

 Policies & Procedures Manual	# Pages: 2	Policy Number: AC-03-11
	Approved by: Learning Council	
Section: Academic - Program	Effective Date: February 26, 2019	
Title: Extended Absence from Clinical in the DPN Program	Replaces: New	

POLICY STATEMENT

Diploma in Practical Nursing (DPN) students who have been absent from clinical practice for 12 months or more, must complete a mandatory demonstration of clinical competence prior to commencement of a clinical course.

PURPOSE OF POLICY

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

PROCEDURES

Students returning to the DPN program, after an absence of 12 months or more from clinical courses must complete a mandatory demonstration of clinical competency in the skills laboratory prior to 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 for specific 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 skills.
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 successfully completed within two weeks of the first day of clinical.

During the skills demonstration, the student must demonstrate competency in knowledge, psychomotor skills, and attitudes 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 registration in the desired clinical course until the skills test is successfully completed.

If the student fails skills testing on the first attempt he/she is permitted a second attempt, to be completed within two 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 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 DPN program.