

**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
POLICY# C-1**

TITLE: ACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE IN UNDERGRADUATE NURSING COURSES

POLICY: Clinical courses in the undergraduate programs are to be organized so that theoretical content and clinical learning experiences are offered in a manner that facilitates the application of theory to clinical nursing practice throughout the course.

1. Acceptable performance in nursing courses includes obtaining a grade of "C" or better in the lecture and a grade of satisfactory in the clinical component of the course.
2. Prerequisite courses for any nursing course must be passed with a grade of C or higher before taking the nursing course for which the prerequisite course is required.
3. No course(or its equivalent) may be repeated more than once to achieve a grade of C or higher, regardless of where taken.
4. Plus(+) and Minus(-) grading will be an individual College of Nursing faculty option.
5. A letter grade of (C) in the nursing courses will be a 70%.
6. Unsatisfactory completion (a grade below C) of required nursing course(s) with clinical laboratories* in two different semesters prohibits continuation in the undergraduate nursing curriculum.
7. Unsatisfactory completion of two or more clinical courses in ONE semester does not necessarily warrant removal from the nursing curriculum since emergent circumstances (which subsequently resolve) may arise which may have contributed to poor academic performance during a semester. Students who fail to conform to reasonable standards of performance or behavior or when, in the judgment of the faculty member, reasonable supervision is inadequate to insure patient welfare are subject to College of Nursing [Policy C-6](#).
8. Since progression in the undergraduate nursing curriculum is prohibited by two failures in different semesters, students who wish to seek reinstatement into the nursing program may file an appeal for review by the College of Nursing Scholastic Appeal Committee. (College of Nursing [Policy A-8](#))

* Clinical laboratory courses are those courses in which the majority of the laboratory experience requires direct patient/client care or interaction. See, Attachment #2.

RATIONALE:

While the College of Nursing has multiple campuses and utilizes a variety of clinical agencies, patient populations and learning opportunities, the faculty espouse one philosophy of teaching and learning (see [College of Nursing Policy A-3](#), p.3).

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Unsatisfactory completion of two or more clinical nursing courses in two different semesters indicates that academic performance is not at the level normally required by the average undergraduate student to successfully complete course objectives and learning activities. Continued poor performance over two semesters indicates that a student needs to carefully formulate an appropriate educational plan of action. Additionally, clinical learning opportunities must be allocated to students who successfully demonstrate satisfactory achievement of course objectives and learning activities since clinical resources are finite in that (1) the number of opportunities for student experience in the clinical setting is controlled to maintain quality patient care and (2) student/faculty ratios are regulated to provide adequate supervision of all students. For those students opting to seek reinstatement in the nursing curriculum, the appeal process provides an opportunity for the student to carefully examine her/his academic performance and formulate appropriate strategies which will maximize future learning opportunities.

Reviewed/Approved:

Level I: UAAC (February, 2014)

Level II: Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs (March, 2014)