



# **Judge McRae School of Nursing**

## **Pre-licensure BSN Student Handbook 2021-2022**



Revised August 2021

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## **WELCOME**

Welcome to the Mars Hill University Judge-McRae School of Nursing! We are excited that you have chosen our school of nursing for your educational journey. Your journey and success will be the result of collaborations among students, faculty, administrators, community agencies, health care providers, clients, families and communities.

Nursing is one of the most trusted professions in the United States of America. Nurses have earned and maintained that designation through education, critical thinking, and leadership. The Judge-McRae School of Nursing values reflect those of Mars Hill University (MHU) and focuses on health promotion, community engagement, cultural sensitivity and competence, courageous advocacy and ethical leadership.

The faculty and staff of the Judge McRae School of Nursing welcome you to a new and exciting experience. We will prepare you to care for individuals of all ages from various cultural backgrounds. Courses will provide students with a background in health promotion as well as an in-depth study of diseases and disorders. Students will learn the role of the registered nurse as defined by the North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON) Practice Act, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) Essentials of Baccalaureate Nursing Education for Professional Practice.

Congratulations on taking this step in your career! We look forward to working with you as you work toward your educational goals and career aspirations.

## **HISTORY**

The Ferguson Health Sciences Center, named for Jack and Carolyn Ferguson of Candler, NC, is a three-story, 28,731 square foot facility that was built in August 2016. The facility includes a faculty office suite, a five-bed simulation lab, a ten-bed skills lab, and four classrooms. The Judge-McRae School of Nursing is named for MHU alumni Norman '84 and Linda Judge-McRae '86 of Knoxville, TN. The McRae's are the owners of Caris Healthcare, a provider of private hospice healthcare based in Knoxville. The building dedication ceremony was held in September 2016.

The RN to BSN Program began in May 2015 and is currently inactive.

The traditional pre-licensure BSN program received initial approval by the North Carolina Board of Nursing in February 2016 and full approval in May 2018. The program is offered on the Mars Hill University campus in the Ferguson Health Sciences Center. The initial cohort of junior level nursing students entered and began their program August 2016. Each fall semester, a new cohort of students enters the program.

Mars Hill University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). In late March/April 2015, Mars Hill University was approved by SACSCOC to award the BSN degree: Traditional BSN (pre-licensure) and RN to BSN (post-licensure).

The Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing at Mars Hill University (Judge-McRae School of Nursing) is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) ([www.ccneaccreditation.org](http://www.ccneaccreditation.org)). Initial accreditation was received September 2016.

## **MISSION**

### **The Purpose**

Consistent with the Mars Hill University mission statement, the Judge-McRae School of Nursing is grounded in a rigorous study of the liberal arts, prepares professionals for the world of work, and is committed to character development, health care service, and responsible citizenship. As part of the world-wide community, the Judge-McRae School of Nursing embraces its rural, western North Carolina mountain identity and its collaborations with the communities, educational colleagues, and health care partners.

### **Mission**

The BSN Program at Mars Hill University equips students with the knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions to provide innovative health care across the lifespan through the roles of provider of care, designer of care, and member of the profession. Students will experience an education that:

- Sharpens critical thinking and clinical judgment
- Enhances health promotion and cultural sensitivity perspectives
- Insists upon effective, interactive, and interdisciplinary communication
- Engages with the community.

### **Vision**

The vision of the Judge-McRae School of Nursing is to educate future nursing leaders to be: informed, courageous advocates for a diverse population in Western North Carolina and beyond; to become a positive influence in the healthcare system through community engagement, service, and collaboration; to demonstrate holistic care with cultural competence; to be informed, reflective, critical thinkers who can adapt and apply appropriate clinical judgment; and to teach health promotion with dignity across the lifespan.

### **Philosophy**

Consistent with the Mars Hill University mission statement, the Judge-McRae School of Nursing is grounded in Christian principles, recognizing that each person is a unique individual deserving of quality, culturally competent, and respectful care throughout the lifespan. The nursing education is founded on liberal arts and natural sciences. The building blocks reflect the uniqueness of the Judge-McRae School of Nursing, Mars Hill University, Appalachian cultures, and Christian foundation through the conceptual framework while illuminating the defining expectations in North Carolina General Statutes and North Carolina Nursing Practice Act and the Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice.

## Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework provides interconnecting components to motivate and prepare learners for new instruction. The learner must attain mastery of each part of the framework, the individual, the healthcare system, and nursing in order to understand the complete curriculum (Knowles, Holton, & Swanson, 2005). The pre-licensure BSN curriculum ensures a foundation in liberal arts and natural sciences. Nursing theories especially Pender's Health Promotion Model and Purnell's Transcultural Nursing are threaded throughout the curriculum. Concepts are organized within each of these following domains and learning occurs from simple to complex.

- **Foundation:** Liberal Arts and Natural Sciences
- **Threaded Theories:** Pender's Health Promotion Model and Purnell's Transcultural Nursing
- **Individual:** Unique, worthy of dignified collaboration for quality of care across lifetime
- **Health:** Defined by each individual and influenced by internal and external environments
- **Nurse:** Change agent, collaborator, informed leader, courageous advocate, culturally competent in health promotion, illness prevention, and education
- **Environment:** Internal and External – culture, genomics, values, beliefs, lifestyles, societies.
- **Teaching/Learning:** Challenge, opportunity, responsibility of students, faculty, clients, and other collaborators for knowing.
- **Roles of the Nurse:** Provider of Care, Manager of Care, Member of Profession, Member of Interdisciplinary Team, Teacher, Researcher

## Baccalaureate Nursing Curriculum

The baccalaureate nursing curriculum is designed to help students develop critical-thinking and communication skills. The nursing curriculum focuses more on the nursing sciences with an emphasis on learning to apply classroom theory to practice. This includes exposing students to clinical skills, nursing theory, and the varied roles that nurses perform in the health-care system.

Courses include nurse leadership/management, health promotion, maternal/child health, mental health, pharmacology, pathophysiology, research and evidence-based practice, transcultural nursing, adult medical/surgical care, community health, and gerontology. Students are also required to take classes in the humanities, social sciences, basic sciences, business, psychology, technology, sociology, ethics, and nutrition to enhance their learning.

This level of education includes a variety of settings: community hospitals, clinics, social service agencies, schools, and health maintenance organizations. Diverse training prepares students for the growing and ever-changing healthcare field ([www.aacnnursing.org](http://www.aacnnursing.org)).

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The Judge-McRae School of Nursing BSN Program Student Learning Outcomes extend the mission statement and reflect current expectations in the Bachelor of Science in nursing program. The BSN Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are in alignment with the MHU Student Learning Outcomes (Creative Thinking, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Written Communication, Oral Communication, Information Literacy, and Civic Engagement).

### **Mars Hill University Institutional SLOs**

1. Creative Thinking (CR): Students will combine or synthesize existing ideas, images, or expertise in original or innovative ways to make a product.
2. Problem Solving (PS): Students will design, evaluate, and implement a strategy to answer an open-ended question or achieve a desired goal.
3. Critical Thinking (CT): Students will investigate issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.
4. Written Communication (WC): Students will produce quality written documents for general, professional, and academic audiences.
5. Oral Communication (OC): Students will prepare and deliver information and/or persuasive presentations for general, professional, and academic audiences.
6. Information Literacy (IL): Students will identify, locate, and evaluate information in effective and ethical ways.
7. Civic Engagement (CE): Students will develop the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivations to promote the quality of life in a community.

### **Judge-McRae School of Nursing SLOs**

1. Students will apply components of health promotion theory and pertinent nursing theories across the lifespan, cultures, and communities in discussing a culture. (CT)
2. Students will demonstrate scientific inquiry and its role in grounding nursing in evidence-based practice (PS).
3. Students will participate in interdisciplinary care for enhancement of patient outcomes. (IL)
4. Students will apply ethics, moral character, altruism, and social justice in the nursing profession. (CE)
5. Students will evaluate the role of gender, race/ethnicity, genomics/genetics, and environment on health promotion and disease prevention in assessing a community. (CT)
6. Students will synthesize best practices in research, leadership, quality improvement, and patient safety into own professional practice. (IL)
7. Students will communicate effectively through a variety of methods, technologies, and informatics platforms. (WC, OC)
8. Students will cultivate relationships with communities across various healthcare environments. (CE)
9. Students will relate policy, finance, and regulatory environments to health care delivery in designing a healthcare project. (CR)
10. Students will synthesize advanced knowledge, self-discovery, team dynamics, and experience acquired through the BSN program. (CT)



## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF NURSING (AACN)

### Membership

The Judge-McRae School of Nursing (JMSON) is a member of AACN, the national voice for academic nursing education. The AACN works to establish quality standards for nursing education; assists schools in implementing those standards; influences the nursing profession to improve health care; and promotes public support for professional nursing education, research, and practice. JMSON uses the Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice to direct education in all of the nursing courses.

### The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice (AACN, 2008)

The Essentials emphasize concepts such as patient-centered care, Inter-professional teams, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, patient safety, informatics, clinical reasoning/critical thinking, genetics and genomics, cultural sensitivity, professionalism, and practice across the lifespan in an ever-changing and complex healthcare environment.

Essentials I-IX delineate the outcomes expected of graduates of baccalaureate nursing programs. Achievement of these outcomes will enable graduates to practice within complex healthcare systems and assume the roles: provider of care; designer/manager/coordinator of care; and member of a profession. Essential IX describes generalist nursing practice at the completion of baccalaureate nursing education, which includes practice-focused outcomes that integrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes delineated in Essentials I-VIII.

The nine Essentials of BSN include the following:

- **Essential I:** Liberal Education for Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice
  - A solid base in liberal education provides the cornerstone for the practice and education of nurses.
- **Essential II:** Basic Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Care and Patient Safety
  - Knowledge and skills in leadership, quality improvement, and patient safety are necessary to provide high quality health care.
- **Essential III:** Scholarship for Evidence Based Practice
  - Professional nursing practice is grounded in the translation of current evidence into practice.
- **Essential IV:** Information Management and Application of Patient Care Technology
  - Knowledge and skills in information management and patient care technology are critical in the delivery of quality patient care.
- **Essential V:** Healthcare Policy, Finance, and Regulatory Environments
  - Healthcare policies, including financial and regulatory, directly and indirectly influence the nature and functioning of the healthcare system and thereby are important considerations in professional nursing practice.
- **Essential VI:** Inter-professional Communication and Collaboration for Improving Patient Health Outcomes

- Communication and collaboration among healthcare professionals are critical to delivering high quality and safe patient care.
- **Essential VII: Clinical Prevention and Population Health**
  - Health promotion and disease prevention at the individual and population level are necessary to improve population health and are important components of baccalaureate generalist nursing practice.
- **Essential VIII: Professionalism and Professional Values**
  - Professionalism and the inherent values of altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity, and social justice are fundamental to nursing.
- **Essential IX: Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice**
  - The baccalaureate-graduate nurse is prepared to practice with patients, including individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations across the lifespan and across the continuum of healthcare environments.
  - The baccalaureate graduate understands and respects the variations of care, the increased complexity, and the increased use of healthcare resources inherent in caring for patients (AACN, 2008).

American Association of Colleges of Nursing, [www.aacn.nche.edu](http://www.aacn.nche.edu) February 19, 2009

## AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation's four million registered nurses. ANA is at the forefront of improving the quality of health care for all. Founded in 1896, and with members in all 50 states and U.S. territories, ANA is the strongest voice for the profession.

ANA exists to advance the nursing profession by:

- Fostering high standards of nursing practice;
- Promoting a safe and ethical work environment;
- Bolstering the health and wellness of nurses; and
- Advocating on health care issues that affect nurses and the public.

*The Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*, or “The Code”, is a vital tool for all nurses now and in the future.

While the foundational values of nursing do not change, The Code is regularly updated to ensure it's relevant to nurses today. It supports all nurses, from students to Chief Nursing Officers (CNO), in providing consistently respectful, humane, and dignified care.

The Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (The Code) was developed as a guide for carrying out nursing responsibilities in a manner consistent with quality in nursing care and the ethical obligations of the profession.

### **American Nurses Association Nursing Code of Ethics**

1. The nurse, in all professional relationships, practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and uniqueness of every individual, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems.
2. The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group or community.
3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient.
4. The nurse is responsible for individual nursing practice and determines the appropriate delegation of tasks consistent with the nurse's obligation to provide optimum patient care.
5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to preserve integrity and safety, to maintain competence, and to continue personal and professional growth.
6. The nurse participates in establishing, maintaining, and improving health care environments and conditions of employment conducive to the provision of quality health care and consistent with the values of the profession through individual and collective action.
7. The nurse participates in the advancement of the profession through contributions to practice, education, administration, and knowledge development.
8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public in promoting community, national and international efforts to meet health needs.
9. The profession of nursing, as represented by associations and their members, is responsible for articulating nursing values, for maintaining the integrity of the profession and its practice, and for shaping social policy.

*American Nurses Association, Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements, Washington, D.C.: American Nurses Publishing, 2001*

### **NATIONAL STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION, INC. (NSNA)**

This ANA resource page is tailored for pre-licensure nursing students in an undergraduate program. Nursing students are a valued part of the ANA community! ANA respects the insights and contributions of students as the nurse leaders of tomorrow. ANA partners with NSNA to help bridge the transition from nursing school to licensure and practicing.

Members of the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) are eligible to sign-up as ANA Student Subscribers for free – a \$10 value! If you are not a member of NSNA, you can still sign up as an ANA Student Subscriber for free by agreeing to receive membership information from NSNA.

### **Preamble**

Students of nursing have a responsibility to society in learning the academic theory and clinical skills needed to provide nursing care. The clinical setting presents unique challenges and responsibilities while caring for human beings in a variety of health care environments.

The Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct is based on an understanding that to practice nursing as a student is an agreement to uphold the trust with which society has placed in us. The statements of the Code provide guidance for the nursing student in the personal development of an ethical foundation and need not be limited strictly to the academic or clinical environment but can assist in the holistic development of the person.

### **A Code for Nursing Students**

As students are involved in the clinical and academic environments we believe that ethical principles are a necessary guide to professional development. Therefore, within these environments we:

1. Advocate for the rights of all clients.
2. Maintain client confidentiality.
3. Take appropriate action to ensure the safety of clients, self, and others.
4. Provide care for the client in a timely, compassionate and professional manner.
5. Communicate client care in a truthful, timely and accurate manner.
6. Actively promote the highest level of moral and ethical principles and accept responsibility for our actions.
7. Promote excellence in nursing by encouraging lifelong learning and professional development.
8. Treat others with respect and promote an environment that respects human rights, values and choice of cultural and spiritual beliefs.
9. Collaborate in every reasonable manner with the academic faculty and clinical staff to ensure the highest quality care.
10. Use every opportunity to improve faculty and clinical staff understanding of the learning needs of nursing students.
11. Encourage faculty, clinical staff, and peers to mentor nursing students.
12. Refrain from performing any technique or procedure for which the student has not been adequately trained.
13. Refrain from any deliberate action or omission of care in the academic or clinical setting that creates unnecessary risk of injury to the client, self, or others.
14. Assist the staff nurse or preceptor in ensuring that there is full disclosure and that proper authorizations are obtained from clients regarding any form of treatment or research.
15. Abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages or any substance in the academic and clinical setting that impair judgment.
16. Strive to achieve and maintain an optimal level of personal health.
17. Support access to treatment and rehabilitation for students who are experiencing impairments related to substance abuse and mental or physical health issues.
18. Uphold school policies and regulations related to academic and clinical performance, reserving the right to challenge and critique rules and regulations as per school grievance policy.

*Adopted by the NSNA House of Delegates, Nashville, TN, on April 6, 2001.*

## **Judge-McRae School of Nursing Chapter of NSNA**

NSNA is dedicated to fostering the professional development of nursing students. NSNA is the voice of the future of the profession of nursing.

- NSNA Officers:
  - President - Shall preside at all meetings of this association, appoint committees as needed, perform all other duties pertaining to the office and represent this association as needed. Must be a Senior Nursing Student
  - Vice President - Shall assume the responsibility of the office of President in the event of the vacancy occurring in the office until the next regular election. Shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President. Shall assist the President as needed. Must be a Junior Nursing Student.
  - Secretary - Shall record and distribute the minutes of all meetings. Shall keep on file as a permanent record all reports, papers, and documents. Assist the president with official correspondence. Deliver to the newly elected Secretary all association papers. Should be a Junior Nursing Student.
  - Treasurer - Submit financial reports to the Board of Directors and membership as directed by President. Keep a permanent record of all dues received from members and any other income and disbursements. Remit payment as follows: a) Requests for disbursement of funds shall be made in writing to the Board of Directors. b) Upon approval, the treasurer will issue checks for those requests approved. c) No funds will be disbursed without prior approval. d) All checks must have two signatures. Should be a Senior Nursing Student.
  - Chairperson - Serves as chairperson of Projects committee. Attend student activities council meetings. Be accountable to the membership for notification of pending student activities. Keep members informed about activities and keep bulletin board up-to-date.

## **Judge-McRae School of Nursing Class Officers**

Each cohort of students in the JMSON will elect class officers to assist with governance, community outreach, and fund raising for the pinning, lamp lighting, and recognition ceremony. Each class (junior and senior) will elect a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Responsibilities are similar to those noted above but for the respective class.

*Note: The SNA and class presidents participate in the JMSON Pre-licensure BSN Faculty/Staff meeting and/or the Divisional meeting each month as well serving on the Advisory Council annually.*

**Mars Hill University**  
**Judge McRae School of Nursing**  
**Pre-licensure BSN Curriculum Plan 2021 -2022**

The Traditional Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) curriculum is 122 credit hours.  
The general education and program requirements are included below.

Freshman Fall		Freshman Spring	
FYS 111 First Year Seminar I	3	GE 112 Ethical Reasoning	3
MTH 107 Finite Math	3	NS 115 Introduction to Health Sciences	4
PSY 111 General Psychology	3	Humanities - Literature (or History)	3
ENG 111 College Composition I	3	ENG 112 College Composition II	3
HHP 111 Foundations of Health & Wellness	3		<b>Total: 13</b>
<b>Total: 15</b>			
Sophomore Fall		Sophomore Spring	
BIO 134 Anatomy & Physiology I	4	PSY 212 Lifespan Psychology	3
Humanities – History (or Literature)	3	BIO 135 Anatomy & Physiology II	4
Aesthetics (Drama, Music, Art)	3	Global Perspectives/FL - Spanish	3
CHM 105 Intro Gen/ Org/ Bio Chemistry	4	*NUR 211 Success Strategies Nursing	2
		*NUR 257 Transcultural/ Global Health	2
<b>Total: 14</b>			<b>Total: 15</b>
Junior Fall		Junior Spring	
Ideas & Innovations (US)	3	NUR 312 Promoting Adult Health	6
NUR 306 Pathophysiology	3	NUR 318 Adv. Pharmacology for Health Prom.	2
NUR 308 Health Assessment & Promotion	3	NUR 320 Prom. Healthy Aging & QOL	3
NUR 309 Pharmacology for Health Promotion	2	NUR 322 Nursing Statistics	3
NUR 311 Fundamentals of Health Promotion	6		<b>Total: 14</b>
<b>Total: 17</b>			
Senior Fall		Senior Spring	
Ideas & Innovations (World)	3	NUR 425 Promoting Mental & Comm. Health	6
NUR 407 Interdisciplinary Adult Health Prom.	6	NUR 426 Leadership, Management, & Bioethics	3
NUR 414 Promoting Family Health	7	NUR 430 Focused Capstone Synthesis	4
NUR 424 Nursing Research, EBP, & Informatics	3	NUR 440 Focused Practicum	3
<b>Total: 18</b>			<b>Total: 16</b>

Non-nursing Credits: 58

Nursing Credits: 64

Total hours required for graduation: 122

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS POLICY

Changes of address or telephone number must be reported to the nursing faculty and the Registrar's Office as soon as possible so that records can be kept current. Students need to complete a "Change of Name/Address/Phone" form and submit it to the JMSON Administrative Assistant (see form below).

### Change of Name/Address/Phone

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_      **PREVIOUS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT ID #** \_\_\_\_\_      **OR LAST 4 DIGITS OF of SSN #** \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS ADDRESS	NEW ADDRESS
PREVIOUS PHONE NUMBER	NEW PHONE NUMBER

*Student's Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

*Today's Date* \_\_\_\_\_

## **LEARNING RESOURCES POLICY**

The Renfro Library is centrally located on the Mars Hill University Campus (MHU) in Mars Hill, NC. During fall and spring semesters, the library hours include the following: Monday-Thursday 7:30 to 11:00 pm; Friday 7:30 am to 4:00 pm; Saturday 11:00 to 4:00 pm; and Sunday 1:00 to 11:00 pm. During the summer semester, the library is open from 9:00 to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Library staff are available to provide assistance (See MHU website). The library's in-house collections, resources, and services support the programs offered at MHU.

The library website accessed through the MHU website provides information to all online resources provided through the library. All online library resources are available to all on-campus computer-users. All online resources are also available to students and employees who are off-campus via remote authentication accessed by using the personal MHU username and password, similar to logging into MHU computers, email, Moodle, etc.

The library's home page for nursing provides access to the following items: topic overviews; book and media; articles; patient education; public health; professional organizations and associations; standards and practice guidelines; and citing sources. The Judge McRae School of Nursing Program (JMSON) uses APA Format (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) for all the required formal papers. Please refer to the MHU library website for APA guidelines.

## **WRITING CENTER**

The Mars Hill University Writing Center, located in Renfro Library, room 133, offers free writing tutoring for all MHU students. Writers are encouraged to make an appointment, but drop-in visits are welcome, time permitting.

Writing Center tutors are trained to provide assistance at all stages of the writing process, from prewriting to revising final drafts, and they work with writers in all disciplines. Whether you're working on that first essay for your first-year English class, tweaking a major research paper, or polishing your résumé for a job application, the tutors in the Writing Center can help you become a better writer.



## **JMSON DIDACTIC ACCOMMODATION POLICY**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for person with disabilities. If you have an Academic Accommodation Plan (AAP) issued through MHU Disability Services, please arrange a time within the first week of each semester to present your plan to the nursing program director to discuss your specific accommodation needs. The Judge-McRae School of Nursing Program Director must verify the accommodations a student utilizes specific to clinical settings. Each student is responsible for providing a copy of their AAP to the nursing program director each semester for approval. Upon approval, the nursing program director will share the AAP with the appropriate faculty members.

If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation and do not have an approved Academic Accommodation Plan, please contact Judith Harris, Disability Services Coordinator, located in Nash 108 Student Health Center or at [judith\\_harris@mhu.edu](mailto:judith_harris@mhu.edu).

### **Clinical Accommodations:**

Students must meet all JMSON Technical Standards and policies along with the clinical site institutional standards and policies related to any and all patient care settings in order to maintain safety and uphold clinical site agreements.

## **Request Testing Accommodations for NCLEX-RN (in brief)**

Documentation required for testing accommodations:

- Candidates should request testing accommodations at the time of application for licensure.
- The accommodations must be approved by NCBON before a candidate can schedule the NCLEX exam.
- Mental impairment includes any mental or psychological disorder which is protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Note that test anxiety and English as second language are not protected.

Items required for accommodation:

1. Documentation from qualified professional with expertise in area of diagnosed disability and must include:
  - Recognized diagnosis found in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)
  - Identification of the specific standardized and professionally recognized test/assessment given
  - The scores resulting from testing interpretation of the scores and evaluations
  - Recommendations for testing accommodations with stated rationale as to necessary and appropriate
2. Letter from candidate defining disability and specific testing accommodations desired
3. Letter from Nursing Program Director defining accommodations candidate was given during the nursing program.

Mail required documents to: NCBON, Education Dept., Attn: Accommodations, PO Box 2129, Raleigh, NC 27602

<https://www.ncbon.com/dcp/i/licensurelisting-licensure-by-examination-request-testing-accommodations>

### **Nursing Program Fees**

Student Fees - \$525/semester for each pre-licensure BSN student during the junior and senior year. These fees cover student costs including but not limited to: supplies, liability insurance, compliance tracking, F&S Review and Kaplan.

## Academic Advisement

Academic advisors will be assigned to each nursing student during the freshman year at MHU. Pre-Nursing Students will be advised by the HRSA funded Nursing Student Advisor/Support Coordinator. Junior and senior nursing students will be advised by current nursing faculty.

Academic advising is central to the education of every student here at Mars Hill. The relationship between advisor and student is at the core of the advising process, which encompasses most aspects of the university experience, from assisting students in making decisions about majors that will lead to fulfilling careers, to which classes to take and when, and how all of this fits into the life plans of our students. Advisors and students accomplish this in a helpful, professional, and mutually respectful atmosphere in which students are taught how to:

1. Define their personal educational and life goals;
2. Plan programs to achieve those goals;
3. Learn MHU policies and procedures, curricula options, and academic program requirements; and
4. Make full use of the resources available to them at Mars Hill.

## Computer Requirements

Examinations and interactive learning experiences will be provided electronically. This requires all students own and bring a laptop to class for use when instructed by faculty. While desktop computers may be used at home, a laptop may be required for use in the classroom.

*Laptop minimum requirements:*

- *PC Recommendations: Lowest Standards*

CPU	2.0GHz dual core + higher
RAM	4 GB
Hard Drive	80 GB
OS	Windows 10

\* Alternate versions of Windows 10, such as Windows RT and Windows 10 S, are NOT supported at this time. \*

Working USB Port
- *Macintosh Recommendations: Lowest Standards*

CPU	2.4 GHz + higher
RAM	4 GB
Hard Drive	200 GB + higher
OS	MacOS X 10.14.6 (Mojave), macOS Catalina (10.15.7), macOS Big Sur (11.0). Only genuine versions of Mac operating systems are supported.

Working USB Port
- An approved anti-virus application and an anti-spyware application, installed, updated and constantly running is required for connection to the wireless network at MHU.
- Microsoft Office Required
  - Many computers come with Microsoft Works. This software is not the same as MS Office and is not used anywhere on campus.

Additional information is available at: <https://its.mhu.edu>

## COMPUTER ACCESS POLICY

All students who register for classes will have access to the Mars Hill University computer system. Each student is provided access to the official mhu.edu network account and an e-mail address will be given during the registration process. The admission office sends each student an email with instructions for accessing or setting up student accounts for the following:

- **Webmail**
- **Self Service**
- **Moodle** email at: [moodleadmin@mhu.edu](mailto:moodleadmin@mhu.edu) or call 828-689-1195
- **Library**
- **MyMHU**

Students are instructed to keep this information private and to not distribute or share access information. The help desk is available to students needing assistance by emailing [helpdesk@mhu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mhu.edu) or by calling 828-689-1444.

## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Nursing students may encounter confidential information within the University or within the patient care environment during clinical practicum. Consistent with clinical facility Confidentiality Statements, the nursing student will refrain from any of the following:

- Using patients' name (any identifier including initials, room numbers, patient age, hospital name, etc.) and personal health information in any way
- Disclosing confidential information about the University, its employees, or its students
- Stating personal opinions as being endorsed by the University
- Using information and conducting activities that may violate JMSON academic policies, or may violate local, state, or federal laws, and regulations
- Posting of embarrassing, threatening or harassing statements on either a personal page or website (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snap Chat, etc.). This could be grounds for disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the program
- Posting of any pictures of yourself or others at a clinical facility or site.
- JMSON clinical/simulation attire including student I.D. badges are not to be worn outside of assigned settings unless directed by faculty. This includes any and all photos/videos on all social media platforms that have not been approved by MHU or JMSON.

While the JMSON faculty do not regularly review content posted to social media sites, they have the right to request removal of any content for any reason, including but not limited to, content that is deemed threatening, obscene, a violation of intellectual property rights or privacy laws, or otherwise injurious or illegal. The JMSON does not tolerate content from students that is defamatory, harassing, libelous or inhospitable to a reasonable academic/work environment (Harris, 2013). Social media may be used to investigate student behavior.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY**

### **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)**

In compliance with HIPAA regulations and privacy of health information, students' health information submitted to the School of Nursing as a requirement for enrollment and participation in clinical learning experiences will be secured in the individual student's records in locked cabinets.

The HIPAA Privacy Rule provides a Federal law to protect privacy and confidentiality by preventing a release of an individual's (client's) individually identifiable health information (i.e., information in a medical record).

Individually identifiable health information may be stored in a variety of formats including paper, electronic (computers), video, audio, and photographs. Regardless of the format, all individually identifiable health information must be protected. Under no circumstances should any of this information be copied and/or removed from the clinical agency.

To comply with all applicable requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Public Law 104-191, and all amendments thereto, Mars Hill University and the JMSOON agrees to inform all students and faculty members of the requirements of HIPAA. The student shall comply with all privacy policies of the clinical agencies and the agency shall provide access to all students and faculty members a copy of its privacy policy when a student is assigned to the agency.

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

Mars Hill University and the JMSOON Program maintain student records in accordance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. No student information will be given to entities outside the college institution without the student's written permission. Students have the right to access and review their educational records and to question the contents therein. For further information on FERPA, see the MHU Student Handbook.

## **STUDENT EVALUATION OF COURSES, FACULTY, AND FACILITIES**

At the end of each nursing course, the JMSO Administrative Assistant will distribute a course evaluation. Students will be asked to evaluate the course and respective faculty. A form is also available to evaluate the clinical facility used during the course. Student input is valued; therefore, it is important for students to respond on these anonymous evaluations in a truthful, mature manner. Evaluation summaries are available to the Dean, Program Director, and individual faculty members after course grades are posted. Nursing faculty and the Director read, assimilate suggestions offered, and incorporate students' recommendations in curriculum and teaching whenever possible.

## **PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS POLICY**

As a profession, nurses and nurse educators are expected to abide by the code of ethics for nurses set forth by the American Nurses' Association [ANA] (2001), both with clients and with peers (Luparell, 2005). Therefore, in the classroom and clinical setting, students are expected to adhere to the policies of MHU and the respective facilities in which they will be observing or practicing. It is expected that all students will conduct themselves with dignity and respect in every setting.

### **Civil Professional Behaviors**

The JMSO program expects students to contribute to a culture of professionalism and civility. Behaviors that **are expected** of students include, but are not limited to:

- Address faculty, full and part-time, according to their title (Professor or Doctor)
- Schedule appointments with faculty for any issues that may arise during the course of this program (discussion of grades, absences, etc.); refrain from scheduling 30 minutes before class begins.
- Feedback is given in a constructive manner-information specific, issue focused, based on observations and the context in which the event occurred, and includes behavioral expectations and/or professional standards.
- Respect for everyone (learners, faculty, etc.).
- Maintain an appropriate voice tone and volume in all forms of interaction.
- Refrain from the use of harmful language in all forms of interaction.
- When addressing a concern, use the appropriate chain of command and address in a professional manner.
- Take responsibility and accountability for your own behavior.
- Engage in professional etiquette through verbal, email and other written communication.
- Allow for open, honest, and respectful dialogue.
- Maintain a professional personal appearance in all classroom, lab, and clinical settings.
- Model civil and ethical behavior in the classroom, lab, clinical, on campus, and during all interactions with students, faculty, staff, and clinical affiliates.
- Refrain from monopolizing conversations and allow others to voice their opinion.
- Follow confidential guidelines outlined in HIPAA and FERPA.

- Conduct romantic relationships in a professional manner in all classroom and clinical settings
- Refrain from interacting with faculty through social media (ie. Facebook, Instagram, etc.).

### **Uncivil Behaviors**

Uncivil behaviors in the educational setting are defined as any action that interferes with the teaching-learning process or unduly increases the stress levels of students or faculty (Clark & Carnosso, 2008) and can include a variety of behaviors ranging from rude comments and actions to violent behavior (Clark & Springer, 2007). Attitude or behavior not conducive to the learning process and/or inappropriate for the nursing profession, include the following but are not limited to:

- Failure to adhere to academic integrity standards
- Gossiping or damaging a student's or faculty's reputation
- Yelling at faculty, students, or clinical staff
- Rudeness, threats, or physical violence
- Failure to participate in clinical/lab/sim or complete required assignments
- Regularly arriving late to clinical/lab/sim
- Speaking in a condescending, sarcastic, or argumentative manner
- Not responding to email, phone calls, or texts that require a reply
- Harassing, belittling, or demeaning via any form of communication (including social media)
- Displays of temper tantrums
- Failure to follow proper chain of command in any of the educational settings.
- Unsafe practice or gross unprofessional conduct in any of the educational settings.
- Participation in illegal activities such as alcohol or substance abuse.

### **Process for addressing incivility claims**

Reports of a violation of these policies can be made in person or in writing, but should be made as soon as possible and within 60 calendar days of the incident or violation. If made in-person, it must be followed up in writing.

Retaliation (intimidation, harassment, etc.) against any faculty member, student, or staff making a good faith complaint or report of a violation of these policies is prohibited. Retaliation and false reporting may result in disciplinary action and/or other appropriate sanctions by the JMSON program.

All reports of violations of this policy will be promptly and thoroughly investigated. Upon receiving a complaint or report, the Director of nursing will notify the Dean and follow-up with others as needed for appropriate investigation.

Disciplinary action for violation of these policies may include, but would not be limited to, the following:

- Students - warning, counseling, suspension, or dismissal from the program.

**NOTE:** Faculty members reserve the right to refuse to take a student into the clinical areas if he/she feels the student would be unsafe due to inability, attitude, behavior or personal health practices.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

### University Honor Code and Policy on Plagiarism

#### **HONOR CODE**

We, the students of Mars Hill University, pledge ourselves to uphold integrity, honesty, and academic responsibility in and out of the classroom.

#### **HONOR PLEDGE**

On my honor, I have neither given nor received any academic aid or information that would violate the Honor Code of Mars Hill University.

#### **Types of Honor Code Violations**

- Cheating - plagiarism, cheat sheets, handing in someone else's work as one's own—for example: material from the Internet, helping someone in class in a manner that is considered cheating, giving or receiving any information that is prohibited.
- Lying - lying about any offense under the Honor Code and Honor Pledge.
- Stealing - only in those violations that are not covered by the Student Code of Conduct.

#### **Plagiarism**

Mars Hill students are expected to know how to recognize and avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting other people's work as your own. Using another person's idea, words, or work is theft, just as surely as is the theft of a car, or other tangible property. As members of the academic community, students must be mindful of other people's property. Failure to respect such property rights is considered a serious and punishable violation of the Mars Hill University Honor Code.

Plagiarism is:

- Presenting someone else's idea but not giving credit for it (implying the idea is yours).
- Presenting someone else's words without giving credit.
- Submitting any work which was done by someone else (including another student) and claiming it is your own work. Examples: lab reports and computer assignments.
- A student who plagiarizes an assignment is violating the Honor Code. Penalties for violations are determined by the instructor of the course in which the incident occurred and range from a zero on the assignment up to and including suspension from the college.



## ACADEMIC GRADING POLICY

Students are responsible for monitoring their own progression. Grades will be posted to Moodle so that each student can track their grades. In order to successfully pass a nursing course with a clinical component, students must pass the classroom portion with a grade of 80. **Grades will be rounded with the final grade for the course** (e.g., 79.5 = 80). Clinical will be graded as a satisfactory/unsatisfactory portion of each clinical course. Students must receive a satisfactory grade for clinical in order to pass the course.

For any student experiencing difficulty with grades, a conference will be held and written documentation will be signed by both the student and the instructor and placed in the student's advisor folder. A student may request an appointment to meet with the instructor at any time. This will be arranged at a time mutually convenient to the instructor and the student.

The **grading scale** used by the JMSON nursing department is as follows:

<b>Grading</b> The final course letter grade will be assigned according to the following:		The final course grade is calculated based on percentages for each course.  *An <b>80</b> or above is required for all nursing courses to progress in the program.
<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Numerical Range</u>	
A	93-100	
B	85-92	
C	80-84	
F	79 or below	

## **EXAM POLICY AND PRACTICES**

### **Exam Expectations**

1. All exams will be given on JMSON laptop computers. Students are expected to arrive 10 minutes early to allow time to check-out a laptop, turn on the laptop, and download the exam via Exemplify.
2. The door to the exam room will be closed at the scheduled start exam time with no student entry after the door has closed. Any student not arriving before the door is closed will not be able to take the exam during that session. A make-up exam must be scheduled with the course instructor. The make-up exam may be in an alternate format.
3. All personal belongings, including cell phones, smart devices, must be left in the student's personal locker on the first floor or placed at the front of the classroom upon arriving in the exam room.
4. Students will adhere to the allotted exam times as scheduled with or without accommodations.
5. Questions are not allowed during testing unless it is related to a technical issue with the computer or software.
6. Students with accommodations must notify the Judge-McRae School of Nursing Program Director for approval and provide the accommodation page one week prior to the first exam for their student file. Testing accommodations will be honored as outlined on the AAP (Academic Accommodation Plan).
7. In the event that classes are held in a virtual format, exams will continue online. Students will be required to download Exemplify on their personal computer to be able to complete the exam at home. Faculty will continue to proctor the exams in a virtual format.

### **Grading Guidelines**

1. Make-up exams: In the event a student must miss an exam, a make-up exam may be given in an alternate format from the original version. For example, a make-up exam for an originally formatted multiple choice exam may be in a multiple choice, essay, combined, or another format.
2. Late graded assignments: Graded assignments are expected to be submitted on time. This policy may vary by course. Refer to the course documents of each course for specific guidelines.
3. Rounding of grades: Grades are not rounded for exams or assignments. Rounding occurs only for the final course grade. For example, an exam grade of 84.45 will be recorded as 84.45. A course average of 84.54 would round to an 85.
4. Final course grades are posted in Self-Service using the official JMSON grading policy: A, B, C, F. There are no + or – on the letter grades for JMSON NUR courses.

## **EXAM REVIEW POLICY**

The faculty of the Judge-McRae School of Nursing recognizes the learning opportunity available when reviewing exams. Therefore, post-exam review times will be made available on an individual/group basis determined by the faculty member outside of class time. Requests for exam review must be made within one week after exam completion.

During the exam review time, students will have the opportunity to review an ExamSoft print-out of the missed questions from their individual test in order to identify areas of knowledge deficiency. A faculty member will be available during this time to provide clarification of exam items. Students are not allowed to keep the ExamSoft print-out due to exam security.

The review time will not be used for defense or justification of potential alternative choices to exam items. Should a student identify a question/answer set that they feel has another correct or better answer, the student may use the test item justification form to support their rationale. The justification form must be submitted in writing or by email to the instructor who administered the test within 24 hours following the exam review.

Submission of the justification form does not guarantee a change to exam score. Every effort will be made to review and post final exam scores prior to the next scheduled exam. See attached Exam Item Justification Form.

### **Guidelines for In-Depth Exam Review Sessions**

Students who score below 80% on any exam must attend (mandatory) in-depth test review for a complete analysis of the exam to identify strategies for improvement and success. A controlled environment for the exam review will include the following:

- No cell phones, smart watches or smart devices of any kind. No books, computers, coats, allowed in the review area. Faculty must always be present.
- Open to all students regardless of grade.
- Dates and times for in-depth test review will be posted on Moodle for each course.
- Students who score below 80% on any exam must meet individually with the course faculty following the in-depth test review. Students are to email the course faculty to schedule the appointment. This must be done prior to the scheduled day of subsequent unit exams.

### **Individual Exam Review**

- Students must request review from faculty within five days of receiving their grade and exams must be reviewed within 10 days of administration.
- Students will not be permitted to review past exams at the end of the semester.

**Exam Item Justification Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Semester:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit of Study / Exam:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Item number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reason for question: (Explain/rationalize why you believe your answer is correct)**

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**References: (Resources that support your rationale. Include page numbers from approved course texts.)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

## STANDARDIZED TESTING (KAPLAN TESTING)

Students are required to complete all Kaplan Exams as scheduled. This includes taking the appropriate Focused Review Test and completing the remediation prior to taking the proctored Integrated test.

### **Focused Review Testing**

Prior to the proctored exam, students are to complete the Focused Review Tests. The Focused Review Tests are non-proctored, comprehensive practice tests that help students target weaker subject areas. They are designed to coach students through the specific content, providing full rationales for the correct and incorrect answers. These Tests also include comprehensive remediation as well as alternative questions stems to enhance student comprehension of written questions.

Focused Review Tests include the following:

- Cardiovascular System A/B
- Community A
- Endocrine System A
- Fluid and Electrolyte Balance A
- Fundamentals of Nursing A/B
- Gastrointestinal System A/B
- Health Assessment A
- Hematology-Immune A
- Management of Care A/B/C
- Maternity/Gynecological Nursing A/B/C
- Musculoskeletal System A
- Neurology A
- Oncology A
- Pathophysiology A
- Pediatrics Test A/B/C
- Pharmacological-Parenteral Therapy A/B/C
- Psychiatric Nursing A/B/C
- Renal-Urological System A/B
- Sensory A
- Basic Math A
- Pediatric Math A
- Critical Care Math A
- Level II Math A

Kaplan Integrated Tests are to be used as end-of-course and end-of-program tools to assist faculty and administrators in determining students' strengths and weaknesses in recalling and understanding nursing knowledge and in applying this knowledge in clinical situations. In addition, a significant number of questions require students to apply critical thinking skills to make sound nursing judgements within the purview of a basic nursing course or program. Test

results enable nursing schools to identify students with knowledge and learning deficits in specific content areas.

**Kaplan Testing (Total points = up to 10%)**

The JMSON faculty agree that Integrated Tests should be used more of a formative evaluation than a summative evaluation to identify student strengths and weaknesses in nursing knowledge and clinical decision making. Students are required to complete all Kaplan Exams as scheduled. This includes taking the appropriate Focused Review Test and completing the remediation prior to taking the proctored test.

- **Kaplan Focused Review Testing**  
Prior to the proctored exam, students are to complete the Focused Review Tests. A score of 60 or higher is the benchmark that students should strive to obtain.
- **Kaplan Proctored Integrated Testing**  
The Integrated Tests are administered by the faculty of the nursing school under proctored conditions. Students are required to take the proctored test as scheduled.

The actual percentile received on the Kaplan proctored exam will count for up to 10% of the course grade and will be based on the following levels:

<b>Kaplan Proctored Exam Percentile</b>	<b>Leveling Grade Received</b>
90-99 <sup>th</sup>	100
80-89 <sup>th</sup>	98
70-79 <sup>th</sup>	96
60-69 <sup>th</sup>	94
50-59 <sup>th</sup>	86
40-49 <sup>th</sup>	78
30-39 <sup>th</sup>	70

A percentile of 50 or higher is the benchmark that students should strive to obtain on the proctored exam.

If a percentile of 50 or lower is obtained the first time, students have the option keep their grade or complete remediation and retake the exam. Remediation resources include three-tiers of content remediation in the form of an overview, nursing care, and background of the topic immediately after testing. Additionally, video remediation is included for over 900 topics.

**Instructions for Students**

On test day, log in with your username/password. When your proctor tells you to begin, click, “Take Available Tests” in the Green Integrated Testing box. You will see the specific test scheduled. Click into the test to begin. If your test is “grayed out” or is you experience a login issue, let you proctor know immediately. If you are kicked out of the test due to server error at any point, simply close the browser window, log back in, click on **Resume**, and you will

automatically be placed back into the test at the point of exit. **DO NOT REFRESH, QUIT, or DO ANYTHING except** close the window before logging in again.

Once logged in, please **AVOID**:

- Hitting the backspace key
- Leaving the test site before completing the test
- Refreshing the page
- Submitting a test before completion with the “QUIT” button
- Using the radio buttons on your tool bar

If the Internet goes down, log in again and check under “Available Tests”. Click RESUME to go back to the last unanswered question.

### **STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY**

All nursing students are expected to attend and participate in all meetings (class, lab, and clinical) of the courses in which they are enrolled. Any absence is incurred at the student’s own risk. Attendance is vital for success in the nursing program. Students must attend at least 90% of each component of each course. For example, in a course that includes a didactic/theory (classroom) portion, a lab portion, and a clinical portion, the required minimum attendance is 90% of classroom hours, 90% of lab hours, and 90% of clinical hours.

Missed material, skills, or clinical experiences may not be available for make-up. Exams that are missed may require an alternate format exam, usually an essay exam taken in a timed, seated, monitored environment.

Absences more than 10% for extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis. Examples of extenuating circumstances may include death in the immediate family, court/legal issues, or medical emergencies. Absences related to work, child care, doctor appointments, and/or travel, etc. are not considered extenuating circumstances. For an absence to be considered an extenuating circumstance, the student must submit appropriate documentation to the faculty member.

All student athletes are required to email their schedules to their instructors and copy the department administrative assistant at the beginning of the semester and within 24 hours of any changes to practice or game times.

## CLASSROOM POLICY

1. All classes will begin as scheduled on the course calendar unless otherwise specified.
2. Students are expected to be **prepared for class** by reading the required text assignments, completing any assignments for the class session, and other applicable learning activities prior to each class. Students must have the appropriate textbooks, notebooks, writing instruments, etc. with them in **all** classes unless otherwise instructed.  
**Exception:** Students may use an electronic device in class if using the e-book textbook option for class. However, use of electronic devices in class will be monitored. In the event a student uses electronic devices for personal use during class time, such as Social Media, texting, etc., the student may be asked to leave the classroom, receive an absence for the day, and will not be allowed to return to class with an electronic device.
3. Students are expected to be **on time** and ready to begin class and/or nursing skills lab. If a student is going to be late or absent from class they must notify their faculty member via email.
4. Students are responsible for monitoring their own attendance. The faculty member is not required to notify students in danger of excessive absences. Missed material will not be re-taught by the faculty member.
5. Students are expected to participate in class discussion but **must refrain from talking** that is unrelated to class or **any movement that may interfere** with the learning of other members of the class. Students will be called down if inappropriate talking or movement occurs and will be asked to leave the classroom.
6. Students are expected to **complete and submit all assigned class and/or homework** by the assigned due dates. All assignments are to be typewritten or neatly written in black ink on regular 8 ½ x 11-inch paper or on forms provided by the instructors. If forms are provided, students are expected to use the provided forms. Most forms will be available in an electronic format through Moodle for student use. Points will be deducted for assignments submitted late.
7. Examinations are to be completed on the JMSO laptop computers in the classroom and in the presence of the instructor or proctor. Students may bring ear plugs on test days if easily distracted by noise or movement as students finish their tests or examinations.
8. **Dress Code for Classroom (other than Clinical, Simulation, and Laboratory Settings)** Nursing students are expected to project a professional image whether in uniform for clinical, simulation, and laboratory settings, or in the classroom. The image projected reflects upon the Judge-McRae School of Nursing and upon the profession of nursing. Shorts, tank tops, revealing clothing, flip flops, etc., do not convey professionalism. Nice jeans (no holes), sandals, and capris are acceptable.



9. Personal cleanliness is a prerequisite for client care. Regular bathing, hair washing and use of deodorant are part of personal cleanliness and are expected to be maintained in such a way that promotes an absence of body odor. All attire, accessories, etc. must be appropriately laundered and in good repair. Appropriate undergarments should be worn at all times.
10. Students are allowed in the lab area after hours for practice only. No equipment shall be removed from the lab without prior approval from nursing faculty.
11. Each student is responsible for maintaining an orderly appearance of the lab at all times. Equipment should be returned to its proper storage place, the manikins and beds should be left neat and in a proper position, and trash should be removed from over bed tables and desks at the completion of scheduled lab time.
12. Students are to participate in keeping all classrooms and laboratories neat, clean, and in order. Food and drink are **NOT** allowed in the skills lab or simulation lab. Drinks with a lid may be allowed in the classroom during lecture, but no food allowed.
13. Students are to demonstrate professional conduct at all times and in all educational settings. Use of profanity or any other inappropriate language will **NOT** be tolerated.
14. Students are **NOT** allowed to leave class or lab except during scheduled breaks. If a student is having an issue that might result in an abrupt departure from class, he/she needs to inform the instructor at the beginning of the class. Scheduled breaks occur approximately every 50 minutes to an hour depending on what is going on in the class session.
15. Due to content discussed in the classroom setting, taped recordings of lecture are not permitted without prior faculty approval.
16. Cellular phones and/or beepers are **NOT** allowed to be on in the classroom or labs. Cell phones **MUST** be turned off or silenced/muted while in class (not on vibrate).
17. Due to the nature of content and equipment used for learning experiences, **NO** children are allowed in the learning area (classroom, skills lab, or computer lab). Children may not be left unattended in the Ferguson Health Sciences Building or anywhere on campus.
18. **Students who do not abide by the classroom and online regulations will be subject to disciplinary action, ranging from verbal warning, written warning, and/or dismissal.** Review of this Student handbook and student understanding (as evidenced by signature of Acknowledgment of Policies and Expectations form) constitutes a verbal warning. Certain circumstances may necessitate a written warning or probation or dismissal depending on the seriousness of the infraction.

## PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT POLICY

The Performance Improvement Contract (see attached form) will be completed on any student requiring counseling for academic, behavior, or classroom/clinical performance problems. The procedure is as follows:

1. Problem is identified.
2. Faculty member(s) decide on corrective action.
3. Form is completed.
4. Student is counseled.
5. Student and Faculty sign the form.
6. Form is kept in the student's record.
7. A verbal warning is issued to the student during New Student Orientation and the student agrees to follow the policies by signing policy manual agreement form.
8. Multiple events may result in dismissals based on the steps listed below:
  - **1<sup>st</sup> event warning** – Verbal warning; a copy of the pre-licensure BSN Student Policy Manual is given and reviewed with student at orientation. This serves as the 1<sup>st</sup> event verbal warning.
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> event warning** – Written warning/Probationary status; if in clinical, sent home with unsatisfactory resulting in Probationary Status.
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> event warning** - dismissal from program.

**\*\* Any “Unsatisfactory” on the final clinical evaluation may preclude the need for any prior performance improvement contract and can result in dismissal from the program.**

**JUDGE MCRAE SCHOOL OF NURSING  
PRE-LICENSURE BSN**

**Performance Improvement Contract (PIC)**

**Instructor Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Counseling Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Warning**

**1<sup>st</sup> Event Verbal Warning**      Pre-Licensure Handbook Review

**2<sup>nd</sup> Event Written Warning**      \_\_\_\_\_

**3<sup>rd</sup> Event Dismissal**              \_\_\_\_\_

**Reason for Counseling:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Behaviors:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT (continued)**

**Background Information:**

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**Course of Corrective Action:**

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**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faculty** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faculty** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## **PROGRESSION POLICY**

Progression in the Judge McRae School of Nursing Program develops as indicated below:

1. Students must be accepted into the JMSON program.
2. Students must pass all pre-requisite courses with a grade of “C” or higher (includes A&P I and II, CHM or sub, PSY 212)
3. Students must pass all nursing courses with an 80% or higher.
4. If a student is dismissed from the program due to clinical performance, they will not be allowed to complete a withdrawal form and will receive a grade of “F”.
5. If a student is dismissed from the program for academic dishonesty, they will forfeit future opportunities to re-enroll in the JMSON program
6. Students must apply to the Registrar's Office at the middle of third semester for evaluation of graduation requirements.
7. Students must earn a satisfactory in the clinical component and/or lab component for each nursing course (NUR prefix) to continue in the JMSON Program.

## **PROBATION POLICY**

This policy applies to students enrolled in the JMSON Program at Mars Hill University and **supersedes** the University’s probation policy as stated in the University Catalog.

The JMSON program requires students to maintain an 80% or higher for all courses in the curriculum as the minimum satisfactory level.

## **SUSPENSION POLICY**

A JMSON student receiving a grade below an 80% in any nursing course will be suspended from the program. Also, any student on academic probation that falls below the requirements outlined in the probation policy will be suspended.

A student shall be dismissed from the JMSON program for failure to meet clinical standards. Students who are identified as having physical and/or emotional problems that do not respond to appropriate treatment and/or counseling within a reasonable period of time will be dismissed from the JMSON program.

Failure to earn the required **minimum passing grades** for each nursing course at the end of any term will result in suspension from the program. Note that an 80 or above is required in theory and a satisfactory is required in clinical and/or lab. Receiving an “F” in any non-nursing related courses will result in suspension from the JMSON program.

## WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students have the opportunity to withdraw from courses up to the Mars Hill University date for withdrawal with a “grade of W” as listed on the University Academic Calendar. A student who wishes to withdraw from any nursing course should meet with the JMSON Program Director and complete an official withdrawal form with the required signatures. Failure to officially withdraw will result in a grade of “F” for the student for that course in which he/she was enrolled. Withdrawal from any required nursing course results in withdrawal from the nursing program. If the student desires readmission at a later date, the readmission policy is utilized.

Grades will be reviewed at the midterm point of each NUR course. At this time if the instructor(s) feel that the student, due to reasons including but not limited to: unsatisfactory theory grades; lack of interest; health concerns; or any other reasonable cause; the student may be advised to withdraw to prevent failure.

## DISMISSAL POLICY

Grounds for dismissal are as follows:

1. Problems in physical or emotional health that impair the ability to provide safe, competent care, which do not respond to appropriate treatment and/or counseling within a reasonable period of time.
2. Indulging in alcoholic beverages or abuse or misuse of any drug or medication that interferes with the ability to function in any of the educational settings.
3. Failure to meet satisfactory progression in the theory, clinical, and lab components, if applicable, for the nursing courses. Note: A student must earn a “C” or better in the theory component and satisfactory grade in both the clinical and laboratory components in all NUR prefix courses to continue in the JMSON Program.
4. Failure to comply with the required attendance policies or other program policies following appropriate disciplinary action which may include verbal warning, written warning, probation, &/or dismissal depending on the nature of the infraction and whether corrective action was taken. **Note: A “No Call, No Show” to clinical, skills lab or simulation lab will result in immediate dismissal from the JMSON Program.**

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT /READMISSION

### Advanced Placement

Applicants desiring to be considered for advanced placement into the Pre-Licensure BSN Program must fulfill the general admission requirements of Mars Hill University. The first step is to complete an application for admission to MHU.

Mars Hill University will accept for credit those courses completed at regionally accredited undergraduate two-year and four-year institutions or from other institutions when appropriate

documentation is provided. A minimum of 25 percent of the total credit hours for the degree and a minimum of 12 hours in the major must be earned at Mars Hill.

Courses submitted for transfer credit are evaluated by the registrar's office in consultation with the appropriate department chairpersons. Courses to satisfy general education will be evaluated by the Registrar for transfer credit and major requirements are evaluated by the Director of Nursing.

**Applicants who are not currently enrolled in nursing courses or who have not completed nursing courses within the previous five years are ineligible for admission as an advanced placement student and should consider applying for admission to the Pre-licensure BSN program.**

The applicant is responsible for making sure that all requirements have been met and that all materials have been received by the Director of Nursing before the application deadlines. Completion of these requirements does not guarantee that you will be accepted into the Pre-licensure BSN program as an advanced placement student.

**The following program admission requirements for MHU must be met prior to submitting advanced placement application form.**

- Three (3) **references** (not relatives or close friends) submitted to Director of Nursing, Dr. Wiltshire). *Reference forms that are more than one (1) year old at the time of the general admission requirements deadline will not be accepted.*
- Currently listed on North Carolina NAI registry.
- Physical exam that is not older than one year.
- Updated Health Form with current required immunizations.
- Completed Criminal Background Check and Drug Screen.
- Current BLS Certification for American Heart Association Basic Life Support (**BLS**) for the **Healthcare Provider**.

**The following program admission requirements are for applicants that are accepted into the JMSON program.**

- Complete a **MATH COMPETENCY EXAM** prior to the semester requested to enter. Applicants **must pass the exam with an 80 or higher** to be considered for acceptance into the JMSON Pre-licensure BSN program as an advanced placement student. **A copy of conversions and practice questions will be provided if needed.**
- Complete a **NURSING CONTENT EXAM** prior to the semester requested to enter. Applicants **must pass the exam with an 80 or higher** to be considered for acceptance into the JMSON Pre-licensure BSN program as an advanced placement student. Applicants must have completed the equivalent nursing course to qualify for taking this

exam. This exam will test applicant knowledge of previous nursing education and provide a score to allow for nursing course credit as indicated.

- All applicants **must** provide written documentation of skill demonstration and return from the original college attended. Applicant must use the attached **SKILLS ASSESSMENT SHEET**.

**The applicant is responsible for making sure that all requirements have been met and that all materials have been received by the Director of Nursing before classes begin.**  
**Completion of these requirements does not guarantee that you will be accepted into the JMSON program as an advanced placement student.**

### **Readmission Policy**

Applications for readmission to the nursing program will be reviewed. If the reason for failure to progress was from a non-academic area, each case will be considered on an individualized basis.

A student may be considered for readmission or advanced placement based on availability of student space (up to 50) and their last completed semester. Advanced placement forms are to be completed six weeks prior to the semester they wish to enter. Transcripts and course syllabi from other colleges will be evaluated to determine course acceptance (credit hours and course content) and appropriate placement.

When a student fails a nursing course, this will require the student's withdrawal from the program. A student will be re-admitted to the JMSON program only once following a failure in a nursing course. If the student fails a nursing course or chooses to withdraw from a nursing course, re-entry into the program will be based upon fulfillment of any deficiencies, student readiness, and available space in the program.

Requirements for readmission/advanced placement are as follows:

1. Review of documents submitted.
2. Approval by the faculty of the JMSON pre-licensure BSN Program.
3. Availability of class space according to North Carolina State Board regulations.

Proper placement in the curriculum sequence will be determined on an individual basis by appropriate demonstration of retained knowledge and competencies.

For any questions, please contact Dr. Deborah Wiltshire, Director of Nursing by phone 828-689-1610 or email [dwiltshire@mhu.edu](mailto:dwiltshire@mhu.edu)



## **APPEAL POLICY**

### **JMSON Chain of Command**

All student issues will be addressed using the Judge-McRae School of Nursing Chain of Command.

### **Appeal Process**

A student who has been dismissed from the nursing program has the right to appeal through the following procedure. The student must be prepared to present a case showing a wrongful dismissal. To file an appeal, the student must:

1. Submit their case to the appropriate faculty member within one business day of program dismissal notification. The faculty member will respond within two business days of the receipt of the appeal.
2. If clinical issue, the student will submit their case in writing to the Clinical/Lab/Simulation Coordinator. If course or student issue, the student will submit their case in writing to the JMSON Director. The appropriate person will respond to the student within two business days of the receipt of the appeal.
3. If not satisfied with the faculty member or Coordinator's response, the student can submit their case in writing to the JMSON Director within one business day following the response of the instructor. The JMSON Director will respond within two business days of the receipt of the appeal.
4. If not satisfied with the JMSON Director's response, the student can submit their case in writing to the current Dean within one business day of receiving the response from the JMSON Director. The Dean will respond within two business days of the receipt of the appeal.
5. If dissatisfied with the Dean's ruling, either party may lodge a formal appeal of the ruling in writing to the Provost, who will refer the matter to a special Board of Academic Appeal, at his or her discretion. A meeting of the committee or board will take place within two weeks of submission of the formal appeal, during which both the student and the instructor will provide relevant evidence. Within one week of this meeting, the chair of the committee or board will issue a decision about the appeal, which is final and binding.

## **PROGRAM COMPLETION POLICIES**

### **Graduation**

Nursing students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 overall to graduate from the nursing program.

Students must complete an application for graduation in the Registrar's Office by the end of the fall semester of their senior year. A diploma fee is charged to each graduating student. Students are encouraged to attend the MHU graduation ceremony at the end of spring semester.

### **Pinning Ceremony**

A pinning and recognition ceremony will be held at the end of spring semester in May. All prospective senior BSN students are expected to participate in the Pinning Ceremony. The planning committee for the pinning ceremony will consist of senior students, class officers, the Administrative Assistant, and the Director of Nursing.

Items that graduates will need to purchase for pinning include:

- JMSON nursing pin
- Nursing lamp
- White uniform

Additional dress requirements include white, leather/ leather type, closed toe and closed heel shoes and white socks or hose. Graduates can wear their uniform shoes that were purchased at the beginning of the program as long as they are in good condition. Graduates should choose undergarments that are not visible through the uniform. Hair, beards, mustaches, nails, jewelry, and appearance will follow the dress code required for Clinical, Simulation, and Laboratory settings.

### **National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN)**

All graduates of nursing programs leading to eligibility to apply to take the national exam to be licensed as Registered Nurses (RNs) are required to pass the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN) in order to obtain a license to practice nursing and to use the title "RN". The examination is the same in each state and is offered on computer through various testing facilities in the state.

Application materials are available online for each state board of nursing. For those in North Carolina, the address is [www.ncbon.com](http://www.ncbon.com). Each Board of Nursing determines the applicant's eligibility to take NCLEX-RN. The program director verifies graduates for approval to take the licensure exam. Graduates who have not meet all program requirements, including any remediation, will not be verified for licensure. All graduate nurses are personally notified of their performance on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Exam by the State Board of Nursing in the state where they took the examination. This information is reported as

either "pass" or "fail." No individual scores are given to anyone. Successful candidates are listed as registered nurses on the state board website. First attempt passing of the NCLEX is essential to the applicant and the JMSON. The probability of passing the NCLEX decreases with each attempt. Students are encouraged to continue extensive preparation for the NCLEX exam after graduation and delay other activities, such as vacations, planning weddings, etc. until after they have taken their exam.

## **JMSON Faculty and Staff Credentials**

### **Full-Time Faculty**

#### **Dr. Deborah Wiltshire, Professor, Director of Nursing**

ADN in Nursing, Western Piedmont Community College, Morganton, NC  
BSN in Nursing, UNC-Greensboro, Greensboro, NC  
MSN in Nursing Administration, UNC-Greensboro, Greensboro, NC  
EdD in Adult & Community College Education, NC State University, Raleigh, NC

#### **Ms. Clare Chambers, Assistant Professor of Nursing**

ADN in Nursing, Hocking Community College, Nelsonville, OH  
BSN in Nursing, Ohio University, Athens, OH  
MSN in Nursing Education, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ

#### **Ms. Kimberly Colston, Assistant Professor of Nursing**

ADN in Nursing, Florida Southwestern State College, Fort Myers, FL  
BSN in Nursing, University South Florida, Tampa, FL  
MSN in Nursing Education, Wilkes University, Wilkes Barre, PA

#### **Mr. Marc Eden, Assistant Professor of Nursing**

ADN in Nursing, AB Technical College, Asheville, NC  
BSN in Nursing, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC  
MSN in Nursing Education, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

#### **Ms. Andrea Yontz, Assistant Professor of Nursing**

ADN in Nursing, Wilkes Community College  
BSN in Nursing, Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, NC  
MSN in Nursing, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC  
Ph.D. in Nursing, currently in process, University of Missouri – Columbia, MO

#### **Mr. Michael Youngwood, Assistant Professor of Nursing**

ADN in Nursing, Haywood Community College, Clyde, NC  
BSN in Nursing, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC  
MSN in Nursing Education, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC  
DNP in Nursing Executive Leadership, currently in process, UNC Wilmington, Wilmington, NC

## **Adjunct Faculty**

Dr. Sharon West, DPS, MHS, BSN, RN

## **Staff**

### **Ms. Kimberly Morehouse, MBA**

Administrative Assistant

Ferguson Health Sciences Center #204

kimberly\_morehouse@mhu.edu

(828) 689-1600

### **Dr. Kristine Lee, PhD in English**

HRSA Student Support and Pre-Nursing Advisor

Ferguson Health Sciences Center #202

kristine\_lee@mhu.edu

(828) 689-1661

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## INSURANCE POLICY/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### Liability Insurance

All School of Nursing students are covered by liability insurance through Mars Hill University prior to the first clinical/practicum contact with the community.

Personal medical insurance is not required. However, the student is responsible for any medical fees incurred throughout the program.

I \_\_\_\_\_, have been informed by the Judge-McRae School of Nursing that medical malpractice insurance is provided by Mars Hill University, however, any incurred medical treatments or expenses are the responsibility of the individual student during the entirety of admission to the program.

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Student Signature

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Date

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Printed Student Name



**JUDGE-MCRAE SCHOOL OF NURSING  
PRE-LICENSURE BSN EDUCATION**

**Acknowledgement of Policies and Expectations**

I have read and understand this Judge-McRae School of Nursing Pre-licensure BSN Handbook, and I agree to abide by the terms therein.

Student's Full Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MHU ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_