Meet the Staff & Administration

Kathryn McCallum, Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Haley Smith, Administrative Assistant

Betsy Hardi, Admissions Counselor/Advisor
Advisor for Traditional BSN students

Eva Magallan, Academic Advisor (McAllen Campus)
Advisor for RN to BSN students

Vanessa Breslin, Program Coordinator for Advising (Round Rock Campus)

Jennifer Frank, Program Coordinator for Recruitment & Admissions

Shelby Nerren, Academic Advisor (Lufkin Office)
Learning Outcomes for the Day

1. Meet other students, your advisor, and the Dean
2. Understand and provide nursing school entry compliance documentation in order to meet requirements for all clinical experiences/rotations
3. Complete the drug screening process
4. Apply technology/computer instructions to optimize your preparation for the first class day
5. Review uniform/dress code policies
6. Summarize important College of Nursing academic policies & expectations
7. Evaluate opportunities outside the classroom
8. Identify the process for R.N. (Registered Nurse) licensure
9. Obtain answers to all questions before the first class day
Compliance Documentation

- Immunizations –
  - reminders via email
  - blocked from courses if non-compliant
  - fall seasonal flu vaccinations
- Clinical Trainings & HIPAA
- Criminal Background Checks
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Final Official Transcripts
- RN to BSN – must pass NCLEX before fall term

UPLOAD REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION IN PROJECT NURSE PORTAL
Drug Screening Today

• Twin Oaks Testing = urine drug screens
• Results are confidential and will be made available only to Kathryn McCallum
• Students on prescription drugs that may show up in the test results could require verification by the medical director of the lab
• At a minimum, drug screen will be performed annually
• See student Handbook for complete policy
Technology & Computer Requirements

Kris Wuensche, Director of Academic Technology & Distance Education

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that your computer has the required software installed upon admission and remains updated throughout your time as a student as required by your program.

- Browsers
- Software
  - Microsoft Office
  - Adobe Reader
  - Examsoft
  - HESI
  - ProctorU
- eCampus
- Other Tools
  - Smarter measure
  - Collaborate
  - Library videos
  - APA Formatting
Class activity

• 5 Important Policies
• Read over the policy you are given
• After reading, get together with your group
• Come up with 3 questions to ask the rest of the class about the policy
• Prepare answers to the questions
• Choose one spokesperson for your group
• Ask your prepared questions to your classmates
What did you learn?

- Grading & Progression
- Substance Abuse
- Integrity & Conduct
- Clinical Expectations
- Social Media & Nursing
# Grading Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A – Excellent</td>
<td>Four grade points per credit hour</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B – Good</td>
<td>Three grade points per credit hour</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C – Fair</td>
<td>Two grade points per credit hour</td>
<td>70 - 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D – Poor</td>
<td>One grade point per credit hour</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F – Failure</td>
<td>No grade points</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I – Incomplete</td>
<td>No grade points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>Course dropped with no penalty, no grade points, hours not included in GPA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S – Satisfactory (C or above)</td>
<td>No grade points, hours not included in GPR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U – Unsatisfactory (D or F)</td>
<td>No grade points, hours included in GPR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More on grading...

- Minimum academic requirements for retention in the program: “C” in all nursing courses
- A grade of “D” is considered a failing grade
- Students will be given only one opportunity to repeat a course during their academic career at the College
- If a student receives two failing grades, they will not be allowed to continue in the program

Grade Rounding Policy

- All grades (assignments, exams, quizzes) will be calculated to the hundredth (2 decimal points – example = 89.25)
- No grades will be rounded including final exam averages and final grades
- For courses in which it is required to achieve an exam or specific course assignment average of 70% or better in order to pass the course, the average must be 70.00% or greater without rounding, i.e. 69.99% or below is not passing
## Substance Abuse Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strict CON Policy =</th>
<th>Avoidance of substances that may impair thinking and behavior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Students Requirement =</td>
<td>Obtain annual drug screens at minimum (student’s expense)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right of CON =</td>
<td>Require a random test when reasonable cause or if required by clinical agency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Academic Integrity

Aggie Code of Honor
“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Professional Code of Ethics
Each student enrolled in the College of Nursing is expected to uphold the professional code of ethics established for and by the nursing profession.

Academic Misconduct
Academic dishonesty is inconsistent with appropriate professional behavior and will not be tolerated.
Clinical Expectations

• Held to the same standards as the RN (i.e. what would the reasonably prudent nurse with like education and experience do).

• Behavior reports will be completed and placed in student file for unsafe/unprofessional concerns.

• If a student is removed from one clinical setting due to concerns about safety, professionalism or competence, he/she will not be allowed to continue in other course clinical rotations until the situation has been resolved.

• Any unsafe act that leads to, or could lead to, injury of a patient may result in immediate removal from the clinical setting.
Social Media & Nursing School

A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME

The Nurse may face potentially serious consequences for inappropriate use of social media.

Social Media Guidelines for Nurses (NCSBN.org)
Dress Code

The CON expects students to reflect professionalism and maintain high standards of appearance and grooming in the clinical setting as well as in the classroom. Clinical faculty will have final judgment on the appropriateness of student attire and corrective action for dress code violations.

- Review page 20 of New Student Guide
- and Student Handbook
Uniforms

- Be sure to follow laundering instructions as the colors can bleed if not washed appropriately.
- May order additional uniforms as needed at any time.
- Required polo shirt order through CC Creations.
- Shoes – all white, leather or leather like.
- ID Badges – photo used for badge(s).
Meet Your Advisor

• How to Schedule an Appointment
• Curriculum Schedule (semester by semester)
• Filing a Degree Plan
• Minors/Double Degrees
• Class & Clinical Schedules in eCampus (most accurate)
• Registration assistance (time tickets to register)
• Textbook lists
• Academic Calendar
Student Organizations &
College of Nursing Ambassador Program

Ambassador Membership Requirements
If selected, the following are required:

• Support the mission and values of the College
• Maintain a minimum of a 3.25 Nursing cumulative GPA
• Commit to a minimum of 10 hours of service each semester
• Represent the College in a professional manner at all times

Class Council
Student Nurses Association
Nurses Christian Fellowship
Aggie Pediatric Nursing Association
Aggie Newborn & Obstetric Nurses
Service Learning Trips Opportunities
Extracurricular Community Service

Providing health care services to the public:

• Student organization events
  ✓ Require approval by advisor
  ✓ Must have a faculty member present

• Activities as part of coursework don’t fall under extracurricular services
New Student Reading Program

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
by Rebecca Skloot

Synopsis: Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. This phenomenal New York Times bestseller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.

Interested? Email Dr. Jodie Gary at gary@tamhsc.edu
R.N. Licensure Process

Timeline

Next to last semester in program
- Attend mandatory Student Affairs Meeting which covers all steps necessary for licensure
- File Declaratory Order if necessary

Final semester
- Apply for RN licensure through the Texas Board of Nursing
- Pass Jurisprudence Exam in NURS 430
- Apply to take the NCLEX-RN exam
- Pay appropriate fees
- Meet all program requirements to graduation
Looking ahead to fall....

Entering the Nursing Profession: Scroll Ceremony

✓ Early September
✓ Lunch provided
✓ Summer & Fall new BSN students

✓ Dress will be white uniform top & maroon uniform pant
✓ Learn about the Nursing Code of Ethics
✓ Meet senior nursing class
✓ Students only, no guests
PLAN AHEAD - Graduation & Pinning Ceremonies

Commencement Ceremonies take place at Reed Arena on the Texas A&M University Campus (See academic calendar for dates)

The College of Nursing will host a Pinning Ceremony on the same day of your commencement – time to be determined closer to commencement.
✓ Turn in any remaining documents
✓ Familiarize yourself with the Student Handbook
✓ Register for classes today!
✓ Get I.D. badge photo made
✓ Final questions ???

Thank you for attending and best wishes as you begin your Nursing journey!!