



# NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK

ATA CAREER EDUCATION

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ATA DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF  
RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, DISABILITY, AGE,  
RELIGION OR MARITAL STATUS IN TRAINING  
ACTIVITIES OR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.

# NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK

JANUARY 2016

Dear Nursing Student,

This handbook provides policies and procedures for the LPN to RN Bridge program and the Pre-Licensure Practical Nursing Program. You are expected to adhere to all policies in this handbook as well as all policies in the ATA Career Education catalog. In addition, you are expected to adhere to all policies of any clinical facilities in which you are placed. The policies presented in this handbook supplement those presented in the ATA Career Education Catalog and the ATA Student Handbook.

ATA reserves the right to revise any policies presented in this handbook or the ATA Catalog. Policy changes will be provided via announcements to the student population on the student portal. You are encouraged to seek advising from Student Services and ATA administrative personnel if you have any questions about the policies presented in this publication.

ATA is institutionally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). Graduates earn a diploma in Pre-Licensure Practical Nursing or an Academic Associates Degree in LPN to RN Bridge program. Graduates are eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination-Practical Nurse (NCLEX-PN) exam or (NCLEX-RN) exam.

Upon successful completion of all required courses and completion of a 120 hour integrated practicum and successful completion of the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN they will be eligible to seek employment as a Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse.

You may obtain information about the Florida Board of Nursing requirements related to nursing programs by contacting:

Department of Health  
Board of Nursing  
4052 Bald Cypress Way  
Bin C-02  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3252  
(850) 245-4125  
FAX: 850-617-6460  
<http://floridasnursing.gov/>

Please remember the nursing staff is here to support you on your academic journey. If you need any assistance, feel free to reach out to us.

Best wishes for your academic journey,

ATA Nursing Staff

## GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

### DIPLOMA IN PRACTICAL NURSING INFORMATION

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The Practical Nursing program is a 84.5 quarter credit hour program. Courses that have the following prefix to the course number are considered core curriculum courses, NPN, PHA, NUT, MIC, and COM; each of these courses follow the grading scale for nursing courses.

### LPN TO RN BRIDGE, ACADEMIC ASSOCIATE DEGREE (ADN)

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The LPN to RN bridge program is a 90 quarter credit hour program.

### HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

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Planning efforts to begin a nursing programs at ATA's Florida campus began in 2011. Application for the programs was sought and approved by the FBN, CIE and ABHES; however prior to starting the programs ATA determined to withdraw applications and approval. In 2014 ATA determined to re-apply for these programs. A needs assessment was made with the findings of a greater population of individuals requesting nursing program enrollment than the programs in the surrounding area could accommodate. The criterion as mandated by the Florida Board of Nursing was put into place along with advice from Educational Consultants on recommendations to approach the goal of starting the program.

### EVAUATION OF THE PROGRAM:

The Program Manager will provide an evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the training program annually and shall include such elements as: student evaluations, first-time pass rates on the written and manual skills certification exams, student attrition rates, resolution of past student complaints and grievances, and review and revision of program policies. The Program Manager can add other criteria in weighing the effectiveness of the evaluation process with subsequent semesters of training. This data will be shared with the administration of ATA as well as with any accrediting or licensing agencies as needed.

### ATA ADMINISTRATION

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Don Jones, President

Cindy Landry, Director of Compliance

Russell Early, Director of Financial Aid

### PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

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Sandra Phalen, MSN, RN  
Nurse Administrator

## NURSING PROGRAM VISION, MISSION, AND PHILOSOPHY:

### VISION

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Educate Practical and Registered Nurses

### MISSION

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To educate caring nurses committed to excellence, who will serve the healthcare needs of the community as well as the diverse community in the region.

### PHILOSOPHY

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The philosophy of ATA's Nursing Programs is to provide a foundation of knowledge that will incorporate the biological, physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of nursing. Community service is an integral component in the professional nursing experience. This program is committed to providing service to the community, and to the development of the nurse with an appropriate balance of caring and professionalism. Nursing as a science allows for human caring processes that facilitate health and healing. Nursing is a vocation and profession in which the practitioner integrates learning, teaching, leading, caring, communicating, facilitating, evaluating, managing, planning, and professionalism to promote, maintain, and restore quality of health to communities, environment, family and self.

### THE NURSING FACULTY BELIEVES:

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Human beings are unique rational individuals possessing self-worth and dignity and can utilize their potential for self-development, self-improvement, and are capable of modifying their environment along with their responses to it.

Environment influences the individual's internal responses, beliefs and value system, also includes influences of culture, family, religion and community. Any environmental condition that interferes with man's well-being is a threat when he is no longer able to cope with it sufficiently well. Nursing attempts to provide an environment that promotes the well-being of people.

Health is a dynamic state of wellness and a fundamental right of every human being. Promotion of health and prevention of illness involves patients, families, and communities participating in decisions regarding their health and in evaluating accessibility.

Caring is central to nursing practice and requires the integration of knowledge, skill, and values to provide quality care. A professional caring relationship is based on respect for the harmony of the client and environment.

Client is the recipient of nursing care or services which could be person, family, aggregate, community, or society. Client is often referred to as patient.

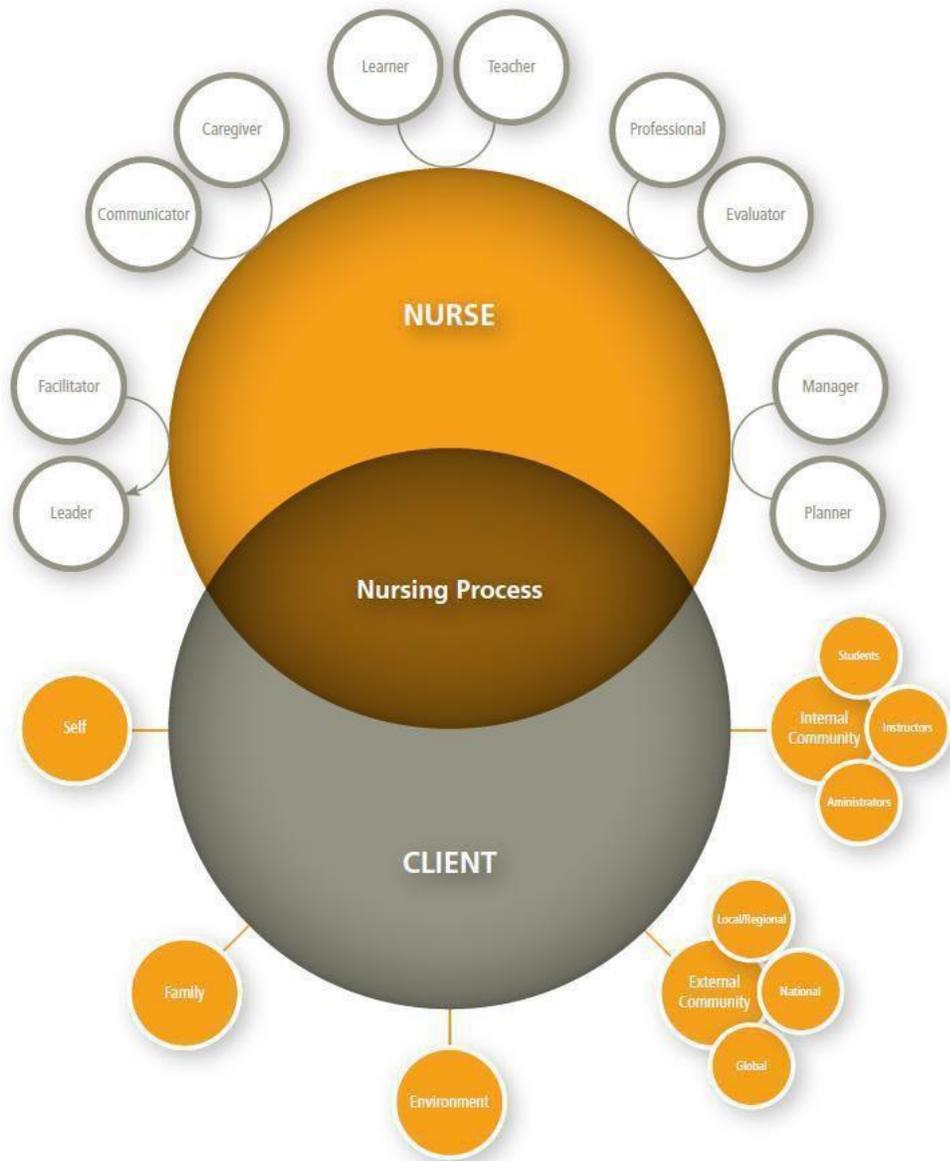
Nursing is a caring discipline that requires the integration of knowledge, skills, and values. Integrity in nursing is acting in accordance with an appropriate code of ethics and accepted standards of practice; patients advocate who defends for a vulnerable client. Nursing is an art and a science.

Nursing Process is a vehicle which enables one to meet basic human needs as they exist within the environment. The nurse incorporates psychomotor skills and scientific and social foundations

meeting these needs in the health illness continuum throughout the life span. The Nursing Curriculum emphasizes the need for continued growth in nursing practice.

### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:

The conceptual / organizational framework of ATA's Nursing Program is illustrated through the circular strands exemplifying the philosophy and objectives of the Nursing Program. The concepts reflect the significance of the nurse / client relationship. This framework exemplifies the boundless community.



## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES/ TERMINAL GOALS – PRACTICAL NURSING:

### OBJECTIVE:

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This diploma program provides students with classroom and clinical experiences that allow for students with the acquisition of knowledge and skills that enable each student to meet the requirements necessary for success as a practical nurse.

### TERMINAL GOALS:

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Upon completion of this Pre-Licensure Practical Nursing program, the student will be able to apply for licensure and take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN). Once licensed, the student will be able to seek employment and provide nursing care as an entry level practical nurse, working under the direction of a physician or registered nurse.

Graduates are prepared to function as professionals in accordance within the scope and standards of practical nursing practice set by the National Association of Practical Nurse Education and Service (NAPNES) and the Florida Board of Nursing (FBN).

This program prepares graduates for employment in numerous health care settings. Licensed practical nurse hold positions in hospitals, nursing care facilities, physician offices, community, home health, and employment agencies, outpatient care centers, and in federal, state and local government service organizations.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES / TERMINAL GOALS – LPN TO RN BRIDGE:

### OBJECTIVE:

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This degree program will provide an avenue of instruction for the Licensed Practical Nurse who wish to obtain an Associate Degree in Nursing. The course will build upon previous knowledge gained from an accredited Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program. The LPN entering the program will have basic competencies which this program will build upon. The program includes theory on role transition in the current health care system, related professional ethical and legal issues, understanding and application of critical thinking skills, the application of the nursing process in the adult clinical setting, basic intravenous therapy, and the methods of techniques of effective interdisciplinary communication and therapeutic patient communication. The program provides the foundational understanding of the role of the Registered Nurse as the provider of care, member of the discipline and manager of care.

### TERMINAL GOALS:

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At the conclusion of the program the graduate will be able to apply for licensure and take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). This program prepares graduates for employment in numerous health care settings. Registered Nurses hold positions in hospitals, nursing care facilities, physician offices, and home health and in federal state and local government service organizations.

## THE LP/VN AND RN FULFILLS THE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NURSE BY:

1. Applying the ethical principles underlying the profession.
2. Following legal requirements
3. Following the policies and procedures of the employing facility.
4. Cooperating and collaborating with all members of the health care team to meet the needs of family-centered nursing care.
5. Assuming accountability for his/her nursing actions
6. Seeking educational opportunities to improve knowledge and skills
7. Building post-licensure skills to assure and increase continuing competence.

## NURSING PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: PRE-LICENSURE PRACTICAL NURSING

In order to be considered for admission to the Practical Nursing program, the applicant must meet the following qualifications:

### GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

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1. Provided proof of high school graduation or documentation of a General Equivalency Diploma (GED).
2. Communicate effectively in English or provide proof of English literacy via:
  - a. Provide evidence of completion of a TOEFL exam at the following level:
    - i. TOEFL Internet-based Test Total of 61 or higher
    - ii. TOEFL Computer based Test of 173 or higher
    - iii. TOEFL paper based Test of 500 or higher
  - b. Provide official post-secondary transcript reflecting a passing grade in a course taught in English.
3. Satisfactorily pass a criminal background screening prior to the start of class.
4. Satisfactorily pass a drug screen test administered by a company selected by ATA during the first two weeks of class at ATA.
5. Complete all necessary clinical documentation required to attend clinical.

### ENTRANCE PROCESS: PN STUDENTS

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#### Option 1:

Potential students may opt to take the TEAS entrance exam and if a composite score at the proficient level is achieved admission is granted to the practical nursing program.

#### Option 2:

Students who opt out of attempting the TEAS prior to admission will be admitted with the understanding that at the conclusion of the first 15 weeks of training a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.5 must be achieved in order to move forward in the practical nursing program:

If a 2.5 CGPA is not earned at the conclusion of the first 15 weeks of training, the student must attempt the TEAS test and achieve a composite score at the proficient level in order to move forward in the practical nursing program.

Option3:

Potential students who evidence an ACT composite score of 19 or above, or a SAT composite score of 1350 or above or a PAX composite score of at least 92 or above and all are within the last five years, are exempt from taking the TEAS and are admitted to the practical nursing program.

Students who have taken the TEAS within the last five years and achieved a composite score at the proficient level are granted admission based on proof of that score.

Guidelines for retesting:

Potential students who attempt the TEAS and are unsuccessful on the first attempt are permitted to retake the exam after a minimum of 30 days after the initial examination attempt. If a passing score is not achieved on the second attempt, the student must wait 90 days from the second attempt to retake the exam. A maximum of three attempts are allowed within twelve- month period of the initial examination.

## NURSING PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: LPN TO RN BRIDGE PROGRAM

### GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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1. Provide proof of high school graduation or documentation of a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) diploma.
2. Communicate effectively in English: Provide proof of English literacy via:
  - Option 1- Provide evidence of completion of a TOEFL exam at the following level
    - TOEFL Internet-based Test Total of 61 or higher
    - TOEFL Computer based Test of 173 or higher
    - TOEFL paper based Test of 500 or higher
  - Option 2- Provide official post-secondary transcript reflecting a passing grade in a course taught in English
3. Satisfactorily pass a criminal background screening prior to the start of classes.
4. Satisfactorily pass a drug screen test administered by a company selected by ATA during the first two weeks of class at ATA.
5. Complete all necessary clinical documentation required to attend clinical

## ENTRANCE PROCESS – LPN TO RN STUDENTS:

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1. Must provide proof of current, active, unencumbered PN license.
2. Must meet all general admission requirements
3. Must provide a transcript from the school where they studied for their PN licensure, this transcript must reflect a 2.5 or higher cumulative grade point average.

## ATA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO:

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- Revoke admission based on an adverse background or drug screening
- Defer qualified applicants to future start dates
- Deny admission to an otherwise qualified applicant

## READMISSION OF FORMER ATA NURSING STUDENTS:

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A student who has been withdrawn from the Practical Nursing program over six months will be required to meet the following criteria:

1. Evidence competency in previously completed nursing courses will be required prior to readmission. This will be accomplished through an examination and a clinical skills competency demonstration. Scheduling is required for completion of these tasks. No testing will be conducted during the last two weeks prior to start. A score of a level 2 or higher must be accomplished on examination.
2. Re-entering students must abide by the current admission, curriculum, and program requirements of the department.
3. Students are readmitted on a space available basis.
4. ATA reserves the right to deny readmission to a student who discontinued the program due to academic dishonesty or exhibited unsafe and/or unprofessional behavior in clinical/classroom. The decision to deny or accept readmission will be made by the academic review committee.
5. ATA ARC and the nurse administrator reviews reports of scholastic counseling, analyzes student's progress and makes decisions regarding admission, advancement, evaluation and graduation for students. These individuals also oversee the disciplinary process for academic matters. The Academic Review Committee may request that an individual student appear before the committee concerning matters of academic and or non-academic situations that warrant attention.

## STUDENT INFORMATION:

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Students enrolled in a nursing program are required to notify the Student Services and the Nursing Office of any changes in name, local or permanent mailing address, and/or phone number. All information is considered confidential and will not be released. Written permission must also be provided for information to be sent to other educational programs.

ATA recognizes and adheres to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

ATA recognizes and adheres to the American Disability Act. Any student who needs special accommodations is to disclose information to the Campus Director/ Director of Academic Affairs and provide documentation from a qualified health care provider outlining recommended accommodations. This information must be received prior to receiving accommodations.

#### ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND CLASS SCHEDULE:

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Please refer to [www.atafl.edu](http://www.atafl.edu) academic calendars. Class schedules are obtained through the student portal.

#### NURSING PROGRAM HEALTH RECORDS REQUIREMENTS:

All students in a nursing program must have verification of immunizations and a physical examination on file in the Nursing administrator's office, prior to attending clinical or skills lab experience. The following immunizations are required of the nursing program:

- 1) MMR (mumps, measles, rubella)
- 2) Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- 3) Tetanus-Diphtheria(adult)
- 4) PPD (Tuberculosis)- Five year chest x-ray or annual renewal is required
- 5) Hepatitis B (or signed waiver)
- 6) Flu vaccine

In the event of a major illness, pregnancy or orthopedic problem, a physician's release indicating the student can safely continue to give patient care is required. The release must indicate the student's ability perform the physical activities listed in the "Essential Functional Abilities and Skills for Nursing Students". The student will be denied a clinical opportunity if a physician's release form is not submitted.

*Students are advised to keep a copy of all medical documentation.*

#### CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION:

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All students are to have an American Heart Association provided Healthcare provider CPR certificate. The CPR certificate must remain current for the duration of the nursing program. Re- certifications are offered at ATA. Information can be obtained in the nursing department or Admissions Office.

#### SPECIAL PROGRAM REGULATIONS:

##### LIABILITY INSURANCE:

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Each student must carry liability insurance coverage when he/she begins clinical experience as a nursing student of ATA. The fee for the insurance will be included with your tuition.

Students providing nursing care must be under the direct supervision of a nursing instructor. A student's liability insurance is in effect only if the student is providing nursing care as part of the nursing program requirements. If a student chooses to work in a health care agency, he/she is not employed as a nursing student and cannot wear the student uniform or use the initials S.P.N. after the signature. Liability of the student in an employing agency rests with the individual and the agency.

## CONVICTION RECORDS:

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Successful completion of the PN or RN program does not ensure students will be eligible to become licensed nurses. The Florida Board of Nursing may take action on a felony or misdemeanor and allows the Board to deny, limit, revoke, probate, suspend, or take other action against an applicant or licensee who is guilty of the offenses or conduct specified in regulation.

A criminal background check and abuse registry search will be conducted on all enrolled students. *It is important to note that incriminating background records may prevent enrollment into the program, cause disenrollment of the program, or prevent acceptance into clinical sites.*

## DRUG SCREENING POLICY:

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ATA complies with the Drug Free School and Communities Act of 1989, Public Law 101-226, which requires that as a condition of receiving funds or any form of federal assistance under any federal program, the institution of higher education must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by its students and employees.

All nursing students will be required to take a ten panel drug screening prior to acceptance into the nursing program. The drug test is due two weeks following orientation day. This procedure must be completed at a testing facility determined by ATA. Students with a positive drug screening will have to adhere to the drug policy as stated in the Course Catalog. A positive drug screening is defined as:

- 1) Clinical indications of impairment or signs of dependency
- 2) Prescribed medication taken in excess of prescription
- 3) Diluted urine
- 4) Refusal to urinate or comply with screening policy/procedures

## CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY POLICY:

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In order to comply with all clinical affiliates, federal and state legislation, any student exhibiting behavior which suggests impairment related to drugs and/or alcohol will be mandated to chemical dependence assessment. ATA will contact a taxi service to transport the student from any clinical site to a testing facility or emergency room (ER). All costs related to drug screenings will be at the expense of the student. The student will have a specified time frame to have the screening conducted. The drug testing results must be received by ATA directly from the testing facility or ER facility.

When the college determines that a student has a positive drug test, the student will be withdrawn from the clinical course and all concurrent health, nursing, or allied health program. Prior to returning to the college, the student must reapply, be accepted to the program, have a negative drug test, and provide satisfactory documentation of drug counseling and treatment. The student will assume all costs of expenses.

#### FALSE POSITIVE SCREENING:

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A student may request to have their original specimen retested should the student feel the specimen is a false positive reading. The request must be stated in writing to ATA. The student must submit this request within 10 days of learning of a positive result and assumes all costs of the test. A second positive test is considered final and cannot be appealed. When a student, with a previously positive drug test, is accepted back into the program, he/she will be subjected to unannounced, random drug screenings.

#### GENERAL CAMPUS INFORMATION:

##### COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE:

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The Program Administrator and the Director of Academic Affairs serves as an academic advisor to students. Students may also seek out faculty members based on their chosen program of study. Counseling of a severe/professional nature is referred to appropriate outside listed agencies.

##### GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE:

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If a student has any grievances or concerns regarding his/her classes or instructors, the student is encouraged to speak with the instructor first. If the problem is not resolved, the student should make an appointment with the Nurse Administrator. If the problem is still not resolved, the student should make an appointment with the Director of Academic Affairs. Every effort should be made by both the student and ATA staff to resolve any complaint issues at the levels indicated above. . Any unresolved issues and/or complaints that are not satisfactorily addressed at the administrative level of ATA will be referred to the Florida Department of Education/CIE.

##### ID BADGES / TAGS:

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Badges/tags must be visible at all times for security reasons. Students will not be allowed in the clinical facilities without ATA issued student ID badges. The student must also wear the ID tags/badges when on campus to be allowed in classrooms, computer labs and resource rooms.

##### BULLETIN BOARD:

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The bulletin board in the clinical lab will be used to post important messages for students, memos from administration and other campus information. Please check the board at least once a day. Job opportunities will be listed on the Job Bulletin Board located in the Information Center.

##### FACULTY TO STUDENT RATIO:

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The program's goal is to provide a safe clinical experience for the clients cared for at the partner clinical sites and the students in the program. To that end, the faculty to student ratio will not exceed 1 to 15 when students are directly caring for residents/clients.

##### CLINICAL SITE POLICY:

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Students entering the program will not attend any clinical site until a minimum of 16 hours of classroom instruction have been completed.

## FACILITY POLICY:

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For a hospital setting, in a practicum course, indirect supervision may occur only if there is direct supervision by an assigned clinical preceptor, a supervising program faculty member is available by telephone, and such arrangement is approved by the clinical facility.

## EATING / DRINKING:

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Designated areas will be available for breaks. Students are responsible for removing any materials such as cans, bags, etc. when finished. Eating in classrooms is not permitted. Drinks are allowed in spill proof containers only.

## RESOURCE ROOM:

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The Resource Room is open each week, Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. On Fridays, the Resource Room is open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Books and periodicals may be checked out for student use. Reference materials must be used in the Resource Room. ATA has loaded appropriate encyclopedia and dictionary requirements on computers and these are available for student use. The school also provides Internet access for other student requirements. ATA subscribes to Gail Virtual Library. The Virtual on-line library can be accessed from the Resource Room and gives students access to over 900 periodicals, a virtual reference room, medical videos and an extensive pharmacology database

For more information regarding campus amenities, please refer to the student catalog:

([http://www.atafl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ATA\\_CourseCatalog\\_Tampa\\_8.25.15.pdf](http://www.atafl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ATA_CourseCatalog_Tampa_8.25.15.pdf))

## USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS:

Copyright is a protection given to original written materials and works of art. It allows the author or the artist to control the reproduction of her work. As a result, ATA employee(s) may not reproduce written materials or works or unless the works are considered within the public domain or meet the criteria established by the Fair Use Act.

## PUBLIC DOMAIN:

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Works that fall within the public domain are those that contain common information. Examples include height and weight charts, standard calendars, and the like.

## FAIR USE ACT:

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Under the Fair Use Act, copyrighted works may be reproduced, for instructional purposes only, without permission, if ALL of the following criteria apply:

- Spontaneity: There is not enough time to obtain copyright permission.
- Single Use: The work is copied one time, i.e. for a class. If the work is to be copied for subsequent Classes, copyright permission must be obtained.
- Length: The portions of the work may be copied are limited in length. Paragraph or a few pages may be copied; whole chapters may not be copied.

For works that are not within the public domain or do not meet the parameters of the Fair Use Act, the ATA Education Department will seek copyright permission. Employees are reminded that ATA curricula are the property of and may not be copied or used outside of their employment with ATA.

## ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES AND SKILLS FOR NURSING STUDENTS:

The Nursing Students will have the following abilities/competencies:

1. Visual – possess visual acuity, depth perception and peripheral vision adequate with or without corrective lenses to see objects more than 20 feet away, read small print on objects and withdraw medications from small containers.
2. Auditory – have hearing ability with or without auditory aids to distinguish faint sounds with variations, understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speaker's face, hear auditory alarms, emergency signals, and communicate via the telephone.
3. Tactile – demonstrate gross motor skills and physical endurance, able to stand and maintain balance for prolonged periods of time, lift, push or pull objects of 50 pounds or more, demonstrate full range of motion of all extremities, move or ambulate without difficulty independently, maneuver in limited spaces, and squeeze with hands.
4. Communication Skills – demonstrate fine motor skills with manual dexterity to write with a pen or pencil, type on a computer keyboard, pick up and manipulate small objects with hands, screw on caps, perform actions using two hands simultaneously, and pinch small objects with fingers. Communicate effectively in verbal and written form by speaking clearly and succinctly when explaining treatment procedures or describing patient conditions, implement health teaching, and write legibly.
5. Critical / Cognitive Thinking – demonstrate effectively the ability to synthesize knowledge in reading, writing and comprehension of English language, make decisions independently, identify cause-effect relationships; adapt decisions based on new knowledge.
6. Adaptation - Function safely under stressful conditions and demonstrate the ability to adapt to ever changing environments.

## STUDENT CONDUCT:

Whenever the student is in the classroom, a clinical agency, on a School-sponsored field trip, off-campus activity, or meeting, he/she is a representative of ATA's Nursing Program and is expected to behave in an appropriate manner. All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Students who engage in certain misconduct activities are subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from school. Specific forms of misconduct are as follows: all types of dishonesty, sexual harassment, theft or damage to school premises, intentional disruption or obstruction of any school proceedings, violation of any code of ethics or any behavior that would be considered detrimental to the operation of ATA. Violation of any of these policies may result in administrative termination from ATA. Students will be notified in writing of disciplinary action taken by ATA.

To ensure the safety of the public and to adhere to all guidelines of the FBN and collaborative institutions, it is expected for all nursing students to adhere to the following guidelines:

- A student shall, in a complete, accurate, and timely manner, report and document nursing assessments or observations, the care provided by the student for the client, and the client's response to that care.
- A student shall, in an accurate and timely manner, report to the appropriate practitioner errors in or deviations from the current valid order.
- A student shall not falsify any client record or any other document prepared or utilized in the course of, or in conjunction with, nursing practice. This includes, but is not limited to, case management documents or reports, or time records, or reports, and other documents related to billing for nursing services.
- A student shall implement measures to promote a safe environment for each client.
- A student shall delineate, establish, and maintain professional boundaries with each client.
- At all times when a student is providing direct nursing care to a client the student shall: provide privacy during examination or treatment and in the care of personal or bodily needs; and treat each client with courtesy, respect, and with full recognition of dignity and individuality.
- A student shall practice within the appropriate scope of practice as set forth by the Florida Board of Nursing for a practical or registered nurse.
- A student shall use universal blood and body fluid precautions established by the ATA handbook and OSHA regulatory guidelines.
- A student shall not: engage in behavior that causes or may cause physical, verbal, mental, or emotional abuse to a client; or engage in behavior toward a client that may reasonably be interpreted as physical, verbal, mental, or emotional abuse.
- A student shall not misappropriate a client's property or: engage in behavior to seek or obtain personal gain at the client's expense; engage in behavior that may reasonably be interpreted as behavior to seek or obtain personal gain at the client's expense; engage in behavior that constitutes inappropriate involvement in the client's personal relationships; or engage in behavior that may reasonably be interpreted as inappropriate involvement in the client's personal relationships.

**NAPNES – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PRACTICAL NURSE EDUCATION AND SERVICE,  
INC. CODE OF ETHICS:**

**THE LICENSED PRACTICAL/VOCATIONAL NURSE SHALL:**

1. Consider as a basic obligation the conservation of life and the prevention of disease.
2. Promote and protect the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of the patient and his/her family.
3. Fulfill all duties faithfully and efficiently.
4. Function within established legal guidelines.
5. Accept personal responsibility (for his/her acts) and seek to merit the respect and confidence of all members of the health care team.
6. Hold in confidence all matters coming to his/her knowledge, in the practice of his/her profession, and in no way and at no time violate this confidence.
7. Give conscientious service and charge just remuneration.
8. Learn and respect the religious and cultural beliefs of his/her patient and of all people.

9. Meet his/her obligation to the patient by keeping abreast of current trends in health care through reading and continuing education.
10. As a citizen of the United States of America, uphold the laws of the land and seek to promote legislation that will meet the health needs of its people.

#### NURSING WEBSITES:

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ANA Code of Ethics – Expected behaviors

<http://nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/CodeofEthicsforNurses.asp>

Florida Statutes:

[Chapter 464, Part I](#): Nurse Practice Act

[Chapter 464, Part II](#): CNA Practice Act

[Chapter 400](#): Nursing Homes and Related Health Care Facilities

[Section 408.809](#): Background screening; prohibited offenses

[Chapter 435](#): Employment Screening

[Chapter 456](#): Health Professions and Occupations: General Provisions

[Chapter 120](#): Administrative Procedure Act

#### Florida Administrative Codes

[Title 64B9](#): Board of Nursing

[Title 64B9-15](#): Certified Nursing Assistant

National Council of State Board of Nursing – Information regarding NCLEX testing:

<https://www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm>

#### SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:

This section outlines governing regulations that apply to all users of ATA College & Career Education social media when posting material online. In some cases, violations could lead to disciplinary action or termination.

#### PROTECT CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION:

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Do not post confidential or proprietary information about ATA students, employees, or alumni. All persons must follow the applicable federal requirements such as FERPA and HIPPA, as well as NAIA regulations. Adhere to all applicable institutional and legal privacy, confidentiality and property policies and laws.

#### RESPECT COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE:

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When posting, be mindful of the copyright and intellectual property rights of others and of the College.

#### USE ATA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTIES ONLY WITH PERMISSION:

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No user may establish social networking sites that use the ATA logo or other intellectual properties such as photography, vide, artwork and publications copyrighted to the College without authorization from the College. It is a violation of social networking site policies to represent an institution without authorization.

#### DISSEMINATION OFFICAL INFORMATION:

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Public Relations and other designated offices are responsible for posting and publishing online official information on behalf of the College.

#### WHEN USING COLLEGE E-MAIL:

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You are accountable for all activity conducted with your College e-mail address or when identifying yourself as a member of the College community. The "@ata.edu" address attached to your name may indicate to others that you are acting on the College's behalf so be clear when that is not the case.

#### KNOW THE TERM OF SERVICES OF YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM:

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Be sure to understand and follow the terms of service of any social media platform you use. You are personally responsible for compliance.

#### BE ACCURATE AND TRANSPARENT:

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Have the facts before you post. If you post inaccurate information then correct it quickly. Social networks are successful when they offer authentic and direct communications via user- generated content. Social networks are interactive with a two-way flow of information. If you are representing ATA when posting, acknowledge this by including your name and job title or department as a signature to your post.

#### RESPECT OTHERS' PRIVACY:

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Take care not to post private information concerning others such as e-mail from a colleague or contact information. Please exercise good "netiquette." Social networks are in the public realm and are not appropriate venues for the discussion or dissemination of private matters.

*Anything posted on the internet is out there for all to see even if later you attempt to delete it, so be careful in what you post.*

#### STUDENT TO STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Communication relating to academic matters (e.g. absences, grades, class issues) is only communicated through business phones, Engrade or Compass. Nursing staff are obligated to respond to all correspondences with 48 hours, excluding weekends.

## PROGRAM PROGRESSION POLICY:

A student at ATA receives grades on attendance / participation, laboratory and project work, written examinations and/or homework. All final grades are given at the end of each 10-week quarter in all subjects taken by the student. Note: Final exams are given during the last week of the quarter.

Students must achieve an 80% average in each subject taught during each quarter of the nursing program, with the exception of basic requirement/general education courses. A student that fails any one (1) Nursing course two (2) times will be terminated from the program. Students who are admitted without the requirement to take the TEAS entrance exam must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher upon completion of the first 15 weeks at ATA. Students who fail four (4) classes with the following extension(s) in the nursing program – NPN, PHA, MIC, NUT, and PRA – will be terminated from the program. **A student must successfully passed theory, skills and clinical, or he/she must repeat the entire class.**

### Grading Scale (Basic/General Education Courses):

90 to 100: A (4.00)... Excellent

80 to 89: B (3.00)... Above Average

70 to 79: C (2.00)... Average

69 and under: F (0.00)... Failing

### Grading Scale (Nursing Program/Core Courses):

90 to 100: A (4.00)... Excellent

80 to 89: B (3.00)... Above Average

79 and under: F (0.00)... Failing

For detailed academic policies, please refer to:

[http://www.atafl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ATAFL\\_CourseCatalog](http://www.atafl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ATAFL_CourseCatalog)

## GRADE APPEAL:

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If a student has the reason to believe that a grade he/she has received is incorrect, the student should first contact the instructor to resolve it. If satisfactory resolution is not reached, the student may consult the Student Services Office and appeal his or her grade by obtaining a Petition for Grade Appeal form. The completed petition for grade appeal form must be submitted by the student to the Student Services Office within the first two weeks of the subsequent quarter.

The grade appeal is reviewed by the Academic Review Committee; the decision of the committee is communicated to the student within five days of submission of the appeal. If student is not satisfied with the decision, he/she may wish to appeal by writing a letter addressing his/her concerns and submitting it to the Office of the Registrar within four weeks of the date of initial submission of the petition for grade change. The Registrar will forward the appeal request to the Academics Review Committee (ARC) for further review. The committee will convene and make a determination within seven business days and inform the student of the decision.

## PROGRAM COMPETITION POLICY:

### All Programs

The candidate for graduation must:

1. Have successfully completed all credits or hours and all specific programmatic requirements for the appropriate credential;
2. Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 (a "C" average);
3. Meet all requirements for acceptance by ATA including documentation of his/her graduation from high school with a regular diploma or documentation of his/her achievement of high school graduation equivalency; and/or by attestation: (see Admission Requirements).
4. Be current on all indebtedness to ATA.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY:

All students are expected to attend every class for which they are scheduled. If for any reason a student finds that he/she will be absent, the student is expected to notify the school and indicate the reason for absence. If a student accumulates absences totaling more than 20% of the scheduled class meetings, he/she may be removed from the class roll (roster). Absence beyond 20% level will be reviewed by the Student Services office upon the student's submission of documentation citing the mitigating circumstances. Mitigating circumstances include serious illness, death of immediate family member, jury duty, military duty, court proceedings. Final determination of mitigating circumstances are up to the Student Services Team Leader and the ATA Retention Specialist.

Students are allowed to incur one absence in a clinical or skill lab per quarter. A clinical make-up fee will be assessed for make-up hours. Students will be responsible for \$120 for 12 hours clinical. A fee of \$80 will apply for an eight hour clinical. Clinical hours fewer than eight hours will be prorated at \$25 per hour. A clinical make-up calendar has been provided with all instructions. Arriving more than 10 minutes late will result in being dismissed that day from clinical and scheduled for a make-up.

A student is considered tardy when arriving after the scheduled course start time or leaving before the scheduled end of the class time. Each tardy will accumulate toward the 20% maximum absence policy. For example, if a class meets once a week for three hours, that equates to 30 classroom hours over a ten week quarter. Twenty percent (20%) of 30 hours is six hours. A student that accumulates six hours or more of absences and/or tardiness at any point in the quarter is dropped from the course. In the case of absence or tardiness, it is the student's responsibility to make up any missed work.

ATA notifies television and in the event of school closing. A determination is made 1.5 hours prior to class start time for both day and evening class cancellation. A message is also posted on [www.atafl.edu](http://www.atafl.edu) website. All classes are to follow the school closing or delays with the exception of PRA100. PRA100 is considered an externship and should follow the guidelines of the affiliated agency.

### **CLINICAL/LAB ATTENDANCE**

Attendance in the Nursing Clinical and Skills Labs, which for the purposes of this policy are synonymous, is mandatory. In order to meet the objectives of the course, the student must be in attendance. In case of absence, the student must contact the clinical instructor prior to the start of any clinical/skills labs to advise of the absence. This contact must be voice-to-voice. Text messages or communication through another student or an instructor who is not the instructor-of-record, is not acceptable. Failing to notify the instructor will be considered a NO CALL/NO SHOW and may be cause for dismissal from the nursing program.

If the student is absent and the absence is excused by Program Administration (i.e., Program Director, Director of Academic Affairs or Campus Director), then an assigned time and date for make-up may be given (based on availability of additional clinical sites and time available). Any make-up clinical/skills lab must be arranged and completed prior to the end of the quarter in which the clinical/skills lab was missed. It is important to note that make-up clinical/skills labs are based on availability of those resources (sites and faculty). If those resources are not available, the student will not receive credit for the class and will have to retake the entire clinical/skills lab. Failure to attend a scheduled make-up clinical/skills lab will result in a failure and withdrawal (WF) from the class, which will have to be taken the next quarter.

**NOTE: There are no previously arranged make-up days for clinical/skills lab, and no alternate clinical site are identified. As a result, each instance of missing a lab day will be reviewed and scheduled based on the same criteria on which attendance is based.**

## COURSE OUTLINE, LP/RN COURSE:

\*84.5 credit hours of concurrent classroom, laboratory and clinical experiences which include 565 hours of didactic instruction, 10 hours of laboratory and 766 hours of clinical practice.

<b>Basic Requirements</b>		<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Contact Hours</b>
ANA100N	Anatomy & Physiology	4	40
LAS120NA	Success Skills	4	50
MNA100	Nurse Aide Training	6.5	81
MED105A	Nursing Mathematics	4	40
MIC100	Microbiology	2	20
MED100	Medical Terminology	4	40
<b>Program Requirement</b>			
NPN110	Fundamentals of Practical Nursing/ Role of the Practical Nurse	6	120
NUT100	Nutrition	2	20
PHA100	Pharmacology/Medication Math	4	40
NPN120	Medical Surgical Nursing I	6	120
PHA200	Pharmacology/Medication Math 2	4	40
NPN131	Pediatric Nursing	4	70
NPN130	Medical Surgical Nursing II	6	120
NPN151	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	4	70
NPN141	Maternal/Newborn Nursing	4	70
NPN100	Introduction to Practical Nursing	6	120
NPN140	Medical Surgical Nursing III	6	120
NPN152	Long-Term Care/Geriatric Nursing/ Palliative Care/Leadership	4	70
PRA100	Integrated Practicum	4	120
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>for Graduation-Diploma</b>	<b>84.5</b>	<b>1371</b>

## COURSE OUTLINE, LPN TO RN BRIDGE PROGRAM:

\*90 credit hours of concurrent classroom, laboratory and clinical experiences which include 690 hours of didactic instruction, 120 hours of laboratory and 450 hours of clinical practice.

\* indicates general education courses

General Education Courses		Credit Hours
ANA200*	Anatomy & Physiology	4
ANA202*	Anatomy & Physiology 2	4
ENG200*	English Composition	4
MAT200*	Applied Mathematics	4
HUM201*	American Literature	4
SOC201*	Introduction to Sociology	4
PSY202*	Developmental Psychology	3
Core Curriculum		Credit Hours
MIC212	Microbiology	4
COM201	Nursing Informatics	4
NPN200	LPN to RN Role Transition	2
NPN203	Transcultural Nursing	4
NPN208	Medical Surgical Nursing 1	4
NPN209	Mental Health Nursing	4
NPN210	Medical Surgical Nursing II	4
NPN211	Maternal Health/OB Nursing	5
NPN212	Pediatric Nursing	4
NPN213	Community Health Nursing	5
NPN214	Acute Care Nursing	7
NPN220	Leadership & Management	6
PHA202	Advanced Pharmacology	4
PRA215	Practicum	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>90</b>

## ASSESSMENT TECHNOLOGIES INSTITUTE (ATI):

ATI assessments are online computerized tests and modules designed to academically evaluate students in nursing programs. The purpose of this product is to prepare each student for NCLEX success. ATI learning and testing modules are threaded throughout the program curriculum.

Nursing students will be expected to reach proficiency benchmarks in NPN110, NPN 120, NPN131, NPN140, NPN141, NPN152, and PHA200 (subject to change). Performance on these tests will determine the overall grade in these classes. Supportive materials and assignments will be available in all classes that mandate proficiency levels. Students must obtain 92% predictability on the ATI Comp predictor on the first attempt or self-remediate content modules where a score less than 60% were earned. Student will be permitted two (2) attempts to post a passing score. Failure to obtain 92% will result in class failure.

## DRESS CODE (SCHOOL AND CLINICAL):

ATA considers dress to be each student's responsibility. All students are required to wear scrubs in the classroom. Students must conform to all dress code guidelines included in the ATA Course Catalog.

- Appropriate scrubs with closed toe, non-skid shoes (nurse or tennis shoes) should be worn to each clinical/lab class. Shoes may not be canvas. White shoes are required. No neon or print shoes.
  - Jewelry must be kept to a minimum. No loose necklaces or bracelets.
  - Facial piercings, artificial nails, and nail polish are prohibited in class.
  - Hair longer than collar length will be secured away from face. ONLY natural hair color- No pinks, greens, purples, bright reds, etc.
  - Cover all tattoos
- Name/Photo ID Badges: Students are required to wear their ATA name/photo ID badges at all times in the school and clinical facility.

**\*\*Failure to adhere to dress code policy will result in the instructor sending the student home to change. The student will be considered tardy. The student will be marked absent if s/he fails to return to class. \*\***

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE DRESS CODE:

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**Male:** Neat, clean, ironed uniform shirt and pants with identifying name/photo ID badge over left breast pocket. (Uniform designated by the program.)

**Female:** Neat, clean, ironed uniform. A dress uniform must be of regulation length at the knees, with identifying ATA issued name/photo ID badge on left side of uniform. (Uniform designated by the program.)

**All Students:** Uniforms may have white under shirts only (no visible logos, no designs in shirt, clean) and shoes must match undershirt without any stains. No undershirt can reach longer than the uniform top.

While in uniform the student must always have a watch with second hand, a pen, note pad, bandage scissors, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, penlight and name/photo ID badge. (Stethoscope covers are not allowed) The uniform must be worn to and from the facility. No sweater coats worn under or on top of the uniform shirt.

Wear your uniform with pride and dignity befitting your profession, remembering it identifies you as a student of ATA and your appearance reflects you as a professional.

No sweaters are allowed in the clinical units. You may also choose to purchase an approved scrub jacket that matches your uniform.

**Footwear:** White, comfortable leather or simulated leather is recommended, neatly polished, shoelaces clean if applicable (no clogs, sandals or canvas shoes.) Your feet must be completely covered.

**Socks and Hose:** Male: solid white socks; Female: white, clean, free of runs hosiery, and/or white socks (no colors in socks).

**Hair:** Must be worn away from the face and off the collar in a neat orderly fashion-prevents transfer of microorganisms and contamination. Color of hair must be professional and non-distracting. No bright tones allowed. No hair is to be extended over the student's ears or forehead.

**Male:** Beards and mustaches must be neat, trimmed.

**Females:** Extreme hairstyles are to be avoided, barrettes and combs should be color of hair, no hair ribbons or bows are to be worn.

**Make-up:** Must be moderate and in good taste. No false eyelashes.

**Jewelry:** None except watch and plain wedding band, small pierced post earrings of silver, gold, or pearl, one per earlobes only. Visible body piercing (eyebrow, tongue, etc.) or tattoos are not allowed. Any visible tattoo must be covered with a Band-Aid or makeup. Single-hole ear gauges are not to exceed 1/4mm, and clear gauge plugs must be applied at all times.

**Nails:** Must be short (below finger tips) and clean with no polish or artificial nails (not permitted in the healthcare facilities).

**Personal Hygiene:** The student is expected to be well groomed and free of offensive odors. Perfume or aftershave should never be worn in the clinical area as odors cannot be tolerated by some ill patients. Smoking while in uniform or previous to client contact is unacceptable. No odor of smoke can be tolerated.

**Tardiness:** No student is allowed to arrive more than 10 minutes following the start of the class. Any student arriving after this time will be dismissed for that day.

**Name/Photo ID Badges:** Students are required to wear their ATA name/photo ID badges at all times in the clinical facility. Some facilities may require a facility issued Student Name/Photo ID Badge. These must be worn with the college's badge and returned at the conclusion of the clinical assignment. Students may wear ID badges and present themselves as nursing students only during class times and under the direct supervision of an instructor.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones are not permitted to be brought into clinical sites. Any student found with a cell phone at the clinical site will be dismissed for the day. All missed clinical hours will be required to be made up and a fee will be assessed based on hours missed.

Students should advise their families, childcare providers, etc., of their schedules so that they can be contacted during non-class or non-clinical times. Cellular phone number of each clinical instructor is provided for emergency contact only.

*Students found to be in non-compliance with the above dress code will be dismissed for the day and counted absent. Clinical hours must be made up. See Program Administrator for instructions. Additional sanctions will apply up to possible dismissal from the program.*

*Two violations of dress code can result in a clinical failure if within the same quarter or if a repetitive pattern exists (3 or more occurrences).*

#### MEDICAL NURSE AIDE CERTIFICATION:

Students who are not licensed Medical Nurse Aides will be required to gain licensure prior to the start of quarter four (4) of study in the Practical Nursing program. The first attempt to receive MNA certification is to occur by the end of quarter two (2). The MNA course takes place on ATA campus and certification can be obtained through the Florida Board of Nursing. To test for the MNA certification students must have an acceptable background check, not listed on the Florida Office of the Inspector General Nurse Aid Abuse Registry.

To satisfactorily complete the evaluation, the student must:

- 1) Make a score of at least 70% (raw score of 52 or higher) on the 75 multiple choice written examination; and
- 2) Must successfully demonstrate at least five (5) procedures under the observance of an examiner, with 70% accuracy. Some steps on some of the procedures are considered critical. These steps must be performed with 100% accuracy.

#### STUDENT PROGRESSION EVALUTION:

Each student will be advised by instructor anytime they receive a testing score below 80% in all nursing courses. The purpose of the advisement is to make the student aware of his/her academic achievement, provide the student with ample time for improvement and academic guidance for success. Grades are to be posted within a week of the students submitting course work.

## THEORY/CLASSROOM/DIDACTIC POLICY:

Regular class attendance and punctuality are expected in all classrooms. Students shall assume responsibility for regular attendance; completion of all assignments; completion of all examinations; and completion of required skills and clinical time. The following are specific to nursing theory class, clinical/classroom laboratories, and test. Refer to your course syllabi for expectations.

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

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1. Read, understand, and adhere to all course policies and schedules.
2. Abide by all policies in course catalog and class syllabi (<http://www.atafl.edu/disclosures>)
3. Complete all required coursework as outlined per course syllabi.
4. Arrive on time and prepared for class, and remain in class for the entire period.
5. Give full attention and participation to the class activities.
6. Avoid any behavior that may disrupt other students' learning.
7. Demonstrate respect in expressing opinions and listening to others.
8. Notify the instructor (outside of class) regarding problems with any of the above regulations or about situations that interfere with learning.

## CLINICAL POLICY:

Clinical education is a mandatory component of the program. Due to accreditation requirements of the clinical education centers, students will be required to obtain a criminal background check and undergo drug testing prior to acceptance to the clinical assignment. Any student who fails acceptance to the clinical assignment will be unable to complete the program. If a student is denied acceptance at a specific clinical site, every effort will be made to place the student elsewhere. If no acceptable/available site is found, the student will be unable to complete the program.

Students may be assigned to clinical facilities other than those in the immediate area. Transportation to and from any clinical setting is the responsibility of the student. Staff is prohibited from transporting students.

All students must attend orientation for each clinical course. Every facility requires an orientation for students. This orientation is only provided at scheduled dates and times and cannot be rescheduled or conducted more than once. Any student who does not attend orientation will immediately fail the clinical assigned. The only exception is for a student who had previously attended an orientation with the same facility and was returning due to extenuating circumstances which must be documented and approved per the PN Director. Those hours missed will still be required to be made-up. There is no make-up for missing clinical orientation.

## CLINICAL AND SKILLS LAB GUIDELINES:

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- 1) Report to the clinical instructor when arriving and leaving the clinical area.
- 2) Call the clinical instructor one hour before the time of the clinical experience if absence is necessary.
- 3) No texting or emailing is permitted. Contact must be with the instructor assigned for the clinical only.
- 4) Follow and abide by the policies and procedures of the clinical facility where assigned.
- 5) Follow and abide by the confidentiality statement (Attached).
- 6) Be able to participate in clinical assignments during day or evening hours as clinical space is made available (students will be given ample warning of a change in the times).
- 7) Be available between 6:30am and 11:00pm Monday-Saturday.
- 8) Any student who misses skills check-off will be assessed a penalty of one attempt and only have two attempts to complete all skills assigned for that check-off day.
- 9) Failure to successfully pass skills or a skill will result in the inability to perform in the clinical setting (including instructor presence) this will reflect in the clinical evaluation.
- 10) If a student is not able to correct a skill's deficit at the scheduled remediation they may fail the course.
- 11) Students are to leave the clinical premises upon the dismissal of the class.

The clinical instructor has the right to dismiss a student from the clinical or skills lab area for lack of professional judgment, unpreparedness for clinical experience or lab, evidence of physical or mental health impairments that prohibits provision of safe care or if the student exhibits unprofessional behavior in the clinical site with anyone and if the student is not in proper uniform of the school or lacking evidence of proper identification badge. In cases of physical or mental health impairment, the student may have to find an alternative method of transportation to destination (e.g. cab, ambulance, family member).

The school may require students who miss lab or clinical due to illness to present a physician's statement upon their return to school. Statements must be from the physician stating the student can perform clinical expectations without limitations.

### **In the clinical area the following procedures are for all oral and written materials related to assigned patients in the clinical facility:**

Students are responsible for maintaining strict confidentiality of patient information. A breach will result in disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the nursing program. Patient confidentiality includes oral and written communication about the patient. It also includes electronic documentation systems utilized by the hospitals. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is a Federal Law that prohibits unauthorized disclosure of private patient information. HIPAA provides both civil and criminal penalties for violation that can range up to fines of \$250,000 and 10 years in prison.

- 1) Remove names, initials, DOB, or other data that identifies an individual patient from all written documents related to patient assignments.
- 2) No photocopies of the patient record are ever to be made by nursing students.
- 3) Hand written notes for post conference or preparation for patient care cannot have names, initials, DOB, social security number, address or telephone numbers listed.
- 4) Violation of patient confidence will result in permanent dismissal from the program.

**Patient/Client Rights:** The patients/clients have a right to safe and quality nursing care and that right is protected by the KBN and governing agencies. Behavior by a student that threatens the health or safety of the patient is a breach of this ethical responsibility and may result in dismissal from the program.

## UNIVERSAL BLOOD AND BODY SUBSTANCE PRECAUTIONS:

### AN EXPOSURE INCIDENT IS DESCRIBED AS:

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Contact with blood, body fluids or other potentially infectious material by splattering onto your eyes, mouth, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin. All sticks from a used needle or used sharp object also qualify as an exposure.

### GENERALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS TO ASSURE PROTECTION OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS:

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Routine use of appropriate barrier precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when in contact with blood or other body fluids:

- 1) Wearing gloves when:
  - Touching blood and body fluids; mucous membranes, or non-intact skin
  - Handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids
  - Performing venipuncture and other vascular procedures
- 2) Applying mask and eye protection for procedures likely to result in splashing or spraying of blood or body fluids about the face.
- 3) The use of a gown/apron during procedures likely to soil clothing;
- 4) The use of disposable resuscitation equipment.
- 5) Thorough and immediate hand washing after:
  - Patient care
  - Removing gloves
  - Contamination with blood/body fluids
- 6) Implementation of precautions to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels or other sharp objects such as:
  - Not recapping needles
  - Not bending or breaking a needle by hand
  - Disposing needles, scalpels, and sharps in appropriate containers
- 7) Use of needless systems whenever possible

- 8) Avoiding direct patient care or handling of patient care equipment if a fresh, open or weeping lesion is present on the health careworker.

#### GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR NURSING STUDENTS:

In the event of an accidental exposure, the student should contact the nursing instructor immediately and then begin a thorough washing of the area involved. The instructor will contact the facility designee and an incident report will be filed. The facility/school's accidental exposure procedure will be initiated. Post exposure treatment should be initiated within 1-2 hours after exposure. Therefore it is important to immediately report to the Nursing Instructor or the nearest provider of care. All exposures must be documented and reported to the clinical facility and to ATA's student services.

**Students are responsible to acquaint themselves with each clinical affiliate's exposure follow-up policy. This will be covered in orientation to the clinical facility and with the facility's student handbook.**

Policies of the clinical affiliate must be followed. All exposures must be reported immediately to the responsible clinical faculty. All exposures must be reported to the department and the appropriate office at the clinical site. Neither the clinical agency nor ATA will be responsible for costs. The student is responsible for all medical costs. This includes costs of evaluation and treatment for the student and tests for documentation of the source. Students should check with their insurance provider regarding coverage.

#### CLINICAL SITE INFORMATION:

- Brooksville Healthcare Center
- Department of Health in Hernando  
County Oak Hill Hospital
- Spring Hill Health and Rehabilitation  
Center Spring Hill Regional Hospital
- Springbrook Hospital

#### EPIDEMIC EXPOSURE PLAN:

Objectives:

- 1) Protect the students, staff and faculty wellbeing
- 2) Maintain compliance with CDC, Board of Health, and affiliating organizations
- 3) Facilitate student success

The following protocol shall be instituted at ATA for all national, regional and local epidemic outbreaks:

- 1) Traveling students must have entered the US by all legal processes and protocol.
- 2) Students must provide proof of date returned to the US
- 3) Students must have received and provide proof of all recommended and required immunizations upon return to the US
- 4) Students must adhere to and provide evidence of following prevention recommendations or requirements of the CDC, Florida Board of Health and affiliating agencies (e.g. clinical sites).
- 5) Students must provide documentation that he/she has been evaluated by a certified physician.
- 6) A release form must be electronically submitted to the school by a certified physician.
- 7) Students may not return to school with any signs or symptoms of the epidemic infection
- 8) Students may not return to school sooner than 10 days past the incubation stages of the epidemic infection, regardless of provided documentation.
- 9) Student is required to inform school of possible exposure to infection.

ATA holds the right to alter, update and implement new processes to this plan as necessary.

NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM:

The Nursing Program Handbook has been reviewed with me on \_\_\_\_\_(date)  
by, \_\_\_\_\_.

I have had the opportunity to clarify information in the handbook and agree by my signature. I  
am aware of the policies and will abide by the contents within.

Student Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name/ Date \_\_\_\_\_