



St. John's College Policies and Procedures

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SYSTEM: HSHS	MANUAL(S): HSHS St. John's College Policies
TITLE: Advanced Standing Credit Policy	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: St. John's College
EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/01/2025	REVISION DATE(S):
SUPERCEDES: Local ministry handbooks/catalogs/policies adopted prior to the effective date of this policy.	

Purpose:

St. John's College of Nursing recognizes the prior academic achievements and professional nursing experiences of working nurse applicants entering the College through either the LPN to BSN or RN to BSN program options by awarding advanced standing credit consistent with program outcomes and accreditation standards. This policy facilitates seamless academic progression while maintaining the rigor and integrity of the BSN degree.

Policy:

I. Transfer Credit Evaluation

- a. Transfer credit is awarded for previously completed nursing and general education coursework from regionally accredited institutions.
- b. All transfer courses must be evaluated for content equivalency, clinical hours, and accreditation status.
- c. Transfer credits must have been completed with a minimum grade of "C" or higher.
- d. Transfer credit reduces the total course requirements but is subject to program and accreditation limits.

II. Advanced Standing for Professional Nursing Experience

- a. For the RN to BSN program, students with a current, unrestricted RN license and documented recent full-time nursing practice may receive up to 15 semester credits of advanced standing recognizing clinical knowledge and competencies gained through professional experience.
 - i. These credits apply toward nursing program requirements but do not replace core nursing coursework essential for BSN competencies.
 - ii. Awarding advanced standing credit for practice is contingent upon verification of licensure status, work experience, and alignment with BSN learning outcomes.
- b. For the LPN-to-BSN program, licensed practical nurses may be awarded up to 5 semester credits of advanced standing acknowledging their foundational clinical skills and knowledge.
 - i. These credits apply toward nursing program requirements but do not replace core nursing coursework essential for BSN competencies.



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- ii. Awarding advanced standing credit for practice is contingent upon verification of licensure status, work experience, and alignment with BSN learning outcomes.
 - c. This credit acknowledges the value of applied clinical expertise while safeguarding academic standards and ensuring students complete critical upper-division coursework.
- III. **Academic Standards and Limits**
 - a. Total transfer and advanced standing credits accepted shall comply with St. John's College degree requirements and ACEN accreditation standards.
 - b. Students awarded advanced standing are subject to the same academic progression, clinical performance, and graduation criteria as all BSN students.
 - c. Advanced standing credit is not awarded solely based on work experience without documented licensure and evaluation.
- IV. **Transfer and Advanced Standing Credit Evaluation Process**
 - a. Application and Documentation Submission
 - i. Applicants submit official transcripts from all previously attended accredited institutions.
 - ii. Applicants provide documentation of licensure (LPN or RN) and, if applicable, verification of clinical work experience (e.g., employment records, job descriptions).
 - iii. Course descriptions, syllabi, and clinical hours may be requested to assist with equivalency evaluation.
 - b. **Initial Transcript Review**
 - i. The Nursing Admissions Office conducts an initial review of transcripts to verify institutional accreditation, course titles, credit hours, and grades.
 - ii. Only courses with a grade of "C" or higher are considered for transfer credit.
 - iii. Preliminary credit totals are calculated, noting general education and nursing-specific courses.
 - c. **Curriculum and Competency Alignment Review**
 - i. The Registrar, College nurse leadership, and nursing departments Chairs, review course content, clinical hours, and learning outcomes to determine equivalency with St. John's College curriculum requirements.
 - ii. College nurse leadership, and nursing departments Chairs assess whether prior coursework and clinical experience meet baccalaureate-level competencies and program learning outcomes, including alignment with AACN Essentials, QSEN competencies, and NLN standards.
 - d. **Advanced Standing Credit Determination**
 - i. For RN to BSN applicants, the Nursing Admissions Office verify licensure status and evaluate recent full-time nursing practice to award up to 15 semester credits of advanced standing.
 - ii. For LPN to BSN applicants, the Nursing Admissions Office review prior practical nursing education and clinical experience to award up to 5 semester credits of advanced standing.
 - iii. Decisions consider whether advanced standing credits may be granted without replacing essential upper-division coursework.



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V. Official Credit Award and Advising

- a. The Registrar's Office records approved transfer and advanced standing credits on the student's academic record.
- b. Newly admitted students receive notification of credit awards and any conditions or limitations.

VI. Ongoing Monitoring and Quality Assurance

- a. The Nursing Admissions Office and the Curriculum and Program Evaluation Committee (CPEC) reviews credit evaluation policies and outcomes annually to ensure consistency and compliance.
- b. Feedback from faculty and students is incorporated to refine evaluation criteria and processes.

VII. Admission Requirements for Credit Consideration

- a. Applicants must meet all admission criteria for the admission cycle in which they are applying.
- b. Transfer and advanced standing credit will only be evaluated and awarded for applicants who are formally admitted and in compliance with current admissions policies.