

HANDBOOK
for
GRADUATE
STUDENTS IN NURSING



FALL 2009

Rhode Island College
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-1991
www.ric.edu/nursing

Master's Student in Nursing:

This Handbook provides essential information about the Master's of Science in Nursing program at Rhode Island College. Please familiarize yourself with the contents since you are responsible for adhering to the stated policies. Periodically, the curriculum and policies and procedures of the program change. It is your responsibility to update your Handbook with changes as this information becomes available. This Handbook supplements the Rhode Island College Student Handbook, the Bulletin of Rhode Island College and the Graduate Studies Manual, all of which are available on the Rhode Island College website (www.ric.edu).

Every student is assigned a faculty advisor upon admission to the program. The faculty advisor is identified on the letter of admission to the Master's program. It is extremely important that you meet with your adviser to plan each semester's course of study.

All master's students are encouraged to participate in professional activities and graduate student extracurricular activities. Information about activities is announced in classes, posted on the Master's student bulletin board outside of FLS 117, on the web site: <http://www.ric.edu/nursing> and via the SON Master's student listserve. It is extremely important that you use and check your RIC email regularly as information sent via the listserve is sent exclusively to RIC accounts.

The School of Nursing makes every effort to assure that students, faculty, staff, and visitors with special needs are accommodated. It is the responsibility of the person with special needs to identify his/her needs so that accommodations can be made in a reasonable and timely fashion.

The faculty and staff of the School of Nursing are committed to working with you to help you achieve your professional goals. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we welcome you to the nursing program and wish you every success.

***Jane Williams, Ph.D., R.N.
Dean and Professor***

***Cynthia Padula, PhD, RN
Professor and Master's Program Director***

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THE SCHOOL OF NURSING MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM

Introduction

The Department of Nursing was established in 1970 and reorganized as a School of Nursing in 2006. The Nursing Program at Rhode Island College is the largest baccalaureate nursing program in the State of Rhode Island. Over 3000 nursing alumnae, the majority of whom live and work in Rhode Island, serve the health care needs of residents of Rhode Island and beyond. In 2007, the Master of Science nursing program was established and admitted its first class.

Accreditation

Rhode Island College is accredited by North Eastern Association of Colleges and Schools. The baccalaureate program in Nursing is accredited by the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education and approved by the Rhode Island State Board of Nursing Registration and Nursing education. The Master's program was awarded full, five year accreditation status by CCNE in the spring of 2009.

Mission

The mission of the School of Nursing is to educate students for professional nursing practice in order to provide high quality and equitable health care for all people. To accomplish the mission, the School of Nursing offers programs leading to the following degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Nursing for undergraduate and registered nurse students and a Master of Science in Nursing.

The baccalaureate nursing program combines liberal arts and nursing education to help students develop knowledge, skills and perspectives that promote professional advancement and responsible citizenship.

The mission of the Master's program is to improve health and health care outcomes by preparing expert nurses for advanced practice roles. To accomplish the mission, the Master's program in nursing educates expert nurses for clinical practice. The nursing faculty fosters the intellectual development and personal growth of students through a commitment to excellence in teaching, service, and scholarly activities as well as ongoing advisement and facilitation of student involvement in the School of Nursing committees and Delta Upsilon-Chapter-At large, Rhode Island State Nurses Association, and the Alumni association. The School of Nursing embraces the richness of the educational experience and advantages to the profession and society that accrue from a diverse student population. Faculty, students and alumni contribute to the improvement of health and health care through practice, service, and scholarship activities.

Nursing education at the Master's level offers opportunities to specialize in Acute/Critical Care and Public Policy/Community Leadership with a strong clinical focus and an option to study in the areas of education, management, and public policy. The ultimate aim of the program is to improve health and health care outcomes by preparing expert nurses for advanced practice roles. The graduate student is an active agent in the educational process, assuming the major responsibility for learning. The educator is a facilitator who fosters professional growth and educational mobility through recognition

of individual difference, creative potential, and learning styles. Together, student and educator engage in the cooperative enterprise of education.

Curriculum Framework

The AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care (2003) guided development of the Acute Care/Critical Care specialty. The focus of the three specialty courses, NURS 510, 610, and 620, reflect the spheres of influence (NURS 510, patient/family; NURS 610, nursing/nursing practice; NURS 620, systems. The Synergy Model identifies patient needs that are matched with nurse characteristics in the provision of optimal care. Further applying the model components, patient characteristics are identified in NURS 510; nurse competencies are selectively addressed in the three courses.

The Public Health/Community Leadership specialty prepares nurses to provide advanced level population-focused services that improve population health outcomes. The public health core functions of assessment, policy development, and assurance frame public health nursing practice. Ecological theory underpins the view of health and public health nursing and is used to promote the health of populations. The model recognizes that multiple determinants of health (environmental, social, biological, and behavioral) interact to affect health at the individual, family, community, organizational, and societal levels.

Program Goals

1. Assume advanced practice roles in Acute/Critical Care or Public Health nursing.
2. Analyze contemporary and evolving healthcare needs of a diverse society.
3. Assume leadership responsibilities to shape nursing practice in Acute/Critical Care or Public Health nursing.
4. Promote evidence-based practice through development of master's level research competencies and dissemination of research findings.
5. Engage in interdisciplinary practice to promote quality and safety in improving health outcomes.
6. Demonstrate ethical practice, personal responsibility, and continuing professional growth in an advanced practice role.
7. Initiate innovative healthcare technologies.
8. Apply theoretical knowledge from nursing and related disciplines in planning, directing, and evaluating quality health care.
9. Promote policies that ensure quality, cost effective care within a dynamic health care system.
10. Develop expertise in an identified functional area.

Graduate Admissions Procedure

Admission to graduate study at the Rhode Island College School of Nursing is selective and determined by the quality of the total application. A bachelor's degree with an upper division nursing major from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited program is required for admission.

All applicants must submit the following materials to:

MSN Program Admissions
School of Nursing, Rhode Island College
Providence, RI 02908-1991

- Completed application form and \$50.00 fee. The application form may be obtained from the School of Nursing. The check or money order made payable to Rhode Island College.
- Official Transcripts.
Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate programs previously attended should be collected by the applicant and sent with the completed application form. Transcript should document:
 - an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. However, provisional acceptance is occasionally granted to students with a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0. Students who are provisionally admitted must achieve a minimum grade of B in three required nursing courses to qualify for full admission. Students who fail to achieve a minimum grade of B in those three courses will not be admitted to the Master's in Nursing program.
 - completion of a course in statistics (equivalent to MATH 240) with a C or better;
- Official scores on the Graduate Record Examination. Information about taking the Graduate Record Examination is available on the GRE website www.prometric.com/default/htm The GRE is valid for 10 years.
- Professional Resume
- Evidence of current unrestricted RI RN licensure
- Letter of Intent which includes a statement of goals
- Three professional references, one being from the clinical area. The official reference forms included in this application should be used in writing letters of recommendation. All reference letters should be returned to the applicant in a sealed envelope, with the signature of the person providing the reference across the sealed flap.

International applicants must also submit:

- Official translated copies of all academic credentials.
- Proof of Residency
- Official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score report is required for International applicants who are from countries where English is not the first language.

The Dean of the School of Nursing and the Master's Program Director will inform the candidate regarding acceptance to candidacy after receipt of the recommendation of the Master's committee.

A candidate is not formally accepted into a graduate program until an approved Plan of Study is on file in the Dean's office of the appropriate School to which application is made.

(Note) Application materials will be kept for three years. Applicant files not completed within that time will be destroyed and applicants will need to reapply.

2. Persons who have completed a substantial amount of post-baccalaureate work before applying for admission will have this work evaluated with all other credentials submitted in support of admission. Such applicants should note particularly the requirements for Transfer Credit stated in Section III, F of the Rhode Island College Graduate Studies Manual.

3. To be accepted as a graduate degree candidate, applicants are expected to have attained an average of B (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) in their undergraduate work. Applicants with undergraduate averages below this level, but not less than 2.00, may be admitted to degree candidacy upon the submission of other evidence of academic potential, i.e., satisfactory performance in post-baccalaureate work, professional experience as evidenced by publications or letters of recommendation, and/or high scores in the standardized tests referred to above. An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required. However, provisional acceptance is occasionally granted to students with a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0. Students who are provisionally admitted must achieve a minimum grade of B in three required nursing courses to qualify for full admission. Students who fail to achieve a minimum grade of B in those three courses will not be admitted to the Master's in Nursing program.

C. Non-Matriculated Status

1. Persons holding a baccalaureate degree who are not candidates for an advanced degree may take courses in a non-matriculating status

2. Non-matriculating students follow the same course registration procedure as degree candidates. If non-matriculating students later wish to be admitted to a degree program, they must complete the regular admission procedure.

3. Credits earned at Rhode Island College by a student in non-matriculating status before admission to a degree program may be used toward degree requirements only upon the recommendation of the student's adviser or program committee, and with the approval of the Academic Dean. No more than total of nine credits of work taken at Rhode Island College by a non-matriculating student may be applied towards degree requirements in any master's degree program (Rhode Island College Graduate Studies Manual).

Recommended Plan of Study

Full Time Students

Course Requirements - Full Time

A. Acute Care/Critical Care

First Semester

<u>NURS 501</u>	Advanced Nursing Research	3
<u>NURS 502</u>	Health Care Systems	3
<u>NURS 504</u>	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
<u>NURS 505</u>	Advanced Pharmacology	3

Second Semester

<u>NURS 503</u>	Professional Role Development	3
<u>NURS 506</u>	Advanced Health Assessment	3
<u>NURS 510</u>	Acute Care / Critical Care I	6

Third Semester

<u>NURS 509</u>	Professional Project Seminar I	1
<u>NURS 610</u>	Acute Care / Critical Care II	6
<i>Elective</i>	Course must be chosen with advisor's consent	3

Fourth Semester

<u>NURS 609</u>	Professional Project Seminar II	2
<u>NURS 620</u>	Acute Care/Critical Care III	6
<i>Elective</i>	Course must be chosen with advisor's consent	3

Total Credit Hours **45**

B. Public Health/Community Leadership

First Semester

<u>NURS 501</u>	Advanced Nursing Research	3
<u>NURS 502</u>	Health Care Systems	3
<u>NURS 508</u>	Public Health Science	3

Second Semester

<u>NURS 503</u>	Professional Role Development	3
<u>NURS 507</u>	Epidemiology and Health Statistics	3
<u>NURS 511</u>	Public Health / Community Leadership I	6

*NURS 507 may be substituted for Health Education 507.

Third Semester

<u>NURS 509</u>	Professional Project Seminar I	1
<u>NURS 611</u>	Public Health / Community Leadership II	6
<i>Elective</i>	Course must be chosen with advisor's consent	3

Fourth Semester

<u>NURS 609</u>	Professional Project Seminar II	2
<u>NURS 621</u>	Public Health / Community Leadership III	6
<i>Elective</i>	Course must be chosen with advisor's consent	3

Total Credit Hours **42**

Part Time Students

A. Acute Care/Critical Care

First Semester

NURS 501 Advanced Nursing Research 3

NURS 502 Health Care Systems 3

Second Semester

NURS 503 Professional Role Development 3

NURS 506 Advanced Health Assessment 3

Elective 3

Course must be chosen with advisor's consent

Third Semester

NURS 504 Advanced Pathophysiology 3

NURS 505 Advanced Pharmacology 3

Fourth Semester

NURS 510 Acute Care / Critical Care I 6

Elective 3

Course must be chosen with advisor's consent

Fifth Semester

NURS 509 Professional Project Seminar I 1

NURS 610 Acute Care / Critical Care II 6

Sixth Semester

NURS 609 Professional Project Seminar II 2

NURS 620 Acute Care/Critical Care III 6

Total Credit Hours **45**

B. Public Health/Community Leadership

First Semester

<u>NURS 501</u>	Advanced Nursing Research	3
<u>NURS 502</u>	Health Care Systems	3

Second Semester

<u>NURS 503</u>	Professional Role Development	3
<u>NURS 507</u>	Epidemiology and Health Statistics	3
<i>Elective</i>	Course must be chosen with advisor's consent	3

*NURS 507 may be substituted for Health Education 507.

Third Semester

<u>NURS 508</u>	Public Health Science	3
<i>Elective</i>	Course must be chosen with advisor's consent	3

Fourth Semester

<u>NURS 511</u>	Public Health / Community Leadership I	6
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Fifth Semester

<u>NURS 509</u>	Professional Project Seminar I	1
<u>NURS 611</u>	Public Health / Community Leadership II	6

Sixth Semester

<u>NURS 609</u>	Professional Project Seminar II	2
<u>NURS 621</u>	Public Health / Community Leadership III	6

Total Credit Hours **42**

Advisement

Faculty in the School of Nursing serve as advisors to master's students in nursing. Students are assigned a nursing advisor when they are admitted to the Master's program. Advisor assignments are also available in the nursing office. Students are encouraged to meet with their advisor every semester to plan coursework for the upcoming semester and to make additional appointments to discuss matters of concern. Faculty office hours are posted outside individual faculty offices. The faculty advisor and student plan a program of study before course work begins. The program of study outlines the sequence of courses to be taken. The student retains a written copy of the program and a copy is placed in the student's file.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Leave of Absence from Nursing Courses

A graduate student who interrupts his/her nursing program of study or who withdraws from the program must submit a letter to the Masters Program Director. A student who interrupts his/her program for two semesters without notifying the Nursing office may be eligible to register for course(s) needed to complete the program on a space available basis. If the student interrupts his/her nursing program for three semesters or longer, the student must apply for re-admission to the Nursing Program and must meet current admission requirements.

Grading System:

Cum Index Grade Ranges

4.0	A	93-100
3.67	A-	90-92
3.33	B+	87-89
3.00	B	84-86
2.67	B-	80-83
2.33	C+	77-79
2.00	C	74-76
1.67	C-	70-73
1.33	D+	67-69
1.00	D	63-66
.67	D-	60-62
.00	F	0-60

Retention

All students are expected to maintain a cumulative average of B (3.00) or better in their graduate program. Students who do not maintain a cumulative B (3.00) average will have their status reviewed by the Master's Program Director. Students who achieve less than a B in a required nursing course (electives excluded) will be placed on probationary status. Students on probationary status must achieve a B or better in each required nursing course over the next 9 credits. Two grades below B are sufficient cause for consideration of dismissal; the decision regarding students' status will be made by the Master's Program Director. Students may be required to repeat a course at the discretion of the Master's Program Director. Please also refer to Section VI of the RIC Graduate Studies Manual.

Petitions

Students seeking appeal of Master's program policies related to admission and retention can petition in writing to the Master's Committee. The form for describing the petition process and the petition forms are available from the secretary in the School of Nursing and are also included in this Handbook. Petitions are due to the Master's Committee by the Monday of a full week prior to the start of classes in the fall and spring semesters.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE – SCHOOL OF NURSING Process of Submission of Petitions

The following steps outline the process a student will follow to petition a waiver of a School of Nursing Policy * that is affecting an individual student.

1. The student brings the concern to the attention of his/her advisor within 10 working days of becoming aware of the situation.
2. The student completes the Petition Form. The form must be signed by the Advisor, or in the absence of the Advisor, the Master's Program Director.
3. The completed form along with supporting documents is submitted to the Chair of the Master's Committee within five (5) working days of having met with the Advisor.
4. The Master's Committee will consider the petition at its next scheduled meeting (meeting days and times are posted on the Master's student Bulletin Board-opposite FLS 117).
5. Within five (5) working days following the Master's Committee meeting, the Committee's decision is forwarded to the student and his/her advisor.
6. If the decision is unsatisfactory he/she has the option to appeal the decision to the Dean of School of Nursing. The Academic Grievance Procedure (1998) which outlines this process is available at the Office of Student Life (CL 127).

* The above process is to be utilized if you are appealing a *policy* of the School of Nursing. If you are appealing a decision made by an individual faculty member (grade dispute) or if you have an issue with a College Policy (i.e. disagreement regarding dismissal/probation) you should utilize the Academic Grievance Procedure (1998) which can be obtained from the Office of Student Life, CL 127.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE – SCHOOL OF NURSING

Petition

The Graduate Handbook for Students in Nursing includes the policies governing students who are enrolled in the School of Nursing. The policies concern issues such as retention, progression and dismissal. You may wish to refer to these policies when submitting a petition to the Student Outcome Committee. Please follow the process outlined below.

- 1. Confer with Faculty Advisor and/or Master’s Program Director
2. Complete identification and request section.
3. Obtain faculty Advisor’s/Master’s Program Director’s signature.
4. Submit completed form to Chair of Master’s Committee.
5. Chair of Master’s Committee will notify student and student’s advisor of the decision.

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Date: _____ SS #: _____

Name: (print) _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

I have discussed this petition with the student.

Signature of Faculty Advisor &/or Master’s Program Director Date

Signature does not imply approval or disapproval, although the advisor may provide additional information in support or opposition to the petition.

REQUEST SECTION (Please type or print clearly)

Clearly state the nature of your petition: (Refer to policy in the “Handbook.”)

Below, please state the reasons for thinking your petition should be granted. What were the extenuating circumstances? Supporting documents should be attached. If you feel these extenuating circumstances are of a confidential nature, you may wish to discuss them with the Chair of the Committee or a member designated by the Chair. A personal appearance may be requested by the Committee.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Date Received: _____ Date of Committee Decision: _____

Approved: _____ Denied: _____

Signature of Chair of Master’s Committee: _____

Complaints and Grievances

The primary purpose of the Academic Grievance procedure is to secure, at the lowest level possible, an equitable solution to the problem of students who have disputes with either an academic unit or the classroom or grading conduct of faculty members. A complaint may be any point at issue between a faculty member and a student in which a student feels abridgement of personal rights or benefits has occurred. A grievance means a difference, presented in writing, that may arise between a faculty member and a student with respect to, but not necessarily limited to: violation of established academic policies and regulations; arbitrary and capricious grading practices; violation of the student's academic freedom; failure to meet obligations. The procedure for filing an academic grievance is outlined in Section XI Rhode Island College Graduate Studies Manual.

Registration

General registration procedures are described in the Bulletin of Rhode Island College. Nursing majors may register online for required nursing courses during the regular registration period.

Summer Courses

Selected courses are offered during summer sessions. Master's students are encouraged to complete elective course work during the summer after consultation with their advisor.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS POLICIES

Nursing: Health & Immunization Requirements

All Nursing Graduate Students enrolled in a clinical course must have the following information on file in RIC HEALTH SERVICES, located in Browne Hall. Tel (401) 456-8055; FAX: (401) 456-8890

1. An Admission **PE**
2. **One** dose of ***Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap)*** if it has been 2 or more years since the last dose of Td.
3. **Two** doses of live ***Measles*** vaccine* (preferably MMR) **or** a blood **titer** confirming immunity.
4. **Two** doses of ***Mumps*** vaccine* (preferably MMR) **or** blood titer confirming immunity.
5. **One** dose of ***Rubella*** vaccine **or** blood titer confirming immunity.
6. **Three** doses of ***Hepatitis B*** vaccine. A **Hepatitis B Surface Antibody** titer to confirm sero-conversion is recommended 1 – 2 months after the final dose.
7. Provider documented proof of ***Chicken Pox*** disease **or** **Varicella titer** confirming immunity **or** **Varicella vaccine** (2 doses).
8. An initial **2-Step PPD** tuberculin skin test **and** **yearly** PPD updates (**or** *Chest X-Ray* if PPD positive and **yearly** TB Assessment).
9. Flu vaccine during fall semester.

* Health care workers born on or before December 31, 1956 are only required to have documentation of **one** dose each of measles, mumps and rubella **or** titers confirming immunity.

Immunization Notice

If you wish to schedule an appointment for immunization at Health Services, please note the following:

1. All immunizations must be **pre-paid** at the Bursar's Office located on East Campus in Building #4. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. Cash, check or credit cards (Discover, Master Card or Visa) are accepted. A receipt from the Bursars must be presented at Health Services to schedule an appointment.

2. Health Services does **not** bill insurance companies (private or school insurance). Most major carriers do not reimburse for immunizations given to students over 18.

Check with your insurance company for details.

3. Cost of vaccines (subject to change based on availability):

- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR): 45.00
- Meningitis vaccine: \$85.00
- Tetanus (Td) vaccine: \$18.00
- Tetanus with Pertussis (Tdap): \$35.00
- Hepatitis B (requires as series of 3): \$30.00 for each vaccine

4. Plan to spend 10 minutes at Health Services after the vaccine is administered to be sure there is not a reaction.

If you feel you have had adequate immunizations in the past but are unable to access your records (from provider, high school or other college), you may elect to have a blood titer drawn to document immunity. These titers are available through Health Services. The approximate costs of these titers (done by Roger Williams Medical Center lab) are:

- Mumps: \$18.00
- Rubella: \$20.00
- Rubeola (measles): \$18.00
- Varicella B (HBs Ab): \$15.00
- Hepatitis B (HBs Ab): \$15.00

(Add \$9.00 drawing and handling fee to total cost)

*** These prices are **ONLY** available through RIC Health Services. Private insurance do not generally cover the cost of titers. ***

Substance Abuse Policy

Philosophy

Nursing students at Rhode Island College are expected to conduct themselves as professionals at all times. This professionalism includes dress, in-class attendance, academic integrity and the successful completion of course responsibilities as well as behavior in nursing courses on campus and at practicum locations. Adherence to student policies of the College and the Nursing School fosters professionalism. Non-adherence to the professional standards of behavior requires corrective action. Failure by the student to comply with expectations will result in discipline ranging from written warning to dismissal from the Nursing major. Rhode Island College School of Nursing is committed to health promotion and maintenance of a healthy lifestyle. To fulfill this expectation, nursing students must be free of chemical impairment during participation in any aspect of the nursing program including classroom, laboratory and clinical settings. Substance abuse is a major problem that compromises the learning environment and impairs judgment interfering with the ability to provide safe, effective and supportive care. Appropriate treatment of substance abuse and addiction is critical to nursing education and practice.

Definition

A chemically impaired student is a person who, while in the academic or clinical setting, is under the influence of, or has abused, either separately or in combination: alcohol, over-the-counter medication, illegal drugs, prescribed medications, inhalants, or synthetic designer drugs. Abuse of the substances includes episodic chronic use that has produced psychological and/or physical symptomatology, which interfere with the student's ability to fulfill role expectations.

Procedures

This health problem must be immediately addressed when identified within the nursing student population. Following are the procedures to be followed when a student is suspected of being chemically impaired.

1. Remove the student to a private area. Discuss the sign(s) and/or behavior(s) observed and allow the student to provide an explanation. Question the student regarding the use of any substance and, if used, what, when, and how much was used and by what route it was taken. When impairment signs/behaviors are observed during a clinical practicum session, the student is removed from the area and relieved of further nursing responsibilities for the day. A written warning is issued, a make-up assignment may be given and the student is instructed to arrange for transportation home.
 2. A report of observed student behavior is prepared by the involved faculty member in concert with the clinical preceptor when applicable and is submitted to the Master's Program Director. A copy of the report will be placed in the student's file.
 3. A group conference will be convened within one week. The conference group consists of the involved student and faculty member, the Master's Program Director and the Chairperson. The purpose of the group conference will be to convey concern for the student's welfare and to present the student with procedural requirements. If chemical impairment is the problem, these procedures require student agreement to enter into a "Student Wellness Contract" for professional evaluation of chemical dependency status and determination of a treatment plan.
 4. During the conference the academic consequences resulting from chemical impairment will be explained. The student will be requested to agree to the contract and to confirm understanding of both the terms and the academic consequences of the contract by signature. Should the student choose not to agree to the contract, he/she will be dismissed from the nursing major.
 - a) Participation in clinical nursing courses will not be permitted until the terms of the contract are fulfilled.
 - b) A semester grade of "I" (Incomplete) or "W" (Withdraw) will be assigned for these courses depending upon the amount of course work completed to date, the time remaining in the semester, the ability of the student to satisfactorily complete the course requirements and the treatment recommendation of the chemical dependence evaluator.
 5. Following the initial screening, the evaluator will determine the prescribed treatment. If no treatment is required, the evaluator will prepare a written report to the Master's Program Director and Chairperson. Upon receipt of the written recommendation of the chemical dependency evaluator that no treatment for chemical impairment is required, the student may return to all courses in progress.
 6. When treatment is indicated, completion terms of the contract must be fulfilled. Upon completion of the program, the student may resume participation in clinical nursing courses contingent upon the approval of a written request for reinstatement submitted for the semester he/she desires to return. If additional chemical impairment occurs subsequent to implementation of these procedures, the student will be dismissed from the nursing major.
- (Sources noted in Policy Manual)

Prevention of and/exposure to HIV, HBV, and HCV Infections Policy

In order to reduce the possibility of exposure to HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV), HEPATITIS B VIRUS (HBV), and HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) by nursing students, Rhode Island College School of Nursing has adopted a policy encompassing vaccination for HBV, and education and prevention techniques for HIV and HCV including standard precautions. Education about and prevention of exposure to body fluids and transmission of blood-borne pathogens including, but not limited to, HIV, HBV, and HCV is the focus of this policy. The attached procedures, guidelines and forms have been developed in compliance with State and Federal laws, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines, and the policies and practices of Rhode Island College and affiliating clinical practicum placements. The School of Nursing recognizes individual rights, equal opportunity, voluntary testing, and confidentiality of test results and health records.

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to:

1. Protect students from exposure to body fluids and blood-borne pathogens and other potentially infectious materials.
2. Outline the HBV immunization protocol for students.
3. Describe the policies regarding students caring for HIV, HBV, and HCV infected clients.
4. Describe the policies regarding students with HIV infection.
5. Describe the Exposure Control Plan (ECP) for students.

Protecting the Student From Exposure To HIV/HBV/HCV

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that Standard Blood and Body Fluid Precautions will be used with all clients regardless of known or suspected blood-borne pathogens.

A. Standard Blood and Body Fluid Precautions:

Standard precautions are intended to prevent parenteral, mucous membrane, and non-intact skin exposures of nursing student to blood-borne pathogens. Blood is the single most important source of HIV, HBV, HCV, and other blood-borne pathogens in clinical settings. The following Standard Blood and Body Fluid Precautions can eliminate the risk of work exposure to HIV, HBV, and HCV. These guidelines should be used with all clients regardless of known or unknown risk factors. The guidelines for Standard Blood and Body Fluid Precautions include:

1. Students who come into direct contact with the body fluids of clients should wear gloves. This includes: direct client care, handling of soiled linen or lab specimens, etc. The gloves should be changed with each client and hands washed immediately after removing gloves.
2. Masks, protective eye wear, and/or gowns should be worn during all procedures that are likely to generate an exposure event.
3. Wounds and skin sites that have been in contact with blood or body fluids should be washed with soap and water; mucous membranes should be flushed with water. (No evidence exists that using antiseptics for wound care or expressing fluid by squeezing the wound further reduced the risk for blood-borne pathogen transmission; however, the use of antiseptics is not contraindicated. The application of caustic agents (e.g., bleach) or the injection of antiseptics or disinfectants into the wound is not recommended). (CDC Guidelines, 2001)
4. To prevent needle stick injuries, students should immediately dispose of needles and syringes in an appropriate sharps container. They should NOT recap used needles, purposely bend or break needles or in any way manipulate used syringes. This holds true for scalpels and other sharp disposable items.

5. To minimize the need for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, ambu bags, barriers or other ventilation devices should be used when available.
6. Students, who have exudative lesions or weeping dermatitis should refrain from all direct client care and from handling client equipment until the condition resolves.
7. All students who participate in invasive procedures should wear gloves, gown, mask, and protective eye wear.
8. Students assisting in vaginal deliveries and cesarean sections should wear gloves, gowns, masks, protective eyewear, and footwear.

B. Breast Milk and Saliva

Occupational exposure via breast milk and saliva have not been documented. However, the viruses have been isolated from these secretions and therefore standard precautions are required. Gloves should be used during oral exams. Nurses having extensive exposure to human breast milk should routinely use gloves while handling specimens.

C. Human Tissues and Other Body Fluids

1. Standard precautions apply to human tissues and the following fluids: cerebrospinal, peritoneal, synovial, pleural, pericardial, and amniotic fluids.
2. Standard precautions apply to feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine and vomitus.

Hepatitis B Vaccination

The Hepatitis B vaccination series will be initiated if indicated Hepatitis B vaccine will be available to students through Student Health Services. Students are encouraged to inquire about HBV immunization at their place of employment. All students who decline to comply with the HBV requirement shall be advised of their risk and be required to sign the Hepatitis B Vaccination Declination Form. Refusal to comply with the above requirement does not negate future availability of immunization. Documentation of compliance or refusal shall be included in the student health record in Rhode Island College Health Services.

Students Who Refuse To Care For HIV/HBV/HCV Infected Clients

The Rhode Island College School of Nursing believes that master's nursing students have a responsibility to provide care to all clients and that refusal to care for an individual with HIV, HBV, or HCV is contrary to the ethics of the nursing profession. The School of Nursing recognizes that infectious diseases pose considerable psychological as well as physical threats to students and will address any fears, misinformation or prejudices the student may be experiencing by:

1. Providing the most current information on occupational transmission of the viruses.
2. Providing thorough instructions on the ways students can prevent exposure.

Students Who Have Been Diagnosed With HIV/HBV/HCV

The following statements summarize the School of Nursing policy regarding HIV-infected students:

1. The School of Nursing will not consider HIV status in the admission decision. The exclusion of people with HIV infection constitutes unwarranted discrimination. An infected individual will be treated in the same manner as any student diagnosed as having any other illness, injury or disability.
2. Students with HIV will be allowed access to clinical, academic, and College-related social activities as their medical condition permits. In the instances where a student is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities, the School of Nursing will make a reasonable effort, if asked, to accommodate the student. Should a problem arise, the Nursing faculty will seek advice according to the current Rhode Island College Handbook of Policies Practices and Regulations.
3. HIV positive students are encouraged to seek competent medical and psychological consultation early in the disease.

4. No specific information about HIV status will be documented in the student's file. Information will not be shared verbally or in writing with anyone unless the student requests so in writing. A student who informs the faculty and/or staff of his/her HIV/HBV/HCV status will be accorded confidentiality by faculty and staff members in whom he or she confides.

5. Students with known deficiencies are at an increased risk for hospital-acquired infections. Clinical assignments for these students will be evaluated accordingly.

Exposure Control Plan – Post-Exposure Evaluation and Follow-up

A. Nursing Resource Laboratory

Students exposed to blood or other body fluids in the Nursing Resource Laboratory will follow the Post Exposure Evaluation and Follow-up Procedure (as described in the Rhode Island College Occupational Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan Section IV – pages 10-11). In the event of an exposure, the supervising faculty member will initiate the process by reporting the incident to the Dean of Nursing and the Safety and Security Department (Campus Security Office). If no faculty member is present in the Laboratory, the student is to report the incident to the School of Nursing Chairperson for appropriate action. In addition to the above, the supervising faculty member is responsible for completing a Rhode Island College School of Nursing Incident Report (Appendix II) and submitting it to the Rhode Island College School of Nursing Dean within 24 hours. The exposed student will be referred to Health Services Office or personal care provider for follow-up medical care, including counseling. The College Insurance Rider provides financial coverage for follow-up.

Exposure Control Plan – Post-Exposure Evaluation and Follow-up (Cont)

B. Off-Campus Clinical Experiences

Students exposed to blood or other body fluids during an off campus clinical experience will follow the initial Post Exposure Evaluation and Follow-up Procedure of the respective agency. For follow-up and further testing/intervention, the exposed student will be referred to the Rhode Island College Health Services Office or personal care provider. In addition, the supervising faculty member will initiate the process by reporting the incident to the School of Nursing Dean immediately after the incident. The supervising faculty member is also responsible for completing a Rhode Island College School of Nursing Incident Report (Appendix II) and submitting it to the Rhode Island College School of Nursing Dean within 24 hours. In addition, the supervising faculty member will provide the student with the pertinent sections of the CDC's US Public Health Service Guidelines for the Management of Occupational Exposures to HBV, HCV, and HIV and Recommendations for Post Exposure Prophylaxis.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5011a1.htm>

Cleaning and Disinfection – Nursing Resource Laboratory

The NRL shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. All equipment and environmental and working surfaces shall be cleaned and decontaminated after contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Contaminated work surfaces shall be decontaminated with an appropriate disinfectant, immediately or as soon as feasible, when surfaces are overtly contaminated or after any spill of blood or other potentially infectious materials. Protective coverings used to cover equipment and environmental surfaces shall be removed and replaced as soon as feasible when they become overtly contaminated. All bins, pails, cans, and similar receptacles intended for reuse which have a reasonable likelihood for becoming contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be inspected and decontaminated according to the cleaning schedule and decontaminated immediately or as soon as feasible upon visible contamination. Broken glassware which may be contaminated shall not be picked up directly with the hands. It shall be cleaned up using mechanical means, such as a brush and dust pan, tongs, or forceps. Contaminated sharps shall be discarded immediately or as soon as feasible in containers that are closable, puncture resistant, leak proof on sides and bottom and labeled. During use,

containers for contaminated sharps shall be easily accessible to students and located as close as is feasible to the immediate area where sharps are used or can be reasonable anticipated to be found, maintained upright throughout use, and replaced routinely and not be allowed to overfill. When moving containers of contaminated sharps from the area of use, the containers shall be closed immediately prior to removal or replacement to prevent spillage or protrusion of contents during handling, storage, or transport, and placed in a secondary container if leakage is possible. Sharps containers shall not be opened, emptied, cleaned manually or handled in any other manner which would expose students to the risk of percutaneous injury. Disposal of all Sharps and Medical Waste shall be in accordance with applicable regulations and Rhode Island College.

Laundry Practices

In the event that linen used for practice in the NRL becomes contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials, it shall be handled following standard precautions. Contaminated laundry shall be placed and transported in bags or containers labeled or in red bags substituted for labels. Contaminated laundry shall be handled as little as possible and shall be bagged or containerized at the location where it was used and shall not be sorted or rinsed. Whenever contaminated laundry is wet and presents a reasonable likelihood of soak-through or of leakage from the bag or container, the laundry shall be placed and transported off campus in bags or containers which prevent soak-through or leakage of fluids to the exterior. All students who have contact with contaminated laundry shall wear protective gloves and other appropriate personal protective equipment.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE – SCHOOL OF NURSING INCIDENT REPORT

Student's Name: _____ Faculty Member: _____

Date: _____ Agency/Location of Exposure: _____

Nursing Course: _____

SUMMARY OF EXPOSURE INCIDENT:

(Describe circumstances of exposure incident and results of immediate follow-up, i.e. blood testing of student/source of contact)

FOLLOW-UP

The Agency representative has informed the student of the results of the medical evaluation and told him/her of any medical conditions which may result from exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials which require further evaluation or treatment. A copy of this document has been provided to the student.

Agency Name: _____ Date: _____

Agency Representative Name: _____ Date: _____

I have been given a copy of the CDC, US Public Health Service Guidelines for the Management of Occupational Exposure to HBV, HCV, and HIV and Recommendations for Post exposure Prophylaxis (June 29, 2001)

SIGNATURES:

(Student) (Date)

(Faculty) (Date)

PRACTICUM POLICIES

CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) Certification

(Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Certification) Students need to present proof of CPR Certification. CPR Courses are regularly offered on campus by Ocean State Educational Seminars, Inc. (651-5777) or Medpro (273-9188). Courses are also offered by the American Heart Association (330-1700). The certification you need is "Health Care Provider".

Attendance

Master's students are required to complete 500 hours of clinical practicum experience over the course of the program. That is equal to approximately 12 hours per week per semester for each of the three practicum experiences. It is important to be aware that is the *minimum* expectation required of all Master's students. Faculty, in consultation with the identified preceptor when applicable and the student, may determine that additional time is needed in order to satisfactorily complete the outcomes of the course. Flexibility in scheduling is encouraged; students should negotiate clinical hours per week with the faculty member supervising the clinical experience and the clinical preceptor when applicable. In the event that an absence is unavoidable, the student must contact the clinical faculty member as well as the preceptor and make arrangements to re-schedule the time missed.

Practicum Placements

Master's student placements will be negotiated between the clinical faculty member, the student's advisor, and the student. Prior to each semester, the student should meet with the advisor to plan coursework for the upcoming semester. The student should identify clinical interests and personal objectives in consultation with the advisor; the student should then meet with the clinical faculty member to discuss the outcomes of the course and to identify how the student's clinical learning needs can be best met. The faculty and student will discuss potential clinical sites and preceptors and identify an agreed upon plan of clinical experiences. The student will submit finalized personal clinical objectives to the clinical faculty for approval; it is essential that these meetings occur prior to the end of the semester prior to the clinical experience being planned. The student will be responsible for providing the approved objectives along with the course syllabi to the clinical preceptor as applicable prior to the start of the semester.

Student Uniform

1. Students in all clinical settings must carry Rhode Island College identification and wear a Rhode Island College name pin. Students must comply with parking and security regulations as specified at each agency.
2. Master's students should wear attire appropriate to the clinical site and clinical activities to be accomplished. For example, Master's students providing direct care should wear clothing appropriate to the assigned clinical agency and the activities, i.e. scrub clothes. Students not providing direct care may wear a laboratory coat with the appropriate identification.
3. Artificial nails are prohibited. Fingernail polish, long fingernails, excessive makeup, jewelry and rings other than wedding or class rings are not appropriate for the clinical setting. Female and male students with long hair will wear their hair so that it does not fall on the collar. Student attire will be neat and clean at all times. Faculty reserve the right to dismiss a student from the clinical area, if in their judgment, the student does not appear professional.

Transporting Clients

Under **NO** circumstances shall students transport clients in any motor vehicle.

Incident Reports

If an incident report is indicated in a practicum setting, it will be completed according to agency policy and a report will be submitted to the Chairperson and the Master's Program Director immediately, or at least within 24 hours of the incident. The report is signed by the student who was involved and by the faculty member responsible for supervision of the student. The report becomes part of the student's official file.

Practicum Warning Notices

If at any time a student's performance in the practicum is considered to be unsatisfactory, the student will be notified with a written warning notice from the clinical instructor. Copies are to be completed and distributed to student, faculty, Master's Program Director and Chairperson.

Liability Insurance

Master's students should maintain their own malpractice insurance. In addition, students who are actively enrolled as majors in nursing at Rhode Island College are covered by a Medical Malpractice Policy by the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

Privacy Policy

During clinical rotations, students shall not provide care for any client with whom they are personally acquainted, including members of the Rhode Island College community (i.e., faculty, fellow students, or staff). Should students become aware that they have inadvertently been given such an assignment, they are to notify the instructor or preceptor immediately.

Bloodborne Pathogen Training

Students who have clinical experiences in settings that do not provide the required OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Training should use the online training provided by the University of North Carolina (UNC) Medical Center (http://ehs.unc.edu/training/self_study/bbp).

Students who have clinical experiences in settings that do not provide the required OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Training should take the corresponding UNC post-test (adapted with permission by the RI College School of Nursing) and demonstrate knowledge of the content through documentation of earning a 100% on post-test prior to practicing in the clinical setting. Clinical faculty will check the documentation demonstrating successful completion of the posttest prior to the student practicing in the clinical setting.

SELECTED COLLEGE POLICIES**Code of Academic Honesty**

The School of Nursing at Rhode Island College recognizes that the nursing profession is based on a standard of honesty and personal and professional integrity. In order to achieve the mission of the College and the School of Nursing and develop the high ethical standards required for nursing practice, academic honesty is an integral part of the nursing program. Students and faculty are jointly responsible for maintaining an honest environment and all must work together to ensure the success of the academic honesty policy. All students within the School of Nursing are expected to maintain the code of academic honesty. This means that all academic work is presented without plagiarism, cheating or unauthorized assistance.

The Goals of the Academic Honesty Policy in the School of Nursing are to:

- Promote a culture of academic honesty within the School of Nursing.
- Increase understanding of acts that are designated as academically dishonest behaviors.
- Maintain the academic reputation of the School of Nursing.
- Clearly define the process related to matters of academic dishonesty.

Violation of the Code of Academic Honesty

Incidents of academic dishonesty will be adjudicated through the College's usual disciplinary process. Specifically, when a faculty member suspects a student has committed academic dishonesty, the faculty member will confront the student and may determine the appropriate action to be taken. Penalties could include repercussions on the assignment/test up through failure for the course. A student who disagrees with the faculty member's decision may appeal to the Board of College Discipline; or a faculty member may elect to send the case immediately to the Board without passing judgment. The Board has a full range of sanctions available to it, from a warning up through suspension or expulsion from the College.

Behaviors that constitute Academic Dishonesty are prohibited. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the follow:

(Adopted from Academic Honesty policies from West Hills Community College, University of Maryland Baltimore, School of Nursing; University of Rochester, University of Arkansas/Fayetteville, University of Houston/Clear Lake, University of Michigan, and Rhode Island College Handbook of Policies, Practices and Regulations).

- Plagiarism – Any attempt to present someone else's work as one's own, on quizzes, examinations, reports, or term papers, etc., constitutes plagiarism, an act closely analogous to the theft of money or goods to any form of swindling or fraud, and in the academic world, just as deplorable. There are various forms of plagiarism of which the following are most common:
 - **Word-for-word plagiarism.** This includes (a) the submission of another person's work as one's own; (b) the submission of work from any source whatever (book, magazine, or newspaper article, unpublished paper, or thesis) without proper acknowledgement by footnote or reference within the text of the paper; (c) the submission of any part of another's work without proper use of quotation marks.
 - **Patchwork plagiarism.** This consists of piecing together of unacknowledged phrases and sentences quoted verbatim (or nearly verbatim) from a variety of sources. The mere reshuffling of other people's words does not constitute "original" work.
 - **Unacknowledged paraphrase.** It is perfectly legitimate to set forth another author's facts or ideas in one's own words, but if one is genuinely indebted to the other author for these facts or ideas, the debt must be acknowledged by footnote or reference within the text of the paper.
- Unauthorized assistance:
 - Using books, notes calculators and technological devices in an unauthorized manner to assist with quizzes, exams or lab work.
 - Copying answers to an exam.
 - Giving or receiving answers to a scheduled exam.
 - Submitting work done by another individual and portraying it as one's own.

- Providing false information:
 - Giving false reasons (in advance or after the fact) for failure to complete academic work. This includes, for example, giving false excuses for failure to attend an exam or attend the clinical practicum.
 - Falsifying the results of any laboratory or clinical work or fabricating any data or information, including patient related information.
 - Giving false information or testimony in connection with any investigation or hearing under this policy.
 - Presenting previously submitted academic work and portraying it as new material.
 - Multiple Submissions: Submitting for credit, when a student has not been given permission to do so, any work that is the same or substantially the same as work that has been submitted for credit in another course. Many professors allow reworking or building on prior work; however, multiple submissions are permitted only with the prior permission of the instructor(s), and only when the student acknowledges the multiple submission in the work itself.

- Theft:
 - Procuring unauthorized materials related to academic work such as exams, grade books, and class files.

Faculty and students share the responsibility for upholding the Academic Honesty Policy. The student is expected to report instances of academic dishonesty to the faculty. A faculty member is responsible for confronting a student who violates the code and determining the appropriate action to be taken with respect to the class. If the faculty member recommends action beyond the class, e.g. dismissal or academic probation, the faculty member presents the accusation to the Board of College Discipline and to the Dean of the School of Nursing. A student accused of academic dishonesty by a faculty member has the right to appeal to the Board of College Discipline.

The School of Nursing reserves the right to impose additional penalties when students have been found in violation of the Code of Academic Honesty, including dismissal from the School of Nursing. Such penalties will be imposed by the Dean in consultation with the faculty member. Students have the right to appeal to the Board of College Discipline. Any student accused of academic dishonesty with sanctions imposed by the School of Nursing may appeal to the Board of College Discipline. This process is outlined in the College Handbook for students under Article VII Violation of Law and College Discipline.

Cancellation of Classes

Students are informed about cancellation of classes or clinical practice, e.g., snow days, by announcements on local radio stations, communications from individual instructors, or by calling the General College Number 456-9500-Calling the School of Nursing office is NOT APPROPRIATE! The current *Rhode Island College Student Handbook* contains complete information about policies and rules and can be accessed at <http://www.ric.edu>

HELENE FULD NURSING RESOURCE LABORATORY

Location

The Helene Fuld Nursing Resource Laboratory is located on the first floor of the Fogarty Life Science Building, Rooms 124 and 137. The Helene Fuld Nursing Resource Laboratory is a two-room area designed as a combined simulated hospital and classroom-seminar setting. Practice mannequins, hospital and physical examination equipment are used by students to develop and improve professional nursing

skills. Nursing journal articles and books relevant to nursing courses are available for student use. The lab is used for both scheduled and independent learning and practice.

Mission

Nursing is a profession of practitioners. As nursing faculty we are committed to preparing students to practice the art and science of professional nursing. The Nursing Resource Laboratory plays a vital role in enhancing students' preparedness to practice through a multimedia approach that combines faculty-directed and independent learning. Students learn the rationale for nursing actions, and correctly and safely practice many of the cognitive and psychomotor skills needed to work with clients to promote, maintain and restore health. The laboratory also serves as a resource to faculty. Multimedia and audiovisuals including videos, models, and computers contribute to faculty development and enhance and facilitate teaching.

Resources

The faculty of the School of Nursing recognizes that students frequently have a need to work. However, caution should be used in order to succeed in our nursing program. This recommendation is based on the belief that an excessive employment commitment interferes with the educational experience of the students, including opportunities for participation in cultural, social and other activities.

Assistantships

Opportunities are available for students to apply for graduate assistantships; details are available on the RIC website. For further information contact Cynthia Padula, Master's Program Director, at 456-9720.

Financial Aid

The Office of Student Financial Aid (Craig Lee 050) at the College administers a program of grants, loans and part-time employment opportunities for students who require financial assistance. Their phone number is 456-8033.

Bulletin Boards

The official School of Nursing bulletin boards are located in the hallway on the one-hundred level of the Fogarty Life Science Building near the Nursing office. Official notices of meetings and events are posted on these boards. The bulletin boards located in the Student Lounge are used for notices and items of interest to students. Students and faculty post items at their discretion on these bulletin boards. **NO NOTICES** are to be **POSTED ON CORRIDOR WALLS**.

The Master's student Bulletin Board is located across from Room 117 in FLS. Information related to activities relevant to Master's students, such as certification information, and relevant publications are posted on the bulletin board.

College Catalog and Student Handbook

The Graduate Student Manual, The College Catalog 2007-2009, and The Rhode Island College Student Handbook are important sources of information for students. These publications may be obtained from the College's website: www.ric.edu

Additional Resources include:

The Writing Center Craig Lee Room 225; phone number 456-8141
 The Counseling Center Craig Lee Room 130; phone number 456-8094
 Office of Academic Support Craig Lee Room 154; phone number 456-8083
 Information Services Roberts Room 100; phone number 456-8825
 Library – Rachel Carpenter – phone number 456-2812/8125

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Caring Award

The Caring Award is given to two graduate student each year, one from each specialty area: Acute/Critical Care and Public Health/Community Leadership. A nomination is made by a fellow graduate student through a 300 word essay describing how the nominee demonstrates caring behaviors. Requirements of this award include: full or part-time enrollment in the graduate program and Rhode Island residency. Award recipients will receive an award certificate and a check for \$500.00.

Scholarships

Information about Scholarships is available on the School of Nursing Website and upon request through the nursing office.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS/COMMITTEES

Sigma Theta Tau International – Honor Society of Nursing

Sigma Theta Tau, Inc., the International Honor Society of Nursing, has established Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large with the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College. The purposes of Sigma Theta Tau are to: recognize superior achievement and scholarship; recognize the development of leadership qualities; foster high professional standards; encourage creative work; and strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession. Qualifications for membership include: must be enrolled in an accredited institution, have completed at least ¼ of the nursing curriculum, and have mastered excellence by achieving at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 grade point average system. Induction takes place in the fall of the year and students who feel they will be eligible should seek applications in the spring of the previous year. Community leaders- Master's students are encouraged to apply to our chapter.

Rhode Island State Nurses Association (RISNA)

Master's students are encouraged to apply for membership. Reduced student rate is 132.50/year. For more information, go to website www.risnarn.org

Nursing Alumni Organization

The Nursing Alumni Organization was organized in 2001. The organization plans programs and events for alumni, including the Annual Nursing Reunion Breakfast at Homecoming.

School of Nursing Committee Participation

Master's students are invited to participate on committees at the beginning of each academic year. Please contact Cynthia Padula, Master's Program Director, at 456-9720 for further information.

Master's Committee

Master's student representation is requested on this committee. Please contact Cynthia Padula, Master's Program Director, at 456-9720 for further information.