CCAC   The first choice for faster results.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY**
Office of College Services
800 Allegheny Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233-1895
Ph: 412.323.2323
Fax: 412.237.3037
www.ccac.edu

August 13, 2015

Dear CCAC Nursing Students:

This letter is to inform you of general announcements and upcoming changes made by nursing faculty governance for the CCAC Nursing Program towards the goals of improving both overall student success outcomes and producing quality, competent graduate nurses that will be responsive to meeting the health care needs of a diverse, global population in a safe and competent manner. These changes are based on sound rationales and evidenced-based practice that have been widely shared with nursing faculty and the College faculty and administrator members-at-large. Where appropriate the changes have been taken through the College Council hearing process.

Admissions Council

Nursing Admissions Entrance Exam Test:

The Nursing Division will implement the TEAS *V* entrance exam for all admissions beginning Fall 2016. The rationales for instituting the pre-admission exam are to:
- reduce attrition rates
- admit better prepared students
- ensure that the admission process is fair for all students
- increase graduation rates
- assist with increasing NCLEX pass rates

Successful completion of this exam, which covers reading, math, science, and English, will be required in addition to the current admission requirements. A composite score of 58.7% will be required to meet eligibility.

CCAC will begin testing at all 5 campus and program sites (Allegheny, Boyce, CalU site, North and South) beginning November 2015. The cost of the test is $76. Prior to the November date; the Nursing Division will conduct a TEAS *V* pilot study in order to determine: 1) what kind of study/preparation support students will need in preparation for the TEAS *V* and 2) test administration information (work out glitches). For this pilot, we will utilize volunteers (administrators/faculty/non-nursing students).

NCLEX Council

The NCLEX Council continues to monitor NCLEX scores for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. The final results will not be available until November 2015. Thus far the State Board of Nursing has released the first three quarters (October – December 2014; January – March 2015 and April – June 2015). A composite of those three quarters follows:

NCLEX Pass Rates:
From October 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

	Fail	Pass	Total	% Pass
Allegheny	15	50	65	76.92%
Boyce	3	68	71	95.77%
CALU	4	17	21	80.95%
North*	0	4	4	100.0%
South*	2	2	4	50.0%
Total	24	141	165	85.46%

*The numbers are too low to determine significance.

ATI Leadership Exam:

Currently, the Leadership ATI course level exam offered during NUR 250 requires that it must be passed at proficiency level two or greater. If not successful on first attempt, the student must complete a focused remediation and will be allowed to retest. If then unsuccessful, the student will not pass the course (and therefore graduation would be delayed). At the end of Spring 2015, the NCLEX Council decided to review the Leadership ATI exam as to placement, content alignment, etc. During this review period the faculty voted to refer students who failed the Leadership ATI exam on second attempt to the Dean of Nursing and to support a plan that would not postpone a student's graduation.

The student who is unsuccessful on second attempt (**Leadership ATI exam only**) and referred to the Dean of Nursing will have the following options:

1) Accept the earned NUR 250 course failure grade and repeat the course in a future semester following the Nursing Program Student Manual (NPSM) guidelines.

2) Accept a focused remediation plan from the Dean of Nursing that will require you to sign up for the ATI Virtual (discount cost of $299 from ATI). ATI Virtual is an extension of the ATI Live Review that you will complete as part of the NUR 250 course. It is a personalized, innovative, online partnership that prepares students for NCLEX success. Each student is assigned a personal coach who works with them one-on-one. Students receive a Green Light

from their coach when they are deemed ready to pass NCLEX. This would involve the student keeping in touch with the Dean of Nursing on their progress on a weekly basis, and when the student gets the "Green Light" the student is to notify the Dean of Nursing. At that time the Dean of Nursing will finish completing the student's Nursing Education Verification with the State Board of Nursing. When that is done the student will be able to take the NCLEX exam.

ATI Bookstore Prices Fall 2015:

1.
CCAC students JUST starting the program in the Fall of 2015 who will graduate in May 2017 only need to make a total of 2 ATI purchases throughout their 4 semester program. 1 payment of $283 in their 110/120 semester (Fall 2015) and 1 payment of $283 in their 130/140 semester (Spring 2016):

☐ **NUR 110/120 First semester (graduating 5/17) = Retail $283**
This purchase will include a "Nurse in a Box" set of ATI books

****

2.
CCAC students in their second semester of the program in the Fall of 2015 who will graduate in Dec 2016 need to make 1 more ATI payment of $265 in their 130/140 semester (Fall 2015):

☐ **NUR 130/140 Second semester (graduating 2016) = Retail $265**

****

3.

Students that are LPN Advanced Placement Students that did not have to take 110/120 and were accepted directly into 130/140 in the Fall of 2015 only need to purchase a 1 time ATI code (because they skipped 110/120, they didn't make ANY payments yet):

☐ **NUR 130/140 (LPN) one-time payment (graduating 2016) = Retail $505**
This purchase will include a "Nurse in a Box" set of ATI books

Administration Updates

New Provost/Faculty:

Please welcome the College's new Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Stuart Blacklaw. Also, please welcome the following new Full time Faculty: Allegheny Campus – Asst. Professor Michael Coppala (1 year at CCAC/transferred from South

Campus); Boyce Campus - Asst. Professor Courtney Proie; CalU Site – Danielle Guerrieri; North Campus – Asst. Professor Madea Neumont; and South Campus – Asst. Professor Hong He and Associate Professor Kimberly Rogers.

ACEN (National Accreditor) Status:

The CCAC nursing program's Follow-up Report was reviewed by the Accreditation Commission on the Education of Nurses' (ACEN's) Evaluation Review Panel on June 1, 2015 and its Board of Commissioners in July 2015. **CCAC has received Full Accreditation Status.**

State Board of Nursing Site Visit:

The Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing conducted a site visit on June 23 and 24, 2015. The site visitor reviewed files (student, Full time and Adjunct faculty); Minutes; Agency contracts; met with Administrators, Faculty and Students; and toured facilities (Allegheny and Boyce Campus to look at classroom space, the library, skills labs, computer labs, etc.). The State found no deficiencies. The State Board of Nursing is mandated to visit all schools of nursing in the state of Pennsylvania every three years.

Math Course Substitution Credit Clarification:

Effective with Fall 2016 admissions, the Dean of Nursing will only accept equivalent Math Course substitutions for MAT 106 and MAT 108 that have 4 (or higher) credits. For example, if you are admitted for Fall 2016 and have a 3 credit equivalent Math course substitution, you will be advised to take a 4 credit MAT 106 or MAT 108 course. **No course substitutions will be processed for students prior to nursing program admission**. If you are currently enrolled in the program, and have a Math course substitution, please send it to the Dean's office for review and processing.

CCAC-Carlow Joint Admissions:

Community College of Allegheny County and Carlow University are joining together to enable students to earn their associate degree at one institution and then seamlessly transfer to complete their bachelor's degree at the other. The framework for the innovative partnerships was signed March 12, 2015 by CCAC President Quintin Bullock, DDS, and Carlow President Suzanne Mellon, PhD, during a ceremony held at the Byers Hall Board room on the CCAC campus.

Effective Tuesday, September 2, 2015, all interested students accepted into the nursing program can add an additional program code *CARLOW.RN2BSN* to their current nursing program code 575.1 through the Registration department. This additional program code will identify you as a CCAC-Carlow University Joint Admissions Nursing Student as well as acknowledge your commitment. At the beginning of October, our Registrar, Dr. Diane Jacobs will inform both Carlow University and our Transfer Counselor Department Heads of all the nursing students who have changed their major to the CCAC-Carlow University Joint Admissions program. During the Fall semester you will be contacted by the Transfer Counselors for follow-up and next steps. This is an evolving new program. We would like to thank you in advance for your patience as the details of the program are solidified.

Benefits of the CCAC-Carlow University Joint AdmissionsProgram:
*Co-enroll in both CCAC and Carlow University for a seamless transition.
*Career planning and advising available from both institutions. At CCAC you will be connected with Transfer Counselors.
*Co-enrolled students receive a Carlow ID for access to Carlow events and resources while still students at CCAC.
*CCAC Graduates that are licensed as a Professional Registered Nurse will pay a reduced cost of $495 per credit (price includes fees).

Lastly, there have been some minor updates to the Nursing Program Student Manual (NPSM) that all students must read comprehensively. Each student will receive a copy of the NPSM prior to the start of classes. The NPSM will be posted on the www.ccac.edu nursing program site as well as posted in Certified Background. Furthermore, as we continue to improve our nursing program to meet the rising professional standards, students can look forward to opportunities to participate in decision-making through various nursing faculty councils.

Sincerely,

Kathy Mayle

Kathy Mayle, MA, MBA, MNEd, RN
Dean of Nursing