Clinical Competency Exams (CCEs)

Rationale for Policy: In order to determine students' acquisition of knowledge for specific nursing interventions and skills, students may be required to perform Clinical Competency Exams (CCEs) at specified times. Clinical Competency Exams are also a method used to evaluate safe, competent and proficient performance of fundamental nursing interventions, skills, and techniques.

Successful performance of the CCE does not indicate that the student is ready for independent performance in the clinical setting. Some skills performed require the presence of the clinical instructor. Each student should check with his or her clinical instructor prior to performing skills in the clinical setting.

Prior to completing CCEs, the student will have time to practice skills with and/or without assistance from the nursing faculty before the clinical competency exams. Independent practice requires students to sign in and sign out of the nursing skills labs. It would be in the student's best interest to call to ensure the lab is not in use by a group at the time of desired practice. Students may also refer to the "Open Lab" schedule posted in each classroom/lab.

The selected skills for CCEs are defined in each course syllabus. The student will perform a selected number of CCEs at a specific time as noted in the course syllabus and/or weekly calendar for the course. Each CCE has a set number of tasks that the student should perform. Each CCE will be completed within a specific amount of allotted time. (Please refer to table below.) If time expires without the skill being completed, this will be an unsuccessful CCE attempt.

CCE	Time Limit
Head to Toe	20 minutes
Vital Signs	10 minutes
IV insertion	15 minutes
Administration of non-parenteral medication	10 minutes
IV push medication administration	10 minutes
IM Injection	10 minutes
Urinary catheter insertion	20 minutes
Trach Care	15 minutes
Trach Suctioning	15 minutes

Central line dressing change	15 minutes
Nasogastric Tube insertion	10 minutes
~~Post part assessment~~	~~20 minutes~~
~~Peds assessment~~	~~20 minutes~~

Score	Rationale
100	Skill completed, no mistakes; performed all critical points
80	Skill completed, self-correction of mistakes; performed all critical points
0	Skill not completed; **missed one (1) or more critical points**.

Student ratings will be determined following the above grading rubric.

The average of all earned points will be totaled for each skill. The percent of assigned value of the skill will be calculated based upon a pre-determined formula. A successful attempt for CCEs is defined as a performance with a total of 80% or above. Within each skill, certain tasks are identified as critical points with bolded wording. Critical points are tasks that are necessary for safe performance of the skill. The absence of performing a critical task or unsatisfactory performance of a critical task renders the act unsafe and/or ineffective. This will result in a zero score for the CCE. The competency exam is a testing situation and is not an appropriate time or place to discuss the grade. If the student wishes to discuss the grade, an appointment with the evaluator is required.

If the first attempt of the CCE is not successful,

- o The student should make an appointment with the faculty member to establish a Remediation Plan.
- o Students will be allowed to access the skills laboratory for remediation at a scheduled time.
- o Retakes will be scheduled at a specific time, as well.
- o Ten percent (10%) will be deducted from the maximum possible points for CCE.

If the second attempt of the CCE is not successful,

- o The student should make an appointment with the faculty member to establish a Remediation Plan.
- o Students will be allowed to access the skills laboratory for remediation at a scheduled time.
- o Retakes will be scheduled at a specific time, as well.
- o Fifteen percent (15%) will be deducted from the maximum possible points on the CCE.

During repeated attempts, the student will repeat the skill that was performed unsatisfactorily at the time of testing. **Failure to successfully complete a CCE by the third attempt will result in non-progression due to student's failure of a critical competency, and the student will be assigned an "F" for the laboratory component of the course.**

All additional attempts will be assigned by each faculty member.

If the student misses the assigned date and/or time for CCE's, this will be counted as a non-successful attempt.

The testing environment is defined as the area that has been identified where the CCE will be performed. The instructor has primary responsibility for ensuring academic integrity is maintained. Although each CCE may have a set time allotted for the skill to be performed, at any time a faculty has evidence that academic integrity has been compromised in the designated testing area, the faculty has the authority to not initiate or cease testing and assign a zero or an "F" for the CCE. All policies related to testing apply to CCE testing as well.

Approved UP Faculty Meeting 02.12.18

Revised 02.17.20 UP Faculty meeting