

Policy S-1.01
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Page 1 of 4

TITLE: **STUDENT HEALTH POLICY**

POLICY: All College of Nursing students must be in compliance with health policies as required by the University of Florida, University of Florida Health Sciences Center, partnering clinical placement sites and the College of Nursing. The student is responsible for providing the College of Nursing with evidence of immunity, health status, blood-borne pathogen training, and, for reporting exposures to communicable disease and blood- borne pathogens. Students must be able to perform the essential functions for clinical coursework to enroll in, attend, and complete required clinical courses. [There may be additional requirements mandated by university or college guidelines.](#)

RATIONALE: College of Nursing students having clinical experiences in settings where patient care is provided are at increased risks for both exposure to and transmission of communicable diseases and blood-borne pathogens. Therefore specific procedures are needed to:

1. Protect patients and other health care providers with whom students interact.
2. Decrease health risks to students.
3. Comply with College of Nursing agency contracts, University of Florida Health Science Center policies, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

Policy S-1.01
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Page 2 of 4

PROCEDURE:

- A. Immunity Criteria To be in compliance with the mandatory immunization requirements, students must provide documentation which follow. Immunization information <https://shcc.ufl.edu/services/primary-care/immunizations/>. Information submitted will be compiled on the Mandatory Immunization and Health History Form <https://healthcompliance.shcc.ufl.edu/immunization-requirement/immunizations/>.
1. MMR – Measles, Mumps, Rubella
 - Provide results of immunity to MMR by having a blood test (titer) to check for antibodies. A positive titer demonstrates immunity. A negative titer will require a booster vaccine. Provide evidence of titer by submitting lab report.
 - Two doses of vaccine are required if born after December 31, 1956. The first dose must have been received on or after 12 months of age AND in 1971 or later. The second dose must have been received at least 30 days after the first dose.
 2. Tetanus and Diphtheria/(Td) or Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap)
 - One-time dose of Tdap vaccine is required
 - Td booster required if Tdap vaccine received greater than 10 years ago
 3. Hepatitis B (HBV)
 - Provide results of immunity to Hepatitis B by having a blood test (titer) to check for antibodies. A positive titer demonstrates immunity. A negative titer will require receiving the two or three dose Hepatitis vaccine series. Provide evidence of titer by submitting lab report.
 - A series of two or three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine is required, Must show evidence of receiving the first dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine series prior to the start of class, with completion of the Hepatitis B vaccine series by the start of the second semester of study in the College of Nursing.
 4. Tuberculosis
 - Annual PPD skin test with negative reactivity; **or**,
 - Must show evidence of chest x-ray and medical follow-up for those with past history of positive reactivity **or**,
 - Provide evidence of submitting lab report for Interferon-based Assay, IGRA, (QFT or Tspot)
 5. Varicella (Chickenpox)
 - Provide results of immunity to Varicella (Chickenpox) by having a blood test (titer). Provide evidence of titer by submitting lab report.
 - Two doses of Varivax vaccine are required.
 6. Influenza
 - Annually (beginning each fall) with current seasonal formulation
 - Begin as early as vaccine is available each year
 - Any vaccine currently recommended by CDC may be used

Policy S-1.01
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Page 3 of 4

- B. Documentation of Immunity, Health Status, and Blood-borne Pathogen Training
1. The University of Florida Office of the Registrar requires that all students complete a CON specific Mandatory Immunization and Health History Form obtained from the Office for Student Services (OSS). Students must document immunization status prior to initial registration in nursing courses by submitting a copy of this form to the currently approved student tracking website.
 2. After acceptance into the College of Nursing program, and prior to enrollment for the first semester, students will complete the Student Health Form (Attachment #1) and submit it to the currently approved student tracking website by the first day of classes. Students will not be allowed to begin clinical experiences in the nursing major until this form has been submitted.
 3. A master list of current students and their immunization status will be maintained by the OSS and will be available for review by regulatory and contracting agencies.
 4. To ensure that students' records are complete and updated, the OSS will review a student's record every semester until graduation. The currently approved student tracking website makes information available to each student of the required outstanding immunization(s).
 5. Students who are not in compliance with this policy will be notified by the OSS that a registration hold will be placed on their record, or their registration may be cancelled.
 - a. Students not in compliance with health screening standards at the end of the first week of classes will be removed from clinical experiences. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs (ADSA) will notify the student and academic advisor.
 - b. Students may return to clinical experiences after clearance by the OSS. The registration hold will be removed when all documentation is submitted.
 - c. Faculty members will not be expected to make special accommodations for students who miss clinical experiences for failure to comply.
 - d. Students are responsible for any late registration fees imposed by the University.
 6. All requirements that will be due any time during the semester are to be completed by the deadline set on the currently approved student tracking website.

Policy S-1.01
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Page 4 of 4

C. Blood-borne Pathogen Training

The ADSA will ensure all students receive annual blood-borne pathogen training as a supplement to course content. The training is located on mytraining.hr.ufl.edu, and the certification is submitted by the student in the currently approved student tracking website. The training is renewed each year.

Policy S-1.01
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Attachment #1

Page 1 of 1

Student Health Form

Name: _____ UF ID: _____

Local Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) () _____ (Work) () _____

Whom to notify in event of emergency:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) () _____ (Work) () _____

Health History & Physical Examination
(Must be completed by a licensed Health Care Provider.)

Is there any significant medical history or condition that could affect functioning as a nursing student, including interaction with patients and staff in clinical settings? **

NO **YES** If yes, please explain: _____

Is this individual currently taking any medication that could affect participation in a nursing education program, including interaction with patients and staff in clinical settings? **

NO **YES** If yes, please explain: _____

I, (Print Name) _____, certify that the above named student has been examined by me on (Date): ____ / ____ / ____ and is found to be in good physical and mental health and appears able to undertake all aspects of the nursing education program, including interaction with patients and staff in clinical settings. **

Practitioner's signature: _____

License number: _____ State/Country Licensed: _____

Licensed as (check one): APRN Physician Assistant Physician

** Please see Attachment #2: "Essential Functions for Clinical Course Work in the College of Nursing"

Policy S-1.01
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Attachment #2

Page 1 of 2

College of Nursing Essential Functions for Undergraduate and Graduate Clinical Coursework

Students expecting to enroll in clinical courses in the College of Nursing must be able to fully perform the essential functions in each of the following five categories: observational, communicative, motor, intellectual and behavioral/social. It is recognized that degrees of ability vary widely among individuals. Individuals are encouraged to discuss disabilities with the University of Florida Disability Resource Center. The University of Florida College of Nursing is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities upon notice and through established university policies and procedures.

1. Observational: Candidates must be able to observe demonstrations of physical and psychosocial nursing interventions. Candidates must have the ability to accurately assess the health status of patients. Observation and assessment of patients require the functional use of the senses of vision, touch, and hearing
2. Communicative: The candidate must have the ability to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written forms with patients and with members of the health care team. The foci of nursing communication are gathering assessment data, patient teaching, and the provision of emotional support for patients and their families.
3. Motor/physical: Candidates must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. Candidates must be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatments to patients during a 12-hour clinical shift. Such actions require moderate motor strength, coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

The following activities are directly related to the physical standards necessary for participation in clinical activities:

- Sitting
- Standing
 - up to 8 hours
- Walking
- Lifting/carrying:
 - up to 50 lbs
- Pushing/pulling: *(Initial force needed to move the load, not the weight of the load itself)*
 - up to 50 lbs *(e.g. a shopping cart loaded with 200 pounds)*
- Bending: *(at the waist)*
- Squatting: *(bending at the knees)*
- Crawling: *(moving about on hands and knees)*
- Climbing: *(ascending or descending stairs or ladders)*
- Reaching: *(extending hands and arms in any direction)*
- Kneeling: *(resting on bended knees)*
- Using arm muscles frequently or for extended periods
- Handling *(seizing, holding, grasping or turning objects)*
- Fine manipulation *(keying, writing or fingerwork)*
- Using leg muscles frequently or for extended periods:
- Operating foot controls/levers
- Interpreting information *(Read, reason and/or understand spoken or written information)*
- Sight *(Receive visual information in both eyes)*
- Hearing *(Understanding usable speech w/wo amplification)*
- Head Movement *(Can look up/down and/or to the sides)*
- Sensation *(Heat, touch, pain, pressure)*

Policy S-1.01
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

- Balance (*Maintaining balance while standing or moving*)
 - Fixed or awkward work postures (*for example: overhead work, twisted or bent back, bent wrist, kneeling or squatting*) for more than a total of 2 hours
 - Unassisted forceful manual handling with:
 - Near lifts (*lifts with the load close to the body*) of more than 17 lbs
4. **Intellectual**: Candidates must have the ability to measure, calculate, reason, and analyze; they must be able to synthesize and apply complex information in theoretical and practice situations. Candidates must be fully alert and attentive at all times in clinical settings.
5. **Behavioral/Social**: Candidates must possess a level of emotional health that allows full utilization of intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the nursing diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, empathetic, and effective nurse-patient relationships. Candidates must be able to adapt to and function effectively in stressful situations in both the classroom and clinical settings, including emergency situations.

Students in the health professions are held to standards of conduct that may exceed those typically expected of University students. Adherence to the standards of acceptable conduct as outlined in the [American Nurses Association Code of Ethics](#) and the [Florida Nurse Practice Act](#) is required.