Policy:

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: Clinical Site Health and Education Requirement (Policy) Rationale for the Policy OSHA regulations and clinical agencies affiliated with IU South Bend require that students engaged in clinical contact with clients must provide evidence of:

- Current professional-level CPR certification (Healthcare Provider CPR through the American Heart Association, or CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer through the American Red Cross). The professional level includes: one- and two-man CPR; adult, child and infant CPR; adult, child and infant choking; and use of the AED (automatic external defibrillator). Heart saver certification is inadequate.
- Annual TB screening, up-to-date immunization status and a health evaluation (history and physical examination) are also required.

This policy is necessary so that we are in compliance with hospital and community health agency policies. The IUSB Vera Z. Dwyer College of Health Sciences (IUSB-CHS) must provide the clinical agencies with proof that each student assigned to their agency for clinical experience has completed all immunizations, (including Hepatitis B series, Tdap booster, MMR, and Varicella), CPR certification, and annual TB screening. It is the student’s responsibility to update their health records and have all documentation submitted to the COHS, as outlined below.

Documentation is due no later than October 15th prior to enrolling in clinical courses for the spring semester, and no later than July 15th prior to enrolling in clinical courses for the fall semester. Failure to submit all required health documentation by the appropriate deadline will result in administrative withdrawal from all nursing courses and the student will be considered out-of-progression in the degree program.

Procedure

When a student is first admitted to the clinical courses, the student receives information regarding the need for proper immunization verification (including Hepatitis B series, Tdap booster, MMR, and Varicella), a health evaluation (history and physical examination) completed by a primary care provider, current professional-level CPR certification and TB (PPD or X-ray) screening. Every student must provide written verification of a history of chicken pox, or a Varicella Zoster Titer before entering clinicals. Newly admitted clinical students must provide written documentation of the above stated items in advance of beginning their clinicals.

For students who are enrolled in clinical courses in the fall semester, the above materials must be filed with the IUSB-CHS Student Services office by July 15. For students who will begin their clinical courses in the spring semester, the above materials must be filed by October 15. Zachary checks (type of background checks) are also performed on all new clinical students. Failure to submit all required health
documentation by the appropriate deadline will result in administrative withdrawal from all courses and the student will be considered out-of-progression in the nursing degree program.

Students who are admitted late to the will be handled on a case-by-case basis. However, those applicants who are on a “waiting list” or “alternate list” are encouraged to begin gathering the necessary documentation so as to avoid delays. Even students who are admitted late must have all documentation on file with the IUSB-CHS prior to beginning the clinical courses. Failure to do so will result in the student being automatically withdrawn from all clinical courses for which they are registered.

Continuing students are responsible for making sure they receive annual TB screening (PPD or X-ray) and current professional-level CPR re-certification. In addition, immunization status must be updated as necessary. It is the student's responsibility to monitor the status of these and to submit proper documentation to the College of Health Science in a timely manner. Documentation of annual TB screening and current professional-level CPR re-certification needs to be submitted to the School of Nursing, Student Services office no later than one week prior to the date they expire each year. Heartsaver certification is inadequate. Students will be notified of upcoming expiration, but it is the student's sole responsibility to provide documentation of updates prior to expiration. Clinical instructors will be notified, and students will be prohibited from attending clinicals if these vital documents are not submitted. These unexcused absences could lead to course failure in clinical courses. Some community agencies require more recent verification of TB screening before they will allow our students to see clients. Therefore, students may be required to submit this documentation just prior to beginning a semester even if it is not yet expired. Students will be informed if this is required.