

• Nursing Department Policy on COVID - 19

- As to the COVID – 19 Pandemic, We; SWOCC Vice President of Instruction (VPI), Nursing Director, and Faculty; wanted to make a collaborative statement to our Nursing Students. We do have a Plan A, B, C, & D. We will only be discussing Plan A here as we have no desire to add to the atmosphere of uncertainty, we will cross other bridges when the need arises.
- We understand your concerns about COVID-19, this is a scary time and the situation has created much fear. However, choosing the nursing profession as a career, this is a harsh lesson in the reality of Nursing; you are getting a glimpse of early on in your journey. As **NURSING** students, you are **exempt** from the order by the State of Oregon not to be on campus or working, YOU are vital in this situation. **(This means that you can come to campus for scheduled Lecture and Lab only.)** Education is key, and our faculty provide you with training regarding Standard Precautions, Isolation, and Personal Protective Equipment in preparation for caring for patients who may have contagious illnesses. This is the real world Nursing, the Covid situation is an opportunity for Nursing Programs to make some very strong nurses.
- In clinical, you will not be assigned to COVID-19 patients. However, you will need to continue to use good judgment in caring for your patients and interacting with others. This includes proper handwashing techniques, personal distancing, and wearing face coverings. You will have your Clinical Nursing Faculty to support you and guide you to ensure you are following any specific hospital protocols. Our primary goal is your safety. If you have a concern that you may have been exposed to a **suspected** case of COVID 19 we will ask you to self-isolate for **14 days** or until the **suspected** COVID-19 case has been **disproved** per Oregon Health Department and Higher Education Coordinating Commission guidelines. **Please notify your Faculty and Clinical Faculty if you are concerned ASAP.**
- Our program is not planning to change our clinical rotation to offer alternatives at this time. This is a fluid situation. The Director of Nursing is in touch with the Board of Nursing, Hospital Administrators, SWOCC Administration, and OCNE. We have already made numerous modifications within the regulations and guidelines of the State to assure we meet the standards required for nursing education. We are very fortunate to have the clinical placements intact and the cooperative and collegial relationships with our clinical sites. Colleges and Universities who are not offering clinical and delaying classes, withdrawing students, or converting to simulations for clinical are only do so because they have lost their clinical sites and have no other way to for their Nursing Students to complete their required clinical hours.

- **IF a Student would be unable to complete the term requirements for Lab, Exams, or Clinical related to illness or exposure to Covid – 19, during this unprecedented time, we would be able to grant that student an incomplete for the Class and give them the opportunity to complete their requirements for the class the following term that the class is offered (possibly the following year). Students choosing this option would need to remain flexible. Please note that not all Clinical sites, Clinical faculty, or Shifts would be available.**

- We will be following proper cleaning protocols, implementation of face coverings and personal (social) distancing.
 - The use of the **Hales Center** (with a seating capacity of greater than 500) for Nursing Lectures on the Coos Campus;
 - 1st year students 9-12 M/F
 - 2nd year students 1-4 M/F
 - Implementation on a numbering system for students to be scheduled for one-on-one labs with Lab Faculty.
 - The students will:
 - Have temperature checks as they walk in the building
 - Any student with an elevated temp greater than **100.4 F/ 38 C** will be asked to leave campus
 - Have proper PPE.
 - Personal Masks will be worn at all times in Lecture and Lab
 - The Lab experience will also require Personal Eye Protection (Student to Provide) and disposable gloves (provided by the Nursing Department).
 - Be spaced 6 feet or greater apart
 - Lab Faculty to monitor during check-offs in Coos and Curry.
 - In the lecture hall students will seated every 6th chair or greater.
 - Have a disinfected environment
 - The Hales will be cleaned between 1st and 2nd year student groups
 - Mannequins will be wiped down between groups and use different mannequins with each new group.

Finally, as nurses, we are often at the center of public health emergencies and other crises and are called upon to respond to a variety of different situations. Historically, nurses have rallied as a profession during prior pandemics, flu and local disease outbreaks, natural disasters, 911, Hurricane Katrina, wars, and the like. Potential exposure to contagious illnesses is one of the constant safety concerns. In the Nursing profession, you will undoubtedly face another crisis or similar pandemic event during your career or faced with another public health emergency. This may be a fork in the road for some of you. Please evaluate your career plan and think about whether this is the right career choice for you.