

**NEOSHO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MARY GRIMES SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Academic Counseling Policy

Purpose and Philosophy on Mentoring and Learning Enhancement

There is no single criteria that points to student success. Each nursing students' progression and performance is going to vary based on the experiences that they bring to the learning environment, so there will be some individualization when considering student success strategies. Thus, all MGSON students are encouraged to make use of the student success strategies that nursing faculty make available to them.

Mary Grimes School of Nursing follows NCCC's policy of academic advising and counseling. Students may meet with an advisor by appointment. The advisor can offer assistance in solving academic problems through a self-examination process. An advisor will provide guidance in evaluating attitudes, goals, and values. Each full-time or degree-seeking student at Neosho County Community College is assigned an academic advisor.

Nursing students are assigned a nursing faculty mentor upon entry into the nursing program. This faculty member also serves as their academic advisor. Communication between the nursing faculty mentor and student mentee is a vital part of achieving student success. MGSON students are encouraged to meet with their mentors on a regular schedule. Nursing Faculty mentors can assist nursing students in identifying possible barriers to successful student performance and make recommendations for strategies to enhance student performance. Ultimately, it is the nursing student's responsibility to make the adjustments in behaviors that will help them be more successful. See the MGSON Mentoring plan for specific guidelines.

The nursing student's perceptions regarding their performance is an important factor that can ultimately influence student performance. Thus, MGSON students are encouraged to engage in positive self-talk and refrain from developing a negative perspective. MGSON nursing faculty strongly believe that intelligence is not fixed and failure is not permanent. The goal of the learning enhancement program is to identify students at risk early in the nursing program in order to promote the optimal outcome for each student.

There are a number of interrelated factors influencing the nursing student's ability to be successful in the nursing program. Generally speaking, these factors fall into three categories:

- Factors identified through the admission process
- Study Skills
- Test-taking skills

Admission Process

Research has shown that students with a GPA of greater than 3.0 tend to be more successful in nursing programs. This does not imply that the student with a GPA less than 3.0 will not be successful but it does suggest that students who have a GPA less than 3.0 should consider themselves at risk and engage in frequent monitoring and student success strategies to make them more successful.

Scores on pre-admission standardized testing, such as the ATI TEAS test and ATI A & P test, can also be predictive of risk. Students scoring lower in the areas of math competency, reading competency, and science competency are considered to be at risk for not being successful in the

nursing program. Again, this does not imply that the student with lower scores in these areas will not be successful, but it does suggest that the student needs to be aware of the possible need to participate in student success strategies to help them be more successful.

Learning Enhancement Plan

Research supports the use of active learning strategies, bringing clinical into the classroom and repetition to promote the student's retention of new material. Therefore, nursing faculty will base their classroom presentations and unit assignments on these principles. Students will be expected to come to the learning environment prepared to engage in the learning experience for the day.

The frequent recall of new information is important for retaining information for the long-term. Nursing faculty will use pre-class and post-class assignments/tests to assist the student in revisiting the new content and, hopefully, establishing recall of the new information.

Study and Test-taking Skills

Nursing faculty will provide instruction regarding study and test-taking strategies as part of a learning enhancement plan in the first semester of the program. Additionally, nursing students are encouraged to enroll in NURS 103 Strategies for Nursing Student Success which is an elective designed to further strengthen study and test-taking skills.

Nursing exams are unique in that nursing test questions will not ask the student to simply recall learned material. Instead, nursing test questions will ask the nursing student to make decisions in the context of a patient care situation that will demonstrate application of learned principles.

Nursing faculty acknowledge that test anxiety is a very real thing and will offer guidelines for approaching test anxiety. However, in some cases, it may be necessary to seek accommodations for testing and/or assistance from a counselor in this area.

Learning Enhancement Performance Agreements

MGSON faculty will use three defined referral points when determining the student who is at risk for being unsuccessful in the nursing program and initiating a Learning Enhancement Performance Agreement. These referral points include:

- when risk is identified on admission as determined by admission criteria and standardized testing;
- when performance on any unit exam falls below the 80% passing standard;
- when the student is returning to repeat a course that they have previously been unsuccessful in and falls below 80% in either the assignment or exam category;
 - Students that are returning to MGSON to repeat a course will also be put on an academic contract, which is a formal agreement between student and faculty, to monitor their progress from the beginning of the course.

Nursing students falling into any of these three categories will be asked to meet with their mentor and establish a Learning Enhancement Performance Agreement in the hopes of providing additional support to promote their success in the nursing program.

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