

## **HEALTH and CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The clinical requirements indicated below must be met by all Nursing students prior to initial enrollment in the first clinical course in the Nursing Program and annually thereafter for continued enrollment in each clinical course in the Nursing Program.

Evidence of all requirements indicated below is to be submitted through the Castle Branch website by a special pass code exclusive to BC3 Nursing students. The code necessary for access to the Castle Branch website will be provided by the Dean of Nursing to all eligible BC3 Nursing students. All student information uploaded to the Castle Branch website can only be viewed by the individual student who uploaded the information and by the Dean of Nursing.

### **Clearances**

Pennsylvania law prohibits the State Board of Nursing from issuing a license to anyone who has been convicted of a crime with variable criteria. According to Act 53 of 2020. This law allows for

candidates with a criminal conviction to consider an occupation or profession that requires licensure.

With regard to the consideration of criminal convictions, Act 53:

- Prohibits Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) licensing boards and commissions from denying licensure based on considerations of “good moral character,” “crimes of moral turpitude,” or “ethical or honest practice.”
- Requires each board and commission to develop and publish a schedule of criminal offenses that may constitute grounds to deny, suspend or revoke a license. The list must also identify which crimes are likely to pose a barrier to licensure because they are considered to be offenses “directly related” to the occupation/profession.
- Provides for an “individualized assessment” of each license applicant using objective, detailed criteria that includes rehabilitation and public safety.
- Provides a process for individuals who have criminal convictions to request a “preliminary determination” as to whether a particular conviction will be a bar to licensure. This new tool will enable people with criminal convictions to find out if their convictions would prevent them from getting a license – before enrolling in a

training or educational program, before investing significant time and resources, and before formally applying for licensure.

Students are encouraged to complete the request for preliminary determination from the State licensing board. This request once submitted will be reviewed by the PA State Licensure board and returned to the applicant within 45 days. This should be completed prior to or the first semester of the nursing program to inform the candidate of their eligibility. Information regarding Act 53 of 2020 can be found at the following website <https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/Pages/ACT-53-2020.aspx>.

Pennsylvania State Police Clearance (PATCH), PA Child Abuse History Clearance and Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) FBI Background (fingerprint) Clearance.

Nursing students are required to order and submit a PA State Police Criminal Record Check, a Child Abuse History Clearance, and a Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) FBI Background Clearance (fingerprint) prior to beginning NURS 101, before beginning NURS 103 and again, prior to course enrollment if a student is readmitted to the Nursing Program. Directions to complete these clearances will be provided upon program acceptance.

In order for a student to participate in clinical coursework, clearance results must be in compliance with PA State Board of Nursing regulations, Act 169 Older Adult Protective Services Act, and Act 34/151. A student who fails to obtain the requisite Act 169 and Act 34/151 clearances will be unable to attend the required clinical experiences and meet course objectives.

The original report of all clearances (not copies) must be completed and uploaded to Castle Branch by the posted deadline. Failure to complete the clearances by the stated deadline will negate the student from starting the Nursing program.

Additional clearances obtained by Castle Branch for each enrolled student include a residency history, unlimited county criminal searches outside the state of Pennsylvania, nationwide criminal database search2/nationwide sex offender, nationwide healthcare fraud & abuse (OIG, GSA, OFAC, SDN & DPL) and a certified record review.

These clearances indicate whether the student has been convicted of any of the enumerated prohibitive offenses as listed in the Older Adult Protective Services Act (Act 169) or of any crimes which would prevent them from being licensed as a registered nurse in Pennsylvania. Any student convicted of a prohibitive

offense or any offense related to child abuse is not permitted to practice as a student nurse in institutions requiring these clearances. If students are unable to meet the clinical requirements of the Butler County Community College Nursing Program they are not eligible to complete the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and cannot be licensed to practice as a registered nurse in Pennsylvania.

Once initial clearances are submitted, students are responsible for reporting to the Dean of Nursing and Allied Health any change to their criminal or child abuse record. Failure to do so can result in automatic dismissal from the Nursing Program. All criminal offenses must be reported by the student to the PA State Board of Nursing when applying for licensure as a registered nurse in Pennsylvania.

### **Initial and Subsequent Health Requirements**

A physical examination including a complete history & physical examination, laboratory testing and evidence of specific immunizations must be completed prior to entering the Nursing Program, and annually thereafter for each year of program enrollment. These health requirements are at the student's expense. Failure to submit this information on the date specified to the student will result in dismissal from the Nursing Program.

Upon admission to the Nursing Program the student is required to submit documentation of a complete history and physical examination, including evidence of certain immunizations and laboratory tests, to verify that the student is free from communicable disease as mandated by the clinical affiliating agencies where students will be placed for clinical practice experience while enrolled in the Nursing Program.

The physical examination must include a review of the physical and emotional abilities necessary for the student to participate in the clinical practice experience required while enrolled in the Nursing Program.

The history and physical examination including the administration of immunizations and review of laboratory testing must be conducted by a Licensed Physician (MD or DO), Certified Nurse Practitioner (CRNP), or Physician Assistant (PA).

***Upon acceptance into the Nursing Program for the first time, incoming students must submit a complete Initial Health Form as evidence of the following:***

1. Two-Step Mantoux - Tine test is not acceptable (Chest X-ray if Positive).
2. Laboratory tests and Titters- The date of results must be within six months of the due date specified on the health form.
  - a. CBC, Fasting Blood Glucose, & Lipid Panel
  - b. Urinalysis (routine and microscopic)
  - c. Hepatitis B Surface Antibody titer (HBs AB) - if

- Hepatitis B series has previously been completed
- d. MMR - Measles (Rubeola), Mumps, & Rubella titers
  - e. Varicella titer
  - f. Hepatitis C Virus antibody screen titer

3. Evidence of Immunizations:

- a. MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) two immunizations if not immune per titers
- b. Varicella-- two immunizations required if no evidence of immunity per titer
- c. Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis-- (Tdap) --*mandatory* (within past 10 years)\*  
\*Single Tetanus or Tetanus/Diphtheria immunization only acceptable if received within the past two years from date specified on health form.
- d. Hepatitis B series (3 injections) followed by Hepatitis B surface antibody titer.
- e. Influenza vaccination by date specified on health form-- mandatory unless medically contraindicated.

4. Urine drug screen- 10 panel urine drug screen plus alcohol

**Note: Initial Health Requirements for *NURS 135* students**

**\*\*Students entering the Nursing Program via acceptance into *NURS 135* will be expected to submit evidence of the all of the above noted health requirements on January 4 of the spring semester in which they will enter *NURS 102*.**

Students who enter the Nursing Program via *NURS 135*, and progress to Level II in the following fall semester, must submit evidence of all of the annual health requirements indicated below at the time as all other students entering *NURS 103*.

**Subsequent Health Requirements**

***Progressing and returning students must submit a complete Subsequent Health Form to evidence the following:***

- 1. Complete history & physical examination by a licensed physician (MD or DO),  
certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP), or physician assistant (PA).
- 2. One-Step Mantoux (PPD) – Tine test is not acceptable. (Chest X-ray if Positive)

3. Evidence of immunizations/laboratory tests with date of results as recorded on the student's initial health form.
  - a. Two MMR's (dates as documented on initial health form)
  - b. Rubeola titer, Mumps titer, & Rubella titer as evidence of immunity by date of positive result for each as documented on initial health form.
  - c. Varicella titer—evidence of immunity by date of positive result as documented on initial health form.
  - d. Hepatitis B Surface Antibody titer-evidence of immunity by date of positive result as documented on initial health form.
  - e. Hepatitis C Virus Antibody screen—date and result of current laboratory test.
4. Urine drug screen—10 panel urine drug screen plus alcohol is required.
5. Influenza vaccination—by date specified on health form is *mandatory unless medically contraindicated.*

A special physical or mental health examination may be requested if there is a reason to suggest that the health or safety of the student/client is threatened.

### **American Heart Association Basic Life Support (CPR) for Health Care Providers**

Evidence of American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers (CPR) Certification is mandatory for initial and continued enrollment in all clinical courses in the Nursing Program.

The required CPR certification must be current throughout the length of enrollment in the BC3 Nursing Program, up to and including to graduation and evidence of current CPR certification must be provided prior to enrollment in every clinical Nursing course. The CPR requirement can only be met by completion of an American Heart Association (AHA) BLS for Healthcare Providers course that includes classroom instruction with demonstration/re-demonstration. Online CPR courses or courses from any agency other than (AHA) are not acceptable.

**The (AHA) BLS for Healthcare Providers course is currently based on the American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care and must include:**

- Critical concepts of high-quality CPR
- The American Heart Association Chain of Survival

- 1-Rescuer CPR and AED for adult, child and infant
- 2-Rescuer CPR and AED for adult, child and infant
- Differences between adult, child and infant rescue techniques
- Bag-mask techniques for adult, child and infant
- Rescue breathing for adult, child and infant
- Relief of choking for adult, child and infant
- CPR with an advanced airway\*

\* This is an introduction to the compression/ventilation rate and ratio for a patient who has an advanced airway in place.

In the approved (AHA) BLS for Healthcare Providers course, students participate in simulated clinical scenarios and learning stations. Students work with an (AHA) BLS Instructor to complete BLS skills practice and skills testing. Students also complete a written exam. The Initial Provider Course includes skills practice and skills testing. The American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers Course Completion Card is valid for two years.

### **Mandatory Health Insurance**

Health insurance is required for all students enrolled in the Nursing Program. Evidence of continuous health insurance coverage must be submitted on the Health form, and a copy of the insurance card to indicate coverage must be uploaded to Castle Branch when all other clinical requirements are submitted.

### **Malpractice Liability Insurance**

Malpractice liability insurance is provided through a blanket policy carried by the College. The student is billed the amount of \$10.00 each semester by the College to cover the individual's cost for the malpractice liability insurance.

### **Health Records Access & Maintenance**

Appropriate cumulative student health records can be accessed throughout the student's enrollment by the Dean of Nursing & Allied Health via the Castle Branch website. Student health records are maintained via the Castle Branch website and can be accessed by the individual student both during program enrollment and after graduation.

The student's health record uploaded to Castle Branch will be retained by the Nursing Program for five (5) years following the student's completion of or withdrawal from the program.

Students are advised to keep copies for their own files of all health records/clearances uploaded to the Castle Branch. Copies of any health forms or clearances cannot be provided to the student by the Dean or Division office personnel.

Students with incomplete physical examination reports, clearances, and/or those lacking current and required CPR certification will not be permitted to participate in clinical coursework. Days absent due to incomplete files must be made up per the attendance policy. No exceptions will be granted.

### **Urine Drug & Alcohol Screening**

Butler County Community College (BC3) is committed to working collaboratively with our students to provide a safe, secure, and healthy learning and working environment and enhancing the quality

of life of the College Community. Student placement in a variety of health care settings is necessary in order to meet the clinical objectives of the BC3 Nursing and Allied Health Division programs. To that end, a urine drug and alcohol screen is included in the Initial and Subsequent Health requirements for all students who enter, continue, or return to the Nursing Program to assure the safety of the patients or clients served by the health care facilities in which the students are assigned for clinical practice experience.

1. Failure of a Nursing and Allied Health Division student assigned to a facility for clinical practice to submit the urine sample on the designated date and time(s) specified by the College will result in cancellation of the student's enrollment in the respective Nursing and Allied Health Division program.
2. A confirmed positive test report will result in cancellation of the student's enrollment in the respective Nursing and Allied Health Division program.
3. Following initial screening, a random urine drug and alcohol screen may be required for cause at any time during the student's enrollment. Only Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) certified labs will be used for testing all samples. The facilities which must be utilized by students shall be designated by BC3. The cost of the test will be responsibility of the individual student.
4. The Dean of Nursing and Allied Health will serve as the primary contact for the College to ensure the "Chain of Custody" is maintained with respect to Nursing and Allied Health Division student record.

5. If a clinical instructor believes that a student is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the student will be sent off of the clinical area immediately. The student is required to meet with the Dean of Nursing and Allied Health and may be dismissed from the course or the program. The student will also be required to meet with the Vice President for Student Services.