order and complete the background check using their Castlebranch account. *Any fees or costs associated with background checks are the responsibility of the student.* Students who do not pass the criminal background check may be unable to attend clinical courses and, therefore, unable to complete their program of study. This is at the discretion of the clinical facility.

Applicants who have been convicted of a felony will be required to do a criminal background check and bring it to the Director to determine if they are eligible to apply to the program. Acceptance to and graduation from the Nursing Program does not assure eligibility to sit for the nursing licensing examination. The Montana Board of Nursing makes all final decisions on the issuance of licenses.

Liability Insurance

Each student must have professional liability insurance while enrolled in the Nursing Program. The cost of this coverage is included in student fees. Students do not need to purchase their own liability insurance as it is provided through enrollment in the Nursing Program.

Progression Statements

Helena College Nursing follows the Montana Statewide Curriculum for Practical Nursing. The concepts taught in the theory classes are applied in the clinical setting. The curriculum is designed to allow sequential progression through the program. Continuation in the program is based upon successful scholastic achievement, satisfactory clinical/laboratory competence, and personal qualifications for the practice of nursing as cited in the Administrative Rules of Montana Program Standards and Program Evaluation (ARM 24.159.604; ARM 24.159.609). The following academic requirements **must** be met for progression in the nursing programs.

1. The HC Nursing Program requires a passing grade of "C" (not C-) or higher in all courses to meet progression standards.
2. The HC Nursing Department grading scale is as follows: 93%-100% (A); 90-92% (B+); 87-89% (B); 85-86% (B-); 81-84% (C+); 78-80% (C); 77% or lower (F). Grades for all course assignments will be recorded as earned with no mathematical rounding. For example, a score of 77.9%= 77%.

3. A minimum grade of “C” (78%) is required **in all nursing courses**, including clinicals and embedded general education courses, to continue to the next semester. (Please refer to the specific course or clinical syllabi for further guidelines.)
4. Students move through the nursing curriculum as a cohort. All Nursing Program courses in one semester must be successfully completed prior to the student starting the next semester of nursing coursework. If a student needs to repeat a nursing course or takes an (I) incomplete, they will not progress to the next semester of nursing courses until the repeated course is successfully completed.
5. Students achieving lower than a “C” grade in any nursing course while admitted to the Nursing Program will be unable to progress in the program. Failure to achieve a minimum of 78% in the theory, skills labs, or clinical area will result in the student failing the nursing course. ***If a student fails a class with a didactic and clinical component, both must be repeated unless the faculty recommends otherwise.***
6. Students who have withdrawn, dropped, or failed any courses required for the nursing curriculum must seek readmission to the program. (See *Readmission Procedure*, p. 10).
7. Students may repeat a nursing course in which they earn a “W” or a grade of less than a “C” only once. ***A total of only one nursing course may be repeated before dismissal from the program.***
8. If an enrolled nursing student is convicted of a felony, the student ***will not be able to progress in the Nursing Program.***

Challenging a Course

Students may not challenge nursing courses.

Repeating Nursing Courses

A student who fails a nursing course should meet with the appropriate instructor(s) and the Director of Nursing to develop an educational plan for success to enhance future chances of success. Copies of the written plan for success will be placed in the student’s file. Failure of nursing courses prohibits progression. A student who fails a nursing course is responsible to reapply for reapplying to continue with the program. A letter of intent to reapply must be submitted by the application deadline. ***Failure of any two nursing courses results in dismissal from the program.***

Withdrawal/Incomplete

Withdrawal from a nursing course to protect academic integrity has the same impact as an “F”. Refer to the college catalog policy/procedure.

Readmission Procedure

Students wishing to re-enroll after withdrawal from the Nursing Program must meet HC re-enrollment policies and reapply to the Nursing Program.

Students in the ‘withdrawn’ or ‘failed’ category may apply for readmission to the nursing program **one time only**.

A returning student must:

1. Reapply for admission to the nursing program to ensure program placement. If there is an opening, a student may write a letter to the Nursing department asking for readmission for that semester.
2. Adhere to the most recent catalog requirements.
3. Plan with a nursing advisor to develop a degree plan that meets all curricular and program requirements.
4. Submit a new physical examination form and current CPR certification, and current immunizations.
5. Validate competency in clinical skills.

Program Completion Requirements

Students must complete the nursing program within the allotted time from the date of their initial admission to the nursing major. Students who do not complete the program within this timeframe must apply for readmission, meet current criteria for admission, and have their previous credits evaluated. All college core requirements must be met before the student may enroll in the nursing courses.

Governance

Academic Standards Committee for Nursing

The Academic Standards Committee for Nursing is comprised of nursing faculty/staff and staff from the registration and admissions offices and the General Education department. The Academic Standards Committee reviews and updates the application and application process. Policies regarding the Nursing Program and student grievances/complaints are also reviewed by this committee.

Student/Faculty Forum

The student-faculty forum is composed of the Nursing Faculty, the Director of Nursing, the Simulation Manager and Program Coordinator, and two elected students from each nursing cohort. The forum provides a way for the faculty and students to communicate regarding concerns, suggestions, and questions in relation to the nursing program, the curriculum, and other relevant issues. Meetings are scheduled once a month during the school year. This also provides a means for the students to participate in the program assessment. The minutes of these meetings will be used to provide valuable data for program assessment, input, and development.

Responsibility of Faculty

1. Increasing student awareness regarding program direction and faculty concerns
2. Providing information and guidance regarding student concerns and participating in follow-up activities as indicated
3. Fostering student/faculty interaction during joint meetings

4. Notifying student representatives of changes to the nursing program(s), policy, or handbook

Responsibility of Student Representatives

1. Increasing class awareness regarding committee activities
2. Soliciting information from peers for committee agendas
3. Assisting in problem-solving to address agenda items
4. Implementing committee/faculty suggestions and reporting outcomes to peers
5. Contributing to program policy and curriculum development

In addition to the above responsibilities, activities of this committee include participating in the curricular assessment and modification process as well as the textbook assessment and selection process.

Student Senate

One student from each nursing program at HC may be elected as a senator to represent their program and the registered students of the college. The student body elects a president, vice-president, and business manager to the Executive Branch and to oversee the Senate. Meetings take place weekly or bi-weekly during the academic year. Student activity fees finance the running of the Senate. A faculty or staff advisor has a voice but not a vote within the Senate and provides guidance and support.

Community Advisory Board

The Community Advisory Board is made up of community members who provide expertise in the areas of nursing discipline and nursing education. The community advisory committee plays a critical role in program assessment and program development. The structure of the committee and its members is designed to identify and accurately reflect needs, trends, and issues arising in the nursing community.

Academic Policies and Structure

Academic and Student Conduct

Academic and student conduct issues are addressed in the current Helena College catalog and Student Code of Conduct Handbook. Topics discussed include, but are not limited to:

- Orientation
- Student Conduct
- Academic Dishonesty
- Student Due Process
- Confidentiality
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Fees/financial aid policies and procedures

Please review these and other academic policies in the college student handbook.

Student Conduct and Honor Code

Students must follow the rules, regulations, and policies as outlined in the HC Student Handbook and Nursing Program policies with respect to their conduct. Refer to [Helena College catalog](https://helenacollege.edu/catalog/) (<https://helenacollege.edu/catalog/>) and the nursing student handbook for expected standards of behavior. Disruptive behavior, unsafe actions, and/or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can

lead to expulsion from class and/or clinicals. **Helena College and Helena College Nursing department have a zero-tolerance policy for behavior that can result in harm (physical or emotional).**

Academic Accommodations/Disability Services

In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of a disability, please contact the Accessibility Services Office. The Accessibility Coordinator can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. If you have already been approved for accommodations through the Accessibility Office, please schedule an appointment with your instructor or provide copies of the accommodations so we can implement your accommodations. These accommodations need to be presented to the instructor at least a day in advance of any test or exam in which the accommodated services will be used to allow appropriate arrangements to be made.

Accessibility Services Office
(406) 447-6911

hcdr@helenacollege.edu

Office location: East End Advising-Donaldson Campus, room 119

Only students registered with the Accessibility Office are permitted accommodations. All information will be kept confidential. Students who receive accommodations must arrange times for tests with the Testing Center at testingcenter@helenacollege.edu or by calling 406-447-6946.

Academic Dishonesty Definition/Policy Statement

Helena College expects its students to adhere to a high standard of academic integrity. It is a violation of academic integrity standards and the student code of conduct to present the ideas, designs, works, or words of another person as one's own efforts, or to permit another person to do so. The following guidelines are intended to clarify these issues for students, faculty, and administration.

The College will regard the following acts as violations of academic integrity, constituting academic dishonesty. Although the list and descriptions are not intended to be exhaustive of all types or instances of academic dishonesty, they are presented as examples of behavior to avoid. It is explicitly the student's responsibility to avoid academic dishonesty of all kinds, and each student is required to seek guidance in advance of taking any questionable action, including but not limited to those enumerated below.

Plagiarism: A student will be considered in violation of standards for academic integrity if they submit an assignment in any form (written, oral, graphic, or computer-generated, etc.) that consists wholly or partially of the words, work, or ideas of another individual without giving the original author proper credit. A similar violation would occur in cases where a student submits a paper or other project/assignment for one course that was originally created for another course, even if that student was the originator of the paper/project/assignment in the first instance. Similarly, using facts, figures, graphs, charts, or information without acknowledging the source constitutes plagiarism, which may occur verbally, in written form, through computer programs and files, research methods, designs, particular distinctive words or phrases, ideas, and images or any other information that was created by another person without acknowledgment of that person's role in its creation. Inadvertent or unintentional misuse or appropriation of another's work (such as relying heavily on source material that is not expressly acknowledged) is still considered plagiarism.

Copying/Cheating: A student will be considered in violation of academic integrity standards if they gain, or attempt to gain, credit for work by dishonest or deceptive means. Examples include the use of crib notes, cheat sheets, books, or any other material or electronic device as aids in an examination or any other graded exercise, unless the instructor of the class has given explicit permission to use such materials. Collaboration with another student on an examination or other graded exercise, unless the instructor has given permission, also constitutes copying. It is the policy of the College to prohibit phones, smart watches, and other similar devices during examinations. Prior to administering an examination, instructors will require that all such devices be turned off and stored in an inaccessible place. Failure to comply with this policy will constitute a violation of the academic integrity policy. If a student is found in possession of such a device during an examination, they will be assigned a score of 0 for the examination. Further examples include: copying assignments from another source (classmate, etc.); working with others on exams or homework that is not explicitly permitted by the instructor to be collaborative; looking at another student's paper or screen during an exam or assignment; disclosing exam content to others during an exam, or after completion of an exam, including allowing such information to be disclosed to you; and/or attempting to or allowing another person to complete assignments for another person (such as in an online course). The above examples are meant to illustrate violations of the principle of academic integrity and are not intended to be all-inclusive. Additional instances of dishonesty that are not explicitly identified in the above list will nevertheless be treated as violations.

Contributing to Academic Dishonesty: A student will be considered in violation of academic integrity standards if they willfully assist another student in an act of academic dishonesty.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Generated work: If the faculty suspects that the submitted work was not your own or that AI tools were extensively utilized, the student will be asked to explain the work in detail. If the student is not able to display a reasonable understanding of the submitted work, it will constitute a violation of academic integrity.

- **Nursing Department AI Statement:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be used as a tool to seek clarification or to generate ideas; however, it is not a replacement for critical thinking and expanding of ideas. Students should be able to discuss details and elaborate on ideas within their assignment when prompted. Students who are unable to do so or who are suspected of using AI extensively within an assignment will be required to complete the assignment again. The attempt must be hand-written under supervision to ensure that academic integrity is being maintained. Students will receive a score based on the re-attempt of the assignment, which may include deductions for extensive AI use on the first attempt, as determined by the course instructor and assignment rubric.

Academic Dishonesty Violations: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic sanctions for a first violation are at the discretion of the instructor and range from a failing grade for the assignment to a failing grade in the course in which academic dishonesty occurs. When a faculty member assigns a failing grade based on academic dishonesty, they shall notify the affected student(s) and the appropriate Division Director in writing of the violation and provide all supporting documentation to the Division Director. A record of the infraction will be kept on file in the office of the Division Director, although no further official action will be taken unless/until a second infraction is reported. In cases of repeated offenses, the Executive Director of Compliance and Financial Aid will be notified and will administer a range of disciplinary sanctions up to and including expulsion from the College. Students

retain their right to due process and may refer to the Student Handbook or the Executive Director of Compliance and Financial Aid regarding any disciplinary sanctions.

APA Formatting of Nursing Assignments

Written work will conform to the American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual, 7th edition format, as APA is the format most widely accepted within nursing academia. This includes electronic references. Refer to the course syllabi for specific grading requirements. The APA Publication Manual is in the library. A recommended online APA resource is the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL).

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Nursing Course Syllabi

Each course syllabus will contain specific requirements for grading, assignments, and other methods of evaluating classroom, laboratory, and clinical components. The syllabus will include student learning outcomes for each course and program outcomes.

Nursing course syllabi will be distributed to students on the first day of class and are available online.

Each student is responsible for the material contained within the syllabus.

Nursing Course Grades

The HC Nursing Department grading scale is as follows:

A	100-93
B+	92-90
B	89-87
B-	86-85
C+	84-81
C	80-78
F	0-77

Faculty retains the final decision-making authority regarding grades earned in each course. Grades for all course assignments will be recorded as earned **with no mathematical rounding**. This policy allows the faculty of the Department of Nursing to remove uncertainty and ensure integrity in the grading process for all students. *Numerical averages will not be rounded (for example 77.9 is a 77 %)*. Refer to the College Student Handbook Policies for appealing a grade.

Attendance

Attendance at each scheduled class or lab is expected since the learning process involves group interaction. Students are expected to notify faculty prior to class if not attending and are responsible for any material during the absence.

Students are expected to adhere to the course policies related to attendance and are responsible for all activities associated with each class. Students are responsible for specific course syllabi content regarding attendance.

Advising

Each student is assigned an academic advisor once the admission application is complete. Students may find information about their assigned advisor on MyHC > [Student Support Center](#). The advisor's role, in part, is to facilitate the students' course registration and to assist in the identification of resources available to support student success. Students are encouraged to utilize all resources Helena College UM provides to assist with their success in the Nursing Program.

Each student is ultimately responsible and accountable for their progression through the nursing program and for meeting all academic requirements for graduation.

Clinical Information and Attendance

The clinical experience assignments in each course have been designed by the faculty to meet course outcomes. Therefore, students are expected to attend every scheduled clinical. Students should notify the clinical instructor or preceptor prior to the beginning of the clinical session from which they will be absent. An unexcused absence (no-call-no-show) from the clinical setting ***may result in dismissal from the program.***

The clinical experiences in each course have been designed by the faculty to meet course outcomes. Failure by the student to meet the clinical objectives due to absenteeism will result in a "Does not meet expectations" evaluation for the semester and a *Fail* for the clinical course.

All clinical orientations are part of the clinical experience, and attendance is **mandatory**.

Time missed during the clinical experience will be made up at the discretion of the clinical instructor and course faculty. Clinical makeup may include a makeup day in the clinical setting, a written virtual clinical assignment worth 8 hours, and/or attendance in a clinical makeup simulation in the Sim Lab. If the faculty or instructor arranges a clinical makeup, it is the student's responsibility to arrange their personal schedule to ensure attendance at the clinical makeup. **It is not the faculty's or instructor's responsibility to create makeup clinicals following the student's personal schedule.**

Clinical Requirements

Students who have not provided proof of current CPR and immunizations/appropriate waivers will not be allowed into the clinical area and will earn a clinical failure.

- It is the responsibility of the student to bring a watch with a second hand, a stethoscope, a pen, and bandage scissors to clinical sites.

Clinical Grades

Clinical grade is determined by the course faculty based on observations/documentated feedback of the clinical instructor, assessed student learning, and the student's ability to improve across the semester. The Clinical Evaluation Tool and clinical assignments will be used to assess student performance in the clinical rotation and to determine the clinical grade.

Accountability by the nursing student is expected. Clinical paperwork (clinical journals, evaluation forms, verification of hours forms, etc.) is part of the evaluation process for the clinical experience and must be submitted in a timely manner to the faculty for grading. These forms must be completed and signed by the student and submitted by the due date.

Penalty for late submission of clinical paperwork or assignments:

- Up to 24h late = 10% deduction
- 24 – 48h late = 20% deduction
- 48 – 72h late = 50% deduction
- No assignments will be accepted after 72h, and score of zero “0” will be assigned *unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.*

If the clinical is failed, the student will be required to retake the course and clinical.

The Nursing Program Standards and Requirements related to grading and attendance are more stringent than the general requirements at Helena College. These rigorous expectations are designed to prepare students for the NCLEX exam and to become competent, capable, and responsible nursing professionals after graduation.

Critical professional behaviors across all courses in the nursing programs are essential to the satisfactory achievement of nursing courses. Where there is failure on the part of the student to meet reasonable standards of performance or behavior, or when, in the judgment of the faculty member, the amount of supervision necessary to ensure client safety is unreasonable, the faculty member has the authority to deny the student access to clients and to remove the student from the clinical setting.

The criteria that will be considered in denying the student access to clients are:

1. Actions and/or events that demonstrate emotional instability
2. Threatened bodily harm to clients, staff, faculty or peers
3. Harassment of clients, staff, faculty or peers
4. Under the influence of alcohol or drugs
5. Indifference or insensitivity to client safety, comfort, or right to privacy
6. Lack of professional judgment
7. Disregard for professional ethics
8. Unsatisfactory or incomplete preparatory work
9. Any health condition that makes it impossible for students to carry out their work without jeopardizing client or student safety and comfort
10. Any other condition or circumstance that constitutes an unreasonable risk to the safety and well-being of the client and/or the student
11. Arrest and conviction of a crime as per Montana State Board of Nursing
12. Failure to abide by the HC Nursing dress code and appearance policies

Clinical Failure

The student will receive written documentation of the reasons for the clinical failure. This will be reflected in the Clinical Assessment Tool that is provided to the student by the clinical instructor.

Laboratory Information

Students will not be allowed to perform a skill in the clinical area until they have received instruction and/or demonstrated competence in that skill in the laboratory setting. All skills required for a nursing course must be successfully demonstrated in order to earn a passing grade for the course.

Laboratory Failure

A laboratory failure is earned when a student does not successfully demonstrate the critical elements of a skill in two attempts. After the first failed attempt to demo a skill in a safe and correct manner, the student will review instructional videos and resources and then reschedule their return demonstration with their lab instructor. Some scheduled laboratory sessions may include more than one skill; however, each skill is considered on an individual basis. The student will receive written documentation of the reasons for a laboratory failure. This will be reflected on the Laboratory skills check off tool/Sim Grading Rubric that is provided to the student by the lab instructor.

Open Lab Sessions

Open lab sessions will be available on a weekly basis for student use. Open lab sessions are provided to allow students to practice and master skills that are required for the successful completion of nursing courses.

If a student demonstrates difficulty with a specific skill in the clinical area, a didactic or clinical instructor may require that a student attend an open lab session for remediation.

Nursing Program Policies

Children cannot be left unattended on campus during class hours, nor are they allowed to have access to the Nursing Labs. Children are never allowed in clinical areas. Children are only allowed in classrooms with the instructor's discretion for special circumstances and must be approved before class.

Cell Phones, I-watches, and other electronic devices

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be in silent mode during class, or lab activities, and turned off during tests/exams. Cell phones may be used in the clinical setting for clinical-related research (looking up a medication, diagnosis, or treatment). HOWEVER, unapproved use of cell phones (texting, messaging, gaming, Facebooking, etc.) will not be tolerated in the class or clinicals and are subject to loss of professional behavior points. ***NO PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE CLINICAL SITE!***

Refer to the course syllabi and the college student handbook for the acceptable use of electronic resources policy.

Laptop

Nursing students are required to have a laptop during the course of their program. Recommendations for hardware requirements can be obtained from the nursing office, but the minimum requirements are a camera and a mic. Students are responsible for bringing their laptops to class and power cords if needed.

Calculators

The use of calculators during tests is permitted upon direction by the instructor of the course. However, the calculator must be a simple four-function calculator (not a cell phone calculator).

Pregnancy

Students who are pregnant or suspect that they may be pregnant should inform the Director of Nursing, their didactic instructors, and their clinical instructors so that appropriate adjustments and precautions can be made regarding the student's assignment of clients. Students are also encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator, Valerie Curtin, at Valerie.Curtin@HelenaCollege.edu, 406-447-6913.

Testing/ Exams and Assessments

Cell phones, smart phones, and smart watches must be turned off and put away during tests/exams. There will be no make-up exams (quiz or exam) without PRIOR approval of the instructor. The course exams are scheduled at the beginning of the semester. Students are expected to make arrangements early so they are available on the scheduled date and time. Avoid scheduling work or personal appointments on the test dates. Missing an exam day may result in a reduction of the overall possible points on that exam (see below).

Exam Makeup Policy

Makeup exams (quizzes or exams) in nursing courses are not allowed without the PRIOR approval of the instructor.

- Authorized makeup exams will be placed in the Testing Center. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Testing Center and schedule their makeup within the timeframe specified by the instructor.
- Authorized make-up exams are **modified versions** of the class exam.
- Testing Center procedures [includes both accommodated and makeup testing] are located on the Canvas dashboard.

Remediation Policy

All students who score *below 78%* on a course exam are expected to complete the following. The student will:

1. Review the questions/ content that you missed to gain an understanding of the missed material. You will likely see it again. There are test analysis forms available, which can help identify patterns in missed questions.
2. Complete any remediation as directed by the course instructor. Points for remediation work are at the discretion of the instructor.
3. Request a meeting with the instructor to discuss ways to improve your testing ability (optional but recommended).

Student Complaints/Grievances

It is expected that students will first discuss any and all concerns and complaints regarding academic issues with the course instructor. *Open communication and the use of appropriate channels to resolve complaints are key to students' academic and professional success.* If, after discussing a concern or complaint with the instructor, the student feels that the issue is unresolved, the student may bring the issue to the Nursing Director. If the complaint or appeal is not resolved at the program level, the student should refer to the student complaint process in the Helena College student handbook and/or the Helena College catalogue for timelines and additional information. The complaints may be a general

complaint, a course complaint, which includes a final course grade appeal, or an assignment grade dispute. Grade appeals follow the Helena College catalog guidelines. General complaints or grievances follow the Helena College student policies located in the [Helena College Student Handbook](#).

Health and Safety Policies for the Student

Safety is our first priority in the educational and nursing practice setting. Compliance with safety standards is expected of students in all educational settings. If a student breaches safety standards, a student will be removed from the learning setting and a failing grade may result.

The student will be taught the principles and methods for Standard Precautions to prevent exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Health care workers are especially at risk for developing certain diseases due to exposure to needle sticks and splashed blood/body fluids. Hepatitis B, which infects thousands of healthcare workers, is preventable by immunization. Hepatitis B and HIV + status can be prevented through the consistent use of Standard Precautions. Therefore, it is mandatory that efforts be taken to prevent exposure to these diseases. Standard Precautions must be followed by students and faculty in the clinical settings. Students must show immunization against Hepatitis B or must sign a waiver accepting responsibility for the potential consequences of not being immunized. ***Students are required to report any exposures to their clinical instructor immediately.***

Professionalism

Student Responsibilities Relating to Professional Conduct

Nursing in the State of Montana is regulated by the Montana State Board of Nursing (BON) in accordance with the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and Rules derived thereof. It is reasonable that student nurses develop behaviors based on those deemed appropriate to the nursing profession and be disciplined based on the grounds for unprofessional conduct as indicated in the current Montana Nurse Practice Act (BON 24.159.23). A copy of the current Statutes and Rules-Relating to unprofessional conduct may be found on the BON website <https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/Subchapterhome.asp?scn=24.159.23>.

- The student is expected to treat all relationships with faculty, staff members, classmates, patients, and their families with professional behavior.
- Support and promote the activities of fellow students and healthcare professionals. Promotion of peers helps furnish a team approach to learning, task completion, problem-solving, and patient care.
- Be honest, compassionate, ethical, and responsible. The student must be forthright about errors or uncertainty. The students must be able to critically evaluate her or his performance, accept and act on constructive feedback, and look for ways to improve (i.e., participate in enriched educational activities).
- Exercise independent judgment and accept responsibility for one's own work.
- Show respect for individuals of different ages, ethnic backgrounds, religions, genders, and/or sexual orientations.
- In addition, the student must follow all established policies and procedures of the program and clinical affiliate sites.

- Professional conduct is nursing behavior, including acts, knowledge, and practices that, through professional experience, have become established by practicing nurses as conduct that is reasonably necessary for the protection of public interests and placing patient welfare first.
- Nursing behavior (acts, knowledge, and practices) that fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession, and which could jeopardize the health and welfare of the people, shall constitute unprofessional conduct, i.e., attire/dress, comments, and/or behavior.
- Unprofessional conduct may include being chronically tardy or absent (tardiness and absenteeism may negatively affect the student's grade; refer to course instructor's syllabi.), failing to make appropriate arrangements if unable to be at class, lab, or clinical experiences, or displaying hostility (argumentative, disruptive, abusive, emotional outbursts, inability to problem-solve, anger mismanagement).
- Professional conduct will be evaluated in each course, clinical/lab experience via the specific course assessment tool.
- Students are expected to be prepared for all class/lab/clinical assignments.
- Points may be deducted from a student's grade in any nursing course due to unprofessional behavior. Please see the Professional Behavior Rubric for more information.

**Refer to the college student handbook for more information on professionalism.*

Confidentiality

- Student behavior is guided by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations regarding confidentiality. Depending upon the severity of the infraction, the student may be verbally reprimanded, receive written notice, be suspended from clinical, and/or expelled from the program. Expelled students may be readmitted upon successful completion of a healthcare ethics course.
- ***Confidentiality of patient records and situations will be maintained at all times.*** No patient chart is to be copied by any technological process. Patient information is not to be removed from any healthcare agency. Charts may not be left open for public view, and report sheets may not be left in areas other than the nursing student's pocket. *Students violating this code will be subject to the facility's dismissal protocol and earn an unsatisfactory grade for the clinical experience.*
- Students are responsible for maintaining patient privacy and dignity at all times. Professional decorum will be extended into the clinical environments. Courteous professional behavior toward faculty, peers, patients/clients, staff, and hospital personnel is expected at all times. The first time a violation comes to the attention of the faculty, the student will be reprimanded, and the event noted. *Any subsequent times may result in dismissal from the program.*

Substance Use / Abuse by Nursing Students

Nursing students must adhere to Helena College Policy 600.6 (Alcohol sale, possession, and/or consumption on college property), Policy 400.4 (Drug-Free schools & communities), and MT Board of Regents Policy 503.1, which prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages on Montana university properties. The Nursing department identifies that any and all clinical locations where students get their clinical experiences are considered an extension of the college, and therefore, these policies are in

effect at our clinical locations. *Violations of any of these policies will result in disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct (p. 31 of the student handbook).*

Transportation

Students are responsible for their own transportation and related expenses for all clinical experiences. Students must not provide transportation for clients.

Uniform Standards for Clinical Settings, Clinical Simulation, and Labs

The purpose of the student uniform standards and regulations is to promote safety, provide a means of identifying the student, and support the milieu of the clinical environment. These guidelines apply only to the student while in the student role. **These guidelines are in accordance with the policies of our clinical settings, in which we are invited to learn, as guests.** These standards are also in compliance with national standards safeguarding the health and well-being of patients and healthcare workers. *The faculty reserves the right to interpret the uniform standards and make decisions regarding professional dress and conduct.*

A student violating any of the established guidelines may be dismissed from the clinical setting.

Name tag

The HC Nursing student name tag is always worn as part of the uniform. Student fees cover one name tag only. If the name tag is lost or stolen, the student is responsible for the cost of replacement (\$5.00). Some healthcare facilities also provide student identification badges. These badges must be managed responsibly, and if lost, the clinical instructor must be notified immediately.

Uniforms

It is required that the practical nursing student be dressed in a school uniform—A light gray scrub top and bottoms with the HC nursing logo embroidered on the left chest. Light gray/white lab jackets are optional. Scrubs with embroidery are available at the Campus store. Full coverage undergarments should be neutral color, not visible through clothing. Lightweight, long-sleeved shirts may be worn under your scrub top if desired for warmth. These shirts should be matching light gray, dark gray, black, or white, plain with no design or logo. **No hoodies or other non-uniform jackets are to be worn over uniform in clinicals or labs.**

*The nursing scrubs/uniform will be worn anytime the student is representing Helena College Nursing in the community or clinical location.

Shoes

Shoe requirements follow our healthcare facility policies. Per OSHA standards and infection control guidelines, ***socks or stockings must be worn, and no open-toed shoes or sandals are permitted. No Crocs. Shoes should be comfortable and non-skid...***you will be on your feet a lot. There is no shoe color restriction. Please pick shoes that you will be able to wear in your nursing career.

Hair

Hair must be clean, neat, and present a well-groomed appearance. Hair shoulder-length or longer must be pulled back or put up. Hair accessories must be limited and neutral in color. *Hair must be kept out of the face, regardless of the length.* Hair that is dyed must be a naturally occurring hair color.

Facial Hair

Facial hair must be clean and trimmed or shaved.

Personal Grooming

Students will maintain their personal hygiene. Students will bathe and use deodorant. Offensive body odor and/or cigarette smell is not permissible. No excessive make-up. No perfume/cologne/aftershave. A clean, unwrinkled uniform must be worn daily. ***No gum, smokeless tobacco, mints, food, or drink is allowed in patient care areas.*** Use of tobacco products is prohibited on campus and on all healthcare campuses. ***No smoking in your school uniform.***

Nails

Nails should be ***neatly trimmed short*** (not visible over the top of the fingertips). Per CDC recommendations for hospitals, ***no nail polish or artificial nails***. This is an infection control issue. This will be strictly enforced by the faculty and clinical instructors.

Jewelry

All piercings must be studs/posts. Chains/necklaces must not be visible. No arm/ankle bracelets. A simple ring or wedding band may be worn. Excessive jewelry should be avoided. A watch may be worn and can be digital or analog. Any jewelry with sharp edges or accessories that pose a safety hazard to students or patients are not allowed to be worn in the lab or clinical setting.

Tattoos

Tattoos are allowed and are not required to be covered in the lab. However, tattoos may need to be covered in accordance with the clinical facility policy. If a tattoo is considered offensive (expletives, sexually explicit, hate language, gang affiliation, promotes discrimination, illegal drugs, or similar depictions), the student will be required to cover the tattoo in the clinical setting.

Appendix A

Latex Allergy Statement*

Statement of Informed Consent for Prevention of Communicable Diseases*

Bloodborne Pathogen Student Policy*

Student Exposure Incident Form

Statement of Functional Abilities*

Acknowledgment of Required Personal Effort*

Professional Behavior Rubric

Photo Release Form *

Employer Release Form*

Receipt of Handbook*

Latex Allergy Statement

Helena College University of Montana

Today, many healthcare facilities minimize the use of latex as much as possible. At HC we make every attempt to avoid latex in the clinical lab, as well. However, inadvertent exposure to latex may still be encountered in products such as stethoscope tubing, injectable medications, and vials on-site, and in your clinical rotation.

For your protection during the nursing program, as well as during your healthcare career, a better understanding of your potential for latex allergy is recommended. Additionally, you may already have some form of latex allergy if you react after eating certain foods (avocados, bananas, tomatoes, etc.) or after exposure to latex-containing products (poinsettia, balloons, Band-Aids/tape, spandex, elastic bandages, etc.).

If you have any concerns about your allergic status regarding latex, we advise you to speak with your primary care doctor/provider about a blood test called a Latex RAST. This test is available to determine if you have a type I latex allergy. The result of this blood test, along with the assessment by your healthcare provider, can help you determine what, if any, risk your exposure to latex carries.

Please initial

_____ I have read the above document regarding latex allergy. I am aware that I may obtain additional blood testing and evaluation by my healthcare provider if I have any concerns.

Print Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Statement of Informed Consent for Prevention of Communicable Diseases

Helena College University of Montana

Please place an "X" by each statement you agree to:

_____ I understand that HC Nursing programs involve the study and care of people throughout their lifespan and that these people may be well or ill. By participating in caregiving activities, I may be exposed to infectious diseases, such as Hepatitis B, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Influenza, COVID-19, and other infectious and/or communicable diseases.

_____ I agree to participate in HBV/HIV education experiences as required by HC Nursing Programs and CDC and OSHA guidelines. I understand that testing, diagnosis, and treatment of any infectious and/or communicable disease, including those contracted while acting as a caregiver in my clinical experiences with HC, will be my financial responsibility. I understand that health insurance is required.

_____ I will receive the Hepatitis B vaccine and /or demonstrate proof of immunity prior to beginning my clinical experience with direct client/patient care. Should I refuse to be immunized, I will sign a refusal to consent form.

_____ In the event I am exposed to blood while giving client care, I agree to follow the **HC Accidental Exposure Policy and Protocol** established by the institution (see the agency's Exposure Control Plan). I understand that this generally involves one year of blood testing and professional counseling for myself and/or significant others. I understand and acknowledge that there is no known cure for AIDS at this time. I will receive a referral to community health resources for free blood testing to detect HIV upon request.

_____ I am aware that the Privacy Act provides for confidentiality on any issue related to my health status. All information will be kept in strict confidence by the School of Nursing and used to provide counseling, health information, and referrals.

_____ If I am uncomfortable with the idea of caring for patients with infectious and/or communicable diseases. I will discuss my concerns with the nursing faculty at the College.

_____ It is recommended that I inform the faculty of changes in my health status, such as pregnancy or contraction of a communicable and/or infectious disease. I have been informed and understand that an altered state of my health, such as being infected with HIV, may increase my health risk in relation to caregiving activities for patients with bacterial and viral diseases. I understand that I should seek sound medical advice for changes in my health status, as discussed in this paragraph.

I have read this document. I fully understand the learning opportunities, potential risks, and safeguard options that are involved in my role as a nursing student at HC. I consent to follow the policies and procedures as explained herein.

Print Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Helena College Bloodborne Pathogen Student Policy

Purpose

Students in any academic, research, or occupational program at HC who are at risk for bloodborne pathogen exposure are required to present documentation of serologic evidence of immunity to Hepatitis B (HBV), either by vaccination or previous infection. Students who cannot meet this requirement for legitimate religious or medical reasons must sign a waiver prior to the student's first potential exposure to human blood or other potentially infectious materials. Records of the waiver shall be kept in the student's files within the department that requires the immunization.

Procedure

Students who are unable to meet the requirements of documentation of immunity for religious or medical reasons must provide written documentation of the reasons that preclude immunization.

Effective June 1999, students are required to present the following information prior to admittance into the nursing program prior to their first potential exposure to human blood or other potentially infectious materials: 1) Documentation of serologic immunity; or 2) Documentation of immunization series; or 3) Signed waiver of exemption from immunization requirements.

Students will not be allowed in areas or settings that may present their first potential exposure to human blood or other potentially infectious materials without this documentation.

Exposures

A. If a student has an exposure (i.e., eye, mouth, mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or potentially infectious materials) in a setting sponsored by HC, *the student must follow the policy of the facility where they are exposed.* The student is responsible for the cost of post-exposure testing. Students can go to the County Health Department or a private physician for testing and counseling. Records of the exposure and follow-up shall be kept in a confidential file in the appropriate program.

B. If a student has an exposure, the student *must report it immediately* to the instructor or supervisor. A Student Exposure Incident Form must be completed by the student, signed by the student and instructor or supervisor, and sent to the HR Office.

Training

Student training shall be done prior to the student's first potential exposure to bloodborne pathogens. The training shall include the requirements of the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, universal precautions, and the HC policy. The training may be incorporated into class materials in NRSG 130 Foundations of Nursing.

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand the "Bloodborne Pathogen Student Policy" and will adhere to it as outlined above.

Print Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Student Exposure Incident Form

Helena College University of Montana

Student Name:	
Student ID:	Date of Incident:
Department/Building:	Date Reported:
Type of Exposure:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Human bite <input type="checkbox"/> Blood/Body fluid splash <input type="checkbox"/> Open wound, scratch, or abrasion contaminated with blood/body fluid/urine/stool <input type="checkbox"/> Puncture or cut from an instrument set, lancet, or other sharp object <input type="checkbox"/> Needle stick following venipuncture <input type="checkbox"/> Needle stick from IVP or VIPB <input type="checkbox"/> Needle stick following injection <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe)	
Describe the exposure incident in detail:	
What actions were taken immediately following the incident?	
What precautions were in use at the time of the incident? Check all that apply. <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Apron <input type="checkbox"/> Mask <input type="checkbox"/> Eyewear <input type="checkbox"/> CPR shield <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):	
Date(s) of HBV vaccination(s):	
Student Signature:	Date:
Instructor/Supervisor Signature:	Date:
Signature of person preparing report (if other than student):	
FOLLOW-UP	DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> The student referred to the physician of choice <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Seen by Physician: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Office <input type="checkbox"/> ER <input type="checkbox"/> County Health </div> <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to be seen by a physician </div> Other comments:	

Statement of Functional Abilities

Helena College

HC Nursing Department requires each student to be able to regularly perform the following activities:

1. Stand for long periods of time
2. Work at a fast pace for long periods of time
3. Lift heavy objects (25 pounds or more) three or more times a day
4. Speak clearly and distinctly
5. Respond appropriately to stressful situations (physically, emotionally, and mentally), including the ability to perform activities under pressure and in the presence of distractions
6. Communicate effectively with patients, patients' families, physicians, and staff
7. Hear vital signs with a stethoscope to assess blood pressure, heart rate, and lung, vascular, and abdominal sounds; hear the telephone
8. Hear the patient calling for help
9. Hear beepers, alarms, etc., requiring quick responses
10. Read very fine or small print on medication containers, and read physician's orders
11. See nurse call/emergency light
12. Visually assess the patient appropriately
13. Read monitors and other equipment
14. Demonstrate manual dexterity to don sterile gloves and gown
15. Demonstrate manual dexterity to prepare medications aseptically (i.e., IV, PO, and IM)
16. Demonstrate manual dexterity using sterile technique (i.e., insert catheters, IV needles, etc.)
17. Demonstrate the ability to utilize equipment needed to carryout patient care
18. Demonstrate the ability to move in small spaces in an emergency situation

If you are unable to perform any of these activities, please circle the number of those presenting a challenge, and the Nursing Director will review and consult with you to discuss the need for referral to the accessibility coordinator for possible accommodations.

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand the "Functional Abilities" requirements and can perform them unless otherwise indicated.

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Acknowledgement of Requirements for Personal Effort and Commitment for Success

Helena College's Nursing Program, like most nursing programs, requires a substantial time commitment to complete the rigorous program requirements in the classroom, nursing skills lab, and clinical settings. Student success is dependent upon a collaborative partnership between students and faculty. The Nursing faculty view learning as an interactive student-centered process with faculty facilitating learning. The faculty are committed to assisting you to succeed in this program. However, student learners must assume responsibility for their own learning and be actively engaged in shaping their learning. It is important that students understand program expectations:

1. Students are expected to devote a minimum study time of 2 hours per week for each credit enrolled. For example, a didactic course worth 3 credits would require a minimum of 6 hours of study time each week and a one-credit lab, 2 hours each week minimum.
2. While we understand your possible need to work to support yourself or your family, most students find it extremely difficult to work full-time while in the nursing program. Clinical practicums are scheduled when facilities have available space and on days that HC has clinicals. *These are subject to change with short notice.* Students are expected to be available for the scheduled clinical hours. Most clinicals are scheduled on day shifts but may include evenings, weekends, or nights.
3. It is expected that students attend all classes and clinicals. Missed clinical time may result in failure of courses and dismissal from the program. Please do not make vacation plans, family events, or appointments that affect class, lab, or clinical attendance. *Absences are very challenging to make up due to the fast pace of material presented in class and the limited availability of clinical experiences.*
4. Nursing school is different. In general, students find that even with the same effort, they may not achieve the grades they did in non-nursing courses. In the beginning, it is like learning a new language and being presented with comprehensive nursing concepts and principles, which may require more effort or a new way of studying on your part to learn and understand. While grades may have been the primary focus of prior courses, in Nursing, the focus is on learning and understanding the information to allow you to then apply what you learned to a patient situation. This focus provides the students with a foundation that helps them deliver safe and competent care to patients.
5. You are expected to arrive prepared for class, lab, or clinicals. This will include extensive reading, pre-clinical preparation, and other assignments prior to arriving at class/clinical.
6. Nursing exams are frequently structured similarly to the nurse licensing exam (NCLEX). This will include questions that are designed to assess your ability to apply and analyze the material rather than simple knowledge and recall. These test questions require a higher order of thinking to answer correctly.
7. The Faculty will provide you with examples of learning and test-taking strategies that may assist you in developing critical thinking skills needed for success in the course exams and the NCLEX licensure exam.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above statements, and I agree to organize my time and personal affairs in order to meet the commitment necessary to succeed.

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Professional Behavior Rubric

Professionalism within the role of the student nurse is an **expectation** of the Helena College Nursing Program **in both didactics, lab, and clinicals**. All students are expected to communicate and behave in a professional manner. This includes respect for your instructor, your peers, and yourself. Attendance, preparation, and participation in all areas, including classroom, lab, and clinical settings, are also expected behaviors.

Helena College Nursing Department's professional behavior is evaluated in each course and each semester. Points may be deducted from a student's grade in any nursing course due to unprofessional behavior. Please refer to the Professional Behavior Rubric for more information.

Student's signature indicates you have read and understand professional behavior expectations.

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____



Photograph Release Form

I hereby grant permission to the Helena College University of Montana and the Montana University System, its agents, and others working under its authority, for full and free use of photographs containing my image/likeness. I understand these images may be used for promotional, news, research, and/or educational purposes. I hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless Helena College and its agents from any and all claims, demands, or causes of action that I may hereafter have by reason of anything contained in the photographs. I do further certify that I am either of legal age or possess full legal capacity to execute the foregoing authorization and release.

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Employer Contact Release Form

I hereby allow Helena College Department of Nursing to contact my employer to assess the employer's program satisfaction with graduates of Helena College Nursing for entry-level positions.

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Helena College University of Montana

Receipt of Handbook

It is the responsibility of each student enrolled in the Nursing Program to read and adhere to all of the information contained in this handbook, with special attention to:

- Academic and Student Conduct
- Academic Accommodations
- Nursing Course and Clinical Grades
- Attendance
- Student Responsibilities Relating to Professional Conduct
- Confidentiality
- Uniform Standards for Clinical Settings
- Latex Allergy Statement*
- Statement of Informed Consent for Prevention of Communicable Diseases*
- Bloodborne Pathogen Student Policy*
- Student Exposure Incident Form
- Statement of Functional Abilities*
- Professional Behavior Rubric
- Photo Release Form*
- Employer Release Form*
- Receipt of Handbook*

I have received the C.A.S. - Practical Nursing Student Handbook, and I am familiar with **ALL** the information contained in the Handbook from the Helena College Nursing Program. ***I agree to adhere to all policies and processes outlined in these pages.***

Student initials _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Advisor Signature _____ Date _____