



VALLEY COLLEGE

**Nursing Associate Degree
Student Handbook**



Valley College Nursing Associate Degree Program

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This handbook is distributed electronically but a paper copy is available upon request from the Nursing Program Administrator.

This handbook is a supplement to the Valley College Student Catalog. This version of the Nursing Associate Degree Handbook supersedes and replaces any previous versions of the handbook and may supersede, modify, or eliminate any previously existing policies. The students will be required to follow the policies that are posted in the most current version of the handbook regardless of when they enrolled into the program.



Contents

Valley College Mission Statement and Philosophy.....	4
Nursing Program Mission Statement and Philosophy	4
Nursing Program Description	5
Conceptual Framework.....	5
Valley College ADN Program End-of-Program Student Learning Outcomes (EPSLOs)	6
Nursing Program Application and Admission Requirements.....	7
HESI Entrance Exam.....	7
Clinical Requirements.....	8
Nursing Program Course Sequence.....	9
Rotation Schedule.....	9
Summary of the ADN Program Pre-requisites	10
Nursing Program Outline.....	13
Program Progression and Grading	13
Clinical and Laboratory Evaluations.....	14
Nursing Program Failed Courses Policy	14
Nursing Program Readmission Policy.....	15
Nursing Program Attendance Policy.....	16
Clinical Attendance.....	17
Excused Absences (planned or emergency).....	17
Nursing Program Testing Policy	18
Valley College Test Rules for Proctored or Monitored Exams	19
Academic Integrity Policy	21
Student Code of Conduct.....	22
Classroom Rules	23
Participation Rubric	24
Additional Clinical Rules.....	25
Student Dress Code.....	25
Disciplinary Measures for Conduct Violations	27
Non-Discrimination, ADA, and Equal Opportunity	27
Student Resource Center and Virtual Library	28
Tutorial Services.....	28
Emergencies and Illness.....	28
Incident Reporting Procedure	29
Student Complaint Procedure	30
Title IX Notice of Non-discrimination Policy.....	31
Confidentiality Agreement.....	32
Program Completion and Graduation Requirements.....	33
NCLEX-RN Preparation	33
List of Appendix Items	34



Valley College Mission Statement and Philosophy:

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to meet the educational and professional needs of the community by delivering quality degree and certificate programs, which are flexible and career oriented.

Philosophy:

Valley College believes that its educational programs must be diverse and challenging enough to maintain the interest of all students, yet flexible enough to account for individual learning differences.

Nursing Program Mission Statement and Philosophy:

Mission Statement:

The Valley College Nursing Program's mission is to develop competent, ethical, and patient-centric nurses who deliver evidence-based, high quality, and compassionate holistic patient care across the human lifespan.

Philosophy:

The Valley College Nursing Program's philosophy is congruent with the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) and the National League for Nursing (NLN) competencies. Building on this combination, the Valley College Nursing program is based on the premise that our students will be prepared to work in a variety of clinical settings with a diverse range of health care professionals who are committed to providing high quality, evidence-based, patient-centered, and safe care to patients across the human lifespan. Therefore, Valley's Nursing Program's philosophical approach is to ensure that a proper balance of practical skills, nursing knowledge, and emotional intelligence are present to ensure evidence-based, patient-centered care.

To meet this approach, Valley recognizes the need for their nursing students to develop a varied set of skills and capabilities that are predicated on Concept Based education. Upon graduation and licensure, Valley Nursing graduates will be prepared to operate in a team-based environment where they will have the essential interpersonal, organizational, and teamwork-based skills to collaborate with a host of healthcare professionals. To complement, Valley believes that their Nursing program must enable students to develop the ability to collaborate, problem-solve, and think critically to continually meet the needs of the team and ultimately, the patient. Valley College's nursing graduates are expected to provide evidence-based, collaborative, and patient-centered care within their scope of practice. They are also expected to make sound judgements, advocate for their patients, and promote the importance of continued health, wellness, and education. Valley College nursing graduates will be expected to seek out evidence-based care practices through their devotion to continuing nursing education.

As a result of these guiding philosophical principles and approach that Valley College has established for their Nursing program, graduates will become well-rounded nursing professionals capable of consistently meeting the needs of patients.



Nursing Program Description:

The Nursing program has been designed to provide graduates with the core competencies and knowledge necessary to pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nursing (NCLEX- RN) and successfully enter the field of nursing. Utilizing the foundational principles of evidence-based practice, nursing students will be provided with a balanced combination of classroom instruction, practical hands-on laboratory based patient simulations, and clinical activities in adult and geriatric health nursing, maternal and child health nursing, mental health, medical-surgical procedures, rural, urban, and community health, nursing leadership, and clinical decision-making to master the essential skills and emotional intelligence required to be a nurse.

The Nursing Program is delivered by qualified educators who also possess a wide range of nursing experience, utilizing the principles of Active Learning, Problem-Based Learning, and Transformative Learning. Through a balanced approach of in-class instruction, lab, and clinical activities that are mapped out for a progressive learning experience, instructors will teach students each core element of the program while simultaneously helping students fully comprehend the importance of communication, teamwork, and providing patient-centric care.

In each educational setting, students will learn to identify, assess, analyze, and evaluate information utilizing the principles of evidence-based practice to evaluate options, form conclusions, and proceed with patient-centered care that is in the best interest of their patients' physical, mental, and spiritual well-being while accounting for factors that include a patient's background, environment, and culture. Students will learn how to safely administer prescribed medication, including IV therapy, and provide accurate reporting and documentation for patient records in written and electronic form.

Finally, throughout the Nursing program, students will be provided with the data and information to effectively prepare them for their NCLEX-RN. Students will have an opportunity to participate in various assessments and remediation activities throughout the program to help them and their instructors monitor the progress and overall educational development to ensure all students receive this one-to-one support to properly prepare for the NCLEX- RN. Upon program completion, graduates of the Nursing program will be eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN.

The Associate Nursing program at Valley College at the Beckley campus, located in Beckley, WV, is accredited by the:

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30326
(404) 975-5000

View the public information disclosed by the ACEN regarding this program on the ACEN website at [Valley College - Beckley Campus](#)

Conceptual Framework:

The Valley College Nursing program utilizes the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) and National League for Nursing (NLN) competencies, as well as the WV RN Board standards, to shape the conceptual framework and organizing theme of the program. These standards and competencies are applied throughout the framework of the program, including the development of the program outline, the curriculum, the course and clinical objectives, and the end-of- program student learning outcomes.



Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) Competencies:

*Patient Centered Care
Teamwork and Collaboration
Evidence-Based Practice*

*Quality Improvement
Safety
Informatics*

National League for Nursing (NLN) Competencies for Graduates of Nursing Programs:

*Human Flourishing
Professional Identity*

*Spirit of Inquiry
Nursing Judgement*

Valley College ADN Program End-of-Program Student Learning Outcomes (EPSLOs):

EPSLO #1: *Provide compassionate, evidence-based, and patient-centered care while upholding the patient's beliefs, values, and preferences in their healthcare.*

EPSLO #2: *Advocate for the patient's rights while supporting their integrity and ongoing growth as human beings.*

EPSLO #3: *Demonstrate the ability to participate within an interprofessional collaboration of healthcare professionals to achieve optimum patient outcomes.*

EPSLO #4: *Exemplify the role of a nurse by incorporating integrity, responsibility, and knowledge of the nursing scope of practice within the delivery of quality patient care.*

EPSLO #5: *Apply new, evidence-based knowledge within nursing practices to continually provide improved quality care to the patient, their families, and the community.*

EPSLO #6: *Utilize technological advances within patient care practices to support safe and effective nursing care.*

EPSLO #7: *Maintain a safe patient care environment through management of organizational processes and individual performance.*

EPSLO #8: *Provide safe, effective, and high-quality patient centered care that is validated with evidence and supported by nursing science.*

Valley College ADN Program Outcomes:

Program Completion:

70% of all students who remain in the program after beginning the first nursing course (NUR103) will complete the program on time within 18 months.

Licensure Exam Pass Rate:

At least 80% of ADN graduates from the ADN program will successfully pass the NCLEX-RN on their first attempt.

Job Placement:

80% of students who graduate from the ADN program will secure employment as a Registered Nurse within 8 months of graduation.



Nursing Program Application and Admission Requirements:

Eligible students must attend an info session about the ADN program. All prospective students that are interested in applying for admission into the program must then make an appointment to sit for the HESI Entrance Exam (HESI A2).

HESI Entrance Exam:

HESI Entrance Exam (HESI A2) Administration

- The HESI A2 will be administered on the Valley College campus and proctored by a designated Valley College employee.
- HESI A2 scores cannot be transferred from other colleges.
- HESI A2 scores are good for a duration of 24 months.
- Testing dates, times, and locations will be scheduled in advance and communicated to registered applicants.
- On the day of the exam, students must present valid identification and if applicable, payment.
- Students must adhere to all testing rules and regulations.
- Students are responsible for arriving on time and being prepared to complete the exam within the designated timeframe.
- Students will have a maximum time limit of 4 hours to complete the exam.
- HESI A2 assesses students' proficiency in core academic areas:
 - Math
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Vocabulary
 - Grammar
- The HESI A2 will be automatically scored by the exam provider (Elsevier) and students will receive individual score reports indicating their performance in each tested subject area.
- The minimum passing score for admission to the ADN program is a minimum of 75% in each category (cumulative math and cumulative English) and a minimum of 75% composite score.
- Applicants who do not meet the minimum scores may retake the exam two additional times for a total of three attempts at Valley College.
 - Valley College does reserve the right to evaluate composite scores between 73% to 74.99% for ADN to determine if a 4th attempt could be granted. The Director of Institutional Effectiveness will make the final determination.
- After three attempts, if the applicant fails to achieve the required minimum composite score they must wait 6 months to retest. After the 6 months wait, all prior scores are invalidated.

Admission Requirements:

- Applicant must be 18 years of age or older.
- Criminal Background Check
 - Students in the Nursing Associate Degree program are required to submit to a West Virginia Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and FBI national criminal background check. The results of the BCI/FBI check will be sent directly to the school. If the background check comes back with a record that will disqualify the potential student from participating in the clinical portion of the program or affect the ability of the student to sit for the NCLEX, the student will not be accepted in the program. If the student is accepted into the program but then acquires a violation or charge on their background check, they are subject to withdrawal from the program or having their acceptance rescinded. The West Virginia RN Board requires all nursing licensure applicants to disclose and provide documentation related for any legal incident that may be found on the student's background check. The estimated cost of the background check is noted in the enrollment agreement and is the responsibility of the student.



- Observed Drug Screen
 - The drug screen must be clear prior to the potential nursing student being accepted in the program and/or to remain in the program. The estimated cost of the drug screen is noted in the enrollment agreement and is the responsibility of the student.
- Passing score on HESI A2 taken within the past 24 months.
- Interview with the Nursing Program Administrator or their designee.

All applicants should make an educated decision about whether to participate in a program that requires a criminal background check, physical examination, and observed 10-panel drug screen.

All eligible applicants who have completed all admission requirements will be presented to the admissions committee where the cohort of students will be chosen. Please note, a student is not guaranteed a seat in the nursing program just because all requirements have been met. The admissions committee has the final decision on who will be accepted into the nursing program.

Clinical rotation sites do not always have the same requirements as listed in this handbook. For this reason, the requirements for clinical rotations are subject to change. Any changes will be relayed to the students as soon as possible.

Clinical Requirements:

- Proof of a complete (3 injection series) Hepatitis B Vaccination immunity via serum titer confirming immunity. Titer must be recent within the last year. If titers show non-immune, proof of recent immunization will be requested. Hepatitis B series is given in a three-part series. The student must have proof of the start of the series by receiving their first injection prior to the start of class.
- Proof of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) immunity via serum titer confirming immunity to each disease. Titer must be recent within the last year. If titers show non-immune, proof of recent immunization will be requested.
- Proof of PPD skin test or chest x-ray with a negative reading OR proof of QuantiFERON blood test showing a negative result.
- Proof of Varicella vaccination immunity via serum titer confirming immunity. Titer must be recent, within the last year. If titers show non-immune, proof of recent immunization will be requested.
- Proof of Tetanus (Tdap) vaccination within the last 10 years.
- Proof of Influenza immunization (This is a seasonal requirement).
 - If a student signs a declination of the flu shot for any reason, they acknowledge that they will be required to wear a mask AT ALL TIMES during clinical rotations. No exceptions.
- Completed Health Provider Physical
 - All students in the ADN program are required to provide documentation that they have had a recent and acceptable physical. Failure to provide the required documentation may result in admission to the program being denied and/or delayed. The student is responsible for all necessary fees associated with the physical.
- Proof of Covid vaccination
 - Although the COVID-19 vaccine is not currently a program requirement, receiving the annually updated vaccine may be recommended to protect yourself and others. Please be aware that clinical sites may require proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Students must comply with all clinical site requirements. Failure to provide the necessary documentation may result in removal from the clinical placement and could lead to withdrawal from the program.
- Proof of Basic Life Support (BLS) certification through the American Heart Association.

In addition:

- Due to the physical requirements (to lift and/or carry over 50 pounds frequently), attendance and academic standards, applicants who have physical limitations (including but not limited to physical



disabilities, pregnancy in cases where physical limitations may be advised or prescribed or other physical constraints), learning disabilities or any other restrictions that would prevent the student from participating fully and successfully completing the program, may be required to provide documentation from his/her healthcare provider that states that the individual can complete all of the required class procedures without restrictions.

- Any vaccinations and/or immunizations or additional clinical-specific requirements that are not included in the tuition on the Enrollment Agreement is the responsibility of the student. Students who fail to provide proof that they have the recommended vaccinations/titers may be required to follow different procedures while performing certain medical proficiency checkpoints and/or not be permitted to complete clinical rotations which would result in failing or being withdrawn from the program.
- If a clinical facility recommends additional specific requirements to participate at the clinical site, including all requirements associated with the COVID-19 virus, failure to adhere to requirements may prohibit the student from participating at the clinical and thus result in the student being withdrawn from the program.
- Valley College may share the results of the background check, drug screening and immunizations and/or vaccination records with the designated contact person at the clinical site. Based on the guidelines of the site, a student may or may not be accepted at the site. If Valley College is unable to place a student at any clinical site, the student may be withdrawn from the program.

Nursing Program Course Sequence:

The Valley College Nursing Program has arranged courses sequentially to introduce core concepts and establish foundational skills in anatomy and physiology, communication, medical terminology, and mathematics. The program will build on these competency areas with successive classes and experiences that provide the students with essential knowledge of the human life cycle and the essential pharmacological and intravenous therapies that can be applied throughout the lifespan. The program then incorporates a focus on ethics, decision-making, clinical judgement, mental health challenges and issues, rural, urban, and community-based nursing, and medical- surgical scenarios that students are anticipated to encounter in the registered nurse's scope of practice. In the final phase, the nursing program concludes with a course focused on preparation for the NCLEX-RN examination and clinical practice.

Rotation Schedule:

The ADN program is divided into tiers. The tiers are built to consider any pre-requisites. If a student must have a modified rotation schedule, the Valley College Registrar Department determines the best schedule after considering all pre-requisites and course availability. A modified schedule may alter the number of weeks/months a student attends school. The Registrar Department may also change a student's schedule for optimization due to class size. Even though Valley College has identified the specific courses to be taught online, it reserves the right to modify the list of courses that will be taught either online, blended or at the campus on a temporary or permanent basis.



Summary of the ADN Program Pre-requisites:

Course Number	Course Name	Pre-Req Course #	Pre-Req Course Name
BIO201	Anatomy and Physiology I	BIO101	Microbiology
BIO202	Anatomy and Physiology II	BIO101 BIO201	Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I
NUR104	Introduction to Nursing	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 NUR103 ISD205-AN MAT125-AN	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Medical Terminology Ethics College Math
NUR155	Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN NUR103 NUR104	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing
NUR156	Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN NUR103 NUR104 NUR155 NUR160	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I Fundamentals of Nursing I
NUR160	Fundamentals of Nursing I	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN NUR103 NUR104	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing
NUR161	Fundamentals of Nursing II	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN NUR103 NUR104 NUR155 NUR160	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I Fundamentals of Nursing I
NUR201	Geriatric Nursing	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN NUR103 NUR104 NUR155 NUR156 NUR160 NUR161 NUR220A NUR221	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II Fundamentals of Nursing I Fundamentals of Nursing II Medical Surgical Nursing I Medical Surgical Nursing II



Course Number	Course Name	Pre-Req Course #	Pre-Req Course Name
NUR210	Rural, Urban, and Community Nursing	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN PSY110 COM 110 NUR103 NUR104 NUR155 NUR156 NUR160 NUR161 NUR220A NUR221 NUR230 NUR231	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Lifespan Psychology Foundations of Communication Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II Fundamentals of Nursing I Fundamentals of Nursing II Medical Surgical Nursing I Medical Surgical Nursing II Obstetric and Maternity Nursing Pediatric Nursing
NUR220A	Medical Surgical Nursing I	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN NUR103 NUR104 NUR155 NUR156 NUR160 NUR161	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II Fundamentals of Nursing I Fundamentals of Nursing II
NUR230	Obstetric and Maternity Nursing	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN NUR103 NUR104 NUR155 NUR156 NUR160 NUR161	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II Fundamentals of Nursing I Fundamentals of Nursing II
NUR221	Medical Surgical Nursing II	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN NUR103 NUR104 NUR155 NUR156 NUR160 NUR161 NUR220A	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II Fundamentals of Nursing I Fundamentals of Nursing II Medical Surgical Nursing I

Course Number	Course Name	Pre-Req Course #	Pre-Req Course Name
NUR231	Pediatric Nursing	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN NUR103 NUR104 NUR155 NUR156 NUR160 NUR161	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II Fundamentals of Nursing I Fundamentals of Nursing II
NUR235	Medical Surgical Nursing III	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN NUR103 NUR104 NUR155 NUR156 NUR160 NUR161 NUR220A NUR221	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II Fundamentals of Nursing I Fundamentals of Nursing II Medical Surgical Nursing I Medical Surgical Nursing II
NUR245	Mental and Behavioral Health for Nursing	ENG115 BIO101 BIO201 BIO202 MAT125-AN ISD205-AN PSY110 COM 110 NUR103 NUR104 NUR155 NUR156 NUR160 NUR161 NUR220A NUR221	English Composition Microbiology Anatomy and Physiology I Anatomy and Physiology II College Math Ethics Lifespan Psychology Foundations of Communication Medical Terminology Introduction to Nursing Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II Fundamentals of Nursing I Fundamentals of Nursing II Medical Surgical Nursing I Medical Surgical Nursing II
NUR265A	Nursing – Capstone and Clinical Experience	Successful completion of all NUR and General Education courses and received credits throughout the nursing program with a cumulative GPA of 2.0. Must have met all attendance and remediation requirements.	



Nursing Program Outline:

Course No.	Location	Course Name	Lecture	Lab	Clinical	Credits
ENG115	Online	English Composition	60	0	0	4.00
BIO101	Ground	Microbiology	30	30	0	3.00
NUR103	Ground	Medical Terminology	20	40	0	2.00
BIO201	Ground	Anatomy & Physiology 1	30	30	0	3.00
ISD205-AN	Online	Ethics	60	0	0	4.00
MAT125-AN	Online	College Math	30	30	0	3.00
BIO202	Ground	Anatomy & Physiology 2	30	30	0	3.00
NUR104	Ground	Introduction to Nursing	30	30	0	3.00
PSY110	Online	Lifespan Psychology	30	30	0	3.00
NUR155	Ground	Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I	30	30	0	3.00
NUR156	Ground	Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II	30	30	0	3.00
COM110	Online	Foundations of Communication	60	0	0	4.00
NUR160	Ground	Fundamentals of Nursing I	30	12	36	3.00
NUR161	Ground	Fundamentals of Nursing II	30	12	36	3.00
NUR201	Ground	Geriatric Nursing	30	12	36	3.00
NUR210	Ground	Rural, Urban, and Community Nursing	30	30	0	3.00
NUR220A	Ground	Medical Surgical Nursing I	30	12	24	3.00
NUR230	Ground	Obstetric and Maternity Nursing	30	12	36	3.00
NUR221	Ground	Medical Surgical Nursing II	30	12	36	3.00
NUR231	Ground	Pediatric Nursing	30	12	36	3.00
NUR235	Ground	Medical Surgical Nursing III	30	12	36	3.00
NUR245	Ground	Mental and Behavioral Health for a Nurse	30	12	36	3.00
NUR265A	Ground	Nursing - Capstone and Clinical Experience	15	15	48	2.00
TOTALS			755	433	360	70

Program Progression and Grading:

For a student to successfully complete a general education course and progress through the program, they need to achieve an overall average of 70% for the course. All tests and assignments are generally graded against a 100% score. Students who fail to achieve a passing grade for a course will be required to repeat the entire course and may not be able to proceed through the program.

For a student to successfully complete a nursing course with a NUR prefix and progress through the program, the student will need to achieve an overall average of 78% for the course. They will also need to successfully pass the lab and clinical portion of the course. Each student will be provided with a syllabus that illustrates the different types of activities for each course. These activities can include exams, in-class assignments, out-of-class assignments, class participation, lab competencies, and clinical competencies. Students must pass all skills check offs with a satisfactory rating within 3 attempts and must pass all clinicals evaluations.

If a student fails any one component of a NUR course (either didactic or clinical/laboratory) the student will receive a failing grade in both portions of the course. To progress to the next nursing courses, both components of the course will have to be repeated with achievement of a minimum of grade of “C” or higher. *(Please see the Nursing Program Readmission Policy).*

NUR courses grading scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Pts.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Counts in Calculation for GPA</u>
A	4.0	93 to 100%	Yes
B	3.0	85 to 92%	Yes
C	2.0	78 to 84%	Yes
F*	0.0	Less than 78%	Yes

Beginning August 2024, the General Education (any course without a NUR prefix) courses will be graded using the following scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Pts.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Counts in Calculation for GPA</u>
A	4.0	90 to 100%	Yes
B	3.0	80 to 89%	Yes
C	2.0	70 to 79%	Yes
F*	0.0	Less than 70%	Yes

Clinical and Laboratory Evaluations:

All lab skills checkoffs are graded on a pass/fail basis. Students will be given 3 attempts to pass. If a student does not pass by the 3rd attempt, the student will fail the lab portion of the course. If the student fails the lab or clinical portion of a course, for any reason, the student must repeat the didactic, lab, and clinical components. Practice is essential before testing out and peer to peer practice is highly recommended. Students must pass the lab skill test prior to performing the skill at their clinical rotation sites.

Students will be evaluated at each clinical on their performance and skills. Clinical evaluations are graded as follows:

- 4 = Proficient:** Demonstrates advanced understanding and mastery of the competency/skill. Requires little to no supervision and can serve as a resource for others. Performs the competency/skill flawlessly and with confidence. Shows exceptional understanding of the rationale behind the competency/skill and can apply critical thinking to complex situations.
- 3 = Satisfactory:** Demonstrates solid understanding and ability to perform the competency/skill. Requires minimal supervision and guidance. Consistently performs the competency/skill correctly with few errors. Shows clear understanding of the rationale behind the competency/skill and can adapt to variations in patient conditions or settings.
- 2 = * Needs Improvement:** Demonstrates basic to minimal understanding and minimal to no ability to perform the competency/skill. Requires frequent supervision and guidance. Generally, performs the competency/skill correctly but may make occasional errors or require reminders. Shows some knowledge of the rationale behind the competency/skill but may struggle with complex steps.
- 1 = * Unsatisfactory:** Demonstrates minimal to no understanding and no ability to perform the competency/skill. Requires constant supervision and guidance. Frequently makes errors and lacks confidence in executing the competency/skill. Shows limited to no knowledge of the rationale behind the competency/skill and struggles with basic steps.

** Requires comments to be made by the instructor and remediation plans for student to achieve a Satisfactory or Proficient Level*

Nursing Program Failed Courses Policy:

- Due to the prerequisites in the Nursing Associate degree program, if a student fails a course that does not have a clinical component, it may result in the student not being able to progress in the program. For this reason, if a student fails any course within the nursing program, then the student is subject to being academically withdrawn from the ADN program. The student does retain the possibility of returning to the program for a future start. *(Please see Nursing Program Readmission Policy).*

- Due to the requirements of a nursing course with a clinical component, if the student fails a course that contains a clinical component, the student will be academically withdrawn from the ADN program.* The student does retain the possibility of returning to the program for a future start.
- If a student fails two NUR courses at any time during the program, the student will be terminated from the ADN program without the opportunity to return to the program. There is no appeal for this policy.

* Valley College realizes that there are mitigating circumstances that may prevent a student from being successful in the course. If the student has failed a course that does not have a clinical component, Valley College will review the student's schedule, faculty availability, classroom availability, and other factors, to determine if the college can offer the student the opportunity to retake the failed class without being terminated from the program. This option is very limited and will require the student to retake the course while taking their regularly scheduled courses. If the student fails the course a second time, they may forfeit the opportunity to re-enroll in the program at a future start.

Nursing Program Readmission Policy:

The readmission policy for the ADN program outlines the procedures and requirements for students seeking readmission into the program following an academic or personal withdrawal from the program. This policy aims to provide a structured process for re-entry, ensuring fairness, transparency, and adherence to academic and professional standards.

- Students seeking readmission to the ADN program must meet all eligibility requirements including:
 - Previously accepted and enrolled in the Valley College ADN program.
 - Withdrawn or dismissed from the program due to academic or personal reasons.
 - The student has not been previously re-admitted into the ADN program.
 - The student has not previously failed more than 1 NUR course.
 - Demonstrates readiness and commitment to completing the program of study.
- Application Process:
 - Eligible students must attend an info session about the ADN program.
 - Eligible students must then submit a personal statement addressing the reasons for withdrawal/dismissal and the readiness to return to the program.
 - Eligible students must meet all ADN program admissions requirements including:
 - Criminal Background Check
 - Observed Drug Screen
 - Completed Health Provider Physical
 - Proof of Covid vaccination
 - Passing score on HESI A2 taken within the past 24 months
 - The student must attend an interview with the program administrator or their designee.
 - The application deadline and submission instructions will be communicated to eligible students.
- Review and Decision:
 - The nursing program admissions committee and/or designated faculty members will review the readmission applications.
 - The review process will consider factors such as the student's academic history, previous performance in the program, reasons for withdrawal/dismissal, and readiness to return.
 - The admissions committee will make a decision regarding re-entry based on the merits of each application and program capacity.
 - Applicants will be notified of the decision in writing within a specified timeframe.
- Conditional Acceptance:
 - Students granted readmission may be subject to conditional acceptance, which may include:
 - Successful completion of remedial coursework
 - Successful completion of advanced standing exams
 - Proctoring of already completed courses.
 - Repeating previously taken courses, regardless of the previous grade
 - Students may be required to meet with an academic advisor to develop an individualized academic plan.
 - Students must remain compliant with any additional conditions or stipulations outlined by the admissions committee.
 - Failure to meet the conditions of re-entry may result in withdrawal of acceptance.

- **Academic Progression:**
 - Students that are granted readmission are required to adhere to all ADN program policies, procedures, and standards of the nursing program.
 - Students must maintain satisfactory academic performance and meet all program requirements to progress through the curriculum.
- Readmission into the ADN Program is not guaranteed.
- Readmission into the ADN program will be based on seat availability.
- The student must meet with a Financial Aid Advisor and agree to the terms of the financial aid packaging appointment.
 - A student will be required to retake any course they received an “F”, “WF” or “WP” grade that is still required for their (same) program.
 - Courses that are retaken of a “WP” grade are considered a new class.
- **Academic Considerations for readmission:**
 - **Credit Transfers:** The ADN Program Administrator (PA) (or authorized staff member) will complete a credit transfer evaluation. The PA or authorized staff member may schedule a meeting with the student to discuss the results of the transcript or documentation review. Based on the length of time the student was out of the program, the Program Administrator will determine if the student will be required to take any (or all) of the NUR courses regardless of the grade the student earned. Credit transfers may delay the student's actual start date in the program.
 - If the student is out of the program for longer than 1 academic year, they will be required to repeat all NUR courses within the program, regardless of the letter grade they received. Students are responsible for any costs associated with courses they are required to retake. This requirement may delay when the student may return to their program.
 - Students can only be granted one readmission into the nursing program, regardless of the circumstance.

Nursing Program Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance for lectures/lab/clinical is essential to achieve the required course objectives and requirements to be successful in the ADN program. Students are highly encouraged to meet with their instructor, student faculty advisor, or program administrator immediately regarding any concerns about their attendance. Taking responsibility for attendance is one of the first steps that students can take to develop professional accountability.

- **Attendance Requirements and Expectations:**
 - Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes, labs, and clinical rotations but it is understood emergencies happen. The student must contact their instructor as soon as possible prior to the class/lab/clinical if they are going to be absent or tardy. Failure to do so can result in an unexcused absence.
 - Students will be considered tardy if they arrive later than the 10-minute grace period for regular classes/labs/clinical. There will be no grace period on the days of exams. If the student is tardy by 1 minute on the day of exam, the instructor is not required to allow the student to test or admission to the classroom. This can result in a grade of “0” on the given exam.
 - Four tardies will be counted as one full day of absence.
 - If a student is absent for more than 8 days for the entirety of the ADN program, regardless of the reason, the student is subject to withdrawal from the program.
- **Excused vs. Unexcused Absences:**
 - If a student is absent for an excused reason for class, lab, or clinical, they will receive a 100-point deduction in participation points.
 - If a student is absent for an unexcused reason for class, lab, or clinical, they will receive a 100-point deduction in participation points.
 - If a student misses an exam or assignment deadline for an unexcused reason, they will receive a grade of “0” for that exam or assignment. If the student misses an exam or assignment for an excused reason, they have a maximum time of 48 hours in which to make-up the exam and will receive a 5-point deduction on



their grade. If the student fails to make up the exam or turn in the assignment within 48 hours, they will receive a grade of “0” for that exam and/or assignment.

- Make-up Requirements:
 - If a student misses a lecture or lab, they must make up the missed time within 7 days from the day that the class was missed. Failure to make up for missed time within 7 days will result in a 50% grade deduction off an in-class assignment. Clinical make-up time is not guaranteed.
- Attendance is recorded at the beginning of each class. The instructors have the right to update the attendance if a student leaves class early (or does not return from a break/lunch).
- When a student is tardy or absent from class, it is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missed notes or handouts from a missed class.
- The instructor and the student will come together to an agreed plan for the student to make up the hours and missed class work.
- Valley College may use simulations as part of the students’ academic plan to make up for the missed work, but it is not guaranteed. Simulations cannot account for more than 50% of clinical make-up time.

Clinical Attendance

- Attending clinical orientation is mandatory. Missing clinical orientation could result in failure of the course. Patient safety is a high priority, and a student who misses orientation to the facility misses valuable information needed to provide safe and effective care to their patients.
- When reporting for a clinical day, students are expected to come prepared and in full Valley College uniform. This includes but is not limited to: Name badge, proper and clean uniform/scrubs, stethoscope, penlight, pen, watch with second hand, and any homework (SBAR) that might be due. Students who show up unprepared or are tardy will be sent home, and it will count as an unexcused absence. Students will have to make up for the missed hours and are subject to point deductions. Valley College cannot guarantee the availability of clinical make-up time, so tardiness and absences are highly discouraged.
- Excused absence from a clinical must have proper documentation or it will be considered unexcused. Even with excused documentation, students must make up clinical time for successful completion of the course/program. Failure to make up clinical hours may result in failure of the clinical portion of the course. If the student fails the clinical aspect of a course, for any reason, the student must repeat the theory and clinical components.
- Clinical assignments, such as SBAR, are important for administering safe nursing care to the assigned patients and are necessary to measure students' attainment of the course and clinical objectives. Failure to hand in these clinical assignments when they are due or failure to achieve a passing score of 78% or better, may result in an unsatisfactory clinical grade and potential failure of the course.
- *Please refer to the excused absences portion for a list of the types of absences that will be excused for missed clinical days.*

* Note: Excused absences may include documented medical reasons, family emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances approved by the program administration. It is the student's responsibility to provide appropriate documentation for excused absences. Please also note that this attendance policy is subject to review and modification by the nursing school administration as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in advance of any changes to the policy.

Excused Absences (planned or emergency):

On occasion, a student may have to miss a lecture/lab/clinical because of unavoidable or extenuating circumstances. These types of genuine circumstances are considered an excused absence.

- Bereavement: If a student must miss class to attend a funeral, the student must bring in a document verifying the funeral. Time absent for bereavement may not exceed three days.
- Court and or Legal Appearance: When a student is subpoenaed to appear in court, the time missed from class/clinical/lab will be counted as being absent. The documentation may be any paper form of documentation; there is/was a court order requirement for that, which may include, but is not limited to, Jury Duty, Order to Appear, or Subpoena.



- **Medical Emergencies:** A doctor's note demonstrating that the student had to personally see a healthcare provider, or, if a parent, spouse, child, or other dependent required medical care that also required the student's attendance and/or transportation to the medical facility.
- **Work-Related Mandatory Training:** If a student is required to attend a work-related mandatory training or event, they will be required to provide documentation from their direct supervisor explaining the reason and date for the mandatory attendance.
- **Military Related Training:** If a student is either in active or inactive military status and is required to attend a mandatory military training activity, they must provide written documentation attesting to the start and end dates of the training.
- **NUR265 Attendance Requirement:** Students are required to have 100% attendance based on scheduled hours in all previous coursework to enter NUR265. If students do not meet these hour requirements, they will be required to come to campus to make up for all the missing hours. Hours must be made up in a designated timeframe.
- **Other:** If the student misses hours for any other reason, a written explanation may be submitted to the instructor. (Reminder, faculty may exercise their right to deduct points from assignments or exams.)

* Note: Supporting documentation is due on the day that the student returns to school. Submitting documentation does not automatically guarantee that the instructor and/or program administrator will determine that the absence will be classified as an excused absence; however, failing to provide the documentation will result in the absence being classified as unexcused.

Nursing Program Testing Policy:

- If a student misses an exam for an unexcused reason, they will receive a grade of "0" for that exam. If the student misses an exam for an excused reason, they have a maximum time of 48 hours in which to make up the exam and will receive a 5-point deduction on their grade. If the student fails to make up the exam within 48 hours, they will receive a grade of "0" for that exam. Failure to provide documentation for the reason of absence may also result in a grade of "0" for the exam.
- Quizzes may not be scheduled for specific dates on a syllabus and may or may not be announced in advance during the course.
- It is the student's responsibility to study and prepare for all course exams.
- It is highly recommended that students maintain a record of scores specific to their exams, quizzes, and homework to calculate their academic standing.
- There will be no extra credit points awarded on exams, quizzes, or final exams in NUR courses.
- Students are recommended to continue to study material in a manner that is conducive to retaining content, which may be retested later in the program and in preparation for the NCLEX-RN.
- The instructor may request students to move or be reassigned to a particular/different seat for testing.
- Once an exam has begun, students not in attendance will not be permitted in the classroom and will be asked to wait until the exam is complete or the next break before entering the classroom.
- While an exam is being conducted, students will not be allowed to leave the room unless specified by the instructor and/or Program Administrator.
- For MATH exams/quiz students must show their work or no credit will be given.
- Instructors will not review exams/quizzes until all students have taken the exam/quiz.
- Exams will remain locked with no student access unless the student is actively taking the exam. The student will not have access to an exam after the closing of the exam. If a student wishes to view their graded exam, they will need to schedule a meeting with the instructor so that they may review it with them.
- Cell phone use during any exam or review of an exam will be considered academic dishonesty, and the student will receive a zero for that exam and be subject to being withdrawn from the program.
- Sharing information about test content is strictly prohibited. This is considered academic dishonesty and may result in a failing grade on the exam and subject to being withdrawn from the program.
- Using illegally purchased test content and/or sharing this type of content could result in dismissal from the program.
- Students are required to score a 900 on the HESI* Exit Exam to successfully pass the NUR265 course and



graduate from the program.

Standardized testing is used in the Valley College ADN Nursing program as part of the program evaluation plan. Students will use these standardized exams to measure their progress and remediate in areas in which they may be deficient. Standardized testing will occur at designated points during the program, as determined by the faculty and in consultation with the Program Administrator. Please review associated course syllabi for standardized testing information and associated grading.

* Note that HESI exam content is copyright protected.

Valley College Test Rules for Proctored or Monitored Exams

The proctor monitors the test takers and room. The proctor will walk around in the room to ensure that all test takers are adhering to the Valley College Academic Integrity policy and the rules written below. The proctor will assist the students during the exam and in cases of mitigating circumstances, may speak to students. Valley College may monitor via camera by the proctor.

Electronic Devices

- Using electronic devices, including but not limited to phones, iPad, smart watches, etc. during the examination is prohibited. The College strongly urges test takers do not to bring electronic devices in the testing room. The College reserves the right to collect the devices prior to or during the exam. Valley College is not responsible for any device that is collected.
- Any additional electronic devices are prohibited from being connected to the computer during testing (i.e. electronic mouse, headphones, etc.).

Privacy

- Testing **will occur in a classroom setting**. The proctor will try to limit all distractions such as not allowing others to enter the room once the exam has begun.
- There is no talking during the exam – Students **may not talk** to anyone but the test proctor during the test. Only the test proctor can talk to a student.

Tabletop and Seating

- The desk or table used for testing must be clear of all items, test takers are only allowed to have only 4 sheets of scratch paper, a standard pen/pencil, and their acceptable identification. Test takers may be asked to show both sides of their scratch paper to the proctor at the beginning and end of the test session.
- The test taker's computer and keyboard must be on a desk or other tabletop surface.
- The tabletop and surrounding area must be clear of all items not approved for use during the test.
- The test taker **must be** seated in a chair for the entire duration of the test and may not leave their seat without permission from the proctor.
- The test taker must be seated in an upright position.

Clothing and Appearance

- The test taker must be dressed appropriately. Valley College students must wear their Valley College uniform including their student ID.
- Unless for religious reasons, hats and hoods may not be worn on the head during testing. The test taker's ears must remain visible throughout the test, not covered by hair, a hat, or other items.
- Avoid wearing such items as jewelry, tie clips, cuff links, ornate clips, combs, barrettes, headbands, and other hair accessories.
- Watches (whether digital or analog) are not permitted during testing.
- Headphones (including air pods) are not allowed during testing.



- Test takers will be required to show the contents of their pockets to ensure they are not carrying any prohibited items. This is a visual check conducted by the proctor or Valley College faculty or staff member and does not involve a physical pat-down. If a student is found with a prohibited item during this check, Valley College reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, immediate dismissal from the test, a zero on the exam, and further disciplinary proceedings according to Valley College's Academic Integrity Policy. The severity of the action may vary depending on the nature of the item and the circumstances of its possession. This ensures fairness while maintaining the integrity of the examination process.

Arrangements must be made for all personal items, including purses and backpacks, to be left outside of the classroom. Jackets and coats may not be worn in the testing room. Electronic devices may be collected upon entry.

Prohibited Items Policy- Any other unauthorized testing aids are prohibited to be in the testing room. These items may include but are not limited to:

Books including dictionaries	Mp3 player
Cellular devices and smartphones	Nonmedical electronic devices
Digital or video cameras	Pagers and beepers
Digital or analog watches	Pamphlets & reference materials
Flash/thumb drive or any other portable electronic storage device	PDA's
Food and beverages	Tablets

Test Violation Policy

If Valley College's faculty or staff member has information that a violation of academic integrity may have occurred during the test, they will inform the student of the information they have, the specific incident and the aspect of academic integrity that is alleged to have been violated. The student will be provided with the opportunity to explain the circumstances and the action. Based on circumstances in any given situation, the Valley College faculty/ staff member together with the Campus Director or his/her designee will then determine if an explanation by the student is accepted as being adequate or whether to proceed to impose disciplinary and/or academic sanctions for the violation of the Academic Integrity Policy as may be appropriate.

In cases of technological glitches or any anomalies during the test, which may or may not be due to the student's actions, the student may be required to retake the test to ensure the integrity of the examination process.

Valley College reserves the right to invalidate the entire test for all participants if there is suspicion of widespread cheating. This measure is taken to protect the integrity of the examination process and the validity of our qualifications. This action is necessary even if it may impact test-takers who were not involved in any misconduct, as it serves to uphold the standards and reputations of all students and the institution. Affected students will be informed of the reasons for such decisions and will have the opportunity to discuss the implications with a program administrator.

When a student is found to have violated Academic Integrity Policy and/or school's procedures on tests/examinations, various disciplinary and/or academic sanctions may be imposed by Valley College on such student, including but not limited to giving a zero on a test, test retake, warning, disciplinary probation, as well as an immediate dismissal from the program. Readmission after dismissal may be granted only under exceptional circumstances. Any sanction imposed will



take into consideration the context and seriousness of the violation.

Academic Integrity Policy

At Valley College, we are committed to honest practices, communications and relationships that honor each other and our students. We expect academic honesty from our students. Academic honesty means to neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on exams and graded assignments. It is the responsibility of the students to avoid all forms of cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as “the unauthorized use of the language and thoughts of another author and the presentation of them as one’s own”. Academic integrity applies equally to electronic media and print, and involves text, images, and ideas. Academic dishonesty of any kind is not allowed. Any offense will be taken seriously, and disciplinary action will be taken. This can include immediate dismissal from the program. Violations include but are not limited to the following examples:

Cheating

- Copying from others during an examination.
- Communicating examination answers to other students during an examination or communicating examination questions to students who will take the same examination later.
- Offering another person's work as one's own.
- Taking an examination for another student.
- Asking or allowing a student to take an examination for oneself or another student.
- Sharing or collaborating on answers for a take-home examination or assignment unless specifically authorized by the instructor.
- Tampering with an examination after it has been graded and then returning it to earn more credit.
- Continuing to work on an examination or project after the time specified for the student has elapsed.
- Using unauthorized materials, prepared answers, written notes, or other information unauthorized materials during an examination.
- Selling or giving away all or part of an unadministered test including answers to an unadministered test.
- Using electronic devices, including but not limited to phones, iPad, smart watches, etc. during the examination.

Dishonest Conduct

- Stealing or attempting to steal an examination or answer key from the instructor.
- Submitting substantial portions of the same work for credit in more than one course without consulting all instructors involved.
- Falsifying or forging academic documents or records.

Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is an intellectual theft. It means use of the intellectual creations of another without proper attribution. Plagiarism may take two main forms, which are clearly related:
 - To steal or pass off another’s ideas, words, images, or other creative works as one’s own.
 - To use a creative production without crediting the source, even if only minimal information is available to identify it for citation.
- Unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or submission of AI-generated content without proper citation constitutes plagiarism.

Collusion

- Any student who knowingly or intentionally helps another student perform any of the above acts of cheating, dishonesty or plagiarism is subject to discipline under the Academic Integrity Policy. Examples of collusion include but are not limited to allowing another student to copy one's own work during a test or take-home assignment or writing a paper or other project for another student.



1st Offense of Academic Dishonesty:

If Valley College's faculty or staff member has found that a violation of academic integrity has occurred, they will request a meeting with the offending student and administration. During this meeting, the student will be provided with the information and evidence that was found. The student will also be provided with an opportunity to explain and/or defend their actions. During the meeting, if the student has been found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty, various disciplinary actions may be imposed on the student and can include but are not limited to receiving a zero on the assignment and/or exam, re-do of the assignment/exam with a maximum grade of 50%, disciplinary probation, as well as an immediate dismissal from the program. The context and seriousness of the violation will be taken into consideration when disciplinary action is imposed.

2nd Offense of Academic Dishonesty:

If Valley College's faculty or staff member has found that a 2nd offense violation of academic integrity has occurred, they will request a meeting with the offending student and administration. During this meeting, the student will be provided with the information and evidence that was found. The student will also be provided with an opportunity to explain and/or defend their actions. During the meeting, if the student has been found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty, they will be subject to automatic dismissal from the program. The context and seriousness of the violation will be taken into consideration before disciplinary action is imposed.

Student Code of Conduct:

Valley College's Code of Conduct can be viewed in its entirety in the Student Catalog located on Valley College's website (<https://www.valley.edu>).

Students shall adhere to the standards for professional conduct as stated in the WV RN Board's rule, Standards for Professional Nursing Practice, 19CSR10, and are subject to disciplinary action by the Board for acts of professional misconduct as defined in the Board's rule, Professional Misconduct, 19CSR3.

The College expects professional behavior. Regulations governing student conduct and activities are based on the premise that each student has the right to attend class in an environment conducive to learning. A student is subject to suspension or termination for conduct that disrupts the teaching or administrative activities of the College or interferes with the rights of the campus community. Examples of conduct considered unsatisfactory under these standards include but not limited to dishonesty, failure to comply with college policies, procedures, and regulations, or with the directions of college officials acting in performance of their duties, harassment, physical or verbal abuse of any person on campus or at college functions, and theft of or damage to college property or to property on campus belonging to any member of the campus community.

Valley College aims to provide students with comprehensive training and education necessary for entry into professional employment. In accordance with the Valley College values of integrity, effectiveness, leadership, teamwork, and growth, students are expected to adhere to the code of conduct to ensure a professional atmosphere and positive learning experience. Students are expected to interact with colleagues and peers in a polite and respectful manner. Students are expected to display characteristics such as respect, organization, prioritization, efficiency, and positivity. Students are also required to follow classroom rules established by their instructor. The Student Code of Conduct is a set of expectations regarding professionalism, attitude, appearance, academic integrity, attendance, classroom conduct, and course expectations. Students have the right to a professional, non-discriminatory, non-violent, harassment free, and drug, alcohol, and tobacco free environment. Adherence to the Student Code of Conduct is expected of all students, and any violation will be subject to disciplinary action.



Classroom Rules:

Each instructor will distribute or post specific class rules and expectations for their class. For courses that require more specific lab-based activities and assignments (skill-based procedures), the instructor will distribute or post more specific standard operation procedures or safety procedures that must be followed.

Students are expected to follow the subsequent list of classroom rules and expectations that are commonly observed in all Valley College campus' programs:

- Be present for the entire class.
- Keep cell phones off or on vibrate.
- Beverages and food are not permitted in any lab classes.
- Beverages may be allowed in lecture rooms if they are in a container with a lid.
- Tobacco or vape usage is restricted in the classrooms and at all school events except for in designated smoking areas at each campus.
- Take all personal, valuable items when leaving the room.
- Refrain from profane or obscene language and any unprofessional verbiage in the classroom, lab, or clinical setting.
- Follow verbal and written instructions in the classroom, lab, and clinical settings.
- Communicate and exhibit a positive attitude, good judgment, and respect for faculty, staff, and peers.
- Contact instructor by phone or text message prior to absence from class or clinical.
- Complete and turn in assignments on time.
- Accept responsibility for actions and outcomes.
- Demonstrate a positive attitude toward feedback.
- Display professional behavior and always maintain a professional demeanor including when offsite on school sponsored functions such as field trips, community service activities, or other school functions.
- If in a remote learning setting and participating in a live session, the student must be in an environment conducive to learning. The student cannot be at work, drive a car, or otherwise not fully participating in class.

Participation Rubric

- The Participation Rubric is used to evaluate each student’s level of engagement, professionalism, and preparedness during class. It outlines the expectations for active participation—such as contributing to discussions, completing in-class activities, demonstrating respectful behavior, and arriving prepared. The rubric also identifies specific behaviors that result in point deductions, including disruptions, lack of participation, unprofessional conduct, tardiness, or failure to follow class guidelines. This system ensures consistency, fairness, and transparency in how participation is assessed throughout the course.

PARTICIPATION RUBRIC

Category	NAILS & LASHES	HEAD GARMENT AN/OR HAIR	CELL PHONE USE	IMPROPER UNIFORM	TARDY ≥ 15MIN or Leave Early Or In/out Of class	Disruptive Behaviors Or Sleeping Or Excessive Talking (Incivility)*
Result of Infraction/Point Deduction	-25 Immediate removal of lashes/nails	-100 1 st Infraction *Counseled Remains in class	-100 1 st Infraction * Counseled Remains in class	-100 Sent home Must make-up hours on non-class day	-10 In/Out of Class For every occurrence	-100 Severity Dictates Instructor Action 1 st Infraction * Counsel
	or	-100 2 nd Infraction Sent Home Must make-up hours on non-class day	-100 2 nd Infraction Sent home Must make-up hours on non-class day	* Counseled	-25 Tardy or Leave Early 30-59 minutes	2 nd Infraction * Counseled
	-100 Student sent home Must make-up hours	* Counseled	* Counseled	Given additional assignment (not for grade)	-50 Tardy or Leave Early 1 hour to half the class time.	Immediate Class Removal Sent home Make-up hours on non- class day.
		Given additional assignment (not for grade)	Given additional assignment (not for grade)		-75 Tardy or Leaver early ½ class time or longer.	Meeting with Program administrator

* Counseled- Student will have a formal coaching done of event, this coaching will be included in the student’s file.



Additional Clinical Rules:

- Follow requirements of each clinical site regarding parking, storing of belongings, utilizing designated rooms for pre- and post-conference, usage of staff break rooms, cafeterias, microwaves, and refrigerators.
- Students are not permitted to leave the premises until the clinical has been concluded, unless otherwise directed by the clinical instructor/s.
- Students are not permitted to leave the floor without getting prior approval from the instructor.
- Smoking and vaping are prohibited while on the grounds of a clinical site. Coming to clinicals smelling like smoke will result in being dismissed from the site for the day.
- Cell phone use is prohibited on the floor and can only be used with instructor approval in designated locations.
- Students are responsible for seeking the assistance of the instructor in the clinical area before proceeding with any procedures or skills regarding patient care.
- Refusal to perform any type of patient care as directed by the instructor will result in dismissal from the clinical site and count as an unexcused absence. This refusal will reflect in the student's clinical grade and may result in further disciplinary action up to and including being withdrawn from the program.

Student Dress Code:

Valley College students are preparing for various careers in the workforce. Students are encouraged to reflect the proper image of their future careers by dressing appropriately. Students are expected to wear the appropriate Valley College Uniforms during normal lecture, lab, and clinical times.

The Valley College uniform (scrub top and bottom) is royal blue in color with a white lab coat. Failure to consistently adhere to the dress code can subject the student to disciplinary action. Questions pertaining to the dress code should be addressed to the Campus Director and/or the Nursing Program Administrator.

Classroom:

- Uniform scrub attire must fit properly so the midriff and buttocks are not shown while engaging in normal activities and exercises. Bottoms should not excessively touch the floor, and tops should not expose cleavage.
- Students are to always wear school identification badges when in the school, classroom, lab, and clinical setting.
- Faculty members may provide more specific standards for shoes. Shoes should be either black, gray, brown, blue, or white leather covered shoes (nursing shoes) or solid "croc" style shoes with no holes. Shoes must be waterproof and must be closed heel and closed toed.
- Lab coats/jackets or cardigan/fleece jacket may be worn according to weather conditions. NO HOODIES. Long sleeves at clinical such as lab coats etc. must follow policy of site.
- Hair color must be of naturally occurring color tones (black, brown, gray, blonde) with no extreme color or dye effects. Hair must be up, off the shoulders, and secured.
- The only permitted head-coverings are surgical caps and hair-wraps that in no way resemble a bonnet, do-rag, or outside hat. The color must be limited to white, blue, or black. Head coverings worn consistently for religious reasons are acceptable. Faculty has the final decision of the appropriateness of head-coverings.
- In accordance with professional workplace expectations, offensive tattoos will need to be covered with either a sleeve, band aid, or bandage material so they are not visible in the classroom, lab, clinical setting, or any other function organized by Valley College. Faculty reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of any tattoo. If an externship or clinical site requires that tattoos be covered, the student must comply.
- Any facial piercings and jewelry of the dangling style such as bracelets, necklaces, chain style jewelry, and earrings must be removed and/or plugged while in classroom, lab, clinical settings, and any other function organized through Valley College. Small, stud style earrings in ears are acceptable.
- The CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommends NO artificial nails or extensions. Valley College Nursing Program will also adhere to this recommendation. Nails must be kept short and not extend beyond the tips of the fingers. Only clear or pale nail polish is allowed with no visible chips.
- Please be respectful of perfume, oils and or cologne in the classroom regarding other students with allergies.

Nursing Student Dress Code

UNIFORM	GROOMING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valley Issued Scrubs Lab Coat- Students are permitted to wear any white scrub jacket, but other school logos are not allowed. Long Sleeve shirts are permitted, must be white or same color as scrubs No hoodies are permitted. Jackets/Coats – Allowed only during Lectures (not allowed during lab sessions or exams/tests) Please note that robes, blankets, hoodies, and similar items are not permitted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artificial nails are not permitted. Nail polish is permitted if they are nude colors. Artificial Lashes are not permitted. Facial piercings are not permitted (lab/lecture/clinical) Nail polish-clear or pale colors are permitted; only if intact—remove it if it becomes chipped Clean, short natural nails are required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No artificial nails in any patient care areas.
SHOES	HEAD GARMENTS & HAIR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leather white tennis shoes only during clinical and labs. Classroom- any colored tennis shoes are permitted during lecture The following are not permitted at any time; boots, slides, or cros. Winter months- Change out of Boots prior to entering classrooms/labs/clinical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head coverings must be either black, white, or the same color as your Valley Issued Scrubs Acceptable head coverings are scrub caps and religious coverings. Hair Color-natural only <p>When in class hair may be worn down, it must be securely tied above shoulders during labs and clinicals without exception.</p>

CDC Guidance is as follows; most facilities adopt this standard as well as Valley College.

CDC Guidance on Nail Polish for Healthcare Workers

The CDC’s Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings focuses heavily on nail length and artificial nails, but it also addresses nail polish through infection-control principles.

1. Natural nails should be kept short

The CDC recommends that healthcare personnel keep natural nails no longer than ¼ inch when caring for high-risk patients.

2. Artificial nails are not permitted in high-risk areas

The CDC states that healthcare workers should not wear artificial nails (acrylics, gels, wraps, extenders) when caring for high-risk patients such as those in ICUs or transplant units.

3. Nail polish is allowed only if it is intact

While the CDC does not explicitly ban nail polish, infection-control policies based on CDC guidance state that:

- Nail polish must be in good repair, meaning not chipped, cracked, or peeling.
- Chipped polish can harbor bacteria and is considered an infection-control risk.

These rules support the reduction of microbial contamination and protect vulnerable patients

Lab: In addition to the above classroom dress code, students must additionally adhere to the following:

- Only an engagement/wedding band is permitted in clinical and lab.
- Students must show up for skill checkoffs prepared for the test out: proper uniform scrub, watch with a second hand, stethoscope (when appropriate), and any other items needed, or they may not be checked off and will be subject to a failing grade for the lab.

Clinical: In addition to the above classroom and lab dress codes, students must additionally adhere to the following:

- School Identification Badge must always be worn during clinical rotations. Students not wearing a Valley College school identification badge at clinical sites will be sent home and this will be counted as a missed day.



- Only an engagement/wedding band is permitted in clinical and lab.
- No false eyelashes or extensions are to be worn at the clinical site.
- When reporting for a clinical, students are expected to come prepared: name badge, proper clean uniform/scrubs, stethoscope, pen, watch with second hand (and/or other items the clinical instructor deems necessary for that clinical site) and any homework that might be due.
- Students who show up unprepared or late will be sent home and this will count as an unexcused absence. Students will have to make up for the missed hours based on availability. Make-up of clinical hours is not guaranteed and if hours are not made-up, the student will receive a failing grade for the clinical aspect of the course which results in a failing grade for the overall course.

Casual Days:

- The Campus Director and/or Nursing Program Administrator may allow students to have casual or theme dress days. Safety and professionalism are always a consideration. The wearing of torn or badly frayed jeans, shorts, t-shirts (or other shirts/sweatshirts) with messages, tank tops, and open-toed or open-heeled shoes are never permitted.

Disciplinary Measures for Conduct Violations:

The Nursing Program Administrator makes all final decisions regarding what constitutes a Code of Code violation. Consequences may occur as follows depending on the type, severity and/or frequency of the conduct violation:

- Verbal counselling/coaching to avoid a repeat of the violation.
- Verbal warning with additional coaching for repeated violation of the Code of Conduct
- Written warning with action plan to address repeated violations.
- Subject to suspension or dismissal from the program.

The Nursing Administrator can administer any of these consequences depending on the seriousness of the conduct violation. Any student behavior that has directly resulted in the loss of a clinical site for Valley College will be subject to immediate dismissal from the program.

Non-Discrimination, ADA, and Equal Opportunity:

Students at Valley College can expect a campus free of discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation or belief, veteran status, marital status, ethnic background, or disability. Valley College does not tolerate discrimination towards faculty, staff, students, or any other individuals associated with the company. Students are required to adhere to the campus nondiscrimination policy.

Valley College is committed to upholding the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (together, the “Disability Laws”), and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Valley College provides equal opportunity for qualified people with disabilities. Valley College will make reasonable accommodation for a qualifying student with a disability, as appropriate. Accommodation must be formally requested by the student in writing. Students requesting accommodation must submit documentation of their disabilities from an appropriate, licensed professional qualified in the appropriate specialty area. Some examples of such people are physicians, psychiatrists, and psychologists. Such requests, along with supporting documentation, should be directed to the Campus Director. Online students may contact the Director, Online Division.

Valley College does not discriminate against any student or applicant based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation or belief, veteran status, marital status, ethnic background, or disability. The College abides by these policies in the administration of its student admissions, financial aid and scholarships, career placement programs, as well as in all other student-related services and educational programs and opportunities. The



Campus Director serves as the campus' Equal Opportunity Officer. Contact information is posted on the campus' Student Bulletin Board.

Student Resource Center and Virtual Library:

The College subscribes to the ProQuest Internet Library and the Virtual Librarian services. Log on information is provided to the students at Orientation. All students, faculty and staff have free access to these library services. Online training is available for users. The campus' Resource Room at a minimum provides access to the internet, ProQuest (Virtual) Library and the Virtual Librarian. Students are required to comply with the Resource Center rules. Students who have suggestions for additions to the Resource Center or comments on its operation should address their comments to the Campus Director.

Valley College offers the services of the Virtual Librarian 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The following list of items represents the services provided to Valley College students:

- The students can utilize the Virtual Librarian services at any time.
- Provide an asynchronous 7-day library online reference service by email, live-chat, or web meetings, to all students, instructors, and staff.
- Work with the college to ensure the purchase of appropriate e-resources to support the course content.

Tutorial Services:

Tutoring services are available to all students. It is the student's responsibility to seek out opportunities for tutoring services from their instructor.

Emergencies and Illness:

Valley College has established emergency response and evacuation procedures. Students are expected to become familiar with all fire and other emergency evacuation routes and procedures. Evacuation routes are diagrammed and posted in each classroom. The locations of fire extinguishers are also shown. A discussion of emergency procedures is conducted during class orientation.

Information is posted on the College's website at <http://www.valley.edu/consumer-information/> Click on the appropriate campus' Emergency Preparedness Plan.

The college reserves the right to call for emergency medical assistance or refer the student for medical assistance if an emergency, accident, or illness occurs during class hours or school events. Students are encouraged to immediately report any non-emergency incidents such as accidental needle sticks, animal bites, or other injuries sustained while at Valley College to a faculty/staff member. The faculty/staff member who will complete an incident report. Proper first aid procedures will be followed. Valley College recommends that students see/talk to their healthcare provider about the non-emergency incident. The student is responsible for payment for any treatment rendered and all costs that may result from injury and/or illness.

Illness

If students feel they are becoming ill at any time while on campus or at an offsite location clinical, externship, field trip site, they should inform their instructor or other supervisor. The goal of Valley staff shall be to facilitate access to support that keeps students out of harm's way, whether by calling a family member or friend to pick up the student or by calling for qualified emergency medical assistance (911, for example) if the situation warrants in the judgment of the Valley staff member. Further, the Valley staff members will notify the Campus Director or Program Administrator.

Valley College recommends that all students carry personal health/medical insurance. If students require emergency treatment for illness or injury while carrying out their assignments, they will be responsible for payment for any emergency treatment rendered and all costs that may result from injury and/or illness. Some programs require students to



participate in learning experiences at settings off campus. If these sites require that the student carry personal health/medical insurance, the student is responsible for the cost of that insurance.

Covid-19 Guidelines:

COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on the healthcare industry and schools' ability to place students in the required clinical courses. Valley College's Nursing program is obliged to abide by the requirements imposed by our clinical partners. At this time, we do not know if any exemptions will be granted. Please keep in mind that any exemptions/waivers may be facility dependent, and thus exceptions could vary between clinical partners. For this reason, we cannot guarantee alternate clinical site placement for students who do not meet the vaccination requirements. *Please see the Nursing Program admission requirements for the specific covid-19 vaccination requirements.*

Pregnancy and other related health issues:

It is recognized that pregnant individuals have rights and responsibility for decisions concerning their pregnancy. No one acting on behalf of Valley College may discriminate against a student based on pregnancy. At the same time, any pregnant student is expected to complete the requirements of the program they are enrolled in. The students should consider all risks, physical responsibilities, and hazards that the student might encounter in health-related or veterinary career prep programs that require students to perform hands-on activities. The students should discuss these requirements with their healthcare professional who can assist the student in making an informed decision if they should continue in the program. A leave of absence may be an acceptable option. A leave of absence will result in the student extending their completion date from what is printed on their enrollment agreement.

Although Valley College is committed to providing a safe and secure educational environment, Valley College cannot be held responsible for injury to the mother, fetus, or child due to hazard exposure during pregnancy.

Once the student notifies the College of the pregnancy or other related health issue, they are required to provide a medical release document that includes a list of reasonable accommodations or a statement that there are no restrictions necessary for the student to perform the hands-on activities. The school may request an updated document throughout the student's tenure at the school. Valley College will maintain the confidentiality of all information related to a student's pregnancy or related health issues, sharing information only with those who need to know how to provide accommodation. Valley College will work with students to develop a schedule or plan that can be reasonably implemented and under which risks are deemed acceptable by the student and their healthcare provider. If the student does not provide the College with a medical release document, the instructors may use their professional judgement to assign an alternative assignment that does not require hands-on activities to allow the student to progress through their program.

Incident Reporting Procedure:

The college reserves the right to call for emergency medical assistance or refer the student for medical assistance if an emergency, accident, or illness occurs during class hours or school events. Students are encouraged to immediately report any non-emergency incidents such as accidental needle sticks, animal bites, or other injuries sustained while at Valley College to a faculty/staff member. The faculty/staff member will complete an incident report. Proper first aid procedures will be followed. Valley College recommends that students speak to their healthcare provider about the non-emergency incident. The student is responsible for payment for any treatment rendered and all costs that may result from injury and/or illness.

Substance Use and/or Abuse:

If the instructor determines the student's ability to function safely in the clinical area is impaired (for any reason), the student is expected to immediately leave the clinical site. If alcohol or drugs are suspected, the student may be escorted for an immediate drug screen, at their expense, according to Valley College policy. The instructor will document the incident and report it to the nursing program administrator. A copy of the incident report will be placed in the student's file.



Social Media Policy:

Students are held to a high standard of professional conduct, including on social media. Students are prohibited from posting information pertaining to classroom, laboratory, simulation, and clinical experiences on social networking websites or any other type of internet, computer, technology-based social networking site, or equivalent media outlet. At no time may students use any personal electronic devices to take photographs, video or voice recordings of any patient or any part of a medical record or other protected health information. Violation of this policy is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

Student Complaint Procedure

[Student Grievance Procedure - Valley College](#)

Valley College strives to ensure that its students are fully satisfied with their education program. Valley College has established this policy and procedure to ensure that it addresses student complaints in a fair and consistent manner. To afford full consideration to students' complaints or concerns, Valley College has established both an informal and formal grievance procedure as the framework for problem resolution. It is Valley College's policy that no retaliatory action will be tolerated against students who lodge a complaint.

These procedures are not the same process as the Title IX or Violence Against Women Act's policies.

Informal:

In today's environment where emails and text messages are used for daily communication between students and faculty or staff, Valley College considers emails/text messages to campus staff or faculty to be an informal way to communicate a concern or an informal complaint.

1. The student is encouraged to first attempt to clarify/explain the issue and resolve the situation with the faculty or campus staff member involved. It may be necessary for the student to set up an appointment with the faculty or staff member.
2. If the issue remains unresolved, the student should then:
 - Beckley and Martinsburg Campuses
 - For Academic Concerns: discuss the issue with the program department head.
 - If the issue is not resolved, discuss the issue with the Campus Director.
 - For Other Concerns: discuss the issue with the Campus Director.

All complaints will be reviewed thoroughly and impartially to ensure a comprehensive and fair evaluation of each case

Formal:

If informal attempts to resolve complaints do not lead to satisfaction, the matter will be referred to the next stage of the process outlined below.

If the student feels that the complaint is still unresolved, the student should submit a written letter that includes the complaint and why the student feels that the complaint has not been resolved to the one of the individuals below:

- Academic Concerns: Shelly Smith, J.D., Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Valley College Administration, 287 Aikens Center, Martinsburg WV 25404 or ssmith@valley.edu
- Other Concerns: Lynn M. Mizanin, M.S.Ed., Chief Officer of Operations Valley College -Cleveland, 8700 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129 or lmizanin@valley.edu

The student will receive an acknowledgement of receipt within ten (10) calendar days. After, Valley College reviews/investigates the circumstances, and student will be notified in writing of the final decision. The decision will be made within thirty (30) calendar days. Records are maintained for at least five years.



If a student has a complaint or concern, they may contact the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges or any other regulatory or oversight entity at any time, regardless of whether they have first addressed the issue with the school. All complaints reviewed by the Commission must be in written form and should grant permission for the Commission to forward a copy of the complaint to the school for a response. This can be accomplished by filing the ACCSC Complaint Form. The complainant(s) will be kept informed as to the status of the complaint as well as the final resolution by the Commission. Please direct all inquiries to: **Accrediting Commission of Career Schools & Colleges, 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 302, Arlington, VA 22201 (703) 247-4212 or complaints@accsc.org**. A copy of the ACCSC Complaint Form is available at the school or online at www.accsc.org. The form can be submitted to this email address: complaints@accsc.org. The student may submit a complaint to ACCSC any time during the complaint process.

Please contact the following designated person at the school to obtain the ACCSC Complaint Form:

Beckley Campus	Martinsburg Campus/Online Division
Jamie Holliday Campus Director jholliday@valley.edu	Marianela Alberto Campus Director malberto@valley.edu

West Virginia Students may contact West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, 1018 Kanawha Blvd E #700, Charleston, WV 25301, (304) 558-2101.

<https://www.wvhepc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Student-Complaint-Process.pdf>

Nursing Students Only: West Virginia Student may also contact the West Virginia Board of Registered Nurses Contact information: WV RN Board 5001 MacCorkle Avenue, SW, South Charleston, WV 25309, (304) 744-0900.

<https://wvrnboard.wv.gov/>

Some of the agencies that provide funding for Valley College students may have separate Grievance procedures. Students receiving Veterans Benefits or Military Personnel Benefits may visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/Feedback.asp>

Title IX Notice of Non-discrimination Policy:

Title IX Notice of Non-Discrimination and Policy Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex in any education program or activity operated by a recipient that receives federal financial assistance. As an educational institution subject to Title IX, Valley College:

- Does not discriminate because of sex, including but not limited to admissions and employment, and is committed to providing an educational and workplace environment that is free from sex-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.
- Prohibits discrimination because of sex in its educational programs and activities, as required by law.
- Is committed to promoting fairness and equity in all aspects of its operations; and
- Values and promotes the equal dignity of all community members and is committed to the pursuit of just resolutions with respect for the rights of all parties involved.

Valley College prohibits retaliation against any individual who in good faith makes a complaint or assists a complainant in the filing of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual misconduct or participates as a witness in a proceeding under this or any other College policy, it is also a violation of a federal law.

Valley College has adopted Valley College Title IX Non-Discrimination & Grievance Process Policy that can be found on Valley College’s website at the following link: <http://www.valley.edu/consumer-information/>

Valley College’s Title IX Coordinator is identified below and may be contacted with questions about Valley College Title



IX Non-Discrimination & Grievance Process Policy, to file a report or formal complaint, or to otherwise assist individuals in ensuring equal access to the educational programs or activities in compliance with Title IX.

Title IX Coordinator: Ms. Margaret Stafford
Valley College Administrative Office
287 Aikens Center Martinsburg, WV 25404
T 304-263-0979
Email: mstafford@valley.edu

Confidentiality Agreement:

The student acknowledges that during their course of study in the nursing program, they will have access to confidential and sensitive information concerning patients, healthcare facilities, and other individuals or entities related to their clinical experiences. The purpose of this Agreement is to ensure the protection of such confidential information.

1. The student agrees to maintain strict confidentiality and not to disclose, directly or indirectly, any confidential information obtained during their nursing program.
2. Confidential information includes, but is not limited to, patient medical records, treatment plans, healthcare procedures, personal identifiable information (PII), and any other information that is not publicly available.
3. The student shall not use confidential information for personal gain or any purpose other than the fulfillment of their educational requirements.
4. The obligations of confidentiality extend beyond the duration of the student's enrollment in the nursing program and continue indefinitely.
5. The student shall only use confidential information for legitimate educational purposes within the scope of their nursing program.
6. The student shall not disclose confidential information to any unauthorized individuals, including friends, family, or any other third party.
7. In the event that the student is required by law or legal process to disclose confidential information, they shall promptly notify the college to allow it to seek appropriate protective measures.
8. The student shall take all necessary precautions to protect the confidentiality of information, including but not limited to: Safeguarding passwords and access codes, not leaving confidential information unattended, and properly disposing of any printed or written materials containing confidential information.
9. The student shall comply with all institutional policies, procedures, and guidelines related to the protection of confidential information.
10. Any breach of this Agreement may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to academic penalties, termination from the nursing program, or legal consequences.
11. The student acknowledges that breach of confidentiality may harm patients, Valley College, and other individuals involved in healthcare.
12. Valley College reserves the right to report any breaches of confidentiality to relevant authorities or regulatory bodies, as required by law.
13. Upon completion of the nursing program or termination of enrollment, the student shall promptly return all materials, documents, or any other tangible form of confidential information in their possession to Valley College.



Program Completion and Graduation Requirements:

A Candidate for Graduation has achieved the following:

- Passed all required courses in the student's program.
- Earned an overall cumulative 2.0 GPA ("C" average) or better on a 4.0 scale.
- Completed the program within the time frame as defined by Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Documented 100% attendance for class, lab and clinical throughout program.
- Pass the HESI Exit Exam with a score of 900 or better.

If a student meets the requirements for graduation, but is delinquent in payments to the college, the student will be considered a graduate but may not be eligible to walk at his or her scheduled graduation ceremony, will not receive their diploma, or will not receive an official or unofficial transcript until their account is in good financial standing according to Valley College policies.

Nursing Pinning Ceremony: The Pinning ceremony is a meaningful tradition that honors nursing graduates as they transition from students to professionals in the healthcare field. The Pinning Ceremony may be combined with the Graduation Ceremony. The qualified students will be provided with more information regarding this special event. A candidate for the Nursing Pinning Ceremony has met the above completion and graduation requirements.

NCLEX-RN Preparation:

At the conclusion of core nursing courses, students will prepare for and complete a HESI Specialty Exam. The HESI Specialty Exam will measure a student's understanding and ability to apply concepts related to specific clinical nursing content areas. The exam is an essential learning tool in the course and will provide students with a benchmark for their progress and additional areas for continued practice and study. The content of the exam will be linked to essential NCLEX-RN material that is covered in the course. At the conclusion of the HESI Specialty Exam, the student will receive a personalized remediation packet developed by Elsevier/Evolve that will contain the items that they need to further study and remediate before attempting the HESI Specialty Exam for the second attempt.

- **NCLEX Study Plan Activities:** In coordination with the HESI Specialty Exam given at the conclusion of each core nursing course, students will be expected to complete a weekly assignment and/or activity that is associated with the NCLEX prep study plan provided by their instructor. Directions will be provided by the designated member of the Nursing Department and will include due dates, assignment requirements methods to submit, and additional student advising. These activities are considered Out-of-Class Assignments.
- **NUR265** includes a supplemental NCLEX prep resource (HESI® Compass™). This is a personalized NCLEX prep supplement that is administered by live nursing educator coaches and incorporated into NUR265. Upon successful completion of the HESI Compass, students should be able to understand the NCLEX exam structure and question formats, demonstrate content knowledge essential for NCLEX exam success, apply successful test taking strategies on the NCLEX, and exhibit complete readiness for the NCLEX licensure exam. The student will begin the HESI Compass by taking their first of 3 attempts of the HESI Exit Exam. Then, based on the student's individual performance and score, a personalized remediation plan will be administered via the HESI Compass modules. Once the students have worked through the modules and attended the 3-day live review, they will be provided with their 2nd attempt at the HESI Exit Exam. Students must successfully achieve a minimum score of 900 to pass both the HESI Exit Exam and the NUR265 course. If the student fails to achieve a passing score of 900 or higher on the HESI Exit Exam after the limit of 3 attempts, the student will receive an incomplete grade (grade "I"). The student will be given the opportunity to participate in the Capstone Remediation Workshop. If the student declines the opportunity to participate in the Capstone Remediation Workshop and has failed to achieve a score of 900 on the HESI Exit Exam, the student will be withdrawn due to failure of the course.



- **Capstone Remediation Workshop:** If a student fails to achieve a score of 900 or greater during their initial 3 attempts of the HESI Exit Exam, they will be offered the opportunity for a Capstone Remediation Workshop. During this time, they will receive a grade of “Incomplete” for the NUR265 Capstone Course. This workshop will take place over the span of 4 additional weeks past the program completion date and involve intensive remediation and review of the nursing program’s content. The student will work closely with nursing faculty to complete this remediation and then be offered a fourth and final attempt at the HESI Exit Exam. If at this time, the student is unable to pass the HESI Exit Exam with a score of 900 or greater, they will receive a failing grade for the course and be withdrawn from the program but does retain the opportunity for a one-time readmission into the program. *(Please see the Nursing Program Readmission Policy.)*

Requirements for Application for RN Licensure:

Please refer to Title 19 Legislative Rules WV RN Board Series 3 Requirements for Registration and Licensure and Conduct Constituting Professional Conduct 19CSR3. §19-3-1 thru §19-3-16
<https://apps.sos.wv.gov/adlaw/csr/readfile.aspx?DocId=53257&Format=PDF>

WV RN Board and Eligibility to sit for the NCLEX-RN:

The WV RN Board may deny eligibility to sit for the Registered Nurse Licensing Examination to individuals who have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony and persons with drug/chemical dependency. Admission to and graduation from the Valley College Nursing Associate degree program does not guarantee the applicant will be permitted to sit for the licensing examination. See the letter from the [WV Board of Nursing](#) for more information about criminal convictions and eligibility for licensure in West Virginia.

List of Appendix Items

The Appendix contains forms that the student must sign and submit to Valley College.

Appendix A - Nursing Student Handbook Agreement

Appendix B - Informed Consent

Appendix C - Confidentiality Statement for Student Clinical Experience

Appendix D - Technology Agreement

Appendix E - HIPAA Statement

Appendix F - Random Drug and Alcohol Screen Acknowledgement and Consent

Appendix G – Attendance Policy Acknowledgement and Statement

Appendix H – Readmission Policy Acknowledgement and Statement

Appendix I – ADN Program Testing Policy Acknowledgement and Statement

Appendix J – Academic Integrity Policy Acknowledgement and Statement

Appendix K – Dress Code Acknowledgement and Statement



Appendix Item A

**Valley College ADN Program
Nursing Student Handbook Agreement**

I have received a copy of the latest Nursing program Student Handbook in addition to the Catalog provided to me prior to my enrollment and understand all the rules and expectations. By signing this statement, I agree to abide by all the regulations, policies and procedures contained in the Handbook, including any amendments that may occur in the future.

I understand that Valley College will periodically review its policies and procedures to serve the needs of the students and faculty, as well as to respond to the regulatory mandates of the legislature, the West Virginia RN Board, the federal government, and other regulatory and accrediting agencies. Valley College reserves the right to change, rescind, or include additional regulations, policies, and procedures in its Nursing Student Handbook. I understand that such changes may occur without notice and that I agree to periodically check the Student Handbook for the latest version.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name (Please Print) _____

By signing, I recognize that this is a binding contract of responsibility and accountability, which is integrated into my permanent file. I have been provided the opportunity to ask questions and receive responses to these questions.



Appendix Item B

Valley College ADN Program

Informed Consent

I, _____, understand that as a clinical student, I may be exposed to environmental hazards and infectious diseases including, but not limited to Covid-19, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, and HIV (AIDS) while in a clinical facility and/or lab and simulation. Neither Valley College nor any of the clinical facilities used for clinical practice assumes liability if a student is injured on the campus or in the clinical facility/practicum during training unless the injury is a direct result of negligence by the college or clinical facility. I understand that I am responsible for the cost of health care for any personal injury I may suffer during my education. I understand that I should purchase private health insurance. I understand and assume responsibility for the practices, objectives, course requirements and inherent risk involved in the education of Nursing program students at Valley College.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name (Please Print) _____



Appendix Item D

Valley College ADN Program Confidentiality Statement

The student acknowledges that during their course of study in the nursing program, they will have access to confidential and sensitive information concerning patients, healthcare facilities, and other individuals or entities related to their clinical experiences. The purpose of this Agreement is to ensure the protection of such confidential information.

- The student agrees to maintain strict confidentiality and not to disclose, directly or indirectly, any confidential information obtained during their nursing program.
- Confidential information includes, but is not limited to, patient medical records, treatment plans, healthcare procedures, personal identifiable information (PII), and any other information that is not publicly available.
- The student shall not use confidential information for personal gain or any purpose other than the fulfillment of their educational requirements.
- The obligations of confidentiality extend beyond the duration of the student's enrollment in the nursing program and continue indefinitely.
- The student shall only use confidential information for legitimate educational purposes within the scope of their nursing program.
- The student shall not disclose confidential information to any unauthorized individuals, including friends, family, or any other third party.
- If the student is required by law or legal process to disclose confidential information, they shall promptly notify the college to allow it to seek appropriate protective measures.
- The student shall take all necessary precautions to protect the confidentiality of information, including but not limited to: Safeguarding passwords and access codes, not leaving confidential information unattended, and properly disposing of any printed or written materials containing confidential information.
- The student shall comply with all institutional policies, procedures, and guidelines related to the protection of confidential information.
- Any breach of this Agreement may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to academic penalties, termination from the nursing program, or legal consequences.
- The student acknowledges that breach of confidentiality may harm patients, Valley College, and other individuals involved in healthcare.
- Valley College reserves the right to report any breaches of confidentiality to relevant authorities or regulatory bodies, as required by law.
- Upon completion of the nursing program or termination of enrollment, the student shall promptly return all materials, documents, or any other tangible form of confidential information in their possession to Valley College.

By signing below, the student acknowledges that they have read and understood the terms and conditions of this Agreement and agree to be bound by its provisions.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name (Please Print) _____

This confidentiality Statement is applicable to ALL clinical/preceptor sites connected to Valley College Nursing Program and will become a part of the student's personal file.



Appendix Item D

Valley College ADN Program

Technology Agreement

Valley College has a significant investment designed to enhance the education and training of students in its various programs. Due to this, it is deemed necessary to clarify expectations for those using equipment and supplies here at Valley College.

Therefore, please acknowledge understanding and agree to the following:

- No equipment (desktops, laptops, printers, monitors, TVs, beds, pumps, etc.) shall be altered or tampered with in any way.
- No equipment may be moved without the direct permission of the instructor charged with the responsibility of the equipment.
- No file, app, program, graphic, game, etc., may be installed on, copied to, or deleted from any Valley College device (unless granted permission to do so by the instructor charged with the responsibility of that device).
- Other personal enhancements to a device such as screensavers, wallpapers, graphics, etc., are not permitted on Valley College equipment.
- The introduction of internet viruses, spyware, malware, etc. (either purposeful or accidental) to the Valley College network and equipment is prohibited.
- Misuse or abuse of email is strictly prohibited.

Violations of any part of this agreement will result in consequences including, but not limited to restriction from use of equipment, removal from the class or program, expulsion from Valley college and or potential legal action.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name (Please Print) _____



Appendix Item E

Valley College ADN Program

HIPAA Statement

Confidential information includes protected health information (PHI) as defined by the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Protected Health Information (“PHI”) under HIPAA is defined as information that is received from or created or received on behalf of Valley College or its affiliated health care organizations and is information about an individual which relates to past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of health care to an individual; or the past, present or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual.

PHI includes medical records, student records, and financial or billing information relating to a patient’s or student’s past, present or future mental or physical condition; or past, present, or future provision of healthcare; or past present or future payment for provision of healthcare.

Below is the web link to a notification of privacy practices in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). It is your responsibility as a student in the Nursing Program to read, understand, comply with and be able to define the HIPAA regulations. You should be able to describe how the regulation affects you in your position as a future Nurse (and current nursing student). Please read the HIPAA notification thoroughly and keep it with your other Nursing Program references that you carry with you at your job or preceptorship site.

Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information:

- <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveridentities/notice.pdf>

I understand that Valley College and its affiliated health care organizations have a legal and ethical responsibility to maintain and protect the privacy and confidentiality of protected health information (PHI) and to safeguard the privacy of patient and student and Valley College and its affiliated health care organizations’ information. I understand that any PHI or confidential information that I access or view at Valley College and its affiliated health care organizations does not belong to me.

HIPAA Statement

I have read and understand the HIPAA regulations.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name (Please Print) _____



Appendix Item F

Valley College ADN Program

Random Drug and Alcohol Screen Acknowledgement and Consent

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe and drug-free environment, Valley College has the right to implement a random drug and alcohol screen on a student if impairment is suspected during lecture/lab/clinical or any other related school function. This is designed to ensure the well-being of all individuals within our institution and promote the highest standards of patient care. This serves as a proactive measure to identify and address any potential substance abuse issues that may compromise the safety and well-being of our patients, employees, and the overall integrity of our institution.

The random drug and alcohol screen will be administered in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. Please note that your potential participation in the random drug and alcohol screen, if administered, is mandatory. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, up to and including being withdrawn from the program.

We understand that drug and alcohol screening can be a sensitive matter, and we want to assure you that the process will be conducted with the utmost respect for your privacy and confidentiality. All drug and alcohol screening results will be treated as confidential medical information and will only be shared with authorized personnel on a need-to-know basis.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to maintaining a safe and drug and alcohol-free environment at Valley College.

By signing below, I consent for the agency’s laboratory to collect blood, urine, or saliva samples from me to conduct necessary medical tests to determine the presence or use of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances. Further, I give my consent for the release of the test result(s) and other relevant medical information to any authorized personnel, including the WV RN Board. I also understand that if I refuse to consent, I may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including being withdrawn from the program.

I, _____, have read and understand the above.
(Please print your name)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Witness: _____ **Date:** _____



Appendix Item G

**Valley College ADN Program
Attendance Policy Acknowledgement and Statement**

As a student enrolled in the ADN program with Valley College, it is important that you understand and comply with the attendance policy. Regular attendance is crucial for your academic success and the development of essential nursing skills. By signing this acknowledgment, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to adhere to the Attendance Policy as outlined in the ADN Program Student Handbook.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name (Please Print) _____



Appendix Item H

Valley College ADN Program

ADN Program Readmission Policy Acknowledgement and Statement

As a student enrolled in the ADN program with Valley College, it is important that you understand the Readmission Policy. By signing this acknowledgment, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to adhere to the ADN Program Readmission Policy as outlined in the ADN Program Student Handbook.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name (Please Print) _____



Appendix Item I

**Valley College ADN Program
Testing Policy Acknowledgement and Statement**

As a student enrolled in the ADN program with Valley College, it is important that you understand and comply with the Testing Policy. By signing this acknowledgment, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to adhere to the Testing Policy as outlined in the ADN Program Student Handbook.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name (Please Print) _____



Appendix Item J

**Valley College ADN Program
Academic Integrity Policy Acknowledgement and Statement**

As a student enrolled in the ADN program with Valley College, it is important that you understand and comply with the Academic Integrity Policy. By signing this acknowledgment, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy as outlined in the ADN Program Student Handbook.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name (Please Print) _____



Appendix Item K

**Valley College ADN Program
Dress Code Acknowledgement and Statement**

As a student enrolled in the ADN program with Valley College, it is important that you understand and comply with the Dress Code. By signing this acknowledgment, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to adhere to the Dress Code as outlined in the ADN Program Student Handbook.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name (Please Print) _____