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### **REND LAKE COLLEGE MISSION**

The mission statement is the essential purpose of the college from which all college activities originate:

Rend Lake College provides educational opportunities across cultural and economic boundaries to the diverse student population we serve. We are committed to our students' success in achieving their educational goals and to meeting our community-focused program objectives. With Rend Lake College, student journeys start here.

### Value Statement:

In serving our students and community, we strive to be student- focused, authentic, and resourceful.

## **IMPORTANT**

# For information on your rights and responsibilities refer to the Rend Lake College Student Handbook. Located on the RLC website at

https://rlc.edu/phocadownload/Student-Forms/Student%20Handbook%202022-2023-Rend%20Lake%20College%20-%20web.pdf

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Student Handbook page 40

### **APPEAL PROCESS**

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### NON-HARRASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION POLICY

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### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

Student Handbook page 5

### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Student Handbook page 18

### FIREARM CONCEALED CARRY POLICY

Student Handbook page 55

The student is responsible for his/her behavior as both an individual and as a member of the group. Rules of behavior which are endorsed as appropriate according to high social, ethical, and moral standards are expected to be followed. As a consequence, the student is held responsible for any acts which may violate these standards. The following rules have been established to provide guidelines for proper, professional conduct:

The student is expected to conduct himself/herself in a professional manner at all times while in the College, clinical site, or while participating in program functions.

The student is expected to be courteous to patients, staff, visitors, faculty, and other students. When speaking to or about a patient, the name of the patient should be used, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

The student is expected to be congenial to all patients. Solicitation or acceptance of tips from patients or clinical site visitors is prohibited.

Visiting with a patient during clinical hours is not permitted. Friends who are hospital patients should be visited according to hospital regulations.

The student is to consider the affairs of patients, the specific program enrolled, the College, and the clinical site confidential. Such matters are not to be discussed with other students, staff, family, faculty, or friends.

Sleeping during clinical or didactic hours is unacceptable.

Students should act as responsible adults. Cheating may result in dismissal from the program.

Personal telephone calls are not to be made or received while at the clinical site, except in the case of an emergency.

All unusual incidents concerning patients, visitors, staff, etc. must be reported to the clinical instructor and supervisor. The proper incident form must be completed, and a copy given to the program director.

Cell phones may be used at clinical sites only at scheduled breaks. Cell phones should be kept in lockers or purses turned off while students are doing their scheduled rotations. If a clinical site reports misuse of a cell phone, this will result in disciplinary action.

The following are considered examples of severe, inexcusable behavior which may result in immediate dismissal from the program:

Deliberate damage to College, clinical site or other's property

Stealing

Physical assault of another individual

Indecent or lewd conduct

Carrying a weapon on college or clinical site premises

Falsification of any information to the clinical site or college

Smoking in hazardous area or in a non-smoking area

Consumption of intoxicants while on College or clinical site property or attempting to perform duties while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Falsification or misuse of College or clinical site records

Working beyond the appropriate duties of a student

Drug dealing or attempted drug dealing

Excessive absenteeism/tardiness

Sharing confidential information/violating HIPPA

It is impossible to compile a complete summary of misconduct that requires disciplinary action. The Program Director is responsible for interpreting the rules of conduct, and any questions in this area should be addressed to the Program Director.

Failure of the student to abide by general rules and regulations will result in disciplinary action. If disciplinary action is taken, the student will be advised of this action in private consultation with program officials. The action will be documented in the student's record file and the student will be asked to sign the document to indicate their awareness of the action.

In the event a student is dismissed from the program, the student will receive a failing grade for all classes that they are enrolled in at the time of the dismissal.

### STUDENT ACADEMIC COMPLAINTS

Rend Lake College is committed to ensuring that student complaints are handled effectively and in a timely manner. Therefore, student complaints about either academic issues or non-academic issues shall be handled in accordance with established procedures.

### **Academic Complaints - Grade Appeal**

- A. The student is expected to initiate the appeal with the faculty member immediately responsible for the area in which the problem occurred within seven (7) calendar days of the occurrence giving rise to the complaint. The student should request a meeting with the instructor.
- B. If the complaint is not resolved after the informal discussion, the student may appeal by submitting a Grade Appeal Form which can be found at www.rlc.edu within seven (7) calendar days of the informal discussion with the faculty member.
- C. The Dean shall review the complaint and speak with the appropriate parties as needed.
- D. The Dean shall respond in writing to the student within seven (7) calendar days after receiving the student's complaint.
- E. If the results of the Dean's review are unsatisfactory to the student, the student may request a meeting with the Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Services and/or the Associate Vice President of CTE and Student Support within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the Dean's written response.
- F. The Associate Vice President shall issue a response to the student within seven (7) calendar days of the meeting with the student.
- G. The decision of the Associate Vice President shall be considered final.

### Academic Complaint - Non Grade Related

- A. The student is expected to initiate the complaint with the faculty member immediately responsible for the area in which the problem occurred within seven (7) calendar days of the occurrence giving rise to the complaint. The student should request a meeting with the instructor.
- B. If the nature of the complaint is personal, involving the faculty member directly and his/her behavior or demeanor, the student may appeal informally to the faculty member's Dean or complete a Student Complaint Form found at www.rlc.edu thereby bypassing the informal discussion with the faculty member. The student should understand anonymity cannot and usually will not be protected.
- C. The Dean shall review the complaint and speak with the appropriate parties as needed.
- D. The Dean shall respond to the student within seven (7) calendar days after receiving the student's complaint.
- E. If the results of the Dean's review are unsatisfactory to the student, the student may request a meeting with the Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Services and/or the Associate Vice President of CTE and Student Support within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the Dean's written 39 response.
- F. The Associate Vice President shall issue a response to the student within seven (7) calendar days of the meeting with the student.
- G. The decision of the Associate Vice President shall be considered final.

### **III. Student Non-Academic Complaints**

The Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Services shall be responsible for responding to complaints from students for non-academic (non-classroom and non-grading) issues which would fall outside of the Student Code of Conduct which is described in a later section. These issues include, but are not limited to:

- A. Refunds of tuition and fees
- B. Admission, registration and records matters
- C. Grade forgiveness
- D. Financial aid matters
- E. Advising and counseling matters
- F. Student activities and organization matters
- G. Academic and financial aid appeals
- H. Title II complaints (complaints related to discrimination based upon disabilities)
- I. Title IX complaints (complaints related to discrimination based upon protected class) Students who wish to dispute a non-academic matter related to their tenure as a student at RLC shall express these concerns as follows:
  - A. The student is expected to initiate a complaint with the staff member immediately responsible for the area in which the problem occurred within seven (7) calendar days of realizing the issue giving rise to the complaint. The student should request a meeting with the staff member. Both the student and the College have the right to end the informal process and begin the formal complaint process at any time. Both parties have the right to forgo the informal process and initiate a formal complaint.
  - B. If the complaint is not resolved after the informal discussion, the student may appeal by submitting an Appeal Form (which can be obtained in the office of the Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Services or online at www.rlc.edu) to the Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Services. This appeal should be made within seven (7) calendar days of the informal discussion with the staff member. The Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Services will schedule a meeting with the Appeals Committee. The Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Services shall issue a response to the student within seven (7) calendar days of the meeting.
  - C. If the results of the Appeals Committee are unsatisfactory to the student, the student may submit a written request to the Vice President of Instruction and Student Affairs within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the committee's decision.
  - D. The Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Services shall issue a written response to the student within seven (7) calendar days from the date the student complaint was received.
  - E. The Vice President of Instruction and Student Affairs shall issue a written response to the student within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the student's written request.
  - F. The decision of the Vice President of Instruction and Student Affairs shall be considered final with regard to student non-academic complaints.

### STUDENT RECORDS

In compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act the following records are maintained in the specific program directors' offices:

- 1. Application records
- 2. Health records and immunizations
- 3. Background check
- 4. Attendance records
- 5. Classroom and/or clinical evaluations
- 6. Clinical rotation schedule
- 7. Counseling records

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Students must provide their own transportation to and from the College and the clinical affiliates.

### **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

In any learning setting, the use of electronic communication devices, such as pagers and telephones must be limited to emergency situations only. The devices must be set to silent mode at all times in the classroom. If it is necessary to respond to a call or page, the student should leave the classroom with minimal disruption, and may reenter the classroom at the next break. Students may not use a cellular telephone in the computer laboratory. If a cellular phone is used during any testing situation or during test review, it will be considered an act of academic dishonesty. Electronic communication devices may be used in the clinical setting for appropriate purposes only. These purposes will be determined by the clinical instructor. Tape recorders, PDAs, cameras and other recording devices are not to be used in the clinical setting for recording identifiable client data.

### STUDENTS WITH A COMMUNICABLE/INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Detection and control of infectious disease is accomplished to assure a safe environment for students, employees, patients, faculty, staff, and visitors. Students are encouraged to promptly visit their physician for evaluation when suffering from potential infection (ex. fever, diarrhea, skin lesions).

The student is encouraged to discuss their infectious disease status with program faculty. Rend Lake College and the program faculty will protect the privacy of individuals who are self-disclosed. The faculty will refer the student for specific education necessary to avoid transfer of disease in the clinical areas. Clinical placement will be made with the welfare and safety of the student and potential patients in mind.

Rend Lake College does not discriminate against students with infectious diseases. Students with communicable diseases will not be excluded from the program in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act.

### **LATEX ALLERGY GUIDELINES**

Latex allergy is a serious threat to health care workers as well as patients. Allergic reactions to latex may be mild, such as skin disturbances, to severe reactions resulting in death. Exposure to latex products may cause hypersensitivity response either locally or systemically. A systemic reaction may occur even with trivial exposure to latex and may result in cardiopulmonary arrest within minutes.

The guidelines recommended by Rend Lake College are to address potential incidences of acquired latex sensitivity by students in the clinical experiences of the program.

### Procedure:

Students should become knowledgeable of latex allergy causes and potential signs and symptoms.

Students should seek medical care for EARLY diagnosis and treatment of hand dermatoses and symptoms suggestive of latex allergy.

Immediately report to the Supervisor any actual or suspected latex allergic responses.

### **BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE**

Students should immediately report to the clinical Instructor and to the Program Director as quickly as is reasonable any exposure or suspected exposure to blood borne pathogens.

Students are expected to follow the written protocol of the clinical site. The student will be responsible for physician, diagnostic, and treatment costs associated with bloodborne exposure incidents.

### **HEALTH EXAMINATION POLICY**

A health examination by a physician/certified nurse practitioner/physician assistant is required prior to being admitted to the clinical site. The completed health exam form must be submitted to the program director by the first day of class. The student may not participate in clinical experiences until this requirement is met. This policy requires completion of the RLC Student Health Evaluation and Immunization Record. Failure to meet the requirements of this policy could result in dismissal from the program.

### AHA BASIC LIFE SUPPORT FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

All students enrolled in any of Rend Lake College's Allied Health Programs shall be required to obtain and maintain the American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers certification. For purposes of Rend Lake College student clinical rotations, ONLY American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers is acceptable per our hospital affiliates. The required certification must be taken through Rend Lake College each academic year, once you are accepted into a program. The certification also must be taken prior to the program's start date, unless special permission is given by the Division Dean.

### **ACCIDENT AT CLIN**ICAL SITES

Patients and visitors are usually unfamiliar with hospital routines. Therefore, you must be constantly on guard to protect their safety. Many accidents are caused by unsafe acts or unsafe conditions. If you notice a potential accident hazard, report it to your clinical instructor or supervisor immediately. If you are in an accident or happen to see an accident occur, an incident report must be completed and submitted to the clinical instructor with a copy given to the Program Director. If you are injured, any treatment costs are your responsibility.

### **FIRE**

Follow the clinical site's fire policy. In the event of a fire, remove all patients and others from the vicinity of the fire and smoke. Isolate the fire by closing all interior doors exposed to the area involved. Notify the switchboard operator and report the exact location of the fire or sound the building fire alarm at the closest fire pull station. DO NOT ENDANGER YOURSELF!

### **SMOKING**

It is the policy of Rend Lake College to adhere to, and enforce, the Smoke-Free Illinois Act and the Smoke-Free Campus Act. Specifically, no person shall carry, smoke, burn, inhale, or exhale any kind of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, e-cigarette or any other lighted smoking equipment. This policy extends to all buildings, grounds, parking lots, and vehicles which are owned and operated by the college. Smoking is also not permitted on clinical site grounds. *Student Handbook* page 39

### **YOU AND THE PATIENT**

The care for those who are ill or hospitalized is provided by people, like you, who exhibit a kind interest in all persons. It is only through the efforts and cooperation of each member of the health care team that the goal of expert, scientific, and compassionate care of patients can be maintained.

Your courtesy, tact, empathy, cheerfulness, kindness, and consideration of patients, anxious relatives, and your co-workers will help immeasurably. It is our sincere desire to assist you in finding enjoyment and satisfaction as a Rend Lake College student. We are interested in your education, happiness, health, and success.

### **UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS**

Guidelines have been adopted in accordance with the current consensus of the medical and scientific community that many diseases cannot be transmitted by casual body contact in the clinical setting. However, because there is a risk of contracting an infectious disease, the student should adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1. Sharp items (needles, scalpel blades, etc.) should be considered infectious and be handled with extraordinary care to prevent accidental injuries.
- Disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades and other sharp items should be placed in puncture resistant containers located as practical as possible to the area in which they are used. To prevent needle stick injuries, needles should NOT be recapped, purposely broken, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand.
- 3. When the possibility of exposure to blood or any other body fluids exists, appropriate attire should be worn. The anticipated exposure may require gloves alone, or may also require a gown, mask and/or goggles when performing procedures. Hands should be washed thoroughly and immediately if they accidentally become contaminated with blood.
- 4. To minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouth-pieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be located and available for use in areas where the need for resuscitation is predictable.

### CTE Success Center - Mary and George Slankard Learning Resource Center Room 142

TITLE III funds assisted Rend Lake College in establishing a CTE Success Center on campus. The Center will be a place in which students majoring in healthcare and technical education programs can seek out services. The CTE Success Center provides services such as tutoring, computers for online work, and group study areas to ensure students are successful in their vocational and educational goals, while keeping them up to date with industry's needs and demands.

### **Services provided in the Center include:**

- One on One Tutoring Assistance
- Nurse Skills Lab
- Group Study Space
- Computer access for online coursework
- · Math tutoring for technical education programs
- Quiet Study Area LRC 114

### **Professional Licensure Disclosure**

Students who complete this program must obtain professional licensure in order to work in the State of Illinois.

RLC's curriculum and/or Illinois license may not transfer to another state and additional course work, assessments, or licensing may be required. Rend Lake College has provided professional license information that is available on RLC's website at www.rlc.edu.

### Safe/Unsafe Clinical Practices

The Allied Health Programs identify safety as a basic human need. A safety need can be identified as physical, biological, and/or emotional in nature. Safe practices are a requirement of each program.

Unsafe clinical/practicum practice shall be deemed to be behavior demonstrated by the student which threatens or violates the physical, biological, or emotional safety of the patients, caregivers, students, staff or self. Unsafe or unprofessional clinical practice may result in implementation of the Progressive Discipline Policy outlined in the Student Handbook.

The following examples serve as guides to these unsafe behaviors but are not to be considered all-inclusive.

Physical Safety: Unsafe behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Inappropriate use of side rails, wheelchairs, other equipment
- Lack of proper protection of the patient which potentiates falls, lacerations, burns, new or further injury
- Failure to correctly identify patient(s) prior to initiating care
- Failure to perform pre-procedure safety checks of equipment, invasive devices or patient status

Biological Safety: Unsafe behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Failure to recognize violations in aseptic technique
- Improper medication administration techniques/choices
- Performing actions without appropriate supervision
- Failure to seek help when needed
- Attending clinical while ill
- Failure to properly identify patient(s) prior to treatments

Emotional Safety: Unsafe behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Threatening or making a patient, caregiver, or bystander fearful
- Providing inappropriate or incorrect information
- Performing actions without appropriate supervision
- Failure to seek help when needed, unstable emotional behaviors

Unprofessional Practice: Unprofessional behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Verbal or non-verbal language, actions, or voice inflections which compromise rapport and working relations with patients, family members, staff, or physicians, may potentially compromise contractual agreements and/or working relations with clinical affiliates, or constitute violations of legal/ethical standards
- Behavior which interferes with or disrupts teaching/learning experiences
- Using or being under the influence of any drug or alcohol that may alter judgment and interfere with safe performance in the clinical or classroom setting
- Breach of confidentiality in any form
- Falsifying data in a patient health record
- Misrepresenting care given, clinical errors, or any action related to the clinical experience
- Recording, taping, taking pictures in the clinical setting without expressed consent
- Leaving the clinical area without notifications to faculty and clinical staff or supervisor

### **CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT**

In general, all information regarding patients, visitors, and staff of the clinical education centers is considered confidential. As such, this information is not to be discussed by the student to anyone.

Students should refer all such requests for information from the news media to the Department of Public Relations, with the exception of inquiries regarding a patient's condition, which should be referred to the clinical site's patient information service. Any request to take photographs on clinical premises must also be referred to the Department of Public Relations.

I understand and agree that prior to attending any clinical experience, I must read and become familiar with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") regarding the confidentiality of patient information and that I must complete the final exam in the HIPAA training book. I understand and agree that I will keep patient information confidential as required by HIPAA, the policies of Rend Lake College Allied Health Department, and the policies of any clinical agency at which I take a clinical practicum. I agree that in my clinical practicum experiences, I will only seek to access patient information which is essential to perform my role as a student.

Program Name:	Date:	
Signature		



## Rend Lake College Division of Allied Health HEALTH AND PHYSICAL FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT:			
Name:			
Street Address:	DOB:		
City/State/Zip	Phone #:		
Allied Health Program: Circle your program			
Nursing Phlebotomy Radiology Medical Coding EMT Basic Paramedic	•		
Personal Care Aide Medical Assistant Pharmacy Tech	•		
Medical Support Specialist			
The state of the s			
TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT'S HEALTH CARE PROVIDER:			
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Indicate ability to perform standards described	LIMITATIONS-Please		
below.	explain any limitations if answer is "No" below.		
<b>Mobility</b> : Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver small spaces; move freely to observe and assess patients and perform emergency care such as CPR. Ability to touch floor to remove environmental hazards if necessary.	Yes or No		
<b>Motor Skills</b> : Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care	Yes or No		
<b>Hearing</b> : Auditory abilities sufficient to monitor and assess patient needs and to provide a safe environment	Yes or No		
<b>Visual</b> : Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in the operation of equipment and care of patients	Yes or No		
Tactile: Tactile ability sufficient for patient assessment and operation of equipment	Yes or No		
<b>Cognitive</b> : Abilities to include analyzing, interpreting and carrying out provider orders, read and comprehend course materials, patient care documents and facility policies and procedures	Yes or No		
PERSONAL HISTORY  Describe any conditions (including allergies to substances normally found in a clinical impact the student's attendance and/or performance. If a student should present with a limitation, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis. Reasonable accommodate determined by Disability Services.	ny physical or cognitive		
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SIGNATURE AND/OR STAMP			
Following the performance of a physical exam and utilizing history and immunization information provided to me by the student, I verify the above information to be true.			
Signature and/or Stamp of Healthcare Provider (MD, DO, PA, ARNP)	Date:		

Provider Printed Name:			Phone:	
Student Name:				
IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION	DATE	R	ESULTS	
TUBERCULOSIS	1			
TST (tuberculosis skin test/PPD)-2 step required 1st step- Date Placed: // Date Read: //		Positive	Negative	
2 <sup>nd</sup> step- Date Placed: / / Date Read: / /		Positive	Negative	
CHEST X-RAY RESULTS/REPORT (if positive TST/PPD		Positive	Negative	
TB SCREEN/TB symptom sheet to be done annually if positive TST/PPD			8	
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SIGN:				
MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA	DATE			
Two MMR vaccines with dates or individual titers for each satisfy the requirement for Measles (Rubeola), Rubella (German Measles)  MMR VACCINES (given after 1st birthday		R	ESULTS	
Vaccine #1				
Vaccine #2 (not required if born before 1957)				
TITERS				
Rubeola Titer		Positive	Negative	
Rubella Titer		Positive	Negative	
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SIGN:				
VARICELLA (CHICKEN				
Two Varicella vaccines with dates, or a positive titer	DATE		ESULTS	
Documentation of Disease	N/A	N/A		
Varicella #1				
Varicella #2				
Titer		Positive	Negative	
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SIGN:				
Tetanus/Diptheria or Tdap within 10 Years	DATE			
Tetanus/Diptheria				
Tdap				
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SIGN:				
HEPATITIS B (strongly recommended for healthcare workers in patient care settings)	DATE	R	ESULTS	
Vaccine #1				
Vaccine #2				
Vaccine #3				
Titer		Positive	Negative	
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SIGN:				
HEPATITIS B Declination (to be signed by student				
	I understand that, due to my exposure of blood or other potentially infectious materials, I may be at risk for			
acquiring the hepatitis B (HBV) infection. I have been informed of the recommendation that all healthcare workers				
be vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine. However, I decline hepatitis B vaccination at this time. I understand that by				
declining this vaccine, I could be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B, a set <b>STUDENT'S PRINTED NAME:</b>	rious disease.	1	DATE	
STUDENT'S PRINTED NAME:  STUDENT'S SIGNATURE:			DATE	
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SIGNATURE:				

## Rend Lake College Allied Health Emergency Medical Information

## **Student Information**

Student's Name:			
Gender:	Date of Birth	:	
Address:	City/S	State:	
Zip Code:	Phone Number: _		
Health Insurance Informat	ion		
Insurance Carrier:			
Policy Holder's Name:		Relationship:	
Policy I.D. #:	Group #:		
Emergency Contacts			
Name:	Pl	none #:	
Name:	Pl	none #:	
List any allergies, medication	ns, or health conditions the	at may be pertinent for emerg	gency treatment.
1			
2			
3			
Student's Name:			
Student's Signature:		Date:	

# REND LAKE COLLEGE ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM STUDENT INFORMATION RELEASE FORM

- 1. I have received a copy of my program specific Student Handbook and Policies. I have carefully read and understand the general information and policy statements and agree to abide by these as a student in the Allied Health Program. I have had the opportunity to have my questions answered regarding the policies in the Student Handbook.
- 2. I hereby give permission to release any necessary information to clinical agencies regarding my immunizations, reference requests, and CPR certification.
- 3. I understand that I must abide by the policies and procedures of all clinical facilities that I might attend as a student. I am aware that it is absolutely mandatory that I comply with the confidentiality/Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) statement and must demonstrate knowledge of it by passing the HIPAA examination.
- 4. I understand that I must provide proof of medical insurance or other financial means to cover myself as to expenses which may arise as the result of illness or injury occasioned during my clinical rotation. I acknowledge that since I am not an employee of the college or the facility that I am not protected by Workers Compensation and neither the college nor the facility assumes any liability for injuries or illness in the absence of a showing of actual negligence on the part of the college or facility or any of its agents.
- 5. Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screen for Clinical Experience: My signature below indicates that I have read the Substance Abuse policy of Rend Lake College and have been provided with a copy of the same. I understand that the results of the criminal background screening and drug testing results are to be used for the purposes of determining my eligibility for a clinical educational experience in my field. By this form I provide my irrevocable consent for the results of the drug screening and criminal background checks to be released to Rend Lake College who in turn may share said information with the clinical agency with whom I am being assigned for a clinical experience.
- 6. I understand that this program specific handbook has been designed to provide information about the program and is not a contract. The information in this handbook is subject to change.
- 7. I have read and understand the program specific handbook, College catalog and the RLC student handbook.
- 8. I grant Rend Lake College, The Allied Health Department, its representatives and employees the right to take photographs of me and my property in connection with the above identified subject. I authorize the Allied Health Department, its assignees and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.
- 9. I agree that Rend Lake College and the Allied Health Department may use such photographs of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising and Web content.
  I have read and understand the above:

	/
Student's Signature	Date

### **HIPAA AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Sharing information on any social media network is a HIPAA violation. There is not to be any information regarding patients, clinical sites, their radiographs or hospital records of any kind being shared over a social media site (Facebook, twitter and any others). For example, if you take a radiograph at your clinical site, remove the patient's information and place it on Facebook that is a HIPAA violation. Even if there is no patient information on that image that still violates the HIPAA policy. Descriptions regarding any information related to a patient's care that took place at a clinical site is a violation. If a student violates this HIPAA policy, it will result in immediate dismissal of the program.

Student Signature	Date

### **Acknowledgment Form**

- I agree to abide by the policies of Rend Lake College and the Allied Health program in which I am enrolled.
- I am aware of the clinical practicum placement policies and procedures
- I am aware of the drug testing and criminal background check requirements by the Illinois Department
  of Public Health (IDPH) and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organization
  (JCAHO) and I agree to abide by them.
- I am aware that neither Rend Lake College nor the affiliated clinical site will assume the cost of treatment or care for injury or any medical condition occurring during my student laboratory classes (if required) and during my clinical practicum.
- I am aware of the confidentiality requirements (patient and medical records) and will abide by them.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions about this material and have had those questions answered to my satisfaction.
- I agree that while enrolled in the Allied Health Program I will treat my studies, labs and clinical practicum as an employee would treat job responsibilities, recognizing that my instructor assumes the role of my supervisor. I will attempt to learn not only the technical skills, but will also strive to develop a professional manner and attitude.
- I understand that failure to abide by the policies will be grounds for disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the program.
- I understand that I may be required to drive at least one hour one way to my clinical site due to the limited space at our clinical sites in the immediate area. Every attempt will be made to cut down on the student's driving time but certain circumstances are out of the program's control. I am responsible for my own travel arrangements and will be held accountable for arriving to clinical on time.

Student's Name:		Date:	
	(Print)		
Student's Signature:		Date:	

## Clinical Externship Faculty/Staff/Student Confidentiality Agreement

The discussions, uses, and disclosures addressed by this agreement apply to any written, verbal, or electronic communications.

I understand that I am never to discuss or review any information regarding a patient at a clinical site unless the discussion or review is part of my assignment to the site. I understand that I am obligated to know and adhere to the privacy policies and procedures of the clinical site to which I am assigned. I acknowledge that medical records, accounting information, patient information, and conversations between or among healthcare professionals about patients are confidential under law and this agreement.

I understand that, while in the clinical setting, I may not disclose any information about a patient during the clinical portion of my clinical assignment to anyone other than the medical and nursing staff of the clinical site.

I understand that I may not remove any record from the clinical site without the written authorization of the site. Additionally, I understand that, before I use or disclose patient information in a learning experience, classroom, course presentation, class assignment, or research, I must attempt to exclude as much of the following information as possible:

- Names
- Geographical subdivisions smaller than a state
- Dates of birth, admission, discharge, and death
- Telephone numbers
- Fax numbers
- E-mail addresses
- Social security numbers
- Medical record numbers
- Health plan beneficiary numbers
- Account numbers
- Certificate/license numbers
- Vehicle identifiers
- Device identifiers
- Web locators
- Internet protocol addresses
- Biometric identifiers
- Full face photographs
- Any other unique identifying number, characteristic or code
- All ages over 89 years

Additionally, I acknowledge that any patient information, whether or not it excludes some or all of those identifiers, may only be used or disclosed for health care training and educational purposes and must otherwise remain confidential.

I understand that I must promptly report any violation of the clinical site's privacy policies and procedures, applicable law, or this confidentiality agreement, by me, or a student or faculty member to the college administrator.

Finally, I understand that, if I violate the privacy policies and procedures of the clinical site, applicable law, or this agreement, I will be subject to disciplinary action.

By signing this agreement, I certify that I have read and understand its terms, and will comply with them.

Signature:	Date:	
Printed Name		

### **INFLUENZA VACCINE WAIVER FORM**

I understand that due to my occupational/educational exposure to the Influenza virus that I may encounter while doing class work and clinical rotations for the Allied Health Program, I may be at risk for acquiring the Influenza virus. I have been informed of the risks of infection and of the advantages of protection through the Influenza vaccination. I have been required by the Rend Lake College Allied Health program to become immunized and show written proof, or to sign a declination waiver form for Influenza vaccination due to religious beliefs or a known allergy to the vaccination. The cost of the Influenza vaccination is my responsibility.

If I choose not to obtain the Influenza vaccination due to my religious beliefs or a known allergy to the vaccination, I understand that I must abide by the clinical facilities requirements to wear protective apparel that they specify. I also understand that a clinical site has the right to deny me access to my clinical experience there. I understand that by not obtaining this vaccine, I continue to be at risk of acquiring the Influenza virus.

Student Signature:	
Date:	

### ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

Rend Lake College is committed to a drug and alcohol free educational environment. Therefore, the Board prohibits the use, illegal possession, sale, distribution or transfer of alcohol or illegal drugs on College premises or property owned or supervised by Rend Lake College. The Board also prohibits the use and possession of alcohol, illegal drugs and the abuse of legal drugs in any manner which impairs a student's ability to safely and effectively attend class or participate in school activities.

Recognizing that certain educational programs and/or activities expose students, participants, faculty, staff and observers to a greater risk of injury due to the nature of the activity, the Board authorizes the Administration and its designees the right to randomly test students/participants enrolled in such programs for the illegal use of any controlled substance or the use of legal substances impairing the ability of the student/participant to perform an activity or participate in any College sponsored event. In addition, the Board authorizes the Administration and its designees the right to remove any individual who appears to be under the influence of any controlled substance (drugs and/or alcohol) or who appears to be unduly under the influence of any legal drug impairing the immediate safety of the said individual or others participating in a College activity or while on College premises.

Certain fields of study require practical experiences which should be practiced without impaired judgement from drug or alcohol use. All students in health care and other required programs must pass a drug screening test before entering their practicum/clinical/externship as well as be subject to random testing throughout their program. Students may also be tested should there be reasonable suspicion that illegal use of any controlled substance (drugs and/or alcohol) or the abuse of legal drugs has occurred in such a manner in which an individual's ability to participate safely in an activity has been compromised or has comprised others attending or participating in the activity or on the College premises. A reasonable suspicion referral for testing will be made on the basis of documented objective facts and circumstances that are consistent with short term effects of substance abuse.

Prior to enrollment in such educational programs deemed by the administration to require drug testing or participation in extracurricular activities, students must agree to participate in the drug screening program.

### **PROCEDURE**

### Allied Health Students and Other Required Screen Programs:

- A. Each student is subject to drug screening at the time and place designated by Rend Lake College. For students with practicum/clinical/externship, the screening shall take place prior to beginning said practicum/clinical/externship.
- B. The student shall immediately submit themselves for a drug screen upon being notified by a Rend Lake College representative at the place designated by said representative.

C. Immediately shall mean the student will not leave the sight of either the Rend Lake College representative or medical personnel conducting said screen until the screen is completed.

#### 2. **Reasonable Suspicion**

- A. Any student who has been advised that reasonable suspicion exists for a drug screen shall immediately submit themselves for a drug screen upon being notified by a Rend Lake College representative at the place designated by said representative.
- В. Immediately shall mean the student will not leave the sight of either the Rend Lake College representative or medical personnel conducting said screen until the screen is completed.
- C. Reasonable suspicion includes but is not limited to actions by student which places themselves or others on campus in any dangerous situation or in danger of injuring themselves or others.

### 3. **Random Screenings**

- Α. Rend Lake College shall use a computer program established for the random selection of students/athletes for a drug screen.
- В. Upon selection, the student will be notified by a Rend Lake College representative and student/athlete shall immediately submit themselves for a drug screen upon being notified by a Rend Lake College representative at the place designated by said representative.
- C. Immediately shall mean the student will not leave the sight of either the Rend Lake College representative or medical personnel conducting said screen until the screen is completed.
- 4. The drug screening shall be conducted by a qualified laboratory using regularly established procedures for collecting and testing samples by the healthcare field.

### **ACTIONS FOR RESULTS:**

Negative Screen: No action taken.

Student will be dismissed from the academic or athletic program. Positive Screen:

Diluted Screen: Student will be allowed one retest at a time designated by a school official. If the second test comes back diluted or positive, the student will be dismissed from the academic or

athletic program.

Adulterated Screen: Student will be dismissed from the college.

Substituted Screen: Student will be dismissed from the college.

Failure to Submit/Complete Drug Screen: Student will be dismissed from the academic or athletic program. (Example: leaving campus when contacted to present for drug testing).

If a student is unable to provide a specimen at the time of testing, the student will be given 1.5 hours and allowed up to 40 ounces of fluid to drink. After 1.5 hours if the student fails to

submit a specimen, the student will be required to take a non-urine-based test. The extra cost of this test must be paid by the student and cannot be charged to the student's account.

If a screening tests positive for prescription drugs, a Medical Review Officer for the lab services will contact the student for more information. The Medical Review Officer may request that the student provide valid physician prescriptions and/or copies of medical records substantiating the prescribed medication and manner of dosage.

If the Medical Review Officer finds the prescribed drugs are being taken as prescribed, it will be considered a negative screen. If the Medical Review Officer finds the prescription is not valid or the drugs are being taken in a manner different from the prescription, or if the student fails to cooperate with the Medical Review Officer's request for proper medical documentation, it will be considered a positive screen and appropriate action will be taken.

### **Assistance for Addiction**

Rend Lake College recognizes that addiction is a disease that takes assistance to overcome. Rend Lake College encourages any student facing drug or alcohol addiction to receive professional help. There are numerous treatment centers in the state of Illinois. For assistance in locating a treatment center, students will be directed to contact RLCares or the advisement department. Rend Lake College is not responsible for any costs related to treatment.

### Re-Admission after Positive Drug Screening

Any student who is dismissed for a positive drug screening may reapply for admission after six months. However, the student must present proof of seeking treatment with a licensed substance abuse counselor within one week of removal from the program to be considered for readmission. Signed documentation by a substance abuse professional that the student has successfully completed an approved drug/alcohol rehabilitation program, as well as proof of drug screens performed as part of treatment, is required prior to readmission. For healthcare programs, a signed release by the substance abuse professional to attend a healthcare training program and clinical is also required. The student must also provide the results of a negative drug screen dated within 30 days of re-enrollment. The student must complete negative drug screenings provided randomly by Rend Lake College at least once every six months until graduation. A second violation of the drug policy will result in permanent dismissal from Rend Lake College. Readmission to programs and extracurricular activities will be at the discretion of college officials after review of all pertinent information.

### **BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY**

All students enrolled in an Allied Health program are required to submit to a background check. A background check is required every year at the college's expense. Rend Lake College will designate the company/agency selected to do the criminal background screening. Rend Lake College will not accept criminal background screening from any other company/agency. Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that results of criminal background checks are kept as confidential as possible with a limited number of persons authorized to review results.

If a student has a positive background check, and the facility refuses the student access to the clinical experience at the facility, Rend Lake College will make reasonable efforts to find an alternative site with equivalent clinical opportunities for the student to complete their clinical experience. Rend Lake College

DOES NOT GUARANTEE that a student with a criminal conviction and/or criminal charges will be able to complete their clinical experience. A student who cannot be reasonably assigned to a clinical site will be dropped from the program.

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Rend Lake College medical coding certificate program!

The medical coding certificate program was established in 2013. The program has evolved in accordance to the health information management profession. Medical coding students pursue a specific course of study and participate in clinical internships to practice their professional skills. After completion of the certificate training, they will be required to obtain a coding credential through either the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), or the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). Eligible candidates will take a professional examination to assure competency in the coding field.

AHIMA is the national organization that serves the HIM profession. AHIMA has bylaws, mission, and a code of conduct, elected officers, dues, and professional publications that support its membership. As healthcare professionals, graduates earn the use of credentials to identify their areas of expertise.

Graduates of this program will have the knowledge, attitudes, skills, habits, and hands-on experience needed to perform a variety of technical health information functions: organizing, analyzing and technically evaluating health information, coding diseases, operations, procedures and other therapies. Graduates will be able to organize and manage health information data by ensuring its quality, accuracy, accessibility, and security. Special emphasis is placed on the use of computer and electronic methods of managing health data and clear, concise communication with physicians and other healthcare professionals to clarify diagnoses or to obtain additional information.

Students who graduate with a medical coding certificate can pursue a wide range of career options. New opportunities for medical coding graduates are opening continuously. I hope that you are excited about the health information management profession and are ready to prepare for the unique challenges ahead of you.

This handbook has been prepared to orient you to the expectations of our academic program in preparation for your medical coding career.

### **PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

The philosophy of the medical coding program is "learn by doing". The medical coding program courses balance theory and application by using simulations of field experiences in preparation for internships and career placement.

### **AHIMA CODE OF CONDUCT**

Student conduct is subject, but not limited to, the policies of Rend Lake College, the Alcohol and Drug Policy, or the Sexual Harassment Policy. Conduct violations against the college will be reported to the appropriate office.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

All information gained in the medical coding program relating to patient, physician, healthcare provider, and hospital/healthcare organizations is considered confidential information under applicable state and federal laws. Disclosure of any confidential information is a violation that will cause immediate dismissal from the medical coding program without opportunity for re-entry. Students are required to sign the Confidentiality Statement at the back of this booklet.

### PROGRAM ADMISSION

Admission to the medical coding program occurs in accordance with the admission policies published in the Rend Lake College catalog. All students, including transfers, must earn a minimum grade of "C" to remain in the program.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity is expected of all students. Academic integrity means representing oneself and one's work honestly; misrepresentation is cheating or stealing since it means that a student claims credit for ideas or work that are not actually his/'hers and is thereby trying to get a grade that is not actually earned. Please refer to the Rend Lake College Code of Student Conduct.

The following definitions are examples of, but not limited to, academic dishonesty:

- 1. Cheating on examinations includes:
  - a. Studying from old quizzes and exams received from other students.
  - b. Using materials such as a book or notes when not authorized by the instructor.
  - c. Taking advantage of prior information not authorized by the instructor regarding questions to be asked on the exam.
  - d. Copying from someone else's paper, disk, flash drive or other data.
  - e. Helping or allowing someone else to copy your work.
  - f. Other forms of misrepresentation.
  - g. Not following correct procedures.
- 2. Plagiarizing from work of others includes:
  - a. Distinguishing between quotation and paraphrases when dealing with written sources.
  - b. Non identification of internet sources.
- 3. Cheating on lab reports, practice sets and class assignments includes:
  - a. Falsifying data.
  - b. Submitting work from other students or resources.
  - c. Submitting data not based on the student's own work, and submitting individual work that reflects group collaboration without instructor permission.

Misuse of Rend Lake College software and hardware is prohibited. Students may not copy RLC or medical coding software. Students may not delete, alter, add, or copy files or data from the computers. Students may not tamper with the computers by reconfiguring or changing computer settings.

### STUDY HABITS

Successful students develop regular and consistent study habits. It is recommended that students anticipate scheduling up to two (2) hours of study time per one (1) hour of classroom contact per week. Please give careful consideration as some students may require more hours of study to be successful.

### CRIMINAL BACKGROUND

Our program is unable to place students with certain criminal backgrounds in professional clinical sites. Some types of felonies and misdemeanors can severely limit the student's ability to work in the medical coding field after graduation. Students should be aware that they are subject to drug testing and background checks for both professional practice and employment.

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

The syllabus is the contract between the instructor and the student that details the objectives and content for the course. Students should periodically review the course syllabus throughout the course, with a thorough

review at the end of the course. The policies and expectations for the class are posted in the syllabus, as well as, the course schedule.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

Textbooks will be listed in the course syllabus for each medical coding course. Since medical coding is a professional field, consideration should be given to retaining these textbooks for use in other classes, for review for certification examinations, and for practice in the medical coding field.

### **HIPAA**

The Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that all protected health information be kept private and secure by all persons that handle, or have access to, that information. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) established a set of rules governing privacy and confidentiality of healthcare information for covered entities. All students must have HIPAA training on privacy and confidentiality before going to clinical.

Computerized medical databases and the Internet, as well as personal communication devices, have made unintentional breaches of confidential health information easy. Protection of privacy is an important trust between healthcare providers and their clients.

### **MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

Declaration or disclosure of medical conditions is a voluntary act. The Medical Coding program is willing to make reasonable accommodations for students with documented medical conditions when the program is informed of the student's needs. If the student is unable to meet the minimum technical and/or physical standards that are required, they will be allowed to withdraw and return the following semester based on class and space availability. Upon returning to the Medical Coding program, students must present documentation from their physician indicating they are able to meet the minimum technical and physical standards of the program.

## MEDICAL CODING CERTIFICATE COURSE CURRICULUM

## PREREQUISITES:

	Health Care Terminology Intro to Comp. with Business Applications	3 <u>3</u> 6	
FIRST SEME	ESTER:		
ALH 1201 HIT 1201 HIT 2205 MEDC 1206 HIT 2207	Anatomy & Physiology Fundamentals Intro to Health Information Pharmacology for Health Information Intro to Medical Coding Compliance & Ethics in Health Care	3 2 3 <u>3</u> 14	
SECOND SEMESTER:			
HIT 1205 MEDC 1208 HIT 2218	Medical Office Procedures Pathophysiology for Health Information Intermediate Medical & CPT Coding Health Care Reimbursement Coding Clinical Practicum	3 4 3 2 3 16	

Total = 29 credit hours

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to attend all college classes for which they are registered. The development of professional medical coding skills will be hindered by students who exhibit attendance and/or tardiness problems as students practice and learn professional skills in the classroom and clinical settings. It is important to remember that employers frequently ask faculty questions regarding attendance and tardiness when requesting pre-employment references.

### **CLASSROOM**

Even though students are not physically present in a classroom setting, the online learning environment is just as rigorous, making your "attendance" crucial. Attendance is taken once a week in each online course. Each course will have deadlines and assignments that will only be available to be completed during specific times. A student must complete the assigned work within the allotted time each week to be considered "attending". A student who does not to complete the assigned work for that week will be marked "absent" for that class in that week. It is **not** considered attending if a student only logs in and looks at the assignment(s).

### **CLINICAL**

A significant portion of the educational process is the development of a strong sense of responsibility on the part of each student toward the patient, fellow coders, faculty members, and the hospital. One of the primary manifestations of this responsibility is regular, punctual attendance in the clinical area. Since it is recognized that absence is occasionally unavoidable, the following policy has been established for clinical areas:

Absences for clinical assignments must be reported to the program office at phone number 437-5321, Ext. 1777, at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the student's assigned clinical time. A message may be left on the office voice mail. The clinical instructor at the clinical site must also be notified by telephone at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the student's assigned clinical time. Any absences must be made up to the satisfaction of the instructor. Failure to report absences as required will result in a 'double incident of absence' assigned to the student.

Non-attendance will be monitored as 'incidents of absence'. An 'incident of absence' is any period of time when the student is absent from their assigned schedule, clinical. One day regardless of length, is considered one incident of absence. Tardiness is considered an incident of absence. Tardiness is defined as 7 minutes late in arriving at your clinical assignment or in returning from mealtime or breaks. For absences of more than one day in length, the student is required to report to medical coding full-time faculty and, if applicable, to the clinical instructor for each day absent, unless otherwise indicated by the faculty member.

Progressive corrective action occurs as follows, when a student accumulates a number of incidents of absence that reflect an unacceptable pattern in the classroom or lab:

1 absence = 1 incident 1 tardy = 1 incident 7 minutes after the scheduled start time = 1 incident Late coming back from break = 1 incident Leaving clinical before scheduled end time = 1 incident Leaving after break = 1 incident Excessive clinical disruption = 1 incident Cell phone/texting usage= 1 incident Going into clinical without prior approval= 1 incident

- 1 incidents/semester=verbal warning
- 2 incidents/semester=written warning & reduction of overall course score by 10 %
- 3 incidents/semester=program dismissal

The Medical Coding faculty has the authority to move to the most severe consequence for absences if the pattern of non-attendance or incident is consistent in nature from one semester to the next.

Bereavement, jury duty, military duty and hospitalization (including emergency room visits) will be handled on an individual basis. Documentation may be required in some instances. Illnesses of more than one day will require documentation of a physician's visit.

If a student leaves clinical due to hospitalization of spouse, parent or child, the course of action will be at the discretion of the medical coding faculty.

If a student presents to the clinical setting with an illness, the clinical instructor will adhere to the policy and procedures established for the site. The course of action will be at the discretion of the clinical instructor and/or medical coding faculty.

Inclement weather absence will be handled in accordance with the Rend Lake College inclement weather policy. If campus is closed, students must not attend clinical. The use of common sense is highly encouraged in relation to inclement weather. The students should not put themselves in danger in order to attend their clinical assignment. Students are responsible for notifying clinical sites of school closing due to weather.

Excessive absenteeism and/or tardiness may result in dismissal from the program.

Clinical rotation schedules must be strictly followed. Students may not go into clinical on any unscheduled day/evening without permission of the medical coding faculty member. All campus holidays are observed and considered unscheduled time.

If a student is dismissed from their assigned clinical site, the student may be dismissed from the program.

Once a student has completed the 96 hours required, they have completed the clinical. A student is not required to keep attending after the hours have been met.



## **CLINICAL EVALUATION**

Organization:		_				
Clinical Director:						
Student's Name:		_ Ser	nester: Fa	II/Spring	Mid-Term/	Final
Rate the student's professional competency of skill on the task listed below.						
Demonstration of Knowledge	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Below Average	1 Poor	N/A
Demonstrate readiness and preparation for work in advance						
States facts and responds to basic questions						
Applies knowledge to perform tasks with sound judgment						
Reacts in a calm and logical manner under stress						
Dressed in a professional manner						
Exhibited poise, professionalism, self-confidence						
Accepted constructive criticism and feedback						
Comments:						

Performance Quality & Efficiency	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Below Average	1 Poor	N/A
Linciency	LACCHETT	Good	Average	Average	1 001	IVA
Adhered to organization's rules, regulations and policies						
regulations and policies						
Maintained confidentiality						
Accepted responsibility and demonstrated accountability for						
actions						
Arrived at clinical promptly						
Maintained cooperative relationships within the						
organization						
A						
Accurate coding skills - manually or with software						
Accurately performs verbal and written directions						
Witter directions						
Performs tasks with minimal error						
and supervision						
Recognizes limitations and asks						
when unsure						
Completes assigned tasks thoroughly and in an orderly						
manner						
Recognizes and promptly corrects errors using sound decision						
Comments:						
Comments.						
						<del> </del>
						<del> </del>
Student will sign after reviewing result	s with instruc	tor				
Student will sign after reviewing results with instructor.						
Student Signature:			Date:			