BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY DECKER SCHOOL OF NURSING
Student Health Requirements

This document includes information regarding:

- Student health evaluation form
- Documentation of immunity to communicable diseases
- Student health insurance requirement
- CPR certification requirement
- HIPAA, OSHA bloodborne pathogens and infection control training

Decker School of Nursing (DSON) students enrolling in clinical nursing courses this fall need to comply with the New York State Department of Health regulation that mandates annual physical examinations and documented evidence of immunity to several communicable diseases for all healthcare providers, as well as additional requirements of the school and selected healthcare agencies. Students will need to complete the DSON Student Health Evaluation form, which includes the Physical Examination and Student Immunization Record.

Health requirements are current for one rolling calendar year (meaning they expire one year to the date they were completed). Any students who fulfill these requirements early in the spring will need to repeat the requirements within the academic year to maintain current health requirement status.

Students registering in clinical nursing courses will also be required to submit evidence of current, personal health insurance coverage and proof of CPR certification at a level equivalent to “CPR for the Professional Rescuer” and including AED (defibrillator) training through the American Heart Association, American Red Cross or American Health Safety Institute. The course must have a hands-on component; purely online courses will not be accepted. The DSON accepts only professional provider courses from the American Heart Association, American Red Cross or American Safety and Health Institute.

Health requirements are managed through Castle Branch (castlebranch.com). All requirements can be uploaded, faxed or mailed to Castle Branch. The DSON will not accept emailed or faxed copies of health documents. See the enclosed instructions to start a profile and begin completing the requirements.

The deadline for submission of health requirements for the following programs are:
Baccalaureate Accelerated Track (BAT) students — May 1
- Traditional students (transfers, juniors and seniors) — July 1
- RN-to-BS and graduate students — August 1
SERVICES AVAILABLE AT BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY’S DECKER STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES CENTER
Many services for students registered in classes at Binghamton University are available at the Decker Student Health Services Center (this is the University’s health clinic and isn’t part of the DSON), including those listed below. For more information about services provided, visit the center’s website at binghamton.edu/health or call 607-777-2221.

1. Mantoux tuberculin tests and immunizations
2. Tetanus, MMR, meningitis, varicella and hepatitis B vaccines
3. Laboratory tests for the measles, mumps, rubella and varicella titers (titers are laboratory tests that measure the level of antibodies to the disease present in the blood)
   • When classes are in session, lab tests are available at the Decker Student Health Services Center Monday through Friday, 9:30–10:30 a.m.
   • When classes aren’t in session, students will be given a requisition by Decker Student Health Services Center staff and directed to the proper off-campus laboratory location

DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING DSON STUDENT HEALTH EVALUATION FORM AND OTHER HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Binghamton University’s student health requirements (for students new to the University)
If you will be entering Binghamton University for the first time in the summer or fall, you are required by the University to submit medical history and immunization forms to the Decker Student Health Services Center (this is a University office and not the same as the DSON). Visit binghamton.edu/health/new-students.html for information and instructions on completing the University health requirements.

You must also have your healthcare provider complete the DSON Student Health Evaluation form posted on the DSON webpage https://www.binghamton.edu/dson/about/clinical_req.html

Be sure to upload a copy to your Castle Branch account. Healthcare institutions where you will be performing clinical will require this information.

Be sure that all sections of all forms https://www.binghamton.edu/dson/about/clinical_req.html are accepted and completed. Incomplete and illegible forms will be rejected. Rejected or missing health documents will delay your course registration and can affect your clinical time.

Copies of physical examinations will not be accepted. You must have your healthcare provider complete the DSON Student Health Evaluation form.
**Student health (HIPAA) release form**

Some clinical agencies used by the DSON require specific student health data for participation in clinical experiences. This information may include the physical examination date, immunization dates, titer reports, Mantoux test or chest X-ray dates and results, and/or a copy of the Physical Examination and Student Immunization Record (contained on your DSON Student Health Evaluation form). You will be asked to sign a release form: (binghamton.edu/dson/undergrad/pdf/clinical_req/DSON%20Health%20Release.pdf), this information may be forwarded to assigned clinical agencies. Print, sign, date and upload the form to your Castle Branch account.

**Immunizations**

Be sure all information provided on your immunization record is legible. (You may provide immunization records from your healthcare provider or have your healthcare provider complete the Student Immunization Record portion of the DSON Student Health Evaluation form — both are acceptable proof of your immunizations.)

- **Tetanus:** All students must have had one dose of diphtheria-tetanus toxoid vaccine within the past 10 years. The Centers for Disease Control recommend that healthcare personnel receive a one-time dose of Tdap. If you have not received a Tdap or are due for one while you are enrolled in the program, this should be considered now since students will be entering healthcare facilities. Have your provider indicate (circle on form) which combination (Td or Tdap) of the immunization you received.

- **Measles, Mumps, Rubella:** You must provide either documentation of receiving two MMR immunizations (month, date and year) after the age of 12 months OR proof of serologic immunity to the communicable diseases (titers). If submitting a titer, upload titer (lab) results to each appropriate section in Castle Branch.

- **Varicella (chickenpox):** You must provide documentation of receiving two varicella immunizations (month, date and year) OR a positive titer (upload lab results) OR diagnosis of history of varicella disease by a healthcare provider (month, date and year disease was acquired). Students who can provide proof of two varicella immunizations are not required to have a titer drawn. Students who are not immune to varicella are at risk for contracting the disease and participation as well as progress in clinical nursing courses will cease until the student is re-immunized. Students who have a negative varicella titer are instructed to obtain the varicella immunizations(series of 2). The varicella vaccine is given in a series of two doses four to eight weeks apart. Students may obtain this immunization through their healthcare provider or at the Decker Student Health Services Center.

- **Hepatitis B:** The DSON has adopted Centers for Disease Control recommendations regarding hepatitis B immunizations, which state nursing students should receive the hepatitis B series. You must provide proof of receiving the series (3) OR proof you are in the process of receiving the series OR a signed declination form (you will indicate you are declining on Castle Branch).
• Mantoux tuberculin test (PPD): Clinical agencies used by the DSON require a two-step Mantoux tuberculin test. The two-step process involves the student having a second tuberculin test no less than one week after the initial tuberculosis test OR providing proof of two negative tests within 12 months. Either scenario must involve providing proof of two separate tuberculin tests placed within the current rolling calendar year.
  o If the tuberculin test is positive, a chest X-ray or Quantiferon Gold or t-spot blood test must be completed. The chest X-ray report must be submitted to the DSON via your Castle Branch account. Students who have a chest x-ray or Quantiferon Gold or t-spot test must complete a TB Symptom Screening form annually (binghamton.edu/dson/undergrad/pdf/clinical_req/PPD%20Screening.pdf).

Health insurance
DSON students must provide proof of current, personal health insurance coverage. Your name must be imprinted on the card. Evidence of this coverage is a copy of the front and back of your health insurance card and (if you name is not listed on the card) a letter from the insurance company or a letter from the employer where the insurance coverage is an employee benefit. The documentation (card and letter) you provide as proof of insurance must include your name. If your name is not listed on the insurance card, also provide a letter or document from your insurer needs to include your name and state that you are covered under the policy.

Binghamton University offers a student health insurance plan. The University’s Student Accounts Office can provide a brochure describing this plan and information regarding the premium for the academic year. Contact Student Accounts at 607-777-2702 or binghamton.edu/student-accounts. Students enrolling in this plan will have the premium added to their tuition and fees bill each semester.

CPR
You must provide proof of current certification from either the American Red Cross/Professional Rescuer or American Heart Association/Healthcare Provider or the American Safety and Health Institute CPR/PRO. The DSON will only accept the three CPR courses listed above. The course must include adult, pediatric and infant CPR and obstructed airway, ambu-mask devices and AED. There must be a hands-on component to the course; DSON does not accept courses taught completely online. Be certain to submit the front and back of your signed CPR card to Castle Branch.(if there are two sides to the card)

NOTE: The only courses we accept for CPR certification are: the American Red Cross/Professional Rescuer, American Heart Association/Healthcare Provider or American Safety and Health Institute CPR/PRO.
Confidentiality agreement
All students are required to sign a DSON Confidentiality Agreement each year. Upload the document:
binghamton.edu/dson/undergrad/pdf/clinical_req/DSON%20Confidentiality%20Statement.pdf
to your Castle Branch profile.

HIPAA/OSHA bloodborne pathogens/infection control training
HIPAA, OSHA bloodborne pathogens standard and mandatory infection control training will be provided for undergraduate students as part of their DSON program. RN students who can provide documentation of this requirement from their employers may be excused from the in-house training. Graduate students must provide proof of completion of the programs and submit to Castle Branch annually.

Criminal background check
Many of the agencies we use for clinical placements require criminal background checks for all students who come into the agency. The extent of the investigation varies by facility, with some requiring more extensive federal clearances and fingerprints. To comply with their requirements, DSON requires all student to complete a criminal background check. Complete the online Pennsylvania Criminal Record Check at psp.pa.gov/Pages/Request-a-Criminal-History-Record.aspx (select volunteer.FREE) then upload the certificate to your Castle Branch account.

Child abuse clearance
Some Pennsylvania agencies we use for clinical placements require students to have Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance. For that reason, DSON requires all students to complete the online application through Castle Branch. Once completed, you will receive a certificate that you will upload to your Castle Branch profile.

Flu Vaccine
All students are to receive a flu vaccine annually. To prove you received your annual vaccine, create a document that includes the following: your name; the location you received the vaccine; the date you received the vaccine; the name of the individual who administered the vaccine; which arm you received the vaccination in; and the vaccine name, manufacturer, lot # and expiration date. Upload this document to your Castle Branch account by October 1 each year.

Castle Branch Medical Document Manager
All health requirements must be submitted to the Castle Branch Medical Document Manager within castlebranch.com. All documents must be uploaded to your Castle Branch profile; the DSON does not accept paper, email or faxed copies. Instructions on creating a Castle Branch account are located on the DSON clinical requirements webpage:
https://www.binghamton.edu/dson/about/clinical_req.html

QUESTIONS?
Questions regarding any of the information above may be directed to DSON Clinical Instructor Michele Steinhauser, RN, MS, at 607-240-3977 or msteinha@binghamton.edu.