

**B-16**  
**COLLEGE OF THE SEQUIAS**  
**DIVISION OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH**

**TITLE: CREDIT BY EXAMINATION**

**PURPOSE:** This policy describes the general procedure for challenging one or more courses within the COS Nursing Program. This policy applies to the advance placement student and military personnel who have held Military Health Care Occupations.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The credit by examination procedure is described in the current college catalog. The student must file a petition for approval to challenge a course by examination with the Admissions and Records Office. This petition must be approved before the Credit by Exam begins.

\*Individuals who have held Military Health Care Occupations, specifically: Basic Medical Technician Corpsman (Navy HM or Air Force BMTCP), Army Health Care Specialist (68W Army Medic) or Air Force Independent Duty Medical Technician (IMDT 4N0X1C) may achieve advanced placement into 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the nursing program with documentation of education and experience (within the last two years) qualifying them for the specific Military Health Care Occupation and upon successful completion of the challenge option that consists of two (2) parts – theory portion and clinical portion .

Once approval is received, the process in the division is as follows:

1. The challenge option for each course being challenged contains two (2) parts:  
Part 1: Theory portion      Part 2: Clinical portion
2. Students wishing to challenge courses within the COS Nursing Program must notify the Director the semester previous to the course they are challenging Refer to AP4235: Credit for Prior Learning; item 6, credit by exam.
3. If a student chooses to challenge a course, ALL portions (theory & clinical) in that course must be challenged.
4. The student must first achieve a score of at least 75% on the written exam for the theory portion of the course being challenged. If the theory score is below 75%, the student must take the course as scheduled.
5. Once the theory portion has been passed with 75% or more, the student must take the clinical part of the challenge option. If a student earns a satisfactory (Pass) rating on the clinical portion, the grade earned will be the grade achieved on the written portion. If clinical performance is less than satisfactory, the student will take the course as scheduled.

The clinical portion of the challenge option will be comprised of the challenge procedure of the course.

6. The Student Evaluation Record (SER) will be used to determine the student's clinical competency. Refer to SER.
7. Where applicable, the student must complete a satisfactory nursing care plan/concept map for each clinical rotation being challenged.

**REFERENCE:** Each course's specific challenge procedures (Attached)  
AP 4235 Credit By Examination

***Policy & Procedure Committee***

**DATE APPROVED/REVIEWED/REVISED:** 8/1999; 2/2004; 9/2004; 5/2007; 5/2008;  
2/2012; 10/2012; 10/2013; 4/2016; 5/2021; 4/2022

**COLLEGE OF THE SEQUOIAS  
DIVISION OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCE**

**Challenge Procedure for NURS 121: Fundamentals for Nursing**

Description:

A student who meets the requirements of the Nursing Division Challenge Policy may challenge the theory and/or clinical components of the NURS 121 course.

Procedure:

**Theory Challenge**

1. Pass all NURS 121 exams (quizzes, midterm, and final).
2. The student must achieve a score of 75% or greater in order to pass the theory challenge examination. Scores will NOT be rounded up (for example, a score of 74.9 will not be rounded up to a 75).

**Clinical Challenge**

1. Pass all skills lab activities.
2. During a clinical week (2 clinical days), care for 2 patients, performing a head-to-toe physical exam, personal hygiene, activity/mobility exercises, and any appropriate procedures.
3. Construct a complete care plan.

**NURS 123: Critical Thinking/Clinical Judgment Course may not be challenged**

**Challenge Procedure for NURS 124: Concepts of Adult Health Nursing 1**

Description:

A student who meets the requirements of the Nursing Division Challenge Policy may challenge the theory and/or clinical components of the NURS 124 course.

Procedure:

**Theory Challenge**

1. Pass all NURS 124 exams (quizzes, midterm, and final).
2. The student must achieve a score of 75% or greater in order to pass the theory

challenge examination. Scores will NOT be rounded up (for example, a score of 74.9 will not be rounded up to a 75).

### **Clinical Challenge**

1. Pass all skills lab activities.
2. During a clinical week (1 clinical day), care for 1 patient, performing a head-to-toe physical exam, personal hygiene, activity/mobility exercises, and any appropriate procedures.
3. Complete a documentation packet on the assigned patient, including documentation of a head-to-toe assessment at a satisfactory level as determined by the course instructor.

### **Challenge Procedure for NURS 134: Concepts of Adult Health Nursing 2**

#### **Description:**

A student who meets the requirements of the Nursing Division Challenge Policy may challenge the theory and/or clinical components of the NURS134 course.

#### **Procedure:**

##### **Theory Challenge**

- 1.. The student will take a written examination containing multiple-choice questions which cover theory concepts as follows:
  - Acid-base Balance
  - Cellular Regulation
  - Metabolism
  - Elimination
  - Fluid and Electrolytes
  - Inflammation
  - Mobility
  - Evidence-based Practice
2. The student must achieve a score of 75% or greater in order to pass the theory challenge examination. Scores will NOT be rounded up (for example, a score of 74.9 will not be rounded up to a 75).

##### **Clinical Challenge**

1. The student must spend one (1) full day in the clinical areas with a NURS 134 Instructor. Additional clinical days may be required if the instructor needs more time in the clinical setting to observe the student.

2. The student will perform complete patient care, medication administration, medication research forms, biographical data forms, lab analysis form and a comprehensive assessment on all assigned clients. The student will be assigned 1-2 clients.
3. The student must satisfactorily complete an assessment, care plan and charting on one client, plus any additional assignments.

### **Challenge Procedure for NURS 135: Concepts of Nursing Care of the Pregnant Family and the Neonate**

**Description:**

A student who meets the requirements of the Nursing Division Challenge Policy may challenge the theory and/or clinical components of the NURS 135 course.

**Procedure:**

**Theory Challenge**

1. The student will take a written examination containing multiple-choice questions which cover theory concepts and exemplars as follows:

**Sexuality:** menstrual dysfunction, Sexual dysfunction, STI, Family Planning, Menopause

**Reproduction:** Antepartum, Alterations in the antepartum period, Intrapartum Care, Alterations in the intrapartum period, Postpartum Care and Alterations in the postpartum period, Newborn Care, Fetal adaptation to extrauterine life and Alterations to adaptation in the newborn period

**Oxygenation and Perfusion:** Antepartum and Intrapartum hypertensive alterations, Bleeding alterations

**Mood and Affect:** Baby blues, depression and psychosis

**Legal**

**Ethical**

**Advocacy**

**Quality Improvement**

**Accountability**

**Evidence-based practice**

**Teaching and Learning**

2. The student must achieve a score of 75% or greater in order to pass the theory challenge examination. Scores will NOT be rounded up (for example, a score of 74.9 will not be rounded up to a 75).

### **Clinical Challenge**

1. The student must spend two full days in the perinatal clinical areas (1 day in postpartum and 1 day in labor and delivery) with a NURS 135 Instructor. Additional clinical days may be required if the instructor needs more time in the clinical setting to observe the student.
2. The student will perform complete patient care, including a comprehensive newborn physical assessment which includes and weight and length, and focused postpartum assessment using BUBBLE HEEB REEDA which is specific to the area of postpartum and newborn care. The student will administer oral and injectable medications to one patient throughout the day on postpartum and participate in other offered skills opportunities as available (Metabolic Screening Test, CCHD, TCB). The student will follow a postpartum nurse (and the instructor) in care of four couplets.
3. The student must additionally complete a care plan using Tanner's Model and relevant charting on each assigned client, plus any additional assignments pertinent to the specialty area (Attend a birth).

### **Challenge Procedure for NURS 133: Concepts of Mental Health & Psychiatric Nursing**

#### **Description:**

A student who meets the requirements of the Nursing Division Challenge may challenge the theory and/or clinical components of the NURS 133 course.

#### **Procedure:**

##### **Theory Challenge**

1. The theory challenge will be a comprehensive test of all the psychiatric nursing concepts and exemplars as outlined in the course syllabus as follows:

##### **Concepts:**

- Communication
- Professionalism
- Assessment
- Collaboration
- Cognition
- Legal Issues
- Evidence-based Practice
- Stress and Coping
- Mood and Affect
- Addiction
- Self
- Advocacy and Ethics

##### **Exemplars:**

- Therapeutic and Non-therapeutic Communication
- Therapeutic Relationship
- Role of the Mental Health Nurse

Assessment  
Interdisciplinary Treatment Team  
Legal Criteria for Admission  
Mental Health Law (Assault & Battery, Reice's Hearing, Tarasoff Liability Act)  
Patient's Mental Health Rights  
Legal Commitment  
Psychotropic Medications/Therapy  
Anxiety and Related Disorders  
Depression, Mania and Suicide  
Psychosis  
Addiction and Substance Abuse  
Personality Disorders  
Neuro-Cognitive Disorders  
Eating Disorders  
Abuse and Violence (Child, Sexual, Intimate Partner, Elder, Rape Trauma Syndrome)  
Psycho-physiological Response to Stress  
Advocacy and Ethics

2. The student must achieve a score of 75% or greater in order to pass the theory challenge examination. Scores will NOT be rounded up (for example, a score of 74.9 will not be rounded up to a 75).

### **Clinical Challenge**

1. The student must spend one (1) full day in the clinical area with a NURS 154 Instructor. Additional clinical days may be required if the instructor needs more time in the clinical setting to observe the student.
2. The student will perform complete patient care, including a comprehensive assessment specific for the specialty area. The student will be assigned 1-2 clients.
3. The student must satisfactorily complete an assessment, care plan (either verbal or written) and charting on each assigned client, plus any additional assignments pertinent to the psychiatric clinical portion of the course, i.e., clinical exit exam.

### **Challenge Procedure for NURS 143: Concepts of Pediatric Nursing**

#### **Description:**

A student who meets the requirements of the Nursing Division Challenge may challenge the theory and/or clinical components of the NURS 143 course.

#### **Procedure:**

## **Theory Challenge**

1. The theory challenge will be a comprehensive test of the pediatric nursing course.
2. The student will take a written examination containing multiple-choice questions which cover theory concepts as follows:

Pediatric Assessment	5
Pediatric Growth and Development	5
Immunizations	5
Pediatric Nutrition/Fluid	5
Digestion and Elimination	5
Pediatric Illness and Injury Prevention	5
Pediatric Medication Math Calculation	5

3. The student must achieve a score of 75% or greater in order to pass the theory challenge examination. Scores will NOT be rounded up (for example, a score of 74.9 will not be rounded up to a 75).

## **Clinical Challenge**

1. The student must spend two (2) full days in the pediatric clinical areas with a NURS 143 instructor. Additional clinical days may be required if the instructor needs more time in the clinical setting to observe the student.
2. The student will perform complete patient care, including a comprehensive assessment specific for the specialty area. The student will be assigned 1-2 clients.
3. The student must satisfactorily complete an assessment, care plan or concept map and charting on each assigned client, plus any additional assignments pertinent to the specialty area.

## **Challenge Procedure for NURS 144: Concepts of Adult Health Nursing 3**

### **Description:**

A student who meets the requirements of the Nursing Division Challenge Policy may challenge the theory and/or clinical components of the NURS 144 course.

### **Procedure:**

#### **Theory Challenge**

1. The student will take a written examination containing 10 multiple-choice questions on each of the concepts and exemplars as follows:

**Perfusion:** CAD, DIC, HF

**Oxygenation:** COPD



**Digestion:** Hepatitis, Malabsorption disorders, Pancreatitis

**Cellular Regulation:** Cancer: Breast, Colorectal, Leukemia, Skin

**Immunity:** HIV/AIDS, Hypersensitivity, RA, SLE,

**Mobility:** OA, Parkinson's Disease

**Sensory:** Diseases of the Eye: Cataracts, Macular Degeneration. Glaucoma, Corneal Abrasions, Penetrating /Perforation Eye Injury, Retinol Detachment

**Informatics & Quality Improvement:** Related to Safety: Sensory perception, mobility (falls)

**Advocacy, Accountability, & Ethics:** Environmental quality and others related to advocating for patients studied this semester Professional development (maintaining currency) Morality, Ethical dilemmas

2. The student must achieve a score of 75% or greater in order to pass the theory challenge examination. Scores will NOT be rounded up (for example, a score of 74.9 will not be rounded up to 75).

### **Clinical Challenge**

The student will:

1. The student must spend two full clinical days of the rotation with a NURS 144 Instructor. Additional clinical days may be required if the instructor needs more time in the clinical setting to observe the student.
2. The student will perform complete patient care, including charting and administration of all ordered medications and IV fluids, on three (3) patients per day.
3. The student must satisfactorily complete comprehensive assessments and full nursing care plans for each assigned patient, including medication research forms for all ordered medications.

**NURS 174: Concepts of Adult Health Nursing 4 may not be challenged.**

**NURS 175: Transitions to Registered Nursing Practice may not be challenged.**