



**ST. CLOUD TECHNICAL
&
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Practical Nursing
Student Handbook**

2025-2026

Updated 3/23/2026

WELCOME to the St. Cloud Technical & Community College (SCTCC) Practical Nursing Student Handbook! We are excited that you have chosen to pursue your nursing career with us. I want to introduce you to our program and its history.

St. Cloud Technical & Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Practical Nursing program was established in the fall of 1966 and is approval by the Minnesota Board of Nursing (www.nursingboard.state.mm.us). The Practical nursing program at St. Cloud Technical & Community College located in St. Cloud, Minnesota is accredited by the: Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) 3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400 Atlanta, GA 30326 [\(404\) 975-5000](tel:4049755000). The most recent accreditation decision made by the ACEN Board of Commissioners for the Practical nursing program is Continuing Accreditation. View the public information disclosed by the ACEN regarding this program at <https://www.acenursing.org/search-programs>.

The St. Cloud Technical & Community College Practical Nursing Student Handbook has been prepared for you as a resource to reference when having questions about the program. The St. Cloud Technical & Community College Student Handbook addresses the policies for all students enrolled in the College, including nursing students. Practical Nursing students are to refer to the St. Cloud Technical & Community College Student Handbook for all information that is not specific to the Practical Nursing program. This handbook can be found on the SCTCC website.

Again, I want to say welcome to St. Cloud Technical & Community College Practical Nursing Program. The nursing faculty and I look forward to the coming year in partnership with you. Please seek the counsel of faculty or advisors if you have any questions about the program or college policies.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Knaack, PhD, RN
Director of Nursing

Disclaimer:

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material contained within this handbook. However, all policies, procedures, clinical information/documentation, program information, and fees are subject to changes at any time by appropriate action of the faculty, the college administration, the Director of Nursing, the Dean of Health Sciences, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees, the Minnesota Board of Nursing, or the Minnesota Legislature without prior notification. The provisions of the Practical Nursing Student Handbook do not constitute a contract between the student, the college, or the Practical Nursing Program. The information in this handbook is for use as an academic tool and is subject to change at any time. The Practical Nursing Student Handbook may undergo changes following a student's admission and progression in the Practical Nursing program. Students will be responsible for and held to changes in the handbook. Nursing students will be notified of handbook changes in writing, announcements in class and on D2L.

Table of Contents

The St. Cloud Technical & Community College Practical Nursing Program Faculty and Staff	6
Faculty and Staff Directory	6
Practical Nursing Faculty	6
Staff.....	6
SCTCC Mission and Vision Statements	7
Practical Nursing Program Mission Statement.....	7
Nursing Philosophy.....	7
Curriculum Model.....	8
Core Values.....	8
Integrating Concepts	9
Program Outcomes and Competencies.....	10
Nursing Practice.....	11
Course Requirements	12
Practical Nursing Diploma (40 Credits).....	12
Technical Studies Prerequisites	12
Technical Studies Semester I and Credits.....	12
Technical Studies Semester II and Credits.....	12
Practical Nursing Part-Time Diploma (40 Credits).....	13
Technical Studies Prerequisites	13
Technical Studies Semester I and Credits.....	13
Technical Studies Semester II and Credits.....	13
Technical Studies Semester III and Credits.....	13
Technical Studies Semester IV and Credits	13
NCLEX – PN	14
Academic Policies	15
Progression/Graduation Requirements	15
Complaint/Grievance Policy	15
Academic Counseling.....	15
Accessibility Services	16
Communication and Computer Requirements	16
Classroom Expectations/Attendance Policy.....	16
Expectations	16
Grading System.....	17
Percentage.....	17
Withdrawal Procedure	17
Re-Admission Procedure	18
Clinical Participation Policies	19
Authorization for the Release of Student Information	19
Basic Life Support Certification	19
Pre-Clinical Participation Health Record	19

Background Studies and Finger Printing	19
Drug Testing.....	20
Confidentiality	20
Military Students	21
Clinical Attendance.....	21
Student Attendance Requirements.....	21
Clinical Absence	21
Inclement Weather.....	21
Blood Borne Pathogens Exposure	22
Clinical/Lab Supplies	22
Clinical Uniform Requirements	22
Clinical Expectations	23
Simulation In Health Care Education Participation Expectations & Confidentiality Statement	23
Appendices	25
Appendix A.....	25
Appendix B.....	26
References	28
Appendix C.....	29
Appendix D	30
Appendix E.....	31
Tuition.....	31
Textbooks	31
Additional Costs	31
Uniform/Supplies.....	31
Financial Assistance	31

The St. Cloud Technical & Community College Practical Nursing Program Faculty and Staff

Faculty and Staff Directory

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The preferred method of communication is via the sctcc.edu e-mail system. As an SCTCC student, you are responsible for checking your e-mail account daily for communication. The e-mail method of communication is recommended for use for corresponding with faculty or for setting up appointments with faculty. Faculty office hours are posted in the course syllabi and on the outside of the faculty office door. Texting faculty should be done respectfully and used only for clinical tardiness or illness.

The Nursing faculty is committed to providing the best possible preparations for entry into the nursing profession. Faculty members are educated in their specialty areas as well as in methods of teaching and learning. Teaching methods utilized in this program may be very different from those to which you are accustomed. The teaching methods utilized have been selected to maximize the students' learning experiences and prepare them for nursing in the "real world." Please pay close attention to your learning style and capitalize on it.

Each faculty member holds a current license in the State of Minnesota as a professional Registered Nurse. The faculty will assist you with skills acquisition in the nursing lab as well as the clinical arena where faculty-student ratios are kept at the optimal level as suggested by the Minnesota Board of Nursing.

SCTCC Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement: We provide the education, training, and support necessary for equitable participation in our society, economy, and democracy.

Vision Statement: We are a community of learners rooted in meaningful relationships where everyone belongs and thrives.

Practical Nursing Program Mission Statement

The St. Cloud Technical and Community College's (SCTCC) Practical Nursing program provides accessible nursing education to prepare safe, caring, and competent entry-level practical nurses that provide care to diverse populations.

Nursing Philosophy

The philosophy of the SCTCC Nursing Programs is congruent with the mission, vision, and core values of the St. Cloud Technical and Community College's which are committed to:

- Quality education, continuous improvement, and responsiveness to the local community and industry.
- Commitment to a teaching/learning environment that sustains innovation, technology, educational excellence, and lifelong learning.
- Providing educational opportunities and affordable access to a diverse student body.
- Staff development, availability, and success.
- Offer nursing programs that provide students with a gateway to pursue higher levels of education through articulation.

The nursing faculty believes that nursing is both an art and a science; a profession guided by scientific principles and the core values for the National League of Nursing (NLN), which includes caring, diversity, excellence & integrity (2017).

Nursing is devoted to promoting, maintaining, and restoring the health of individuals and families, as well as promoting a peaceful, dignified death. Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) care for diverse individuals and families across the lifespan in a variety of in-patient and community-based settings by providing safe, culturally sensitive, individualized, patient-centered care and by participating as a member of the health care team.

LPNs recognize that teamwork and interdisciplinary collaboration among health care professionals is critical to delivering safe, quality patient care. As a member of the health care team, LPNs contribute to quality improvement activities that are evidence based. Through the use of informatics and technology, LPNs implement nursing judgment in the delivery of safe, patient-centered care.

Professional values guide interactions with individuals and the health care team. LPNs demonstrate professional behavior by exhibiting accountability for their actions, meeting the health care needs of patients, and assuming legal responsibility for the care they provide. LPNs demonstrate professional identity by upholding their commitment to the public and by adhering to an established code of ethics.

Curriculum Model

The curriculum model of the SCTCC nursing program is guided by the core values, integrating concepts, program outcomes, and nursing practice developed by the NLN (2010), which are integral elements of student learning and foundational for all nursing practice. The model illustrates the personal, progressive, and lifelong professional development of the nurse through the accumulation, analysis, and synthesis of knowledge, scientific findings, and human experience. The core values and concepts integrated within each course are progressively developed in depth and complexity throughout the nursing curriculum. The program outcomes are the overall goals of the nursing program and converge into nursing practice.

Core Values

The core values are embedded in nursing's historic paradigm and are foundational for all nursing practice at SCTCC. These values are Caring, Integrity, Diversity & Excellence (NLN, 2022).

Caring: *promoting health, healing, and hope in response to the human condition.* A culture of caring, as a fundamental part of the nursing profession, characterizes our concern and consideration for the whole person, our commitment to the common good, and our outreach to those who are vulnerable. All organizational activities are managed in a participative and person-centered way, demonstrating an ability to understand the needs of others and a commitment to act always in the best interests of all stakeholders (NLN, 2022).

Integrity: *respecting the dignity and moral wholeness of every person without conditions or limitations.* A culture of integrity is evident when organizational principles of open communication, ethical decision-making, and humility are encouraged, expected, and demonstrated consistently. Not only is doing the right thing simply how we do business, but our actions reveal our commitment to truth telling and to how we always see ourselves from the perspective of others in a larger community (NLN, 2022).

Diversity: *affirming the uniqueness of and differences among persons, ideas, values, and ethnicities.* A culture of inclusive excellence encompasses many identities influenced by the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, or other ideologies. It also addresses behaviors across academic and health enterprises. Our differences can impact creativity and progress, so it's important to try to understand each other and ourselves better. By recognizing that everyone's identity is valid, we can move past simply tolerating one another and start celebrating the unique qualities that our differences bring (NLN, 2022).

Excellence: *co-creating and implementing transformative strategies with daring ingenuity.*

A culture of excellence reflects a commitment to continuous growth, improvement, and understanding. It is a culture where transformation is embraced, and the status quo and mediocrity are not tolerated (NLN, 2022).

Integrating Concepts

The integrating concepts emerge from the core values, which are progressive and multidimensional, and developed during students' learning experiences. They include *context and environment; knowledge and science; personal and professional development; quality and safety; relationship-centered care; and teamwork*. Within each concept, there are specific knowledge, practice, and ethical ideologies inherent to that concept. These ideologies offer a set of specific knowledge, understanding, and skills that students become familiar with as they progress in their learning throughout the nursing curriculum.

Context and Environment, in relation to organizations, refers to the “conditions or social system within which the organization’s members act to achieve specific goals. Context and environment are a product of the organization’s human resources, and the policies, procedures, rewards, leadership, supervision, and other attributes that influence interpersonal interactions. In health care, context and environment encompass organizational structure, leadership styles, patient characteristics, safety climate, ethical climate, teamwork, continuous quality improvement, and effectiveness” (NLN, 2010).

Knowledge and Science refers to the “foundations that serve as a basis for nursing practice, which, in turn, deepen, extend, and help generate new knowledge and new theories that continue to build the science and further the practice. These foundations include (a) understanding and integrating knowledge from a variety of disciplines outside nursing that provide insight into the physical, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural functioning of human beings; (b) understanding and integrating knowledge from nursing science to design and implement plans of patient-centered care for individuals, families, and communities; (c) understanding how knowledge and science develop; (d) understanding how all members of a discipline have responsibility for contributing to the development of that discipline’s evolving science; and (e) understanding the nature of evidence-based practice” (NLN, 2010).

Personal and Professional Development is a “lifelong process of learning, refining, and integrating values and behaviors that (a) are consistent with the profession’s history, goals, and codes of ethics; (b) serve to distinguish the practice of nurses from that of other health care providers; and (c) give nurses the courage needed to continually improve the care of patients, families, and communities and to ensure the profession’s ongoing viability” (NLN, 2010).

Quality and Safety is the “degree to which health care services 1) are provided in a way consistent with current professional knowledge; 2) minimize the risk of harm to individuals, populations, and providers; 3) increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes; and 4) are operationalized from an individual, unit, and systems perspective” (NLN, 2010).

Relationship-Centered Care “positions (a) caring; (b) therapeutic relationships with patients, families, and communities; and (c) professional relationships with members of the health care team at the core of nursing practice. It integrates and reflects respect for the dignity and uniqueness of others, valuing diversity, integrity, humility, mutual trust, self-determination, empathy, civility, the capacity for grace, and empowerment” (NLN, 2010).

Teamwork means to “function effectively within nursing and inter-professional teams, fostering open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision making to achieve quality patient care” (NLN, 2010).

Program Outcomes and Competencies

The NLN (2010) has defined the expected culmination of program outcomes applicable to all nursing programs. Graduates should be prepared (1) to promote and enhance *human flourishing* for patients, families, communities, and themselves; (2) to show sound *nursing judgment*; (3) to continually develop their *professional identity*; and (4) to maintain a *spirit of inquiry* as they move into the world of nursing practice, and beyond. Based upon these program outcomes, students will master the essential core nursing practice competencies for the practical nursing graduate.

Practical Nursing Student Learner Outcomes (SLO)

Graduates of the St. Cloud Practical Nursing Program will be able to:

Human Flourishing/ Patient Centered Care

SLO: Identify appropriate therapeutic communication strategies to practice holistic nursing care.

Nursing Judgment

SLO: Distinguish critical thinking utilized in the provision of safe, quality patient care.

Safety

SLO: Determine appropriate safety principles utilized in the delivery of health care.

Informatics

SLO: Integrate information and technology to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate errors, and support decision-making.

Professional Identity/ Professional Behaviors

SLO: Characterize professional behaviors according to legal and ethical nursing practice standards.

Teamwork and Collaboration

SLO: Function effectively within nursing and inter-professional teams, fostering open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision-making to achieve quality patient care.

Spirit of Inquiry / Quality Improvement

SLO: Ensure quality improvement efforts by providing safe patient care.

Evidence Based Practice

SLO: Integrate evidence-based practice in the delivery of health care.

To achieve these program outcomes and competencies, the faculty or nurse educators at St. Cloud Technical and Community College uphold the *NLN Core Competencies of Nurse Educators* (2022) to:

- Facilitate Learning
- Facilitate Learner Development and Socialization
- Use Assessment and Evaluation Strategies
- Participate in Curriculum Design and Evaluation of Program Outcomes
- Function as a Change Agent and Leader
- Pursue Continuous Quality Improvement in the Nurse Educator Role
- Engage in Scholarship
- Function within the Educational Environment

Nursing Practice

Unbounded by any closed structures, the program outcomes (SLO's) converge into nursing practice depending on the program type (NLN, 2010). SCTCC offers both practical and associate degree nursing educational programs. The program outcomes and competencies for each level of nursing practice are defined under their respective program outcomes. They are congruent with SCTCC outcomes: think critically, communicate effectively, demonstrate personal and social accountability, understand social and global perspectives, and apply knowledge.

REFERENCES

National League for Nursing (NLN). (2010). *Outcomes and competencies for graduates of practical/vocational, diploma, associate degree, baccalaureate, master's, practice doctorate, and research doctorate programs in nursing*. New York: Author.

National League for Nursing (NLN). (2022). NLN core values.

<https://www.nln.org/about/about/core-values>

National League for Nursing (NLN). (2022). Core competencies of nurse educators.

<https://www.nln.org/education/nursing-education-competencies/core-competencies-for-academic-nurse-educators>

St. Cloud Technical and Community College (2022). College outcomes.

<http://www.sctcc.edu/outcomes>

Course Requirements

Practical Nursing Diploma (40 Credits)

Technical Studies

Prerequisites	Course	Credit(s)
HLTH 1440	Medical Terminology	1 Credit
BLGY 1321	Human Biology	4 Credits
MnTC Goal Area 1	Written Communication	3 Credits
<u>PSYC 1304</u>	Life Span Developmental Psychology	3 Credits

Technical Studies Semester I

and Credits	Course	Credit(s)
PRSG 2401	Medical Surgical Nursing I	3 Credits
PRSG 2409	Basic Nursing Concepts	3 Credits
PRSG 2419	Nursing Skills	3 Credits
PRSG 2429	Essentials of Clinical Pharmacology	3 Credits
PRSG 2439	Clinical Application I	3 Credits

Technical Studies Semester II

and Credits	Course	Credit(s)
PRSG 2402	Medical Surgical Nursing II	3 Credits
PRSG 2411	Bridging to Nursing	2 Credits
PRSG 2440	Clinical Application II	5 Credits
PRSG 2450	Maternal Child Nursing	3 Credits
PRSG 2460	Mental Health Nursing	2 Credits

Practical Nursing Part-Time Diploma (40 Credits)

Technical Studies

Prerequisites	Course	Credit(s)
HLTH 1440	Medical Terminology	1 Credit
BLGY 1321	Human Biology	4 Credits
MnTC Goal Area 1	Written Communication	3 Credits
PSYC1304	Life Span Developmental Psychology	3 Credits

Technical Studies Semester I and Credits

Course	Credit(s)	
PRSG 2401	Medical Surgical I	3 Credits
PRSG 2429	Essentials of Clinical Pharmacology	2 Credits

Technical Studies Semester II and Credits

Course	Credit(s)	
PRSG 2409	Basic Nursing Concepts	3 Credits
PRSG 2419	Nursing Skills	3 Credits
PRSG 2439	Clinical Application I	3 Credits

Technical Studies Semester III and Credits

Course	Credit(s)	
PRSG 2402	Medical Surgical Nursing II	3 Credits
PRSG 2450	Maternal Child Nursing	3 Credits

Technical Studies Semester IV and Credits

Course	Credit(s)	
PRSG 2411	Bridging to Nursing Practice	2 Credits
PRSG 2440	Clinical Application II	5 Credits
PRSG 2460	Mental Health Nursing	2 Credits

NCLEX – PN

The NCLEX-PN examination is designed to test the knowledge, skills, and abilities essential for the safe, effective practice of nursing at the entry level of the practical nurse. The MN Board of Nursing requires evidence that the PN Program graduate has successfully completed all curriculum requirements before they will accept the graduate's application to sit for the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. Successful completion of the PN Program does not assure that the graduate will pass the NCLEX-PN Licensure Exam. There is a fee for taking the NCLEX exam. In addition to the exam fee, the student will have fees for obtaining licensure from the Board of Nursing.

Minnesota Board of Nursing Pre-Licensure Requirements for the NCLEX-PN

To meet the requirements for licensure by examination and to register for your NCLEX go to <https://mn.gov/boards/nursing/licensure/apply-for-a-license/rn-lic-exam-us-prog.jsp>. To review a test plan go to the candidate section at <https://www.ncsbn.org/>.

Academic Policies

Progression/Graduation Requirements

- Admission into the PN program requires the following: a minimum GPA of 2.5 in the prerequisites courses and be in good academic standing (Cumulative GPA of 2.0 with all college courses AND 67% completion rate).
- Once accepted, you must obtain a “C” (80%) or above in every course and meet the objectives for all components of the clinical courses.
- A student earning a grade below a “C” cannot progress in the nursing course sequence.
- Each student is expected to track his/her academic progress throughout each semester on D2L.
- Academic counseling is available, and the nursing faculty will work with students or provide a referral.
- If you fail or withdraw from one class, you may repeat that class once, the following semester if space is available.
- If you withdraw or fail the same course twice or fail two courses during the PN program, you will be dismissed from the program and will have the opportunity to reapply for entry to the PN program after two academic years.
- If you withdraw from Nursing Skills, you must also withdraw from Clinical Application I.
- **A calculation and conversion test will be given in the Pharmacology course.** You must achieve 84% to pass. If you do not achieve 84%, you are given a second attempt to obtain 84% within one week of the initial test. If you fail to obtain 84% on the second attempt, you will need to withdraw from the course, and you must also withdraw from the Clinical Application I course.

Complaint/Grievance Policy

See MN State Colleges and University Policy 3.8; SCTCC Policy S3.24: [Grievance Policy](#)

Academic Counseling

Every nursing student will be assigned an advisor in the nursing department. It is the responsibility of the student to seek assistance, academic counseling, and/or advising in order to meet nursing program standards. Regular contact with your nursing faculty advisor is strongly advised. Academic counseling is available, and the faculty will work with students or provide referrals. Your faculty advisor can be found on e-services> Courses & Registration> View/Modify Schedule.

All grades/points will be posted after examinations for students to see. Grades/points are posted online on Desire2Learn (D2L) or are available from your instructor. Students are responsible for monitoring grades weekly in D2L. Students must e-mail faculty to schedule advising appointments or stop by during office hours.

Student support services on campus can be found on [Student Resources | St. Cloud Technical & Community College](#).

Accessibility Services

SCTCC is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Accommodations are provided on an individualized, as-needed basis, determined through appropriate documentation of need. Please contact the Counselor for Students with Disabilities at [320-308-5064](tel:320-308-5064) or [\(800\) 222-1009](tel:800-222-1009)- TTY users dial MN Relay at 711, to develop your Accommodations Plan. You can also reach the Accessibility Services at [Accessibility Services | St. Cloud Technical & Community College](#).

The accommodations authorized in your plan must be discussed with your instructor. All discussions will remain confidential. Accommodations are not provided retroactively so it is essential to discuss your needs and provide appropriate documentation of need with each faculty member at the beginning of the semester. It is the student's responsibility to request the accommodation **three days** in advance before each occurrence.

Communication and Computer Requirements

All students **must have** access to and be able to use a computer, printer, and the internet to fulfill the academic requirements of the nursing program. At a minimum, computers must be equipped with Windows 10, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and Microsoft Office. Computers and printers are available for student use at the Student Computer Laboratory. Students requiring assistance with computer-related issues should contact the Help Desk at 320-308-5972. If a student is not computer literate, he/she should enroll in an appropriate computer course.

Students must keep an updated address, phone number and e-mail address in the Nursing Department at all times. All students are expected to check their SCTCC e-mail and D2L frequently, at minimum on a daily basis from Monday - Friday for official Nursing Program, SCTCC and instructor communications, including course updates, assignments, announcements etc. A student is required to identify who he/she is and sign all e-mails. In addition, the student must include the pertaining course, section number, and topic in the subject area of the email.

All electronic communication between instructors and students must be done via the official SCTCC course web site (D2L) or e-mail system. Student's personal e-mails (yahoo, gmail, etc.) will likely be blocked by security software that protects the network from spam/viruses.

Classroom Expectations/Attendance Policy

Regular and predictable attendance at classroom lectures is essential to ensure that students have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills to provide safe, competent nursing care to patients/clients and pass the practical nursing licensing exam. Every absence creates a gap in understanding and disrupts instructional continuity.

Expectations

Faculty:

- Are facilitators of student learning
- Weekly office hours
- Will check e-mail daily Monday-Friday, and respond within 48 hours
- Are not expected to respond to e-mail on Saturday and Sunday

Students:

- Will complete assigned textbook readings prior to class time
- Will bring assigned course textbooks and materials to class
- Will check e-mail and D2L daily and as needed for class preparation or changes
- Will not smoke before, during or after (in cars in parking lot at school or at clinical sites) clinical per Facility Smoking Policy or have smoke smell on your breath or clothing
- Will not smoke when wearing your clinical uniform
- When using a computer or other electronic devices during class, they will be restricted to note taking and classroom activities. Use otherwise is distracting for not only the student involved in the activity but those in the immediate area/vicinity. They will not be used to look at Facebook sites, accessing the internet and/or e-mail, etc.
- Will turn cell phones off and not have them visible during class and will not be texting or checking voicemails during class
- Will arrive to class and clinical on time
- Smart watches will be removed and put away before testing
- Will speak to and treat faculty, fellow students and staff with respect in the classroom and clinical settings at all times
- Will not bring children in classrooms, lab, or clinical due to distraction and safety issues
- Any course/program questions or concerns need to be addressed with respective assigned instructors first. If not resolved, follow chain of command (faculty, Director of Nursing, Dean of Health Sciences & Nursing, Vice President of Academic Affairs)

Grading System

The letter grade is computed from cumulative points at the end of each semester. The academic grading system is the following:

Percentage	Grade
94 - 100%	A
87 – 93.99%	B
80 – 86.99%	C
74 – 79.99%	D
73.99% and below	F

Withdrawal Procedure

If a student selects to withdraw from a class(es), they must *complete the following steps*:

1. Notify the instructor and their advisor, complete the Course Withdrawal Form, and submit to Registration (this form can be obtained from Registration).
2. Schedule an appointment to meet with the Director of Nursing to discuss a plan and must complete the PN Program Withdrawal Form to be eligible for re-admission. (This form can be obtained from the nursing programs administrative assistant located on the main floor).

*Please Note: Students wishing to completely withdraw from the college should obtain and complete a “Withdrawal Worksheet” from the Admissions Office.

Re-Admission Procedure

- If a student plans to return to the Practical Nursing Program, the Director of Nursing **must be notified in writing during the open program application period** (posted on our website for each program.) The written request should provide evidence to support re-admission including a written plan of action, which identifies mechanisms that have been put in place or life circumstances that have changed to enhance the probability of success.
- There is **NO** guarantee that the student will be automatically accepted. If the program does not have a clinical or theory spot open for the student, the student will not be accepted at that time. The student will be considered with the other candidates for selection into the next class. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the Director of Nursing.
- Courses in the nursing curriculum are sequential. i.e. successful completion of a lower numbered nursing course is required before a student can progress to higher numbered nursing courses.
- Students who have failed or withdrawn from a course(s) must repeat the entire course and redo all assignments in that course.
- An administrative hold will be placed on all nursing courses in the Registrar's Office until approval for re-admission is granted.
- Students may be re-admitted one time to the Practical Nursing Program.
- Re-entry must be within 2 semesters of the last semester he/she attended.
- The decision to re-admit a student to the nursing program is made by a majority vote of nursing faculty and the Director of Nursing. In the case of a tie vote, further discussion by faculty will occur.
- If readmitted, the student must contact the Admission's Office to reactivate their file.

Clinical Participation Policies

Authorization for the Release of Student Information

Students are required to sign an authorization for the release of student information to clinical agencies.

Basic Life Support Certification

Nursing students must maintain cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification throughout the program. The student is responsible to provide a copy of their certificate to the nursing department prior to the start of the nursing program. The certification must be kept current. If CPR certification is **not** current, the student will **not** be allowed to attend clinical until he/she provides evidence of current certification. The course must include adult, child and infant automatic external defibrillation. The American Heart Association's "Basic Life Support - Health Care Provider" meets this requirement. American Heart Association's Advanced Cardiac Life Support does meet the BLS requirement.

Pre-Clinical Participation Health Record

A completed health/immunization form must be on file prior to beginning any clinical experiences. The nursing department follows the guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and all clinical sites.

Conscientious objections regarding immunizations may not be recognized. If a student does not have the required immunizations, a clinical site may refuse to accept the student at its facility. An alternative facility placement cannot be guaranteed. Progression in the program cannot happen unless all clinical requirements are complete.

Background Studies and Finger Printing

Clinical experiences are essential components of the nursing curriculum. Students participate in clinical experiences where they care for patients and residents at health care facilities. Contracts are established between St. Cloud Technical & Community College and each health care facility to provide these clinical experiences.

Any individual who has direct contact with patients and residents at health care facilities licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health must have a Human Services Background Study and finger printing completed in accordance with Minn. Chapter 245C. Results of the study are to be on file in the Department of Nursing before students begin their clinical experiences. Any student who does not pass the background study will not be permitted to participate in clinical experiences. Therefore, the individual is ineligible to progress in the Practical Nursing Program.

Human Services Background Studies are performed upon entry into the program. Questions and appeals should be directed to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Licensing Division, 444 Lafayette Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155-3842. Phone: [\(651\) 431-2000](tel:6514312000), Web address: <http://mn.gov/dhs/>.

Drug Testing

Drug testing is required for some clinical sites. Nursing students will be required to have a multi-panel drug urine test upon admission to the nursing program due to clinical site requirements. This fee will be paid by the student. The results will be shared between the drug test vendor and the nursing programs' Administrative Assistant and Director of Nursing at St. Cloud Technical & Community College via a secure portal. If the drug screening result is flagged, an email will be sent to the student with further directions depending on the reason for the result being flagged. Drug screening results that have been flagged for review will be handled on an individualized basis. If the student is unable to attend clinical due to the drug test result, the student will not meet eligibility to attend clinical. As a result, the student will not be eligible to progress through the program and will ultimately be dismissed from the program.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is an essential component of nursing practice. The student is expected to adhere to the respective clinical site policy pertaining to confidentiality of patient information obtained or shared within the clinical setting. Information obtained within the laboratory or classroom setting is to be respected and maintained in a confidential manner. Clinical agencies' personnel or policies are not to be discussed outside of the classroom.

HIPAA: All students are required to sign a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) form during clinical orientations. This document outlines the appropriate handling of confidential medical information. All students are required to strictly adhere to HIPAA guidelines.

Patients have a legal right to confidentiality related to all aspects of their care, and professional nurses have a legal obligation to safeguard the patient's confidentiality. Students may not provide information about their patient(s) to any individual not directly involved with the patient's care, including other staff and classmates. Conversation related to patients is only allowed in the clinical area, clinical conference area, and the classroom for the purposes of furthering nursing education. Discussion related to patients or any clinical occurrences are prohibited in public places such as the cafeteria, lounge, or at home. Any materials or documents with identifying patient information contained on them may not be removed from the clinical setting and must be discarded in a confidential manner.

Social Media Policy: Social media is defined as media disseminated through electronic and web based social interaction and created using highly accessible and scalable publishing techniques. Examples include LinkedIn, X, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok. Students of St. Cloud Technical & Community College are reminded that social media platforms can have a significant impact to the reputation of the institution and to the accuracy of information available to the public. There is no such thing as a "private" social media site. Search engines can turn up posts years after the publication date.

You are legally liable for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others. Violations of patient/client privacy with an electronic device will be subject to HIPAA procedures/guidelines and consequences. Ultimately, you have sole responsibility for what you post. Accordingly, students should consider anything published on these sites.

Students who share any confidential or unprofessional information related to patient or clinical site do so at the risk of disciplinary action including failure in a course and/or dismissal from the program.

Military Students

All military students are required to show their scheduled military duty days on or before the beginning of the semester. This is needed for theory classes and all clinicals. If students do not provide their schedule of duty days, the 20% deduction rule will be enforced. If students are deployed during their enrollment in the Practical Nursing Program, it will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Clinical Attendance

Clinical experiences are an invaluable and irreplaceable component of the Practical Nursing Program. Application of concepts learned in nursing theory and laboratory experiences are applied in the clinical setting. Attendance is essential for the student to learn and practice safe, competent nursing care to patients/clients.

Student Attendance Requirements

- Mandatory attendance at all officially scheduled orientations for each clinical facility is required for legal and regulatory purposes. Failure to attend could potentially lead to failure of the clinical course. (see clinical syllabus and evaluation tool).
- Attend clinical experiences including simulations in order to meet the curriculum standard and course objectives. Attendance is critical and may lead to inability to complete the course (see clinical syllabus and evaluation tool).
- Meet the same professional standards as those expected in the work environment.
- Arrive on time and attend all scheduled clinical experiences.
- You must notify the instructor in advance when it is anticipated that clinical experience will be missed.
- Any course/program questions or concerns need to be addressed with respective assigned instructors first. If not resolved, follow chain of command (Faculty, Director of Nursing, Dean of Health Sciences & Nursing, Vice President of Academic Affairs.) For clinical the faculty would include instructor present the date of concern.

Clinical Absence

Attendance is critical. Every absence disrupts instructional continuity and learning. Absence may lead to inability to complete the course (see clinical syllabus and evaluation tool). If a day is missed, the student will be required to complete an alternative project and/or assignment.

Inclement Weather

In the instance of inclement weather, the college will make the determination to either change to a remote instruction day or to close the campus. Classes and clinical experiences will be canceled when the college is closed due to inclement weather. Students must check SCTCC internet homepage for this announcement or sign up for Star Alert. It is recommended to sign up for Star Alert. The instructor should not be called or sent an email.

Blood Borne Pathogens Exposure

Students participating in clinical experiences are responsible for adhering to universal blood and body substance precautions to prevent exposure to blood and body substances infected with blood borne diseases. The splattering of blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious substances into the eyes, mouth, mucous membranes or non-intact skin can cause an exposure. An exposure can also be caused by a puncture from a contaminated needle or other sharp object.

In the event of an exposure in the nursing skills laboratory, the incident should be reported immediately to supervising faculty. In the event of an exposure at a clinical agency, the exposure should be immediately reported to the clinical faculty. The exposure policy of the clinical agency must be followed. **The student is responsible for costs incurred as a result of exposure, including evaluation and treatment.** It is recommended that students have insurance to cover such instances and should check with their insurance provider regarding coverage.

Clinical/Lab Supplies

The student is responsible for personal purchase of the following:

- A stethoscope with a diaphragm and bell
- A watch with a second hand
- Pen light
- Gloves
- The official SCTCC name badge
- A Nursing Skills Laboratory Kit

Clinical Uniform Requirements

The SCTCC Practical Nursing Program uniform.

- Navy lab coat
- A ceil blue uniform top
 - Male students must wear a short sleeve white crew t-shirt under their uniform top
 - Students may wear a long sleeve white shirt under their uniform top; provided it can be rolled up and stays up for infection control purposes
- Navy uniform pants/skirts
 - Pants/skirts must be hemmed to a length that rests on the shoes without extending past the back bottom of the shoe, so the pants/skirt do not touch the floor
 - Pants/skirts must be of heavy enough material and with a waist-rise high enough that no undergarments are observable
- Black, navy, or white nursing shoes with minimal color; solid color socks
- No shoes with open toes or open heels are allowed
- A Hijab may be worn at shoulder length, tucked into scrubs, or worn up

Clinical Expectations

***All mandatory clinical forms, which include but are not limited to, health forms, immunizations, or any other form required by clinical sites must be completed to attend clinical and progress through the Practical Nursing program.**

The following are minimal guidelines; follow the minimum guidelines of the clinical site they are more stringent than these guidelines.

- Student identification must be worn
- Uniforms must be wrinkle-free, clean, well-fitting and must be worn to all clinical and simulation experiences
- No more than one ring may be worn
- Only two small post earrings may be worn in each earlobe, no hoop or dangle jewelry
- No offensive tattoos
- Hair must be short, pulled back or up
- Students must shave or have neatly groomed beards
- Smoking is **not allowed** while in uniform
- The student must be well-groomed and free from offensive odors
- No fragrances may be worn, including, cologne, perfume, body lotion, hair spray, or after-shave
- No odor of alcohol will be tolerated
- Nails must be short and clean and polish free
- Acrylic or false nails are not permitted for infection control reasons
- Students may not chew gum, but may use breath mints
- Cell phones and smart watches are not allowed in the clinical area
- Text messaging is not allowed in the clinical area
- Students may make personal phone calls when they are on a break from their assigned unit, or by permission from their instructor.

The student is expected to adhere to any additional dress code policies required by clinical agencies. Failure to comply with the uniform or dress code policy may result in dismissal from the clinical area.

Simulation In Health Care Education Participation Expectations & Confidentiality Statement

Learning objectives for simulation in health care education include but are not limited to the following:

- a) apply basic to complex nursing skills
- b) improve critical thinking skills
- c) re-creation of high risk/low frequency skills
- d) assist in development of leadership skills and teamwork
- e) provide instant feedback and situation debriefing.

Each simulation experience is meant to offer you an opportunity to experience a mockup of possible clinical experiences you may encounter in various health care settings and environments. It is our expectation that you participate fully in these experiences and treat the environment and the patients in the simulation as though they are your patients.

The experience of simulation may evoke some unexpected actions, patient responses and outcomes. Simulation learning activities are an opportunity to evaluate hospital systems,

teamwork activities, as well as individual preparedness during various patient care situations and emergencies. At the end of many simulations, we will take time to debrief in small and/or large groups. This will be your opportunity to discuss how you feel the educational experience has gone and what possible improvements could be made as a system, team, or as an individual. Please be sensitive to your team members and do not share individual performance issues with other peers. We expect professional behavior and attire when in the nursing simulation lab (i.e., lab coat, stethoscope). Likewise, we expect confidentiality to be maintained so that we can facilitate a safe, structured learning environment for all nursing students.

Upon entry into the program a consent form will be presented granting permission for video tape, photograph, and assignments to use for education, accreditation, marketing, and public relation purposes.

Appendices

Appendix A

AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS FOR NURSES 2025

Provision 1

The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

Provision 2

The nurse's primary commitment is to the recipient(s) of nursing care, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.

Provision 3

The nurse establishes a trusting relationship and advocates for the rights, health, and safety of recipient(s) of nursing care.

Provision 4

Nurses have authority over nursing practice and are responsible for and accountable for their practice consistent with their obligations to promote health, prevent illness, and provide optimal care.

Provision 5

The nurse has moral duties to self as a person of inherent dignity and worth including an expectation of a safe place to work that fosters flourishing, authenticity of self at work, and self-respect through integrity and professional competence.

Provision 6

Nurses, through individual and collective effort, establish, maintain, and improve the ethical environment of the work setting that affects nursing care and the well-being of nurses.

Provision 7

Nurses advance the profession through multiple approaches to knowledge development, professional standards, and the generation of policies for nursing, health, and social concerns.

Provision 8

Nurses build collaborative relationships and networks with nurses, other healthcare and non-healthcare disciplines, and the public to achieve greater ends.

Provision 9

Nurses and their professional organizations work to enact and resource practices, policies, and legislation to promote social justice, eliminate health inequities, and facilitate human flourishing.

American Nurses Association. (2025). *Code of Ethics for Nurses*. Available at <https://codeofethics.ana.org/home>

MINNESOTA BOARD OF NURSING 1210 Northland Drive, Fleet 120, Mendota Heights, MN, 55120
(612) 317- 3000
www.nursingboard.state.mn.us

PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES IN NURSING

Boundary issues are everywhere for nurses. Issues on the continuum range from stopping to buy a few groceries for a homebound client, to accepting a personal gift from a client, to having a friendship with a former client, to having a sexual relationship with a current client. Although there is more gray area than black and white when studying boundaries, nurses can make thoughtful decisions when provided with information about the fundamentals of boundaries. This article is intended to highlight some of the basics. Nurses are encouraged to read additional information and have discussions with colleagues to broaden their understanding of the topic.

Boundaries are defined as limits that protect the space between the professional's power and the client's vulnerability. Maintaining appropriate boundaries controls this power differential and allows for a safe connection between the professional and client based on the client's needs.

The need for maintaining appropriate boundaries arises from the nature of the nurse-client relationship. Like other professional relationships, the client places their confidence in the nurse who possesses special knowledge, expertise, and authority. In addition, the client is vulnerable in so far as they have a nursing care need, which the nurse has the ability to meet. It is imperative that the nurse be aware of this power differential and ensure that the nurse's actions are intended to meet the nursing care needs of the client.

To avoid boundary violations, it may be helpful to be aware of "warning signs." In isolation, these do not necessarily indicate a problem, but if repeated or if several warning signs are present, the nurse should reevaluate his or her actions.

- **Perception**: The nurse should ask: Is this what other nurses would do? How would this appear to others (peers, family, and superiors)? How does this appear to the client?
- **Time**: The nurse should consider the quality and quantity of time spent with the client. Does it vary from that spent with other clients? Is the nurse spending "off duty" time with the client?
- **Meeting time and place**: Is the location of the interaction appropriate to the relationship? Would you provide nursing service to other clients in this location? If there is a legitimate, therapeutic need to meet at an unusual time, has it been made known to others and documented?
- **Gifts**: Does the gift giving create a sense of obligation on the part of the recipient? Is this a routine part of your practice regardless of the age or gender of the client? Is the gift of a personal nature, given to one nurse or a general gift given to a group of caregivers? Does the facility have a policy regarding gifts?
- **Forms of address**: Has there been a change in the way the client is addressed or how this client is addressed in relation to others?
- **Personal attire**: Has the nurse's style of dress changed with more attention paid to personal appearance?

- Making exceptions: in general, the nurse should carefully consider the therapeutic purpose in making exceptions in helping a client or family member. Another type of exception to note would be the nurse who changes assignments to care for a particular client.
- Internal cues: Learning to recognize and trust internal cues is important. A nurse should seek guidance if he or she is in a situation, which raises questions in the nurse's mind. When in doubt, check it out. Nonverbal behavior, the nurse's or the client's may provide helpful insight. Does the nurse become defensive if questioned about the interaction with the client?
- Meeting personal needs: In addition to recognizing that the client's needs must come first, the nurse should be aware of his or her own social and emotional needs and take affirmative steps to have those needs met away from work. Thoughts such as "I only feel appreciated at work" or "Only I can help this client" indicate the nurse may be meeting his or her needs through clients.
- Dual relationships: The nurse enters a nurse-client relationship in order to provide the client with nursing services. Nursing services would not include, for example, dating, baby-sitting or entering a business relationship with clients.
- Confidentiality: The nurse should maintain confidentiality by not using or sharing confidential information unless it is for a legitimate therapeutic purpose.
- Choosing sides: Is the nurse taking sides with the client against the client's significant others? The nurse should ask: "What is the value in taking sides?" How can the nurse assist the client in looking at all sides of the issue to utilize his or her own problem-solving skills?
- Self-disclosure: While professionals want to be perceived as caring, self-disclosure is rarely helpful or necessary. The nurse should consider the client need served by the self-disclosure and determine whether personal issues shared with the client are brief, resolved and related to what the client is experiencing.
- Touch: Touching is an integral part of many nursing interventions. Touch may be a component of another action, e.g. checking a blood pressure, or may be therapeutic in and of itself. Touch, however, should not be used indiscriminately. The nurse should be clear in his or her own mind why touch is called for and communicate this to the client.
- Communication: It is the responsibility of the nurse to establish and maintain boundaries and to communicate this to the client. In addition, the nurse should be able to communicate to others the nature of the relationship with the client. Is the nurse keeping secrets with or about the client? Does the nurse fail to document or report negative information about the client?

This is not an exhaustive list but should be instructional for all nurses. A nurse in any practice setting will encounter boundary issues. With forethought, planning, communication, and evaluation, the nurse can take steps to ensure a boundary issue does not progress to a boundary violation.

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Originally published in the Minnesota Board of Nursing newsletter, For Your Information: Fall 1995; Winter 1996; and Spring 1996.

Appendix C

St. Cloud Technical and Community College EEO Statement

Equal opportunity link: <https://sctcc.edu/equal-opportunity-and-civil-rights>

Accommodations

If you need accommodation, please contact the office of accessibility services. TTY users please call MN Relay Service at 711 to contact the college.

Accessibility Services link: <https://sctcc.edu/accessibility-services-policies>

Printed material

This publication is available in accessible formats upon request from student services. TTY users please call MN Relay Service at 711 to contact the college.

Appendix D

Nondiscrimination/Harassment Policy

See Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Policy S1.6 Nondiscrimination and Harassment Policy

<https://sctcc.edu/about-us/leadership/policies-and-procedures/s16-nondiscrimination-and-harassment-policy>

Appendix E

Practical Nursing Program Estimated Expenses

Tuition	Cost per Credit
Minnesota Resident	\$239.66 (including fees)
Non-Minnesota Resident	\$239.66 (including fees)

Textbooks	Cost
Semester I	\$300 (new books)
Semester II	\$200 (new books)
ATI books/web access	\$2,000 (\$1,000/semester)

Additional Costs	Costs
Criminal Background Study	\$44.00
Fingerprinting	\$13.50
CPR Certification	\$45.00
PN Licensure Exam Fee and NCLEX PN Examination	\$335.00
Nursing Skills Lab Kit	\$90.00

Uniform/Supplies

Approximately \$250

- Uniform
- Lab Coat
- Shoes
- Watch
- Stethoscope
- Pen Light
- Gloves

Additional expenses may include housing, food, transportation and day care.

Financial Assistance

SCTCC Financial Aid Office – link: <http://sctcc.edu/financial-aid>

Scholarships as available

Please note – all prices are subject to change per semester/year and are approximate.