

Purpose

To identify program specific academic standards designed to academically prepare high quality health care practitioners.

Policy Detail

Academic Warning

PA College utilizes an early alert system (Starfish) that allows faculty to proactively raise awareness when a student is in jeopardy of being unsuccessful in a course. When this happens, students, as well as support staff, receive an electronic notification outlining success resources available to the student.

Academic Probation

- A. Undergraduate students must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or better. Failure to maintain a GPA of 2.0 or better will result in academic probation. Students on academic probation are not eligible to progress into program specific courses (NUR, DMS, NMT, etc.). Probationary status for two (2) consecutive semesters will result in dismissal from PA College.

Prerequisite Requirements

Prior to beginning a course, prerequisites must be completed with the required grade. For Sciences & Humanities courses, students must achieve a grade of “D-” (60%) or higher in prerequisite courses. Additionally, students must meet program-specific minimum course requirements to progress within the program, as specified below.

Failure to Meet Minimum Course Requirements

Students who have taken a course at PA College and earned a grade less than that which is required must repeat the course at PA College and achieve the required grade in order to earn course credit toward graduation. **No course with a grade less than that which is required may be repeated more than once.** The newly earned grade will become the grade of record for the purposes of transcripts, GPA computations and determination of academic progression. CLEP or course challenges are not acceptable replacements for repeating courses completed without a required passing grade.

Diploma/Certificate Graduates Seeking a Degree

Students who have graduated from PA College with a diploma or certificate may re-enroll to pursue a degree. Credits from courses taken at the College, transfer credits accepted upon matriculation into a diploma/certificate program, and up to six (6) transfer credits taken after matriculation into the degree program will be considered for acceptance toward the degree. If the six (6) transfer credits were completed after graduation, acceptance of transfer will be based upon applicability toward the requirements for the degree as stated in the current catalog.

Program Specific Academic Standards

Any student not earning the required grade in a program-specific course will be dismissed from the program. To resume enrollment in the program, students must reapply and be accepted. Refer to the links below for program-specific academic standards requirements.

A. Associate Programs, Technical & Academic Certificates

1. [Cardiovascular Invasive Specialty \(CIS\)](#)

2. [Cardiovascular Technology \(CVT\)](#)
3. [Diagnostic Medical Sonography \(DMS\)](#)
4. [Medical Laboratory Science \(MLS\)](#)
5. [Nuclear Medicine Technology \(NMT\)](#)
6. [Nursing \(ASN\)](#)
7. [Paramedic \(EMS\)](#)
8. [Radiography \(RAD\)](#)
9. [Respiratory Care \(RCP\)](#)
10. [Surgical Technology \(SUR\)](#)
11. [Vascular Sonography \(VAS\)](#)

B. *Baccalaureate Programs*

1. [Healthcare Administration \(BSHA\) & Health Sciences \(BSHS\)](#)
2. [Nursing \(BSN\)](#)
 - i. [Pre-Licensure Track](#)
 - ii. [RN to BSN Track](#)

A. *Associate Programs, Technical & Academic Certificates*

1. *Cardiovascular Invasive Specialty (CIS)*

- i. Students in the CIS program must complete the following courses with a grade of “C” (74%) or higher and achieve an overall GPA of 2.0 to be eligible for progression into second-year clinical coursework (exceptions may be made with the permission of the Program Director of Cardiovascular Programs):

BIO 175	Human Anatomy & Physiology I
BIO 176	Human Anatomy & Physiology II
ENG 100	English Composition
HSC 100	Medical Terminology
HSC 101	Methods of Patient Care
MAT 150	Clinical Mathematics for the Health Sciences
<i>or</i>	
MAT 160	College Algebra
PHY 150	Physics

- ii. Students must complete the following additional courses with a grade of “C” (74%) or higher:

CIS 205	Invasive Procedures I
CIS 207	Advanced Procedures
CIS 208	Introduction to Radiology
CIS 215	Hemodynamics
CIS 221	Cardiac A&P
CIS 232	Introduction to Electrophysiology
CIS 240	Cardiovascular Pharmacology
HSC 160	Rhythm Analysis & 12-Lead ECG
PHI 210	Ethical & Legal Dimension in the Health Sciences

- iii. Students must complete the following additional clinical courses with a grade of “B” (84%) or higher:

CIS 201	Clinical Cardiovascular Laboratory
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CIS 210	Clinical Cardiology I
CIS 230	Clinical Cardiology II
CIS 250	Clinical Cardiology III

2. Cardiovascular Technology (CVT)

- i. Students in the CVT program must complete the following courses with a grade of “C” (74%) or higher and achieve an overall GPA of 2.0 to be eligible for progression into second-year clinical coursework:

BIO 175	Human Anatomy & Physiology I
BIO 176	Human Anatomy & Physiology II
CSS 101	College Studies Seminar
ENG 100	English Composition
HSC 100	Medical Terminology
HSC 101	Methods of Patient Care
MAT 160	College Algebra
PHI 210	Ethical & Legal Dimensions in the Health Sciences
PHY 150	Physics
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology
<i>or</i>	
SOC 200	Cultural Diversity

- ii. Students must complete the following additional courses with a grade of “C” (74%) or higher:

CVT 205	Cardiac Invasive Procedures
CVT 206	Cardiac Anatomy & Physiology
CVT 207	Advanced Procedures
CVT 208	Introduction to Radiology
CVT 217	Cardiovascular Hemodynamics
CVT 218	Implantable Cardiac Device Theory
CVT 221	Cardiac Arrhythmias & Treatments
CVT 225	Cardiac Pharmacology
HSC 160	Rhythm & 12-Lead ECG Analysis
HSC 200	Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)

- iii. Students must complete the following additional clinical/lab courses with a grade of “B” (84%) or higher:

CVT 204	Cardiovascular Simulation Lab
CVT 215	Clinical I
CVT 230	Clinical II
CVT 235	Clinical III

3. Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS)

- i. Students in the DMS program must complete the following courses with a grade of “C” (74%) or higher and achieve a minimum overall GPA of 2.0 to be eligible for progression into second-year clinical coursework:

BIO 175	Human Anatomy & Physiology I
BIO 176	Human Anatomy & Physiology II

ENG 100	English Composition
HSC 100	Medical Terminology
HSC 101	Methods of Patient Care
MAT 160	College Algebra
PHY 150	Physics

- ii. To meet requirements for successful completion of the DMS program, students must complete all DMS prefix courses with a grade of "C" (74%) or higher.

4. Medical Laboratory Science (MLS)

- i. To meet requirements for successful completion of the MLS program, students must complete all MLS prefix courses with a grade of "C" (74%) or higher.

5. Nuclear Medicine Technology (NMT)

- i. Associate Degree students in the NMT program must complete the following courses with a grade of "C" (74%) or higher to be eligible for progression into second-year clinical coursework:

BIO 175	Human Anatomy & Physiology I
BIO 176	Human Anatomy & Physiology II
ENG 100	English Composition
HSC 100	Medical Terminology
HSC 101	Methods of Patient Care
MAT 160	College Algebra
PHY 150	Physics

- ii. All NMT Students must complete the following courses with a grade of "C" (74%) or higher:

HSC 195	Cross-Sectional Anatomy
HSC 100	Medical Terminology
HSC 101	Methods of Patient Care
HSC 195	Cross-Sectional Anatomy
PHI 210	Ethical & Legal Dimensions in the Health Sciences
NMT 201	Nuclear Medicine Theory I
NMT 202	Nuclear Medicine Theory II
NMT 203	Nuclear Medicine Theory III

- iii. All students must complete the following additional courses with a grade of "B" (84%) or higher:

NMT 211	Nuclear Medicine Clinical I
NMT 212	Nuclear Medicine Clinical II
NMT 213	Nuclear Medicine Internship

6. Nursing (ASN)

- i. All Sciences & Humanities courses required for program completion must be repeated if the student earns a grade below a "C" (74%).
- ii. A grade of "C+" (77%) or higher is required in NUR courses.
- iii. Prior to beginning NUR 201, NUR 203 or NUR 204, students must successfully complete the following courses with a minimum grade of "C" (74%):

- BIO 175 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
- BIO 176 Human Anatomy & Physiology II
- MAT 150 Clinical Mathematics for the Health Sciences
- ENG 100 English Composition
- PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology
- iv. Prior to beginning NUR 202, NUR 205 or NUR 206, students must successfully complete the following courses with a minimum grade of "C" (74%):
 - BIO 185 Microbiology
 - BIO 250 Nutrition for Life
- v. Three-Year Track: Prior to beginning NUR courses, all students must complete the following courses with a minimum grade of "C" (74%):
 - BIO 175 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
 - BIO 176 Human Anatomy & Physiology II
- vi. Licensed practical nurses taking the (LPN) Assessment Module:
 - a. Prior to entering the LPN Assessment Module, students must complete the following courses with a minimum grade of "C" (74%):
 - BIO 175 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
 - BIO 176 Human Anatomy & Physiology II
 - ENG 100 English Composition
 - MAT 150 Clinical Mathematics for the Health Sciences
 - PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology
 - b. Students who successfully complete the LPN Assessment Module are exempt from taking NUR 101, NUR 111, NUR 102 and NUR 112
 - c. Prior to beginning a 200 level NUR course, students must:
 - Have worked a minimum of 1,000 hours in the prior two years as an LPN;
 - Completed three additional Sciences & Humanities course credits.
- vii. Students may repeat a maximum of 25% of the NUR courses within a track. Students exceeding these criteria will be dismissed from the program.
 - a. Students in the two-year track can repeat two NUR courses.
 - b. Students in the three-year track can repeat three NUR courses.
 - c. Students entering the program in the second year of the two-year track can repeat one NUR course.
 - d. Students entering the program in the second year of the three-year track can repeat two NUR courses.
- viii. If a student transfers between tracks within the program, all previous unsuccessful attempts of NUR courses will be counted.
- ix. Students may not fail more than three of the following courses. Students exceeding these criteria will be dismissed from the program.
 - BIO 175 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
 - BIO 176 Human Anatomy & Physiology II
 - BIO 185 Microbiology
 - BIO 250 Nutrition for Life
 - ENG 100 English Composition
 - MAT 150 Clinical Mathematics for the Health Sciences
 - PHI 210 Ethical & Legal Dimensions in the Health Sciences

PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology
SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology

- x. Once NUR clinical courses have started, the maximum time students may be out of NUR clinical courses is one academic year.
- xi. Prior to a student re-entering the program of study, faculty reserve the right to assign placement in the curriculum and to require remedial activities.
- xii. Theory courses are pre or co-requisites for corresponding clinical courses.
- xiii. Clinical courses may not be continued if the co-requisite theory course is dropped; however, theory courses may be continued if the co-requisite clinical course is dropped.
- xiv. Successful completion of Assessment Technologies Incorporated (ATI) tests is required for academic progression. For detailed information, refer to the [Division of Nursing Undergraduate Student Handbook](#).
- xv. Students must have an active RN license to begin service-learning requirements.

7. Paramedic (EMS)

- i. Students in the Paramedic program must complete the following courses with a grade of "B-" (80%) or higher to be eligible for progression into subsequent semester coursework:

EMS 201 Basic Paramedic Curriculum
EMS 202 Basic Paramedic Curriculum II
EMS 203 Basic Paramedic Curriculum III

- ii. Students will need to satisfactorily complete the corresponding Clinical Phase prior to progression into subsequent semester coursework:

EMS 201 Clinical Phase 1
EMS 202 Clinical Phase 2
EMS 203 Clinical Phases 3 & 4

- iii. Students will also need to complete the required clinical hours for each course as detailed in the course syllabus.

8. Radiography (RAD)

- i. Students in the RAD program must complete the following courses with a grade of "C" (74%) or higher and achieve a minimum overall GPA of 2.0 to be eligible for progression into subsequent year coursework:

BIO 175 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
BIO 176 Human Anatomy & Physiology II
ENG 100* English Composition
HSC 100 Medical Terminology
HSC 101 Methods of Patient Care
HSC 195* Cross-Sectional Anatomy
MAT 160* College Algebra
PHI 210* Ethical & Legal Dimensions in the Health Sciences
SOC 200* Cultural Diversity
RAD 101 Radiographic Procedures I
RAD 103 Radiographic Procedures II

RAD 105	Radiographic Procedures III
RAD 131	Radiologic Science I
RAD 132	Radiologic Science II
RAD 207*	Advanced Radiographic Procedures I
RAD 209*	Advanced Radiographic Procedures II
RAD 233*	Radiologic Science III
RAD 240*	Radiation Biology

- ii. Students must complete the following Radiography clinical courses with a grade of “B” (84%) or higher:

RAD 102	Clinical Practice I
RAD 104	Clinical Practice II
RAD 106	Clinical Practice III
RAD 208*	Clinical Practice IV
RAD 210*	Clinical Practice V

** Typically a second-year course*

- iii. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 to be eligible for graduation.

9. Respiratory Care (RCP)

- i. Students in the RCP program must complete the following courses with a grade of “C” (74%) or higher prior to graduation:

BIO 175	Human Anatomy & Physiology I
BIO 176	Human Anatomy & Physiology II
HSC 100	Medical Terminology
HSC 101	Methods of Patient Care
PHI 210	Ethical & Legal Dimensions in the Health Sciences
RCP 110	Respiratory Care Procedures I
RCP 120	Respiratory Care Lab I
RCP 130	Respiratory Care Theory I
RCP 140	Respiratory Care Procedures II
RCP 150	Respiratory Care Lab II
RCP 160	Respiratory Care Theory II
RCP 201	Entry Level Review
RCP 210	Respiratory Care Procedures III
RCP 220	Respiratory Care Lab III
RCP 230	Respiratory Care Theory III
RCP 251	Respiratory Care Procedures & Diagnostics IV
RCP 260	Respiratory Care Lab/Clinical IV
RCP 271	Respiratory Care Theory & Application IV
RCP 280	Advanced Level Respiratory Care Review

- ii. The following courses must be passed with a grade of “B” (84%) or higher prior to graduation:

RCP 240	Clinical Level I
RCP 290	Clinical Level II

- iii. HSC 101 must be taken prior to or concurrently with the student’s first RCP course.
iv. BIO 176 must be taken prior to or concurrently with RCP 130 Respiratory Theory I.

10. Surgical Technology (SUR)

- i. Students in the SUR program must complete the following courses with a grade of “C” (74%) or higher and achieve an overall GPA of 2.0 to be eligible for academic progression within the program and graduation:

BIO 175	Human Anatomy & Physiology I
BIO 176	Human Anatomy & Physiology II
BIO 185	Microbiology
CMP 150	Digital Foundations Seminar
HSC 100	Medical Terminology
HSC 101	Methods of Patient Care
MAT 150	Clinical Mathematics for the Health Sciences
PHI 210	Ethical & Legal Dimensions in the Health Sciences
SUR 100	Perioperative Services
SUR 102	Perioperative Pharmacology
SUR 103	Surgical Armamentarium
SUR 104	Perioperative Lab
SUR 110	Intraoperative Patient Care
SUR 111	Intraoperative Lab
SUR 200	Surgical Procedures I
SUR 202	Surgical Services Clinical I
SUR 210	Surgical Procedures II
SUR 211	Surgical Services Clinical II
SUR 212	Professionalism in Surgical Technology
SUR 221	Surgical Services Clinical III

- ii. A passing grade, “D-” (60%) or higher) is required for all other required Sciences & Humanities courses.
- iii. Students must attempt the NBSTSA certification exam prior to graduation.

11. Vascular Sonography (VAS)

- i. Students in the VAS program must complete the following courses with a grade of “C” (74%) or higher and achieve a minimum overall GPA of 2.0 to be eligible for progression into second-year clinical coursework:

BIO 175	Human Anatomy & Physiology I
BIO 176	Human Anatomy & Physiology II
ENG 100	English Composition
HSC 100	Medical Terminology
HSC 101	Methods of Patient Care
MAT 160	College Algebra
PHY 150	Physics

- ii. To meet requirements for successful completion of the VAS program, students must complete all VAS prefix courses with a grade of “C” (74%) or higher.

B. Baccalaureate Programs

1. Healthcare Administration (BSHA) & Health Sciences (BSHS)

- i. A grade of “C” (74%) or higher is required for all core courses with the exception of HCA 448 (Introduction to Internship) and HCA 449 (Healthcare Administration Internship) which require a grade of “B” (84%) or higher.
- ii. Students may progress in the program as long as the attempted course is not a prerequisite for another course.
- iii. Students may repeat a maximum of 3 of the following courses. Any student exceeding this criterion will be dismissed from the program.

BS in Healthcare Administration Core Courses

ECO 310	American Health Care System
ECO 350	Economics of Health Care
HCA 200	Principles of Health Care Administration
HCA 301	Health Care Marketing
HCA 305	Data Analysis
HCA 335	Human Resources in Health Care
HCA 340	Legal Issues in Health Care
HCA 350	Leading Change in Health Care
HCA 400	Health Information Management
HCA 410	Health Care Quality
HCA 415	Health Care Finance
HCA 420	Health Care Planning & Policy
HCA 448	Introduction to Internship
HCA 449	Internship in Health Care Administration
HSC 100	Medical Terminology
HSC 300	Organizational Behavior
HSC 402	Leadership
IPC 302	Introduction to Capstone
IPC 322	Teaching & Learning
IPC 401	Research in Health Care
IPC 447	Project Management
IPC 450	Capstone
PHS 220	Introduction to Public Health

BS in Health Sciences Core Courses

HCA 200*	Principles of Health Care Administration
HCA 305*	Data Analysis
HCA 335*	Human Resources in Health Care
HCA 410*	Health Care Quality
HCA 415*	Health Care Finance
HSC 300	Organizational Behavior
HSC 402	Leadership
IPC 302	Introduction to Capstone
IPC 322	Teaching & Learning
IPC 401	Research in Health Care
IPC 450	Capstone

Any 300 or 400 level clinical course specific to discipline*

* *Course taken dependent on career goals*

2. Nursing (BSN)

i. Pre-Licensure Track

- a. A grade of "C+" (77%) or higher is required for all courses with a clinical component except IPC 450.
- b. A grade of "C" (74%) or higher is required for all other courses.
- c. Students may repeat a maximum of two of the following courses with a clinical component. Students exceeding these criteria will be dismissed from the program.

NUR 170	Foundational Nursing I
NUR 270	Foundational Nursing II
NUR 275	Health & Illness I
NUR 295	Health & Illness II
NUR 349	Nursing Internship
NUR 355	Health & Illness III
NUR 405	Health & Illness IV
IPC 450	Capstone

- d. Students may repeat a maximum of three of the following courses. Any student exceeding these criteria will be dismissed from the program.

IPC 302	Introduction to Capstone
IPC 322	Teaching & Learning
IPC 330	Health Informatics & Technology
IPC 401	Research in Health Care
NUR 151	Professional Nursing Student Experience
NUR 160	History of Theory of Nursing Practice
NUR 260	Pharmacology
NUR 311	Cultural Care in Nursing
NUR 320	Health Assessment
NUR 406	Clinical Decision Making
NUR 410	Issues & Trends in Nursing
NUR 421	Leadership and Transition to Practice
NUR 430	Nursing in a Global Society

- e. Once NUR clinical courses have started, the maximum time students may be out of NUR clinical courses is one academic year.
- f. Prior to a student re-entering the program of study, faculty reserve the right to assign placement in the curriculum and to require remedial activities.
- g. NUR 421 must be taken in the last year of the program.
- h. NUR 406 must be taken in the last semester of the program.
- i. IPC 450 must be taken in the last semester of the program during the last 5 weeks.
- j. Successful completion of standardized testing is required for academic progression. For detailed information, refer to the [Division of Nursing Undergraduate Student Handbook](#).

ii. RN to BSN Track

- a. A grade of "C" or higher is required for all core courses.

- b. Students may repeat a maximum of 3 of the following courses. Students exceeding this criterion will be dismissed from the program.

RN to BSN Core Courses

- IPC 302 Introduction to Capstone
- IPC 322 Teaching & Learning
- IPC 401 Research in Health Care
- IPC 450 Capstone
- NUR 301 Conceptual Foundations of Nursing Practice
- NUR 310 Human Diversity and Health Care

or

- NUR 311 Cultural Care in Nursing
- NUR 321 Health & Physical Assessment

or

- NUR 340 Comprehensive Health Assessment
- NUR 410 Issues & Trends in Nursing
- NUR 420 Nursing Leadership & Management
- NUR 430 Nursing in a Global Society

*Sciences & Humanities Courses**

- ECO 150 Survey of Economics
- ECO 310 American Health Care System
- ENG 300 Advanced Composition for Health Care
- MAT 260 Statistics
- PHI 330 Ethical Issues in Health Care

** Does not apply to students matriculated prior to Fall 2017*

- c. Students are expected to complete ENG 300, PHI 330, ECO 150, ECO 310, MAT 260 and NUR/IPC core courses prior to IPC 450.
- d. Students must obtain their RN license within one year of starting the program and maintain an active RN license throughout the RN to BSN program. If an RN license is not obtained within one year or the license is not active, the student may not continue in the core RN to BSN nursing courses.
- e. Students must have an active RN license before starting any service-learning hours.
- f. Students must secure employment or volunteer in a health care setting for eight hours weekly by the beginning of the second semester of enrollment. Students must maintain employment or volunteering in a health care setting for eight hours weekly throughout the program. Students not able to meet this requirement may not continue in the core RN to BSN nursing courses.

References: [Division of Nursing Undergraduate Student Handbook](#)

Audience:	Undergraduate Students
Date Issued:	05/17/04
Date Approved by Faculty:	05/17/04, 11/29/07

Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences
ACADEMIC POLICY STATEMENT

Issued: 05/17/04
Last Revised: 06/22/20
Last Reviewed: 06/22/20

Policy 2.2.1

Undergraduate Academic Progression

Date Revised:	06/28/07, 01/23/08, 03/26/08, 02/18/09, 02/25/09, 06/15/09, 05/19/10, 06/16/10, 05/23/11, 01/23/12, 02/27/12, 03/26/12, 01/28/13, 01/27/14, 03/17/14, 06/10/14, 01/26/15, 02/23/15, 03/16/15, 04/27/15, 05/11/15, 05/20/15, 07/14/15, 02/22/16, 05/16/16, 05/20/16, 06/01/16, 06/16/16, 07/13/16, 09/26/16, 02/27/17, 03/27/17, 04/24/17, 05/22/17, 06/07/17, 01/22/18, 05/21/18, 06/01/18, 06/04/18, 07/13/18, 07/31/18, 10/22/18, 2/25/19, 02/24/20, 04/27/20, 06/22/20
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Owner:	Program Directors & Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs