Department of Health Sciences

Informational Packet

Associate Degree Nursing
Vocational Nursing

Academic Year: 2020 - 2021

Updated : 9/8/2020 SR
** Central Texas College District is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. We are unequivocally committed to a policy of equal access and equal opportunity in employment practices, admissions, educational programs, and all other college activities. The college does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or transgender status. Accordingly, it is the policy of the college to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination and harassment in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local statutes and regulations. http://www.ctcd.edu/academics/catalog/catalog-texas/general-information/
WELCOME TO
CTC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Welcome to the Nursing Program within the Department of Health Sciences Department at Central Texas College. You have chosen a very rewarding health care profession that provides you with many future opportunities for employment and success.

Nurses represent the largest group of healthcare workers in America. To be a nurse today is an immense honor and privilege. Central Texas College has been preparing individuals to enter the field of nursing since Fall of 1968.

During your training you will experience an array of new challenges, wonderful ideas, and varied cultures all within an exceptional learning environment whether at your career campus or at the main campus at Central Texas College.

We have graduates who are working around the world and are making a valuable contribution to the quality of healthcare. This is your first step into the profession and we wholeheartedly welcome you as you begin your journey to join their ranks and wish you well during your next courses of study within our Nursing Programs.

Onward and upward we go, wishing you all of the success the Department of Health Sciences has to offer,

Tammy Samarripa
Chair, Department of Health Sciences
Central Texas College
INTRODUCTION

About Our Programs
The Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program at Central Texas College has been preparing individuals to enter the field of nursing since the Fall semester of 1968. We have over 2,000 graduates who are working in many places around the world and are making a valuable contribution to quality health care. The ADN program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN). After successful completion of the ADN program, a student is eligible to take the licensing exam (NCLEX-RN®) to become a Registered Nurse.

The Vocational Nursing Program (VN) at CTC began in 1976 and has graduated 1,735 students. The length of the Vocational Nursing Program is one year. This program provides an overview of the health care field and the role of the vocational nurse as a member of the health care team. Instruction is designed to assist the student in developing knowledge in the areas of communication, interpersonal relations, psychological aspects of patient care, health teaching, safety, asepsis, informatics, trends, legal aspects, human anatomy and physiology, growth and development, microbiology, and self-evaluation. Area hospitals and health care facilities provide opportunities for clinical experience and/or observation. The CTC VN program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing. Graduates are eligible to take the licensing exam (NCLEX-PN®) to become Licensed Vocational Nurses.

Student Achievement Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NCLEX-RN® Pass Rates</th>
<th>RN Texas Average Pass Rate</th>
<th>RN National Average Pass Rate</th>
<th>NCLEX-PN® Pass Rates</th>
<th>PN Texas Average Pass Rate</th>
<th>PN National Average Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>95.9%</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
<td>88.0%</td>
<td>83.72%</td>
<td>89.05%</td>
<td>85.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
<td>91.6%</td>
<td>88.5%</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
<td>89.3%</td>
<td>85.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>89.1%</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
<td>86.9%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>86.8%</td>
<td>83.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>87.1%</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
<td>93.7%</td>
<td>87.6%</td>
<td>83.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certification Notice
By participating in a Central Texas College, Department of Health Sciences (DHS) program, the student understands and agrees that admission into a DHS program is not a guarantee of successful completion of the program. Likewise, the student understands and agrees that Central Texas College does not guarantee, upon completion of a DHS program an award of a degree or certificate, that students will become certified or licensed by any local, state or federal regulatory agency. Such certification or licensure is governed by the rules and laws of the locality, state, or federal regulatory agency.

Professional Licensure Statement
“Upon completion of the Nursing programs at CTC, you are eligible to sit for the NCLEX exam. Once you successfully pass the NCLEX exam, and all requirements are met through the Texas Board of Nursing, you are licensed by this entity as a nurse. The professional licensing board in Texas to become a nurse is the Texas Board of Nursing. Here is the link to their website https://www.bon.texas.gov/.”

Institutional Mission Statement
Central Texas College provides accessible and quality educational opportunities that support a diverse student population and promotes student success, completion and employability.

Statement on Harassment and Discrimination
Central Texas College is committed to providing an educational and work climate that is conducive to the personal and professional development of each individual. Faculty, staff, and students should be aware that
discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, genetic orientation, sexual orientation, gender identity or transgender status is unlawful. Central Texas College also strives to protect the rights and privileges and to enhance the self-esteem of all its members.

If you believe you have experienced harassment or discrimination, contact the appropriate office where you attend. Students should contact faculty and the Director of Student Life.

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

The Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. This legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides equal access to all programs and services.

**Support Services** available to students are discussed in the CTC Student Handbook and in the Schedule Bulletin printed each semester. Please see [https://www.ctcd.edu/locations/central-campus/student-support/](https://www.ctcd.edu/locations/central-campus/student-support/)

**Disability Support Services** provide services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at [www.ctcd.edu/disability-support](http://www.ctcd.edu/disability-support) for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

**Academic Studio – Student Success Center**

The Central Texas College Academic Studio – Student Success Center (AS-SSC) provides comprehensive services that support student success and goal completion. Tutoring services; academic advising; information and resource referrals; scholarly success and study skills workshops, and textbook and childcare assistance for qualified Career and Technical students make the AS-SSC the premier one-stop location for all of your student needs. Please see the CTC Student Handbook for additional Student Resources.
Philosophy & Mission of the ADN and VN Programs

Department of Health Sciences (DHS) Mission Statement
In the DHS, we promote excellence in healthcare education to a diverse student population through credential health care programs, which are enriched with support for student success and employability.

Associate Degree Nursing Program Philosophy
In accordance with the philosophy of Central Texas College and the DHS Philosophy, the Associate Degree Nursing faculty believes:

Nursing is a process which applies knowledge of scientific and humanistic theories in a unique way to the patient’s attainment of wellness while maintaining the worth and dignity of the individual.
- Nursing provides a contribution to society by addressing the spiritual, cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity of individuals and communities.
- Through the use of a systematic problem-solving process, nursing assists individuals to determine, attain, and maintain the optimum level of wellness permitted by their potential.
- Individuals have a right to quality healthcare, but also have a responsibility to engage in health-promoting practices.

Nursing education, which takes place in institutions of higher education, is a sequence of learning experiences which fosters the application of scientific and evidenced-based nursing practice outcomes through a systematic problem-solving process while also addressing the art of nursing.
- Nursing education is organized using four concepts: Community, Caring, Communication, and Clinical Reasoning.
- It offers programs that are student centered, reflect increases in the body of knowledge in the profession as well as changes in technology and the economy, and are revised and improved continuously.
- Nursing education is delivered through a variety of methods to include distance education.
- It is outcome directed and mutually interactive between faculty and students.
- The responsibility of the teacher is planning, selecting, organizing, sequencing, implementing and evaluating the program and assessing, guiding, and evaluating the learners.
- Learning experiences are organized in a curriculum addressing the needs of a diverse community of patients.
- Learning is the responsibility of the student and should be characterized by critical thinking, and systematic decision-making.

The practice of the Associate Degree Nursing graduate is defined by four roles: Member of the Profession, Provider of Patient-Centered Care, Patient Safety Advocate, and Member of the Health Care Team.
(Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs – DECs)
- As a member of a profession, the graduate is responsible to function within the ethical and legal scope of practice, assume responsibility and accountability for quality nursing care, participating in professional activities to promote development and practice of professional nursing, and demonstrate lifelong responsibility for continued competence in nursing practice.
- As a provider of patient-centered care, the graduate nurse must use clinical reasoning and nursing science as a basis for decision-making, follow a systematic process in providing comprehensive health assessment for a culturally, ethnically, and socially diverse patient population, be accountable for the plan of care, and be committed to the value of caring.
- As a patient safety advocate, the graduate demonstrates knowledge of rules and regulations governing safety requirements and standards to provide a safe environment for self and patients and uses evidence-based data/measures to prevent harm.
- As a member of the health care team, the graduate coordinates, collaborates, and communicates with patients, families, and the interdisciplinary health care team to facilitate comprehensive care, advocates for the optimal health status of patients and their families, manages patient information via technology and maintains confidentiality, and delegates care appropriately with supervision.
Program Core Concepts

- The Central Texas College Associate Degree Nursing Program faculty has chosen four concepts: Caring, Clinical Reasoning, Communication and Community; and Five Conceptual Threads - Functional Health Patterns, Legal/Ethical Issues, Systematic Process, Interdisciplinary Collaboration, and Professional Socialization - to form the basis of the curriculum.

The Four C’s Defined:

- **CARING** is an altruistic principle involving respect and dignity that form the basis of actions on behalf of another.
  - Placing self and others in high regard
  - Involves both positive and negative feedback
  - Implies the attributes of empathy, respect, trust, honesty, and responsibility
  - Enhances learning in the educational environment through grounding of professional values.
  - The attitudinal basis of nursing and of the educational process.

- **COMMUNICATION** is a process whereby individuals or groups exchange ideas, feelings and opinions.
  - Requires a sender, a receiver and a message (either verbal or nonverbal)
  - Can be either effective or ineffective
  - Faculty and students want to communicate effectively
  - Effective communication enhances learning
  - To meet differing learning needs, a variety of teaching methods must be employed
  - Transcends the time/space continuum
  - Is present in all interactions
  - Via computers or other AV methods have the potential to be effective
  - For one to be successful, one must be able to communicate effectively

- **COMMUNITY** is an environment in which ADN students can deliver care to individuals and families in a community setting.
  - Is an environment with differing boundaries
  - Members are affected by multiple variables, for example age, culture, race, ethnicity, political group, diagnosis, etc.
  - Defines the scope of nursing practice
  - Influence decision making in education and healthcare
  - Formal education takes place within a community
  - May include non-human components
  - Members exist on a health continuum
  - Members may require assistance with health maintenance

- **CLINICAL REASONING** in nursing is a complex cognitive process that uses formal and informal thinking strategies to gather and analyze patient information, evaluate the significance of the information and weigh alternative actions which result in prudent nursing decisions leading towards safe patient care.
  - An individual can and must be taught clinical reasoning in this curriculum
  - Clinical reasoning is fundamental to the systematic process, which includes assessment, analysis, planning, implementation, and evaluation
  - Clinical reasoning in the novice develops into intuitive thinking in the expert
  - All students that meet the entrance criteria for the AD nursing program are capable of developing clinical reasoning skills
  - Faculty will teach clinical reasoning through a variety of methods


Vocational Nursing Program Philosophy

The philosophy of the Vocational Nursing Program of Central Texas College is compatible with the philosophy of the DHS and the college. We believe that:

- Man is a bio-psycho-social being with inherent dignity and worth. A hierarchy of needs is common to man, although each need may be perceived and met uniquely. Within a therapeutic environment, man has the opportunity to move in a positive direction.
- The curriculum acknowledges the spiritual, cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity of students and the client community.
- Courses offered are student centered, reflects an increase in the body of knowledge in health care as well as changes in technology and economy and are revised and improved continuously.
- Learning experiences are designed to facilitate growth within the students’ cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains utilizing critical thinking.
- Creation of a motivating atmosphere is the responsibility of the teacher; learning is the responsibility of the student. Aspects of learning include input, operation and feedback.
- Ensuring a high standard of practice within the ethical and legal framework of health care and participating in activities to promote professional growth and self-development are important responsibilities of the vocational nursing graduate.
- Vocational nurses are accountable for efficient use of time and resources, seeking assistance appropriately and serving as client advocates.
- As a provider of care, the practice of the vocational nursing graduate is characterized by critical thinking, clinical competence, accountability and a commitment to the value of caring.
- The vocational nurse participates in nursing assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation and acts to meet health needs under professional supervision.
- The vocational nurse has a responsibility through involvement in civic affairs and professional organizations to bring about better health care for all people.
Program Core Concepts

- The Systematic Problem-Solving Process is the core of the curriculum organizing framework and is based on Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs and Erikson’s Developmental Stages and Medical Model.
- The students are also guided in achieving the concepts of Caring, Clinical Reasoning, Community and Communication. Threads are woven throughout the curriculum and are identified as four DEC competencies: 1) Member of a Profession, 2) Provider of Patient Centered Care, 3) Patient Safety Advocate, and 4) Member of the Health Care Team, and six QSEN competencies: 1) Quality Improvement, 2) Evidence-based Practice, 3) Informatics, 4) Teamwork & Collaboration, 5) Safety, and 6) Patient-Centered Care, and legal aspects, ethics and values inherent to the nursing profession.
- These concepts, competencies, skills and personal qualities are woven throughout the curriculum and foster opportunities by which the student can meet the courseoutcomes.
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM
GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Program Goals
The goal of the Associate Degree Nursing Program is to prepare graduates who are eligible for licensure and are:

a. Initially successful on the NCLEX-RN®.
b. Able to provide competent, caring nursing care in a variety of community settings.
c. Able to utilize communication and critical thinking.
d. Committed to personal and professional development.

Program Outcomes
1. Program Completion
   At least 70% of students will complete the ADN program within 150% (6 semesters) of program time.

2. NCLEX-RN® Performance
   The ADN program annual licensure pass rates for first time test takers will be at or above the required 80% per the TBON Rule 215.4 (C)(2)(A) and ACEN criteria.

3. Job placement rates
   a. 85% of graduates surveyed upon program completion, will have secured or been offered employment as a graduate nurse.
   b. 85% of graduates surveyed six months after program completion will be employed in nursing.

ADN End of Program Student Learning Outcomes
Based on the “Differentiated Essential competencies (DECs) of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs” October 2010. [Link](https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/differentiated_essential_competencies-2010.pdf)

Upon completion of the Associate Degree in Nursing Program, the student will achieve the following learning outcomes and competencies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Student Competencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Member of the Profession</strong></td>
<td>A. Function within the nurse’s legal scope of practice and in accordance with the policies and procedures of the employing health care institution, practice setting, ADN program and CTC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Function within the legal scope of practice and promote the profession of nursing.</td>
<td>B. Demonstrates responsibility and accountability for the quality of nursing care provided to patients and their families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Assume responsibility and accountability for the quality of nursing care and continued competency in nursing practice.</td>
<td>C. Participate in activities that promote the development and practice of professional nursing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D. Maintain professionalism and serve as a role model to peers and members of the multidisciplinary health care team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. Demonstrate responsibility for continued competence in nursing practice, and develop insight through reflection, self-analysis, self-care, and lifelong learning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Provider of Patient-Centered Care

1. Use clinical reasoning, a systematic process, and evidence based practice to promote, maintain, and restore the health of culturally, ethnically, and socially diverse patients and families across the developmental lifespan.
2. Provide safe, compassionate, ethical, and comprehensive patient-centered care through development, implementation, and evaluation of plan of care and patient outcomes.

### Patient Safety Advocate

1. Implement measures to reduce patient risks and promote quality and a safe environment for patients, self and others.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of professional standards and regulations that promote and ensure patient safety.

### Member of a Health Care Team

1. Coordinate, collaborate, and communicate with patient’s families and the interdisciplinary health care team to promote and provide quality patient-centered care.
2. Utilize technology to efficiently manage and improve patient centered care.
3. Coordinate and evaluate the nursing care of other team members through effective assignment, delegation and supervision.

### Strategies for Enhancement

Data will be collected in an on-going process and will be analyzed each term by the ADN Curriculum Committee, under the leadership of the Nursing Programs Director. Discussion of the data will be recorded in the ADN curriculum committee minutes along with any changes made that were indicated by the data.
VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTCOMES

Program Goals
The goal of the Vocational Nursing Program is to prepare graduates who are able to become Licensed Vocational Nurses by passing the NCLEX-PN®, to practice nursing according to stated competencies in structured settings, and to participate in professional development.

Program Objectives
Upon completion of the Program, the student:
1. Communicates effectively with providers and consumers of healthcare.
2. Provides information that enables patients/clients to meet their health needs under the direction of qualified health team members.
3. Provides nursing care to patients of varying developmental stages and need levels using the systematic problem-solving process to contribute to the information and maintenance of individualized nursing care plans.
4. Manages nursing care, for not more than five patients that occurs in non-complex areas where dependent nursing actions predominate and leadership and guidance for nursing actions are provided by qualified health team members.
5. Practices within the legal and ethical framework of the vocational nurse.
6. Assumes responsibility for development as a vocational nurse qualified to function in structured settings as accountable members of a health team.

Program Outcomes
1. Program Completion
   At least 70% of students will complete the VN program within 150% of program time.
2. NCLEX-PN® Performance
   The VN program annual licensure pass rates for first time test takers will be at or above the required 80% per the TBON Rule 214.4 (C)(2)(A).
3. Job placement rates
   80% of graduates will be employed in nursing within three months of program completion.

Strategies for Enhancement
Data will be collected in an on-going process and will be analyzed each term by the VN Curriculum Committee, under the leadership of the Nursing Programs Director. Discussion of the data will be recorded in the VN curriculum committee minutes along with any changes made that were indicated by the data.

VN End of Program Student Learning Outcomes
Based on the “Differentiated Essential competencies (DECs) of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs” October 2010.
https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/differentiated_essential_competencies-2010.pdf
Upon completion of the Vocational in Nursing Program, the student will achieve the following learning outcomes and competencies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Student Competencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Member of the Profession</strong> 1. Function within the legal scope of practice and promote the profession of nursing. 2. Assume responsibility and accountability for the quality of nursing care and continued competency and practice of vocational nursing practice.</td>
<td>A. Under appropriate supervision, function within the nurse’s legal scope of practice and in accordance with the policies and procedures of the employing health care institution, practice setting, VN program and CTC. B. Assist and demonstrate responsibility and accountability for the quality of nursing care provided to patients and their families. C. Contribute in activities that promote the development and practice of vocational nursing. D. Maintain professionalism and serve as a role model to peers and members of the multidisciplinary health care team. E. Demonstrate responsibility for continued competence in vocational nursing practice, and develop insight through reflection, self-analysis, self-care, and lifelong learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provider of Patient-Centered Care</strong> 1. Use clinical reasoning, a systematic process, and evidence-based practice to promote, maintain, and restore the health of culturally, ethnically, and socially diverse patients and families across the developmental lifespan. 2. Provide safe, compassionate, ethical, and comprehensive patient-centered care by assisting in the development, implementation, and evaluation of plan of care and patient outcomes.</td>
<td>A. Use clinical reasoning and knowledge based on study and evidence-based practice outcomes as a basis for decision making in vocational nursing practice. B. Assist in determining the physical and mental health status, needs, and preferences of culturally, ethnically, and socially diverse patients and their families within the regional, national, and global community based upon interpretation of health-related data compared with evidence-based practice. C. Report assessment data to identify problems, formulate goals/outcomes, and implement patient-centered plans of care for up to 5 patients in collaboration with patients, family members, and the interdisciplinary health care team. D. Provide safe, compassionate, basic nursing to assigned patients with predictable health care needs through a supervised, directed scope of practice. E. Implement the plan of care for up to 5 patients and their families within legal, ethical, and regulatory parameters and in consideration of disease prevention, wellness, and promotion of healthy lifestyles. F. Identify and report patient outcomes and responses to therapeutic interventions in comparison to evidence-based practice. G. Implement teaching plans for patients and their families to address health promotion, maintenance, and restoration. H. Assist in the coordination of human, information, and material resources in providing care for patients and their families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patient Safety Advocate</strong> 1. Implement measures to reduce patient risks and promote quality and a safe environment for patients, self and others. 2. Demonstrate knowledge of professional standards and regulations that promote and ensure patient safety.</td>
<td>A. Demonstrate knowledge of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas Board of Nursing Rules that emphasize safety, as well as all federal, state, and local government and accreditation organization safety requirements and standards. B. Implement measures to promote quality and a safe environment for patients, self, and others. C. Safely administer medications D. Safely perform interventions and procedures. E. Maintain principles of infection control. F. Assist in the formulation of goals and outcomes using evidence-based data to reduce patient risks. G. Obtain instruction, supervision, or training from faculty or preceptor as needed when implementing nursing procedures or practices. H. Comply with mandatory reporting requirements of the Texas Nursing Practice Act. I. Accept and make assignments that take into consideration patient safety and organizational policy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Member of a Health Care Team

1. Collaborate and communicate with patient’s families and the interdisciplinary health care team to promote and provide quality patient-centered care.
2. Utilize technology to efficiently manage and improve patient-centered care.
3. Supervise the nursing care of other team members for whom the nurse is responsible.

A. Collaborate and communicate with patients, their families, and the interdisciplinary health care team and clinical faculty to assist in the planning, delivery, and coordination of patient-centered care.
B. Participate as an advocate in activities that focus on improving the health care of patients and their families.
C. Participate in the identification of patients’ needs for referral to resources that facilitate continuity of care and ensure confidentiality.
D. Communicate and collaborate in a timely manner with members of the interdisciplinary health care team, and clinical faculty to promote and maintain optimal health status of patients and their families.
E. Communicate patient data by documenting using technology to support decision making to improve patient care.
F. Assign nursing care to LVN’s or unlicensed personnel based upon an analysis of patient or unit need.
G. Supervise nursing care provided by others for whom the nurse is responsible.

Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS)

The Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS), U.S. Department of Labor, was formed “to encourage a high-performance economy characterized by high skills, high-wage employment”. Representatives from education, business, labor, and government identified the five competencies and three-part foundations of skills that are necessary in the workplace. Alphanumeric coding used throughout course syllabi denotes the integration of SCANS occupational competencies and are identified with C1-20 and F1-17 in bold print.

The SCANS competencies can be found at https://wdr.doleta.gov/scans/whatwork/whatwork.pdf

Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs (DECs) Evidenced by Knowledge, Clinical Judgments, and Behaviors - 2010

Background

The Differentiated Essential Competencies are the third generation of Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) education competencies with differentiation based upon the education outcomes of the three levels of pre-licensure nursing education programs, Vocational, Associate Degree, and Baccalaureate. Previous documents were approved in 2002 (Differentiated Entry Level Competencies) and 1993 (Essential Competencies). All revisions were developed within the BON Advisory Committee for Education with input from nursing programs, nursing organizations, affiliating agencies, employers, and other stakeholders. The 2010 revision incorporates concepts from current literature, national standards, and research.

Purpose

The DECs were designed to provide guidance to nursing education programs for curriculum development and revision and for effective preparation of graduates who will provide safe, competent, compassionate care. The DECs outline knowledge, clinical behaviors, and judgments necessary to meet the essential competencies, but it is acknowledged that not all competencies can be evaluated upon graduation. It is intended that the graduate will have received the educational preparation to demonstrate each competency, but it will not be reasonable to evaluate some advanced competencies (italicized and identified by an asterisk) until the nurse has transitioned into nursing practice.

Definition of Competency

The American Nurses Association (2008) defined a competency as an expected level or performance that integrates knowledge, skills, abilities, and judgment (p. 3).

Outline of the DECs

Twenty-five core competencies are categorized under four main nursing roles:

- Member of the Profession
- Provider of Patient-Centered Care
• Patient Safety Advocate
• Member of the Health Care Team

Each core competency is further developed into specific knowledge areas and clinical judgments and behaviors based upon the knowledge areas. Redundancy is intentional so that sections of the document related to a specific educational level can be separated yet remain complete as a stand-alone document. Competencies for each level of educational preparation are presented in a table format. The competencies are differentiated and progressive across the levels, and the scope of practice and expectations may be compared across the table.

**Implications of the DECs:**

**Nursing Education:**
- Guideline and tool for curriculum development and revision Tool for benchmarking and evaluation of the program
- Statewide standard to ensure graduates will enter practice as safe and competent nurses

**Employers:**
- Guide for development of employee orientation and internship programs Guide for job descriptions and career ladders
- Information for determining entry level competencies
- Information for reviewing and revising policies and procedures for nursing care

The DECs for each type of program along with their corresponding Knowledge, and Clinical Judgements and Behaviors can be viewed at [https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/differentiated_essential_competencies-2010.pdf](https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/differentiated_essential_competencies-2010.pdf) beginning on page 19.
American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses:

Preface
Ethics is an integral part of the foundation of nursing. Nursing has a distinguished history of concern for the welfare of the sick, injured, and vulnerable and for social justice. This concern is embodied in the provision of nursing care to the individual and the community. Nursing encompasses the prevention of illness, the alleviation of suffering and the protection, promotion, and restoration of health in the care of individuals, families, groups, and communities. Nurses act to change those aspects of social structures that detract from health and well-being. Individuals who become nurses are expected not only to adhere to the ideals and moral norms of the profession but also embrace them as a part of what it means to be a nurse. The ethical tradition of nursing is self-reflective, enduring, and distinctive. A code of ethics makes explicit the primary goals, values, and obligations of the profession. The ANA Code of Ethics is available online at: https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/coe-view-only/ or for purchase. The cost associated with the entire Code covers the cost to print, warehouse, and respond to requests for the document. The Code of Ethics is available online for viewing only, at no charge. Copies of the Code are available for purchase.

The Code of Ethics for Nurses serves the following purposes:
- It is a succinct statement of the ethical obligations and duties of every individual who enters the nursing profession.
- It is the profession's nonnegotiable ethical standard.
- It is an expression of nursing's own understanding of its commitment to society.

Provision 1: The nurse in all professional relationships, practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and uniqueness of every individual, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems.
  1.1 Respect for human dignity
  1.2 Relationships to patients
  1.3 The nature of health problems
  1.4 The right to self determination
  1.5 Relationships with colleagues and others.

Provision 2: The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, or community.
  2.1 Primacy of the patient's interest
  2.2 Conflict of interest for nurses
  2.3 Collaboration
  2.4 Professional boundaries

Provision 3: The nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety and rights of the patient.
  3.1 Privacy
  3.2 Confidentiality
  3.3 Protection of participants in research
  3.4 Standards and review mechanisms
  3.5 Acting on questionable practice
  3.6 Addressing impaired practice

Provision 4: The nurse is responsible and accountable for individual nursing practice and determines the appropriate delegation of tasks consistent with the nurse obligation to provide optimum patient care.
  4.1 Acceptance of accountability and responsibility
  4.2 Accountability for nursing judgment and action
  4.3 Responsibility for nursing judgment and action
  4.4 Delegation of nursing activities
Provision 5: The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to preserve integrity and safety, to maintain competence, and to continue personal and professional growth.
5.1 Moral self-respect
5.2 Professional growth and maintenance of competence
5.3 Wholeness of character
5.4 Preservation of integrity

Provision 6: The nurse participates in establishing, maintaining, and improving health care environments and conditions of employment conducive to the provision of quality health care and consistent with the values of the profession through individual and collective action.
6.1 Influence of the environment on moral virtues and values
6.2 Influence of the environment on ethical obligations
6.3 Responsibility for the health care environment

Provision 7: The nurse participates in the advancement of the profession through contributions to practice, education, administration and knowledge development.
7.1 Advancing the profession through active involvement in nursing and in health care policy
7.2 Advancing the profession by developing, maintaining, and implementing professional standards in clinical, administrative, and educational practice
7.3 Advancing the profession through knowledge development, dissemination, and application to practice

Provision 8: The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public in promoting community, national, and international efforts to meet health needs.
8.1 Health needs and concerns
8.2 Responsibilities to the public

Provision 9: The profession of nursing, as represented by associations and their members, is responsible for articulating nursing values, for maintaining the integrity of the profession and its practice, and for shaping social policy.
9.1 Assertion of values
9.2 The profession carries out its collective responsibility through professional associations
9.3 Intra-professional integrity
9.4 Social reform

Last updated by the American Nurses Association in 2015 (see https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy)
### First Semester Prerequisite semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2420 Microbiology for Non-science Majors**</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1301 Composition I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPRS 2300 Pharmacology for Health Professions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>14 hrs.</td>
<td>288</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Admission into the Associate Degree Nursing Program*

### Second Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1115 Health Assessment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1413 Foundations for Nursing Practice</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1262 Clinical-Nursing I</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### Third Semester

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1331 Principles of Clinical Decision Making</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 2213 Mental Health Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1363 Clinical-Nursing II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2301 General Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>11 hrs.</td>
<td>496</td>
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### Fourth Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1347 Concepts of Clinical Decision Making</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1412 Nursing Care of Childbearing Family &amp; Childrearing Family</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 2362 Clinical-Nursing III</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2314 Life Span Growth and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>13 hrs.</td>
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### Fifth Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 2331 Advanced Concepts of Adult Health</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 2221 Professional Nursing Leadership &amp; Management</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 2363 Clinical-Nursing IV</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELCT Humanities/Fine Arts Selection</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>11 hrs.</td>
<td>480</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credit Hours: 60**  **Total Contact Hours: 2192**

*Students utilizing financial aid or VA benefits, who must attend “part-time” or “full-time” to be eligible to receive aid/benefits, must be aware that credit hours for nursing (RNSG) courses alone may not meet credit hour requirements.

**Biology 2421 may be accepted in lieu of BIOL 2420.

- Microbiology and Anatomy & Physiology courses must have been completed within the past five (5) years.
- HPRS 2300 must have been completed within the past five (5) years.
- Transfer students must take all of their last semester courses at CTC.
**CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE**  
Department of Health Sciences  
Associate Degree in Nursing Degree Plan  
Nursing Option for Articulating (LVN/Paramedic to RN) Student*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Semester (Prerequisites)</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1301 Composition I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2301 General Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 hrs.</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Semester (Prerequisites)</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2420 Microbiology for Non-science Majors**</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1229 Integrated Nursing Skills</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPRS 2300 Pharmacology for Health Professions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 hrs.</td>
<td>288</td>
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</table>

**Admission into the Associate Degree Nursing Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third Semester</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1331 Principles of Clinical Decision Making</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 2213 Mental Health Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1363 Clinical-Nursing II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2314 Life Span Growth and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 hrs.</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fourth Semester</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1347 Concepts of Clinical Decision Making</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 1412 Nursing Care of Childbearing Family &amp; Childrearing Family</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 2362 Clinical-Nursing III</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 hrs.</td>
<td>464</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fifth Semester</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 2331 Advanced Concepts of Adult Health</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 2221 Management of Client Care</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNSG 2363 Clinical-Nursing IV</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELCT Humanities/Fine Arts Selection</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 hrs.</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credit Hours 55  
Total Contact Hours 1904

*Students utilizing financial aid or VA benefits, who must attend “part-time” or “full-time” to be eligible to receive aid/benefits, must be aware that credit hours for nursing (RNSG) courses alone may not meet credit hour requirements.

**Biology 2421 may be accepted in lieu of BIOL 2420.

- Upon successful completion of the last semester, articulation students will receive credit for RNSG 1413 and 1115.
- Microbiology and Anatomy & Physiology courses must have been completed within the past five (5) years.
- HPRS 2300 must have been completed within the past five (5) years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1126</td>
<td>Gerontology</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>VNSG 1323</td>
<td>Basic Nursing Skills</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1222</td>
<td>Vocational Nursing Concepts</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 2331</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Skills</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1160</td>
<td>Clinical-Practical Nurse I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2401</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology I*$+^$</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPRS 2300</td>
<td>Pharmacology*$+^$</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**First Semester (Fall)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1301</td>
<td>Mental Health &amp; Mental Illness</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>VNSG 1219</td>
<td>Leadership &amp; Professional Development</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>VNSG 1429</td>
<td>Medical –Surgical Nursing I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>VNSG 1560</td>
<td>Clinical-Practical Nurse II</td>
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**Second Semester (Spring)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1230</td>
<td>Maternal/Neonatal Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1234</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1432</td>
<td>Medical-Surgical Nursing II</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 2360</td>
<td>Clinical-Practical Nurse III</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>272</td>
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</table>

**Fourth Semester (Summer)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1160</td>
<td>Clinical-Practical Nurse I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2401</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology I*$+^$</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPRS 2300</td>
<td>Pharmacology*$+^$</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credit Hours 42 Total Contact Hours 1436

* Alternate tracks are offered under this degree/certificate. See CTC website for additional information.

◆ Course can be taken before acceptance into program.

$+^$ Courses are stackable towards AAS Nursing Associate Degree (NUA15) and AAS Nursing Option for Articulating Student (NOA15)

- Complete at least 25 percent of the degree or certificate semester credit hours at CTC (to fulfill residency requirements).
- Microbiology and Anatomy & Physiology courses must have been completed within the past five (5) years.
- HPRS 2300 must have been completed within the past five (5) years.
# CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE
## Department of Health Sciences Vocational
### Nursing Certificate Plan, Spring Admission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Semester (Spring)</td>
<td>VNSG 1126</td>
<td>Gerontology*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VNSG 1323</td>
<td>Basic Nursing Skills</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VNSG 1222</td>
<td>Vocational Nursing Concepts*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VNSG 2331</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Skills</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>112</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VNSG 1160</td>
<td>Clinical-Practical Nurse I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIOL 2401</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology I*+^  ◆</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HPRS 2300</td>
<td>Pharmacology*+^◆</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|         | Third Semester (Summer) | Course Code | Course Title | Credits | Contact Hours |
|         |                         | VNSG 1230   | Maternal/Neonatal Nursing | 2       | 48           |
|         |                         | VNSG 1234   | Pediatrics       | 2       | 32           |
|         |                         | VNSG 1429   | Medical-Surgical Nursing I | 4  | 80           |
|         |                         | VNSG 1360   | Clinical-Practical Nurse III | 3  | 272         |

|         | Fourth Semester (Fall)  | Course Code | Course Title                          | Credits | Contact Hours |
|         |                         | VNSG 1301   | Mental Health & Mental Illness        | 3       | 32           |
|         |                         | VNSG 1219   | Leadership & Professional Development | 2       | 48           |
|         |                         | VNSG 1432   | Medical–Surgical Nursing II           | 4       | 80           |
|         |                         | VNSG 2560   | Clinical-Practical Nurse II           | 5       | 300          |

**Total Credit Hours: 42**  **Total Contact Hours: 1436**

* Alternate tracks are offered under this degree/certificate. See CTC website for additional information.

◆ Course can be taken before acceptance into the program.

+^ Courses are stackable towards AAS Nursing Associate Degree (NUA15) and AAS Nursing Option for Articulating Student (NOA15)

- Must complete at least 25 percent of the degree or certificate semester credit hours at CTC (to fulfill residency requirements).
- Microbiology and Anatomy & Physiology courses must have been completed within the past five (5) years.
- HPRS 2300 must have been completed within the past five (5) years.
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policies of the DHS Program are congruent with the guidelines of the college and the CTC Student Handbook. The programs prepare the student for professional licensure; therefore, disciplinary action based on a nursing professional code of conduct is permitted by the college.

Final Decisions Notice
Decisions regarding student circumstances not covered by current DHS policies will be referred to an Adhoc Policy Committee, for final decision.

Verification of Compliance and Recordkeeping
The student’s name, social security number, and verification negative findings of the Drug Screen and Criminal Background check will be kept in a confidential file during the student’s tenure in the program. This information will be filed in a secured area to ensure confidentiality. Three years after graduation or withdrawal from the program, documentation will be destroyed. In the event that the student feels that an error has been made in the results of the criminal background check, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the external vendor for a verification check. Student information cannot be released without written consent from the student with identification of permitted information.

It is important that you provide your legal name on your Application for Admission as this is the name that will appear on your official student record and will be submitted to TBON. It is the student’s responsibility to have current name and contact information on file with CTC and DHS.

Clinical Placements
Clinical experiences are completed only at sites with which Central Texas College, Department of Health Sciences has contracted for clinical rotations. Clinical placements are provisional and dependent upon each affiliated clinical facility’s approval/acceptance of each student. Citizenship status, presence of blood-borne pathogens, and/or prior work history within a facility or its affiliates may result in a student being denied access to a facility for clinical experiences. Each incident will be addressed on an individual basis and withdrawal from the course or the DHS program may be necessary. Admission into any DHS program does not guarantee acceptance by any clinical facility, or completion of the clinical course or the program. Students must successfully complete all clinical rotation assignments to fulfill degree and/or certificate requirements. Central Texas College will not locate or provide alternative sites for clinical rotations for students ineligible to attend clinical rotations at the specified sites.

General Admission Requirements
Applicants for the ADN and VN programs must be admitted to Central Texas College first. Once admitted to CTC, the following is required of all applicants in order to be considered for admission:

- Disclosure of the Social Security number is required for admission into the DHS Programs: Associate Degree Nursing and Vocational Nursing. Affiliated clinical facilities require the student Social Security number in order to approve placement of student in their facility. The DHS policy requires the student to be eligible to attend all affiliated clinical sites and does not provide special placement. Central Texas College will not locate or provide alternative sites for clinical rotations for students ineligible to attend clinical rotations at the specified sites. Clinical rotations are completed at sites specified by and contracted with Central Texas College.
- Meet with an Academic Advisor for assistance.
- All International or Community Foreign students must meet with an Academic Advisor for English as a Second Language (ESL) assistance.
- Be Texas State Initiative (TSI) complete and be cleared by the Academic Advisor by the ranking eligibility deadline date.
Submit ADN and/or VN program application and provide copies of high school/college transcripts from all prior colleges attended to the DHS by the ranking eligibility deadline date.

Complete the HESI A2 Admission Assessment Exam by the eligibility deadline date. The HESI A2 is a computerized test which may be taken at the CTC Testing Center or other approved testing site. If the HESI A2 is successfully completed at another testing center, the results must be sent electronically from the testing site to the CTC DHS. A HESI (A2) Prep book is available in the CTC Bookstore. The HESI (A2) is the only exam accepted. The exam must be completed with passing scores of 80% for ADN program and 70% for VN Program, in each section of Math, Reading Comprehension, and Vocabulary and General Knowledge. Anatomy and Physiology will also be required with passing scores of 60% for ADN Program and 50% for VN Program. HESI A2 exams greater than 2 years old will not be accepted. We recommend that prospective students take the HESI A2 when they are close to the semester they intend to enroll in. Exam results are available immediately upon completion. If unsuccessful after 2 attempts, a 5-month remediation period is recommended before the HESI is retaken.

Only transfer courses with a grade of a “C” or better will be considered for the CTC ADN Degree and/or VN Nursing Certificate Plan.

**ADN Program:** Complete and attain a minimum of a 2.8 overall (average) GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for all CTC ADN Degree Plan prerequisite/co-requisite courses whether taken at CTC or transferred from another college or university. This must be done by the eligibility deadline date.

**VN Program:** Complete and attain a minimum of a 2.0 overall (average) GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for all CTC VN Degree Plan co-requisite courses whether taken at CTC or transferred from another college or university.

**ADN Program:** Attain a minimum of a 2.8 overall (average) GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for CTC ADN Degree Plan lab science prerequisite/co-requisite courses. Lab science courses over five (5) years old must be repeated. Grades for the most current required lab science courses attempted within the last five years will be considered when calculating the overall lab science GPA. This includes any science courses that were repeated. This must be done by the ranking eligibility deadline date.

**VN Program:** Attain a minimum of a 2.0 overall (average) GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for all CTC VN Degree Plan lab science courses. Lab science courses over five (5) years old must be repeated. Grades for most current required lab science courses attempted within the last five years will be considered when calculating the overall lab science GPA. This includes any science courses that were repeated. If a science course is taken prior to ranking the science grade will be calculated for ranking purposes. If the HPRS 2300 course is taken prior to ranking the HPRS grade will be calculated for ranking purposes.

A student who has repeated a required lab science course more than once within the last five years and earned grades of less than a “C” will be ineligible for admission into the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

A student who has repeated HPRS 2300 more than once and earned grades of less than a “C” (75%) will be ineligible for admission into the Associate Degree Nursing. HPRS 2300 courses greater than five years old will not be accepted.

Attendance is required at a **mandatory Preadmission Information/Orientation Session** with the Nursing Programs Director or designee during the semester all prerequisite courses are completed. The following must be on record in the DHS prior to being scheduled for the session: CTC DHS program application, transcripts, TSI verification, HESI exam scores, and grades for all prerequisite coursework. This meeting is normally held close to the ranking eligibility deadline date of the semester for which you are applying.

There is no part-time option in the ADN or VN programs.

**ADN Articulating (LVN/Paramedic to RN) Student Nursing Option Admission Policy**

The Articulating student must meet general admission requirements of CTC and the DHS:

- Maintain a current LVN/LPN license or Paramedic certification/licensure through Texas Department of State Health Services and or National Registry of EMT.
- Submit two work references or appraisal forms (see program info packet), as an LVN/LPN, or Paramedic both from a supervisor within the last two years. All applicants for this program must have been employed.
The Transfer student must meet general admission requirements of CTC and the DHS:

- **Paperwork** must be on file **6 months** prior to the start date of the semester you are requesting entry.
- **Apply** in writing to the CTC ADN Admissions and Standards Committee requesting admission to the Program.
- Submit official or unofficial transcripts showing completed nursing courses along with grades. Nursing coursework cannot be over two years old.
- Provide CTC DHS with an official letter from the dean/director of previous nursing school and last clinical professor validating safe nursing practice.
- Provide a syllabus or learning guide for each course requested for transfer credit to the DHS. These documents must detail course content, credit hours, lab hours, clinical hours, and skills.
- Acknowledge that placement in the nursing program will be dependent upon space availability and recommendations from the ADN Admissions and Standards Committee.
- A student dismissed from a previous nursing program for unsafe clinical practice will not be considered for admission.
- Once all requirements have been met, your record will be reviewed, and the final decision to accept or deny admission as well as your course placement and start date will be determined by the Admissions and Standards Committee.
- A letter granting transfer credit does not serve as acceptance into the CTC ADN program. All other DHS General Admission requirements must be met as well to be considered for full admission.
- Must complete 25% of the degree plan at CTC to meet residency requirements.
- Transfer students will only be accepted at the ADN I or ADN II semester in the program.
- After enrollment, a transfer student who does not successfully complete any nursing course or withdraws from a nursing course with a failing average will adhere to the readmission policy as detailed under “ADN and VN Readmission Policy.”

**VN Transfer Student Admission Policy**

The Transfer student must meet general admission requirements of CTC and the DHS:

- Transfer students will only be accepted at the VN I semester in the program.
- Paperwork must be on file **90 days** prior to the start date of the semester you are requesting entry. Your record will be on hold until all requirements listed above have been completed.
- Evidence of maintaining a “C” (2.0 GPA) at the previous vocational nursing program attended.
- Grades for all courses that are transferred in must be a “C” or better.
- Vocational Nursing courses used for transfer for advanced placement must have been completed in the past year.
• Students must complete at least 25 percent of the certificate semester credit hours at CTC to fulfill residency requirements.
• Submit a packet containing:
  o Letter of request for transfer: must be submitted **90 days** prior to the student’s requested start date. Applicants will be evaluated on an individual basis.
  o Two official letters from the previous nursing program validating safe nursing practice. One from the Director/Dean and the other from the last clinical professor is required.
  o A complete course description, learning guide, and syllabi of the nursing courses for which you are requesting transfer.
• Applicants will be evaluated on an individual basis by the VN Admissions and Standards Committee.
• Acknowledge that placement in the nursing program will be dependent upon space availability and recommendations from the VN Admissions and Standards Committee.
• Once all requirements have been met your record will be reviewed, and the final decision to accept or deny admission as well as your course placement and start date will be determined by the VN Admissions and Standards Committee.
• A letter granting transfer credit does not serve as acceptance into the CTC VN program. All other DHS General Admission requirements must be met as well in order to be considered for **full admission**.
• After enrollment, a transfer student who does not successfully complete any nursing course or withdraws from a nursing course with a failing average will adhere to the readmission policy as detailed under “Readmission Policy.”

**Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) Time Frames**

Please note the eligibility determination takes a minimum of 3-6 months. Disclosure of a positive criminal background will prohibit DHS registration. The student will be advised to petition TBON for an eligibility determination PRIOR to enrollment in a nursing program.

The prospective student for the CTC DHS will not be considered for admission until the Declaratory Order outcomes (in the case of a positive criminal history background check) are received by the Nursing Program Director, DHS from the prospective student/TBON.

There are questions on the Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) Application for Licensure regarding criminal convictions, treatment for mental illness, and alcohol or drug addiction/ treatment. The TBON may deny licensure to individuals with previous problems in one or more of these areas. Please go to [http://www.bon.texas.gov/](http://www.bon.texas.gov/) click on other Forms, then Declaratory Order for more information.

Please refer to the “FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING PETITION FOR DECLARATORY ORDER” on the TBON website for additional information.

**Required Admission Meetings**

Students will be required to attend two mandatory meetings to fulfill DHS admission requirements and complete the **mandatory Success Camp Modules by the due date listed on the letter of acceptance.**

**Failure to complete any of the following will result in course withdrawal.**

  o Preadmission Information Session
  o Nursing Program Orientation
  o Online Success Camp – **must be completed by due date.**

**Immunization and Health Requirements**

**AFTER you are notified of selection to the ADN or VN Program and prior to registration for the first semester of nursing courses, you must provide documentation of each of the following mandatory immunizations:**

- **Tetanus/Diphtheria** Tdap must be noted as administered once in lifetime- If no record then student will need to get a Tdap. If a Tdap was administered, then Td is required every ten years.
- **Polio** Students enrolled in health-related courses are **encouraged** to ascertain that they are immune to poliomyelitis. (Not required)
• **Measles** Two doses required. Serologic confirmation of immunity is acceptable (titer completed and interpreted as immune to measles).

• **Mumps** Two doses required. Serologic confirmation of immunity is acceptable (titer completed and interpreted as immune to mumps).

• **Rubella** Two doses required. Serologic confirmation of immunity is acceptable (titer completed and interpreted as immune to rubella).

• **Hepatitis B** Students must complete the Hepatitis B series which consists of three injections. The series of injections are administered over a 6-month period of time – please plan accordingly! Serologic confirmation of immunity is acceptable (titer completed and interpreted as immune to Hepatitis B).

• **Tuberculosis** Documentation of negative screening results for tuberculosis (TB) is required. Students must complete one of the following TB tests **no more than 30 days prior to the 1st day of the 1st clinical rotation period at any facility:** 2- Step Tuberculin Skin Test; Quantiferon®-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT or Q-Gold) or T-SPOT®TB test (T-Spot). Thereafter a 2- Step Tuberculin Skin Test, Quantiferon®-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT or Q-Gold), or T-SPOT®TB test is required annually. If a history of positive PPD, then a negative chest x-ray must be current and updated each year.

• **Varicella** Two doses required. Serologic confirmation of immunity is acceptable (titer completed and interpreted as immune to varicella).

• **Influenza** Must show current flu season vaccination no later than October 1st; those admitted in Spring semesters must receive the current season flu shot no later than two weeks prior to the program start date and will be required to receive another vaccination for the upcoming flu season no later than October 1st.

• **Bacterial Meningitis** the Texas legislature passed a law requiring ALL entering students at institutions of higher education to have an initial bacterial meningitis vaccination or booster during the five-year period preceding and at least 10 days prior to the first day of the first semester or submit an affidavit for an exemption. Vaccinations older than 5 years will require a booster. (Refer to CTC Catalog)

• **Physical Examination** using the CTC DHS form and must be completed no more than 90 days prior to the program start date. The student completes the front page and the medical doctor (MD), doctor of osteopathy (DO), physician’s assistant (PA), or nurse practitioner (NP) completes the back page. Please make certain that the activity level (limited or unlimited) is noted on the physical exam form signed by the health care provider.

• **Current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)** - American Heart Association – Health Care Provider (BLS) and Military Training Network (MTN) are the only CPR courses that will be accepted. Please furnish the original card and a photocopy – front and back) – online certifications are not accepted.

• **Negative 11-Panel Drug Screen must be completed no more than 45 days prior to the program start date.** Results must be mailed, emailed, or faxed directly to the CTC DHS. Should a prospective student have a positive drug screen, they will consult with the Nursing Programs Director for further guidance.

• **Negative Criminal Background Check or Declaratory Order** from the Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) completed no more than 90 days prior to the program start date. All criminal history background checks must be conducted, and verification of negative results received prior to enrollment in the ADN/VN Programs. Negative results for the criminal history background check will be honored for the duration of the enrollment period in the Program.

The programs will honor drug screen and physical for the duration of the student’s enrollment in the program if the participating student has not had a break in enrollment from the DHS. A break in enrollment is defined as nonattendance of one full 16-week semester or more. FBI background checks completed through MorphoTrust do not need to be repeated.

**Program Disclosures**

During progression through the ADN or VN Program, inform the CTC DHS Nursing Program Director and/or designee of any mental or physical condition, illness, injury, surgery, pregnancy, etc. that would result in a change of the physical limitations status. Safety is a priority for the patient and health and wellbeing of students and faculty. Failure to inform the program may result in immediate withdrawal from the course or program. Medical care, which results in student absence, must include the physician’s return to class/clinical/lab documentation following illness, injury, surgery, pregnancy, or, as required by faculty. Documentation must...
be mailed, emailed, or faxed directly from the healthcare provider to the CTC DHS. See Appendix for Medical Release.

The prospective student will also sign a statement agreeing to:
1. Inform the Nursing Program Director if criminal activity or substance abuse occurs after the initial Criminal History Background Check and Drug Screen or is aware of such activity that was not disclosed on the original background check. Failure to disclose discoverable information, which will be revealed on clinical facility and/or the FBI background check as required by the TBON, may prohibit progression in or removal from the program, and/or ineligibility for licensure.
2. A “for cause” drug screen when student’s performance, conduct, or other action indicates possible substance use.
3. Provide a birth certificate, U.S. passport, naturalization certificate, permanent alien card or other documents if required by the clinical facility.

**Liability Insurance**
Current Liability Insurance will be purchased by CTC upon student admission to the nursing program with registration.

**Lab Kit**
Student will provide receipt showing proof of purchase of lab kit for clearance to register for nursing classes.

**Allocation of Cost**
Each prospective student must bear the cost of all the above requirements. Neither the College nor the clinical facilities provide medical coverage or workmen’s compensation for emergency illness or injury. Medical coverage is the responsibility of the student.

**Estimated Cost of the Associate Degree Nursing Program**: The cost of tuition of the program is based on the number of credits taken. At the end of the program you will receive an Associate Degree in Nursing. The program will consist of 5 semesters with a total of 60 credit hours. Tuition and programmatic costs are according to your residential/military status. Refer to the current CTC Catalog for list of tuition prices. Prices are estimates and subject to change.

- Tuition (60 Semester Hours) & Differential Fees Refer to the current CTC Catalog/Class Schedule
- Textbooks and Supplies $1500.00
- HESI(A2) $50.00
- 11 Panel Drug Screen $60.00
- FBI Criminal Background Check $50.00 (MorphoTrust)
- Declaratory Order Enforcement $150.00 (if applicable)
- Physical Exam/TB Screening/ Required Immunizations Dependent upon facility and provider
- CPR (AHA or MTN only) $55.00
- Lab Kit (Training Supply) $240.00
- Uniforms $300.00 (3 sets of scrubs w/1 warm-upjacket)
- CTC Student Nurse Association $80.00 for 2 years – Optional, participation is encouraged.
- Transportation Expenses – Dependent upon clinical rotations/assignments:

The DHS utilizes several clinical facilities. Students are responsible for transportation between home, college, and the clinical sites. All students are expected to travel to and from these areas at their own expense.

**Estimated Cost for RN Licensure**: $100.00 - fee due 120 days prior to graduation. $200.00 - fee is due 30 days prior to graduation.

**Estimated Cost of the Vocational Nursing Program**: The cost of the tuition of the program is based on the number of credits taken. At the end of the program you will receive a Certificate of Completion. The program will consist of 4 semesters with a total of 44 credit hours.
Tuition and programmatic costs are according to your residential/military status. Refer to the current CTC Catalog for list of tuition prices.

- Tuition (44 Semester Hours) & Differential Fees
- Textbooks & Supplies $1,000.00
- HESI for 3 Semesters $480.00
- Uniforms $300.00
- Physical Exam/TB Screening/Required Immunizations Dependent upon facility and provider
- CPR $55.00
- 11-Panel Drug Screen $60.00
- Lab Kit (Training Supply) $240.00-subject to change
- FBI Criminal Background Check $50.00 (Morpho Trust)
- Declaratory Order Enforcement $150.00 (if applicable)
- Transportation Expenses – Dependent upon clinical rotations/assignments:

The DHS utilizes several clinical facilities. Students are responsible for transportation between home, college, and the clinical sites. All students are expected to travel to and from these areas at their own expense.

**Estimated Cost for Licensure**:  
- NCLEX-PN Application fee $100.00 - fee due 120 days prior to graduation.  
- Pearson Vue fee $200.00 - fee due 30 days prior to graduation.

*All fees are approximations and are subject to change.

**Standardized Testing**

Students will be required to complete nationally normed and referenced examinations throughout the curriculum and earn satisfactory scores based on national and school benchmarks on such examinations. In the fourth semester of the ADN curriculum (the final semester of the Program), students are required to take an exit nationally normed comprehensive examination as part of the final grade. This examination is predictive of success on the NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN®.

**Program Completion Timelines**

Students without any prior nursing courses are required to complete the Nursing program within four years of first enrollment in RNSG 1413 or within 2 years of first enrollment in VNSG 1222 or its equivalent.

Articulating and transfer students are required to complete the Associate Degree Nursing program within four years of first enrollment in RNSG 1331.

**ADN and VN Program Progression Requirements**

In order to progress in both nursing programs, the following requirements must be met:

- Achievement of a grade of “C” or higher in all courses in the curriculum including general education and nursing courses.
- Achievement of a minimum 75 percent course average or higher in all ADN nursing courses and a minimum of 70 percent course average or higher in all VN nursing courses.
- Achieve a minimum of 90% on dosage calculation exams, within 3 attempts, in the clinical courses prior to the second Friday of the semester to administer medications and to progress in the course.
- Successfully complete prerequisites to each nursing course.
- Complete co-requisites prior to or concurrently with nursing courses. **If withdrawal occurs for any reason from any of the co-requisite nursing courses, withdrawal from the corresponding clinical course (Clinical Nursing I, II, III, or, IV) is required.**
- Course failure due to Academic Misconduct will require the student to withdrawal from all co-requisite DHS courses.
- Successfully complete all courses in each semester of the curriculum before progressing to the next semester courses.
• Approval/acceptance by each clinical facility for clinical rotations.
• Maintain current CPR certification AHA guidelines – BLS for Health Care Providers or Military Training Network.
• Provide documentation of medical release to the DHS to return to class/clinical/lab after mental or physical condition, illness, injury, surgery, and pregnancy, “break in clinical” etc. that would result in a change of the physical limitations status. Failure to inform the program may result in immediate withdrawal from the course or program. **Documentation must be mailed, emailed, or faxed, directly from the healthcare provider to the DHS.**
• Provide annual documentation of negative results for TB (2-Step Tuberculin Skin Test, QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT or Q-Gold), or T-SPOT®TB test). If history of positive TB, then a negative chest x-ray must be current and updated each year.
• Provide proof of an annual influenza vaccination by October 1st and includes Spring Semester.
• Maintain negative 11 panel drug screen and criminal background check.
• Complete all standardized assessment and exit tests as required by the courses syllabus.
• Demonstrate professional behavior in the classroom and clinical and lab in accordance with CTC Policy and the, the Texas Nursing Practice Act, and the TBON rules and regulations relating to nursing education, licensure and practice. Failure to adhere to these standards may result in disciplinary action which could include dismissal from the program.

**ADN and VN Program Readmission Policy**

Readmission to any nursing course is dependent upon availability of class openings after current class progression; it is not automatic.

• Students must meet the current general admission/progression requirements for DHS and their specific nursing track.
• Students must provide current physical, immunization, criminal background and drug screen information. Provide proof of physical examination or diagnostic tests as recommended or required to include physicians return to class/clinical documentation after illness, injury, surgery, or pregnancy etc.
• Any student who is requesting readmission to a clinical course, or who experiences a “break” from clinical for any reason will be required to provide a “Student Nurse Medical Release Return to Class/Clinical/Lab” form before being allowed to participate in a clinical course. The medical evaluation must take place within the 30-day period immediately prior to the first day of the semester for readmission students.
• If a student does not successfully complete any nursing course or withdraws from a nursing course with a failing average, the student may apply for readmission to the Nursing Program one time. **Failure of any two RNSG or VNSG courses will result in ineligibility for readmission.**
• Students who fail either program may reapply to the same program after 3 years. **Students dismissed from a program due to safety violations (unsafe practice), Code of Conduct Violations (Professional Code Violations), or Civility/ Affective Domain violations are ineligible for readmission.**

• Consideration for readmission is based on the following:
  o Faculty/team recommendation.
  o Academic grade average and clinical evaluation.
  o Reason(s) for failure, if applicable, or withdrawal.
  o Resolution of outside extenuating circumstances, if applicable.
  o Completion of remedial work and/or Admissions & Standards Committee requirements.
  o An interview of the student may be recommended by the A&S Committee.

**Admissions and Standards, Student Readmission Letter:** Any student applying for readmission to the nursing program must request readmission, in writing, to the A&S Committee and submit a written plan for success to be reviewed by the committee. The student’s readmission letter must be received by the deadline set by the A&S Committee at the end of each term.

• Letter to the ADN/VN Admissions and Standards Committee written by applicant must include:
  o Student Name
  o Nursing course name(s) and number(s) to which seeking readmission
- Reason(s) for lack of success/progress in the course(s)
- Plan for success if readmitted [Be specific please]
- Semester and year seeking readmission
- Student signature and date
- Emailed to the course instructor and cc’ing the Nursing Programs Director by deadline (end of term)

- The committee determines eligibility for readmission and notifies the student in writing. A student that does not submit an A&S Readmission Letter by deadline is deemed ineligible for readmission. Final course grade, status and decisions will be determined by each DHS program’s Admissions and Standards Committee on a case-by-case basis.

**Graduation Requirements**

Central Texas College confers the Associate of Arts, the Associate of Science, the Associate of Applied Science, the Associate of Arts in General Studies and certificates of completion. To graduate from Central Texas College Associate Degree Nursing Program and Vocational Nursing Program, the student must:

- Apply for graduation by the deadline date (Application available on CTC website or in the Graduation office located in the Student Services building).
- Successfully complete all RNSG/VNSG courses required in the program of study.
- Complete at least 25 percent of the degree or certificate semester credit hours at CTC (to fulfill residency requirements).
- Achieve a grade of “C” or higher in all courses in the curriculum including general education and nursing courses.
- Achieve a minimum 75 percent average or higher in all RNSG courses and 70 percent average or higher in all VNSG courses.
- Meet state, institutional, licensure and other agency rules as applicable.
- TSI-obligated students seeking an associate degree or a certificate level 2 must be TSI complete or exempt in reading, writing, and mathematics.
- Submit Application for Initial Licensure to Texas Board of Nursing 120 days prior to graduation.
- Submit NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® application to Pearson Vue 30 days prior to graduation.
Central Texas College District Student Clinical Program RELEASE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of ASSUMPTION OF RISK

In consideration for participating in the Central Texas College District Clinical Program [“Program”] for the tenure of the program which began on_________________ and has an expected end date of__________________, I______________________________ (Print Student Name Legibly), in full recognition and appreciation of the possible dangers and hazards inherent in the Program, including, but specifically not limited to, any motorized vehicle or equipment use or transportation whether provided by Central Texas College District, myself or another, or administration of medication associated with, during, or as a result of the Program, I hereby agree to and do assume all of known and unknown risks and responsibilities arising out of my participation in the Program, and any other activities undertaken as an adjunct thereto.

I hereby expressly do for myself, my heirs, assigns, and personal representatives waive, release, discharge Central Texas College District and all of its Officers, Directors, Trustees, employees, volunteers, and agents from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of actions that may arise as a result of any acts causing property damage, personal injury, or death as a result of my participation in the Program or any activities undertaken as an adjunct thereto.

I also hereby expressly agree to hold harmless, and indemnify Central Texas College District and all of its Officers, Directors, employees, volunteers and agents from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of actions that may arise resulting in property damage, personal injury or death as a result of my participation in the Program or any activities undertaken as an adjunct thereto.

I have had the opportunity to thoroughly review this document, including with a representative of my choice should I so choose. By signing below, I understand that I am giving up important rights and do so of my own free will.

__________________________________________  ____________________________
Signature                                      Date

__________________________________________
Print Name

Document will be downloaded from Success Camp or provided to students by program faculty for completion and submission for academic filing, effective May 2020. TS
ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Central Texas College District is a Violence, Weapon, Discrimination and Harassment Free Zone. A zero-tolerance policy is one which requires an appropriate penalty be imposed based on the individual circumstances. It is, as it states, intolerant of the prohibited behavior. As part of a “zero tolerance policy”, Central Texas College District will take appropriate disciplinary action for every illegal or unauthorized weapon, threat, incident of hazing, stalking, harassment, or discrimination, sexual misconduct, and/or violent act that is reasonably substantiated through investigation. Central Texas College District may also take disciplinary action for certain violations reported off campus to the extent these violations may have an impact on the campus. This includes but is not limited to violations that pose an ongoing danger to students or may cause harm to the campus community, including violent crimes, hate crimes, disturbing or threatening actions, sexual assault and/or misconduct, and illegal conduct. (See CTC Student Handbook)

Attendance

The DHS abides by the College Attendance Policy published in the CTC College Catalog. Regular attendance for class, clinical, and lab is expected. Class attendance will be kept by the faculty. Students in all courses whether, face-to-face, blended, online, or synchronous delivery at extension campuses are expected to attend and participate regularly. Counseling, verbal and written, will be implemented if there is poor performance by a student in either the classroom, clinical, or lab area in correlation with excessive absence. If absences occur from the classroom, it is the student's responsibility to obtain missed material from peers. Absences in clinical/lab courses will result in loss of points and possible course failure. The faculty reserves the right to adjust the student’s classroom grade based upon classroom performance/behavior/civility. Absences from classes for any reason must not exceed CTC standards. See CTC Catalog, Student Handbook, and Course Syllabus for excessive absence policy.

Mandatory program sponsored events to include orientations, trainings, assembly, tutoring, and community events may require attendance or be on a voluntary basis as communicated by faculty and administration.

Tardiness

Students are required to be in the classroom, clinical, and lab on time. Arriving late to clinical will result in point deduction per the course syllabus. Excessive tardiness is disruptive to the educational process and may result in disciplinary action. Faculty may choose to lower a student’s grade because of tardiness. Refer to the CTC Student Handbook or Course Catalog for Tardiness Policy.

Clinical Attendance

- Clinical placements are based on faculty availability and the ability of clinical sites to support student achievement of clinical and program learning outcomes. Students are not guaranteed assignments that are in close proximity to the campus on which they attend, whether central campus or an extension site. Students may be required to commute to distant facilities for clinical. Clinical placements are ultimately at the discretion of the faculty members for each clinical course. (Refer to Clinical Assignment Policy for placement considerations)
- A Nursing Student must inform faculty if they are assigned to a nursing care area/unit on which they are employed.
- Students may not work the night shift immediately prior to the beginning of the clinical dayshift.
- The student will be required to attend mandatory facility in-processing and/or training and/or orientation at times other than regularly scheduled clinical/class hours. The student will not be able to attend clinical without required mandatory training. Failure to comply with the mandatory requirements for admission to the affiliated facility or failure to attend the designated orientation as scheduled and on time will result in administrative withdrawal from the clinical course based on contractual obligations.
- Students in the preceptorship program may be required to work various shifts to include weekends and evenings. Preceptorship students cannot work clinical shifts on CTC holidays to include Thanksgiving Break and Spring Break, or on regularly scheduled class days.
- After acceptance into a program, the following must be on record: Written documentation of medical release to return to class/clinical after serious illness, injury, surgery, pregnancy, etc.
Clinical Absences
Regular clinical attendance is required, and excessive absences may result in failure of the clinical course. A student with a legitimate, properly documented excuse (doctor’s note, accident report, etc.) for a clinical absence, provided the absence call was made prior to the beginning of the clinical day, will be given an alternate assignment worth 75% of the total individual points for the day based upon the clinical objectives for the designated course or missed assignment. This policy applies to only one day per semester regardless of the number of rotations within that specific clinical course.

Skill Competency Requirements
Each student must demonstrate successful skills check-off as applicable to each clinical course. If unsuccessful on the first attempt, the student will be scheduled for remediation and be provided up to two more attempts to pass (students will not be allowed to practice skills in the clinical setting until successful check-off has been documented). Students are provided time on scheduled days and in open lab to practice skills before and between assessments. Students are recommended to seek instructor observation and critique prior to the second/third scheduled check-off times to ensure that they are demonstrating adequate skills acquisition. If the student is unable to successfully/safely demonstrate the skills after three attempts, he/she is considered unsafe for clinical practice. Therefore, the student will be unable to meet course objectives. This will result in course failure.
After successful skills acquisition has been documented through check-off, students are expected to maintain the ability to complete each skill accurately and safely in the clinical setting. Instances of error and/or inability to complete skills as required may result in counseling, required remediation, or discipline for unsafe practice. Each incident will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

At no time are students allowed to practice invasive skills on any human or animal.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES NURSING STUDENT DRESS CODE

I. The full uniform is to be worn for all experiences in class, lab or clinical facilities. Any exceptions to the uniform must be approved by the Nursing Programs Director.

Uniforms:
- 4-Pocket Gray# Colored Top, clean and pressed.
- 4-Pocket Gray# Colored Pant, clean and pressed.
- Black# Colored Warm-up jacket, clean and pressed.
- Embroidered CTC Logo and “Nursing”, 1 inch below left arm sleeve#
- Optional white undershirt (crew neck only). If short sleeve, no white can be visible under the sleeve length or the bottom hem of the top. Long sleeve must be no longer than wristlength.
- Clean, white non-permeable duty shoes (does not allow penetration of fluids). Shoes must have closed toes and closed heels.
- White, mid-calf crew socks.
- CTC Laminated Student ID card must be hole punched for clip and be visible at all times, located at the level of the chest. No attached objects to ID, except for Affiliated Clinical Facility Policy Requirements.
- Watch with sweep second hand (not digital) and available at all times. The band must be solid and either black, white, gray, or brown.
- Students may opt to purchase a stethoscope in addition to the one provided in the required lab kit. Approved colors are solid black or burgundy only. No sewn covers or attachments to the stethoscope are allowed.
- Black ink ballpoint pen. NO ERASABLE INK.
- Pocket size note pad.
- Uniform modifications for cultural/religious needs are to be approved by the Nursing Programs Director.
- Due to COVID-19 campus guidelines, a cloth mask or a disposable mask will be required for class, lab, or clinical as relayed to students by program faculty or DHS Administration.

II. The CTC nursing uniform, which includes student ID card, will be worn only for assigned CTC nursing activities. Students may not participate in any activity in which it could be construed that they are representing the DHS or acting as a student nurse when they have not been given DHS or faculty permission.

III. Acceptable dress for alternate activity: Professional attire may be required by some agencies instead of a uniform.
- Must be clean and pressed.
- Dress/skirt must be knee length.
- Slacks only, no leggings, jeans, capris, crop, or mid-calf pants.
- Shoes must be appropriate with a low heel- no flip flops or sandals.
- Jewelry- See V.
- Name Badge- See II.
- Modifications for cultural/religious needs are to be approved by the Nursing Programs Director.

IV. Jewelry, Ornaments: The following jewelry may be worn with the student uniform-
- One solid metal wedding or non-porous silicone band only (no jewels or stones embedded)
- One small stud per each ear lobe and no larger than 6mm in diameter.
- Medical Alert Identification tags and religious necklace may be worn after approval by the Nursing Programs Director.
- It is prohibited to wear chains, rings, necklaces, dangling earrings, bracelets, nose, eyebrow, nipple, lip or tongue rings, including barbells, dermal implants or any piercing on any visible body part or visible through clothing.
V. Personal Appearance:
- The student must be clean and free from odor at all times. (Strong colognes and perfumes should be avoided)
- Makeup must be used in moderation and with good taste.
- No chewing gum.
- Hair must be arranged so that it does not fall below the bottom of the collar.
  ▪ If hair combs, solid color head bands, or pins are used to secure the hair, they must be brown, white, or black.
  ▪ The hair style should be neat, tailored, well controlled, and without ornaments.
  ▪ Hair should be natural in color (brown, black, blonde, gray, and natural red heads).
  ▪ When beards and mustaches are allowed in the clinical facility, they must be neatly trimmed; otherwise, males must be clean shaven. (Allowed on campus)
- Nails must be clean and kept at fingertip length. No nail polish allowed.
- Artificial Nails are prohibited. Student will not be allowed in the clinical setting with artificial nails due to infection control issues.
- Visible tattoos must be covered as per clinical facility policy. (Non-offensive tattoos are allowed on campus**)
- The student will be obligated to follow the policies of the clinical facility which may include additional uniform/conduct requirements.
- Outerwear (excluding uniform jacket): For classroom comfort, students may wear outerwear to include jackets and/or sweaters. Outerwear is not permitted in the Simulation/ Open Lab or clinical practice areas and per clinical facility policy.

# Incoming level I students for Fall 2020 will be wearing a new nursing dress code color of a gray scrub set with black scrub jacket. Students longstanding in the program and Fall 2020 articulation students will be wearing the traditional wine color scrub set and wine jacket with nursing sleeve patch. Should a student move back a cohort, a change in uniform may be warranted.

**Offensive tattoos can include political, religious or those referencing private anatomy. The Nursing Programs Director is the final decision in tattoos needing to be covered while in the program.

VI. Dress Code Infractions:
- Nursing faculty are allowed to provide one calendar day, per term, of guidance to a student for classroom infractions only. Students needing consideration beyond one calendar day are to be referred to the Nursing Programs Director.
- Clinical and simulation lab dress code violations are to be corrected immediately or are grounds to dismiss from a clinical day or simulation lab activity.
- Any program exceptions to this policy must be discussed and approved by the Nursing Programs Director.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES CIVILITY/ CODE OF CONDUCT

Civility Mission Statement
“Central Texas College, DHS believes nursing is a caring and compassionate profession that is deeply-rooted in personal and professional accountability. Treating others with value, respect, justice, equality and dignity is essential to our mission and purposes in creating and supporting a culture of civility. Faculty, students, staff and clinical associates are considered equal and active members of our community. All who work, live, study and teach in our community are here by choice and as a part of that choice should be dedicated to ideologies of respect which are an integral part of creating and supporting a culture of civility.”

Values and Ethics in Nursing
“Through the educational process, students are provided the necessary experiences to develop the knowledge, behaviors, and skills expected of practicing nurses. In addition, the clinical judgments of the nurse are guided
by various values and beliefs about oneself and society. It is recommended that nursing educators strive to foster commitment to the following values and ethical principles believed to be inherent to the nursing profession” (Texas Board of Nursing Differentiated Essential Competencies, 2010):

1) **Altruism** – Concern for the welfare of others seen through caring, commitment, and compassion
2) **Human Dignity** – Belief in the inherent worth and uniqueness of the individual seen through respect, empathy, humanness, and trust
3) **Truth** – Faithfulness to fact seen through honesty, accountability, and authenticity
4) **Justice** – Upholding moral and legal principles seen through courage, advocacy, and objectivity
5) **Freedom** – Capacity to exercise choice seen through openness, self-direction, and self-discipline
6) **Equality** – Having the same rights and privileges seen through acceptance, tolerance, and fairness
7) **Esthetics** – Identifying the qualities of objects, events, and persons that provide satisfaction as seen through creativity, sensitivity, and appreciation.”

“Values and beliefs about oneself and society guide the clinical judgments of the nurse. To act as a moral agent and to advocate on behalf of patients, the nurse must be sensitive to ethical issues inherent in health care settings and health care policies. Through the educational process, students clarify personal and professional values and develop the knowledge, judgments, behaviors, and skills expected of nurses practicing ethically.”

“Professional values are enduring beliefs or ideals that guide practitioners and serve as a framework for professional decisions and action. These values are the foundation for moral standards of right and wrong, established in accordance with the profession’s norms and traditions. As a practice discipline, nursing’s fundamental value is caring, growing from altruism – a concern for the well-being of others.”

Caring, as a human endeavor, places demands on the character, knowledge, judgments, behaviors, and skills of the nurse. A nurse’s first moral obligation is to be a competent practitioner” (Texas Board of Nursing, Differentiated Essential Competencies, 2010, p. 5).

The ANA Code of Conduct for Nurses clearly identifies intimidating behaviors as unethical and describes the individual nurse’s responsibility to not engage in such behaviors (ANA, 2015). See ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses section


**Teamwork & Collaboration**

**Definition:** Function effectively within nursing and inter-professional teams, fostering open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision-making to achieve quality patient care. Attitudes to achieve effective teamwork and collaboration are:

- Acknowledge own potential to contribute to effective team functioning
- Appreciate importance of intra- and inter-professional collaboration
- Value the perspectives and expertise of all health team members
- Respect the centrality of the patient/family as core members of any health care team
- Respect the unique attributes that members bring to a team, including variations in professional orientations and accountabilities
- Value team work and the relationships upon which it is based
- Value different styles of communication used by patients, families and health care providers
- Contribute to resolution of conflict and disagreement
- Appreciate the risks associated with handoffs among providers and across transitions in care
- Value the influence of system solutions in achieving effective team functioning (http://qsen.org/competencies/pre-licensure-ksas/#teamwork_collaboration).


“Intimidating and disruptive behaviors can foster medical errors, contribute to poor patient satisfaction and to preventable adverse outcomes, increase the cost of care, and cause qualified clinicians, administrators and managers to seek new positions in more professional environments. Safety and quality of patient care is dependent on teamwork, communication, and a collaborative work environment. To assure quality and to
promote a culture of safety, health care organizations must address the problem of behaviors that threaten the performance of the health care team.”

**Standards of Nursing Practice**
In addition, the student will follow the Texas Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations to include §217.11, Standards of Nursing Practice; § 217.12, Unprofessional Conduct; and §213.27 Good Professional Character. **The rules will apply in classroom, laboratory, and clinical. Failure to act accordingly may result in disciplinary action.** The TBON rules and regulations noted above may be found by visiting: [http://www.bon.state.tx.us/laws_and_rules_rules_and_regulations.asp](http://www.bon.state.tx.us/laws_and_rules_rules_and_regulations.asp)

**Student Code of Conduct**
The DHS follows the policies of Central Texas College regarding conduct, discipline and disciplinary action. Please refer to the most current copy of the CTC Student Handbook for the following:

- Student Code of Conduct
- Institution Disciplinary Process
- Non-Academic Misconduct
- Academic Dishonesty
- Administrative Disciplinary Action
- Emergency Disciplinary Procedures
- Disciplinary Actions/Committee/Hearing/Appeal Procedures
- Grievance Procedures
DHS STUDENT - CODE OF CONDUCT CONTRACT

At Central Texas College Department of Health Sciences, We Commit To:

A zero-tolerance approach to incivility and may dismiss a student on the grounds of incivility. Each student by his/her own admission to the Central Texas College DHS acknowledges and accepts this policy.

Civility: authentic respect for others, requiring time, presence, engagement, and an intention to seek common ground (Clark, 2008).

Incivility: disregard and insolence for others, causing an atmosphere of disrespect, conflict, and stress (Emry & Holmes, 2005).

Horizontal [Lateral] Violence (HV): harmful behavior, attitudes, actions directed to one colleague by another colleague. HV controls, humiliates, degrades or injures the dignity of another (Proactive Nurse, 1996).

Workplace Bullying: repeated, health-harming mistreatment of one or more persons (target) by one or more perpetrators including: verbal abuse, offensive behaviors (including nonverbal), which are threatening, humiliating, or intimidating, and work interference which prevents work from getting done (Namie & Namie, 2011).

The following is a description of the professional performance responsibilities of all students in a Central Texas College DHS Nursing Program:

Attentiveness: the student regularly attends class. All extended absences are for relevant and serious reasons and approved, where applicable, by the appropriate authority. Student is consistently on time for lecture and stays until the end of presentations. The student is alert during the presentation, and demonstrates attentiveness by taking notes and asking appropriate questions.

Demeanor: the student has a positive, open attitude towards peers, faculty, and others during the course of nursing studies. Student maintains a professional bearing in interpersonal relations. Student functions in a supportive and constructive fashion in group situation and makes good use of feedback and evaluations.

Maturity: the student functions as a responsible, ethical, law-abiding adult.

Cooperation: the student demonstrates his/her ability to work effectively in large and small groups and with other members of the health team, giving and accepting freely in the interchange of information.

Inquisitiveness: the student acquires interest in his/her courses and curricular subjects, demonstrating individual pursuit of further knowledge.

Responsibility: the student has nursing school performance as his/her primary commitment. Student/student and student/faculty academic interchanges are carried out in a reliable and trustworthy manner.

Authority: a student shows appropriate respect for those placed in authority over him/her both within the college/ institutions and in society.

Personal Appearance: the student’s personal hygiene and dress reflect standards expected of a professional nurse.

Communication: the student demonstrates an ability to communicate effectively verbally, nonverbally, and in writing with peers, faculty, patients, and others.

Professional role: the student conducts self as a professional role model at all times and in compliance with standards of practice relative to nurses and the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses.

Judgment: the student shows an ability to think critically regarding options, reflecting his/her ability to make intelligent decisions in personal, academic life and the clinical setting.

Ethics: the student conducts self in compliance with the ANA Code of Ethics.

Moral Standards: the student respects the rights and privacy of other individuals and does not violate the laws of our society.
DHS Program Expectations

As future nurses and leaders, the students must manage disruptive and inappropriate behaviors within one’s self, peers and others. Examples of uncivil behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Demeaning, belittling or harassing others; overt or covert behaviors via all forms of communication including social media.
- Slandering, gossiping about or damaging a classmate/faculty’s reputation;
- Habitually interrupting as others speak;
- Not paying attention, listening, or responding to others who address you;
- Not responding to email, letters or voicemail that requires a reply;
- Sending emails that are inflammatory in nature;
- Speaking with a condescending attitude;
- Yelling or screaming at faculty, peers, or clinical staff;
- Habitually arriving late to class;
- Knowingly withholding information needed by a peer, faculty, or clinical staff;
- Discounting or ignoring input from faculty regarding classroom and/or clinical performance or professional conduct;
- Not sharing credit for collaborative work or not completing an equitable share of collaborative work assigned;
- Threatening others; this refers to physical threats, verbal/nonverbal threats, and implied threats.
- Displays of temper tantrums;
- Using up supplies or breaking equipment without notifying appropriate staff/faculty;
- Rudeness that ultimately escalates into threats or actual physical violence.
- Failure to participate in class and/or complete classroom assignments.
- Dress Code Violations

Conventions of good classroom manners and DHS student responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Asking permission to tape record and respecting the speaker’s decision to allow or disallow.
2. Refraining from verbal, physical (any) harassment.
3. Refraining from electronic harassment via email, Facebook, or any other electronic/Wi-Fi media or devices.
4. Utilization of Internet during classroom time is prohibited; unless instructed to do so.
5. Listening respectfully to each other.
6. Responding respectfully and reflectively to ideas aired in the classroom.
7. Refraining from personal insults, profanity and other communication-stoppers.
8. Recognizing and tolerating different levels of understanding of complex social and cultural issues among your classmates and faculty.
9. Arriving on time to class/clinical sessions.
10. Bringing the required supplies and being ready to be actively engaged in the learning process.
11. Focusing on the business at hand, the class, its content, learning, and the faculty.
12. Turning cell phones off or on vibrate before the start of class.
13. Abstaining from texting during class time.
14. Observing all classroom policies.
15. Abstaining from sleeping in class. (Laying your head on the desk or sleeping in class is rude and is distracting to others).
16. Turning in assignments on time.
17. Being courteous in class. (This does not mean that you have to agree with everything that is being said. However, your point(s) will be much more credible if conveyed without rudeness, aggression, or hostility. If you strongly disagree with faculty, speak with him/her after class).
18. Raising a hand to indicate a question or, as a courtesy to classmates and faculty. (Remember, your questions are not an imposition – they are welcome. Chances are, if you have a question, someone else is
thinking the same thing, but is too shy to ask it. So, ask questions! You’ll learn more, it makes the class more interesting, and you are helping others learn as well).

19. If an emergency should arise that requires an absence from a class session, the student shall make arrangements to get notes and all other information that was covered in class from a colleague/peer.

20. Follow the syllabus in making appointments to see faculty, especially after exams.

21. Understand; exams and calculations of grade earned are not a starting point for negotiation. Faculty is willing to work with students to meet learning needs, but will not negotiate individual terms with students.

The continuance of any student enrolled in a DHS Program, the receipt of academic credit, and the granting of a degree rests solely within the authority of Central Texas College and the DHS.

DHS CIVILITY POLICY

Central Texas College DHS has a zero-tolerance approach to incivility and may dismiss a student on the grounds of incivility. Each student by his or her own admission/continuation in the Central Texas College Associate Degree Nursing Program or Licensed Vocational Nursing Program acknowledges and accepts this policy.

- I understand my student professional performance responsibilities in the DHS.
- I understand DHS program expectations and CTC Student conduct expectations.
- I understand expectations for professional conduct, affective domain, and student learning behavior objective.
- I understand the consequences of behavior for all offenses.
- I understand the consequences for egregious behavior.
- I understand the zero-tolerance approach to incivility and that I may be dismissed on the grounds of incivility.
- I understand by my admission to the Central Texas College DHS, that I am acknowledging and accepting this policy.
- I understand and have read the Central Texas College Civility Policy. Further, I understand the rules, and agree to comply with them. Should I violate the rules of this policy, it will result in disciplinary action, which may include expulsion from the DHS program.
- I understand that any behavior or action determined to be a breach of this policy or contract may result in corrective action or dismissal from the Associate Degree Nursing Program and/or Licensed Vocational Nursing Program.

Professional Conduct

DHS students are expected to behave with professionalism in all phases of training and in all communications, whether written, verbal or non-verbal. Students are expected to uphold the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics and the CTC Student Code of conduct. Students are expected to demonstrate personal integrity, professionalism, and appropriate interpersonal skills throughout the program. Failure to demonstrate civility, professionalism, and abide by the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics may be grounds for suspension and/or dismissal.

Affective Domain

The affective domain evaluation measures the students’ attitudes, behaviors, motivation, appearance and professional attributes, as well as classroom conduct. Passing is dependent on appropriate classroom behavior, professional ethics, and adherence to policy and affective course objective. Students must achieve all course objectives to pass a course, which includes the behavioral objective as stated below:

Student Learning Behavior Objective

Demonstrate behaviors that are congruent with the ANA Code of Ethics, Scope and Standards of Practice, and Social Policy Statements in all class related interactions.
The student will be asked to stay after class, directly following the event, and be provided a pink slip immediately; the written counseling statement will follow within 24 to 48 hours. During counseling the student will have the option of providing a written statement of the event within 24 hours.

Failure to comply with the requirements of any policies in the CTC’s DHS’s ADN/VN Student Handbook or CTC’s Student Handbook may result in the actions outlined below:

Breaches of the behavioral objective will result in the following consequences:

- **On the first three offenses**, a pink slip will be issued, followed by a written counseling statement by faculty. The student will be counseled regarding the infraction, violation and consequences for behavior.
  - The counseling will also include the verbalization and documentation of understanding that five (5) pink slips in a single semester, within a program will cause the student to fail the affective domain objective and be dismissed from the program.
  - In most cases a written warning and time period for improvement and remediation should demonstrate a change in behavior.
- **On the fourth offense**, another pink slip will be issued, followed by a written counseling statement by faculty. The student will be counseled regarding the infraction, violation and consequences for behavior.
  - The student nurse will be required to meet with the Nursing Programs Director.
  - The counseling will also include the verbalization and documentation of understanding that five (5) pink slips in a single semester will cause the student to fail the affective domain objective and be dismissed from the program.
- **On the fifth offense**, the final pink slip will be issued, followed by a written counseling statement by faculty. The student will be counseled regarding the infraction, violation and consequences for behavior.
  - With the fifth infraction, the student will have failed the affective domain objective and be withdrawn from the program
  - The counseling will also include the verbalization and documentation of understanding that five (5) pink slips within a single semester have caused the student to fail the affective domain objective and be dismissed from the program.
  - The Nursing Programs Director and Assistant Chair will meet with the DON, Chair and recommend dismissal from the program.
  - Students dismissed due to Code of Conduct/Civility violations are ineligible for readmission.

**Appeals: Non-Academic Misconduct**

Prohibited behaviors that fall under the heading of Non-Academic Misconduct are listed in the CTC Student Handbook and addressed under Grievance, Disciplinary Procedures and Appeals section in this Handbook.

**Egregious Behavior**

In cases where the behavior is significantly unacceptable, egregious, or pose a threat to the well-being of others, the failure of the affective domain objective will be immediate. A counseling statement will be implemented by faculty and reviewed by the Nursing Programs Director, Assistant Chair, and Chair, DHS.

Failure to demonstrate civility, professionalism, and abide by the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics may be grounds for suspension and/or dismissal.
Per the CTC Student Handbook, “Nothing in this Code of Conduct, including disciplinary hearing procedures and a student’s right to appeal, shall preclude a faculty member from requesting a disruptive student to immediately leave a class or activity for that class period. If the student fails to comply with the request, the faculty member may seek assistance from the Campus Police. Such actions taken on a one-time basis shall not be subject to appeal.”

DHS Faculty have a right to maintain a safe, productive and positive learning/ work environment. Students may be dismissed from any nursing course (class, clinical, or lab) for the day, based on behavior deemed as uncivil, disruptive, unsafe, or unprofessional behavior that disrupts the learning and teaching environment of that course.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES
COMPUTER LABORATORY/IPAD POLICY

This document is designed to specify the rules and requirements that govern the use of software and hardware in the computer laboratory and issued iPads for class use. Students who violate the agreement will be expelled from the lab and have their laboratory/IPad privileges revoked. All software and documentation provided in the computer laboratory/IPads are copyright protected. This policy is designed to safeguard those copyrights and protect the laboratory/IPads from viral infections. The Computer Laboratory business hours are Monday–Thursday; 8:00am – 5:00pm and on Friday; 8:00am – 11:30am (or as posted). iPads are reserved for classroom use as needed. Note: Schedule is subject to change. Check for postings of closed/reserved dates and times.

COMPUTERS/IPADS

- Users must be enrolled in at least one (1) CTC course, or obtain permission from the Department Chair. IPad users are to be enrolled in one (1) DHS course.
- Student will be allowed access to the computer lab after access policies are signed. Student must show: Current CTC photo ID to use the computer lab.
- Student must sign in before beginning work in lab or with IPad. If students leave the room for any reason, they must sign out of the computer lab/ or leave the IPad with the instructor.
- Food, drinks, beverage containers or tobacco products will not be brought into lab or near IPads.
- Non educational game playing is not permitted on computers in the computer laboratory/IPads. Any student found playing games will be disciplined by Program Director.
- No children are permitted in the lab. Students with children will be asked to leave.
- Please silence all cell phones while in the Computer Lab. All calls must be taken outside of computer laboratory.
- If any computer equipment or IPad malfunctions, users should not attempt to repair it. Please notify a member of the Computer Lab staff immediately.
- Students may not change, modify, or update computer or IPad configurations.
- Loud talking is prohibited. Please help us maintain a library-like atmosphere. Please refrain from having group meetings and cell phone conversations in the lab, as they are a distraction to your fellow users. If deemed necessary, a member of the Computer Lab staff may ask you to leave.
- No Printing in the Computer Lab or off IPad.
- Any behavior which is detrimental to the teaching or learning environment will result in the Lab Assistant asking the student to leave. If a student fails to quietly and promptly leave the computer lab, Campus Police will be called to escort the student from the lab, and all computer lab privileges will be revoked.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, computer lab policies and procedures are subject to change to account for social distancing and sanitation measures, and will be relayed to students by faculty or as posted.
INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

We require that students read, accept, and sign the following rules for acceptable online behavior.

1. Students are responsible for good behavior on the Internet. General institutional rules for behavior and communications apply.

2. College personnel/administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files will always be private.

3. Internet access in the DHS is for classroom assignments only.

4. The following are not permitted:
   - Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures.
   - Using obscene language.
   - Harassing, insulting, or attacking other users.
   - Damaging the computer, computer systems, or computer networks.
   - Violating copyright laws.
   - Intentionally wasting limited resources, including the use or “chain letters” and messages broadcast to mailing list or individuals.
   - Personal e-mailing.
   - Social networks.
   - Chatting. Chat rooms are off limits.
   - Instant messaging.
   - Installing software in the lab. With the exception of clinical VCE for clinical labs.
   - Online game playing.
   - Saving files to the Workstation hard drive—you must use a USB/Thumbdrive.

5. Violations will result in the loss of access to the DHS computer laboratory as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

Computer Accessibility

Accessibility to computer hardware and software that will support the completion of assignments on the internet, DVD, CD, or other electronic delivery is required. All Associate Degree and Vocational Nursing courses (RNSG, VNSG and HPRS), whether traditional, blended, or online utilize Blackboard Learning Management System tools for communication and course requirements. Other online components, such as publisher online resources, online activities, or database searches may also be required. It is expected that students enrolled in RNSG, VNSG or HPRS courses have access to a computer with minimum technical requirements, have a consistent and reliable Internet connection, possess basic computer skills, and have the ability to download and install applications or plug-ins. Online components/requirements may be completed in a CTC computer lab or on a home computer. Students are recommended to familiarize themselves with the locations and available hours of CTC computer labs in the event that home computers or Internet access are unavailable or unreliable. No extensions or alternate due dates for assignments or exams will be granted due to computer or Internet difficulties.
Nursing Student Testing Procedures*

1. Exam dates will be posted on the course daily plan and/or Blackboard at the beginning of each semester.
2. All major exams include multiple choice and alternate format questions based on the NCLEX format except for dosage calculations for administration questions in selected courses. All exams are timed. Generally, 1-1.5 minutes per question is allowed, provided the class schedule allows. Select all that apply questions increase in exam percentage as the student progresses each semester, per curriculum guidelines. In addition, the final semester includes a testing setting of forward only exams with no backtracking, to mirror NCLEX testing settings. There is no partial credit for exam items.
3. Students who arrive late for an exam will not be given extra time beyond the allowed time from the start of the exam. Time allotted for the Final Exam is 2 hours and will follow CTC College Catalog policy.
4. Students taking online line exams at the testing center will follow the testing center policies.
5. Attendance at Examinations: Examinations will be given on the dates noted on the daily plan. If a student cannot attend an examination, the course faculty must be notified at their office number or by email before the examination is given. It is your responsibility and a requirement to notify faculty in advance of any absence to retain the privilege of sitting for a make-up examination without grade penalty. ADN and VN students requiring a make-up exam will report to the DHS on the designated date and time following the missed exam. If the rescheduled opportunity is missed there will be no other opportunities afforded.
6. Make-up exams may be in a variety of forms to include an essay and/or alternate format items.
7. A. ADN students must achieve a minimum 75% test average in all nursing theory and clinical nursing courses.
   B. VN students must achieve a minimum 70% test average in all nursing theory courses and clinical nursing courses.
   C. Dosage Calculation exams given in ADN and VN clinical courses must be passed at 90 percent within three testing opportunities. Failure to achieve 90 percent will result in a clinical course failure.
8. Assigned seating may be used during exams. All electronic devices are prohibited during testing; such items include, but are not limited to cell phones, Bluetooth headphones, smart watches, portable electronic devices, etc.
9. Paper Exams: ParScore™ Scantron forms and exam booklets are turned in to the faculty monitoring the exam and will be counted at the end of each exam. No exams may be removed from the testing room. Scratch paper, if used, will be turned in with the exam.
10. Paper Exams: Once the student has submitted the ParScore™ Scantron on exam day, they will no longer have access to it and only this document will be accepted for exam answers. It will not be manipulated by the student or faculty in any form. For example: by adding, omitting, or changing of the answers with the exception of adding alternate items and/or math answers by the faculty.
11. Exam question challenges offered after exams are an opportunity for student/faculty discussion and clarification for learning. Challenging an exam question does not constitute the test question will be thrown out or credited to the student(s). Statistical exam analysis performed by course faculty is the overriding determinant of exam validity and reliability in the course and program.
12. A class review of exams may be scheduled per course syllabus/course calendar.
13. Individual exam review with the faculty must be scheduled within a week of the exam being administered. Test reviews will be done in the same format as delivery of the course to include face to face or virtual. Students may review only the most recent exam (example- exam one can no longer be reviewed after exam two has been given). Review of all exams at one time will not be permitted.
14. Exam grades will not be given out over the telephone or via email. Any academic grievance to exam grades are to follow the DHS grievance process in the timeline allotted (See Grievance section in this document).
15. Students with documented disabilities may request accommodations on exams with Disability Support Services (DSS). The student must schedule exams with DSS based on exam dates of the course. DSS will contact the faculty with a request for exams and outline of accommodations for the student. It is the
responsibility of the student to communicate with each course instructor about accommodations and exam schedule arrangements per the CTC DSS Student Procedures Manual.

**DHS TESTING SECURITY POLICY**

Disclosure of exam content and cheating on a test is prohibited; as such practices undermine the integrity of the examination process. The following DHS policy applies to CTC testing areas which include the Testing Center, individual classrooms, computer labs, and other campus areas where a testing environment is organized for the purpose of a testing assessment.

The following student misconduct is prohibited and infringements will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion, and removal from testing area, and/or being administratively dropped from the course with a grade of “F.” *(CTC Student Handbook)*

- Causing a disruption and/or disturbance in testing area.
- Bringing unauthorized electronic devices (whether turned on or off) or other prohibited items to the testing area on their person or within reach of the student.
- Collaborating with another student and/or copying answers when not authorized by the instructor, or during a test without permission.
- Obtaining, recording, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting sharing, or making available the contents of a test or coursework (to include taking pictures or screenshots).
- Continuing to test after a testing supervisor/faculty, has instructed examinees to stop.
- Leaving the exam platform/exam webpage and accessing any other webpage software or computer application without permission. (This includes minimizing the exam platform window to access any other program).
- Taking any test materials out of the testing area. All test materials must be returned intact to the test supervisor after testing.

The testing center/computer lab may not be used for any other purpose other than testing while an exam is being administered. Using the computer for any other purpose, during testing, will be considered academic misconduct and enforced per CTC policy.

**Grace Period**

If there is a system malfunction; a student will be granted the amount of time lost to finish the examination as arranged by the course lead faculty.

**Disruptions**

From time to time a testing session is disrupted by unforeseen events (power failure, fire drill, etc.). If this occurs, appropriate accommodations will be made by the course lead faculty.

**No Reentry**

Examinees must leave the testing area after the exam is finished. (Rationale review is encouraged with computer based testing). Students are NOT allowed to re-enter the CTC testing area once they have completed a test session and left the room. The students will be allowed to use the restroom facilities, however, only one at a time, without electronic devices, and only once per testing session. Students may be escorted by faculty.

**Late Arrivals**

There is no provision to give extra time to students who arrive late to a testing session.

**Special Circumstances**

Extensions or alternate testing times are possible for special situations such as ADA requests or prior faculty arrangement. Contact the CTC faculty/staff prior to the exam for more information. Students absent for an exam without notification will receive a zero for the exam.

The following misconduct is prohibited at all times, including after the examination (to include exam reviews):
• Sharing or keeping the substance or details of any test question, including the question’s fact pattern, option choices, or answer, in whole or in part, with anyone via electronic delivery (including email, blogs, and online social and professional networking sites), telephonic, written, oral, or other means of delivery.

• Forwarding, re-posting, hosting, or otherwise advancing, on the Internet or via other means, the distribution of exam content that others have disclosed.

• Disclosure of any content of board examination/ licensing exam questions before, during or after the examination is a violation of law, and licensure of the candidate can be denied. This also has application to current program tests, test banks, and test bank questions.

#This excludes student/ course professor communications regarding exam item clarification or exam counseling.

**HEALTH EDUCATIONS SYSTEMS INC., (HESI) TESTING POLICY**

Health Educations Systems Inc., (HESI) testing must be completed by the assigned due date. Failure to successfully complete all assigned exam(s) will result in an “Incomplete” (IP) grade for the course. The student will complete the required proctored Evolve Reach Specialty (HESI) exam for each designated RNSG course as scheduled by the faculty. The student must successfully complete the required HESI exam(s) for each semester at or above the HESI National Average Score on the scheduled date. Students who do not score at or above the HESI National Average Score will be required to complete remediation. Failure to complete remediation requirements will result in an incomplete (IP) for the course.

Students with documented disabilities may request accommodations for these Standardized exams. The student must contact each course faculty at the start of each semester to activate and adopt approved accommodations. See individual syllabi for course specific HESI testing requirements.

*In the event that courses transitions unexpectedly to remote learning, due to CTC campus, local, regional, or national government mandates, this DHS Testing Security Policy includes all environments off campus where a DHS program test/quiz is being conducted, to include any remote virtual testing session. Testing modifications adapting to the urgent remote virtual platforms will be decided by the teaching faculty per policy and supported by DHS administration, to include unit test/item timeframes and forward only exams. Students with DSS accommodations that can be reasonably supported virtually, will be honored. This applies to the previous three testing policies outlined for the programs.*
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES
SIMULATION CENTER/LABORATORY POLICY

Familiarity with the full-body patient simulators, manikins, task trainers, and equipment prepares the student for his/her learning experience in the lab. Simulation affords the students an environment that provides higher levels of competence in clinical and critical thinking skills and replicates actual patient care procedures. The goal in simulation is to build confidence and competence prior to traditional clinical rotations. The lab provides full-body patient simulators and task trainers that are portable and have realistic anatomy and clinical functionality. The patient simulators provide simulation-based challenges and test students’ clinical and decision-making skills during realistic patient care scenarios. To provide a distraction-free environment please be mindful of your neighbors and maintain civility.

1. Students, Faculty, and Staff are expected to abide by the lab policy.
2. Simulation Center is staffed from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (or as posted).
3. Simulation Personnel, Faculty, and staff are expected to jointly prepare/set-up the simulation environment (7:30-8:00 AM), and when completed with the exercise/simulation/skill practice and check-off to return the room/space back to its original condition (5:00-5:30 PM).
4. Students are expected to leave the bedside in order with bed neatly made and side railsup.
5. Pictures or audio/video-taping by students are not permitted in the simulation labs without simulation faculty or (DHS) permission. HIPAA and FERPA rules apply.
6. Students will keep in mind during assigned simulation training video-taping will be used for debriefing purposes. Students will be provided a confidentiality agreement and release form to sign.
7. Students will be required to be in proper clinical attire following CTC DHS Dress code while in the simulation lab. Faculty and staff are required to wear scrubs, lab coat, or program specific attire.
8. All students are required to participate in an orientation to the lab at the beginning of each semester.
9. All patient simulators are operated by trained faculty or staff. Students cannot operate the patient simulators, and are not permitted to move (unless part of scenario) or disconnect patientsimulators.
10. The labs are simulating a hospital environment; therefore, always wash hands before and after when working with the manikins.
11. Respect the equipment and manikins at all times. Treat manikins respectfully, as you would a patient. Do not use markers, ink pens, acetone, iodine, or other staining medications or material on the manikins. Only use pencils in the lab.
12. Students are expected to:
   A) Stay off the hospital beds and gurneys except when the instructor is conducting health assessments or other procedures.
   B) Not stand on hospital beds, gurneys or chairs, sit or lie on tables at anytime.
   C) Not place personal items on the beds, or place heavy items on the bed or bedside table (e.g., suction pump, monitors).
   D) Identify all textbooks, lab bags, and personal items with your name. Items left in the lab will be turned-in to secretaries’ office and will be turned-in to the Campus Lost & Found after 2 weeks.
   E) No back packs or book bags allowed in the lab.
   F) Use a reasonable voice level. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and disruptive students may be asked to leave at the discretion of the lab personnel, faculty or staff.
13. The lab audio/visual system is active at all times and may be monitored continuously.
14. No food or drink (this includes containers) allowed in the lab. Faculty and staff may place a drink at the Nurses Station.
15. All incidents or accidents (lacerations, bruises, needle sticks, fall, etc.) must be immediately followed up with First Aid and Standard Precautions and notify faculty immediately of the incident. The faculty/staff must complete an Incident Report Form and submit it to the DHS Chair.
16. Wireless communication devices, personal computers, and cellular phones are not permitted. (Exception: course required or approved equipment).
17. Properly place all sharps and syringes in designated sharps containers. If the sharps container is full notify the lab staff. Do not throw sharps in the trash.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES SIMULATION CENTER/LABORATORY CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT AND RELEASE FORM

In consideration of the educational opportunity to obtain practical experience in a simulated patient environment, I understand the significance of confidentiality with respect to information concerning the simulation scenarios, the simulated patients, and fellow students. I understand that active participation in the simulation scenarios is part of the course requirements. In addition, I understand that the simulation scenarios are videotaped and used for debriefing purposes and shared only with appropriate faculty.

I agree to adhere to the following conditions and guidelines:

- The simulation mannequins are to be treated with respect and handled with care as if they were live patients.
- As the simulation mannequins are to be treated as live patients, I will uphold the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and any other Federal or State Laws regarding confidentiality. I agree to report any violations of confidentiality that I become aware of to my facilitator or instructor.
- All patient information, including but not limited to diagnosis, interventions, laboratory values, medications, and vital signs, used in the simulation scenario is privileged and confidential regardless of format: electronic, written, overheard or observed. As such, any viewing, discussion, or disclosure of this patient information to another student is a violation whether intentional or unintentional and may lead to disciplinary action as outlined in the student handbook.
- Patient information may be viewed, used, disclosed, and discussed with other students participating in the simulation scenarios only as it relates to the performance of my educational duties in the simulation scenario, or per the instructors’ directions. Any viewing, discussion, or disclosure of this information outside of the simulation environment is a violation of HIPAA and other State and Federal Laws.
- The simulation laboratory is a learning environment. All students are expected to demonstrate behaviors that maintain this respectful and supportive learning environment. The students participating in the scenario should have everyone’s respect and attention. All scenarios should be treated in a professional manner.
- No Betadine and no ink pens will be used near the mannequins. In addition, 20g IV catheters or smaller will be used for IV starts.
- The undersigned authorizes and consents to the use of the undersigned’s name, voice, photograph, video recording, and likeness by the Central Texas College DHS Programs without reservation or limitation and with the understanding that the undersigned will not receive compensation.
- I hereby grant Central Texas College the absolute rights and permission, with respect to the photographs, audio and recorded images (to include, but not limited to digital, videotaped or other types of image recording) (“Images”) taken of me or in which I may be included with others, to use such Images for educational purposes and training only. This authorization and release shall apply to the person(s) for whom the Images were taken for educational purposes only.
- I have read and understand the Simulation Lab Policy, and have been provided a copy.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, computer lab policies and procedures are subject to change to account for social distancing and sanitation measures, and will be relayed to students by faculty or as posted.
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

Information and Policy
The DHS adheres to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health care system, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 included a series of "administrative simplification" provisions that required the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to adopt national standards for electronic health care transactions. By ensuring consistency throughout the industry, these national standards will make it easier for health plans, health care clearinghouses, doctors, hospitals and other health care providers to process claims and other transactions electronically. The law also requires the adoption of privacy and security standards in order to protect individually identifiable health information. See the following web site for additional information: http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/

In accordance with federal law students will protect the privacy of individually identifiable patient information. Disclosure of patient information on all documents utilized by the nursing DHS, e.g. journals, and assessment forms, will be prohibited. If the facility permits copying of patient documents all patient data must be unidentifiable.

Patient information disclosure via electronic means such as telephone, voicemail, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), e-mail, camera, social networks, and fax will be prohibited. **Students are not permitted to remove any patient medical record from the clinical premises under any circumstances.**

The regulations require health care providers and other HIPAA-covered entities to “promptly” notify individuals affected by a data breach, in addition to the HHS Secretary and the media in cases where more than 500 individuals are affected, according to HHS. Breaches that affected fewer than 500 people must be reported to the HHS Secretary annually.

What this means for you as a Student Nurse:
The Office of Civil Rights of Health and Human services can impose civil and criminal penalties for privacy and security violations. Students responsible for breaches can be held personally liable for violations of privacy and security.

Any breaches of patient privacy or security should be reported immediately to your clinical faculty. Protected Health Information (PHI) includes all patient healthcare information including demographic (address, phone number, etc.) information, billing information, in any form electronic, paper, verbal.

Examples of Breaches of PHI that should be reported (not inclusive)
- Inappropriate access to PHI by students
- Email, “Twitter”, “Facebook”, “Instagram”, etc. entries containing PHI
- Paper PHI left unattended in a public area
- Lost or stolen laptops, computers, I-phones, Blackberry or other mobile devices which contain PHI
- Verbal communication about a patient shared inappropriately
- PHI accessed appropriately for business purposes (treatment, payment, healthcare operations), but then disclosed beyond business purposes
- Patient documents provided to wrong patient
- Lost or stolen USB drives, CDs, DVDs, etc. that may contain PHI data
- Photos, filming, or recording of a patient, patient record or any reference to a patient on cell phones, cameras, etc. without proper patient authorization

What you as a Student Nurse must do to secure PHI:
- Do not access, use, or disclose any patient information except for health care facility or approved nursing course purposes
- Patient identifiable information (e.g. age, name, initials and room number, etc.….) will not be placed on any documentation including clinical assessment forms and concept maps.
• Do not save patient information to laptops, computers, mobile phones & devices, camera, CDs, DVDs, external drives, USB (flash) drives or any other device
• Do not text/e-mail any patient information between cell phones or other mobile devices
• Never discuss clinical experiences outside of the classroom/clinical/lab setting (such as E-mail, Texting, Blogging, Twitter, Facebook)
• Dispose of paper in the appropriate recycle containers
• Do not carry PHI outside of the health care facility
• Ensure documents are provided to the correct patient

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES:
Any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action for unsafe practice which may result in suspension and/or expulsion. Each case will be investigated on a case by case basis.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY
“Social and electronic media have tremendous potential for strengthening personal relationships and providing valuable information to health care consumers, as well as affording students enrolled in Central Texas College, DHS a valuable opportunity to interface with colleagues from around the world. Students need to be aware of the potential consequences of disclosing patient-related information via social media, and mindful of affiliated agency policies, relevant state and federal laws, and professional standards regarding patient privacy and confidentiality and its application to social and electronic media. By being careful and conscientious, students enjoy the personal and professional benefits of social and electronic media without violating patient privacy and confidentiality (Adapted from A Nurse’s Guide to the Use of Social Media, National Council of State Boards of Nursing, (NCSBN), Jan.3, 2012).

The DHS follows the Central Texas College Social Media Guidelines, HR Policy 295- Computer Usage, Texas Nursing Practice Act, and the Texas Board of Nursing Rules and Regulation relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice related to social media. As health care professionals we must also follow HIPPA Guidelines. Student conduct is expected to be ethical, respectful, civil, and professional in all types of media/networking. Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension and expulsion.

Definition of Social Media:
As used in this policy, “social networking” or “social media use” means communicating with others over the Internet. Internet posting is any information transmitted electronically, such as text, files, pictures, video, audio, artwork, et cetera. This includes, but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, Myspace or blogs and can also include media sites that are offered by television networks, newspapers, and magazines. Transmission may be between individuals or businesses, or to websites, by browser, cell phone, email or any other electronic device or tool.

General Guidelines:
A. HIPAA
   Federal law reinforces and further defines privacy through the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA regulations are intended to protect patient health information (PHI) by defining individually identifiable information and establishing how this information may be used, by whom and under what circumstances (See HIPPA policy within this handbook).
   • Students are strictly prohibited from transmitting by way of an electronic media any patient-related image.
   • Students must not share, post or otherwise disseminate any information or images about a patient or information gained in the nurse/patient relationship with anyone unless there is a patient-care related need to disclose.
   • Students must not identify patients by name or post or publish any information that may lead to the identification of a patient.
• Students must not make disparaging remarks about patients, fellow students, faculty, or staff at affiliated agencies, even if the identity is concealed.
• Students are not to participate in acts of cyber-bullying. Cyber-bullying is when someone purposely embarrasses, harasses, or torments another using digital media.
• Students must not take photos or videos of patients or their health information record on any electronic or personal devices, including cell phones.
• Students will not use social media to interact with any patient.
• Students must maintain professional boundaries when using electronic media. Online contact with patients or former patients blurs the distinction between a professional and personal relationship.
• Students must promptly report any identified breach of confidentiality or privacy to the faculty.
• Students must not post content or otherwise speak on behalf of the Central Texas College, DHS.
• Students will not use the Central Texas College, DHS logo or any other CTC marks or images on any personal online site (CTC Catalog).
• Students will not use the Central Texas College, DHS name to promote or endorse any product, cause or political party or candidate (CTC Catalog).
• Students will not misrepresent Central Texas College, DHS in language, image or behavior.
• Students must not share any invasive procedure(s) images performed on patients, family members, and other students or oneself.

C. Excerpts from NCSBN
• Merely removing someone’s name (or face, in the instance of images) from a communication does not necessarily protect that person’s identity.
• It is a mistaken belief that content deleted from a site is no longer accessible. The moment something is posted; it lives on a server that can always be discoverable in a court of law.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES:
Any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension and expulsion from the DHS Program.

NURSING PROGRAMS SMOKING POLICY

Purpose
This policy lessens the health risk of tobacco usage to students, patients and all employees by prohibiting its use in all department related activities.

Guidelines
A. This policy applies to all students in the ADN and VN programs. At no time will nursing students be allowed to smoke, or use a device producing an illusion of smoking while in CTC scrub uniforms or lab coat. This policy is in effect for Simulation & skills lab, all clinical sites, and alternate clinical settings and when representing the CTC DHS at school and community events.
B. Smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco products, and any device producing an illusion of smoking is not permitted on campus (refer to CTC Smoking Policy No.230).
C. All students and employees have a responsibility to comply with this policy.

Procedures
Patients may be upset by the odor of smoke on caregivers’ clothing, hair, etc. If faculty, staff, patients or family members/visitors report concerns or problems due to odors on the student, the student will be sent home for the day and a grade of zero will be given on the clinical evaluation form for the day.

*See the current CTC Student Handbook for smoking and tobacco use policy. Failure to comply will result in campus citation. Repeat violators may be subject to fines and discipline pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES
CLINICAL ROTATION POLICIES

- I agree to abide by the Clinical Rotation Compliance policies listed in this handbook.
- I understand that any disciplinary action taken against me may be based on departmental, institutional and TBON Rules such as 217.11 Standards of Professional Nursing Practice, 217.12 Unprofessional Conduct, and 217.13 Good Character.
- I understand that when I am attired in my CTC nursing uniform (even after class/clinical/lab hours), I will be held accountable for upholding professional behavior and conduct.
- I understand that the designated nursing uniform which includes name tags and badges will be worn only for assigned CTC nursing activities as allowed by the nursing faculty of Central Texas College.
- I understand and will abide by the CTC and DHS No-Smoking policy while in school uniform policy when on campus or at clinical.
- I agree that I must inform clinical course faculty if I am assigned to a nursing care unit on which I am employed.
- I understand that clinical placements are based on approval/acceptance by each facility and at faculty discretion. My ability to progress/an/or continue in any DHS program will be affected if I am denied access by an affiliated clinical site.
- I understand that I am not to work the night shift immediately prior to the beginning of the clinical day shift.
- I understand that I am required to attend mandatory facility in-processing and/or training and/or orientation at times other than regularly scheduled clinical/class/lab hours. I will not be able to attend clinical without required mandatory training. I understand that failure to comply with the mandatory requirements for admission to the affiliated facility or failure to attend the designated orientation as scheduled and on time will result in administrative withdrawal from the course.
- I understand that, in order to begin any clinical course, I must provide documentation that health requirements and certifications are current through the end of the clinical course (annual flu shots are required by October 1st.)
- I understand that written documentation of medical release to return to class/clinical/lab must be in my record after serious illness, injury, surgery, pregnancy, etc.
- I understand that I am not to misrepresent CTC or the DHS or participate in any activity in which it could be construed that I am representing the DHS, or acting as a Student Nurse, whether on or off campus, unless I have been given permission.
- I understand that if I am suspected of being under the influence of a substance such as a drug or alcohol I will be immediately removed from patient care and will be required to obtain a for cause drug screen within two hours of the dismissal from clinical and/or as soon as possible.
- I understand that if I am removed from the clinical/simulation/lab setting for any reason, I will provide the clinical/simulation/lab faculty with documentation of the completed directive before assuming clinical/simulation/lab responsibilities.
- I understand that failure to abide by these rules may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion and reporting to the Texas Board of Nursing.
MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION POLICY
During the course of instruction, the student will acquire the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities which will enable the safe administration of medications. To this end, the faculty of Central Texas College DHS sets forth these policies governing medication administration.

General Procedures for Clinical Practice
1. The faculty will teach and supervise the preparation of medications on a one-to-one basis.
2. The student nurse will administer only those medications which they have prepared, following the rights and (three) checks of medication administration.
3. The student must identify the patient and explain any necessary procedures to the patient.
4. Before administering any medication ordered for the patient, the student must check the order on the chart; know the action of the drug, dosage, side effects, nursing implications and the reason for its administration to that particular patient.
5. The faculty will teach and supervise the administration of medication on a one-to-one basis until the student reaches an advanced semester. At this level the student will be under the continuous supervision of the faculty until such time as the faculty considers the student capable of administering medications safely without continuous supervision.
6. Each faculty will specify to the respective head nurse which student nurses are to give medications and to whom the medication will be given.
7. In addition to the policies herein stated, the faculty and students of this school will adhere to any such additional written policies identified by the affiliating institution and in the corresponding course syllabus.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES:
Any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action for unsafe practice which may result in suspension, or lead to program dismissal. Each case will be investigated on a case by case basis.

INVASIVE PROCEDURES POLICY
Students will be under the direct supervision of a CTC Faculty in the implementation of all invasive procedures. Faculty will have discretion in allowing students to perform these procedures independently in clinical. Students are expected to always consult with the faculty prior to any invasive procedure regardless if supervised or performed independently in lab or in clinical. At no time are program students allowed to practice any invasive procedure(s) on any human or animal on or off campus. Program lab kits issued to students are intended for skill practice only and are not for human or animal use. Consequences will fall under the prevue of the DHS per professional standards.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES:
Any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action for unsafe practice which may result in suspension or program dismissal. Each case will be investigated on a case by case basis.

Exposure Control Plan
It is the intent of the Central Texas College DHS to promote quality patient care and safety for patients, students; staff and faculty (see Philosophy).

Thus, due to the current issues concerning communicable disease [e.g., hepatitis, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases and autoimmune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)], please see the following for policies, recommendations and guidelines for students and faculty: the most current copy of the CTC Student Handbook; the Center for Disease Control web site: http://www.cdc.gov; http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodborneopathogens, the Texas Department of State Health Services web site: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us and the Texas Administrative Code: Title 25 Health Services Chapter 96 Blood borne Pathogen Control-amended in 2006; Chapter 97 Communicable Diseases –amended Apr2016.

National Patient Safety Goals
The DHS adheres to the National Patient Safety Goals identified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The Joint Commission's Board of Commissioners approves the National Patient Safety Goals annually. See http://www.jcaho.org/ for additional information.
Safe Patient Handling and Ergonomics
Current practice guidelines set forth by Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) related to safe patient handling and ergonomics will be implemented. The ANA standards on Safe Patient Handling and Mobility (SPHM) provide for a safer work environment and improved patient outcomes (June 2013).

Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN)
Six areas of core competencies, as delineated by the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) project, will be taught and evaluated in relation to course objectives and content for RNSG/VNSG courses. The (QSEN) project is to meet the challenge of preparing future nurses who will have the knowledge, skills and attitudes (KSAs) necessary to continuously improve the quality and safety of the healthcare systems within which they work. The six core competencies are Patient-Centered Care, Teamwork and Collaboration, Evidence Based Practice, Quality Improvement, Safety, and Informatics.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures (Fire or Bomb Threat)
When an alarm sounds, immediately evacuate through the nearest exit, assisting individuals with mobility issues. DO NOT:
- Delay to pack up and collect belongings.
- Use elevators.

Go to the designated meeting place for your class or department. Stay at least 300 feet from the affected building(s).

Emergency Lockdown Procedures
When an emergency occurs, our Emergency Alert system will send e-mail, text messages and voice messages to students and employees in as little as 90 seconds.

Comply immediately when instructed to lock down or take shelter.
1. Violence on Campus:
   - Immediately get in a room, close and barricade the door, close windows and blinds, turn off lights, silence cell phones, and remain quiet. Quietly call 911 (if able) to report the emergency. DO NOT open the door to let others in or out until given the “all clear” by police or someone in authority known to you. DO NOT evacuate if fire alarm sounds, unless you know for certain a fire exists.

2. Tornado/Weather:
   - Immediately move to an interior room with no windows, close door and stay in place until given the all clear by police or administration.
   - This may also include Emergency Campus Wide alarms

Students who fail to comply with the emergency evacuation and lockdown procedures will be identified; their ID card may be confiscated, and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Bioterrorism
For information on bioterrorism, please see the following web site: http://www.cdc.gov

Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Illness
CTC DHS is committed to facilitating a healthy environment for students so that optimal safety of patients can be assured. Faculty is concerned about the welfare of the impaired student, and they accept the responsibility to recognize the impaired behavior and refer the student to the appropriate campus program.

The purpose of this action is to identify behaviors and refer when student performance in the class or clinical or lab area endangers patient health and safety and would, if demonstrated by an ADN or VN, be considered a violation of the Texas statutes regulating the practice of professional or vocational nursing.

Any Department of Health Sciences student who is suspected of being under the influence of a substance such as a drug or alcohol will be immediately removed from patient care. The student will be safely transported off the grounds and will be required to obtain a for cause drug screen within two hours of the dismissal from clinical (or as soon as testing is available). Per TBON Rule 214.8/215.8 “Intemperate use, abuse of drugs or alcohol, or diagnosis of or treatment for a substance use disorder, mental illness, or diminished mental capacity may be grounds for dismissal from the program. The cost for all drug screens will be the responsibility of the student.
CTC Student and Employee Assistance Program provides support for the following:

**Individual Counseling**
- Anxiety and stress management
- Personal loss/grieve
- Test anxiety/math anxiety
- Depression
- Relationship issues
- Marital counseling (short term referral)

**Group Counseling**
- Smoking cessation
- International students
- Life transition support
- Relevant topics for dorm living (spring and fall)

**Substance Abuse Resource Center Meetings**
- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
- Overeaters Anonymous (OA)

**Preceptorship**
In the last semester of the ADN program, students have an option to precept one to one with a DHS trained Registered Nurse in the community, to complete their clinical hours with an independent schedule. *Ranking will first be based on Overall RNSG GPA after completion of the 3rd semester. If two or more students’ overall 3rd semester GPA are equal the following will be used for secondary ranking.*
1. Maintained a course average of 75% in all RNSG courses with no RNSG course failures.
2. Student was prepared for clinical with no unexcused absences, was not tardy, or has no incomplete paperwork submissions.
3. Student has no formal written counseling’s related to violations of policy and procedures.
4. Student has minimal prompting, performed procedures within the scope of practice with minimal direction needed by faculty. Student was at or above expected clinical standards.
5. Student demonstrates professionalism and civility at all times and has no formal behavioral counseling’s and/or pink slips that relate to violations in professional and/or civility.

Selectees must maintain a passing average in all Semester IV courses, RNSG 2221, RNSG 2331 and RNSG 2363, in order to remain in the preceptorship program. If the selected student’s average falls below this requirement, the student will be removed from the preceptorship program and placed in another clinical rotation for the remainder of the semester.

*Final clinical placement is at the discretion of the faculty. Student preferences related to location of personal residence will be considered when possible.*

**Student Governance**

**Associate Degree Nursing Curriculum Committee**

a. The purpose of this committee is to provide ongoing development and evaluation of the Associate Degree curriculum in accordance with the philosophy/mission of the DHS.

b. Membership in this committee shall consist of the entire full-time faculty, lab manager, Nursing Programs Director, DHS Clinical Coordinator, Simulation Lab Operations Manager one full-time Vocational Nursing faculty and one full-time Emergency Medical Technology faculty and an elected student representative from each semester in session. Students will serve at least one semester. The committee shall meet monthly during Fall and Spring semesters.

c. The Chair shall be elected in the Spring to serve the following academic year. Thence, the Chair Elect will be elected in the spring and will serve as Chair Elect during the following academic year. The Chair Elect assumes the Chair for the next academic year. In the absence of the Chair, the Chair Elect will assume responsibilities.
d. The functions of this Committee shall beto:
   i. Develop, implement, maintain, and revise the Systematic Program of Evaluation.
   ii. Correlate program, level, course and unit objectives to ensure continuity and progression.
   iii. Receive and act upon recommendations from faculty, students, faculty committees, and Advisory committee.
   iv. Develop, review, and revise the Associate Degree Nursing Program Curriculum of the DHS.
   v. Report to the CTC Curriculum Committee appropriate curriculum changes for approval.

**Vocational Nursing Curriculum Committee**

a. The purpose of this committee is to provide ongoing development and evaluation of the Vocational Nursing Curriculum in accordance with the philosophy/mission of the DHS.

b. Membership in this committee shall consist of all full-time faculty, lab manager, Nursing Programs Director, and an elected student representative from each semester in session. The Simulation Lab Operations Manager and DHS Clinical Coordinator are Ex Officio to the committee. The committee shall meet monthly during Fall and Spring semesters with a minimum of 3 meetings per semester.

c. The Chair shall be elected beginning the Spring semester to serve the following academic year.

d. The functions of this committee shall be:
   i. Develop, implement, maintain, and revise the Systematic Program Evaluation.
   ii. Correlate program, level, course and unit objectives to ensure continuity and progression.
   iii. Receive and act upon recommendations from faculty, students, faculty committees, and Advisory committee.
   iv. Develop, review, and revise the Vocational Nursing Program Curriculum of the DHS.
   v. Report to the CTC Curriculum Committee appropriate curriculum changes for approval.

**Student Curriculum Volunteers:** Student representatives serve as spokespersons for their cohort, on feedback regarding the curriculum and the student experience. Each Curriculum Meeting begins with student input from each semester on how the semester is going. Curriculum suggestions or concerns at the cohort level are to utilize the chain of command to begin with a course lead or clinical instructor. If a suggestion or change from the student(s) is indicated for the Curriculum Committee, the faculty will help them submit an SBAR to the Curriculum Committee, within communicated deadlines. See the Appendix for the Curriculum SBAR template.

**Central Texas College DHS Student Nurses Association**
The Central Texas College (CTC) Student Nurses Association (SNA) is part of the National Student Nurse Association (NSNA) which is the largest independent student organization in the country and the only national organization for students of nursing.

For a membership fee a student can participate in this organization which is dedicated to giving student nurses the opportunity to contribute to their nursing education now and assisting them to prepare for future leadership roles. The members become familiar with current professional activities, educational changes and needs, and community health care needs, among other things. More important, though, is the emphasis by the association on direct involvement in these activities from the early planning stages through implementation of programs. The student members are also encouraged by the association to participate in interdisciplinary activities and to continue working with other professional nursing organizations. The CTC SNA posts scheduled monthly meetings.

For assistance in posting flyers for events, please check with DHS Administration for the campus policy.

**Central Texas College DHS National Association of Licensed Practical Nurses**
A national organization that encourages professional development of vocational nursing students and promotes student involvement in the CTC community and the National Association of Licensed Practical Nurses (NALPN). The organization fosters a strong relationship between nursing students and faculty, as well, as a cohesive relationship among each other.
**Nursing Honors**

**Associate Degree Nursing**
Nursing Honors are awarded to any student who, at the conclusion of Semester IV, has a GPA of 3.5 or higher in the RNSG courses.

Nursing Highest Honors are awarded to any student who, at the conclusion of Semester IV, has a GPA of 3.8 or higher in the RNSG courses.

**Vocational Nursing**
Nursing Honors are awarded to any student who, at the conclusion of Semester III, has a GPA of 3.5 or higher in their VNSG courses.

Nursing Highest Honors is awarded to any student who, at the conclusion of Semester III, has a GPA of 3.8 or higher in their VNSG courses.

**Nursing Pinning Ceremony**
The pinning ceremony has been a long-held graduation tradition that signifies that you are now a full-fledged graduate nurse. The nurse pinning ceremony dates back more than 1,000 years ago.

Nurses enter the ceremony wearing their traditional white uniforms. Even though many nurses today do not wear the cap any longer in the health care environment, during the ceremony they do wear the traditional nurse’s cap.

A nursing leader is selected by the graduating class to provide a speech to inspire and congratulate the new nursing graduates. The speaker may be a faculty or community leader.

The pinning of the graduate nurses at CTC is performed by faculty, selected by the graduating class. The pin represents the rite of passage into the nursing profession. The graduates are pinned over their heart.

During the candle lighting ceremony, the Nursing Program Director’s candle lights the Semester Coordinators’ candles and thus lights the graduate students’ candles; representing one of the most well-known nurses, Florence Nightingale. This symbolizes the “passing of the flame” from Nightingale to each nurse. The Candle Lighting is followed by the reciting of the Nightingale Pledge.

After pinning, candle lighting and recitation of the pledge, graduates may wear their school pin, which signifies they are members of the nursing community.

Requirements for the CTC ADN/VN Pinning Ceremony:
2. Nursing Cap.
3. Nursing Lamp.
4. CTC ADN/VN Program School Pin.

*Participation in the pinning ceremony is optional, not mandatory.*
Nursing Program Dismissals

1. **Central Texas College** may dismiss any student whose health, conduct, personal qualities, excessive absences or scholastic records indicate that it would be inadvisable for that student to continue with the program.

2. **The DHS** may dismiss a student for the following general reasons:
   A. Unsafe nursing practice - as defined by the Texas Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations and Program Policies.
   B. Unprofessional conduct – as defined by the Nurse Practice Act; see Unprofessional Code of Conduct in this Student Handbook.
   C. Failure to maintain the Student Code of Conduct per the DHS Student Handbook and CTC Student Handbook.
   D. Breach of confidential information related to Protected Health Information (PHI), Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and social mediapolicy.

3. **Per the Texas Board of Nursing** reasons for dismissal shall include any demonstration of the following, including, but not limited to:
   A. evidence of actual or potential harm to patients, clients, or the public;
   B. criminal behavior, whether violent or non-violent, directed against persons, property or public order and decency;
   C. intemperate use, abuse of drugs or alcohol, or diagnosis of or treatment for chemical dependency, mental illness, or diminished mental capacity; and
   D. the lack of good professional character as evidenced by a single incident or an integrated pattern of personal, academic, and/or occupational behaviors which indicates that an individual is unable to consistently conform his or her conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board’s rules and regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice including, but not limited to: behaviors indicating honesty, accountability, trustworthiness, reliability, and integrit
Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) Policies

There are questions on the Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) Application for Licensure regarding criminal convictions, treatment for mental illness, and alcohol or drug addiction / treatment. The TBON may deny licensure to individuals with previous problems in one or more of these areas. Please go to http://www.bon.state.tx.us for information.

Texas Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations

Please refer to the Texas Board of Nursing’ web site: http://www.bon.state.tx.us for the Rules and Regulations Relating to Professional Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice

Questions that appear on the application for licensure as an RN in the State of Texas as of 09/2008:

SECTION D: Eligibility Questions

1) [ ] No [ ] Yes For any criminal offense, including those pending appeal, have you:
   A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
   B. been convicted of a felony?
   C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
   D. received deferred adjudication?
   E. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
   F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? Court-ordered confinement?
   G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
   H. been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?
   I. been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
   J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?

(You may only exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations.)

NOTE: Expunged and Sealed Offenses: While expunged or sealed offenses, arrests, tickets, or citations need not be disclosed, it is your responsibility to ensure the offense, arrest, ticket or citation has, in fact, been expunged or sealed. It is recommended that you submit a copy of the Court Order expunging or sealing the record in question to our office with your application. Failure to reveal an offense, arrest, ticket, or citation that is not in fact expunged or sealed, will at a minimum, subject your license to a disciplinary fine. Non-disclosure of relevant offenses raises questions related to truthfulness and character.

NOTE: Orders of Non-Disclosure: Pursuant to Tex. Gov’t Code § 552.142(b), if you have criminal matters that are the subject of an order of non-disclosure you are not required to reveal those criminal matters on this form. However, a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure may become a character and fitness issue. Pursuant to other sections of the Gov’t Code chapter 411, the Texas Nursing Board is entitled to access criminal history record information that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure. If the Board discovers a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure, even if you properly did not reveal that matter, the Board may require you to provide information about any conduct that raises issues of character.

2) [ ] No [ ] Yes Are you currently the target or subject of a grand jury or governmental agency investigation?
3) [ ] No [ ] Yes Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew a professional license, certificate or multi-state privilege held by you now or previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you?
4) [ ] No [ ] Yes Within the past five (5) years have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?*
5) [ ] No [ ] Yes Within the past five (5) years have you been diagnosed with, treated, or hospitalized for schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorder, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder?

If “YES” indicate the condition: [ ] schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorders, [ ] bipolar disorder, [ ] paranoid personality disorder, [ ] antisocial personality disorder, [ ] borderline personality disorder If you answered “YES” to any of the questions listed above, attach a letter of explanation that is dated and signed indicating the circumstance(s) you are reporting to the Board.

* If you are licensed as an LVN in the State of Texas and are currently participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses you may answer “NO” to questions #4 and #5.
1. Have you ever been convicted, placed on community supervision whether or not adjudicated guilty, sentenced to serve jail or prison time or granted pre-trial diversion, or plead guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, or received a court order whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrests whether or not on appeal (excluding minor Class C traffic violations)? This includes expunged offenses and deferred adjudications with or without a finding of guilt. Please note that DUIS, DWIs, and PIs must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations. One-time minor in possession [MIP] or minor in consumption [MIC] does not need to be disclosed; therefore, you may answer "No." If you have two or more MIPs or MICs, you must answer "Yes." You may answer "No" if you have previously disclosed a criminal matter otherwise responsive to this question in a renewal and/or licensure form.

2. Do you have any criminal charges pending, including unresolved arrests?

3. Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew a professional license, certificate or multi-state privilege held by you now or previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you?

4. Within the past five (5) years have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use or alcohol or any other drug?

5. Within the past five (5) years have you been diagnosed with, treated, or hospitalized for schizophrenia and/or psychotic bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder?

If you answered “YES” to any of the questions listed above, attach a letter of explanation that is dated and signed indicating the circumstance you are reporting to the Board. Mail to the Texas Board of Nursing for the State of Texas, P0 Box 430, Austin, TX 78767-0430; 333 Guadalupe, #3-460 Austin, TX 78701. *If you are licensed as an LVN in the State of Texas and are currently participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses you may answer “NO” to questions #4 and #5.

Eligibility requirements can be found website at: http://www.bon.state.tx.us

Licensure Eligibility Notification Form
I hereby verify that I have received and have had the following documents regarding licensure eligibility for registered professional nurses in Texas explained to me:

1. 301.251-301.258 and 301.451-301.469 of the Nursing Practice Act.

3) Eligibility Questions, TBON Application by NCLEX-RN® and Petition for Declaratory Order(09/2008).

[ ] Yes [ ] No (1) Are you enrolled, planning to enroll, or have you graduated from a nursing program? Name of Nursing Program: Location:

Type of Nursing Program: (circle one) LVN RN

Date of Enrollment: _______________ Date of Graduation: _______________

[ ] Yes [ ] No (2) For any criminal offense, including those pending appeal, have you:
A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
B. been convicted of a felony?
C. pled no contest, no contest, or guilty?
D. received deferred adjudication?
E. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement?
G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
H. been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?
I. been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action? (You may only exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations.)

NOTE: Expunged and Sealed Offenses: While expunged or sealed offenses, arrests, tickets, or citations need not be disclosed, it is your responsibility to ensure the offense, arrest, ticket or citation has, in fact, been expunged or sealed. It is recommended that you submit a copy of the Court Order expunging or sealing the record in question to our office with your application. Failure to reveal an offense, arrest, ticket, or citation that is not in fact expunged or sealed, will at a minimum, subject your license to a disciplinary fine.
Non-disclosure of relevant offenses raises questions related to truthfulness and character.

NOTE: Orders of Non-Disclosure: Pursuant to Tex. Gov’t Code § 552.142(b), if you have criminal matters that are the subject of an order of non-disclosure you are not required to reveal those criminal matters on this form. However, a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure may become a character and fitness issue. Pursuant to other sections of the Gov’t Code chapter 411, the Texas Nursing Board is entitled to access criminal history record information that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure. If the Board discovers a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure, even if you properly did not reveal that matter, the Board may require you to provide information about any conduct that raises issues of character.

Applicant’s Name (PRINT): __________________________ Social Security # ____________

Applicant’s Name (PRINT): __________________________

Date: _______ / _______ / _______

For Office Use Only Date: _______ Amount: Audit #: __________

Applicant's Name: __________________________

Location of Nursing Program: __________________________

Type of Nursing Program: (circle one) LVN RN Date of Enrollment: _______ Date of Graduation: _______

[ ] Yes [ ] No (3.) Are you currently the target or subject of a grand jury or governmental agency investigation?

[ ] Yes [ ] No (4.) Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, canceled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew a license, certificate or multi-state privilege held by you now or previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you?

[ ] Yes [ ] No (5.) Within the past five (5) years have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?*

[ ] Yes [ ] No (6.) Within the past five (5) years have you been diagnosed with, treated, or hospitalized for schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder?*

If “YES” indicate the condition: [ ] schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorders, [ ] bipolar disorder, [ ] paranoid personality disorder, [ ] antisocial personality disorder, [ ] borderline personality disorder

***IF YOU ANSWER “YES” TO ANY QUESTION #2 - #6. YOU MUST PROVIDE A SIGNED AND DATED LETTER DESCRIBING THE INCIDENCE(S) THAT YOU ARE REPORTING TO THE BOARD.

*You may indicate “NO” if you have completed and/or are in compliance with Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) for substance abuse or mental illness.

[ ] Yes [ ] No (1.) Are you enrolled, planning to enroll, or have you graduated from a nursing program? Name of Nursing Program:

Location of Nursing Program: __________________________

City State

[ ] Yes [ ] No (3.) Do you have any criminal charges pending, including unresolved arrests?

[ ] Yes [ ] No (4.) Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, canceled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew a license, certificate or multi-state privilege held by you now or previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you?

[ ] Yes [ ] No (5.) Within the past five (5) years have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?*

[ ] Yes [ ] No (6.) Within the past five (5) years have you been diagnosed with, treated, or hospitalized for schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder?*

Indicate the condition: [ ] schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorders [ ] bipolar disorder [ ] paranoid personality disorder [ ] antisocial personality disorder [ ] borderline personality disorder

***FOR ALL QUESTIONS THAT YOU ANSWER “YES” TO ABOVE, YOU MUST PROVIDE SIGNED AND DATED LETTER DESCRIBING THE INCIDENCE(S) THAT YOU ARE REPORTING TO THE BOARD.

*You may indicate “NO” if you have completed and/or are in compliance with TPAPN for substance abuse or mental illness. I, ____________, being duly sworn, depose, and say that I am the Petitioner, that the statements herein contained are true in every respect, and I consent to the release of confidential information from all relevant sources to the Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) for the duration of time necessary to resolve my petition and further authorize the TBON to use and release said information as needed for the evaluation and disposition of my petition.

MUST BE SIGNED IN PRESENCE OF A NOTARY * APPLICANT’S SIGNATURE AFFIX NOTARY SEAL BELOW

Sworn to before me this day of, Notary Public Signature/State of My Commission Expires

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Web Resources

ADN/ VN Programs

- DHS Nursing Student Handbook (current) can be found at:
  http://www.ctcd.edu/academics/instructional-departments/nursing/
- CTC Student Handbook (current) at:
  https://www.ctcd.edu/sites/ctcd/assets/File/Student%20Life/studenthandbook.pdf
- CTC DSS Student Procedures Manual (current) at:
- Texas Board of Nursing: http://www.bne.state.tx.us
- Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN): http://www.acenursing.org/
- National Council for State Boards of Nursing: www.ncsbn.org
- National League of Nursing: http://www.nln.org/
- Differentiated Entry Level Competencies of Graduates of Nursing Programs:
- Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN): http://qsen.org/

Helpful Campus Numbers

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<th>Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>Admissions and Records</td>
<td>(254) 526-1696</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ctcd.edu/academics/catalog/catalog-texas/admissions-and-registration/">https://www.ctcd.edu/academics/catalog/catalog-texas/admissions-and-registration/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookstore</td>
<td>(254) 526-1219</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ctcbookstore.com/">https://www.ctcbookstore.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance Learning</td>
<td>(254) 526-1296</td>
<td><a href="https://online.ctcd.edu/aboutus.cfm">https://online.ctcd.edu/aboutus.cfm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>(254) 526-1559/1508</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ctcd.edu/students/current-ctc-students/financial-aid/">https://www.ctcd.edu/students/current-ctc-students/financial-aid/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Guidance and Counseling</td>
<td>(254) 526-1226</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ctcd.edu/locations/central-campus/student-support/academic-advising/">https://www.ctcd.edu/locations/central-campus/student-support/academic-advising/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT/Help Desk</td>
<td>(254) 501-3103</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ctcd.edu/students/student-it-services/">https://www.ctcd.edu/students/student-it-services/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>(254) 526-1621</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ctcd.edu/academics/library/">https://www.ctcd.edu/academics/library/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>(254) 526-1131</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ctcd.edu/students/current-ctc-students/registration/">https://www.ctcd.edu/students/current-ctc-students/registration/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td>(254) 526-1298</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ctcd.edu/academics/catalog/catalog-continental-international/student-services/">https://www.ctcd.edu/academics/catalog/catalog-continental-international/student-services/</a></td>
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