Title: Student Verification in Distance Learning  
Policy No.: ADM 1.18  
Date: 8/1/12

Areas Affected: All BSMCON

Purpose:
The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the College operates in compliance with the provisions of the United States Federal Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), Public Law 110-315 concerning the verification of student identity in distance learning.

Policy:
This policy applies to all credit-bearing distance learning courses and programs offered by Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing, beginning with the application for admission and continuing through to a student’s graduation, transfer, or withdrawal from study.

All credit-bearing courses and programs offered through distance learning methods must verify that the student who registers for a distance education course or program is the same student who participates in and completes the course or program and receives academic credit. One or more of the following methods must be used:
- A secure login and pass code;
- Proctored examinations; and/or
- New or emerging technologies and practices that are effective in verifying student identification.

All methods of verifying student identity in distance learning must protect the privacy of student information. If any fees associated with the verification of student identity will be charged to students, they must be notified of these charges in writing at the time of registration or enrollment.

Personally identifiable information collected by the College may be used, at the discretion of the institution, as the basis for identity verification. For instance, a student requesting that their learning system password be reset may be asked to provide two or more pieces of information for comparison with data on file.

All users of the College’s learning management system are responsible for maintaining the security of usernames, passwords and any other access credentials assigned. Access credentials may not be shared or given to anyone other than the user to whom they were assigned for any reason. Users are responsible for any and all uses of their account. Users are responsible for changing passwords periodically to maintain security. Students are responsible for providing complete and true information about themselves in any identity verification process, in accordance with the Student Honor Code.

Reference Policy #

Approved by:  
[Signature]

Dean Finance and Administration
Provost/VP

Title

Date
8/1/12
8-1-12

Approval History:
Committees and Dates:
Dean of Finance and Administration – 8/12
Policy Committee – 8/10/12

Key words: Student verification
Faculty teaching courses through distance education methods hold primary responsibility for ensuring that their individual courses comply with the provisions of this policy. Because technology and personal accountability may not verify identity absolutely or ensure academic integrity completely, faculty are encouraged, when feasible and pedagogically sound, to design courses that employ assignments and evaluations unique to the course and that support academic integrity.

Deans and directors of the College are responsible for ensuring that 1) faculty are aware of this policy and comply with its provisions, and 2) academic awards and degree programs within their units comply with the provisions of this policy.

The Office of the Provost is responsible for: 1) ensuring College-wide compliance with the provisions of this policy and that Deans and directors are informed of any changes in a timely fashion, and 2) publishing College-wide information on how identity verification processes protect student privacy.