

CENTRA COLLEGE

CATALOG & STUDENT HANDBOOK

Spring 2020 ADDENDUM:

Medication Dosage Calculation Competency Testing Policy

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This handbook is designed to provide students with information about the programs of study at Centra College ("College"). It sets forth, in general, how the College operates but the College reserves the right to change policies and procedures without notice. This handbook is not intended to be and should not be regarded as a contract between the College and any student or other person. Students are held responsible for knowing the information contained in the Catalog & Student Handbook. Failure to read or comply with the Handbook will not excuse the student from accountability. Changes are communicated via the website and MOODLE.

MEDICATION DOSAGE CALCULATION COMPETENCY TESTING POLICY

ADN MEDICATION DOSAGE CALCULATION COMPETENCY TESTING POLICY

Policy Statement:

To show evidence that Centra College ADN students are progressing in their ability to perform medication dosage calculations a series of tests will be administered to the students. The test will be administered in one course each semester.

1. First semester, students will receive the first dosage calculation test (the "Test") at the conclusion of the semester. Students will have up to three (3) opportunities to pass the Test. If a student does not successfully complete the Test they will be required to meet with the instructor to review the missed items on the Test before taking the Test for a second or third time. Students who do not pass the Test on the third attempt will be unsuccessful in the course in which the Test was assigned.
2. Beginning in the second semester, and to continue in subsequent semesters, a dosage calculation pre-test is given to determine the student's baseline and any additional instructor assistance needed (the "Pre-Test"). The Pre-Test does not affect the student's grades or his/her ability to pass any classes in which he/she may be enrolled.
3. The Pre-Test will be comprised of dosage calculation questions/problems that were taught during the previous semester. Students will complete the Pre-Test off-site via ExamSoft and be given a five (5) day window (the "Pre-Test Window") to complete the Pre-Test. The Honor Code applies to the Pre-Test. Students are not allowed to complete the Pre-Test in groups and notes are NOT to be used.
4. Beginning in the second semester, and to continue in subsequent semesters, a dosage calculation post-test will be given to the students at the mid-point of the semester (the "Post-Test"). Students will have up to three (3) opportunities to pass the Post-Test. If a student does not successfully complete the Post-Test they will be required to meet with the instructor to review the missed items on the Post-Test before taking the Post-Test for a second or third time. Students who do not pass the Post-Test on the third attempt will be unsuccessful in the course in which the Post-Test was assigned.
 - Students needing to repeat the Post-Test will be allowed up to two (2) weeks between Post-Tests to allow time to review the missed items with the Instructor and to prepare for the next Post-Test.
 - There must be a minimum of five (5) days between unsuccessful completion of Post-Test and a repeat of the Post-Test.
 - Successful Post-Testing must be completed prior to the final course exam.
5. The Test, the Pre-Test, and Post-Test (the "Tests") will be all administered in ExamSoft. The Test, which is administered during a student's first semester, will consist of twenty (20) multiple choice questions. For subsequent semesters, all of the Tests will consist of twenty (20) fill in the blank questions.
6. A passing score on the Test (First semester only) is a grade of 80 or higher.
7. The following Post-Test scores are considered "passing":
 - Second semester students must obtain a grade of 85 or higher

- Third semester students must obtain a grade of 90 or higher
- Fourth (ADN only) semester students must obtain a grade of 90 or higher

8. The Test and Post-Test include content taught during the semester in which such Test or Post-Test is administered. The Test or Post-Test will take place in the following courses

ADN
N-150
N-180
N-240
N-260

9. Faculty will provide a thorough review of dosage calculation rules as per Morris 7th ed. Calculate with Confidence (the “Rules”). Examples of the rules are outlined below:

- a. rounding rules
 - o < 1mL round to hundredth (Ch. 3)
 - o > 1 mL round to tenth (Ch. 3)
 - o kg is rounded to tenth (Ch. 25)
- b. no trailing zeros to right of decimal (Ch. 6)
- c. no fractions (Ch. 6)
- d. leading zero to left of decimal (Ch. 6)
- e. correct abbreviations (ex: mL, subcut, etc.; inside cover and page 152)
- f. weight- based calculations- round the weight and the final answer to the nearest tenth. (pg 668-74)
- g. questions NOT to be included BMI or Intake and Output Calculations. The Tests will contain the calculation only (no scenario).

10. The following dosage calculation directions will be provided with each question:

- a. Directions: Calculate the following dosage. Round mL answers to the nearest tenth or hundredth according to rounding rules.
- b. Weight Based Directions. Calculate the following dosage. Round the weight and the final answer to the nearest tenth or hundredth according to rounding rules.
- c. IV Pump Directions: Calculate the dosages as indicated. The pump delivers in tenths of a milliliter. Or Round pump rate to the nearest whole number.
- d. IV Drip Directions: Calculate the dosages as indicated. Round drip rate to the nearest whole number.

PN MEDICATION DOSAGE CALCULATION COMPETENCY TESTING POLICY

Policy Statement:

To show evidence that Centra College PN students are progressing in their ability to perform medication dosage calculations. Each test administered during the semester will include 5 fill in the blank dosage calculation questions. Dosage calculation questions may be included on the cumulative final exam. To ensure students are progressing in their ability to perform medication dosage calculation, each semester will administer a Dosage Calculation Test that will include the dosage calculation taught that semester. The test will be 20 fill in the blank questions that will account for 5% of the overall course grade.

1.) Each test in the courses listed below will include 5 fill in the blank questions specific to dosage calculation content taught in course:

- First Semester
 - NUR-116: Basic Conversions and Dosage Calculations
- Second Semester
 - NUR-125: IV Pump, IV Drip, and IV Reconstitution Calculations
 - NUR-126: Pediatric Calculations
- Third Semester
 - NUR-136: Cumulative Dosage Calculations

2.) To ensure students are progressing in their ability to perform medication dosage calculations, each semester will administer a Dosage Calculation Test that will include the dosage calculation taught that semester.

- Test will be 20 question fill in the blank
- Test will be 5% of overall grade

2.) In third semester, NUR-136 will administer a Dosage Calculation Test that will include cumulative dosage calculations from previous semesters.

- Test will be 20 question fill in the blank
- Test will be 5% of overall grade

3.) Faculty will provide a thorough review of dosage calculation rules as per Morris 7th ed. Calculate with Confidence (the "Rules"). Examples of the rules are outlined below:

- a. rounding rules
 - $< 1\text{mL}$ round to hundredth (Ch. 3)
 - $> 1\text{ mL}$ round to tenth (Ch. 3)
 - kg is rounded to tenth (Ch. 25)
- b. no trailing zeros to right of decimal (Ch. 6)
- c. no fractions (Ch. 6)
- d. leading zero to left of decimal (Ch. 6)
- e. correct abbreviations (ex: mL, subcut, etc.; inside cover and page 152)
- f. weight- based calculations- round the weight and the final answer to the nearest tenth. (pg 668-74)
- g. questions NOT to be included BMI or Intake and Output Calculations. The Tests will contain the calculation only (no scenario).

10. The following dosage calculation directions will be provided with each question:

- a. Directions: Calculate the following dosage. Round mL answers to the nearest tenth or hundredth according to rounding rules.
- b. Weight Based Directions. Calculate the following dosage. Round the weight and the final answer to the nearest tenth or hundredth according to rounding rules.
- c. IV Pump Directions: Calculate the dosages as indicated. The pump delivers in tenths of a milliliter. Or Round pump rate to the nearest whole number.
- d. IV Drip Directions: Calculate the dosages as indicated. Round drip rate to the nearest whole number.