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Dear Graduate Nursing Student,

Welcome to the School of Nursing at Washburn University. The School of Nursing is committed to providing you with the highest quality graduate nursing education. From all of us who work for the School of Nursing please know that we are here to assist you in every way possible. We all have an investment in your learning, and we want you to have an outstanding experience as a nursing student.

The student handbook has been prepared for you by the School of Nursing faculty, staff and administration as an information guide and resource manual. The handbook is designed to supplement, not replace, the Washburn University Catalog and the Washburn University Student Handbook. Consequently, all policies and regulations stated in those documents are to be observed in addition to those provided in the following pages.

Well prepared nurses who complete their graduate studies in nursing have a significant leadership role within health care delivery systems. Health care organizations are highly-developed complex-systems that demand vision and leadership from each and every nurse working within the organization. The Quadruple Aim of the American health care systems is to control per capita costs, improve the experience of care, improve the overall health of a populations, and improving the work life of health care providers. Today’s leaders have to be engaged in effecting positive change by managing the various resources within these organizations so that costs can be controlled and quality of health services will continue to improve. The School of Nursing embraces the goals of the Quadruple Aim and we are serious about educating the next generation of professional nurses to advance the efforts to improve health for all citizens.

Washburn University nurse graduates are making significant contributions in the delivery of health care across the nation and the world. Soon you will be one of our treasured alumni. Until that time, we want you to take advantage of the many opportunities for learning and personal enrichment that await you as a nursing student. We look forward to sharing many experiences with you.

Sincerely,

Monica Scheibmeir, PhD, FAANP
Dean, School of Nursing
CHAPTER I

SCHOOL OF NURSING INFORMATION

MISSION STATEMENT

To transform the professional nursing workforce to improve health, enhance the experience of care, and maximize the value of health services to a diverse population. Revised Spring 2016

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The nursing faculty believe each human being is a unitary, living open system and is continually engaged in a mutual dynamic process with the environment. Individuals are unique, have inherent worth, and strive to maintain system integrity while progressing through the life process from conception through death. Individuals, families, and communities are open systems engaged in mutual dynamic process with the environment.

Nursing is a health profession which is concerned with promoting the quality of life in individuals, families, and communities. The deliberative and creative use of knowledge for the betterment of human beings is expressed in the science and art of nursing. The nurse, at all levels of preparation, is responsible for assisting the client in recognizing and coping with health needs throughout the life process. Through application of the nursing process, the nurse functions as a provider of care, a designer/ coordinator/manager of care, and as a member of the profession.

Nursing is a practice profession that values clinical expertise and the application of scientific knowledge. Professional education in nursing begins at the baccalaureate level. The purpose of professional nursing education is to provide the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for the student to become a professional nurse and to have the foundation for graduate education. General education in the humanities and in the natural and social sciences provides a broad foundation for understanding and augmenting nursing theory and facilitates the development and integration of the nursing student as a professional person.

The student who attains a graduate degree in nursing becomes a specialized practice expert who demonstrates expanded accountability and responsibility for the care of patients, populations, and systems. In addition to the direct practice role, the graduate also demonstrates expertise in the following competencies:

- Scientific underpinnings for practice,
- Organizational and systems leadership for quality improvement and systems thinking,
- Clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice,
- Information systems/technology for the improvement and transformation of health care,
- Health care policy for advocacy in health care,
- Interpersonal collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes,
- Prevention of disease and promotion of population health, and
- Advancing nursing practice
Learning is a complex, mutual process of growth and development identified by changes in the behavior of the learner. Each student is unique in life experiences, motivation for learning, and scholastic aptitude. The educational process is designed to provide opportunities for students to meet individual learning needs. The role of the nurse educator is to facilitate the learning process. Students are responsible for learning.

The philosophy and purposes of the School of Nursing are consistent with the mission of Washburn University. The School of Nursing is a major academic unit within the University and is responsible for determining its own professional curriculum and instruction. The richness of resources within the university and community provide opportunities for faculty and students to make significant contributions to health care delivery in a changing, multicultural society.

Revised Fall 2014

DESCRIPTION OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The School operates as one of the five major academic units of the University. Graduate programs are offered for nurses based upon educational level and practice interest:

- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
- Post-Graduate Certificate Programs

SPECIALTY TRACKS

The graduate programs offer a nursing curriculum designed to prepare registered nurses for advanced practice, both at the generalist and specialist levels. Four specialty tracks are offered: adult/gerontology nurse practitioner (AGNP), family nurse practitioner (FNP), psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP), and clinical nurse leader (CNL). The three nurse practitioner tracks meet the Kansas State Board of Nursing requirements for advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) as advanced practice specialists. The CNL track prepares nurses for advanced generalist practice, which does not require APRN licensure. CNL practice is governed under the registered nurse (RN) licensure.
END-OF-PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

At the completion of the DNP program, the learner will be able to:

1. integrate nursing science with ethics, natural, social, and organizational sciences for advanced practice nursing.
2. support quality healthcare innovations through systems-level leadership.
3. use evidence-based practice methods to optimize healthcare outcomes and reduce disparities.
4. integrate technology with nursing practice to improve quality and accessibility of care.
5. advocate health care policies that seek to improve social justice, equity, and ethical treatment.
6. collaborate with intraprofessional and interdisciplinary teams to create innovation within complex healthcare systems.
7. synthesize concepts of health promotion and disease prevention to evaluate interventions aimed to improve health indicators.
8. demonstrate evidence-based competencies in advanced practice nursing as identified by the APRN consensus model.

Master of Science Degree in Nursing (MSN) Program

At the completion of the MSN program, the learner will be able to:

1. provide organizational leadership demonstrating knowledge of health policy and health care systems.
2. integrate knowledge and theory into evidence-based practice and research.
3. collaborate with interdisciplinary groups within the role and scope of advanced practice nursing.
4. demonstrate sound clinical decision making for prevention and population health.
5. provide holistic care that is culturally proficient to individuals and populations.
6. integrate principles of ethics, quality, and safety into practice.
7. use communication technologies and skills to integrate and coordinate care.

Revised Spring 2012
Post-Graduate
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Certificate Program

At the completion of the Post-Graduate PMHNP Certificate program, the learner will be able to:

1. Integrate knowledge and theory into evidence-based advanced psychiatric mental health nursing practice.
2. Collaborate with interdisciplinary groups within the role and scope of advanced psychiatric mental health nursing practice.
3. Demonstrate sound critical thinking and clinical decision-making.
4. Provide holistic care that is culturally proficient with diverse groups and communities.
5. Incorporate ethical and legal principles in advanced psychiatric mental health nursing practice.
6. Integrate effective communication in the advanced psychiatric mental health nursing role.
7. Build on graduate level nursing education to acquire essential competencies for advanced psychiatric mental health nursing practice.

SCHOOL OF NURSING ACCREDITATION

The Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing, Master’s Degree in Nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree and post-graduate PMHNP Certificate at Washburn University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036, 202-887-6791.

All graduate APRN Programs are approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing.

The DNP program was accredited by the Higher Learning Commission in the fall of 2012.
CHAPTER II

SCHOOL OF NURSING POLICIES

ANA CODE OF ETHICS FOR NURSES WITH INTERPRETIVE STATEMENTS

As stated in the preface of Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (2015),

The Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (the Code) establishes the ethical standard for the profession and provides a guide for nurses to use in ethical analysis and decision-making. The Code is nonnegotiable in any setting. It may be revised or amended only by formal processes established by the American Nurses Association (ANA). The Code arises from the long, distinguished, and enduring moral tradition of modern nursing in the United States. It is foundational to nursing theory, practice, and praxis in its expression of the values, virtues, and obligations that shape, guide, and inform nursing as a profession.

Nursing encompasses the protection, promotion, and restoration of health and well-being; the prevention of illness and injury; and the alleviation of suffering, in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations. All of this is reflected, in part, in nursing’s persisting commitment both to the welfare of the sick, injured, and vulnerable in society, and to social justice.

Nurses act to change those aspects of social structures that detract from health and well-being. Individuals who become nurses, as well as the professional organizations that represent them, are expected not only to adhere to the values, moral norms, and ideals of the profession but also to embrace them as a part of what it means to be a nurse. The ethical tradition of nursing is self-reflective, enduring, and distinctive. A code of ethics makes explicit the primary obligations, values, and ideals of the profession. In fact, it informs every aspect of the nurse’s life.

Provision 1. The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

Provision 2. The nurse’s primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.

Provision 3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.
Provision 4. The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimum care.

Provision 5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth.

Provision 6. The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environments of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.

Provision 7. The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.

Provision 8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.

Provision 9. The professional of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.

American Nurses Association. (2015). Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements, Silver Spring, MD; author

**CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

**FOR NURSING STUDENTS**

The professional nurse is responsible for maintaining and promoting health, caring for people in acute and chronic illness, alleviating suffering whenever possible and providing supportive and restorative measures for individuals and families to realize their maximum health potential. Inherent in nursing is respect for life and the dignity and rights of all persons. Nursing practice is unrestricted by considerations of race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, sex, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or social status.

These fundamental beliefs are inherent in the profession of nursing. The development of a code of conducts is an essential characteristic of a profession and provides one means for the exercise of professional self-regulation. The conduct of nursing students is part of the evaluation process in nursing education.

This code of professional conduct specifies for nursing students what is meant by appropriate professional conduct and will be used as a means to better prepare graduates to enter the
profession of nursing. The following list of behaviors will be incorporated into each nursing course and will be a part of every clinical evaluation.

Professional conduct for nursing students includes, but is not limited to, the following behaviors:

1. Students in the clinical setting are representing Washburn University School of Nursing as well as the profession of nursing. They will always present themselves in appropriate professional clothes with a name tag clearly visible.

2. Students will demonstrate physically and psychologically stable behavior so that clients can be the focus of care.

3. Students will communicate with clients, clinical agency personnel, other students and the faculty in a manner that is respectful, is receptive to feedback and promotes open communication.

4. Students will provide care that is client-centered and shows respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the client, free from all bias and discrimination, and without consideration for personal attributes or the nature of health problems.

5. Students will maintain confidentiality of protected patient information.

6. Students, when acting in a professional capacity, will at all times, maintain standards of professional conduct.

7. Students will always place client care and safety as the primary concern in any clinical situation.

8. Students who are unable to attend class, clinical or client meeting, are responsible for contacting appropriate persons in a timely manner and arranging make up assignments as required.

**STUDENT CONDUCT PLEDGE**

All nursing students admitted to the graduate program are required to sign a student conduct pledge found in Verified Credentials indicating that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by the policies, rules, and/or expectations set forth by the School of Nursing. The pledge addresses academic integrity, honesty, and confidentiality. The School of Nursing reserves the right to deny any student who refuses or fails to sign the pledge admission to the graduate program. Furthermore, any student who fails to comply with the policies and/or rules set forth may be suspended and/or dismissed from the graduate program.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Students are expected to notify the instructor in advance when they need to be absent from course activities or are unable to meet course due dates. Students are required to complete all required practicum hours. Students who have missed an excessive portion of a given course may be withdrawn from the course or receive a failing grade.
TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Students are expected to complete all tests/exams at the time scheduled. If a student is unable to complete a test/exam due to an extreme extenuating circumstance, the student must notify the faculty member prior to the scheduled test/exam period. The student is responsible for scheduling a make-up time with the instructor. Failure to schedule and make up a test/exam within the designated time may result in a zero being recorded. Individual courses may have additional requirements specified in the course syllabus for which students are responsible.

Students do not have an option at the end of the semester to repeat tests or portions of assignments in order to raise a course grade once it is apparent a lower grade has been earned.

STUDENT/FACULTY CONFERENCES

A student/faculty conference may be necessary for a variety of reasons, including poor academic or clinical performance, integrity or behavioral concerns. The faculty member will schedule a conference with the student to discuss the concern and develop an action plan. The conference should be scheduled in a timely manner so that the student is made aware of the concern and has opportunity to respond. Another faculty member will be in attendance. The Student/Faculty Conference form should be completed and signed. Following the conference, a copy of the form will be forwarded to the Graduate Admission Progression Retention (GAPR) Committee chair and the original placed in the student file in the School of Nursing. The faculty requesting the conference will make additional comments on the form following the resolution of the issue and notify the GAPR Chairperson.

HIPAA REQUIREMENTS

Students will receive HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) training prior to attending clinical. This training and testing is mandatory for all nursing students.

Patient information is confidential and must be protected. Students are allowed to have access only to information that is appropriate to their participation in patient care. The following information MAY NOT be recorded in any documentation, and information should not indicate the facility in which care was delivered (i.e.: a 41-year-old female on 5E at St. Francis):

- Names (this includes initials).
- All geographic subdivisions smaller than a State.
- All elements of dates (except year).
- Medical Record numbers
The following are also considered identifiable and should not be copied:

- Telephone numbers
- Fax numbers
- Email addresses
- Social Security numbers
- Health plan beneficiary numbers
- Account numbers
- Certificate/license numbers
- Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers
- Device identifiers and serial numbers
- URLs and IP address numbers
- Biometric identifiers
- Full face photographic images
- Any other unique identifying number, characteristic or code

Students are directed to faculty with questions about HIPAA guidelines. Students MAY NOT print out or photocopy any parts of the chart to remove from the facility. Taking home portions of a chart is considered a HIPAA violation.

**Audiovisual:** Videotaping, audiotaping, or other types of recording are not allowed in clinical courses, or pre/post clinical, or where patient information is shared.

**POLICY STATEMENT ON CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY**

The School of Nursing faculty requires students applying for admission to the School of Nursing to disclose any current chemical dependency and the nature of treatment being received. The SON recommends that students review their specific state nurse practice act regarding chemical dependency.

The School of Nursing faculty define chemical dependency as an illness in which alcohol and/or drug use interferes with the person's ability to function safely and affects the person's physical, emotional and social health. Chemical dependency is characterized by physical and psychologic dependence on drugs/alcohol and if untreated causes health, social and legal problems, and possibly death. The School of Nursing faculty believe they have a professional and ethical responsibility to students and their clients to provide a safe teaching and learning environment.

When a suspicion of chemical dependency is identified, faculty will confront students and direct them for further assessment and evaluation. Drug screening is required of all students in certain clinical settings and may also be required at any time if suspicion of alcohol and/or drug use exists. When there is evidence of chemical dependency, students will be directed into a treatment program. Continuation of chemically dependent students in the School of Nursing depends on compliance with the treatment program and with the terms of a contract initiated by the Dean of the School with the student. The faculty will maintain a supportive attitude toward
chemically dependent students during their treatment program and in the follow-up period. The faculty believe that students who comply with treatment and remain drug free can become safe practicing nurses.

Guidelines for Faculty Responsibilities with Chemically Dependent Students

I. Gather and document data on behaviors indicating possible use/diversion of alcohol and/or drugs.
   A. In situations in which the student demonstrates impaired behaviors at a clinical setting the faculty will:
      1. Send the student home with family or a friend that is designated by the student as a driver.
      2. Confer with the clinical agency regarding substance abuse policies pertaining to students in the clinical setting.
      3. Schedule an appointment to meet with the student.
   B. In situations in which the student demonstrates impaired behaviors in the classroom the faculty will:
      1. Remove the student from the classroom.
      2. Send the student home with family or a friend that is designated as a driver by the student.
      3. Schedule an appointment to meet with the student.

II. Procedure for the Meeting
   1. Present documented impaired performance behaviors.
   2. Confront student with the suspicion of drug/alcohol use.
   3. Give student alternatives: obtaining treatment or withdrawal from nursing courses.
   4. Discuss with student substance abuse treatment agencies for referral, such as Valeo Behavioral Health Care and Stormont Vail West.
   5. Provide emotional support and show concern for student's well being.
   6. Present contract to student that indicates student compliance will be monitored, with consequences for noncompliance defined.

Washburn University has adopted policies for prohibiting the use of alcohol and other drugs by students and employees in the workplace in compliance with federal laws and regulations, as well as alcohol and other drug prevention programs. These policies can be accessed through the following link: [http://www.washburn.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/wuprpm/general-topics.html](http://www.washburn.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/wuprpm/general-topics.html). Please refer to the Washburn University website and/or Graduate Catalog for additional information about university policies and procedures and student resources ([http://www.washburn.edu](http://www.washburn.edu)).
WASHBURN UNIVERSITY STUDENT CONDUCT CODE
AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Washburn University strives to provide an environment in which students may pursue their educational interests. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which promotes learning and preserves academic freedom for all.

Students are subject to the imposition of sanctions for engaging in prohibited conduct or behaviors independent of any other status they might have with the University. Conduct standards are set forth in writing to give Washburn students general notice of prohibited behavior. These conduct standards are accessible through the Washburn University Student Conduct Code.

Academic integrity is essential for maintaining a standard of professional behavior expected of all students enrolled in the School of Nursing. Becoming a member of the School of Nursing obligates implicit and explicit adherence to academic integrity. Academic integrity implies honesty in all aspects of the educational process and is essential for promotion of an optimum learning environment, and for the development of personal and professional responsibility and accountability in nursing students.

Students in the School of Nursing are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner according to the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses and to adhere to all School of Nursing and University policies in any endeavor associated with School of Nursing activities either on or off campus. Dishonesty, disruption of learning experiences, or any other form of academic impropriety or misconduct will not be tolerated.

The School of Nursing refers students to the Washburn University Student Conduct Code and the Washburn University Academic Impropriety Policy. These policies can be accessed through the following link:
http://www.washburn.edu/current-students/policies-forms/academic-policies.html

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS AND DISCLOSURES

For Statements and Disclosures from Washburn University click on the following link:
http://www.washburn.edu/statements-disclosures/index.html
CHAPTER III

ACADEMIC POLICIES

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

Students may be "conditionally" admitted to a graduate program. A student whose status is "conditional" may have one prerequisite course not completed at the time of application. A student admitted as "conditional" is expected to complete the admission requirement within a year, preferably sooner. If the requirement is not met within the academic year of conditional admission, the student may not enroll in graduate coursework and will be dismissed from the program. The student may reapply to the graduate program after the requirement is completed.

UNREALIZED ADMISSION

A student who has been admitted and subsequently does not enroll in the first semester after admission or drops classes prior to the first day of classes, will have their admission revoked. This student will not be counted in the admission or dismissal numbers for the respective academic year.

ADVISEMENT

Following acceptance to the graduate degree program, students participate in an orientation session to become familiar with the School of Nursing and the graduate program. Each student is assigned a faculty advisor in the School. Faculty advisors assist students with program planning (schedules, selection of concentration, elective course, etc.) and with registration each semester.

Students must contact their faculty advisor at the time of early enrollment. The University notifies students and faculty advisors of the dates during which registration is to occur, and students contact their faculty advisors for enrollment information. Faculty advisors help student select appropriate courses, provide an enrollment personal identification number (PIN) for each enrollment period, and provide other assistance as needed. Additional advising may be requested at any time and is arranged between the student and the faculty advisor. Any subsequent changes in enrollment (e.g., adding, dropping, or changing courses) must be discussed with the faculty advisor.

If at some point during his/her period of study, a student wants to change advisors, he/she must submit the request in writing to the Chair of the Graduate Admission Progression Retention (GAPR) Committee. The student is expected to discuss this request with both his/her current advisor and the prospective advisor. Whenever practical, such requests will be honored; however, there may be times or circumstances when a request of this type will be denied.
CRIMINAL RECORD

Students are advised that nursing licenses may be denied or disciplined by state boards of nursing (SBN). Possible grounds for such action may include being guilty of a felony or misdemeanor involving an illegal drug offense if the SBN determines that such person is not sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust. Also considered are patterns of practice and other behaviors exhibiting an apparent incapacity to practice nursing. All criminal history must be revealed to and will be evaluated by the SBN before advanced practice licensure is granted or denied. Admission to the School of Nursing does not guarantee that a student will be eligible for licensure. Please refer to your state nurse practice act for specific information regarding your state.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Transfer credits may be considered on a case-by-case basis after review of appropriate course syllabi. The applicant must have received a grade of “B” or better in nursing courses being considered. Academic credit is not given for life or work experience.

TIME LIMIT FOR COMPLETION OF PROGRAM

All students have a time limit for completion of requirements of the program (6 years for MSN; 8 years for DNP; 4 years for the Post-Graduate PMHNP Certificate) from their date of entry into the program. A student who cannot comply with this requirement and has a legitimate reason for being unable to do so may petition for an extension. The petition for extension should be approved by the advisor and sent to the Graduate Admission, Progression, and Retention (GAPR) Committee Chairperson. The petition should state why the extension is being requested and it should include a detailed timetable for completion of the requirements. The student will be notified of the committee decision in writing by the GAPR Committee Chairperson. If an extension is granted, some courses may need to be repeated.

PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME STUDY

Part-time and full-time study options are available for most graduate programs. Please consult your academic advisor. Full-time students are strongly discouraged from full-time employment due to the rigor of the program and the time required for practicum hours. The University’s requirement for full-time status as a graduate student is nine credit hours per semester.
ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCES

BSN to DNP students are required to attend all mandatory on-campus experiences. Failure to do so will result in a formal counseling session and/or dismiss from the program. MSN to DNP and Post-Graduate Certificate Students are not required to attend on-campus experiences, but may do so at their discretion.

During on-campus experiences, there may be times when DNP students will be moving around the room and will be separated from their handbag/backpack. For those sessions when this is an expectation, faculty will provide notification to students via official Washburn email at least 24 hours prior to the session where this will occur. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure he or she can be separated from their handbag/backpack for the duration of the experience.

RETENTION AND PROGRESSION IN THE PROGRAM

Following admission to the graduate nursing program, a student’s progress is evaluated by the GAPR Committee upon completion of each nursing course. To remain in good standing, graduate students must attain a minimum grade of “B” in all courses offered by the School of Nursing. Courses offered by the School of Business must be completed with a “C” or better.

REQUESTS TO CHANGE TRACKS OR SEQUENCING OF COURSES

Students who are considering a change of course sequencing or change in track must consult with their faculty advisor. Following consultation with the faculty advisor, students who desire to change tracks must submit a formal request in writing to the Chairperson of the GAPR Committee. The document should state the request and indicate the reason for the request. The GAPR Committee decision will be based on space availability, the student’s reason for requesting the change, the student’s prior academic performance, and the approval of the faculty in the requested track. The student and faculty advisor will be notified of the committee decision in writing by the Chairperson of the GAPR Committee. The student should be aware that making this change may affect progression in the program.

GRADING POLICIES

Grades for School of Nursing graduate coursework are defined as: “A” (excellent performance), “B” (satisfactory performance), “C” (below standards), “D” (failure) and “F” (failure). Students must attain a minimum grade of “B” in all courses offered by the School of Nursing. Courses offered by the School of Business must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

Letter grade values

Letter grade values for graduate nursing courses are as follows:
A - 90-100%

15
B - 80-89.99%
C - 70-79.99%
D - 60-69.99%
F - Below 60%
No rounding of grades is allowed!

Grade of Incomplete

The course grade of incomplete is given under specific conditions as outlined in the University catalog. Unless an earlier deadline is stipulated by the instructor of the course, the incompletes in graduate courses must be completed by the last day of classes (and grades submitted to the University Registrar Office by the deadline of grade submission) of the subsequent Spring semester for Fall incompletes or the subsequent Fall semester for Spring and Summer incompletes, otherwise a grade of F will be recorded.

Students receiving an incomplete in any course will not be allowed to proceed to the next course in that sequence until the work has been completed and a change of grade has been submitted to the Registrar’s Office. Given the design and structure of the graduate program, this may mean the student must wait an entire year before he or she can resume taking classes in the graduate nursing program.

PROGRESSION AFTER FAILING GRADE

Students receiving a failing grade in any course will not be allowed to proceed to the next course in that sequence or to the advanced practice core courses until the course has been successfully repeated. Given the design and structure of the graduate program, this may mean the student must wait an entire year before he/she can resume classes in the graduate nursing program.

ACADEMIC WARNING AND DISMISSAL

The first time a student receives a final grade of C, D, or F in a required graduate nursing course the student will be placed on Academic Warning. If the grade is a D or F, the student must repeat the course, contingent upon the following (all must apply):

- approval is granted by the GAPR committee and notice is given to the student;
- the instructor grants permission for the student to repeat the course;
- space is available in the course.

The second time a student receives a final grade of C, D, or F in a required nursing course, or demonstrates a pattern of non-attendance, he/she will be academically dismissed from the program. If a student withdraws from the same nursing course more than one time, the student will be academically dismissed from the graduate program. At that point, the student may not progress further in the graduate nursing program.
The Dean has the authority to dismiss a student from the School of Nursing. Academic warning and dismissal shall not be recommended or imposed in the absence of compelling and substantial reasons.
GRADE APPEAL PROCEDURE

Students wishing to appeal a grade must follow the School of Nursing and University or School of Business policies and procedures for grade appeal as outlined in the University Graduate Catalog.

WITHDRAWAL FROM NURSING COURSES

A student may withdraw from a nursing course any semester with a grade of “W” up to and including the date of the “last day to withdraw” as specified in the published Washburn University Calendar. The faculty advisor should be consulted prior to withdrawal. Information will be forwarded to the Chairperson of the Graduate Admissions, Progression and Retention (GAPR) Committee. Withdrawal from a practicum course after the beginning of the semester requires the notification of the course coordinator, advisor, and practicum preceptor. If a student withdraws from the same nursing course more than one time, the student will be academically dismissed from the program. If an agency requests a student to withdraw from a practicum because of the quality of the student’s performance in the practicum, the course coordinator will investigate circumstances and take appropriate action.

NON-ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

To remain in good standing in the graduate programs at Washburn University students must adhere to:
- the ANA Code of Ethics,
- the School of Nursing Code of Professional Conduct for Nursing Students,
- the professional conduct requirements outlined in the rules and regulations of the Nurse Practice Act in the student’s state of licensure, and
- Washburn University’s Student Conduct Code and academic impropriety policy.

Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior in all learning environments. Such behavior must reflect the values and ethics of the nursing profession. Should a student be able to perform academically and clinically; yet demonstrate behaviors, values, or attitudes inconsistent with professional nursing practice; non-academic dismissal from the graduate program will be considered. This decision is governed by specific criteria, policies, and procedures as published in the University Catalog. The School of Nursing follows the reporting and disciplinary procedures as presented in the Washburn University Student Conduct Code.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

Students pursuing a graduate degree who have completed all degree requirements except practicum or project will be required to maintain continuous enrollment until graduation (unless a leave has been approved). Continuous enrollment means that candidates must be enrolled in at least one credit hour until degree requirements are met. If all other course work has been completed, students will be required to enroll in a 1-credit-hour class each semester until the program is completed. Credit hours completed through the continuous enrollment course will
not count toward the credit hours required for graduation and may be recorded as a pass on the transcript. This requirement also applies to the summer session for students whose degrees are being awarded at the end of the summer session. Interruption of continuous registration due to a failure to follow this requirement will require readmission to the program.

WITHDRAWAL FROM A NURSING PROGRAM

A student who wishes to withdraw from a graduate program should submit a written statement of intent to withdraw to their faculty advisor and the Chairperson of the GAPR Committee. Re-application to the School of Nursing will be necessary should the student desire to re-enter the program.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Students who must interrupt their education due to personal or professional reasons should consult with their faculty advisor prior to submitting a written request for a leave of absence to the Chairperson of GAPR Committee. The letter should be submitted as soon as the student realizes the need for a leave. The letter should describe the reason for the leave and a projected return date. Leaves will be granted on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the GAPR Committee. If the time limit for completion of program requirements is exceeded, decisions about the student’s placement and progression will be made by the GAPR Committee.

READMISSION TO THE SCHOOL

Following interruption of the nursing sequence and withdrawal from the graduate program, a student may reapply. Applicants must meet the current admission requirements of the School of Nursing. Requests for readmission are reviewed by the GAPR Committee. Consideration will be given to the length of absence, the student’s ability to achieve, and the available spaces in the courses in which the student will enroll. If readmission is granted, the remaining program requirements will be re-projected. Some course may need to be repeated.

APPEAL PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS DISMISSED OR DENIED ADMISSION/READMISSION TO A GRADUATE PROGRAM

A student who has been dismissed or who has been denied admission or readmission to the graduate program and who wishes to appeal the decision of the GAPR Committee, may seek recourse through the following procedure. The student writes a letter to the Chairperson of the GAPR Committee requesting reconsideration and stating his/her reasons for disagreement with the decision of the committee. The letter to the GAPR Committee should include the following: an explanation for the situation in which the grade(s) occurred (if applicable), rationale for starting or continuing in the program, and a plan of action for future academic success. If the decision of the Committee is to deny the petition for re-admission, the student may seek mediation by the Dean of the School of Nursing. Should the student still feel dissatisfied with the results of these actions, he/she may request a review of the School of Nursing Graduate
The Education Committee, which is comprised of all faculty who teach in the graduate programs. The decision of that body is final.

**REVIEW AND MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS OF STUDENT SATISFACTION AND FORMAL COMPLAINTS**

Student input is essential to ongoing program improvement. The policy of the School of Nursing is to review and maintain records of students’ satisfaction and formal complaints other than complaints associated with a grade appeal. University procedures are to be followed for grade appeals as outlined in the University Graduate Catalog.

**Student Satisfaction**

Student satisfaction is assessed both through formal faculty and course evaluation. Formal evaluation of faculty and classes are conducted prior to the conclusion of a course. Raw data from the evaluation forms are compiled and reviewed by the Dean, Associate Dean, and faculty as part the faculty evaluation process. Aggregate data are reviewed for curricular changes as indicated based on student input.

**Student Complaints**

When a student identifies a complaint regarding a faculty member or course, the student is encouraged to discuss the issue with the faculty member to resolve the issue. If the issue is not resolved, the following steps are to be followed:

1. If the student wishes to make a formal complaint, the complaint is to be presented to the faculty member in writing with the student’s signature and date.
2. A copy of the formal complaint is also given to the Program Director and the Associate Dean, and placed in the student file.
3. A meeting is to be scheduled with the student, faculty member, program director, and Associate Dean and recommendations from that meeting forwarded to the student within 5 business days following the formal meeting.
4. If resolution is not achieved, a copy of the complaint will be sent along with the faculty member’s response for the Dean’s review.
5. A meeting of the student, program director, and the Dean will occur for final resolution of the complaint. Following the meeting, the Dean will respond within 5 days with a written recommendation. A copy of the written recommendation will be placed in the student file.
GRADUATION/LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

Program Completion Requirements

Successful completion of all courses is required for awarding of the graduate degree/certificate. Recommendation that a graduate degree be granted must be made by the Dean of the School of Nursing.

To ensure that all requirements are met, students must meet with their faculty advisor the semester prior to program completion. All students who are completing a graduate program also must submit an Application for Degree or Application for Certificate to the Registrar’s Office by September 15th (for Fall graduation) or February 1st (for Spring or Summer graduation).

Commencement and Hooding Ceremony

The University confers degrees at the end of each semester and at the end of the summer session. Students who are scheduled to complete final requirements for the degree during the following summer term may be permitted to participate in the Spring commencement and hooding ceremonies.

Licensure/Certification

Graduates seeking qualification as an advanced practice registered nurse practitioner (APRN) should apply to their respective State Board of Nursing (SBN). Graduates must ensure that the Washburn University Office of the Registrar sends an official transcript to the SBN. Transcript request forms may be obtained online or at the University Registrar’s Office. Because requirements for advanced practice vary from state to state, graduates who desire to practice in other states are responsible for identifying qualifications required for the specific state by contacting the appropriate State Board of Nursing. Those completing graduate programs are eligible for certification by national credentialing agencies in the area of specialty.
CHAPTER IV
HEALTH POLICIES AND INFORMATION

HEALTH CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS
The School of Nursing has partnered with Verified Credentials to track graduate student health clearance records and conduct pre-entrance background checks. Students will be provided simple instructions on how to submit their health clearance documentation and will be assessed a fee upon signing up on the Verified Credentials website. Any questions or concerns regarding uploading documents should be directed to Verified Credentials via their website chat feature, email (clientservices@verifiedcredentials.com), or phone (800.938.6090). Graduate students must submit all health clearance requirements by July 1st for the Fall semester, and December 1st for the Spring semester. Students may not participate in any clinical practicums without being compliant with all their health clearance requirements. Failure to comply with health clearance deadlines may result in disenrollment from the program. The following documentation is required:

☐ Complete Pre-entrance Background Check

☐ Provide Proof of current RN licensure

☐ Varicella (Chicken Pox) Immunization - Students will electronically submit evidence of 2 varicella vaccinations or titer/blood test demonstrating positive immunity. If students have only had 1 of the vaccinations, they must obtain the 2nd immunization or submit a titer with positive results. The program will NOT accept documentation of disease as evidence of immunity. Enter all dates accurately or the submission will be rejected.

☐ Influenza Immunization (Due no later than Oct. 1) – Students will electronically submit evidence of an influenza (i.e. flu) vaccination appropriate for the influenza season occurring during the student’s enrollment in the program or a waiver. Note that clinical sites are under no obligation to accept a waiver of immunization and may refuse placement to students submitting an immunization waiver for any reason. If a student elects to waive this requirement, they may be disqualified from some or all clinical sites and potentially unable to complete the program.

☐ Measles, Mumps and Rubella Immunization - Students will electronically submit evidence of 2 MMR vaccinations or titer/blood test demonstrating positive immunity to each. Enter all dates accurately or the submission will be rejected.

☐ Hepatitis B Immunization – Students will electronically submit evidence of a 3 series vaccination, titer/blood test demonstrating positive immunity, or signed waiver. If the student has not had all 3 vaccinations, visit with your healthcare provider about fulfilling this requirement. The approved waiver form is provided within the Verified Credential system. Enter all dates accurately or the submission will be rejected.
CPR Certification for the Health Care Provider or Professional Rescuer – Students must submit current certification and maintain certification throughout the program (must be valid throughout the current semester).

Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis) - Students will electronically submit evidence of a tetanus/diphtheria vaccination (Td or Tdap given within the past 10 years. If the tetanus/diphtheria vaccine was given over 10 years ago, the student must submit evidence of a Td booster vaccine. Enter all dates accurately or the submission will be rejected.

Tuberculosis (PPD) - Students will submit evidence of one 2-step Tuberculosis skin test result completed within the past 12 months. If a test proves positive, a chest x-ray for Tuberculosis evaluation will be required and students must submit the radiologist’s report. If a student has previously tested positive for Tuberculosis exposure and the student’s last Tuberculosis evaluation chest x-ray was completed more than 12 months ago, the student must see a medical provider to complete the Absence of TB Symptoms Form (official form contained in the Verified Credentials System). If a student’s chest x-ray results are positive for Tuberculosis, students must visit their healthcare provider to complete treatment and in this case the Program Director must be notified immediately. Enter all dates accurately or the submission will be rejected.

Evidence of Personal Health Insurance – Students must submit a copy of an insurance card which states the student’s name, policy number, and insurance carrier. If the student is on a parent’s, spouse’s, or partner’s policy and the insurance card does NOT have the student’s name listed, a letter from the insurance carrier verifying coverage will have to be submitted in the Verified Credentials system.

Student Conduct Pledge – Students are required to sign (electronically) this pledge indicating that they have read and understand the professional ethics and values described in the Graduate Student Handbook. The pledge form is available on the Verified Credentials website. Graduate Student Handbooks are available online on the School of Nursing website.

CLINICAL CLEARANCE
Each student must be cleared before initiating practicum. Clinical clearance is issued every semester upon verification of completion of all health requirements, personal health insurance, and CPR certification.

Under no circumstances will a student participate in any clinical practicum without a current record of health clearance on file in the School of Nursing.

Students not meeting health clearance requirements by the listed deadlines will be demined access to courses in D2L pending resolution.
INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

Purpose
1. To clarify rights and responsibilities of students and faculty in facilitating treatment of clients with an infectious disease.
2. To articulate the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty who contract an infectious disease.
3. To address concerns about confidentiality and privacy of infected individuals.
4. To delineate infection control measures for protection of clients, students, and faculty.

Definition
For purposes of this policy statement, an infectious disease is defined as any disease that can be transmitted from one human being to another by direct contact with blood or other body fluids. These diseases may range in degree of seriousness, and include, but are not limited to influenza, hepatitis, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

Philosophy
The faculty of the School of Nursing at Washburn University is committed to the education of professional nurses. This commitment includes a moral obligation to provide compassionate humane care, and equal treatment, to all persons, including those afflicted with an infectious disease such as HIV/AIDS. The School of Nursing also recognizes an obligation to impart accurate and current information regarding the modes of transmission of infectious diseases, and protective measures for infection control, in order to protect clients, students, and faculty from the further spread of infectious diseases. The student is ultimately responsible for learning, and that the nurse-educator is responsible for facilitating the learner to become self-directed (School of Nursing Philosophy).

Treatment of Clients with Infectious Diseases
Faculty and students have a fundamental responsibility to provide care to any client. Refusal to provide care is contrary to the ethics of the nursing profession (Nursing Code of Ethics). Faculty have a responsibility to exemplify the standards of ethical behavior and compassion expected of students in the nursing program.

Infection Control Measures
Faculty and students are expected to follow appropriate guidelines while in healthcare settings and in the nursing laboratory setting.

Protective barriers reduce the risk of exposure to blood and/or body fluids containing visible blood. Examples of protective barriers include gloves, gowns, masks and protective eyewear.
Faculty Responsibility

1. To provide the most current information related to infectious diseases (i.e. the mode of transmission).
2. To provide instructions in protective precautions for students caring for patients with infectious diseases.
3. To monitor the student's clinical experiences as they provide care for clients with infectious diseases.
4. To ensure that safety guidelines are used in caring for clients with infectious diseases, and that procedures exist, and are followed, if accidental exposures to infectious diseases do occur.
5. To ensure that equipment, supplies, and conditions are appropriate for minimizing the risk of potential exposure in the clinical and laboratory settings.
6. To ensure that disinfecting and disposal procedures are carefully monitored.

Student Responsibility

1. To collaborate with the faculty in making informed decisions concerning the care of infected clients, based on the:
   a. Center for Disease Control Guidelines (CDC).
   c. Educational objectives of the nursing curriculum.
2. To seek clarification with the faculty concerning care of the potentially infected client.

Refusal to Provide Care

Individuals who are apprehensive or refuse to participate in caring for a client with an infectious disease will be counseled on an individual basis. Education and counseling will underscore the moral obligation inherent in caring for those who are ill. If, after having received this information, the individual still refuses to provide care, further counseling will be done to determine whether the individual should continue in a nursing career.
EXPOSURE TO BLOOD OR BODY FLUIDS

Policy Statement
Any direct exposure to blood or body fluids occurring in the School of Nursing must be reported to the Clinical Instructor immediately.

Policy
1. All blood or body fluids should be considered potentially infectious. Students must wear appropriate protective equipment when performing any task(s) that may involve exposure to blood or body fluids.
2. Should an exposure to blood or body fluids occur in the campus laboratory or a clinical setting, agency policies and procedures should be followed.

Information regarding blood borne exposure may be obtained from www.cdc.gov.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING
STUDENT INCIDENT REPORT FORM GUIDELINES

PURPOSE: Incident reports are designed to provide a written account of incidents involving nursing students during the course of their clinical experiences. The document will become part of the student's folder and may be used for evaluation and progression purposes.

PROCESS: The following steps are to be followed within 2 working days of instructor notification that an incident has occurred:

1. Instructor will meet with student to discuss the circumstances of the incident.
2. Institution staff, client's family, and/or physicians may be consulted, as appropriate.
3. The Report Form will be completed by the instructor and student together and is to be signed by both and submitted to the Associate Dean.
4. The Chair of the GAPR Committee will bring report to the next GAPR meeting following the incident, OR may call a special GAPR Committee meeting, if warranted, to discuss the situation.
5. The GAPR Committee will recommend any additional action that might be taken.
6. Appropriate color-coded copies of the form are to be distributed by the GAPR as follows:
   a. White - student folder
   b. Canary - to instructor
   c. Pink - to Dean
   d. Goldenrod - to GAPR Committee Chairperson

(Incident forms are available in the School of Nursing office. An electronic copy can be used by faculty and students if that is more convenient)

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CHAPTER V

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

The **Master of Science in Nursing Clinical Excellence Award** recognizes an outstanding MSN student who demonstrates clinical expertise and leadership in advancing clinical practice.

The **Outstanding Master of Science in Nursing Poster Award** recognizes MSN students who investigate a health care problem; offer evidence-based recommendations for change; and display forward thinking in solving clinical, organizational, and educational challenges.

The **Doctoral Student Excellence Award** recognizes an outstanding DNP student who demonstrates excellence in academic performance, clinical expertise in providing patient care, and leadership in advanced practice nursing at the doctoral level.

The **Outstanding Doctor of Nursing Practice Poster Award** recognizes an outstanding doctoral nursing student or student team for high-level mastery of advanced nursing practice that focuses on the translation of evidence into practice. The DNP Project must have the potential to directly or indirectly influence outcomes related to health care, practice, policy or entrepreneurship.

ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETIES

**Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI)** is the International Honor Society of Nursing. The mission of STTI is advancing world health and celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. Eta Kappa-at-Large (EKAL) Chapter is the local STTI Chapter that includes the nursing programs at Washburn University, Baker University, and Emporia State University. Admission is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by the EKAL Chapter. Eligible Master’s and Doctoral students are invited to membership in the fall and spring semesters. Criteria for membership include enrollment in a graduate degree program (MSN or DNP) at accredited institution of higher education, completion of at least one fourth of the nursing curriculum, and achievement of academic excellence (a GPA of at least 3.5).

**The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (PKP)** is a national multidisciplinary honor society. The mission of PKP is to recognize and promote of academic excellence in all fields of higher education and engage the community of scholars in service to others. Admission is by invitation only and requires nomination approval by the Washburn University Chapter. The University Chapter of PKP invites eligible Master’s and Doctoral students to membership in the Fall and Spring semesters who have completed at least 18 graduate hours and who rank in the top 10% of their class.
CHAPTER VI

GENERAL INFORMATION

FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarships

Students who have been admitted to graduate programs may apply for nursing scholarships through the School of Nursing. Scholarship application forms are available in the School of Nursing office and must be submitted each year by February 15. Nursing endowed scholarships are awarded by the Financial Aid Office upon recommendation of the School of Nursing. The recipients and the amount of the awards are determined following the policies and guidelines of the Washburn University Financial Aid Committee and the stipulations of the donors. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form by the priority deadline of February 15.

Loans

Federal Stafford Loans
Students may apply through the Financial Aid Office for Stafford loans. Loans may be subsidized or unsubsidized, based upon financial need.

Private Loans
Students can apply for low interest loans through private banks. Interest repayment rates will vary. Information on securing private loans is available at the Financial Aid Office, Morgan Hall, (785) 670-1151.

External Scholarships

Students are encouraged to seek additional financial aid through external scholarships. The Financial Aid Office of Washburn University has information available regarding scholarship information websites. Students are also encouraged to contact nursing organizations that provide support to graduate students.

DRESS CODE

In all clinical situations, students are expected to present a professional appearance and to wear their photo ID badge.
FACILITIES

The facilities of the School of Nursing have been designed with consideration of the needs of the students. Students may practice skills or use the computer lab in the Learning Center located in Petro 205. A health assessment laboratory, Petro 202, may be scheduled by students for practice of assessment skills. An additional computer laboratory, Petro 211, is available to students to complete assignments and to access the Internet.

Learning Center
1. Learning Center hours are posted near the PC 205 door.
2. The Learning Center is open primarily for practice of nursing skills. Please take advantage of the opportunity to practice.
3. Faculty are available to assist with practice by appointment.
4. Special arrangements may be made to use PC 202 for practice. Contact either your clinical instructor, or the Learning Center Coordinator.
5. Student assistants are available to keep the lab open. They may assist in locating equipment or recalling procedures. Any questions or problems should be directed to the Learning Center Coordinator or your clinical instructor.
6. No food or drink is allowed in the Learning Center.
7. Please be aware that the Learning Center and the Health Assessment Lab are under constant video surveillance for security purposes. Students may have practices or checkoffs recorded for educational purposes.

Smoking Regulations

Smoking is prohibited in all university buildings, exclusive of residential halls, except in specially designated smoking areas. There is no smoking area within the Petro Allied Health Center.

COMMUNICATION

The School of Nursing telephone number is (785) 670-1525. Faculty phone numbers and email addresses are available in the university campus directory that is updated and reprinted annually. To access the School of Nursing homepage from off campus: www.washburn.edu/sonu E-mail address to the School of Nursing office - nursing@washburn.edu

Telephones in the School of Nursing office are not available for student use, and the School of Nursing staff cannot be responsible for delivering personal telephone messages to students. Students are asked to turn off cell phones during class and clinical.
Official E-Mail Address

Washburn University e-mail addresses are the official addresses used by the University for relaying important messages regarding academic and financial information. It may be used by instructors to provide specific course information. E-mail messages sent to a Washburn University e-mail address is considered official notification for important information.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY STUDENT SERVICES

Washburn University offers many services in support of the academic and personal needs of students. For complete details about University resources students should refer to the Washburn University Catalog, the Office of Student Services, or the University Website.

See Washburn University web page for student services: http://www.washburn.edu/current-students/services/index.html