

Dosage Calculation Policy	Policy Sponsor: School Council Responsible Unit: School of Nursing	Approval Date: April 4, 2016 Approved by: Undergraduate Studies Committee Amendments: June 7, 2021
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A. Background and Purpose

Successful completion of the BScN program at Dalhousie University requires that the graduate possess entry-level competencies, as regulated by, the Nova Scotia College of Nurses (NSCN) (NSCN, 2020.). In order to graduate, students must acquire, maintain and continuously demonstrate such competencies, including the responsibility of safe medication administration. An essential component of safe medication administration is the ability to demonstrate competency in dosage calculations. Opportunities are provided throughout various aspects of the BScN Program to meet the competency requirements for dosage calculation.

Dalhousie University nursing students are required to demonstrate medication dosage calculation proficiency by obtaining a mark of 95% or greater on all calculation competency tests. Competency tests will be administered. within designated nursing courses, within the curriculum. Successful achievement of 95% or greater is required before students can progress in the program. Students in clinical practice settings will be unable to participate in medication administration activities until they have successfully passed competency testing.

B. Application

This policy applies to the faculty and staff within the Undergraduate Nursing Program (BScN), course and clinical instructors and all BScN students.

C. Definitions

1. In this policy:

a. “competency” means the ability to do something successfully or efficiently. Please refer to the Entry Level Competencies for the Practice of Registered Nurses:

[EntryLevelCompetenciesRN.pdf \(nscn.ca\)](#)

b. “NSCN” refers to the Nova Scotia College of Nurses (*formerly College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia- CRNNS*)

c. “benchmark” is a standard or point of reference against which things may be compared or assessed. For standardized testing at the School of Nursing this standard is 95%.

D. Policy

- A link to the Dosage Calculations Policy will be included in all nursing course templates.
- Specific nursing courses will be designated by Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) to include competency tests and/or required practice modules (See Appendix 1-Procedural Guidelines).
- The course professor is responsible to explain to students the relevancy of this policy to their course, inform students at least one week in advance of the specific testing date(s)/location(s) and to coordinate testing, remedial and re-testing activities.
- Students who fail to meet the benchmark of 95% on their first calculation tests, may have up to two (2) additional opportunities to re-write within the course. The specific conditions of these rewrite vary depending upon the nature of the course (see below).
- The number of dosage calculation re-writes will be recorded in HSPnet data base.
- Students who fail to achieve a 95% on the third test or fail to qualify for a re-write due to uncompleted remedial work will not meet the requirements to pass the course and as a result will fail the course.

Nursing Courses with Block Clinical

- Students that do not achieve the 95% pass mark on their initial dosage calculations test may have up to two (2) additional opportunities to re-write.
- A rewrite opportunity will **only** occur after students have completed assigned remedial work.
- Students must successfully achieve the 95% benchmark on calculation competency testing in order to meet the requirement to beginning medication administration in clinical practice associated with the semester.
- Marks are not to be averaged across tests and mean score assigned.

E. Authority

UGSA >USC > SON School Council

F. References

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