January 22, 2016

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.

**Attendance Policy Clarification:** Please see the attached addendum to your Nursing Program Student Manual. This change was made at the request of students to clarify this guideline, especially given that the clinical hours for NUR 220 and NUR 230 may vary from hospital site to hospital site. The allowable clinical absences for all other courses remains the same:

- NUR 110- Foundation & Health Promotion Concepts for Nursing Practice 8 hours
- NUR 130- Basic Health Concepts for Nursing Practice 8 hours
- NUR 240- Complex Health Concepts for Nursing Practice 16 hours

If you have any questions related to this clarification you may contact me directly at kmayle@ccac.edu.

**Nursing Admissions Entrance Exam Test:**

The Nursing Division has implemented 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.
All students who are reapplying for readmission must take the TEAS V test. CCAC has begun testing at all campus sites and will start testing at the CalU site later this year. The cost of the test is $76.

**NCLEX Scores:** October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 (Congratulations CCAC Graduates!!!):

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### Accomplishments

- **Significantly improved NCLEX first time pass rates on all 5 nursing program sites October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Fail</th>
<th>Pass</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Pass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegheny</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyce</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>95.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CalU</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>96.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td><strong>240</strong></td>
<td><strong>271</strong></td>
<td><strong>88.56%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**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.

**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.

All interested students accepted into the nursing program (or currently enrolled) 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.

**Benefits of the CCAC-Carlow University Joint Admissions Program:**
*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).
**Student Forums and Student Participation in Meetings:** As Dean of Nursing I want to encourage all students to participate in the Campus based Student Forums (look out for announcements on your campus) and to become engaged by serving on one of the 5 Nursing Councils. Both are great opportunities for you to have input into your nursing education.

Sincerely,

\[Signature\]

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