

 University College of the North Policies & Procedures Manual	# Pages: 2	Policy Number: AC-03-11
	Approved by: Learning Council	
Section: Academic - Program	Effective Date: February 20, 2024	
Title: Extended Absence from Clinical	Replaces: December 6, 2022	

POLICY STATEMENT

Faculty of Health students who have been absent from clinical practice for twelve (12) months or more, must complete a mandatory demonstration of clinical competence prior to attending a clinical course.

PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to ensure students, who have been absent from clinical practice for twelve (12) months or longer, can demonstrate safe, competent care prior to attending clinical practice.

PROCEDURES

Students returning to a Faculty of Health program, after an absence of twelve (12) months or more from clinical courses must complete a mandatory demonstration of clinical competency in the skills laboratory prior to the commencement of the desired clinical course.

The demonstration will proceed as follows:

1. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the evaluating instructor to determine evaluation dates and performance expectations.
2. Skills testing will be conducted at a mutually agreed upon time.
3. The evaluating instructor will provide the student with a list of performance skills to be tested.
4. It is the responsibility of the student to practice the required skills on their own

time. However, if assistance is required, students should contact the evaluating instructor to make an appointment for supervised lab time.

5. Skill testing must be scheduled within six (6) weeks of the first day of clinical.

During the skills demonstration, the student must demonstrate competency in knowledge, psychomotor skills, and attitude appropriate for clinical practice. In addition, the student will be required to verbalize appropriate critical thinking, reasoning, and give rationale for clinical decisions during the demonstration.

Students will be denied access to the applicable clinical course until the skills test is successfully completed.

If the student fails skills testing on the first attempt, they are permitted a second attempt, to be completed within two (2) weeks of the initial testing.

If the student fails skills testing on the second attempt:

- The student may choose to proceed with the third attempt within one (1) week, or
- The student may choose to audit the next offering of the applicable course(s) prior to attempting a third skills test at the end of auditing the course.

A third failure in skills testing will result in withdrawal from the applicable Faculty of Health program.