



LEARN WELL. LIVE WELL.



## REGISTERED NURSING HANDBOOK

Volume 2: July, 2019

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 1. Welcome

Letter .....	4
General Information .....	5
Nursing Program Vision, Mission, and Philosophy.....	6
Our Beliefs .....	7
Conceptual Framework.....	8
Program Objects / Terminal Goals .....	9

## 2. Admissions

Nursing Program Health Requirements .....	11
Physician's Release.....	11
Special Program Regulations.....	11
Conviction Records.....	13
Drug Screen Policy.....	14
General Campus Information.....	14-15

## 3. Academic Policies

Essential Functional Abilities and Skills for Nursing Students.....	17
Student Conduct .....	18-19
American Association of Nurses Code of Ethics .....	20
Program Progression Policy.....	20
Grade Appeal.....	21
Program Completion Policy.....	21
Attendance Policy.....	21
Dress Code (School and Clinical).....	22-23
Theory / Classroom / Didactic Policy.....	24
Clinical Policy.....	24
Clinical and Skills Lab Guidelines.....	25-26
Patient / Client Rights .....	26
Universal Blood and Body Substance Precautions.....	26
General Guidelines for Nursing Students.....	27
Epidemic Exposure Plan .....	27
Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI): .....	28

## 4. Agreement Form

LPN to RN Nurse Bridge Agreement Form .....	30
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WELCOME

1

# 1 LETTER

Dear Nursing Student,

This handbook provides policies and procedures specific to the RN and LPN to RN Bridge Nursing Programs. You are expected to adhere to all policies in this handbook as well as all policies in the ATA catalog. In addition, you are expected to adhere to all policies of any clinical facilities in which you are placed. The policies presented in this handbook supplement those presented in the ATA catalog and the ATA Student Handbook.

ATA reserves the right to revise any policies presented in this handbook or the ATA catalog. Policy changes will be provided via announcements to the student population on the student portal. You are encouraged to seek advising from Student Services and ATA administrative personnel if you have any questions about the policies presented in this publication.

ATA is institutionally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). Graduates earn an Associates Degree Nursing in Registered Nursing. Graduates are eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) exam.

Upon successful completion of all required courses and successful completion of the NCLEX-RN graduates are eligible to seek employment as a Licensed Registered Nurse.

You may obtain information about the following Board of Nursing requirements related to nursing programs by contacting:

**Kentucky Board of Nursing**

312 Whittington Parkway, Suite 300  
Louisville, KY 40222-5172  
(800) 305-2042 or (502) 429-3300  
<http://kbn.ky.gov>

**Ohio Board of Nursing**

17 S High Street #660  
Columbus, OH 43215-3466  
614-466-3947  
<http://www.nursing.ohio.gov>

**Florida Board of Nursing**

4054 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-02  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3252  
850-245-4125  
<https://floridasnursing.gov/>

Please remember the nursing staff is here to support you on your academic journey. If you need any assistance, feel free to reach out to us.

Best wishes for your academic journey,  
ATA Nursing Staff

# 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

## **EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM**

The Program Director will provide an evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the training program annually and shall include such elements as: student evaluations, first-time pass rates on the written and manual skills certification exams, student attrition rates, resolution of past student complaints and grievances, and review and revision of program policies. The Program Director can add other criteria in weighing the effectiveness of the evaluation process with subsequent semesters of training. This data will be shared with the administration of ATA as well as with any accrediting or licensing agencies as needed.

## **ATA ADMINISTRATION**

Don Jones, President

Cindy Landry, Director of Accreditation and Compliance

Chad Bertelkamp Director of Financial Aid

## **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

ATA Kentucky Nursing Program Director

Kathy Munday, RN, MSN-ED

ATA Florida Nursing Program Director

Rhonda Sansone, MSN, RN

ATA Ohio Nursing Program Director

Danielle Miles, MSN, RN

# 1 NURSING PROGRAM VISION, MISSION, AND PHILOSOPHY

## VISION

Educate Registered Nurses

**Mission Statement:** Thoroughly prepare nursing students to provide holistic and competent care to all patients, present as leaders in the health care arena and serve as catalysts for the advancement of the nursing profession. To educate caring nurses committed to excellence, who will serve the healthcare needs of the community as well as the diverse community in the region.

**Philosophy Statement:** ATA believes in providing quality educational opportunities in the field of nursing to all individuals with the passion and desire to become a registered nurse. ATA's Nursing Program will provide a foundation of knowledge that will incorporate the biological, physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of nursing. Community service is an integral component in the professional nursing experience. This program is committed to providing service to the community, and to the development of the nurse with an appropriate balance of caring and professionalism. Nursing as a science allows for human caring processes that facilitate health and healing. Nursing is a vocation and profession in which the practitioner integrates learning, teaching, leading, caring, communicating, facilitating, evaluating, managing, planning, and professionalism to promote, maintain, and restore quality of health to communities, environment, family and self.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon the completion of the nursing program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Provide safe and effective nursing care that is congruent with all laws and regulations to patients;
2. Acknowledge each client as an individual and take into account their life preferences, values, cultures and individuality;
3. Serve as a professional role model through communication and actions;
4. Proficiently manage and promote the health of the patient by upholding physiological and psychological integrity, providing basic care and comfort, reducing any potential risks and practicing safe pharmacological therapy.

# 1 OUR BELIEFS

## **THE NURSING FACULTY BELIEVES:**

Human beings are unique rational individuals possessing self-worth and dignity and can utilize their potential for self-development and self-improvement and are capable of modifying their environment and their responses to it.

Environment influences the individual's internal responses, beliefs and value system, also includes influences of culture, family, religion and community. Any environmental condition that interferes with man's well-being is a threat when he is no longer able to cope with it sufficiently well. Nursing attempts to provide an environment that promotes the well-being of people.

Health is a dynamic state of wellness and a fundamental right of every human being. Promotion of health and prevention of illness involves patients, families, and communities participating in decisions regarding their health and in evaluating accessibility.

Caring is central to nursing practice and requires the integration of knowledge, skill, and values to provide quality care. A professional caring relationship is based on respect for the harmony of the client and environment.

Client is the recipient of nursing care or services which could be person, family, aggregate, community, or society. Client is often referred to as patient.

Nursing is a caring discipline that requires the integration of knowledge, skills, and values. Integrity in nursing is acting in accordance with an appropriate code of ethics and accepted standards of practice; patients advocate who defends for a vulnerable client.

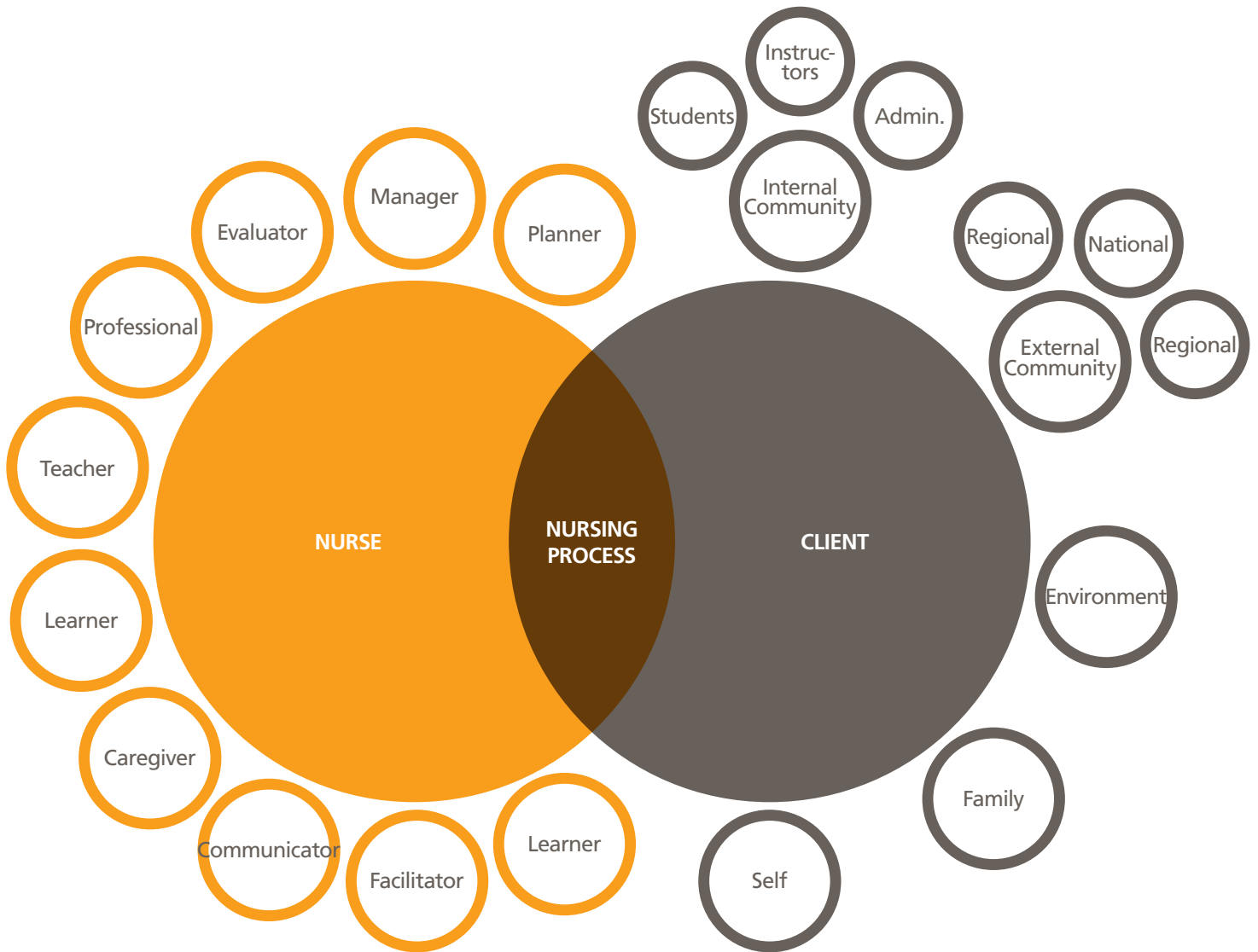
Nursing is an art and a science.

Nursing Process is a vehicle which enables one to meet basic human needs as they exist within the environment. The nurse incorporates psychomotor skills and scientific and social foundations in meeting these needs in the health illness continuum throughout the life span. The LPN to RN Bridge Nursing Curriculum emphasizes the need for continued growth in nursing practice.

# 1 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual/organizational framework of ATA's Registered Nursing Program is illustrated through the circular strands exemplifying the philosophy and objectives of the LPN to RN Bridge and Registered Nursing Program. The concepts reflect the significance of the nurse/client relationship. This framework exemplifies the boundless community.





# 1 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES / TERMINAL GOALS

**Objective:** This associate degree program provides students with classroom and clinical experiences that allow for students with the acquisition of knowledge and skills that enable them to meet the requirements necessary for success as a registered nurse.

**Terminal Goals:** Upon completion of the LPN to RN Bridge and Registered Nursing programs, the student will be able to apply for licensure and take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Once licensed, the student will be able to seek employment and provide nursing care as an entry level registered nurse, working under the direction of a physician.

Graduates are prepared to function as professionals in accordance within the scope and standards of registered nursing practice set by the National Association of Registered Nurse Education and Service (NARNES) and the Kentucky Board of Nursing (KBN), the Florida Board of Nursing, and the Ohio Board of Nursing

This program prepares graduates for employment in numerous health care settings. Licensed Registered nurses hold positions in hospitals, nursing care facilities, physician offices, community, home health, and employment agencies, outpatient care centers, and in federal, state, and local government service organizations.

ADMISSIONS

2

## 2 ADMISSIONS

### **ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND CLASS SCHEDULE:**

Please refer to the Course Catalog for the academic calendars. Class schedules are obtained through the student portal.

### **NURSING PROGRAM HEALTH RECORDS REQUIREMENTS:**

All students in the nursing program must have verification of immunizations and a physical exam on file in the Nurse Administrator's office, prior to attending any clinical or skills lab experience. The following immunizations are requirements of the nursing program:

1. MMR (mumps, measles, rubella)
2. Varicella (Chicken Pox)
3. Tetanus-Diphtheria (adult)
4. PPD (Tuberculosis): Five year chest x-ray or annual renewal is required
5. Hepatitis B (or signed waiver)
6. Influenza Vaccine

### **PHYSICIANS RELEASE**

In the event of a major illness, pregnancy, or orthopedic problem, a physician release indicating the student can safely continue to give patient care as equipped. The release must attest to the student's ability to perform the physical activities listed in the "Essential Functional Abilities and Skills for Nursing Students". The student will be denied clinical opportunity if the physicians release form is not submitted.

**Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation:** Students are to have an American Heart Association provided Healthcare Provider CPR certificate. The CPR certificate must remain current for the duration of the nursing program. Recertification is offered at ATA, information can be obtained in the nursing department.

### **SPECIAL PROGRAM REGULATIONS**

#### **Liability Insurance:**

Each student must carry liability insurance coverage when he/she begins clinical experience as a nursing student of ATA. The fee for the insurance will be included with your tuition. Students providing nursing care must be under the direct supervision of a nursing instructor. A student's liability insurance is in effect only if the student is providing nursing care as part of the nursing program requirements. If a student chooses to work in a health care agency, he/she is not employed as a nursing student and cannot wear the student uniform or use the initials S.P.N. after the signature. Liability of the student in an employing agency rests with the individual and the agency.

## 2 ADMISSIONS

### **Conviction Records:**

Successful completion of the LPN to RN and RN programs does not ensure students will be eligible to become licensed nurses.

### **Kentucky**

KRS. 314.091(1b) states that the Kentucky Board of Nursing may take action on a felony or misdemeanor and allows the Board to deny, limit, revoke, probate, suspend, or take other action against an applicant or licensee who is guilty of the offenses or conduct specified in KRS. 314.091. A criminal background check and abuse registry search will be conducted on all enrolled students. It is important to note that incriminating background records may prevent enrollment into the program, cause disenrollment of the program, or prevent acceptance into clinical sites.

Please consult <http://kby.ky.gov> in regards to licensure and background checks. Applicants with a conviction of a misdemeanor or felony shall read the KBN – KRS 314.109 and 201 KAR 20:370 on the Kentucky Board of Nursing website. A student with a conviction of any type should contact the KBN before entering the program. Some clinical facilities have more stringent guideline. According to KRS 216.789 Prohibition against employing certain felons at long term care facilities, in nursing pools providing staff to nursing facilities or in assisted-living communities – Preemployment check with Justice Cabinet – Temporary employment.

1. No long-term care facility as defined by KRS 216.535(1), nursing pool providing staff to a nursing facility, or assisted living community shall knowingly employ a person in a position which involves providing direct services to a resident or client if that person has been convicted of a felony offense related to theft; abuse or sale of illegal drugs; abuse, neglect or exploitation of an adult; or a sexual crime.
2. A nurse facility, nurse pool providing staff to a nursing facility, or assisted living community may employ persons convicted of pleading guilty to an offense classified as a misdemeanor if the crime is not related to abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an adult.
3. Each long term care facility as defined by KRS216.535(1), nursing pool providing staff to a nursing facility, or assisted living community shall request all conviction information from the Justice Cabinet for any applicant for employment pursuant to KRS216.793.
4. The long-term care facility, nursing pool providing staff to a nursing facility, or assisted living community may temporarily employ an applicant pending the receipt of the conviction information.

### **Florida**

The Florida Board of Nursing may take action on a felony or misdemeanor and allows the Board to deny, limit, revoke, probate, suspend, or take other action against an applicant or licensee who is guilty of the offenses or conduct specified in regulation.

## 2 ADMISSIONS

### Ohio

The Ohio Board of Nursing's Revised Code requires those applying for a license or certificate issued by the Ohio Board of Nursing (Board) to submit fingerprints for both an FBI (federal) and BCI (civilian) criminal records check completed by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI). The Board cannot, by law, complete the processing of your application until the Board receives BOTH reports. Currently, there are eleven offenses that are automatic bars to obtaining a nursing license for applicants who entered a prelicensure nursing education program after June 1, 2003. This means that the Board of Nursing (Board) is prohibited from issuing a license to a person who has pled guilty to, been convicted of, or has a judicial finding of guilt for one of the offenses listed below:

- Aggravated Murder
- Murder
- Voluntary Manslaughter
- Felonious Assault
- Kidnapping
- Rape
- Aggravated Robbery
- Aggravated Burglary
- Sexual Battery
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- Aggravated Arson
- or a substantially similar law of another state.

The Board is also prohibited from issuing a license to a person who is required to register as a sex offender.

In addition, the Board may propose to deny an application, or place restrictions on a license granted, for a conviction of, a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, a judicial finding of guilt resulting from a plea of no contest to, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction or pretrial diversion for the following:

(1) any felony (2) a crime involving gross immorality or moral turpitude (3) a misdemeanor drug law violation; or (4) a misdemeanor in the course of practice. In regard to these four types of offenses, the offenses are not automatically disqualifying. The Board reviews the facts of each case on an individual basis. The offense may or may not result in a proposed action to deny licensure. The Board does not have the authority to make a determination or take action until an application has been filed. If an applicant has a criminal history, the Board conducts a thorough investigation and considers a number of factors, including but not limited to: whether the applicant has made restitution, completed probation and/or otherwise been rehabilitated; the age of the offense; the facts and circumstances underlying the offense; and the total number and pattern of offenses.

Please also be advised that although the Board may grant a license to an applicant who has a criminal offense history, an individual may be restricted from working in certain settings based on his or her criminal history due to federal and state laws, which require criminal records checks prior to employment in certain settings, and which may impose absolute or discretionary bars to employment in certain patient care settings, for example, in facilities or settings involving care provided to older adults or children. See, e.g., Ohio Administrative Code 173-9-07; 3701- 60-07; 5123:2-2-02; 5160-45-07.

## 2 ADMISSIONS

### **Drug Screening Policy:**

ATA complies with the Drug Free School and Communities Act of 1989, Public Law 101-226, which requires that as a condition of receiving funds or any form of federal assistance under any federal program, the institution of higher education must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by its students and employees.

All nursing students will be required to take a nine panel drug screening prior to beginning the nursing program. Students with a positive drug screening will have to adhere to the drug policy as stated in the Course Catalog. A positive drug screening is defined as:

1. Clinical indications of impairment or signs of dependency
2. Prescribed medication taken in excess of prescription
3. Diluted urine
4. Refusal to urinate or comply with screening policy/procedures
5. Urine sample determined to be out of the appropriate temperature range.

### **Chemical Dependency Policy:**

In order to comply with all clinical affiliates, federal and state legislation, any student exhibiting behavior which suggests impairment related to drugs and/or alcohol will be mandated to chemical dependence assessment. ATA will contact a taxi service to transport the student from any clinical site to a drug testing facility or emergency room (ER). All costs related to drug screenings will be at the expense of the student. The student will have a specified time frame to have the screening conducted. The drug testing results must be received by ATA directly from the testing facility or ER facility.

When ATA determines that a student has a positive drug test, the student will be withdrawn from the clinical course and all concurrent health, nursing, or allied health program. Prior to returning to ATA, the student must reapply, be accepted to the program, have a negative drug test, and provide satisfactory documentation of drug counseling and treatment. The student will assume all costs of expenses.

### **False Positive Screening:**

A student may request to have their original specimen retested should the student feel the specimen is a false positive reading. The request must be stated in writing to ATA. The student must submit this request within 10 days of learning of a positive result and assumes all costs of the test. A second positive test is considered final and cannot be appealed. When a student, with a previously positive drug test, is accepted back into the program, he/she will be subjected to unannounced, random drug screenings.

### **GENERAL CAMPUS INFORMATION:**

#### **Counseling and Guidance:**

The Department of Student Services serves as an academic advisor to students.

Students may also seek out faculty members based on their chosen program of study.

Counseling of a severe/professional nature is referred to appropriate outside listed agencies.

#### **Grievance Procedure:**

If a student has any problems or concerns regarding his/her classes or instructors, the student is encouraged to speak with the instructor first. If the problem is not resolved, the student should make an appointment with the Program Director. If the problem is still not resolved, the student should make an appointment with the Director of Accreditation and Compliance. Every effort should be made by both the student and ATA staff to resolve any complaint issues at the levels indicated above.

## 2 ADMISSIONS

### **ID Badges/Tags:**

Badges/tags must be visible at all times for security reasons. Students will not be allowed in the clinical facilities without ATA issued student ID badges. The student must also wear the ID tags/badges when on campus to be allowed in classrooms, computer labs and resource rooms.

### **Eating/Drinking:**

Designated areas will be available for breaks. Students are responsible for removing any materials such as cans, bags, etc. when finished. Eating in classrooms is not permitted. Drinks are allowed in spill proof containers only.

### **Resource Room:**

The Resource Room is open each week, Monday through Friday. Books and periodicals may be checked out for student use. Reference materials must be used in the Resource Room. ATA has loaded appropriate encyclopedia and dictionary requirements on computers and these are available for student use. The school also provides Internet access for other student requirements. ATA subscribes to Gale Virtual Library. The Virtual on-line library can be accessed from the Resource Room and gives students access to over 900 periodicals, a virtual reference room, medical videos and an extensive pharmacology database. For more information regarding campus amenities, please refer to the student catalog.

We draw from the subject area lists from Doody's Core bibliography once every six months and circulate those lists among the Nursing faculty. Their selections are then added to the LRC collection and are reference-only, non-lending titles.

If a textbook gets superseded by a new addition or different title, it is kept until five years past the copyright date.

### **USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS**

Copyright is a protection given to original written materials and works of art. It allows the author or the artist to control the reproduction of her work. As a result, ATA employee(s) may not reproduce written materials or works or unless the works are considered within the public domain or meet the criteria established by the Fair Use Act.

**Public Domain:** Works that fall within the public domain are those that contain common information. Examples include height and weight charts, standard calendars, and the like.

**Fair Use Act:** Under the Fair Use Act, copyrighted works may be reproduced, for instructional purposes only, without permission, if ALL of the following criteria apply:

- **Spontaneity:** There is not enough time to obtain copyright permission.
- **Single Use:** The work is copied one time, i.e. for a class. If the work is to be copied for subsequent Classes, copyright permission must be obtained.
- **Length:** The portions of the work may be copied are limited in length.

Paragraphs or a few pages may be copied; whole chapters may not be copied. For works that are not within the public domain or do not meet the parameters of the Fair Use Act, the ATA Education Department will seek copyright permission. Employees are reminded that ATA curricula are the property of and may not be copied or used outside of their employment with ATA.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

3



## 3 ACADEMIC POLICIES

### ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES AND SKILLS FOR NURSING STUDENTS

The LPN to RN Bridge and RN Nursing Students will have the following abilities/competencies:

1. **Visual:** possess visual acuity, depth perception and peripheral vision adequate with or without corrective lenses to see objects more than 20 feet away, read small print on objects and withdraw medications from small containers.
2. **Auditory:** have hearing ability with or without auditory aids to distinguish faint sounds with variations, understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speaker's face, hear auditory alarms, emergency signals, and communicate via the telephone.
3. **Tactile:** demonstrate gross motor skills and physical endurance, able to stand and maintain balance for prolonged periods of time, lift, push or pull objects of 50 pounds or more, demonstrate full range of motion of all extremities, move or ambulate without difficulty independently, maneuver in limited spaces, and squeeze with hands.
4. **Communication Skills:** demonstrate fine motor skills with manual dexterity to write with a pen or pencil, type on a computer keyboard, pick up and manipulate small objects with hands, screw on caps, perform actions using two hands simultaneously, and pinch small objects with fingers. Communicate effectively in verbal and written form by speaking clearly and succinctly when explaining treatment procedures or describing patient conditions, implement health teaching, and write legibly.
5. **Critical / Cognitive Thinking:** demonstrate effectively the ability to synthesize knowledge in reading, writing and comprehension of English language, make decisions independently, identify cause-effect relationships; adapt decisions based on new knowledge.
6. **Adaptation:** Function safely under stressful conditions and demonstrate the ability to adapt to ever changing environments.

## 3 ACADEMIC POLICIES

### STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

- (1) A student shall, in a complete, accurate, and timely manner, report and document nursing assessments or observations, the care provided by the student for the patient, and the patient's response to that care.
- (2) A student shall, in an accurate and timely manner, report to the appropriate practitioner errors in or deviations from the current valid order.
- (3) A student shall not falsify any patient record or any other document prepared or utilized in the course of, or in conjunction with, nursing practice. This includes, but is not limited to, case management documents or reports, time records or reports, and other documents related to billing for nursing services.
- (4) A student shall implement measures to promote a safe environment for each patient.
- (5) A student shall delineate, establish, and maintain professional boundaries with each patient.
- (6) At all times when a student is providing direct nursing care to a patient the student shall:
  - (a) Provide privacy during examination or treatment and in the care of personal or bodily needs; and
  - (b) Treat each patient with courtesy, respect, and with full recognition of dignity and individuality.
- (7) A student shall practice within the appropriate scope of practice
- (8) A student shall use universal and standard precautions
- (9) A student shall not:
  - (a) Engage in behavior that causes or may cause physical, verbal, mental, or emotional abuse to a patient;
  - (b) Engage in behavior toward a patient that may reasonably be interpreted as physical, verbal, mental, or emotional abuse.
- (10) A student shall not misappropriate a patient's property or:
  - (a) Engage in behavior to seek or obtain personal gain at the patient's expense;
  - (b) Engage in behavior that may reasonably be interpreted as behavior to seek or obtain personal gain at the patient's expense;
  - (c) Engage in behavior that constitutes inappropriate involvement in the patient's personal relationships; or
  - (d) Engage in behavior that may reasonably be interpreted as inappropriate involvement in the patient's personal relationships.

For the purpose of this paragraph, the patient is always presumed incapable of giving free, full, or informed consent to the behaviors by the student set forth in this paragraph.

- (11) A student shall not:
  - (a) Engage in sexual conduct with a patient;
  - (b) Engage in conduct in the course of practice that may reasonably be interpreted as sexual;
  - (c) Engage in any verbal behavior that is seductive or sexually demeaning to a patient;
  - (d) Engage in verbal behavior that may reasonably be interpreted as seductive, or sexually demeaning to a patient.

### 3 ACADEMIC POLICIES

For the purpose of this paragraph, the patient is always presumed incapable of giving free, full, or informed consent to sexual activity with the student.

(12) A student shall not, regardless of whether the contact or verbal behavior is consensual, engage with a patient other than the spouse of the student in any of the following:

(a) Sexual contact

(b) Verbal behavior that is sexually demeaning to the patient or may be reasonably interpreted by the patient as sexually demeaning.

(13) A student shall not self-administer or otherwise take into the body any dangerous drug, in any way not in accordance with a legal, valid prescription issued for the student, or self-administer or otherwise take into the body any drug that is a schedule I controlled substance.

(14) A student shall not habitually or excessively use controlled substances, other habit-forming drugs, or alcohol or other chemical substances to an extent that impairs ability to practice.

(15) A student shall not have impairment of the ability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care because of the use of drugs, alcohol, or other chemical substances .

(16) A student shall not have impairment of the ability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care because of a physical or mental disability.

(17) A student shall not assault or cause harm to a patient or deprive a patient of the means to summon assistance.

(18) A student shall not misappropriate or attempt to misappropriate money or anything of value by intentional misrepresentation or material deception in the course of practice.

(19) A student shall not have been adjudicated by a probate court of being mentally ill or mentally incompetent, unless restored to competency by the court.

(20) A student shall not aid and abet a person in that person's practice of nursing without a license, practice as a dialysis technician without a certificate issued by the board, or administration of medications as a medication aide without a certificate issued by the board.

(21) A student shall not prescribe any drug or device to perform or induce an abortion, or otherwise perform or induce an abortion.

(22) A student shall not assist suicide

(23) A student shall not submit or cause to be submitted any false, misleading or deceptive statements, information, or document to the nursing program, its administrators, faculty, teaching assistants, preceptors, or to the board.

(24) A student shall maintain the confidentiality of patient information. The student shall communicate patient information with other members of the health care team for health care purposes only, shall access patient information only for purposes of patient care or for otherwise fulfilling the student's assigned clinical responsibilities, and shall not disseminate patient information for purposes other than patient care or for otherwise fulfilling the student's assigned clinical responsibilities through social media, texting, emailing or any other form of communication.

(25) To the maximum extent feasible, identifiable patient health care information shall not be disclosed by a student unless the patient has consented to the disclosure of identifiable patient health care information. A student shall report individually identifiable patient information without written consent in limited circumstances only and in accordance with an authorized law, rule, or other recognized legal authority.

(26) A student shall not use social media, texting, emailing, or other forms of communication with, or about a patient, for non-health care purposes or for purposes other than fulfilling the student's assigned clinical responsibilities.

## 3 ACADEMIC POLICIES

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSES CODE OF ETHICS

The Registered Nurse shall:

1. The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person
2. The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population
3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, safety and health of the patient
4. The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility of nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and provide optimal care.

### Nursing websites:

ANA Code of Ethics – Expected behaviors:

<http://nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/CodeofEthicsforNurses.asp>

### Information Regarding Licensure Eligibility

Kentucky Nursing Statute (KRS 314)

<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/314-00/chapter/htm>

Ohio Nursing Statute -

<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4723-7>

Florida Nursing Statute -

<https://floridasnursing.gov/licensing/licensed-practical-nurse-registered-nurse-by-examination/>

### Information regarding NCLEX

National Council of State Board of Nursing

testing <https://www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm>

### STUDENT TO STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Communication relating to academic matters (e.g. absences, grades, class issues) is only communicated through business phones, or Compass. Nursing staff are obligated to respond to all correspondences with 48 hours, excluding weekends.

### PROGRAM PROGRESSION POLICY

A student at ATA receives grades on attendance / participation, laboratory and project work, written examinations and/or homework. All final grades are given at the end of each 10-week quarter in all subjects taken by the student.

Note: Final exams are given during the last week of the quarter.

Beckfield Ohio legacy program students may fail 2 courses prior to having their enrollment in the program terminated.

Kentucky and Florida students are permitted to fail up to 4 courses with an NPN, PRA or PHA extension prior to their enrollment in the program being terminated.

A student must have successfully passed theory, skills and clinical coursework otherwise he/she must repeat the entire class.

Please refer to the Course Catalog for detailed academic policies.

## 3 ACADEMIC POLICIES

### GRADE APPEAL

If a student has the reason to believe that a grade he/she has received is incorrect, the student should first contact the instructor to resolve it. If satisfactory resolution is not reached, the student may consult the Student Services Office and appeal his or her grade by obtaining a Petition for Grade Appeal form. The completed petition for grade appeal form must be submitted by the student to the Student Services Office within the first week of the subsequent quarter. The grade appeal is reviewed by the Academic Review Committee; the decision of the committee is communicated to the student within five days of submission of the appeal.

### PROGRAM COMPLETION POLICY

All Programs

The candidate for graduation must:

1. Have successfully completed all credits or hours and all specific programmatic requirements for the appropriate credential;
2. Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 (a "C" average);
3. Meet all requirements for acceptance by ATA including documentation of his/her graduation from high school with a regular diploma or documentation of his/her achievement of high school graduation equivalency; and/or by attestation: (see Admission Requirements).
4. Be current on all indebtedness to ATA.

### DIDACTIC ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are encouraged to arrive to class on time and to remain in class until it is officially dismissed. Any student absent from more than 20% (absences, tardies, leaving class early) of scheduled contact hours for a particular class may be withdrawn from that class with a grade of "W" or "WF". Students absent for more than 20% of the class should contact Student Services. If any of the 20% is due to mitigating circumstances as listed below, student services may permit a make-up of missed work given proper documentation is received in a timely manner. Mitigating Circumstances include: Jury Duty, Military Duty, Illness/Death (immediate family), Court Proceedings (excluding criminal appearances), or other mitigating circumstances as approved by student services.

### Clinical/Skills Lab Attendance Policy:

Students are allowed to incur one absence in a clinical or skills lab, not to exceed two absences in any quarter and no more than one per course. If absence occurs, the missed time must be made up.. A clinical make up fee will be assessed for makeup hours. Students will be responsible for \$200 make up fee for each missed clinical. If you miss more than one clinical/skills lab in any one course you will be withdrawn from that course. **Arriving more than 10 minutes late will result in being dismissed that day from clinical and scheduled for a makeup.** If a student leaves clinical or skills lab before the scheduled end time, the student will have to make up the entire day and pay the clinical make up fee. Final determination of mitigating circumstances will be determined by the Program Director.

### Inclement Weather Campus Closing Notification:

A determination is made 1.5 hours prior to class start time for both day and evening class cancellation. A message is also posted on our website ([www.ata.edu](http://www.ata.edu), [www.ohio.ata.edu](http://www.ohio.ata.edu), and [www.atafl.edu](http://www.atafl.edu)). All classes are to follow the school closing or delays with the exception of PRA215. PRA215 is considered an externship and should follow the guidelines of the affiliated agency.

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

### **DRESS CODE (SCHOOL AND CLINICAL)**

Student's dress and grooming should be consistent with what is acceptable in the business community. If choice of clothing affects the safety or health of the student or other persons, the school retains the right to effect a change. It is the responsibility of ATA to conform to all safety regulations as required by OSHA.

Any form of dress which is considered contrary to good hygiene or which is destructive or disruptive in appearance and detrimental to the purpose or conduct of the school will not be permitted. Tube tops, tank tops, halters, bare midriffs, muscle shirts or fish net shirts, short shorts are not to be worn in the school; clothing with obscene or offensive questionable printing will not be permitted.

### **Clinical Experience Dress Code:**

**Male:** Neat, clean, ironed uniform shirt and pants with identifying name/photo ID badge over left breast pocket. (Uniform designated by the program.)

**Female:** Neat, clean, ironed uniform. A dress uniform must be of regulation length at the knees, with identifying ATA issued name/photo ID badge on left side of uniform. (Uniform designated by the program.)

**All Students:** Uniforms may have white under shirts only (no visible logos, no designs in shirt, clean) and shoes must match undershirt without any stains. No undershirt can reach longer than the uniform top.

While in uniform the student must always have a watch with second hand, a pen, note pad, bandage scissors, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, penlight and name/photo ID badge. (Stethoscope covers are not allowed). The uniform must be worn to and from the facility. No sweater coats worn under or on top of the uniform shirt.

Wear your uniform with pride and dignity befitting your profession, remembering it identifies you as a student of ATA and your appearance reflects you as a professional.

No sweaters are allowed in the clinical units. You may also choose to purchase an approved scrub jacket that matches your uniform.

**Footwear:** White or black, comfortable leather or simulated leather is recommended, neatly polished, shoelaces clean if applicable (no clogs, sandals or canvas shoes.) Your feet must be completely covered.

**Socks and Hose:** Male: solid white socks; Female: white, clean, free of runs hosiery, and/or white socks (no colors in socks).

**Hair:** Must be worn away from the face and off the collar in a neat orderly fashion prevents transfer of microorganisms and contamination. Color of hair must be professional and non-distracting. No bright tones allowed.

Male: Beards and mustaches must be neat, trimmed.

Females: Extreme hairstyles are to be avoided, barrettes and combs should be color of hair, no hair ribbons or bows are to be worn.

**Make-up:** Must be moderate and in good taste. No false eyelashes.

### 3 ACADEMIC POLICIES

**Jewelry:** None except watch and plain wedding band, small pierced post earrings of silver, gold, or pearl, one per earlobes only. Visible body piercing (eyebrow, tongue, etc.) or tattoos are not allowed. Any visible tattoo must be covered with a band-aid or makeup. Single-hole ear gauges are not to exceed 1/4mm, and gauge plugs must be applied at all times.

**Nails:** Must be short (below finger tips) and clean with no polish or artificial nails (not permitted in the healthcare facilities).

**Personal Hygiene:** The student is expected to be well groomed and free of offensive odors. Perfume or aftershave should never be worn in the clinical area as odors cannot be tolerated by some ill patients. Smoking while in uniform or previous to client contact is unacceptable. No odor of smoke can be tolerated.

**Tardiness:** No student is allowed to arrive more than 10 minutes following the start of the class. Any student arriving after this time will be dismissed for that day.

**Name/Photo ID Badges:** Students are required to wear their ATA name/photo ID badges at all times in the clinical facility. Some facilities may require a facility issued Student Name/Photo ID Badge. These must be worn with the ATA badge and returned at the conclusion of the clinical assignment. Students may wear ID badges and present themselves as nursing students only during class times and under the direct supervision of an instructor.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones are not permitted to be brought into clinical sites. Any student found with a cell phone at the clinical site will be dismissed for the day. All missed clinical hours will be required to be made up and a fee will be assessed based on hours missed.

Students should advise their families, childcare providers, etc., of their schedules so that they can be contacted during non-class or non-clinical times. Cellular phone number of each clinical instructor is provided for emergency contact only.

**Students found to be in non-compliance with the above dress code will be dismissed for the day and counted absent.** Clinical hours must be made up. See Nursing Director for instructions. Additional sanctions will apply up to possible dismissal from the program.

Two violations of dress code can result in a clinical failure if within the same quarter or if a repetitive pattern exists (3 or more occurrences).

**Florida Students:** Please see the Catalog Addendum "Student Learning Outcomes" on the [www.atafl.edu](http://www.atafl.edu) website

#### **Student Progression Evaluation**

Each student will be advised by instructor anytime they receive a testing score below 80% in all nursing courses. The purpose of the advisement is to make the student aware of his/her academic achievement, provide the student with ample time for improvement and academic guidance for success. Grades are to be posted within a week of the students submitting course work.

## 3 ACADEMIC POLICIES

### **THEORY/CLASSROOM/DIDACTIC POLICY**

Regular class attendance and punctuality are expected in all classrooms. Students shall assume responsibility for regular attendance; completion of all assignments; completion of all examinations; and completion of required skills and clinical time.

The following are specific to nursing theory class, clinical/classroom laboratories, and test. Refer to your course syllabi for expectations.

#### **Classroom Expectations**

1. Read, understand, and adhere to all course policies and schedules.
2. Abide by all policies in course catalog and class syllabi
3. Complete all required coursework as outlined per course syllabi.
4. Arrive on time and prepared for class, and remain in class for the entire period.
5. Give full attention and participation to the class activities.
6. Avoid any behavior that may disrupt other students' learning.
7. Demonstrate respect in expressing opinions and listening to others.
8. Notify the instructor (outside of class) regarding problems with any of the above regulations or about situations that interfere with learning.

#### **CLINICAL POLICY:**

Clinical education is a mandatory component of the program. Due to accreditation requirements of the clinical education centers, students will be required to obtain a criminal background check and undergo drug testing prior to acceptance to the clinical assignment. Any student who fails acceptance to the clinical assignment will be unable to complete the program. If a student is denied acceptance at a specific clinical site, every effort will be made to place the student elsewhere. If no acceptable/available site is found, the student will be unable to complete the program.

Students may be assigned to clinical facilities other than those in the immediate area. Transportation to and from any clinical setting is the responsibility of the student. Staff is prohibited from transporting students.

All students must attend orientation for each clinical course. Every facility requires an orientation for students. This orientation is only provided at scheduled dates and times and cannot be rescheduled or conducted more than once. Any student who does not attend orientation will immediately fail the clinical assigned. The only exception is for a student who had previously attended an orientation with the same facility and was returning due to extenuating circumstances which must be documented and approved per the Nursing Program Director. Those hours missed will still be required to be madeup. There is no make-up for missing clinical orientation.

The curriculum includes an integrated practicum. The integrated practicum consists of a minimum of 120 clock hours of concentrated clinical experience of direct patient care in a healthcare facility or health care organization in Kentucky. The integrated practicum shall be completed within a period not to exceed seven (7) consecutive weeks while the governing institution is in session during the last semester or quarter of a nursing program.



## 3 ACADEMIC POLICIES

### Faculty to Student Ratio

The program's goal is to provide a safe clinical experience for the clients cared for at the partner clinical sites and the students in the program. To that end, the faculty to student ratio will not exceed 1 to 15 when students are directly caring for residents/clients.

### Clinical Site Policy

Students entering the program will not attend any clinical site until a minimum of 16 hours of classroom instruction have been completed.

### Facility Policy

For a hospital setting, indirect supervision may occur only if there is direct supervision by an assigned clinical preceptor, a supervising program faculty member is available by telephone, and such arrangement is approved by the clinical facility.

Clinical Staff to Student Ratios:

1:10 Kentucky

1:12 Florida

1:8 Ohio

### CLINICAL AND SKILLS LAB GUIDELINES

1. Report to the clinical instructor when arriving and leaving the clinical area.
2. Call the clinical instructor one hour before the time of the clinical experience if absence is necessary.
3. No texting or emailing is permitted. Contact must be with the instructor assigned for the clinical only.
4. Follow and abide by the policies and procedures of the clinical facility where assigned.
5. Follow and abide by the confidentiality statement
6. Be able to participate in clinical assignments during day or evening hours as clinical space is made available (students will be given ample warning of a change in the times).
7. Be available between 6:30am and 11:00pm Monday–Saturday.
8. Any student who misses skills check-off will be assess a penalty of one attempt and only have two attempts to complete all skills assigned for that check-off day.
9. Failure to successfully pass skills or a skill will result in the inability to perform in the clinical setting (including instructor presence) this will reflect in the clinical evaluation.
10. If a student is not able to correct a skill's deficit at the scheduled remediation they may fail the course.
11. Students are to leave the clinical premises upon the dismissal of the class.

The clinical instructor has the right to dismiss a student from the clinical or skills lab area for lack of professional judgment, unpreparedness for clinical experience or lab, evidence of physical or mental health impairments that prohibits provision of safe care or if the student exhibits unprofessional behavior in the clinical site with anyone and if the student is not in proper uniform of the school or lacking evidence of proper identification badge. In cases of physical or mental health impairment, the student may have to find an alternative method of transportation to destination (e.g. cab, ambulance, family member).

The school may require students who miss lab or clinical due to illness to present a physician's statement upon their return to school. Statements must be from the physician stating the student can perform clinical expectations without limitations.

## 3 ACADEMIC POLICIES

### **In the clinical area the following procedures are for all oral and written materials related to assigned patients in the clinical facility:**

Students are responsible for maintaining strict confidentiality of patient information. A breach will result in disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the nursing program. Patient confidentiality includes oral and written communication about the patient. It also includes electronic documentation systems utilized by the hospitals. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is a Federal Law that prohibits unauthorized disclosure of private patient information. HIPAA provides both civil and criminal penalties for violation that can range up to fines of \$250,000 and 10 years in prison.

1. Remove names, initials, DOB, or other data that identifies an individual patient from all written documents related to patient assignments.
2. No photocopies of the patient record are ever to be made by nursing students.
3. Hand written notes for post conference or preparation for patient care cannot have names, initials, DOB, social security number, address or telephone numbers listed.
4. Violation of patient confidence will result in permanent dismissal from the program.

### **PATIENT/CLIENT RIGHTS**

The patients/clients have a right to safe and quality nursing care and that right is protected by the Board of Nursing and governing agencies. Behavior by a student that threatens the health or safety of the patient is a breach of this ethical responsibility and may result in dismissal from the program.

### **UNIVERSAL BLOOD AND BODY SUBSTANCE PRECAUTIONS:**

**An Exposure Incident is Described As:** Contact with blood, body fluids or other potentially infectious material by splattering onto your eyes, mouth, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin. All sticks from a used needle or used sharp object also qualify as an exposure.

**Generally accepted standards to assure protection of health care workers include:** Routine use of appropriate barrier precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when in contact with blood or other body fluids:

1. Wearing gloves when:
  - a. Touching blood and body fluids; mucous membranes, or non-intact skin
  - b. Handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids
  - c. Performing venipuncture and other vascular procedures
2. Applying mask and eye protection for procedures likely to result in splashing or spraying of blood or body fluids about the face.
3. The use of a gown/apron during procedures likely to soil clothing; 4) The use of disposable resuscitation equipment.
4. Thorough and immediate hand washing after:
  - a. Patient care
  - b. Removing gloves
  - c. Contamination with blood/body fluids
5. Implementation of precautions to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels or other sharp objects such as:
  - a. Not recapping needles
  - b. Not bending or breaking a needle by hand
  - c. Disposing needles, scalpels, and sharps in appropriate containers
6. Use of needless systems whenever possible
7. Avoiding direct patient care or handling of patient care equipment if a fresh, open or weeping lesion is present on the health care worker.

## 3 ACADEMIC POLICIES

### GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR NURSING STUDENTS

In the event of an accidental exposure, the student should contact the nursing instructor immediately and then begin a thorough washing of the area involved. The instructor will contact the facility designee and an incident report will be filed. The facility/school's accidental exposure procedure will be initiated. Post exposure treatment should be initiated within 1-2 hours after exposure. Therefore it is important to immediately report to the Nursing Instructor or the nearest provider of care. All exposures must be documented and reported to the clinical facility and to ATA's student services.

**Students are responsible to acquaint themselves with each clinical affiliate's exposure follow-up policy. This will be covered in orientation to the clinical facility and with the facility's student handbook.**

Policies of the clinical affiliate must be followed. All exposures must be reported immediately to the responsible clinical faculty. All exposures must be reported to the department and the appropriate office at the clinical site. Neither the clinical agency nor ATA will be responsible for costs. The student is responsible for all medical costs. This includes costs of evaluation and treatment for the student and tests for documentation of the source. Students should check with their insurance provider regarding coverage.

### EPIDEMIC EXPOSURE PLAN

Objectives:

1. Protect the students, staff and faculty wellbeing
2. Maintain compliance with CDC, State Board of Health, and affiliating organizations
3. Facilitate student success

The following protocol shall be instituted at ATA College for all national, regional and local epidemic outbreaks:

1. Traveling students must have entered the US by all legal processes and protocol. 2) Students must provide proof of date returned to the US
2. Students must have received and provide proof of all recommended and required immunizations upon return to the US
3. Students must adhere to and provide evidence of following prevention recommendations or requirements of the CDC, State Board of Health and affiliating agencies (e.g. clinical sites).
4. Students must provide documentation that he/she has been evaluated by a certified physician.
5. A release form must be electronically submitted to the school by a certified physician.
6. Students may not return to school with any signs or symptoms of the epidemic infection
7. Students may not return to school sooner than 10 days past the incubation stages of the epidemic infection, regardless of provided documentation.
8. Student is required to inform school of possible exposure to infection.

ATA holds the right to alter, update and implement new processes to this plan as necessary.

### Fees

Students attending ATA will be responsible for certain fees, as applicable:

Registration Fee: \$50 due upon enrollment

Quarterly Fee: \$200 per quarter due on the 5th week of the term

Supplies: \$50(Estimated) Requires purchase of leather shoes and a wristwatch with a second hand

Physical Exam and Required Immunizations: Cost varies depending on insurance and provider

CPR: Included in tuition

## 3 ACADEMIC POLICIES

### **Student Participation in Program Development, Implementation, and Governance:**

ATA encourages students to actively participate in programmatic governance through end of course surveys, graduate surveys, student satisfaction surveys, and the Nursing Student Advisory Board Meetings. A Nursing Student Advisory Board meets quarterly to discuss program policies, rules, and implementation. A representative is nominated from each cohort to attend the Nursing Student Advisory Committee. The meeting minutes are then distributed to the Program Director, COO, and Director of Student Services. Students interested in serving on the Nursing Student Advisory Board should contact the Nursing Program Director.

### **Faculty Participation in Program Development of Practices and Policies:**

Faculty meetings are held quarterly and faculty feedback is solicited in order to continuously improve the program. Meeting minutes are recorded and sent to all nursing faculty members, including the program administration.

### **Student Participation in Program Development, Implementation, and Governance:**

ATA encourages students to actively participate in programmatic governance through end of course surveys, graduate surveys, student satisfaction surveys, and the Nursing Student Advisory Board Meetings. A Nursing Student Advisory Board meets quarterly to discuss program policies, rules, and implementation. A representative is nominated from each cohort to attend the Nursing Student Advisory Committee. The meeting minutes are then distributed to the Program Director, COO, and Director of Student Services. Students interested in serving on the Nursing Student Advisory Board should contact the Nursing Program Director.

### **Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI):**

ATI assessments are online computerized tests and modules designed to academically evaluate students in nursing programs. The purpose of this product is to prepare each student for NCLEX success. ATI learning and testing modules are threaded throughout the program curriculum. The curriculum is designed to reach proficiency benchmarks.

### **ATI Schedule:**

Nurse Logic Tutorial  
Learning Systems Tutorial  
Fundamentals Assessment – Proctored  
Fundamentals Practice assessment – Online Practice A & B  
Adult Medical Surgical Assessment – Proctored  
Adult Medical Surgical practice assessment – Online Practice A & B  
Nursing Care of Children Assessment – Proctored  
Nursing Care of Children practice assessment – Online Practice A & B  
Maternal Newborn Assessment – Proctored  
Maternal Newborn practice assessment – Online Practice A & B  
Mental Health Assessment – Proctored  
Mental Health practice assessment – Online Practice A & B  
Pharmacology Assessment – Proctored  
Pharmacology practice assessment – Online Practice A & B  
Nursing Management Assessment – Proctored  
Nursing Management practice assessment – Online Practice A & B  
RN Comprehensive Predictor – Proctored  
RN Comprehensive Predictor practice – Online Practice A & B

AGREEMENT FORM

4

## 7 RN AGREEMENT FORM

### AGREEMENT FORM

The Nursing Program Handbook has been reviewed with me on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

by, \_\_\_\_\_.

I have had the opportunity to clarify information in the handbook and agree by my signature. I am aware of the policies and will abide by the contents within.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



ATA College  
10200 Linn Station Road, Suite 125, Louisville, KY 40223  
[www.ata.edu](http://www.ata.edu)

ATA College  
225 Pictoria Drive, Suite #200, Cincinnati, OH 45246  
[www.ohio.ata.edu](http://www.ohio.ata.edu)

ATA Career Education  
7351 Spring Hill Drive, Suite #11, Spring Hill, FL 34606  
[www.atafl.edu](http://www.atafl.edu)

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