

SECTION III: INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY FOR MSN: EIP STUDENTS

I. Overview

The Master of Science in Nursing: Entry into Practice, sometimes referred to as a direct entry or second-degree program, is a full-time, accelerated nursing program that prepares non-nurse college graduates of all academic backgrounds to become practicing nurses. Upon graduation, students will be prepared to take the nursing licensure exam NCLEX-RN to be licensed as an RN.

II. Program Outcomes:

1. Ensure delivery of safe quality nursing care to diverse individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations throughout the lifespan and across systems of care.
2. Integrate theoretical and scientific knowledge gained from natural and social sciences and culture, society, and the liberal arts into nursing.
3. Use leadership skills across systems of care to promote equitable, safe, and quality health care outcomes.
4. Use the best evidence from multiple ways of knowing to inform practice to make clinical judgements, solve problems and address systems improvements.
5. Analyze how health care policy, regulation, technology, and economics impact nursing practice and the delivery of care.
6. Use effective interprofessional communication and collaboration strategies to promote quality health outcomes.
7. Apply health promotion and disease prevention strategies to diverse individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations to promote quality health outcomes.
8. Demonstrate professional values fundamental to the discipline of nursing.
9. Apply evidence-based, person-centered care services across the health care continuum.

III. Advising

The faculty advisor for all MSN EIP students will be the Director of the MSN EIP program unless otherwise designated. The role of the faculty advisor is to mentor and provide career guidance to students. Additional advising by Student Services will help students enroll in courses, assist students in meeting important deadlines and comply with college requirements such as licensure, HIPAA, or criminal background checks.

IV. Plan of Study and Progression Policy

Your plan of study is important to your progression through the program. Every effort is made to facilitate your timely progression. The MSN EIP program is based on a 20-month (five semester) lock step program. If your plan of study needs to be changed due to illness or other major life events, it may delay your progress through the program. Due to frequency of course offerings, students who amend the plan of study may be required to wait one year to re-enter the program. The plan of study may be found here: <https://nursing.uiowa.edu/academics/msn-entry-practice/curriculum>.

To request a change in your plan of study, contact the College of Nursing's Graduate Programs Office or your advisor. You were sent your individual plan of study upon admission, should you need another copy, contact Jess Klein in the Graduate Programs Office at jessica-klein@uiowa.edu or (319-467-4612).

To progress through the program, students must remain in good standing. This includes a 2.75 GPA or higher, and a C or higher in all required nursing courses and following prescribed plan of study.

Good standing for practicum courses also includes demonstration of safe practice, satisfactory progress towards course competencies, and demonstration of professionalism. See the main graduate program handbook for more details.

V. Work Schedule

Please be realistic about the balance of working and taking courses. Working during the MSN EIP program is discouraged due to the time commitment required for courses and clinical work.

VI. Clinical Information

- a. Clinical course times posted on the University schedule **do not** include travel time. Students are expected to be in the clinical setting at the start and end time designated by the instructor. The College of Nursing utilizes a variety of clinical sites and travel time may vary depending upon clinical site. Travel up to 100 miles may be required. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from clinical sites.
- b. Dress Code: Students are to dress appropriately, be well groomed, and behave in a manner that is consistent with creating a positive impression of the College of Nursing at the University of Iowa and represents professional nursing well. Appropriate dress and behavior are expected to vary with the location and nature of the student's educational activities. Guidance is provided by the faculty regarding specific expectations. Name badges that identify the individual as a nursing student facilitate appropriate recognition and **must** be worn in clinical settings.
- c. Uniform Policy: The University of Iowa College Nursing student uniform is to be worn **only** during UI clinical courses and college-sanctioned events. Students are to wear the College of Nursing student scrubs while in the NCEC. These scrubs should **not** be worn when students are in paid employment outside of the College. Official uniforms and lab coats are purchased through SNAUI (Student Nurse Association at the University of Iowa).
- d. The College of Nursing uniform will consist of:
 - i. Black scrubs with the College of Nursing logo.
 - ii. A black, white, gold, or grey t-shirt or long-sleeved turtleneck may be worn underneath. No symbols or screen-printing should be visible.
 - iii. The hem of the pant should touch the top of the shoe and extend no longer than the top of the sole.
 - iv. White lab coats have the College of Nursing logo on the left chest. The coat may be worn with scrubs or business casual as guided by the instructor and agency. Lab coats are optional while wearing the student uniform.

- v. The student photo ID is to be worn on the left side of the lab coat at all times in clinical and simulation settings.
 - vi. Shoes should be comfortable, supportive, and allow the ability to move quietly and efficiently. Shoes should cover the whole foot. Open toed shoes, mules, slides, or sling back shoes are not appropriate.
 - vii. Uniform standards apply during pregnancy; maternity scrub uniforms are expected.
 - viii. Business casual dress is appropriate in some clinical settings, as guided by facility policies.
- e. Clinical Misconduct: In cases involving clinical misconduct, the student will be removed from the clinical setting. The Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and the Executive Associate Dean will complete an immediate review of the conduct, in consultation with officials at the agency where the conduct occurred. Sanctions will be determined based on the severity of the misconduct, the potential risk to patients, the nature of the setting, and will be imposed at the conclusion of this review. All sanctions are final and nonnegotiable. Examples of clinical misconduct include but not limited to professional misconduct, HIPAA violations, patient safety issues, harm to patient, etc. Examples of sanctions include but not limited to meeting with faculty/deans, course failure, dismissal from the College of Nursing, etc.
- f. Substance Abuse Policy: The College of Nursing adheres to the policies set forth by the University of Iowa Policies & Regulations Affecting Students regarding the Use of Illegal Drugs and Alcohol and the Responsible Action Protocol. <https://dos.uiowa.edu/policies/> College of Nursing students are expected to comply with the policies governing all students at the University of Iowa. Students in violation of the University of Iowa policies which take place outside of the clinical setting will be subject to the disciplinary process established by the Dean of Students.
- i. The College of Nursing recognizes that use/misuse of legal and/or illegal drugs, controlled substances and alcohol are matters of concern for student and patient safety. To ensure patient safety the College of Nursing will address events related to substances by encouraging treatment before sanctions, providing information to students about policies and risks, and discuss changes to the plan of study should treatment be required.
 - ii. Clinical Impairment: Any instance where a student is identified as impaired in the clinical arena will require immediate removal of the student from the clinical unit and/or immediate drug testing. The student will not be permitted to return to the clinical environment without adequate documentation of the student's ability to provide safe patient care.
 - iii. Drug testing/evaluation:
 - 1. Drug testing is not required of all students, but in the instance a student has been identified by observation or arrest regarding use of illegal substances or activities or has been identified as impaired in a clinical setting, drug testing will be required without notice. Any student who has needed evaluation or treatment will be subject to random drug testing for the duration of their enrollment.

2. Drug testing will be paid for by the student, completed at UIHC when possible, and results will be sent to Student Health Services, then to the Associate Dean. All results are confidential. The student has the right to appeal against the requirement for drug testing if the instance takes place outside of the clinical environment. However, if the student is identified as impaired in the clinical setting, drug testing is nonnegotiable. If the student refuses, they may be dismissed.
- iv. Sanctions which may be imposed for violation of the Substance Abuse policy include but are not limited to written warning, probation, mandatory substance abuse evaluation, random drug testing suspension, or dismissal. In addition, substance abuse counseling is required for all those found in violation. Students will be required to complete a substance abuse evaluation and complete all treatment programs recommended to continue enrollment and progression. The College may require immediate in-patient treatment. All costs associated with any evaluation/treatment process are the responsibility of the student.

VII. ATI

The College of Nursing has contracted with Assessment Technologies Incorporated (ATI) to administer computerized testing throughout the curriculum to ascertain student knowledge and enhance preparation for the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX®). Computerized exams are directly associated with specific content areas in the curriculum. Course fees will be charged and appear directly on the student's U-Bill to cover the cost of these exams. In addition to the computerized testing, students will receive review books for each content area where computerized testing is administered.

VIII. NCLEX Examination and Licensure

All graduating MSN EIP students who plan to take the NCLEX® examination in Iowa will receive information about both the exam and required licensure procedures at the end of their final semester. Students complete all necessary applications for licensure and the NCLEX® examination at a special meeting. The NCLEX® examinations are offered at Pearson Professional Centers. Successful completion of the NCLEX® examination and graduation from a State-approved nursing program are requirements for licensure as a Registered Nurse in Iowa. Students taking the NCLEX® examination outside of the State of Iowa need to contact the Board of Nursing in the state where they wish to become licensed. Specific requirements and procedures vary from state to state. Students are encouraged to enroll in a formal NCLEX® review course prior to taking the NCLEX® examination.

IX. Iowa Board of Nursing Guidelines

- a. All applicants who have a criminal conviction(s), other than a minor traffic violation, must submit copy(s) of the sentencing order(s) when submitting application materials for licensure. At the time of application, the Iowa Board of Nursing will review each individual application and criminal record. The Board of Nursing will make the final decision regarding licensure.

- b. The Iowa Board of Nursing will require an official transcript. Transcript request forms will be available at the graduation prep meeting that addresses licensure requirements. Transcripts are requested from the Office of the Registrar. The College of Nursing does not issue transcripts. Not all states require transcripts. Students should access other states application by examination to determine if transcripts are required to become licensed in that particular state.

X. Graduation Information

- a. Registration for Commencement: Final responsibility for meeting graduation requirements resides with the student. Students must be registered during the semester they plan to graduate. Registration for Commencement is to be completed online at the [Graduate College Graduation Checklist](#). All forms must be completed by the deadlines posted each semester. If you have filed these forms previously, all must be re-filed by the deadline. More information regarding dates, commencement, and other pertinent information can be found at the [Office of the Registrar](#) website.
- b. Application for Degree: The application for degree is to be completed via MyUI.
- c. Nondoctoral Plan of Study Sheet: The Graduate Programs Office will complete this form and submit to the Graduate College with the grade report by the appropriate deadline. Note that the prerequisite statistics course and any credit over 10 years old cannot be applied toward your degree unless approved by the Graduate College. The petition to accept courses over 10 years old will be prepared and submitted by the Graduate Programs Office.
- d. If you have any questions, contact the Graduate Programs Office.