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August 17, 2019,

Dear CCAC Nursing Students:

Welcome back to school for the 2019 -2020 academic year! We are excited to have all of you with us. As we prepare to return to classes, I would like to take this opportunity to make a few general announcements and inform you of upcoming changes made by nursing faculty governance for the CCAC Nursing Program. Our goals are to improve both overall student success outcomes and produce quality, 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.

Accreditation

The CCAC Nursing Program reports to three distinct bodies for accreditation/approval:

1. The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
2. PA State Board of Nursing
3. Middle States

We are proud to say that we have Full ACEN National Accreditation, Full Approval from the PA State Board of Nursing, as well as Full Regional Accreditation through Middle States.

NCLEX-RN pass rates:

NCLEX pass rates are one of the most important indicators of how well a nursing program is functioning. It is one of the variables that both our accreditors and the state board of nursing monitors continuously in their evaluation processes. In Pennsylvania, a nursing program is considered to be in compliance when 80% or more of their graduates pass the NCLEX-RN on the **first attempt**. As you can see from Table 1, our first time NCLEX-pass rates are well over the 80% mark and have been steadily rising for the past 4 years! In fact, our most recent scores show our rate at **95.16%**. And with only one more quarter to go in this 2018 -2019 NCLEX cycle, CCAC pass rates currently sit at 94.19% (see Table 2.). This is great news!

Table 1. CCAC NCLEX PASS RATES 2011 - 2018

	Oct 1, 2012 - Sept 30, 2013** N=417	Oct 1, 2013 - Sept 30, 2014 N= 293	Oct 1, 2014- Sept 30, 2015 N = 271	Oct 1, 2015- Sept 30, 2016 N = 324	Oct 1, 2016 - Sept 30, 2017 N=301	Oct 1, 2017 - Sept 30, 2018 N=289
CCAC Total	82.25%	71.97%	88.56%	90.74%	92.03%	95.16%
Allegheny	78.81%	69.65%	79.2%	90.82%	90.2%	95.74%
Boyce	82.85%	80.76%	95.9%	88.09%	95.4%	96.63%
Cal U	66.03%	66.66%	81.0%	82.75%	69.2%	83.33%
North	94.23%	73.52%	90.5%	96.87%	94.6%	94.87%
South	88.76%	77.08%	99.7%	97.14%	95.1%	94.55%
PA SBON Avg	86.22%	82.82%	87.17%	87.54%	91.1%	92.84%
US ADN Avg	81.43%	79.26%	82.0%	81.42%	83.84%	85.53%
US Avg	84.29%	81.74%	84.18%	84.38%	86.81%	88.57%

Table 2 NCLEX Pass Rates Oct. 2017 - June 2018

NCLEX Pass Rates From Oct. 1, 2018 To June 30, 2019				
	Fail	Pass	Total	% Pass
Allegheny	3	74	77	96.10%
Boyce	10	108	118	91.52%
CALU	2	14	16	87.50%
North	0	1	1	100.00%
South	1	3	4	75.00%
****Total	16	200	216	92.59%

ATI and Nurse Tote Prices for Fall 2019:

NURSING TOTES:

NUR 110/120 nursing totes: \$141.99

NUR 130/140 LPN tote: \$27.00 (ONLY for LPN's)

ATI Codes

- NUR-110/120 CCAC South students (new 05/21 cohorts) with added EHR content (their 1st payment) \$458.50
- NUR-110/120 CCAC South "REPEATING" students (05/21 cohorts) their additional payment to update the code they already bought to add EHR content \$90.25
- NUR-110/120 CCAC Allegheny and CCAC North students (new 05/21 cohorts) (their 1st payment) \$368.25
- NUR-110/120 CCAC Boyce ADN Fast track students (new 05/21 cohorts) with additional Dosage Calc (their 1st payment) \$435.00
- NUR-130/140 CCAC Allegheny and CalU (12/20 continuing cohorts) (their 2nd payment) \$368.25
- NUR-130/140 CCAC Allegheny and CalU LPN students (12/20 cohorts) (one payment) \$679.75
- NUR-130/140 CCAC Boyce ADN Fast track students (12/20 continuing cohorts) with additional Dosage Calc (their 2nd payment) \$435.00
- NUR-130/140 CCAC Boyce LPN Fast track students with additional Dosage Calc (12/20 cohorts) (one payment) \$679.75

Please Note:

- 1) The ATI code letters must be purchased within the first two weeks of class. At that time, Follett Bookstore will return the unclaimed code letters to the ATI company. If students do not have a code letter for access to the ATI site they will not be able to complete/fulfill course requirements.
- 2) The ATI 2016 RN Review Modules/Books are available for pick up when you purchase your ATI Code letter at Follett Bookstore. The online ebooks will be available by the time you start classes. **The online ebooks are the most up to date resource, as they are continually being revised as needed.** Hard copies (book boxes) of the new ATI editions will be for new purchases only.

Book Store Tips:

The CCAC bookstore will do a "PRICE MATCH" with Amazon, Chegg, Barnes/Noble. The difference between the bookstore price and the "price match" will be given in a Follett Bookstore gift card which can be used to buy items in the CCAC bookstore, including syllabi packets, Skill Totes and ATI code letters"

Remember, students can use their Financial Aid in the bookstore beginning the Friday before the start of class.

Scholarships:

Scholarships are available for CCAC nursing students for the Fall 2019/Spring 2020 semester. If you are interested, please sign onto the portal:

- CCAC's Award Spring scholarship website is at the following link where you can review the qualifications and apply for the scholarships: <https://ccac.awardspring.com>. You must create an account. Most applications are due by August 25, 2019. If you have any questions, please call the CCAC Educational Foundation at 412-237-6514.

Fall 2019 Classes (Challenges):

Please be aware that some of our clinical or lab courses may be delayed for a few weeks to ensure that we have onboarded the most competent nursing faculty. If your clinical or lab has been delayed, please do not panic. You will not be penalized for missing a clinical. All hours for your particular course will be made up during or at the end of the semester. We are asking for your flexibility and patience during the first few weeks of the semester.

Continuing Education Opportunities:

Earning an Associate of Science in Nursing through CCAC provides you with a crucial first step into your career as a registered nurse. Once you have passed the NCLEX-RN, you will be able to pursue a higher degree through a number of different institutions. One of those institutions is Carlow University. As a nursing student with CCAC, you are already eligible for the CCAC/Carlow Joint Admissions Program. If you are interested you can either contact Amber Reed at areed@ccac.edu or wsphillips@carlow.edu.

Wendy S. Phillips, Director
Adult/Graduate Admissions
and Regional Education Centers
Carlow University
(412)578-8861

Also, Amber Reed, Director of Nursing Admissions, Recruitment and Community Engagement, and the Carlow Joint Admissions staff will be hosting a number of activities for interested students this year. All CCAC nursing students are invited. If it feels like a good fit, you will be able to complete paperwork that same day. So please look out for the emails from Ms. Reed which will have further detail about the dates, time, and locations and how to RSVP.

Nursing Program Student Manual Changes Fall 2019:

There were a couple of updates to the *Nursing Program Student Manual (NPSM)* for Fall 2019. Each student will receive a copy of the *NPSM* prior to the start of classes. The *NPSM* will also be posted on the CCAC's nursing program site as well as posted in Castlebranch. Students are to read this document comprehensively.

Please Note: Some changes discussed below will be in your copy of the *NPSM*; however, some are not but will be considered addendums to the Fall 2019 *NPSM*. The updates are as follows:

1. RN Predictor achievement desired level is 96%. (Included in the NPSM)

If student's score is less than 96% probability for passing NCLEX on the RN predictor, an appropriate remediation process will be completed. The student will repeat the RN predictor and must score a 95% or better probability of passing NCLEX on the second attempt.

If the student does not achieve a 95% or better probability of passing NCLEX on the second attempt, the student will be directed to purchase Virtual ATI. The student will be expected to show improvement and readiness for the NCLEX exam by receiving a "green light" from the ATI virtual team. After that improvement is reported and documented, the student's Nursing Education Verification (NEVs) will be released to the State Board of Nursing.

The student's graduation will not be delayed, and the student will be able to graduate and participate in the nurse pinning ceremony.

2. ATI Practice Assessment B – Changes (Not included in NPSM but implemented Fall 2019)

We have been made aware that some students are using online resources to assist with the Practice Assessments for ATI. This does not facilitate learning and could result in being unsuccessful with the Comprehensive Predictor and ultimately the NCLEX. We will now require that all students complete a minimum of ten (10) Active Learning Templates after completing Practice Assessment B.

Students who achieve a 90% or greater on Practice Assessment B will be required to complete ten (10) templates as determined by the ATI Coordinator. These Topics to Review will not contain the type of Template needed nor the Review Module chapter/page numbers. Students who achieve greater than 90% on Practice Assessment B and do not achieve the Level 2 on the Proctored Assessment will need to make an appointment with the Dean of Nursing.

Students who achieve less than 90% will continue to complete the Templates as per policy from the Focused Review.

3. ATI Practice Assessment A – Changes (Not included in NPSM but implemented Fall 2019)

We are going to follow the recommendations for Practice Assessment A from the ATI educators. In the past you were expected to achieve a 90% on Practice Assessment A, in order to achieve this score, you were permitted to retake the Assessment as many times as necessary with a 48-hour interval between attempts. The new process will be that you take Practice Assessment A once, complete the online Focused Review for the content areas you missed (completion of the Templates is optional). Following the Focused Review, complete the Post-Focused Review Quiz. Students will be expected to submit the report for Practice Assessment A which will indicate the time spent in the Focused Review and the score on the Post-Focused Review Quiz prior to Practice Assessment B. (Please note that some nursing program sites may still require students to repeat Practice Assessment A until a 90% is achieved.)

4. Nursing Program Student Manual - Health Policy Guideline

A positive test for any of the substances listed above, either prior to admission to the program or in connection with the annual required drug screen, will result in the student not being permitted to begin or continue in the program. **Please note that a positive test for marijuana (THC) will be deemed a positive test that will serve to disqualify a student from entry into and/or continuation in the program, even if the student has been lawfully certified to use medical marijuana and/or possesses a valid medical marijuana identification card issued in accordance with applicable state law. As a recipient of federal funds, CCAC is subject to and complies with the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, pursuant to which all forms of marijuana, including medical marijuana, are classified as prohibited controlled substances.**

Changes in the Dean of Nursing Office:

Please welcome our Associate Dean of Nursing, Julie Paul, who will work in the Dean's office and will report directly to the Dean of Nursing. Assoc. Dean Paul has served as Lab Coordinator and Adjunct Nursing Faculty, North Campus. She will remain our single point of contact with our clinical agencies, will administer nursing

adjunct faculty, associated payroll, and will be responsible for maintaining and analyzing program specific statistics.

Please also join me in welcoming Mrs. Gwendolyn Victum on her new role as Program Transition/Retention Coordinator. Mrs. Victum will work with our AHN-AGH/CCAC Collaborative grant students. More information on this program will be publicized later.

Nursing Program Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes Process:

The Nursing program at CCAC is engaged in an ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes process at the end of each course (Student Learning Outcomes – **SLOs**) and at the end of the program (End of Program Outcomes – **EPOs**). Please refer to your *Nursing Program Student Manual* (NPSM). This is to ensure that our program is aligned with the Accreditation Commission for the Education in Nursing (ACEN) best practice standards. The student – You – are partners with the nursing faculty and administration in this journey of process improvement.

How can I as a Student help? We would like all students to give their feedback at the end of every course and subsequently at the end of the program via surveys that are electronically sent to you. The survey results go to Mr. John Ingram in the College's Institutional Research Department. The Dean of Nursing, nor nursing faculty are able to access your survey submissions. The aggregated feedback is invaluable as it informs decision making and changes in your nursing program. Also, we would like you to participate in our Student Forums where you get to meet the Dean of Nursing and hear what is going on in nursing councils to ensure that our program continues to provide a quality education for you. There are 5 Nursing Councils as follows:

- Admissions Council
- Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Council
- NCLEX Council
- Curriculum Council
- Evaluation Council

The faculty welcome you to participate in any of the above Councils. Your feedback and opinion matters. We would like at least 1 or 2 students from each campus/site to participate on each of the five Councils. Be a part of decision making process by joining a nursing faculty council. Hear about outcomes and upcoming plans generated by evidence based research. If you are interested please email Stephanie Sheets, Nursing Secretary at ssheets@ccac.edu.

Lastly, have a positive and wonderful semester!

Sincerely,



Kathy Mayle, MA, MBA, MNEd, RN

Dean of Nursing