

Health | Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing *The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*



2026-2027 College of Nursing Student Handbook

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Tracks: ABSN, TBSN, LPN-BSN, RN-BSN

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Introduction to the Student Handbook

The OUHC College of Nursing (CON) Student Handbook is published for informational purposes. While every effort is made to present the information accurately, the actual text of the policy, procedure, or law should be consulted as the authoritative source of information. It is the student's responsibility to read the College of Nursing Student Handbook and consult it for information on CON policies and procedures.

Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing

Welcome to Oklahoma's flagship college of nursing; we are excited for your nursing journey! Founded in 1911, OU College of Nursing is the state's largest nursing school with five program sites in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Lawton, Duncan, and Norman and is dedicated to continuing the leadership and academic excellence that have become synonymous with the University of Oklahoma.

[Mission and Goals](#)

[Values](#)

[Leadership](#)

[Faculty](#)

[Staff](#)

[Accreditation](#)

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program at the University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing prepares students for entry into professional nursing practice through a comprehensive program featuring classroom, laboratory, simulation, clinical, and experiential learning experiences. The College offers multiple BSN Tracks (TBSN, ABSN, LPN-RN, and RN-BSN) designed to meet the needs of students at different points in their educational journey while maintaining high standards of academic excellence and professional preparation.

Program Learning Outcomes

EXPECTED BSN PROGRAM OUTCOMES FOR TBSN, ABSN, LPN-BSN, and RN-BSN
Tracks Admitted Catalog Years 2022 – 2025

Upon successful completion of the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing Baccalaureate Degree Program the graduate will be prepared to:

- Provide entry-level safe, competent, ethical care to culturally diverse individuals, families and populations across health care settings and across the lifespan.
- Function effectively as a member of the Nursing Profession and as a member of an interdisciplinary healthcare team.
- Practice professional nursing based on current evidence.
- Assume accountability for evaluation and improvement of nursing practice.
- Integrate the safe and confidential use of information technology and health care technology into one's practice as a professional nurse.

EXPECTED BSN PROGRAM OUTCOMES FOR TBSN, ABSN, LPN-BSN, and RN-BSN Tracks Admitted Catalog Year 2026 – 2027

Upon successful completion of the University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing's BSN program, graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

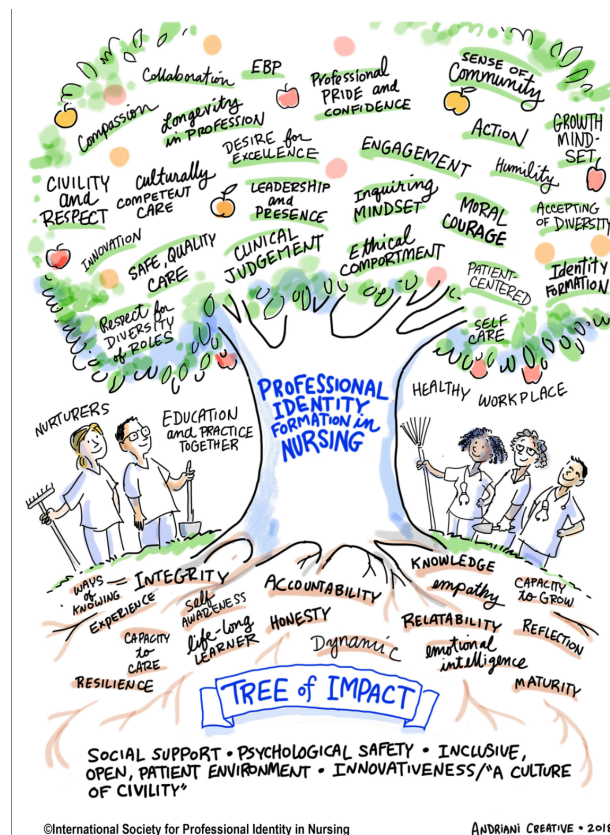
- Integrate knowledge from nursing science, liberal arts, and natural and social sciences with evolving knowledge to form the basis of clinical judgment and innovation in professional nursing practice.
- Assess, deliver, and evaluate holistic, individualized, and safe nursing care that respects the values, preferences, and needs of individuals, families, and communities.
- Design, implement, and evaluate strategies for disease prevention and health promotion across the healthcare continuum in collaboration with community and organizational partners at local, national, and global levels.
- Appraise evidence, apply findings, and disseminate knowledge through scholarly inquiry to improve the quality, safety, and outcomes of nursing practice.
- Apply quality improvement principles to identify and mitigate risk of harm, analyze system failures, and implement evidence-based strategies to enhance care processes, patient safety, and optimize health outcomes.
- Demonstrate effective communication, intentional collaboration, and shared decision making strategies with interprofessional teams and individuals, families, and communities to improve outcomes and enhance the healthcare delivery and experience.
- Analyze and navigate complex healthcare systems to coordinate resources efficiently and advocate for organizational policies and structures that promote safe, high-quality care delivery.
- Utilize health informatics, digital tools, and emerging technologies to support clinical decision-making, improve care coordination, and enhance patient safety and outcomes in compliance with professional and regulatory standards.

- Demonstrate professional nursing identity through ethical accountability and practice, integrity, and adherence to nursing's core values and standards of practice.
- Integrate self-awareness and reflective practices to maintain personal well-being, pursue lifelong learning, and model advocacy and leadership to improve healthcare delivery and advance the nursing profession.

Professional Identity Formation

The University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing is committed to fostering the professional identity formation of every nursing student. Professional identity formation is an intentional, developmental process through which students internalize the values, knowledge, behaviors, and responsibilities of the nursing profession and begin to think, act, and feel like professional nurses.

To guide this process, the Undergraduate Program has adopted the framework developed by the International Society for Professional Identity in Nursing (ISPIN), including the Tree of Impact and the four Domains of Professional Identity in Nursing: Professional Comportment, Knowledge, Values and Ethics, and Nurse as Leader.



OUHC Student Handbook

Please consult the [OUHC Student Handbook](#) for OUHC policies and procedures:

[Section 1: Academic Degrees Offered](#)

[Section 2: Board of Regents' Policies and Procedures](#)

[Section 3: OUHC Policies and Procedures](#)

[Section 4: Tuition and Fee Policies](#)

[Section 5: Graduation](#)

[Section 6: International Student Services](#)

[Section 7: Veterans Student Services](#)

[Section 8: Resources](#)

[OUHC Faculty Handbook](#)

Site Waitlist

Incoming students (Accelerated Bachelor of Science, ABSN; Licensed Practical Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing, LPN-BSN, and Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing, TBSN) may request to go on the waitlist for a different learning site if a waitlist is available depending on capacity. These requests are submitted via an electronic form; are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis; and are dependent upon clinical spot availability and learning site capacity. A student must pay the enrollment deposit to join the waitlist. All deposits must be submitted within 10 business days of receipt of the admissions letter. Late deposits do not guarantee site placement and will be considered pending site capacity. All deposits must be completed 60 calendar days prior to the start of the semester for which the student is applying. If available depending on learning site capacity, a waitlist for a different learning site for pre-licensure programs (ABSN, LPN-BSN, TBSN) closes 45 calendar days prior to the start of a new semester. After the learning site waitlist closes, there are no other changes to the learning site for that program, and students must begin and finish the program at the learning site to which they are assigned at that time of enrollment. If, for any reason, a student cannot start or continue at the assigned learning site for the program, the student must reapply to the program in the next program cycle.

Prerequisites

Students must follow all General Education and graduation requirements of the University of Oklahoma. The College of Nursing will review all course substitutions and will request syllabi and other course materials to determine appropriate substitutions if applicable in accordance with university requirements and accreditation standards.

Professional Licensure Disclosures

Students are encouraged to review the [Professional Licensure Disclosures](#). Students will be required to sign an attestation if located in a state that does not participate in licensure.

End-of-Term Processing and Board Forms

End-of-term processing and transcript certification for Board of Nursing forms are multi-step processes. In accordance with University policy, the College of Nursing processes final grades and certifies graduates. The Office of Admissions and Recruitment sends transcripts according to the processes of the testing agency and will send out-of-state board forms to the appropriate agencies. The total process takes approximately 4-6 weeks from the date that final grades are due at the end of a semester. Processing commences after final grades are submitted according to the [Academic Calendar](#). See [Oklahoma Licensure webpage](#) for more information about this process. The [OU College of Nursing Student Affairs](#) team can answer questions about this process. Please note that transcripts with degrees posted are available 6 weeks after degree completion. Students will not be able to sit for state licensure exams (NCLEX) or national board certification exams until the degree is posted on the transcript and/or all graduation requirements are met. Each state board sets the timing for the ticket to test. Students will not be able to submit credentialing to prospective jobs/employers until the degree is posted on the transcript. This process is completed by the OU College of Nursing Student Affairs Team and Recruitment and Admissions at the University of Oklahoma Health Campus.

Academic Integrity

[OUHC Student Handbook Academic Integrity](#)

[OUHC Student Handbook Academic Misconduct](#)

Alternative Plan Processes for Students Off Track

If a student receives the grade of a “W,” “F,” “D,” or “I,” the student is an off-track student and will receive an alternative plan for program completion. The student must wait to take the course with the unsuccessful grade until the course is next offered for your cohort, program, and site. The student may have to take a leave of absence until the course is next offered in the lockstep curriculum. As outlined in the [Academic Progress Policy of the OUHC Financial Student Services](#), “Each College reviews throughout, and at the conclusion of each academic year, the performance of each student [...] In some cases, the student may be placed on a Leave of Absence until the

necessary rotation of coursework is available again.” The College does not develop individualized plans of study for off-track students. The programs are lockstep and must be taken in the order in which they are offered according to the program of study.

Reapplication

[OUHC Student Handbook](#)

Students who are dismissed from a pre-licensure program (ABSN, LPN-BSN, TBSN) will not be able to reapply to a pre-licensure program (ABSN, LPN-BSN, TBSN) but may apply for readmission to the post-licensure undergraduate program (RN-BSN). A student dismissed from the post-licensure undergraduate program (RN-BSN) cannot reapply for an undergraduate program in the College of Nursing but could apply to a graduate program.

Transfer of Credit

BSN Transfer Policy

The BSN pathways (ABSN, TBSN, LPN-BSN, and RN-BSN) do not accept transfer coursework from other nursing programs due to the lockstep curriculum and course sequence defined in the undergraduate curriculum. Please see the [transfer credit policy](#) for more information.

Deferrals

The OU College of Nursing does not offer enrollment deferrals for students except in extreme extenuating circumstances requiring approval by the Dean. Should students choose to wait, students must reapply in a future cycle as the College’s admission requirements may change from year to year in accordance with the degree sheet for that catalog year. If students do reapply, the student can request a one-time waiver code for the supplemental application if the student has military-related documentation for the request. Please note that this waiver applies only to the supplemental application and does not cover any third-party application fees. Please note the waiver code is available only for the application cycle directly subsequent to the original admission term. If the student does not return in that application cycle, students will need to reapply with the regular application fees.

Student Evaluations

Student Evaluation of a course cannot be included as a part of a course grade. Each student is given the opportunity to complete a course evaluation during the final weeks of the course. Instructors use this information as valuable feedback to enhance future iterations of the course. The course evaluation responses are aggregated and provided to instructors. Individual evaluations are not provided for instructor review.

The reports are made available to instructors after final grades have been posted. Student evaluations of the course are anonymous and will not affect student grades.

Auditing of a Course

Due to the clinical capacity and learning site structure, students cannot audit courses offered by the College of Nursing or courses in nursing programs.

Attendance in Enrolled Courses

Students cannot attend any courses (clinical, didactic, skills labs, etc.) in which they are not enrolled. Students cannot attend any sections of courses other than those in which they are enrolled.

Enrollment in the BSN program is contingent upon meeting all required compliance requirements as documented in Complio. Students who are not compliant in Complio are ineligible to enroll in courses.

Students who are not compliant in Complio may not participate in any component of the curriculum, including didactic, laboratory, simulation, clinical, or practicum experiences. Students who are non-compliant will have access to Canvas and other required learning management systems removed until compliance has been restored and confirmed by Complio.

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Attendance in RN- BSN Practicum Activities

Practicum experiences in the RN to BSN nursing program include both **direct care** and **indirect care** activities that support achievement of program outcomes and nursing competencies. Students may not begin practicum activities until course faculty approve, and site approval is granted by the College of Nursing through a contractual agreement.

Intersessions

Intersessions are considered part of the term directly preceding. For example, May intersession is part of the spring term; December intersession is part of the fall term; August intersession is part of the summer term. Students who fail a course in a term will still be enrolled in the intersession associated with that term (if applicable in the student's lockstep curriculum) but will not be enrolled in the next full term (spring,

summer, or fall as applicable). Please review the [Academic Calendar](#) for all deadlines associated with each intersession.

RN-BSN Carousel Course Format

RN-BSN courses are offered in eight-week carousels. The RN-BSN program follows a degree plan, and course availability is dependent on enrollment and capacity.

Technical Standards

Students admitted to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program must be able to meet the College of Nursing Technical Standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, throughout admission, enrollment, progression, and graduation. The Technical Standards describe the essential cognitive, physical, behavioral, communication, and professional abilities required to safely participate in classroom, laboratory, simulation, clinical, practicum, and other experiential learning environments.

Students are responsible for reviewing and understanding the Technical Standards and for notifying the College of Nursing if they believe they may require a reasonable accommodation. Requests for accommodations are coordinated through Student Accommodation Services (SAS) in accordance with University policy and applicable federal and state laws.

The complete Technical Standards for College of Nursing Program Admission, Retention, Progression, and Graduation are available on the [College of Nursing Website Admissions page](#).

Undergraduate Academic Progress

I. GPA CALCULATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Grading policies are based on BSN track (ABSN, TBSN, LPN-RN, RN-BSN) and catalog year of admission. Students will follow the grading policies in effect at the time of admission to their program

A. Grades

TBSN, ABSN, LPN-BSN, and RN-BSN Tracks Admitted Catalog Years 2022 – 2025

Only courses assigned a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F are used in calculation of a student's Term, OUHC, Cumulative, and/or Combination GPA.

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory graded courses are GPA neutral and are not used in the

calculation of a student's GPA. More information about grading is available in the Handbook, Grading System Section [4.8.8 Grading System](#)

Grading Scale:

- A (90-100) (4 grade points)
- B (80-89) (3 grade points)
- C (70-79) (2 grade points)
- D (60-69) (1 grade point, not passing)
- F (0-59) (0 grade points, not passing)

TBSN, ABSN, and LPN-BSN Tracks Admitted Catalog Year 2026-2027

With the implementation of the concept and competency-based curriculum, the Traditional BSN (TBSN), Accelerated BSN (ABSN), and LPN to BSN tracks have adopted specifications grading to align with competency-based assessment standards. This grading approach incorporates both formative and summative assessments and is designed to support students' achievement of the competencies outlined in the 2026 AACN Essentials supporting progression toward entry-level professional nursing practice.

Specifications grading is an assessment approach that evaluates student achievement based on demonstrated competency rather than the accumulation of points. Individual assessments are evaluated using clearly defined performance criteria (specifications), and final course grades are determined by successful completion of the grade bundle requirements established for each course.

Competency Based Assessments

Each assessment includes clearly defined competency criteria (specifications) that describe the performance standard required for successful completion. Student performance is evaluated as Met or Not Met/Needs Revision based on the established specifications for the assessment. When permitted by course policy, students may have opportunities to revise and resubmit work to demonstrate competency. Assignment instructions, competency criteria, and grading rubrics are provided within the course syllabus and Canvas.

Grade Calculation

Your grade is determined by the highest bundle you complete by the end of the course. Example: If you complete all expectations at the B Level and some at the A level, your grade will be a B.

What is a “Grade Bundle?”

A bundle is a collection of assignments or assessments tied to specific learning outcomes. Each bundle corresponds to a letter grade (e.g., to earn an “A,” a student must complete all tasks in the A bundle at a satisfactory level). This gives students agency to decide how much work they will complete and at what level of performance.

Final Grade Bundle Requirements

Letter Grade	Bundle
A	ALL “A” bundle assessments are completed. -None are completed below the A bundle level of achievement.
B	All “B” bundle assessments are completed. -May have achieved some at A-level -None achieved at C-level or below
C	All “C” bundle assessments are completed. - May have achieved some at A or B-level - None achieved at D-level or below
D (not passing)	All “D” bundle assessments are completed. -May have achieved some at A, B, or C-level -None achieved at F-level
F (not passing)	Any assessments completed at the “F” bundle level. - May have achieved some at A, B, C, or D-level
** Exact bundle details outlined are outlined in the Course Grade Bundle Table**	
Any course in which the grade of a D or F is received is considered not passing and does not count toward degree requirements.	

RN-BSN Track Admitted Catalog Year 2026 - 2027

- A (900-1000) (4 grade points)
- B (800-899) (3 grade points)
- C (700-799) (2 grade points)
- D (60-699) (1 grade point, not passing)
- F (0-599) (0 grade points, not passing)

Grade Calculation

Grades will be calculated using two decimal points in Canvas. Rounding the final grade

in any course is not permissible. For example, a grade of 89.6 (RN- BSN 899) cannot be rounded up to 90 (900 RN- BSN); it must remain 89 (899 RN- BSN). Any course in which the grade of a D or F is received does not count toward degree requirements.

C. Prerequisites

All prerequisites must be completed before matriculation in an undergraduate nursing program.

D. Undergraduate Program Pathways

Students cannot change from one undergraduate program pathway to another without reapplication to the requested pathway. To reapply, students must meet all application criteria, including good standing, professional behavior, and program requirements of the catalog.

E. Incomplete Grades

[Student Handbook - Grading Regulations Relative to Incompletes](#)

F. Withdrawals and Drops

[Student Handbook - Grading Regulations Relative to Withdrawals and Drops](#)

G. Licensure

Students in the RN-BSN program must hold an unencumbered and current RN license prior to enrollment. The RN license must be within the state where clinical practicums are to be completed.

Students enrolled in the LPN to BSN program must have an active unencumbered Oklahoma or compact LPN license before beginning any coursework.

If a student encounters license issues, faces disciplinary action from any state board of nursing, or loses their LPN or RN license while enrolled in the program, they must let the BSN Program Director know immediately. Failure to make timely notification is grounds for dismissal from the College.

II. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

A. Undergraduate: Academic Progression and Retention Standards

The following standards are required of students for progression and retention in the CON:

1. Students shall comply with all University, College, and program policies, including the Student Professional Behavior in an Academic Program policy and in the [Faculty Handbook](#):

2. Students must maintain a Cumulative GPA of 2.0 (undergraduate) to be in Good Academic Standing.

3. The CON has determined that students must successfully complete (with satisfactory final course grades) all aspects of the program within six years of matriculation to the undergraduate program in accordance with the [University of Oklahoma requirements](#)

See also the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Student Handbook, [Leave of Absence](#)

III. ACADEMIC ACTIONS

The College of Nursing Student Affairs Team will monitor the academic progression of all students through the application of this policy to student academic performance.

A. Academic Retention

A student meeting the Academic Progression and Retention Standards in Section II A will be recommended for Academic Progression and Retention unless a compelling academic and/or professionalism deficiency is present.

B. Academic Probation

1. For the purposes of this policy, Academic Probation is the academic status assigned to a student who fails to meet academic standards and demonstrate satisfactory progress using criteria detailed in this section. Student Affairs monitors performance and makes academic status recommendations to Academic Affairs and the Dean at the completion of each term.

2. A student who is not on Academic Probation at the beginning of a term but whose Cumulative GPA at the end of that term is less than 2.0 (undergraduate) will be placed on Academic Probation and will be allowed to enroll the subsequent term.

A student who has been placed on Academic Probation based on a Cumulative GPA of less than 2.0 (undergraduate) shall be recommended for continuation on Academic Probation provided they earn a Term GPA of 2.0 or higher.

A student who earns a subsequent Term GPA of less than 2.0 (undergraduate) while on Academic Probation shall be dismissed in accordance with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Policy, [Institutional Admission and Retention](#).

A student on Academic Probation obtaining both a Term GPA of 2.0 (undergraduate) or greater the subsequent term and whose Cumulative GPA is 2.0 (undergraduate) or greater will be removed from Academic Probation.

3. Each student on Academic Probation will be evaluated by Student Affairs each term after final grades are available.

4. If a student's current GPA makes it mathematically impossible for the student to obtain a Cumulative GPA of 2.0 (undergraduate) or greater upon completion of all

courses required for graduation, the College of Nursing Student Affairs Team shall recommend to Academic Affairs and the Dean that the student be dismissed from the program.

C. Dismissal

The following conditions will result in the recommendation to dismiss a student from the CON:

1. Failure to complete the program within the specified time frame, as specified in section II.A. above.
2. Failure to meet the minimum GPA requirements for the program.
3. Failure to meet the minimum requirements for graduation imposed by the Program and University in the Student Handbook, [Graduation Guidelines](#).
4. Inability to attend the clinical locations assigned to their site for reasons related to academic, professional, or behavioral considerations, or refusal of a clinical site to host a student on these bases.
5. Students will be dismissed from an undergraduate program who receive any two of the following: a D, an F, or a course withdrawal. This includes one course withdrawal combined with a D or F, or two course withdrawals. A leave of absence and a term withdrawal (withdrawing from all enrolled courses for a given term) are excluded and follow the OU Health Campus policies:

[Leave of Absence](#)

[Withdrawals](#)

Academic Appeals

The policy and procedures regarding academic appeals are detailed in the OUHC [Faculty Handbook](#). A student may seek guidance about academic policies and procedures from the College of Nursing Student Affairs and/or the OUHC Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

Changes in Student Name or Address

Forms may be obtained [here](#).

Computer Requirements

- [Laptop Encryption requirements](#)
- [Computer specification requirements](#)
- [Acceptable Use of Information Systems](#)

Academic Calendar, including Final Examinations

All students must plan to be in class for the duration of the semester as defined in the [Academic Calendar](#). Information about final examinations can be found in the [Academic Calendar](#).

[Pets on Campus](#)

[Protecting and Safeguarding Protected Health Information \(PHI\)](#)

[Youth Protection Policy](#)

Financial Student Services

Students carry financial responsibility for their education. Students must contact the Bursar and the Financial Aid Office for any actions taken in their educational record.

- [Student Financial Aid](#)
- [Bursar](#)
- [Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)
- [CON Student Scholarships](#)

Drug Screening

Drug screen results may impact your ability to participate in clinicals. Some clinical partners have very strict policies (e.g., some facilities enforce a zero-tolerance policy). If the drug screen results prohibit clinical placement, students would be withdrawn/dismissed due to inability to complete the program. Please see the [Drug Screening](#) policy in the OUHC Student Handbook.

Student Professional Behavior

Students must adhere to the college and university expectations for [professionalism](#), as outlined in the Student Professional Behavior in an Academic Program Policy in the Faculty Handbook Appendix C.

Accommodations

- [Student Accommodation Services, OU Health Campus](#)
- [Student Accommodation Services, OU Tulsa Campus](#)

- [Reasonable Accommodation Policy](#)

English Proficiency

- [Teacher English Proficiency](#)
- [English Language Proficiency](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities Code and Procedures

- [Student Handbook](#)
- [Student Conduct](#)

General Copyright Information

- Students cannot buy or sell items (including, but not limited to, clothing, merchandise, study materials, etc.), that would infringe upon copyright law: [Copyright Information](#).

College of Nursing Policies

- [Admissions Decisions](#)
- [PRE-LICENSURE BSN CLINICAL LEARNING ABSENCE POLICY AND PROCEDURE](#)
- [GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURE](#)
- [ADMINISTRATION OF UNDERGRADUATE DOSAGE CALCULATION EXAM POLICY AND PROCEDURE](#)
- [ADMINISTRATION OF UNDERGRADUATE EXAMS POLICY AND PROCEDURE](#)
- [Preparation Utilizing Assessment Testing Policy and Procedure](#)