



Independence University

NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK

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WELCOME

This Nursing Student Handbook was specifically developed for the Nursing programs at Independence University and contains information that will help guide the student through to program completion.

CEHE MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

We are dedicated to helping our students graduate and get a much better job sooner. We focus on educating people for rewarding careers and enriching lives. Our goal is for students to achieve success in career-oriented programs and enhance their skills in critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and using technology culminating in satisfactory career placement or advancement in current employment.

To fulfill this goal, the Institution will:

1. Provide a solid foundation of specific competencies that will enable students to acquire the skills required in their chosen occupation.
2. Provide students with education and knowledge to become competent members of their communities, enabling them to appreciate and successfully cope with the human relations problems encountered in the workplace.
3. Provide programs that include a variety of skills that will bring students to a fuller realization of the world in which they live and work, so that they will be capable of achieving a satisfactory and rewarding career and lifestyle.

4. Serve as a leader of higher education in each of their communities by incorporating suggestions and recommendations from knowledgeable representatives of the programs offered.

OUR NURSING MISSION

Building upon the University's mission, the Nursing Department is dedicated to helping its students graduate and get a much better job sooner. The Nursing Department focuses on educating a diverse population of people, within a safe environment, in preparation for rewarding careers and enriching lives. The objective of the Nursing Department is for students to achieve success in their chosen careers, professional-oriented programs and enhance their skills in critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and using technology culminating in satisfactory career placement or advancement in current employment.

OUR NURSING PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The nursing philosophy of Independence University Nursing Department is to advance the knowledge and skills of registered nurses in nursing practice, administration, and education by empowering nurses to meet the comprehensive dynamic healthcare needs of diverse individuals, families, groups, and communities with safe evidence-based practice, and to excel as healthcare providers and leaders in the 21st century.



BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN NURSING

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing is designed to help registered nurses (RNs) meet new challenges and shifting trends in the healthcare field. The program also helps prepare them for leadership roles in nursing environments, as well as possible graduate study in nursing, by applying theory and research-based knowledge to real-world nursing environments such as community health clinics, private practices, hospitals, and other patient care facilities.

INDEPENDENCE UNIVERSITY BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

1. Assimilate knowledge from the liberal arts, nursing science, and the art and ethics of caring into the framework for providing holistic care to diverse patient/clients across the lifespan, including end-of-life.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking as the basis of practice through utilization of evidence-based practices in providing safe physical, social, cultural, spiritual, and environmental diversity of patient care as well as apply strong critical thinking/problem-solving competencies in crisis resolution.
3. Apply the knowledge and skills of nursing leadership to provide compassionate, safe, and high quality care to patients/clients from diverse backgrounds across the lifespan.
4. Provide patient/client care from a holistic framework that recognizes the context of patient/client values in promoting wellness and disease prevention as well as planning, implementing, and evaluating patient/client care outcomes.
5. Develop effective communication and information management strategies that enhance an atmosphere of collaboration between patient/clients and members of the healthcare team.
6. Integrate the teaching-learning process throughout all aspects of nursing practice to address the dynamic needs of both the patient/client and the practitioner to attain a sense of holistic well-being.

7. Internalize professional values that reflect responsibility and accountability for professional behavior and a commitment to life-long learning.

8. Explore, and define their individual role as a positive change agent in the work force and community.

9. Adherence to ethical, legal, and regulatory mandates and professional standards for nursing practice.

10. Apply management, delegation, and supervision strategies in planning, implementing, and evaluating nursing care.

11. Explore political, economic, organizational, educational, and advocacy resources and strategies to improve health care delivery to individuals, groups, families, communities, national and global populations.

12. Accept personal accountability for lifelong learning, professional growth, and commitment to the advancement of the profession.

INDEPENDENCE UNIVERSITY BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PRACTICUM OBJECTIVES:

- Develop a practicum project for the course.
- Apply transformational leadership theory to the relationship with the preceptor and the development thereof.
- Analyze how social media and technology may affect the practicum project.
- Demonstrate the depth of the project and what was learned through a presentation to the instructor and the practicum preceptor.

MASTER DEGREE IN NURSING

The master's degree program in Nursing is designed to prepare registered nurses (RNs) who already have a bachelor's degree to gain senior-level employment in educator, administrative, leadership, and management roles. You could work in a variety of healthcare and/or nursing settings including, institutions of education, managedcare groups, healthcare organizations, long-term care facilities, public or private hospitals, and clinics.

INDEPENDENCE UNIVERSITY MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

1. Progress the body of the knowledge of nursing by dissemination of information through informational technology, interdisciplinary collaboration and authentic transformational leadership models.
2. Disseminate original scholarly contributions to inform evidence-based practice that is diverse and includes social, cultural, spiritual, and environmental application to solving complex problems through theoretical concepts and innovative solutions.
3. Synthesize the life-span of the community of wellness into a personal professional commitment to creating collaborative alliances for safe, diverse, and compassionate delivery of health promoting behaviors.
4. Integrate nursing theory into advance nursing practice including the best tenets and concepts of influential theorist of nursing, encouraging a community of wellness that is based on considerations in furthering healthy change behaviors for the individuals, families, communities, and populations based on Healthy People 2020.
5. Advance the care of populations through advocacy by creation of a healthy community using disease prevention strategies, networking, collaborative outreach, analysis of consumer healthcare needs and guiding regulatory healthcare policy.
6. Integrate Information Technology Management to create a collaborative interdisciplinary team that accesses, processes, and delivers improved

professional networks, patient relationships and health outcomes for the community of wellness.

7. Influence a healthier population through critical analysis and synthesis of evidence-based content by designing educational methods for quality improvement and prevention of disease to enhance a community of wellness.

8. Contribute to the ethical practice of nursing by advocating accountability in life-long learning, contributing to the body of the knowledge of the profession, and assimilating ethical practices into promotion of ethical healthcare practices for the community of wellness.

9. Collaborate with the community of wellness to create alliances that will improve political awareness, advocacy for improved health outcomes, and legal/regulatory activism from the community of nursing.

10. Collaborate with the community of wellness to manage, organize and delegate diverse strategies for planning, implementing, and evaluating improved healthcare outcomes for the community of wellness.

11. Advance improved healthcare outcomes for national and global populations, individuals, groups, families, and communities by advocating for application of diverse economic resources to the community of wellness.

12. Promote personal and professional accountability for the advancement of the profession of nursing ensuring accountability for life-long learning and professional growth that will encourage improved health outcomes for the community of wellness.

INDEPENDENCE UNIVERSITY MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (ADMINISTRATION) COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Apply theoretical constructs to influence change in a variety of healthcare environments. • Apply research methods and tools to incorporate critical thinking, analytical reading, and logical reasoning.
2. Articulate position statements on issues related to nursing administrative practices.

3. Value and relate the complexities of the administrative role in nursing.
4. Integrate concepts of project management into nursing administrative practice.
5. Apply project management skills in the planning, implementation and evaluation of healthcare systems and emphasize financial responsibility to evaluate health care system outcomes.

INDEPENDENCE UNIVERSITY MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (EDUCATION) COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Appraise the role of the nurse educator in formulating objectives for planning, implementation, and evaluation of teaching and learning for strengthened patient care outcomes.
2. Construct instructional and evaluation methods of educational materials.
3. Evaluate the types of media, materials, and technology that are available to effectively communicate educational messages in both in-direct and direct care roles.
4. Organize and design an educational course that enhances care delivery skills & patient outcomes.
 - Assess barriers to educational programming, learning, and evaluation
5. Modify a learning experience for a specified group of learners that is grounded in evidence informed practices to augment learning outcomes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- For consideration for admission to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) from a school accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the National League for Nursing (NLN), with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater is required.
- For consideration for admission to the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from a school accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the National League for Nursing (NLN), with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater is required.
- Completion of at least 40 quarter hour credits of required liberal arts education course work.
- Current unrestricted licensure as a Registered Nurse in the United States (eligible to practice as a Registered Nurse in the state in which practicum assignments will be completed).
- A minimum of one year of nursing experience completed within the past five years.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM

Bachelors Completion Degree

Course ID	Course Title
HCA 300	The Healthcare System
MAN 444	Human Resource Management
NUR 302	Professional Role Development
NUR 303	Theoretical Foundations in Nursing
NUR 304	Health Assessment
NUR 305	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
NUR 306	Pharmacology
NUR 307	Community and Family Health
NUR 308	Concepts of Professional Nursing
NUR 401	Psychological Aspects of Illness and Disability
NUR 402	Critical Issues in Nursing
NUR 403	Nursing Informatics
NUR 404	Instructional and Evaluation Methods of Nursing Education
NUR 405	Nursing Management and Leadership
NUR 406	Managed Healthcare
NUR 407	Utilization Management
NUR 408	Legal and Ethical Aspects of Healthcare Administration
NUR 409	Evidence-Based Practice
NUR 412	Introduction to Nursing Research
NUR 413	Nursing Practicum
NUR 490	Capstone Project

General Education

Course ID	Course Title
ENG 310	Advanced Interpersonal Communication
HIS 300	U. S. History Since the Civil War
MAT 220	College Algebra
PHI 310	Critical Thinking
PHI 400	Modern Issues in Ethics
PSY 400	Biological Psychology
SOC 400	Sociology of Aging
STA 322	Statistics

Masters in Nursing (Administration)

Course ID	Course Title
NUR 602	Advanced Nursing Theory
NUR 603	Leadership Theory
HSM 515	Legal Considerations in Healthcare Delivery
NUR 604	Issues in Nursing
HSA 544	Outcomes Assessment and Quality Management
NUR 605	Research and Evaluation Methods
NUR 606	Pathophysiology
NUR 608	Advanced Pathophysiology
HSA 552	Healthcare Information Systems
NUR 502	Health Services Financial Management
NUR 505	The Nurse's Role in Health Services Marketing
NUR 611	Nursing Administration
NUR 612	Nursing Administration Practicum
NUR 690	Capstone

Masters in Nursing (Education)

Course ID	Course Title
NUR 602	Advanced Nursing Theory
NUR 603	Leadership Theory
HSM 515	Legal Considerations in Healthcare Delivery
NUR 604	Issues in Nursing
HSA 544	Outcomes Assessment and Quality Management
NUR 605	Research and Evaluation Methods
NUR 606	Pathophysiology
NUR 608	Advanced Pathophysiology
NUR 503	Teaching Critical Thinking and Practicum Decisions
NUR 504	Technologies for Nursing Education and Practice
NUR 609	Instructional Strategies
NUR 610	Evaluation Strategies
NUR 613	Nursing Education Practicum
NUR 690	Capstone

STUDENT REPRESENTATION AND CONDUCT

Students are provided opportunities to provide input on decisions including admission standards, curriculum, student services, and the teaching/learning process. Students are invited to become active in student government and nursing student associations and organizations, both on campus and in the community.

The following list includes a sample of ways that students can become involved in governance: Complete End of Course, End of Program, Student Forum, and Alumni surveys. Provide honest and fair feedback when asked to complete instructor and course evaluations. Volunteer for committee participation by serving on the available committees available at your college. Examples of these committees could include but are not limited to: Curriculum, Community Advisory, Student Conduct and/or Student Affairs Committees. Provide input when your peers are representing your issues at committee meetings and student forums.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

A. Standards of Professional Conduct

The nursing faculty believes that standards of professional conduct are an inherent part of professional socialization and expects students enrolled in the nursing program to adhere to the



standards. Students practice within the boundaries of the the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses, the guidelines of the Independence University Student Handbook, and the policies and regulations of the healthcare agency where they might be assigned for practicum experiences.

ANA CODE OF ETHICS:

<http://www.nursingworld.org/codeofethics>

The use of abusive language or disruptive behavior directed toward peers, staff, faculty, or hospital personnel will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program. Such behavior is inconsistent with professional standards and inappropriate for students aspiring to a career in nursing.

The Director and/or instructor will complete a Student Conference Form describing behavior and documenting the planned corrective actions to be taken.

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT INCLUDE:

- Confidentiality: Respects the privacy of clients and respects privileged information.
- Accountability: Is answerable for one's actions; answers to self, the client, the profession and the institution.
- Responsibility: Executes duties associated with the nurse's particular role.
- Agency's Policies and Procedures: Reads and adheres to the agency policies and procedures.
- Veracity: Truthfulness; adherence to precision and honesty.
- Punctuality and Promptness: Is on time for all classroom and clinical assignments.
- Dependability: Is trustworthy and reliable.
- Respect: Treats others with consideration and courtesy.
- Professional Appearance: Adheres to established dress code in all clinical and professional activities.

- Ethical: Adheres to the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (2015) establishing the ethical standard for the nursing profession.

- Legal: Operates within the standards of care related to the student nurse role.

- Safety: Prevents or minimizes risks for physical, psychological, or emotional jeopardy, injury, or damage.

- Civility: All students in the nursing program are expected to contribute to a positive learning environment. Nursing students are expected to be reflective, courteous, respectful, and empathetic to classmates, instructors, and college and clinical staff.

NURSING DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES

Nursing Department Faculty Committee. The Nursing Department Faculty committee meets at least quarterly and more frequently when necessary for review and oversight of the Nursing Department business and governance. The committee consists of all Nursing Faculty and is facilitated by the Dean of Nursing or a designee. The committee will vote on items of business regarding the Nursing Department including curriculum. The Nursing Department Faculty will provide input into all Nursing Institutional Assessment and Improvement Planning. The Dean of Nursing will function as a liaison between Independence University and the Independence University Nursing Department.

Nursing Department Curriculum Committee. The Nursing Department Curriculum Committee will meet quarterly or more often if needed. The Committee will consist of all Nursing Faculty and two students from the Nursing Department. Preferably one from the Bachelor's Programs and one from either Master's emphasis. However, two students will be encouraged to attend from the Nursing Department at all times. The Committee will review all nursing curriculum annually and make recommendations to the Independence University Nursing Department who will consider all recommendations when revising and developing curriculum. The Nursing Department Curriculum Committee will be facilitated by the Nursing Department Dean or a designee.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Contact your nursing course instructors for questions related to course content – unit and final exam content, textbook readings, course assignments, references for a course paper, etc. You can contact your Instructors using the email feature in Canvas. This handbook offers instructions for accessing Canvas in subsequent pages.

To contact the university, email IU.Help@independence.edu or call the IU Help Line at **855.880.3121**. When you enroll at IU, along with your Nursing Faculty Program Advisor, Associate Dean and Dean, you are assigned a team of Academic Advisors (IU Help Team). These are trained professionals fully committed to helping you succeed. Advisors will monitor your academic progress and help with all administrative matters. They provide advising to help with successful course completion and to guide in reaching your educational goals. Advising is always available for assistance of any kind, including enrollment, registration, and administrative issues.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

IT Help Desk: **866.888.3768** or
IUStudent.ITSupport@independence.edu

Study Hall and Academic Resource Center (SHARC):
<http://online-shc.com>

Student Success Center:
<http://online-shc.com/studentsuccesscenter/studentsuccesscenter.php>



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