



 School of  
Nursing  
Andrews University

**Student Handbook**  
**2019–2020** **RN–BSN**



# **RN–BSN Student’s Handbook: 2019–2020**

As an Andrews University nursing student, I understand that I must follow the procedures and policies that are included in this handbook, as well as the Andrews University Bulletin.

**I acknowledge that I am responsible for this material.**

**Student’s Name (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student’s Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

This page is the property of the Andrews University School of Nursing, and shall remain in the department files online.

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# RN-BSN NURSING PROGRAM

## Introduction/Welcome

Welcome to the Andrews University School of Nursing. The Andrews University Nursing program is approved by the Michigan Board of Nursing and holds accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

**This handbook is designed to orient you to policies used throughout the nursing courses.**

## Vision

To prepare professional nurses to reflect Christian spirituality, caring attitudes, clinical excellence and cultural competence for service and practice in concert with the four main initiatives from the Institute of Medicine and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's report on the future of nursing (October 5, 2010):

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression
- Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning healthcare in the United States
- Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure

## Mission Statement

The Andrews University School of Nursing, a program based on Seventh-day Adventist precepts and Restoration to the Image of God, provides transformational nursing education which equips students to function as professional nurses in direct care, advanced practice, research and education. Through the following activities, the School of Nursing encourages students to Seek Knowledge, Affirm Faith and provide Changes that impact the World of healthcare:

SEEK KNOWLEDGE	AFFIRM FAITH	CHANGE THE WORLD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare nurses that provide culturally competent, high quality, evidenced-based, patient-centered care</li><li>• Prepare nurses for first-time licensing and certification success</li><li>• Encourage lifelong learning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare nurses to practice within the Christian context of "Restoration to the Image of God"</li><li>• Promote personal spiritual growth</li><li>• Teach theoretical underpinning of wellness, illness and disease within the context of the Great Controversy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach with service/mission focus; medical evangelism</li><li>• Teach current whole-person nursing care across the life span which addresses wellness and illness</li><li>• Prepare nurse leaders with a mindset for professional and ethical practice which incorporates communication (all venues), teamwork and collaboration</li></ul>

# Philosophy

The School of Nursing believes in the Great Controversy between good and evil. We believe that in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth; the crowning act of creation was man and woman in His Image. When Adam and Eve sinned, they began a process of total degeneration in spiritual, mental, physical, social and emotional health that continues today. In order to interrupt this degeneration, Jesus came to this earth to live a perfect life and die for the sins of humanity, thus providing for perfect Restoration to the Image of God and consequent eternal life which will be actualized at the second coming of Jesus. For the individual, this is possible only through accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and maintaining an ongoing relationship with Him.

The student who enters this nursing program accepts the educational environment in which they will be prepared to deliver nursing care that demonstrates the goodness, grace and forgiveness of God. They will also be able to express how the presence and saving power of Jesus Christ has positively affected their personal and professional life.

This philosophy will influence education and learning, curricular development, and teaching strategies. In addition, it is anticipated that this philosophy will influence the personal health, character, professional performance, ethical judgments and moral integrity of faculty, staff and students.

## Conceptual Framework

### **Key Concept: Restoration**

Restoration to the Image of God is the ultimate goal of Christian nursing practice. Christian nurses believe that any improvement in spiritual, mental, physical, social or emotional health is a part of restoration to the Image of God. Christian nurses acknowledge that, in spite of effort, perfect restoration will not be complete on this earth, and illness and degeneration will continue to occur until the second coming of Jesus. Despite this, God has given a biblically-based formula for health and a degree of restoration as allowed on earth. The goal of Christian nursing is to utilize this formula in all nursing activities to promote and maintain health, prevent disease, and treat acute and chronic illness.

This formula is based on the original Eight Natural remedies/laws of health (White, 1905): pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in Divine Power. This formula has been a springboard for other representations such as NEWSTART (Weimar, 1978):

**Nutrition**

**Exercise**

**Water**

**Sunshine**

**Temperance**

**Air**

**Rest**

**Trust in Divine Power**

and C.R.E.A.T.I.O.N. Health (Reed, 2007) which includes:

Choice  
Rest  
Environment  
Activity  
Trust in Divine Power  
Interpersonal relationships  
Outlook  
Nutrition

## Conceptual Definitions

### Restoration

- Returning to an ideal state
- Returning to a previous state of wellbeing, or achieving a state better than what is currently experience

### Image of God

- A multi-dimensional concept related to all aspects of human existence.
- The ultimate goal is enhancing the divine image in persons, families, communities, institutions and systems in ways that promote health and prevent disease.
- Restoration may be related to physical, mental, social or spiritual health. While ideally nurses strive to restore clients in all dimensions, improvement in any area helps move a client toward restoration. Therefore, even an individual with a terminal illness may be “restored” toward the image of God through other dimensions of health. The same holds true with any deficit that is keeping an individual from being in complete health.

### Disease

- An interruption, cessation, or disorder of body functions, systems or organs. Source: *Stedman's Medical Dictionary for the Health Professions and Nursing*, 7th ed. (2011). Baltimore, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

### Illness

- Illness is a state in which a person's physical, emotional, intellectual, social, developmental or spiritual functioning is diminished or impaired compared with previous experience. Source: *Potter, P.A. & Perry, A.G., Fundamentals of Nursing*, 9th ed. (2016). St. Louis, MO: Mosby, Inc.

### Degeneration

- Deterioration; passing from a higher to a lower level or type. 2. A worsening of mental, physical or moral qualities. 3. A retrogressive pathologic change in cells or tissues, in consequence of which their functions are often impaired or destroyed; sometimes reversible; in the early stages, necrosis results. Source: *Stedman's Medical Dictionary for the Health Professions and Nursing*, 7th ed. (2011). Baltimore, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

### **Promote and Maintain Health**

- Involves individuals or aggregates in a process of self-determination of practices and choices enhancing global wellness.
- Health promotion is based on knowledge and understanding of laws of health and the active choice of improvement of personal health habits.
- Resources and skills must be developed so that current health is maintained or a higher level of health can be achieved.

### **Prevent Disease**

- Associated with behaviors that assist at-risk individuals or aggregates in avoiding development of or complications related to specific conditions.
- Primary prevention relates to protection against specific health problems, with the focus on increasing a person's resistance to specific illness.
- Secondary prevention involves early identification of and prompt intervention for health problems.
- Tertiary prevention/disease management is concerned with restoration and rehabilitation within limits imposed by a health problem, once a condition is already present.

### **Treat Acute and Chronic Illness**

- Associated with behaviors that assist at-risk individuals or aggregates in avoiding development of or complications related to specific conditions.
- Primary prevention relates to protection against specific health problems, with the focus on increasing a person's resistance to specific illness.
- Secondary prevention involves early identification of and prompt intervention for health problems.
- Tertiary prevention/disease management is concerned with restoration and rehabilitation within limits imposed by a health problem, once a condition is already present.

## **Program and Student Learning Outcomes**

The purpose of the School of Nursing is to prepare nurses to serve the global community. The curriculum of the department is based on the framework of Seventh-day Adventist precepts and the concept of Restoration to the Image of God.

The department also supports the ANA Standards of Care; the AACN Essentials of Bachelor Education for Professional Nursing Practice; Nurse Practice Acts; Institute of Medicine Report; Quality and Safety Education for Nurses; and NLN Hallmarks of Excellence in Nursing Education as a basis for preparing nurses to meet societies evolving healthcare needs.

### **PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

Andrews University School of Nursing program outcomes are as follows:

- At least 55 percent of students will complete the program within 3 years of starting the program.
- At least 80 percent of alumni who respond to survey will express satisfaction with the nursing program.
- At least 80 percent of alumni seeking role-specific employment will be successful within 6–12 months of graduation.



## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR BACHELOR DEGREE**

Students who successfully complete the bachelor program, will:

- Reflect in their nursing care the application of Christian values and formula for health for the purpose of “Restoring humans to the image of God.”
- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity using verbal, non-verbal, and written methods.
- Foster open and effective communication using verbal, non-verbal, written, and technological methods.
- Utilize critical thinking, clinical reasoning, judgment, evidence-based practice and research in implementation of the nursing process, while delivering patient-centered care.
- Apply leadership concepts, principles of advocacy and decision making in the provision of quality patient care.
- Function effectively as part of intra and inter-professional teams, fostering open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision-making to achieve quality patient care.

## Policy Statements

### **NOTICE REGARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

All nursing majors are expected to be familiar with and observe the policies and procedures of Andrews University and the department. These policies and procedures can be found in:

1. *Andrews University Bulletin*
2. *Andrews University School of Nursing Student Handbook—RN-BSN*
3. *Andrews University Student Handbook*

The Andrews University School of Nursing Student Handbook is available at the beginning of each school year online. Policies and procedures may be reviewed through online meetings (zoom sessions). Students are responsible for attending these meetings and for the information discussed there. In addition, new policies and procedures implemented during the school year will be communicated via Andrews University email and/or course management system (LearningHub).

*\*Additional note: policy changes yearly.*

### **UNRESTRICTIVE POLICIES**

Unrestrictive policies (those which do not disadvantage students) take effect upon approval, after being communicated to nursing students by announcement via Andrews University email and/or course management system (LearningHub).

### **RESTRICTIVE POLICIES**

Policies which may have a restrictive impact upon students' progress into and through the nursing programs shall be implemented according to the following schedule:

Approved policies shall take effect at the beginning of the academic year of the bulletin in which they are published unless it has to do with curriculum/program changes that affect the integrity of the program. Policies will be communicated via Andrews University email, bulletin board and/or course management system (Learning-Hub) following approval by the appropriate council, with the expected date of implementation.

## **NURSING STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT—DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

### **Why a Nursing Student Code of Conduct**

It is important to understand that the standards of conduct to which students are called apply not only to the classroom and online environments, but to all student interactions including those with teachers, with other students in the School of Nursing (both online and on-campus) and with the community at large. In all of these interactions, nursing students represent Christ, the School of Nursing, School of Health Professions (SHP) and Andrews University (AU). Therefore, students are expected to live according to the standards and ideals set forth in the Holy Scriptures and policies of the aforementioned entities.

The School of Nursing is being intentional about contacting other schools, departments, offices and entities on campus so that regular channels of communication are established related to matters of nursing student conduct. We want to know from others how our students are functioning elsewhere so that they know that the nursing department is serious about the conduct of its students, and that action will be taken when problems occur.

The policies to which nursing students are held include those that apply to all students of Andrews University as identified in the Andrews University Student Handbook and the American Nursing Association Code of Ethics.

*Andrews University Student Handbook: (<https://bulletin.andrews.edu/content.php?catoid=14&navoid=2476>)*

*American Nursing Association Code of Ethics: (<http://nursingworld.org/DocumentVault/Ethics-1/Code-of-Ethics-for-Nurses.html>)*

When incidents of substance abuse, discrimination, harassment, bullying, sexual harassment, stalking, sexual assault, domestic/relationship violence or other incidents of criminal behavior are reported, they will be handled first by the University's Division of Campus & Student Life. This office will notify the SHP Dean's Office who will refer the matter to the Nursing Department Student Conduct Committee (NDSCC). This committee, working in conjunction with Campus & Student Life, will consider each report, and may impose penalties in addition to those imposed by the University. Disciplinary actions may include but are not limited to the following:

- A requirement to participate in counseling sessions.
- Reparation/restitution being made to the offended party.
- Suspension from the nursing department's program of study for a period of time.
- Dismissal from the nursing program.

If referred for counseling, a student will be required to sign a release of information giving the counselor/therapist permission to disclose to the Nursing Department Student Conduct Committee a clinical summary of the student's progress and of any recommendations that are made. In making the referral to the counselor/therapist, the Committee will give the counselor/therapist the specifics of the Committee's concerns and supporting documentation. The student will be asked to sign a release of information giving the Committee permission to disclose this information. A refusal to sign these release of information forms will result in indefinite suspension or dismissal from the School of Nursing, depending upon the seriousness of the offense.

Likewise, when another entity on campus (e.g., Campus & Student Life) is involved in the disciplinary process, a full report of their investigation and actions taken will be required by the Nursing Department Student Conduct Committee. If they make recommendations in addition to those made by the committee, a report of the outcome of their recommendations will be required by the committee before any recommendation for student reinstatement will be made.

This policy is intended to convey to the University and larger communities that the School of Nursing does not condone nor support any type of behavior in which our students are perpetrators of violence of any type, bullying, predatory behavior, sexual misconduct or threats to harm another. The objectives of this policy are: 1) that the School of Nursing will be a safe place for its students, faculty and staff—both male and female—to pursue their studies and work, and 2) that nursing students will safely relate to others and faculty on the online or face-to-face learning environments of Andrews University's campus.

### **Nursing Department Student Conduct Committee**

The Nursing Department Student Conduct Committee (NDSCC) is composed of five members including the department chair, program director, student advisor, Campus & Student Life representative, and one other individual, taking diversity into consideration. This committee will be empowered by the dean's office to act on its behalf in all matters of student misconduct and discipline.

The NDSCC is tasked with reviewing complaints related to nursing student conduct, gathering data from as many sources as possible to assess the truth of the complaint, evaluating the egregiousness of the conduct violation, and making a decision about the disciplinary action that will be taken. When a disciplinary action is taken, the NDSCC will assign one or more individuals from the nursing department to maintain contact with the student for purposes of redemptive mentoring, encouragement and support. When the student is involved in counseling or other forms of remedial action, a report will be sent to the NDSCC and evaluated by the committee. Students undergoing any type of disciplinary action cannot be returned to active student status without a positive recommendation from the NDSCC.

Appeals to the decisions of the NDSCC must be made to the dean of the School of Health Professions.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In harmony with its mission statement (*Andrews University Bulletin*), Andrews University expects that students will demonstrate the ability to think clearly for themselves and exhibit personal and moral integrity in every sphere of life. Thus, students are expected to display honesty in all academic matters.

Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) the following acts: Falsifying official documents;

- Plagiarizing, which includes copying others' published work, and/or failing to give credit properly to other authors and creators;
- Misusing copyrighted material and/or violating licensing agreements (actions that may result in legal action in addition to disciplinary action taken by the University);
- Using media from any source or medium, including the Internet (e.g., print, visual images, music) with the intent to mislead, deceive or defraud;
- Presenting another's work as one's own (e.g., placement exams, homework assignments); (<https://www.andrews.edu/weblmsc/moodle/public/plagiarism/plagiarism.html>)
- Using materials during a quiz or examination other than those specifically allowed by the teacher or program;
- Stealing, accepting or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials;
- Copying from another student during a regular or take-home test or quiz; assisting another in acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., falsifying attendance records, providing unauthorized course materials).

Andrews University takes seriously all acts of academic dishonesty. Such acts as described above are subject to incremental discipline for multiple offenses and severe penalties for some offenses. These acts are tracked in the Office of the Provost. Repeated and/or flagrant offenses will be referred to the Committee on Academic Integrity for recommendations on further penalties.

Consequences may include denial of admission, revocation of admission, warning from a teacher with or without formal documentation, warning from a chair or academic dean with formal documentation, receipt of a reduced or failing grade with or without notation of the reason on the transcript, suspension or dismissal from the course, suspension or dismissal from the program, expulsion from the University, or degree cancellation. Disciplinary action may be retroactive if academic dishonesty becomes apparent after the student leaves the course, program or University.

Departments and faculty members may publish additional, perhaps more stringent, penalties for academic dishonesty in specific programs or courses.

# Nursing (RN to BSN) Online Program

## 124 credits

This program guides the RN with an associate’s degree to complete their Bachelor of Science. The curriculum focuses on the professional and leadership roles of the bachelor-prepared nurse. This is a part-time program designed for working nurses and it is scheduled in eight-week segments.

Normally, students complete in two to three years including summers (six–eight semesters). Students only do one course at a time. The program requirements involve clinical activities that may not be carried out in the student’s normal work unit.

Up to 92 credits may be accepted from the associate degree transcript after transcript review. A student may petition credit transfer to the APRG Committee through their advisor.

Applications are accepted for all semesters (fall, spring & summer)

### Curriculum Guide

Associate’s degree and general education courses (students may transfer up to 92 eligible semester credit hours after transcript evaluation and approval)	92
Nursing credits for the RN–BSN program	32
<b>Total credits for bachelor’s degree in nursing</b>	<b>124</b>

Nursing Courses	Credits
NRS 305-999 Health Assessment	3
NRS 320-999 Professional Nursing Concepts	3
NRS 315-999 Pathophysiology	3
NRS 466-999 Complimentary Wellness II	3
NRS 470-999 Global Health Nursing	3
NRS 443-999 Nursing Informatics	3
NRS 433-999 Nursing Leadership with Practicum	4
NRS 445-999 Nursing Research	4
NRS 450-999 Community Nursing with Practicum	4
NRS 438-999 Intercultural Mission Service	2

## Admission Requirements—RN—BSN

Admission requirements are as follows:

- All registered nurses must meet Andrews University entrance requirements and be accepted for admission to the University before being admitted to the nursing program.
- Application for admission may require a minimum of six weeks for processing evaluation.
- A current United States RN license or equivalent accreditation in country of residence (from online information).
- Minimal overall GPA of 2.50.
- All students are required to have BLS Healthcare Provider Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification from the American Heart Association (AHA).
- ADA Accommodations: Andrews University accepts and appreciates diversity in its students, including students with learning and other disabilities.
- If you feel that you have a learning, psychological or emotional disability it is mandatory that it be formally documented by the Andrews University Counseling & Testing Center, Berrien Regional Education Service Agency or other source recommended by the above two agencies. This document is required for accommodation to be granted. Less obvious physical disability requires documentation by the University Medical Specialties Center.
- If you qualify for accommodations under the American Disabilities Act, please see your instructor and advisor as soon as possible for referral and assistance in arranging such accommodations.

### To be Completed Before Admission or Prior to First Clinical Course

1. An acceptable criminal background check from company as recommended by School of Nursing and or CastleBranch.
2. A urine drug screen is required before admission. Some clinical sites may require different drug screen times. Drug screens are completed by <https://portal.castlebranch.com/NS3.9>
3. Physical examination report that must include:
  - a. Tuberculin skin test (if positive a chest x-ray is required, will be evaluated individually) and yearly evaluation thereafter
  - b. Proof of immunization or serum immunity for MMR1 and MMR2 (measles, mumps, and rubella), T-dap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis), and hepatitis B
  - c. Proof of immunization or serum immunity for varicella-zoster.
  - d. Annual flu shots taken October–December

## Progression

1. A GPA of at least 2.50 overall must be maintained throughout the nursing program. Should the GPA fall below 2.50, the student will be placed on departmental academic probationary status and may not be allowed to progress based upon a decision by the Andrews University School of Nursing Admissions, Progressions, Retention and Grievance (APRG) Committee. Students will not be permitted to register for any of the last semester nursing courses with a GPA below 2.50. Students on probation may repeat courses with low grades one (1) time to bring their GPA up.

2. The grading system for each class will be:

100–93	A	83–86	B	73–76	C	Below 60	F
90–92	A-	80–82	B-	70–72	C-		
87–89	B+	77–79	C+	60–69	D		

Nursing courses with a practicum component will require the student to successfully pass both the theory and practicum sections in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

3. Repeating courses:

- No grade below C is permitted in the program. Students can only repeat a course one (1) time.
- A student that withdrew from the program may be readmitted after consideration by the APRG Committee. Readmission is considered on an individual basis. The application should be accompanied by a letter from the applicant showing evidence of professional growth achieved during the time out of the program and employment.

4. The recommended “time frame” for completing the undergraduate nursing degree is two–three years. To this end students are provided a curriculum guide, to follow as advised.

- Methods of evaluation may include: Reliable standardized tests.
- Final grade for the nursing class course syllabus.
- Petitions may be submitted to the Admissions, Progressions, Retention and Grievance (APRG) Committee.
- A student may petition credit transfer to the APRG Committee through their advisor.
- Petitions are normally submitted for the purpose of accepting comparable credits earned previously or at another location.
- Petitions for exemption from prerequisites and specific departmental policies are not normally considered.
- Students should petition for unusual or uncontrollable circumstances, upon the advice and with the consent of their advisor.
- Petitions must include the student’s signature and their advisor’s signature, then be submitted to the chairperson of the APRG Committee. Petitions are placed in the student’s permanent file following the final decision.

## Policies for Online Programs

1. **Withdrawal and Incomplete Policies**

The current withdrawal and incomplete policy can be found online at <https://www.andrews.edu/distance/students/gradplus/withdrawal.html>

2. **Late Work**

Students are expected to submit assignments by the due dates noted in the course. In extenuating circumstances, such as illness, the student must contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss the situation. In those circumstances, faculty will determine the appropriate course of action for the student.

Depending on the situation, these actions may include recommendations to drop the course (if within the University drop/withdrawal period), acceptance of some or all of the overdue assignments with or without penalties, or failure to accept assignments.

### 3. **Maintain Professional Conduct Both in the Classroom and Online**

The classroom is a professional environment where academic debate and learning take place. Your instructor will make every effort to make this environment safe for you to share your opinions, ideas, and beliefs. In return, you are expected to respect the opinions, ideas and beliefs of other students—both in the face-to-face classroom and online communication.

Students have the right and privilege to learn in the class, free from harassment and disruption.

### 4. **Netiquette**

In this program you will communicate with your classmates and instructor primarily in writing through the discussion forum and email.

“Online manners” are generally known as “netiquette.” As a general rule, you should adhere to the same classroom conduct that you would “off-line” in a face-to-face course.

Some examples of proper netiquette are:

- a. Avoid writing messages in all capital letters. THIS IS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD AS SHOUTING.
- b. Be careful what you put in writing. Even if you are writing an email message to one person, assume that anyone could read it. Though you may send an email to a single person, it is very easy to forward your message to hundreds or thousands of people.
- c. Grammar and spelling matter. Online courses demand the same standard of academic communication and use of grammar as face-to-face courses.
- d. Never use profanity in any area of an online course. The transcripts of online course discussion forums, email and chat sessions are savable.
- e. When responding to messages, only use “Reply to All” when you really intend to reply to all.
- f. Avoid unkindly public criticism of others. Publicly criticizing others in an inappropriate way is known as “flaming.” Consider this course a practice forum for selecting your verbiage thoughtfully and professionally.
- g. Use sarcasm cautiously. In the absence of nonverbal cues such as facial expressions and voice inflections, the context for your sarcasm may be lost, and your message may thus be misinterpreted.
- h. In a face-to-face setting, our tone of voice and facial expressions may convey as much of our meaning as the words we use. In a written message, the subtext of your meaning may be confused or misinterpreted. Write clearly. Use active verbs.

*[Source: University of Maryland, Communications Department]*

### 5. **Academic Accommodations**

Students who require accommodations may request an academic adjustment as follows:

- a. Read the Andrews University Disability Accommodation information at: [andrews.edu/services/sscenter/disability/](http://andrews.edu/services/sscenter/disability/)



- b. Download and fill in the disability form at [andrews.edu/services/sscenter/disability/accommodationsreqform.pdf](http://andrews.edu/services/sscenter/disability/accommodationsreqform.pdf). Preferably type answers. To save a digital copy, 1) print to file and save or 2) print and scan. Email the completed form and disability documentation (if any) to [success@andrews.edu](mailto:success@andrews.edu) or fax it to 269- 471-8407.
- c. Email [sdestudents@andrews.edu](mailto:sdestudents@andrews.edu) to inform the School of Distance Education & International Partnerships that a disability has been reported to Student Success.

## 6. **Commit to Integrity**

As a student in this course (and at this University) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

## 7. **Commit to Excellence**

You deserve a standing ovation based on your decision to enroll in, and effectively complete this course. Along with your pledge of “Commitment to Integrity” you are expected to adhere to a “Commitment to Excellence.” Andrews University has established high academic standards that will truly enhance your writing and communication skills across the disciplines and in a diverse milieu with many discourse communities in the workplace.

## 8. **Honesty**

- Using the work of another student or allowing work to be used by another student jeopardizes not only the teacher-student relationship but also the student’s academic standing. Lessons may be discussed with other students, tutors may help to guide a student’s work, and textbooks, encyclopedias and other resource materials may be used for additional assistance, but the actual response must be the student’s own work. A student who gives information to another student to be used in a dishonest way is equally guilty of dishonesty.
- Any violation of this policy will be taken before the Higher Education Academic and Curriculum Committee for appropriate punitive action.

## 9. **Examinations**

- Only testing sites are allowed for proctored exams. Students are responsible for the cost of proctoring. Students are to utilize exam request forms. On the exam request form clearly identify the testing site and contact information. For locations without testing centers student must contact [sdeexams@andrews.edu](mailto:sdeexams@andrews.edu) to make testing arrangements.
- If you cannot take your exam by the deadline date, email [sdeexams@andrews.edu](mailto:sdeexams@andrews.edu).

## 10. **Online Course Week—Start and End Dates**

- Courses start on Monday of Week 1 at 12:01 a.m. ET
- Courses end on Sunday of the last week of a course at 11:59 p.m. ET

## 11. **The Course Week consists of Seven Days**

- The course week consists of seven days: Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, etc.

- Monday is the first day the course begins and Sunday is considered the last day of the course week.
- As a Seventh-day Adventist institution, assignments and course work may not be graded and faculty may not be contacted for course work during Sabbath hours (weekly from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday).

## 12. Submission Times

- A day is comprised of the timeframe between 12:01 a.m. and 11:59 p.m.
- Any coursework (assignments, discussion questions, etc.) due on a given day must be submitted within this timeframe to be considered submitted on time.
- No coursework will be accepted after Sunday of the last week of the course. Please submit your assignments to Turnitin and check the results, to ensure that you have not plagiarized inadvertently. The acceptable Turnitin similarity score is 25 percent or less.

## 13. Student Participation

- Courses are not to be considered independent study courses; instead, they should be considered to be shared learning communities.
- It is therefore important that students participate with substantive and timely postings to the online discussion board as outlined in the course syllabus.
- Failure to post the expected frequency and quality will result in grade reduction for the discussion.
- Students are not allowed to post ahead in any week.
- Students should check and use their Andrews email address with all communications regarding the program and courses.

## 14. Faculty Participation

- Faculty members are expected to facilitate student personal, professional and spiritual growth through guided responses on the discussion board which provide critical insight, stimulate new ideas, or raise awareness.
- Faculty members are required to be accessible to the student which is demonstrated through visibility and quality feedback on discussions and assignments.
- It is reasonable for students to expect the faculty will be **online at least four (4) days per week except on Sabbath**. Faculty should also be reasonably accessible to students by providing contact information in LearningHub.
- Faculty members are to return the student assignments **within seven (7) days of due date**.
- The returned assignment should reflect appropriate comments using the course grading rubric.
- The student can also expect the faculty members will provide comments that facilitate personal and professional development in the academic setting.
- Faculty members are expected to respond to questioning and student emails **within 48 hours except on holidays, Sabbath hours and weekends**.
- If the response requires additional time, the faculty should communicate this to the student.

## 15. Discussions

- The grading for discussion activities is outlined in the course-grading rubric. Students are required to:
  - » support their discussions with citations,
  - » write in APA, and
  - » provide a reference list at the bottom of their posting.
- Discussion Board posts need to be in APA format for quotes and references.
- **Make sure that you allow enough time for possible computer issues to ensure that you post on time.**

## 16. Online Discussion Criteria

Students in online courses are required to **participate in online class discussion at least three different days each week:**

### Initial Posts

There is an online discussion assigned posting due by Day Three (Wednesday) at 11:59 p.m. ET weekly. An initial post consists of a minimum 200-word written response for each question. (For example, if there are two questions listed for one week's discussion questions, your posting should be at least 400 words. It is usually best to respond in order to each question, so that the instructor can easily see which part of your posting is meant to answer each question posed.) You may post as early as the first class day. Initial posts are required to cite a minimum of two references within the posting. At least one reference should come from a course textbook being used in the required readings for this class. At least one reference should come from outside *scholarly* references, not course textbooks. Use of additional scholarly references is encouraged. All references must follow proper APA citation.

### Feedback Posts

In addition to the initial post, students are required to provide feedback to one of their peers' initial postings on a different day than they posted their initial post each week. You are also expected to respond to questions posed by the instructor. The response to instructor's question counts towards the three posts required. *Students must submit their initial post before writing a feedback post in response to another student's initial post.* A feedback post must include a minimum 75-word post and at least one reference. Use of additional scholarly references is encouraged. You may decide if these references come from the course textbook or another scholarly source. All references must follow proper APA citation. Post your feedback posting before Sunday at 11:59 p.m. ET.

### Response Posts

- Respond to a peer that posted feedback to your initial post on or before Sunday, the final day of the course week at 11:59 p.m. ET. The response post must include a minimum 75-word post and at least one scholarly reference. Use of additional scholarly references is encouraged. You may select if these references come from the course textbook or another scholarly source. All references must follow proper APA citation.
- All three postings each week should provide colleagues with reflective thoughts, personal experiences, and/or resources, or general thoughts on the topic.
- Failure to post within the given week will result in the student having an unexcused absence. Additionally, any assignments submitted for that week may result in an automatic 50% grade reduction.
- Up to one (1) point can be deducted for APA and/or grammar.

## Academic Probation

- A student is automatically placed on nursing academic probation by earning a grade in a course which causes the student overall GPA to fall below 2.50.
- Students who are on nursing academic probation are:
  - » Required to follow recommendations of the Admissions, Progressions, Retention and Grievance (APRG) Committee specific to the reason for probation.

## Annual Validations

Castle Branch yearly validations: TB, CPR (every 2 years), Flu vaccine, Confidentiality Statement

## Attendance

### Classes

- The School of Nursing upholds the Andrews University policy regarding absences and tardiness which is in the Andrews University Bulletin. The syllabus for individual courses states the policy for that particular course.
- The student is responsible for announcements or material missed as a result of course absence.

### Practicum Experience

- Students are expected to demonstrate professionalism in their practicum experiences. Attendance at all practicum sessions arranged with preceptors is required. Any deviation from the schedule must be arranged with the preceptor in advance of the scheduled experience.
- In the event of an unexpected delay or absence, notify the preceptor at the earliest opportunity. If the preceptor cannot be reached, notify the appropriate person at the agency. Practicum hours are to be completed prior to the end of the semester during which the practicum course is offered.
- Students are expected to find appropriate preceptors for their practicum courses. The preceptors will be vetted through the course practicum instructor. See preceptor handbook for details of preceptor, student and instructor's expectations for practicum.
- 'NRS 450-999 Community Nursing' focuses on community as the primary client. This course includes a practicum of 30 clinical hours in a community setting . Students are to choose an appropriate clinical site that facilitates learning experiences in providing health services, preventative care, and health education to communities or populations. Students are to obtain approval for setting from the instructor, and my choose from a list of suggested types of community settings that will be provided.
- 'NRS 433-999 Nursing Leadership' prepares students for leadership roles in all areas of nursing and instills the value for the pursuit of lifelong learning and professional development. This course includes a practicum of 30 clinical hours with a Nurse Leader. Students are to choose an appropriate clinical site that facilitates learning experiences that are congruent with the course objectives.

### Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

It is the student's responsibility to update their BLS Healthcare Provider CPR course, through an American Heart Association (AHA) Program, every two years or as indicated by their certificate.

## **Criminal Background Checks**

All students are required to have a criminal background check performed prior to entry into the Nursing Program at Andrews University or prior to the start of first practicum course. Expense for this background check is the student's responsibility. Please log into the following website to complete the check. <https://portal.castlebranch.com/NS39>

## **Drug Screening**

Healthcare facilities now require drug testing of all nursing students before allowing them to provide care for patients. A urine drug screen must be completed prior to the start of the first practicum rotation, and any time as required by the healthcare facility. Students will be responsible for any fees. Log into the following website to complete the check. <https://portal.castlebranch.com/NS39>

## **Uniform Policy**

Bachelor of Science degree students are required to wear full uniform at practicum. Professional scrubs with a white jacket having Andrews University patch (front and/or shoulder) is required for clinical uniform. Students can obtain AU patch from the School of Nursing for a minimal cost—which will include the postage cost where applicable.

When in uniform, the uniform is to be complete, clean, neat, in good repair and of modest fit. Appropriate dress for community health must be confirmed with the instructor.

## Professional Fees

Professional fees are charged to the student that has been accepted into the Nursing program. These fees may be waived for students admitted from healthcare institutions having an educational agreement with Andrews University.

Please refer to the current Andrews University Bulletin, under School of Health Professions Charges, to determine the fee you can expect to see on your bill.

## General Health Policies

Students who become injured at a healthcare agency during practicum hours are to receive emergency care per agency policy and complete an incident report at the agency. The student may be required to make the payments in connection with this injury. The student should also contact Risk Management in the Office of Human Resources to complete a Personal Injury Report Form.

If you are injured while practicing at an Andrews University off-campus clinical assignment, please follow the following procedure:

1. Seek medical treatment right away if:
  - a. You have had contact with blood or body fluids to an open wound, to mucous membranes or an invasive exposure.
  - b. You have been injured; for example, a fall, sprain, over-stretch, fracture, etc.
  - c. Your on-site supervisor or Andrews University instructor/coordinator ask you to seek medical evaluation/treatment.
  - d. You personally feel that medical evaluation/treatment is needed.
2. Report the incident to your on-site supervisor. Also fill out the Incident report form required by the clinical site and Andrews University incident report.
3. Report the incident to your Andrews University instructor/coordinator. Send her/him copies of each completed incident report form listed above.
4. Follow all instructions given by your on-site supervisor, your Andrews University instructor, and your medical care providers.
5. The student may be responsible for the fees incurred for the medical treatment.
6. The faculty/preceptor reserves the right to require a student to seek professional advice when there is a question of the student's psychological, behavioral, emotional, or physical fitness to participate in class or clinical.
7. Students with prolonged illness or health maintenance problems should make periodic progress reports to the class instructor. However, if the illness or problems interfere with meeting course requirements, students may be asked to take a medical leave.
8. Students who miss classes/and or clinical for health reasons such as an illness, accident, surgery, pregnancy, or delivery etc. must show proof from a healthcare provider who confirms the health problem, visit, or fitness for returning to class/and or clinical.

## Grievance Policy

Students shall have access to a process by which he/she may formally discuss a problem.

In order to initiate the process, the student/group representative must describe the problem and the rationale for seeking a resolution, and follow the process outlined below.

### **Procedure**

1. Students are encouraged to type their petition(s). Any petition that is not neat or in correct grammatical format will be returned to the student for resubmission without action being taken on it.
2. If a student has a problem which he/she feels should be resolved, the individual must first consult with the faculty member with whom there is a disagreement.

3. If the matter is not resolved at this point, the student will request an appointment with their advisor to guide the student's grievance process.
4. If still unresolved, the student will request an appointment with the chairperson of the School of Nursing and provide a written statement of the problem, documentation of process followed and proposed solutions within seven working days of having seen the involved faculty and advisor. The chairperson may request all involved parties to be present for example through online meeting platform.
5. If the matter is not resolved at this point, the student may formally petition in writing that the situation be presented to the Admissions, Progressions, Retention and Grievance (APRG) Committee of the School of Nursing. The student must submit to the APRG Committee chairperson a copy of the original written statement.
6. The APRG chairperson will notify all involved parties of date and time.
7. If a student requests an advocate to be present at the meeting, he/she must indicate in writing the name of the person and the relationship in the request to the APRG Committee chairperson.
8. If the final departmental faculty decision is not to the student's satisfaction, he/she may request that the matter be presented to the dean of the School of Health Professions. If the grievance remains unsatisfied, the matter would then be presented to the Office of the Provost using their grievance policy. If the matter is still unresolved, then it is presented to the president.
9. The student has a right to be present when his or her petition is heard, or the APRG Committee may request the student to be present.
10. When the chairperson of the APRG Committee receives a petition, it is examined as to its completeness and appropriateness. The chairperson then places the student's appeal on the agenda of the next scheduled confidential meeting of the APRG Committee.
11. If the student requests to be present, the chairperson informs the student of the scheduled date, time and location of the meeting.
12. When the student's petition is being considered, the student will be given the opportunity to present material related to the petition. If the student is present s/he should be prepared to answer some questions related to the petition.

## Taking Courses at another College

Any student wishing to take a course or courses at another school must complete the Transient Form and it may be obtained from the School of Nursing office. Form must be accompanied by the description of the course or courses to be taken and completed prior to leaving campus. Be aware that students need to complete at least 30 credits at Andrews University to graduate with an Andrews University degree.

## Sabbath Policy

Andrews University and the School of Nursing believe that the Sabbath is a day of rest, worship and freedom from academic pursuits. The Sabbath, as it is celebrated on the Andrews University campus, begins at sundown on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday.

The School of Nursing respects the personal beliefs of each student enrolled in nursing, and the freedom to make personal choices about when and how to worship. However, it is the expectation that the students uphold the values of Andrews University and the School of Nursing in this respect and not schedule course-related clinical practice during the Sabbath hours as defined above.

No coursework will be accepted if sent during Sabbath hours.

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

1. Scholarships and financial aid are awarded to nursing students at the end of the spring semester for the following school year.
2. Types of nursing scholarships and financial aid change frequently. Students are encouraged to check with the student finance office for the most current information.
3. Any information regarding relevant scholarships that may be sent from the nursing office will be communicated through your Andrews email.

## Student Representation

Students are provided representation in several ways:

1. A student organization called AUSNA. Students select officers at the end of each academic year. Offices include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, religious vice president and social vice president.
2. Officers are invited to sit or call in to department committees.
3. The committees on which students shall serve as voting members are: The Curriculum, Clinical, Assessment and Student Activities Committees. The chairperson appoints each student representative to one committee, considering individual preferences of the student representatives.
4. Town Hall meetings or classroom meetings are conducted each semester via Zoom, which allows students to share concerns, ask for needed clarification and provide feedback for the program.





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