

GOOD SAMARITAN COLLEGE of NURSING and HEALTH SCIENCE
CINCINNATI, OHIO

POLICY TITLE: CLINICAL ABSENCE POLICY

I. PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Clinical/lab attendance is mandatory. All experiences are designed to facilitate the transfer of theoretical knowledge to clinical practice. Missed hours can prevent adequate development and assessment of the required knowledge, skills, attitudes and clinical judgment. Absence from clinical/lab jeopardizes the student's ability to successfully meet the required clinical course outcomes.

Time management is a necessary professional skill, and punctuality is expected in professional workplaces. Students are expected to arrive on time for clinical/lab and stay for the entire time allotted for that clinical/lab experience. Important information affecting patient care is communicated to students at the start of clinical experiences. Therefore, tardiness for clinical/lab experiences jeopardizes the student's ability to give safe nursing care.

II. ABSENCE

An absence is defined as an occurrence for the same reason for one or more consecutive days. If the absence is an extended period of time (greater than one (1) week) a referral to the Department Chair will be required.

An absence requires notification to the Clinical Professor for extenuating circumstances such as illness, military duty, jury duty or death in the family. All students are responsible for notifying their assigned unit/agency and Clinical Professor of an absence at least 60 minutes prior to the scheduled start time, as directed by course syllabus.

One absence will be permitted per semester. Student must be meeting course outcomes as determined by the Clinical Professor to be eligible for exemption from clinical makeup. Clinical absence hours cannot be carried over from course to course. No clinical make up will be required for that one absence.

The Clinical Professor has the responsibility to ensure patient safety is not compromised. Therefore, any student unable to participate fully to **provide safe and effective care** to patients will be dismissed from the clinical experience and incur a clinical absence.

Students, who are **unprepared for a clinical /lab/agency experience**, as determined by the Clinical Professor, will be sent home. This day will be considered an absence.

A student should not come to clinical/lab if he or she is ill with fever. The faculty reserves the right to send home any **student deemed ill, physically or emotionally**. The missed time is considered an absence.

A student incurring a third clinical/lab absence will receive an unsatisfactory in the clinical component of the course for lack of accountability and professionalism, resulting in clinical nursing course failure, regardless of when in the semester the three absences occurs.

Once a third clinical absence has occurred, the student is not permitted to return to class or clinical.

III. CLINICAL/LAB MAKE-UP:

Missed clinical/lab/agency experiences must be made-up; except for the one (1) absence permitted per semester.

The clinical make-up schedule is to be determined by the individual nursing courses. The make-up hours may be scheduled over a week-end or over the scheduled break. The date and time of the clinical make-up days are at the discretion of the course faculty.

Students who do not attend a scheduled clinical make-up experience will receive a failing grade for the course.

In the event of inclement weather on a clinical/lab day those hours will be required to be made up.

Approved By: _____ Date: 1/3/12 _____

Effective Date: 1/3/12 _____

Review/Revision Dates: _____

Responsible Committee: Nursing Faculty Senate Subcommittee