

# Northern Michigan University – Fall 2024 BSN Orientation

WELCOME!

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The current complete BSN Student Handbook can be found at: [nmu.edu/nursing/student-information](http://nmu.edu/nursing/student-information). The handbook is updated each year in the summer.

### Health Requirements, Immunizations, and CastleBranch

[nmu.edu/nursing/bsn-student-requirements](http://nmu.edu/nursing/bsn-student-requirements)

- 1) Will the immunization document that was sent to Northern my freshman year count towards some of the immunizations required, or do I still need to get a vaccine/positive titer?

*Your immunization documents will still need to be uploaded in the Student Immunization tracker for the School of Nursing. The School of Nursing does not have access to the immunization document initially sent to Northern. Northern Michigan University requires that all full-time, new and re-entry students born after 1956 provide proof of immunity to measles (rubeola) to the University Health Center.*

*The School of Nursing requires proof of immunity (through immunization or positive titer) for: Measles (rubeola), Mumps, Rubella, Pertussis, Varicella, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Influenza (flu), COVID, and Hepatitis B. (The Tetanus and Diphtheria (Td) is required every 10 years, although the Tdap is also an option. Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis immunization is usually called Tdap).*

*Proof of negative two-step tuberculin (TB) skin test within the last year is also needed. Requires 4 total doctor visits, 2 visits for each step (injection and reading after 48-72 hours). Time between the two tests must not be less than 10 days and not more than 12 months. If you have had a positive TB skin test or a positive IGRA blood test in the past, then you must present documented proof of a negative chest x-ray on admission and complete a TB Symptom Questionnaire yearly. IGRA testing can be used in place of TB skin testing. IGRA tests include: QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) or T-SPOT®.TB test (T-Spot).*

**\*\*NOTES:**

- *If receiving immunizations/vaccinations and your TB skin test at the same time, please note that the TB skin test should be done before receiving immunizations/vaccinations using live vaccine.*
- *Moving forward in the program, your flu vaccine proof is due by November 15 of each year. Please upload this by August 21, 2024.*

- 2) Is there a limit on how far back a titer can go? I had a Varicella titer drawn a year ago, can I use that?

*There are no limits on MMR, Varicella, or Hepatitis immunizations or titers. Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis are good for ten (10 years). Many people receive a Tdap (or DTP) vaccine which is a combination of tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis.*

- 3) What happens if one of my titers comes back with an “equivocal” or “negative” result?

*An antibody titer is a laboratory test that measures the level of antibodies in a blood sample. An equivocal or negative result indicates you do not have the adequate levels of antibodies and you will need to get a booster vaccine with a subsequent blood sample redraw of the titer in 4-6 weeks.*

- 4) What if two components of my MMR titer come back as positive and one component comes back as equivocal or negative?

*You will still need the booster vaccine and a subsequent blood sample redraw of a titer in 4-6 weeks.*

- 5) CastleBranch rejected my Tdap/tetanus. I submitted my MCIR (Michigan Care Improvement Registry) with several dates where I received the vaccine. What am I doing wrong?

*The School of Nursing needs documentation of at least one Tdap vaccination. The MCIR documentation often does not indicate which type of tetanus vaccine a person receives. Contact the provider where the vaccine was provided to gain documentation of the exactly which vaccine was received on each date. This may also be found on page 2 of your MCIR. For most, the Tdap vaccine was received around 11-12 years of age.*

- 6) Do I have to use the drug testing clinic listed in Marquette? When should I test? Who reviews the results?

**Drug screening must be completed between July 29, 2024 and August 21, 2024. You can be tested at Shelton Professional Phlebotomy Service in Marquette (using your CastleBranch code), or at any other drug testing provider listed in Castle Branch as an option. Positive drug screen results are reviewed by the Associate Dean/Director of the School of Nursing.**

- 7) Do I need to upload the results of my drug screening to CastleBranch?

***No! The results will directly load into the CastleBranch/Medical Document Manager.***

- 8) What happens if I can't access my CastleBranch.com account?

***-If you forgot your password, reset it at <https://www.castlebranch.com/forgot-password>***

***-Call CastleBranch.com Client Services at 888-723-4263 or submit an online request for assistance.***

***Make sure to upload all required documentation to your CastleBranch Medical Document Tracker by the due date in your BSN requirements list (August 21, 2024 by midnight). If you do not comply with the due dates, you will lose your placement to another student from the waiting list. Always keep hard copies of all documentation in a folder for your own records, including confirmation of your CastleBranch package order.***

***If you feel that your immunization document was rejected by CastleBranch in error, please contact Julie Dobson at [jdobson@nmu.edu](mailto:jdobson@nmu.edu) or (906)227-1667 or the School of Nursing at [bsnnurse@nmu.edu](mailto:bsnnurse@nmu.edu) or (906)227-2834.***

## The CPR/BLS Requirement

- 1) Does my American Red Cross CPR count?

***No, you will need to complete the American Heart Association Heartcode Basic Life Support (BLS Provider) course. This course provides evidence of professional one and two person rescue cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of the automated external defibrillator (AED) for adults, children and infants, and choking rescue for adults, children and infants. There are other AHA CPR classes that are geared for the public, however students must take the BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS provider) course!***

- 2) Does my Lifeguard CPR card count?

***Only if it is the American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS provider) course that includes professional one and/or two person rescue for adults, infants, and children, use of AED for adults, children infants, and choking rescue for adults, children, and infants.***

- 3) What exactly should my CPR card state?

***Your CPR card/certificate should state "BLS Provider". You need to SIGN the card under the line that says, "Holder's Signature" before uploading the card into the Student Immunization Tracker. Be sure to enroll in the correct CPR class-there are many courses offered.***

- 4) I found an online BLS provider course, will that fulfill the CPR requirement?

***The online BLS provider course will need to be paired with a face-to-face skills test out in order to receive a BLS provider card and to fulfill the NMU School of Nursing CPR requirement. Prior to purchasing an online course, it is recommended that students have a plan in place for completing the hands-on skills test out. The School of Nursing does not provide such a service. The NMU School of Health and Human Performance does provide these courses. See [nmu.edu/hhp/health-care-provider-first-aidcpr](http://nmu.edu/hhp/health-care-provider-first-aidcpr) for dates and registration information.***

## Cost and Supplies

The Associate Dean/Director for the School of Nursing has worked diligently to keep costs as low as possible. We understand the financial constraints for college students. Estimations of the costs are:

- **CastleBranch – Package Code: OE66bsndt- \$134.75 minimum. Must open an account on/after July 29, 2024.**
  - **OE66bsndt- (\$134.75 minimum) include the following:**
    - **Criminal Background Check: \$50.75. Each additional county/state of residence increases the cost by \$13.00 per additional search.**
    - **Student Tracker of Immunizations: \$38.00 to develop the Student Immunization Tracker account that holds all of your records. This is a one-time charge for your entire program of study.**
    - **Drug Screen: \$46**
  - **Immunizations: Charges associated with obtaining immunizations vary according to insurance policies. For those without health insurance the estimated costs (not including injection fees) are (Source: NMU Health Center): \$80 for one Hepatitis B injection (3 needed); \$80 for one MMR booster; \$60 for one TDap booster; \$50 for two-step TB test; \$137 for one Varicella injection; OR titer (measles/rubeola and rubella \$20; mumps \$55; Hepatitis B \$12).**
  - **American Heart Association BLS CPR Certification: \$32.50 online plus \$60-\$80 for in-person portion. Certification is good for two years. Cost may vary depending on the location the class is offered.**

**NOTE:** If these expenses will cause financial hardship, the NMU Financial Aid Office (2107 Hedgcock) may be able to assist with your first semester expenses. Contact them at 906-227-2327.

1) Where do I get my uniform (scrubs)?

**Students are required to purchase Hunter Green scrubs tops and bottoms. The NMU Barnes & Noble bookstore carries various sizes/styles of the hunter green scrubs, but you can purchase your scrubs from any vendor. There is a School of Nursing BSN patch that is required for you to wear on the right sleeve. It must be sewn on. Patches cost \$5 (cash only) and are available for purchase in the NMU Nursing Technology Center (NTC) located at 1609 The Science Building and the School of Nursing main office, 2301 Weston Hall.**

2) What other supplies should I be prepared to purchase?

**Students will be required to purchase a stethoscope for their first semester of nursing school. There is a vast range of costs for stethoscopes. You will need a stethoscope with a diaphragm and a bell (this will be discussed in more detail during your first week of classes). Approximate cost for a decent quality stethoscope is \$30 - \$50. Appropriate quality stethoscopes and other supplies are available at the NMU Barnes and Noble bookstore. Other supplies needed include: bandage scissors, pen light, watch with a second hand, and shoes with closed toe, low heel, non-skid bottom.**

3) Are there other dress code requirements?

**See Chapter 5, page 31 in [School of Nursing BSN Handbook](#) for additional dress code requirements.**