Standards for Grades and Grading

I) California Education Code Section 76224 (a) states: “When grades are given for any course of instruction taught in a community college district, the grade given to each student shall be a grade determined by the faculty member(s) of the course and the determination of the student’s grade by the instructor, in the absence of mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetence, shall be final.”

II) The teaching team will identify methods of evaluating student performance at the beginning of each course. These methods may include but are not limited to:

A) Computer assisted instruction
B) Simulated clinical experiences
C) Objective quizzes and tests
D) On-line proctored and non-proctored exams developed by ATI
E) Critical skills performance as identified on the Weekly Student Clinical Performance Evaluation Form. Evaluation may be scheduled at the college laboratory and/or clinical facility utilized for laboratory experience
F) Planned and incidental observation of nursing assessment, problem identification, care plan development, implementation and evaluation of nursing care
G) Written assignments as stated in the course syllabus or discussed at the beginning of the course
H) Self-evaluation of clinical performance based on competencies for the course
I) Written or verbal feedback in student/instructor conferences and class participation
J) Student presentations and/or collaborative learning assignments

III) Grading Standards: Nursing Program Overall

A) The Nursing Program complies with the Imperial Valley College grading policies in the current catalog and the ADSN Program grading policies.

B) Nursing course grades are based on the following scale (not rounded)

- A = 92%-100%
- B = 83%-91%
- C = 75%-82%
- D = 68%-74%
- F = Below 68%

C) Each semester of the nursing program includes at minimum a) theory course work, b) clinical experience course work, and c) nursing skills laboratory work as well as any required co-requisite courses.

1) Each of these areas must be passed with a 75% or better
2) Failure of any one part necessitates re-taking all three; i.e., theory, clinical, and skills to meet the Board of Nursing requirement for concurrent clinical and classroom study. (See policies related to re-entry)

D) Minimum course requirements for progression in the Nursing Program

1) Final Course Grades must be 75% (‘C’) or better, based on ALL the following:
(a) All finals will be passed with a score of 75% or better
(b) The theory portion must be passed with a score of 75% or better
   (i) Theory is weighted as 70% of the course (NURS 125, 231, & 241).
      Theory for NURS 110 and 224 are weighted as 100%.
   (ii) Theory grades include written assignments, presentations, quizzes,
        exams, and/or other written/oral assignments as directed by the
        instructor
(c) The clinical portion must be passed with a score of 75% or better
   (satisfactory)
   (i) Clinical is weighted as 30% (NURS 125, 231, & 241). Theory for NURS
      112 and 225 are weighted as 100%.
   (ii) Clinical grades include actual clinical experience, simulations, care
        plans, and/or other written/oral assignments as directed by the instructor
   (iii) Students determined as ‘unsafe’ in a clinical setting will not be allowed
        to progress
(d) Other performance measures as specified by the instructor or course syllabus
(e) No extra credit assignments or contracting for course grades is permitted.

E) Additional requirements for progression in the Nursing Program
   1) Nursing attendance polices are applicable to theory, clinical, skills, and co-
      requisites courses.
   2) Nursing policies related to ‘clinical unsatisfactory notices’ are applicable to all
      clinical courses.
   3) A pharmacology calculation test must be passed with the equivalent of a 92% in
      every semester.
      (a) The score will not be counted in the course grade, as it is a pass/fail test.
      (b) If the student misses the pharmacology calculation test, this results in a
          failure on that specific test.
      (c) The student will have three opportunities to pass this test.

IV) Grading Standards: Clinical Experience and Skills Laboratory
   A) Clinical performance is determined throughout each clinical rotation by the clinical
      instructor based on a comprehensive evaluation of skills and applied theory
   B) The student is responsible for
      1) Reviewing the clinical objectives and clinical outcomes in the syllabus and as
         directed
      2) Following instructions regarding clinical evaluation
      3) Providing self-evaluation of personal performance in a timely, thoughtful, and
         complete manner
      4) Collaborating with the instructor when having difficulty meeting the clinical
         objectives
   C) Regarding Unsatisfactory Clinical Performance
      1) The 1st "unsatisfactory" necessitates completing a Nursing Learning Center (NLC)
         Remediation Referral established by the instructor prior to the next clinical
Nursing Student Handbook 2009-2010
Imperial Valley College

assignment
(a) NLC Remediation Referral may be designated as ‘immediate’.
(b) If NLC Referral is immediate, the student must report directly to the NLC or be considered absent for that clinical day

2) The 2nd “unsatisfactory” necessitates completing a NLC Remediation Referral established by the instructor prior to the next clinical assignment and may be directed to meet with the Program Director to determine if other steps are needed in addition to the established tutoring.

3) The 3rd "unsatisfactory" requires the student to meet with the teaching team for dismissal from the nursing course. No student shall receive three “unsatisfactories” in one day.

D) Guidelines for Grading Care Plan
1) If an unsatisfactory grade, the student is expected to correct the care plan within the designated timeframe and return it to the instructor.
2) If a student fails to correct the care plan on time or if the returned care plan continues to be unsatisfactory or if the care plan is not submitted, it will be reflected as “unsatisfactory” performance.

E) Skills Competency Exams must be passed with a “satisfactory” score in order to progress to the next level

V) Grading Standards: Pharmacology Calculation Exam
A) Because patient safety is the utmost priority, each student will be required to take and successfully demonstrate competence and pass a drug calculations exam each semester

B) Minimum requirements:
1) 10 - 25 questions / calculations appropriate to the level of each semester
2) Student must show their work
3) Pass with a score of 92% or higher. The score is not included in the grade point average for the course as it is a pass/fail assignment
4) Time limits assigned as appropriate to the number of questions
5) Correct units must be stipulated to be scored correctly; i.e. mL/hr, mg, etc.

C) The student is allowed three (3) attempts to pass
1) Students who do not pass:
   (a) Must seek tutoring from faculty and/or math department and/or computerized software in Nursing Learning Center
   (b) Cannot administer any medication in a clinical setting, except under the direct supervision of the instructor. The student must ensure the 5 rights, verbalize drug action, nursing considerations, calculations, rates, relevant labs and correct administration.
   (c) If the student is unsuccessful on the 3rd attempt, the student cannot progress to the next nursing course (course failure).

2) Calculators
   (a) May or may not be allowed as stipulated by the instructor
   (b) If allowed, only simple function calculators may be used. No cell phones, no
palm pilots, and no advanced calculators can be used.

VI) Grading Standards: ‘Incompletes’

A) An “Incomplete” grade may be recorded due to an unforeseen emergency or extremely unusual circumstance.

1) The student must contact the lead instructor and/or teaching team AND complete the College's form for an ‘Incomplete Grade’

2) Student must submit a plan for completion of course requirements with an acceptable deadline for review by the lead instructor and/or teaching team

3) The instructor must complete/submit the proper form for an ‘Incomplete Grade’

4) If the ‘Incomplete’ is not completed within the designated time period, the instructor will record failing grade.

5) An ‘Incomplete’ cannot be granted because the student is failing the course