



Course Syllabus: Clinical Decision-making and Clinical
College of Health Sciences and Human Services
NURS 4613 and 4612
Spring 2021

Contact Information

Course Coordinator: Robin Lockhart

Office: CE 440V

Office hours: You can book an appointment at

<https://lockhartmwsu.youcanbook.me/>

Office phone: (940) 397-4614

Cell Phone: (940) 636-2018 (preferred contact number)

E-mail: robin.lockhart@msutexas.edu (prefer e-mail via D2L instead of the office one)

Course Faculty: Mary Anderson

Office: CE 440M

Office phone: (940) 397-4046

Cell Phone: (940) 781-5811

E-mail: mary.anderson@msutexas.edu

Course Faculty: Alicia Cure

Office: CE 440K

Office phone:

Cell Phone: (903) 330-4546

E-mail: alicia.cure@msutexas.edu

Course Faculty: Kimberly Platt

Office: CE 440N

Office phone: (940) 397-4603

Cell Phone: (580) 713-2558

E-mail: kimberly.platt@msutexas.edu

Course Description

This course is an application of clinical judgment skills. Emphasis is placed on integrating previously learned concepts and theories with the student in the role of coordinator of care. Critical thinking is applied in resolving actual clinical problems.

Pre-requisites: Family Health Nursing Care II and Clinical, Pediatric Nursing Care

and Clinical, and Leadership

Credit hours: Five credit hours with three lecture hours and six clinical hours per week

Course Objectives

<p>AACN Essentials: For further information regarding the AACN Essentials identified for each course objective, refer to AACN BSN Essentials 2008</p> <p>DEC Competencies: In the DEC Competencies below, the following designations apply: I: Provider of Patient-centered Care, II: Coordinator of Care, III: Patient Safety Advocate, and IV: Member of the Health Care Team. For further information regarding the competencies identified for each course objective, refer to Texas Board of Nursing DEC's 2010</p>		
Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:	AACN	DEC
1. Apply the theories and concepts learned throughout the program to clinical situations.	I, VII	I - A, B, C, D II - A, B, C, D, E, F III - B, D, E, F IV - C, D, E, V
2. Utilize problem-solving approaches in recognizing and meeting patient care needs.	I, IX	I - B, C, D II - B, D
3. Apply clinical judgment skills in the coordination of patient care.	I, IX	I - A, B II - B, C, D, E III - B
4. Implement the nursing role of coordinator of care.	II, VI, VII, VIII, IX	I - B II - B, C, D, E III - B, F IV - A, C, D, F
5. Integrate effective communication, research, and teaching-learning principles in coordinating patient care.	II, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX	I - B II - A, B, C, F III - B, D, E IV - A, C, D, E, F
6. Evaluate effective and non-effective nursing interventions in providing care to patients.	I, II, IV, VII, VIII, IX	I - B, D II - B, C III - B IV - D
7. Examine the legal, ethical, cultural, economic, and spiritual issues related to the care of patients.	II, VII, VIII, IX	I - A II - B, C III - E, F

Required Textbooks and Supplies

Morton, P.G. & Fontaine, D. K. (2018). *Critical care nursing: A holistic approach (11th ed.)* 978149. Wolters Kluwer. ISBN: 9781496315625

Lippincott DocuCare and PassPoint. Purchase website is

<https://lippincottdirect.lww.com/NursingEducation-MidwesternStateUniversityWichitaFalls-Fall2021>

DocuCare Class codes: Section 201 – Prof. Anderson – **7E61A221**

Section 202 – Prof. Cure - **C3366C9B**

Section 203 – Prof. Platt - **B111A367**

PassPoint Class code: **464E6A3F**

Top Hat (will receive an e-mail to purchase and join the course)

Nursing Central.

Exemplify for ExamSoft access

Laptop computer or computer tablet

Learning Experiences

Students are expected to be self-directed in the acquisition of basic nursing knowledge. Learning activities available to students include by are not limited to:

1. Course activities (NURS 4613): Information relevant to each unit of study will be presented prior to and in class. Students should come to class prepared to participate using Nursing Central resources.
2. Clinical (NURS 4612): A total of 90 clinical hours will be completed.
3. Readings (NURS 4613 and 4612): Assigned readings are essential for each unit of study.
4. Desire 2 Learn (D2L) supplement: Is available as a communication tool. Students are expected to check their D2L course for course announcements each 24 hours.
5. Midwestern State University BSN Handbook: Is available from the MSU homepage. Refer to: [BSN Student Handbook](#)

MSU Student Handbook

Refer to: [MSU Student Handbook](#)

Grading

Table 1: Course Grade

*Assignments	Percentage
**Unit Exams (4 exams each worth 18.75% of total grade)	75
*Assignments	Percentage
***PassPoint activities	5
***Clinical Documentation (3 assignments each worth 5% of total grade)	15
***Course Activities	5
Total	100

Table 2: Course Grade Calculation

*The final course grade will be calculated in the following manner:
*There will be no rounding of grades except as necessary to accommodate the electronic testing and grade book limitations.
**Students must score at least a 74% average on the four unit exams. This is called the exam average. Students who pass clinical but do not earn at least a 74% average for the exam average will receive the exam average as the course and clinical grade.
***Students who earn at least a 74% average on the exam average and pass clinical will have the exams, PassPoint, clinical documentation, and course activities grades calculated as weighted in the table above as the course and clinical grade.
Students who fail clinical will receive an "F" as the course and clinical grade.

Table 3: Grading Scale

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	89-80
C	74-79
D	65-73
F	Less than 65

Midterm Progress

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this course will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. Midterm grades will not be reported on the student's transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with the professor and seek out tutoring through the Tutoring & Academic Support Programs (link to the website <https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp/>).

Course Activities

1. Throughout the semester, course activity points are offered. Students who complete the assignments when offered, earn the points.
2. Some of the course activity points are provided through the Top Hat platform.
3. Course lectures will be provided through the Top Hat platform and include course activities within them.
4. There are no make-up assignments for course activities.
5. The average of the points will be used as the course activities grade in the calculation of the grade after a 74% exam average is obtained on the four objective exams.

PassPoint

1. Each student is required to enroll into PassPoint.
2. On Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 0800, each student is to complete the NCLEX Prep Exam #1. The exam is adaptive. The minimum number of questions are 75 and the maximum 145. There is a five-hour time limit once the exam is begun.
3. Each week each student will complete one assignment on PassPoint as assigned. The quizzes within the assignment are adaptive and must be completed at a level 8 mastery.
4. The quizzes all open on Monday, September 23, 2021 at 0800. The due dates are located in PassPoint and on the course calendar. All are due at 2330 on the due date.
5. Each quiz within the assignment must be at least 20 questions to receive the grading as indicated below. Any client need area where there is a quiz less than 20 questions will receive a 60% no matter the mastery accomplished.
6. For each assignment, the student is to complete a remediation log (form found in D2L) for up to 10 questions missed. Those logs are due on the Monday following the assignment by 2330. The logs are to be submitted via the dropbox on D2L for the assignment.

7. On Tuesday, November 30, 2021 each student is to complete the NCLEX Prep Exam #2. There is a five-hour time limit on this exam.

8. Grades will be assigned as such:

NCLEX Prep Exam #1: 100% for a mastery level of 6 or higher.

80% for a mastery of 4 or 5.

60% for a mastery of less than 4.

0% if not completed as assigned.

NCLEX Prep Exam #2: 100% for a mastery level of 8.

89% for a mastery level of 7.

74% for a mastery level of 6.

60% for a mastery level less than 6.

0% if not completed as assigned.

Quizzes: 100% - each at a mastery level of 8.

74% - each at a mastery level of 7.

0% - each at a mastery level less than 7.

Remediation: Graded 100% if complete log submitted.

DocuCare Assignments

1. Each student will complete three DocuCare Assignments.

2. Each assignment is completed within DocuCare.

3. Each student will upload a photo or scanned copy of the completed Report Form into the Dropbox for that assignment on D2L. This activates that folder enabling the clinical instructor to grade the assignment.

4. Each assignment will be graded using the DocuCare Assignment Grading Rubric.

5. The due dates for the assignments are located on the course calendar.

6. For each day a clinical assignment is late without approval from the clinical instructor, five points will be deducted from the overall grade. This means if the student submits the assignment at 0801 on the day it is due to 0800 the day after it is due, 5 points will be deducted. Submission of 0801 through 0800 the following days will each receive a 5-point deduction.

Exams

1. Exam Soft requires loading Examplify application for taking course exams. Exam Soft is purchased online each semester.

2. The desks in CE 101 do not provide electrical outlets. It is the student's responsibility to provide an alternative charging source to ensure computer battery remains charged.

3. Students are responsible for having a compatible computer or tablet on which to participate in the course activities and take the exams.
4. Exam unit exam will be comprised of 45 multiple-choice questions and 5 Math for Nurses questions. Exams will be administered on four Fridays from 1300-1430 in CE 101. The dates are located on the course calendar.
5. All exams are comprehensive.
6. Exam Soft will provide students with user identity codes, initial passwords, and instructions on how to load Exemplify. Students must maintain ready access to user identity codes and passwords on exam days. If these access codes are not available for use, the student runs the risk of not taking an exam and earning a grade of zero.
7. If a student misses any exam, the student may take the Make-up Exam on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 1300 in CE 101. The exam will be comprehensive of the content throughout the course.

Exam Administration Instructions

1. Answer each of the 50 questions.
2. You have 90 minutes to complete the exam.
3. The exam will timeout after 90 minutes.
4. Using resources other than your own memory will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam.
5. Taking exam questions from the classroom will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam.
6. Presence of a device capable of making a call, texting, or recording either text or voice in the classroom during the testing period will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam whether the device was on or off and whether you had submitted the exam.
7. Grades will be sent with rationales for the questions missed after item analysis has been performed.
8. Upload the exam prior to leaving the classroom.
9. Close your computer prior to leaving the classroom.

10. Failure to return the scrap paper with your name on it prior to leaving the classroom will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam.

Missed Exams

Should the student be absent from an exam, it is the student's responsibility to notify the course coordinator at least two hours prior to the exam or as soon as possible if an emergency is the cause of missing the exam. Students may make-up exams on the make-up exam session as documented on the course calendar.

Failure to comply with this policy will result in a zero for the exam(s) missed. Any make-up exam may be different from the original exam and may include multiple choice, essay, short answer, true and false, and/or matching questions.

Nursing Program Failure Policy

1. Students must meet all course requirements or a grade of F will be assigned.
2. Students are expected to pass both clinical and classroom components of the course. Failure in either clinical or classroom will result in failure in both. Clinical failure results in a course and clinical grade of F. Classroom failure results in the grade earned in the classroom for both course and clinical.
3. A student who withdraws/drops or receives a D or an F in two nursing courses must seek reentry to the nursing program to be eligible to continue in the program.
4. The faculty reserves the right to recommend to the School of Nursing Chair and College of Human Services and Health Sciences withdrawal of a student from the nursing program for health, legal, or academic reasons, particularly if client care is jeopardized. In addition, the student must perform within the ANA Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics.

University Policies

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to page 24 at <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

This course adheres to the MSU Code of Conduct. In particular, academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach in academic integrity. A student's participation in this course comes with the expectation that his or her work will be completed in full observance of the MSU Code of Student Conduct. A student should consult the current Student Handbook for answers to any questions about the code.

Students are encouraged to take full advantage of many resources available including online Desire 2 Learn course resources, Internet sites, other textbooks and journals, faculty, and peers when accomplishing objectives. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive for life-long learning.

However, all components of the course are designed to represent the efforts of each student individually or each group of students individually when completing a group project and are not to be shared, copied, or plagiarized from other sources. When students submit their efforts for grading, they are attesting they abided by this rule.

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, collusion, plagiarism or the acquisition of tests or test questions and other academic materials such as test banks without the permission of the faculty. Cheating, collusion, or plagiarism is defined as: (1) cheating - intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, equipment, or study aids in any academic exercise; (2) collusion - the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit; (3) plagiarism - intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

Academic dishonesty (cheating, collusion, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated in this class. Whenever a student is unsure of whether a particular situation will be interpreted as academic dishonesty, he or she should ask the instructor for clarification.

Any student found to be academically dishonest as defined above and under each assignment will automatically receive a grade of "0" on the assignment.

Instructor Drop

An instructor may drop a student at any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the students a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the 8th week of a long 45 hours semester, the 6th week of a 10 week summer term, or the 11th class day of a 4 or 5 week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these

periods, the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date. Refer to page 27 at <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>.

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Effective September 1, 2021, House Bill 1927 become effective. In keeping with existing university policy prohibiting firearms on campus, MSU Texas, along with other components of the Texas Tech University System, has chosen to exercise the authority granted to it in Section 30.05 of the Texas Penal Code (Criminal Trespass), to prohibit persons from entering onto University property, while in possession of a firearm. On and after September 1, 2021, an individual will not be allowed to possess a firearm on MSU Texas property, unless such individual possesses a LTC issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (or an agency of another state authorized to issue such license and with which Texas maintains a reciprocity agreement). To reiterate, this prohibition **does not** forbid a person who possesses a License to Carry from carrying a concealed handgun at MSU Texas unless Section 30.06 signage is also present: all privileges, duties and responsibilities granted by law to a bona-fide LTC holder remain in full-effect at MSU Texas. Section 30.06 signs, which prohibit all handguns, may be found in certain labs, meeting rooms or other specific areas of campus. Violation of Texas PC 30.05 may expose an individual to criminal penalties, administrative sanctions, or both.

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place, which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Clinical Requirements

Clinical Hours Breakdown

Clinical Orientation

- 2.5 hours

Simulation Experiences

Assessment Check-off

- 1-hour preparation
- 20-minute assessment
- 10-minute evaluation

Simulation #1

- 1-hour preparation
- 3-hours simulation
- 4-hours documentation

Simulation #2

- 1-hour preparation
- 3-hours simulation
- 4-hours documentation

Simulation #3

- 1-hour preparation
- 3-hours simulation
- 4-hours documentation

Direct Patient Care

- Five 12-hour shifts

Evaluation

- Two 1-hour evaluations (mid-term and end-of-semester)

Clinical Compliance Requirements

Students are required to be compliant with immunizations, health insurance, liability insurance, and CPR via Castlebranch for the entire semester. Failure to maintain compliance will result in academic withdrawal from the course.

Students must complete all 90 clinical hours. This means students must complete all the clinical experiences. Failure to complete these hours will result in failure of the clinical component of the course.

Students are required to return to Dr. Lockhart at CE 440V the United Regional name badge, proximity card, and parking placard. Failure to return these items will result in failure of the clinical component of the course. The procedure for returning these items are:

1. After the last day of clinicals, place the items in one of the bags/envelopes provided in a wire basket on the wall outside the office of CE 440V.
2. By the last day of classes, place the bag/envelope containing the items back into the wire basket on the wall located outside of the office of CE 440V.

Simulation experiences

1. Students are to wear the approved dress code attire and bring a pen, paper, watch with second hand, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, exam gloves, lab pack supplies, penlight and tape measure.
2. The student is to notify the Simulation Center prior to the experience if the student needs to cancel an appointment or reschedule the experience.
3. Rescheduling of simulation experiences is on an available basis. Should there be no option for the student to complete the experience, then the student will need to seek the assistance of the clinical instructor to make-up the clinical hours.
4. Reasons for non-approval of a simulation absence are:
 - a. Failure to notify the simulation lab prior to being absent.
 - b. Being absent for a reason other than personal illness or family or personal emergency situation.
 - c. Failure to show documentation of personal illness or family or personal emergency situation.

Patient-care experiences

1. Each student is scheduled for five patient-care experiences with a preceptor from the agency.
2. Students are to report to the clinical agency by 0630 for day shift and 1830 for night shift, wearing the approved dress code attire and in possession of the required supplies (stethoscope, penlight, watch with a second hand, and a pen).
3. Students are to complete the top portion of the preceptor evaluation of the student form and give the form to the preceptor at the beginning of the rotation.
4. A thirty-minute lunch time will be provided during these time. Students may bring their lunch or purchase one at the clinical facility.
5. Absences from the patient care clinicals must be approved by the clinical instructor. The student must inform the clinical instructor before being absent from the clinical experience. The student must complete an absence form and submit it to the clinical instructor before rescheduling missed clinicals. If the instructor does not approve the absence, the student will not have an opportunity to reschedule the absence and will fail the clinical component of the course.
6. Reasons for non-approval of a clinical absence are:
 - a. Failure to notify the instructor prior to being absent.
 - b. Being absent for a reason other than personal illness or family or personal emergency situation.
 - c. Failure to show documentation of personal illness or family or personal emergency situation.
7. The student is to complete an evaluation of the preceptor following each

clinical experience and attach it within one week to the dropbox in Desire 2 Learn.

Infractions Constituting Clinical Failure

Failure of the clinical component of the course occurs when the student receives an unsatisfactory rating in any area of the evaluation tool or does not complete all 90 hours of clinical. Absences will be rescheduled at the discretion of the course coordinator.

Clinical is defined as any activity that earns the student clinical hours and includes but is not limited to patient care experiences, simulation experiences, skill practice and testing sessions, orientations, and clinical meetings.

Certain behaviors result in an unsatisfactory rating in the professional behavior section of the evaluation rubric or some form of remediation as deemed appropriate by the course faculty.

Students who receive five or more infractions within the program are no longer eligible to progress in the program. Students may repeal the decision to be removed from the program by submitting to the Student Affairs Committee a paper that explains why they should be allowed to remain in the program. The decision of the committee is final.

Three incidents of infractions to the standard of professional behavior to include but not limited to:

- Arriving to a clinical experience without bringing a completed pre-clinical assignment or the pre-simulation assignment even if allowed to stay in the clinical
- Not conforming to the dress code even if allowed to stay in the clinical
- Not bringing appropriate supplies to the clinical experience even if allowed to stay in the clinical
- Unprofessional/inappropriate language or gestures
- Unprofessional/inappropriate behavior such as disrespectful behavior, chewing gum, using tobacco products in non-smoking areas, disruptive behavior, or failure to comply with a written or verbal instruction
- Arriving late to any clinical site even if allowed to stay in the clinical
- Non-compliance with the policy to notify the instructor and the agency of a clinical absence prior to the absence or as soon as possible if immediate notification is not possible
- Non-compliance with the policy to receive written prior approval before attending the clinical and/or the policy to notify the clinical instructor of absences prior to missing the clinical or as soon as the student realizes he/she must leave the clinical experience

- Leaving the premises without permission from the clinical instructor
- Failure to complete assignments by the due dates
- Failure to return from meals or breaks at the assigned time
- Use of a cell phone for calling, texting, e-mailing, or receiving calls, texts, or e-mails in the clinical area unless given permission by the clinical instructor

Two incidents of infractions to the standard of professional behavior to include but not limited to:

- Disregarding patient confidentiality without malice or intent to disclose
- Patient negligence that does not result in patient injury
- An error in care that does not result in patient injury
- Cheating, collusion, plagiarism, or stealing. Cheating/collusion/plagiarism - cheating means intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise; collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit; plagiarism means intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise
- Committing two infractions from the list above as well as one in this list

Infractions to the standard of professional behavior that results in immediate failure of the clinical component of the course to include but not limited to:

- Administering medications or implementing sterile or invasive procedures without the direct supervision of a faculty member or preceptor
- Failing to check two patient identifiers prior to administering medications or implementing sterile or invasive procedures
- Failing to maintain compliance with clinical requirements
- An error in care or patient negligence that harms a patient
- Falsification, omissions or lying
- Intentionally revealing confidential information
- Placing self, staff, or patient at risk of harm due to abandonment of duties and/or sleeping during clinical experiences
- Failure to report a patient care error or incident
- Physical or verbal abuse of patients, patient's family members, faculty or staff
- Testing positive for illicit drugs or alcohol results in immediate ineligibility to continue in the program

Dress Code

The goal of the dress code is to present a professional appearance that does not compromise communication, safety, or infection control. Appearance that presents less than a professional appearance will not be allowed.

Clinical Uniform

- School uniform of matching maroon pants or skirt and maroon tunic top is the required uniform.
- Undershirts, if worn should be plain (solid, no adornments or logos, no patterns) and white, black, gray, or maroon that matches the uniform.
- Pants cannot touch the floor and must be hemmed properly. Pants cannot have a cuffed hem (no joggers).
- When sitting down, bending over or squatting down, or raising arms there can be no gap at the waist between the uniform pant and the top showing skin or underwear.
- No cleavage can be showing.
- Uniform must be well-laundered, without wrinkles, beyond what occurs during typical wear, and fit appropriately.
- Skirts must be knee length or longer, but may not touch the floor, must be properly hemmed and allow for ease of movement.
- Clean and closed toe and heel shoes that are black, gray, white, or maroon that matches the uniform are to be worn.
- Socks and hosiery must match either skin color, uniform or shoes.
- Proper MSU identification (MSU or approved clinical agency name tag and MSU patch). The MSU patch is obtainable at the bookstore and is to be sewn on left sleeve, centered and 1" from shoulder seam.
- MSU nametag must contain the name of the university, name of the student, designation of student, and a photograph of the student. The nametag is obtained through Card Services at the Clark Student Center.
- If a student desires a cover, he/she may wear a matching maroon scrub jacket with the appropriate name tag and MSU patch sewn on left sleeve, centered and 1" from shoulder seam.
- Hair must be self-contained and unadorned and must be a natural hair color. Any containing articles such as head wraps, barrettes, bands, or clips must be plain (solid, no jewels, adornments, patterns, or logos) and same color as hair, or white, black, gray, silver, gold, or maroon that matches the uniform.
- Hair may not fall forward past shoulder/neck area or fall over eyes when leaning over at the waist.
- Sideburns, beards, and mustaches must be clean and neatly trimmed.
- Hats or caps are not allowed.
- Short natural and clean fingernails are required. Nail enhancements are not allowed to include polish, dips, tips, overlays, acrylics, or gels. Tips of nails may not be seen when looking at the hands from the palm side up.
- Hygiene must include being clean without fragrances or strong odors.
- No jewelry other than a plain wedding ring (band) and a watch with an analog second hand are allowed.
- Visible body piercings may not contain any jewelry, gauges or spacers.
- If a clinical requires "professional dress" other than the Nursing Uniform, the student will be asked to wear a maroon polo shirt and pants or a skirt that is black, gray, khaki, or maroon that matches the maroon polo shirt with the appropriate name tag.

- Clinical agencies retain the right to refuse access to any student whose appearance is deemed inappropriate. For this reason, visible tattoos should not contain symbols, drawings or wording likely to be deemed offensive.
- The nursing uniform may not be worn when working outside of clinical experiences.

COVID-19 Policies

All students will need to monitor their health and if they believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 or are exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19, they will need to self-report on the [MSU Texas Report COVID-19 Website](#). Students will then need to follow any instructions regarding quarantine or isolation as given to them by the Vinson Health Center.

Midwestern State University is not mandating any COVID-19 or influenza vaccination presently for any students. However, there are clinical facilities which may require one or both vaccinations as a condition of student attendance at the facility. Many facilities have recently been requiring vaccinations. Once assigned to a clinical facility, the student will need to comply with any vaccination requirements in order to remain at the facility. This includes both primary and rotational clinical assignments. If a student cannot or will not receive the required vaccination(s), the student may request a new clinical assignment at a facility not requiring the vaccination. The student's program will attempt to relocate the student to a new clinical facility. However, relocation cannot be guaranteed and if the program and the University are unable to relocate the student, then the student must withdraw from the clinical course. If the student is successfully relocated to another facility, any associated costs to the student shall be the student's responsibility. The program, University, or clinical facility will not be responsible for any relocation costs.

Students at clinical facilities will be required to observe any personal protective equipment (PPE) policies of the facility. Students unable or unwilling to comply may request relocation to another facility subject to the above conditions. Relocation is never guaranteed, and students unable to be relocated will have to withdraw from the clinical course.

Although COVID-19 vaccinations are not mandated, **MSU Texas is strongly recommending that all students be vaccinated for COVID-19.** The vaccines are [safe and effective](#) and will protect the student and other members of the MSU Texas community.

Masks will not be required for either indoor or outdoor activities on campus, however, all visitors to the Vinson Health Center will be required to wear a mask. The wearing of masks while in public indoor settings and frequently washing your hands has proven to be effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19. Accordingly, we strongly recommend wearing masks when around others in indoor settings.

Fully vaccinated students who are not experiencing symptoms will NOT be required to [quarantine](#) or seek testing following an exposure to a COVID-19 positive person, including roommates. Following a known exposure, students should monitor for [symptoms](#) over the course of 14 days and quarantine if symptoms develop.

Unvaccinated students who have been identified as having a known exposure (*i.e. at least 15 minute mask-less contact within six feet of a COVID-19 positive person*) to a COVID-19 positive person will be required to [quarantine](#) for a minimum of 10 days or longer depending upon testing and degree of contact. If a student is unvaccinated and can prove a COVID-19 diagnosis and recovery in the last 90 days and is symptom free, quarantine will not be required.

[Self-isolation](#) will be required for all students (vaccinated or unvaccinated) who test positive for COVID-19. Students who live in university housing will be provided with a location to complete the self-isolation period.

Any student (vaccinated or unvaccinated) who has a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 must complete the [COVID-19 Reporting Form for Students](#).

Students are encouraged to visit the [MSU Texas Coronavirus Update page](#). If students have any questions about the COVID-19 policy for their program, they should contact their department chair.

THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO REVISION AT ANY TIME.