Department of Nursing Student Handbook is designed to supplement the main Rowan University Student Handbook. All students are responsible for the material covered in the Department of Nursing Handbook and the Rowan University Student Handbook.
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**General Information**

The Department of Nursing is an academic department in the School of Health Professions and delivers programs through Rowan Global Learning and Partnerships.

**Department of Nursing Program Faculty and Administration**
Email: nursing@rowan.edu

**Administration**

Mary Ellen Santucci, PhD, RN  
Associate Professor  
Director/Chair

Patrice Henry-Thatcher, MSN, RN, PCCN  
RN to BSN Academic Advisor

Terri Mastrogiacomo  
Administrative Assistant to the Department of Nursing Director

**Full Time Faculty**

Matthew Kaspar, DNP, MEd, RN, APN, FNP-C  
Senior Lecturer/Nurse Practitioner Program Coordinator

Carmen McDonald, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, NEA-BC, NE-BC  
Senior Lecturer/Nurse Educator Program Coordinator

Melisa Mordecai, DNP, RN, APN, ACNP-BC  
Lecturer/AGACNP Program Coordinator

Robert White, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC  
Assistant Professor/PMHMP Program Coordinator
Academic Framework

Vision

The Department of Nursing at Rowan University is committed to being a recognized leader in innovative nursing education, scholarship, evidence-based practice, and an active force in the health of the diverse communities it serves.

Mission

The Department of Nursing at Rowan University promotes excellence in healthcare through quality and innovative education to meet the needs of our diverse population.

Philosophy of Nursing Education

The philosophy of the Department of Nursing at Rowan University emanates from nursing's founder, Florence Nightingale. The department's belief is that the interaction of person, environment, nurse and health are integral to maintaining and assisting individuals in achieving improved health status. The Nursing Department believes that nursing practice encompasses four domains that are evidence-based: clinical practice; leadership/executive practice; education practice; and research practice. In addition, the Nursing Department believes in excellent leadership that will advance nursing as well as shape policy in health care delivery systems. Finally, the Nursing Department further believes that innovation is integral to the improvement of nursing practice. The nursing faculty is committed to academic rigor, service, lifelong learning and continuous improvement.

Values

1. The Department of Nursing values people and the diversity that they bring to classroom experiences as well as the overall educational experience, treating all with compassion, dignity, and respect for individual beliefs.

2. The Department of Nursing values ethical behavior, professionalism, integrity, and accountability in all aspects of our academic, clinical, and administrative work.

3. The Department of Nursing values excellence, encouraging achievement in all endeavors of the university family, fostering collegiality, and maintaining high academic standards, through productive, scholarly faculty and a talented student body.

4. The Department of Nursing values knowledge, its creation, dissemination, synthesis and application.

5. The Department of Nursing values service, demonstrated through our commitment to effectiveness, accessibility, and affordability in our education and the resources that we provide to our students.

6. The Department of Nursing values innovation and flexibility to meet the ongoing societal needs of our students and the challenges of the future of healthcare.
Program Outcomes

MSN Program

The goals of the Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) program are to produce graduates that meet the 2011 Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing established by the AACN:

• Integrate findings from the sciences and the humanities, biopsychosocial fields, genetics, public health, quality improvement, health economics, translational science, and organizational sciences for the continual improvement of nursing care at the unit, clinic, home, or program level.

• Identify organizational and system leadership skills as being critical for the promotion of high quality and patient safe care. Additionally they demonstrate ethical and critical decision making in team work environments.

• Monitor, analyze, and prioritize outcomes that need to be improved by using quality improvement and high reliability organizational principles. Using information from numerous sources, these nurses navigate the patient through the healthcare system and assume accountability for quality outcomes.

• Demonstrate the ability to utilize evidence based practice initiatives, apply research outcomes within practice settings, resolve practice problems, work as a change agent, and disseminate results

• Use current technologies to deliver and coordinate care across multiple settings, analyze point of care outcomes, and communicate with individuals and groups.

• Promote health, help shape the health delivery system, and advance values like social justice through policy processes and advocacy.

• Demonstrate knowledge of broad determinants of health to succeed as a patient advocate, cultural and systems broker, and to lead and coordinate interprofessional teams across care environments in order to reduce barriers, facilitate access to care, and improve health outcomes. Provide and coordinate comprehensive care for patients-individuals, families, groups, and communities- in multiple and varied settings.

• Demonstrate the ability to design and ensure the delivery of clinical prevention interventions and population-based care that promotes health, reduces the risk of chronic illness, and prevents disease.

• Implement evidence based safe, quality care to individuals, populations, or systems that influences healthcare outcomes. Practices interventions that impact individuals, populations, or systems both directly or indirectly.
Program Outcomes Continued

RN to BSN Program

The goals of the Bachelors of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN) program are to produce graduates that meet the 2008 Essentials of Baccalaureate Education in Nursing established by the AACN:

• Integrate liberal education for baccalaureate generalist nursing practice
• Develop basic organizational and systems leadership for quality care and patient safety
• Demonstrate scholarship for evidence based practice
• Apply information management and application of patient care technology
• Evaluate healthcare policy, finance, and regulatory environments
• Demonstrate interprofessional communication and collaboration for improving patient health outcomes
• Integrate clinical prevention and population health
• Demonstrate professionalism and professional values
• Further baccalaureate generalist nursing practice

Accreditation

The RN-BSN Program at Rowan University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750 Washington, DC 20001 Phone: (202) 887-6791

The MSN Program at Rowan University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750 Washington, DC 20001 Phone: (202) 887-6791.

Academic Policies and Requirements

Department of Nursing Admissions

Admission to Rowan University as a student into the Department of Nursing programs is competitive.

RN to BSN Admission Requirements

• Department of Nursing Application Form
• For the RN to BSN program applicants must have a RN Diploma or Associates Degree with a valid New Jersey RN License in order to be considered for admission to the program.
• For out of state applicants, proof of New Jersey License or submitted application is required.
• Graduation from an Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) Associate or diploma program
• Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 (this includes all colleges/universities you have attended, not just where you obtained your nursing degree)
• Official transcripts from all colleges attended (regardless of number of credits earned; presented in a sealed official envelope)
• RN license in the State of New Jersey or NCLEX Letter/Score Report
• Copy of your current CPR card
• Copy of your current resume or CV
• A grade of “C” in all Nursing courses completed in your diploma or associates degree
• Application fee (non-refundable)

The RN to BSN Program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 for admission; or a graduate from one of our Premier Partners. However, a 2.5 GPA does not guarantee admission due to competition for available openings.

Students offered admission and who matriculate into the program will receive a credit evaluation by the registrar and the academic department about half way through their first semester. Once that evaluation is completed, an academic advisor will meet with the newly matriculated student to answer questions about transferring credits from another institution to the University and the student's outstanding degree requirement.

**MSN Admission Requirements**

• Completed Department of Nursing Application Form
• $65 (U.S.) non-refundable application fee
• Current Resume or CV
• Copy of Current CPR cards (Healthcare Provider)
• Graduation from an accredited Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program
• Minimum Cumulative GPA of 3.0
• Official transcripts from all colleges attended (regardless of number of credits earned; presented in a sealed official envelope)
• Grade of “C” or higher in all nursing courses
• Proof of valid State of New Jersey RN license
• Copy of current individual professional malpractice insurance
• Two professional letters of recommendation

**Graduate Concentration Requirements**

• Each graduate program has additional concentration requirements depending on specialization. Contact concentration course faculty for further information.
• Clinical sites may have additional specific requirements. It is the graduate student responsibility to communicate with course faculty regarding compliance.
• Students who do not attain or maintain graduate program requirements and Student Code of
Conduct may be dismissed from the program.

- Successful completion of criminal background and drug testing.
- Students are asked to obtain their own preceptor for their clinical sites. If the student has difficulty obtaining a preceptor, the concentration coordinator will facilitate placement.

All students are required to maintain the following:

- RN licensure
- Basic Life Support Certification (Healthcare Provider)
- ACLS if AGACNP student
- Individual professional student malpractice insurance

Master of Science in Nursing Transfer Credit Policy

All questions regarding the possibility of transfer credit should be discussed directly with the Department of Nursing. Applicants seeking transfer credit need to fill out the Master of Science in Nursing Transfer Credit Request Form which needs to be submitted with all required documents (official transcripts, syllabi, course descriptions) at the time of the application is submitted/reviewed.

The Master of Science in Nursing program allows matriculated students to transfer in a maximum of 7 credits into the MSN core coursework only provided that a grade of “B” or better was achieved, the course was taken no longer than 10 years ago, and that it is deemed “equivalent” to a required MSN core course in our curriculum by our Graduate Application Review Committee.

To obtain a Master of Science in Nursing Transfer Credit Request Form please email nursing@rowan.edu.

Special Note for Matriculated MSN Students:

All applicants to the MSN program will complete 7 core Graduate level courses. Admission to the concentration will only occur after application review by the coordinator. Students interested in Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) concentration are required to have current Acute Care experience of 2 years or more to be considered. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all MSN core courses in order to be considered by the Department of Nursing to move into the nurse practitioner concentration track.

The MSN Program is a Category 2: Newly matriculated students starting Fall 2019:

- To maintain Minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress in a Category 2 program students must:
  - Earn no grades lower than a “B-“
• Earn an official cumulative GPA (according to matriculation level) of at least 3.000 on Rowan’s 4.000 scale

**Any student that matriculated prior to Fall 2019 will adhere to the following:**

Any student that has more than one (1) C in core course work will not be able to continue. This policy supersedes Rowan Global policy for Graduate Studies.

To maintain the academic rigor and high standards of the nursing program, a C+ or higher is required for all courses. Students earning the grade of C or lower have the option to retake a course to attempt a passing grade. Please note that repeating a class is a **one-time only opportunity** for the duration of the program. Subsequent C or lower grades after that will result in dismissal from the program.

**Requirements for Concentration**

All students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 will be responsible for following up with the Department of Nursing during their last MSN core course, which is Special Issues and Trends as per their Personalized Course Sequence (PCS). At this time the student will declare concentration. Admission to the concentration will only occur after core completion and faculty review. Students must email this confirmation/admission request to [nursing@rowan.edu](mailto:nursing@rowan.edu) from their university student email account.

Any student interested in changing their concentration should contact the Program Coordinator for further instructions.

**Deferred Admission for the Department of Nursing**

With the approval of the Department of Nursing, applicants to the program may be officially authorized to delay entry into the program of study for up to one academic year (3 consecutive semester ie: Fall, Spring, Summer). Request for deferral is to be made by submitting the Department of Nursing Application Defer/Roll-Over Form before the start of the semester in which they have officially applied/been admitted.

After one academic year has passed, the student must reapply to the program. To reapply a student will have to submit a new application for the new semester desired, official transcripts from all colleges attended, all other required applications materials, and the application fee.

Deferred applicants will receive an email to the email address listed on their application confirming their deferred status. Applicants who have officially obtained deferred admission are not considered to be enrolled until the point of first attendance.

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Reconsideration for Admission into the Department of Nursing

An applicant may reapply through the Department of Nursing for the following reasons:

The applicant’s original file was deferred, incomplete, withdrawn by the applicant, or not accepted in a previous admission cycle due to a cumulative GPA lower than required. Applications are kept on file for one calendar year. After one academic year any past applicant that wishes to be reconsidered for admission must formally reapply to the program and submit all appropriate application materials.

The applicant may reactivate his/her initial application by submitting a request to reactivate the application and sending any/all missing or additional application material to the Department of Nursing.

Rowan Global Admissions Office
Enterprise Building
Suite 200
Nursing
225 Rowan Boulevard
Glassboro, NJ 08028
Or
global@rowan.edu

Readmission

Any student who has officially/unofficially withdrawn from his/her program of study for more than one year or a student who has been academically dismissed must reapply by using a new Department of Nursing application for the correct academic year in which they are interested in attending. All application requirements and fees must be met for consideration into the program. Requests for readmission are considered individually and must meet with Department Chairperson and readmission is not guaranteed.

Applicants must satisfy the program requirements for admission at the time of their most recent application and must be issued an official letter of acceptance.

International Student Applicants

International students are currently not permitted in any Department of Nursing Programs.

Department of Nursing Non Matriculated Student Requests

Non-matriculated students will be permitted to take one Department of Nursing “core” class on a case by case basis as determined by the department. The Department of Nursing may request copies of the student’s transcripts to determine eligibility for non-matriculation status. Non-matriculated students are responsible for meeting the same admissions criteria for the Department of Nursing program prior to being approved as a non-matriculated student for one semester.
Department of Nursing new student orientation requirement

New Student Orientation

Starting Spring 2017, newly matriculated students will be emailed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the RN to BSN or the MSN Program along with Acknowledgement Form.

Student Communication

The official communication between Rowan University/Department of Nursing will only be to a student’s Rowan University email address. Students are required to setup their Rowan University student email address and must check it frequently. They are also required to send communication to Rowan University and the Department of Nursing from this account only. The University and the Department of Nursing will not respond to student emails which have been sent from a personal email address. Contacting instructors on their personal cellphones is discouraged; only to be used as an absolute emergency’s unless otherwise instructed by the professor.

The student’s Rowan University email address will be the only email address used or correspondence related to but not limited to, registration, academic advising, billing, immunization, etc.

In the event of an emergency, students will be notified of class/clinical site cancellation via their Rowan University email address only. Students are responsible for checking their Rowan University email address frequently and will be held accountable for all communication, information, and deadlines from the University contained therein. If a student has thoughts/concerns with the course or the faculty member, the student should first contact the faculty member, if no resolution then the student should contact the Chair of the Department. Please refer to the Rowan University Grievance Policy.

Financial Policies

Official information regarding Department of Nursing tuition and fees can be obtained by visiting the Rowan Global Learning and Partnerships website at; http://rowanu.com/tuition. Students must obtain their official bill for tuition by visiting their Banner self-service account. Rowan University does not mail paper bills and it is the student’s responsibility to obtain their bill for each semester’s tuition by logging into their Banner self-service account.

Please note that all communication regarding a student’s bill will be sent to their Rowan University email address only.
Payment Options for Nursing Programs

- Please visit the financial aid website at Rowan University, [www.rowan.edu/financialaid](http://www.rowan.edu/financialaid) or for further information contact the Financial Aid Office with any questions that you may have.

University Fees

The University Fee is charged to all students enrolled in college-credit courses on campus at the University not within the Department of Nursing major.

Drop Deadline

The Department of Nursing follows the Rowan University registrar guidelines. They can be found at: [http://www.rowan.edu/provost/registrar/courseschedule.html](http://www.rowan.edu/provost/registrar/courseschedule.html)

The Official Withdraw Process for Department of Nursing

Student must pay for their class in full via their Rowan self-service account or in person at the Bursar’s Office at Rowan University.

Student must obtain the official withdraw form from the Rowan University Registrar’s website, fill it out completely, and obtain all appropriate signatures.

The completed form should be returned to globalstudent@rowan.edu and Nursing@rowan.edu  Department of Nursing program for processing.

Once the above steps have been completed, the form will be processed and the student will be notified via their Rowan University email address once the withdrawal has been processed and is complete.

If the above steps are not followed the withdraw request will not be processed.

Your withdraw request will not be processed if the following occurs:

- Withdraw Form incomplete (missing information, missing required signatures)
- Withdraw Form sent to any department other than globalstudent@rowan.edu and nursing@rowan.edu.
- Withdraw request sent via email without attached completed withdraw form

Withdraw from the Department of Nursing Program

To officially withdraw from a Department of Nursing program, a student must obtain a withdrawal form from the Department of Nursing by emailing nursing@rowan.edu. Telephone requests are not accepted. All completed withdraw forms must be submitted to the Department of Nursing by, email (nursing@rowan.edu) and Global Learning and Partnerships

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globalstudent@rowan.edu. Students receiving financial aid may be required to return a portion of those funds if they withdraw prior to the mid-point of the semester, which is determined by federal guidelines.

Please contact financial aid office prior to withdrawing. Students who plan to withdraw from the program should not stop attending courses until the official program withdraw request has been processed.

**Academic Information**

**Academic Calendar**

The Department of Nursing has established uniform guidelines to ensure understanding and effectiveness for administrative services and program planning in regards to degree completion for students enrolled in Department of Nursing courses. The Department of Nursing programs consist of 3 consecutive semesters per year: Fall, Spring, and Summer. Matriculated students are required to take the Department of Nursing major courses during all 3 semesters due to the programs master schedule of course availability.

Courses are delivered through Rowan University’s division of Global Learning & Partnerships so it follows registration schedule of the traditional Rowan University. To view the academic calendar which includes start/end dates, tuition payment deadlines, etc. for the Department of Nursing programs please visit:

- [www.rowanu.com](http://www.rowanu.com) (Is this still the correct address.
- select admissions
- select undergraduate or graduate start date or deadlines

**Academic Standing Policy**

Academic policies may be found in the Rowan University Student handbook accessible at [www.rowan.edu](http://www.rowan.edu). Questions may be addressed to nursing@rowan.edu.

**Current Student Policies**

**Academic Advisement Department of Nursing Students**

Academic advisement is provided by the Department of Nursing. At any time a student may request advisement by emailing nursing@rowan.edu. Academic advisement is provided by an academic advisor with the goal of assisting students to successfully progress in their courses of study. For nonacademic matters, academic advisors may refer students to other sources of information and/or assistance.
Special Note, Graduation requirements for RN to BSN

The RN to BSN Program is a Degree Completion Program; there are 9 major nursing courses in this program. Matriculated students are also responsible for completing any Rowan University general education requirements that they have not completed in their previous academic endeavors prior to applying/being cleared for graduation. A complete review of the general education requirements of Rowan University can be found on the Registrar’s website by visiting, http://www.rowan.edu/registrar. Graduation from this program requires a minimum cumulative final 2.5 GPA. Students will only be eligible to apply for graduation from the program when all program requirements have been met. All students must complete an exit survey that is emailed to their Rowan University email from EBI Skyfactor®. Failure to complete the survey will result in a rejection of your graduation application.

Special Note, Graduation requirements for MSN

A complete review of the education requirements of Rowan University can be found on the Rowan University website by visiting the MSN webpage. Graduation from this program requires a minimum cumulative final 3.0 GPA. Students will only be eligible to apply for graduation from the program when all program requirements have been met. All students must complete an exit survey that is emailed to their Rowan University email from EBI Skyfactor®. Failure to complete the survey will result in a rejection of your graduation application.

MSN Credentialing

All certification exam documents and state licensing documents need to be emailed to MSNcredentialing@rowan.edu

Registration Policy for the Department of Nursing

Students may request a change to their PCS no later than 2 weeks prior to the start of a given semester. To request a change to your PCS, current students must send an email from their Rowan University email address to nursing@rowan.edu. At that time, the Department of Nursing may require a meeting with the student to adjust their PCS, if extensive changes are required or if the adjustment of the PCS will highly impact the students intended completion of the nursing courses.

Students are responsible for following their PCS for registering for courses.

Students attending an employer-based cohort are admitted and registered for the same cohort and class night each semester throughout the program. Deviations to the cohort registration are handled on an individual basis. Requests for change or deviation from the original cohort and class night are considered to be by exception and examples of such a request include: change of work schedules, personal hardship or extreme circumstances. Requests for change or deviation from the original cohort and class night must be sent in writing with student’s name, Banner ID number, original cohort and class night and the rationale for a request to change to the Department of Nursing (nursing@rowan.edu). The request will be reviewed.

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in conjunction with the Department of Nursing and a decision will be communicated to the student. If necessary, adjustments will be made in the PCS by Department of Nursing.

The Department of Nursing reserves the right to adjust all dates and times of planned courses should an adjustment be necessary with fair and reasonable notice and accommodation for all students registered in the course. In the event of a change or course cancellation, students will be notified by email as soon as the decision is made to adjust the planned course schedule. The Department of Nursing reserves the right to cancel any scheduled course if the enrollment drops below the University minimum of course enrollment with an email notification to students upon such decision to cancel a class. The Department of Nursing will make every effort to provide scheduled classes at set times with the exceptions noted above.

**Advisement Procedure**

- Academic advisors provide academic advisement in program planning and course selection and generally assist students with any difficulty in academic progression.
- Students must schedule an appointment with their academic advisor.
- Matriculated Department of Nursing students will register themselves for nursing courses.
- Failure to follow your Personalized Course Sequence may result in an interruption of the program for one or more semesters.

**Attendance Policy**

Classroom experiences vary greatly among disciplines, deliveries and instructors, Rowan’s community of learners is best realized when teachers and learners interact in ways deemed appropriate for any particular class. Attendance can differ from course to course. The following applies to all courses:

**Responsibilities of Students**

- Students are expected to be present at each meeting of each scheduled class for which they are officially registered.
- Students are responsible for knowing the instructor’s attendance policy as stated in the syllabus.
- Students are responsible to communicate with course faculty when they are not going to be present.

**Responsibilities of Faculty**

- Faculty is expected to keep accurate attendance records.
- Attendance requirements must be part of the syllabus provided to students on the first day of class prior to the official Global Learning & Partnerships drop period.
- Faculty (singularly or as part of a department or program) may establish additional reasonable attendance criteria. This may include setting a maximum number of absences for a course, whether excused or unexcused, after which a student should withdraw from the class.
*Please note that the Department of Nursing program reserves the right to set mandatory attendance days/times for your courses due to field experience requirements. Please consult your syllabus for your Department of Nursing courses for a specific overview of the attendance requirements for your upcoming courses.

**Grading System**

The following are used to evaluate students’ performances in courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 or above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>grade below 69.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Exams and Final Papers**

Faculty and students should be able to work together in a realm of mutual trust. When this occurs, the educational process is enhanced. Request for viewing exams and final papers should be made to faculty. These reviews may only occur in secure University areas. The Department of Nursing Faculty believes that students should be independent learners and does not provide study guides or blueprints for test preparation. The department utilizes Proctortack®.

**Department of Nursing Student Technical Support**

Any nursing student who is in need of tech support visit the Division of Global Learning & Partnerships Current Student Portal at [www.rowanonline.edu](http://www.rowanonline.edu) then select Current Students. Do not contact Rowan University traditional tech support; they will be unable to assist you.

**Options for obtaining tech support through the Division of Global Learning & Partnerships;**

1. Visit [www.rowanonline.com/portal](http://www.rowanonline.com/portal). Login to Canvas and you will be able to submit a ticket so that a tech support professional can contact you for assistance.
2. Or if you are unable to login Select: Trouble Logging In and submit a request for technical support (You will be able to enter your contact information and a description of the problem you are currently having so Tech Support can get back to you).
3. Call Tech Support at 856-256-5164 (Monday through Friday).