

**WASHBURN**<sup>TM</sup>  
**UNIVERSITY**

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**SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**GRADUATE STUDENT  
HANDBOOK**

**2024 - 2025**

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## WELCOME FROM THE DEAN

Dear Graduate Nursing Student,

Welcome to the Washburn University School of Nursing. The faculty and staff are dedicated to providing you with the highest quality nursing education.

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 graduate studies in nursing play an important leadership role within health care delivery systems. Health care organizations are highly developed complex-systems that demand vision and leadership from 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 populations, and improve 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 advance. The School of Nursing is committed to the goals of the Quadruple Aim and strive to educate professional nurses to advance the efforts to improve health for all citizens.

Washburn University nursing graduates are making a significant impact in the delivery of health care across the nation and the world. Before you know it, you will be an alumnus of the program. Take advantage of the many opportunities for learning and personal development that await you. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Carpenter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane Carpenter PhD, MSN, RN  
Interim Dean, School of Nursing

## **WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM**

Dear DNP Students,

Welcome to Washburn University!

We are glad you have chosen the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program to obtain your terminal nursing degree. Faculty and staff in the School of Nursing carry on a legacy of over 50 years educating nurses to enter the global field of nursing. Faculty in the graduate program are doctoral-prepared DNP and PhD clinicians who bring years of clinical practice to assist you in your doctoral journey. All faculty maintain active clinical roles, in addition to their academic duties, to provide current clinical practice and evidenced-based experience assuring you are receiving a quality education.

Through ongoing curriculum review, including feedback obtained from current students, the faculty seeks to continuously improve our ability to offer you an educational experience that provides practice readiness and competency in your chosen specialty. Our faculty members are committed to ongoing implementation of established national standards and guidelines set forth by certifying agencies. Faculty work individually with students through the advising process to assure for the successful progression of every student. Ultimately, we strive to assist you with meeting your terminal degree goals and provide skills for successful board completion at the end of our comprehensive program.

We have an established base of preceptors to assist with mentoring clinical rotations locally and outside of Kansas. It is recognized that each student has preceptor opportunities within their own communities that may serve to meet their needs. We collaborate with facilities across the nation to contract our students with vetted preceptors in their region. By networking in one's home community, often, professional relationships evolve which serve to assist students with employment upon program completion.

Achieving your DNP is a pivotal career step. At Washburn, we recognize and pride ourselves in offering an individualized approach to meeting your career goals. Again, thank you for choosing Washburn University to meet your educational needs.

Sincerely,



Michele Reisinger, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC  
Washburn University  
Director of the DNP Program  
Associate Professor

## **WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE POST-GRADUATE PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

Dear Post-graduate Certificate Nursing Student,

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) faculty welcome you to the online PMHNP Certificate Program. We recognize that you have options and are delighted you have chosen to pursue your education at Washburn. We are dedicated to working with professional nurses who are interested in caring for the mental health needs of individuals, families and communities. The field of mental health is growing rapidly as the science of neurobiology expands the understanding of psychiatric/behavioral disorders and evidence-based psychotherapeutic treatments. This is an auspicious time to enter this interesting and rewarding specialty as there is a great demand for highly trained PMHNPs.

The curriculum is developed based on professional standards and guidelines that are nationally recognized and eligibility to apply for national board certification examination. Faculty regularly update the curriculum to maintain academic rigor for current practice. The online courses are a blend of asynchronous and limited synchronous teleconference classes that provide students with self-directed learning activities and opportunities for interaction with faculty and peers.

The PMHNP faculty are invested in student success. We are available, responsive and willing to assist you with your successful progression through the program. Our community of learning allows you to build a supportive network for learning. We are pleased you have entrusted us with your educational goals and wish you all our best as you embark on your journey into the rewarding field of mental health.

Sincerely,

Tracy Davies, DNP, ANP, GNP-BC, PMNHP-BC  
Director, Post Graduate PMHNP Certificate Program  
Associate Professor, Washburn School of Nursing

# **CHAPTER I - SCHOOL OF NURSING INFORMATION**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Washburn University School of Nursing mission is to prepare professional nurse leaders to provide quality healthcare for everyone.

## **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 provides opportunities for faculty and students to make significant contributions to health care delivery in a changing, multicultural society.

### **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)
  - Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
  - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
- Post-Graduate Certificate Programs
  - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)

The nurse practitioner tracks meet the Kansas State Board of Nursing requirements for advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) as advanced practice specialists.

## **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. (AACN Domain 1, Concept: Ethics)
2. Use evidence-based practice methods in the delivery of person-centered care. (AACN Domains 1, 2 and Concepts: Compassionate Care, EBP)
3. Cultivate quality improvement initiatives through systems-level leadership. (AACN Domains 4, 7, 10 and Concept: EBP)
4. Demonstrate scholarship for nursing practice to improve outcomes, reduce disparities, and promote health equity for diverse populations. (AACN Domains 2, 4, 5 and Concepts: DEI, SoDH, Communication, EBP)
5. Integrate technology with nursing practice to improve quality, safety, and accessibility of care. (AACN Domain 8, and Concept: Clinical Judgment)
6. Advocate for policies to improve social justice, equity, and ethical treatment. (AACN Domains 3, 7, 9 and Concepts Health Policy, DEI)
7. Collaborate with intra-professional and interdisciplinary teams to optimize care, enhance the healthcare experience, and strengthen outcomes. (AACN Domains 6, 9 and Concept: Communication)
8. Incorporate diagnostic reasoning and clinical judgment to deliver personalized care in collaboration with individuals, families, and populations. (AACN Domains 2, 3 and Concepts: Clinical judgment, Compassionate Care)
9. Engage in self-reflection activities that advance personal health, resilience, well-being, and lifelong learning to support professional nursing practice. (AACN Domains 9, 10 and Concept: Compassionate Care)

### **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 nursing knowledge and theory with the natural, social, and organizational sciences to support evidence-based advanced psychiatric mental health nursing practice.
2. Collaborate with intraprofessional and interdisciplinary teams within systems of health care to deliver safe and equitable population-based care.
3. Utilize judicious critical thinking and clinical reasoning within the scope of advanced psychiatric mental health nursing practice.
4. Formulate holistic person-centered care that is culturally proficient with diverse individuals, groups, and communities.
5. Demonstrate ethical and legal principles in advanced psychiatric mental health nursing practice.

6. Model personal, professional and leadership skills for reflection, self-care, and lifelong learning within the advanced psychiatric mental health nursing role.
7. Integrate healthcare technologies and informatics with advanced nursing practice to improve the quality and accessibility of care.
8. Evaluate interventions aimed to promote health and prevent disease.

### **SCHOOL OF NURSING ACCREDITATION**

The Baccalaureate Degree program in Nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree program, and post-graduate APRN Certificate program at Washburn University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, (<http://www.ccnaccreditation.org>).

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

## 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 conduct 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 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 always 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.

### **UNIVERSAL CLINICAL OUTCOMES**

- Demonstrates honesty and integrity by submitting original work for all academic requirements.
- Accepts responsibility for own actions taken/omitted.
- Prioritizes patient safety as the primary consideration in all care.
- Maintains professional boundaries with patients, family, and staff.
- Engages in timely communication with faculty/staff, preceptors, and agencies.
- Maintains confidentiality at all times.

Failure to adhere to the required standards of behavior stated above, when functioning as a student in a clinical or precepted situation, may result in dismissal from the program.

### **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**

The School of Nursing utilizes exams, quizzes, and observed structured clinical exams (OSCEs) to assess student competencies in a variety of subject areas. The rationale for using proctored exams or quizzes is that the process mirrors what students can expect when taking a national certification exam. When these methods of assessment are used, they often comprise a significant portion of a student's grade. It is important that faculty maintain the integrity of the testing environment when exams, quizzes, and OSCEs are administered and reviewed, and that students demonstrate accountability for protecting the integrity of that assessment method.

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 related to the exams and assignments specified in the course syllabus for which students are responsible. Students enrolled in courses that use *Respondus LockDown Browser* and *Respondus Monitor* are required to use a webcam during testing. Specific requirements for the use of *Respondus LockDown Browser* and *Respondus Monitor* are included in course syllabi.

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

### **STUDENT/FACULTY CONFERENCES**

Students may experience unexpected challenges as they progress through their programs of study. When a student experiences poor academic or clinical performance, integrity issues, or behavioral concerns, a student/faculty conference may be required. The faculty member will schedule the conference with the student to discuss the concern and to develop an action plan. The conference will be scheduled in a timely manner so that the student can address the

concern and have the opportunity to respond. Another faculty member will be asked to be in attendance. A Student/Faculty Conference form will be completed and signed at the conclusion of the meeting. A copy of the form will be made available to the student and the original copy (or final electronic version) will be placed in the student's file in the School of Nursing. If the topic for the conference is related to progression in the program, the GAPR Chairperson will be notified. The faculty requesting the original conference can make additional comments on the form, or submit additional documentation, following the progression or resolution of the issue. This will be housed in the student file.

## **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 seen in Clinic A):

- 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. 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 meet with the student and direct him or her 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. Meet with the student to discuss 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.

The SON supports student travel abroad experiences, which includes taking personal ownership for their actions, assuming responsibility for the welfare of their peers, and avoiding abuse of substances including alcohol. Prior to travel, all students will complete training with trip leaders (Washburn University SON faculty) and will sign a statement of understanding.

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>. 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>).

## **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 requires 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. The curriculum is the property of the faculty and is intended for individual use by students registered for courses to meet course requirements. Sharing any portion of the curriculum in any form with another party without the written consent of the faculty is prohibited. 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 FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

### **CONDITIONAL ADMISSION**

Students may be “conditionally” admitted to a Washburn School of Nursing graduate program. A student whose status is “conditional” may have requirements such as licensure, certification, or another degree to complete prior to starting the program. If a graduate level statistics course was a required prerequisite at the time of application, then the student is expected to complete the admission requirement within one year. If a conditional admission requirement is present and is met at the time the program is scheduled to start, the student will be considered a degree or certificate-seeking student in the program. If a conditional admission requirement is not met at the time when the program is scheduled to start, the prospective student will be allowed to take one or more courses in the program only with the consent of the program director and each course instructor.

### **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. Faculty advisors work in partnership with the Director of Graduate Student Services to assist students with program planning and with enrollment 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 new students select appropriate courses early in the program. Each enrollment period, the student’s advisor and/or the Director of Graduate Student Services provides an enrollment personal identification number (PIN) and provides 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 a request to the director of their program. 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 the transcript and related 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.

Please note that all tracks below require three separate advanced practice nurse practitioner graduate level core courses:

1. Advanced pathophysiology lifespan with nurse practitioner focus.
2. Advanced Health Assessment lifespan with differential diagnosis content and with nurse practitioner focus.
3. Advanced pharmacology lifespan with nurse practitioner focus.

Combined courses (e.g., advanced pathophysiology and pharmacology) are not eligible for transfer to meet more than one of the three prerequisite core requirements. Courses from a non-US accredited school or from a non-nursing graduate program in a different health related discipline (e.g. medical school) are not eligible for transfer or to meet prerequisite requirements as they do not meet test eligibility criteria established by national board certification organizations.

### **TIME LIMIT FOR COMPLETION OF PROGRAM**

All students have a time limit for completion of their program’s requirements (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 first discussed with the student’s advisor and then sent to the appropriate program director for approval. The petition should state why the extension is being requested and it should include a detailed timetable for completion of the remaining program requirements. The petition will be formally reviewed by the Graduate Admission, Progression, and Retention (GAPR) Committee. The GAPR Chairperson will notify the student in writing of the committee’s decision. 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 full semester or five credit hours during the summer session.

## STUDENT ROLE BOUNDARIES POLICY

Graduate students interact with many people and situations while completing the requirements of their respective programs of study. Therefore, it is important to establish and maintain appropriate role boundaries. Role boundaries are applicable for graduate students employed as School of Nursing faculty, as well as graduate students employed by clinical agencies (not affiliated with a clinical practicum agency). Graduate students must maintain awareness of the boundaries that separate their performance and action as graduate students from how they may function in roles outside of the SON educational setting.

Dual/multiple roles is defined as having more than one type of relationship/affiliation with an individual or entity. Having multiple close relationships that pose a potential conflict of interest with the student role should be avoided. The student conduct code and academic integrity policies encompass the main concepts associated with this policy. It is the student's responsibility to avoid engaging in multiple relationships that may pose a conflict of interest while a student is in a graduate program. Examples include, but are not limited to:

### Preceptor Roles:

- Graduate students cannot serve as preceptors to each other while both are currently enrolled in the same graduate program.
- Relatives or close personal relationships (intimate partner, fiancé, fiancé's relatives) are not approved.
- Direct supervisor where a student is employed is not approved.

### Instructor Roles:

- A graduate student who is a relative of or in an intimate partner relationship with an instructor in a required course in their program of study must notify their advisor immediately upon becoming aware of the situation.

### Employee Roles:

- Graduate students are not allowed to request practicum placement at their current place of employment in the same position or role that they currently occupy.
- Graduate students may not use employment role or paid work hours to satisfy practicum hours.

Guidelines to demonstrate understanding of graduate student versus employee roles include, but are not limited to the following:

- Graduate students shall not wear Washburn University Identification badges when employed in a clinical setting.
- Graduate students shall not perform advanced-level tasks or assume responsibilities in an employment setting not included in their job description.
- Graduate students employed by Washburn University shall not share confidential or privileged information to which they may have access.
- Office equipment/materials are permitted for faculty employment but not for student assignments.

- Graduate students who are licensed APRNs may not accept payment for any services at the agency where they are completing practicum hours if the agency has obtained the approval to bill for the services the student provides, nor can the student serve in a placement for staff positions as this would change the student's status to an employee of the agency.

The above examples are illustrative but not all-inclusive. Graduate students are responsible for identifying and reporting any dual relationship that may potentially exist or if a change in relationship/affiliation with a person or entity occurs at any time during their tenure as a student.

The Graduate Admissions, Progression, and Retention Committee will counsel students who engage in any role boundary problems and has the authority to impose disciplinary actions upon the student if an infraction occurs.

### **ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCES**

On-Campus Experiences are considered essential doctoral learning experiences and are mandatory for all BSN-DNP students. Attendance in-person is required for selected activities, depending upon specialty track and progression in the program. Whenever possible, required activities will be offered virtually to minimize travel.

MSN-DNP students without nurse practitioner status in the FNP track will be required to come to campus at selected times for skills training and clinical competency assessments.

It is understood that there may be times when students must miss part or all scheduled On-Campus Experience events for a given date. It is expected that students will notify the Director of the DNP Program via email of any absence as early as possible.

MSN-DNP students not otherwise required to attend on-campus experiences are invited to join any sessions related to their program of study or academic interests.

Missed On-Campus Experience Policy for BSN-DNP students:

Absence 1: If a student misses all or part of a mandatory On-Campus Experience, the DNP Program Director notifies the Director of Graduate Student Services of the date and reason for the absence. The student is directed to review the Missed On-Campus Experience Policy and to meet with session leaders to make up missed assignments.

Absence 2: If a student misses a second On-Campus Experience, the DNP Program Director notifies the Director of Graduate Student Services of the date and reason for the absence. The DNP Director and the faculty advisor (or a faculty alternative) will meet with the student for a formal counseling session where the student will be given a written warning. The student is directed to meet with session leaders to make up missed assignments.

Absence 3: If a student misses a third On-Campus Experience, the student will be dismissed from the program. Information will be presented to the Graduate Admissions, Progression and Retention Committee (GAPR) for final consideration. The student will receive written notification of dismissal within 30 business days of the missed experience. Written documentation will be placed in the student file.

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 adhere to the grading and progression policies outlined in the Graduate Student Handbook. See pages 22-27 for additional information.

## **REQUESTS TO CHANGE TRACKS OR SEQUENCING OF COURSES**

### **Requests to change specialty track**

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 request in writing to the DNP Program Director and the Chairperson of the GAPR Committee. The document should state the request and indicate the reason for the request. A decision for the change 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 GAPR Committee. The student should be aware that making this change may affect progression in the program.

### **Fast-Track Option**

A Fast-Track accelerated progression option has previously been available to students in the BSN to DNP program who were admitted in Catalog Year 2021 or before. The benefit of Fast-Track at that time was the ability to complete the program one semester sooner. BSN-DNP students admitted in Catalog Year 2022 and later are automatically enrolled in a Fast-Track option. Those students may elect to slow their progression in the final two semesters of the program if desired.

## **TRANSFER BETWEEN GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

A transfer between graduate programs (DNP to PMHNP-Certificate or PMHNP-Certificate to DNP) can be requested by the student or recommended by faculty. When this occurs, an advising session will be conducted in which the rationale for the transfer is discussed, determination is made that the student is in good standing in the current program, and a recommendation communicated to the GAPR Committee regarding the transfer request. A new program application is not required if one has previously been completed and the student is active in a current SON graduate program.

The role of the GAPR Committee is to ensure that admission requirements unique to each program are met prior to approving a transfer to another SON graduate program. If all elements are present, GAPR will make a determination and the Director of Graduate Student Services (DGSS) will communicate the GAPR decision to the student and the current faculty advisor.

If additional elements are needed, (i.e.: references, an interview & writing sample session, transcripts), the DGSS will notify the student of the items needed. When the additional documents have been received and placed in the student's file, and/or an interview & writing sample session has been completed, GAPR will make a determination and the DGSS will communicate the GAPR decision to the student and the current faculty advisor.

Following GAPR approval of the transfer request and student/advisor notification, a letter of acceptance signed by the Dean will be sent to the student. The DGSS will then initiate a workflow to include notification of the registrar about changes in program status/assignment of catalog year, updates in SON databases, and communication with other SON faculty affected by the change.

## GRADING POLICIES

Grades for School of Nursing graduate coursework are defined as:

Grade	Description
A	excellent performance
B	exceeds satisfactory performance
C	meets satisfactory performance
D	below satisfactory performance
F	failure

### Letter grade values

Letter grade values for graduate nursing courses are as follows:

- A - 90-100%
- 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.

No incompletes will be given for students enrolled in NU 971, NU 972, NU 973, or NU 977.

Students will be notified in writing if unusual situations arise that require temporary modification of the University's policy related to eligibility or the timeline for completion of an incomplete grade.

## GRADE APPEAL PROCEDURE

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

### ACADEMIC PROGRESSION BY PROGRAM

Following admission to a graduate program in the School of Nursing, the GAPR Committee evaluates a student’s progress upon completion of each nursing course. To remain in good standing, graduate students must adhere to the academic progression policies as outlined below.

**DNP Program:**

1. Maintain a 3.0 GPA.
2. Receive no grades below a B in designated foundation courses\*.
3. Adhere to Washburn University’s Student Conduct Code ([https://washburn.edu/student-life/services/files/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](https://washburn.edu/student-life/services/files/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf)) and School of Nursing Code of Professional Conduct.

**PMHNP Certificate Program:**

1. Maintain a 3.0 GPA.
2. Receive no grades below a B in designated foundation courses.
3. Adhere to Washburn University’s Student Conduct Code ([https://washburn.edu/student-life/services/files/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](https://washburn.edu/student-life/services/files/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf)) and School of Nursing Code of Professional Conduct.

**\*Foundational Courses by Program:**

DNP Program		
<i>BSN to DNP, FNP Track and Post-Master’s non-NP Track</i>	<i>BSN to DNP, PMHNP Track and Post-Master’s non-NP Track</i>	<i>Post-Master’s FNP/ANP*/AGNP*PNP to PMHNP Track</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NU 829 Advanced Health Assessment</li> <li>• NU 830 Primary Care I</li> <li>• NU 832 Primary Care Practicum I</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NU 829 Advanced Health Assessment</li> <li>• NU 827 Advanced Psychiatric Diagnostic Interviewing and Differential Diagnosis</li> <li>• NU 828 Advanced Psychopharmacology and Neurobiology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NU 827 Advanced Psychiatric Diagnostic Interviewing and Differential Diagnosis</li> <li>• NU 828 Advanced Psychopharmacology and Neurobiology</li> <li>• NU 829 Advanced Health Assessment Family*</li> </ul>
PMHNP Certificate Program		
<i>FNP Track</i>	<i>AGNP/ANP/PNP Track</i>	<i>MSN non-NP Track</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NU 827 Advanced Psychiatric Diagnostic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NU 827 Advanced Psychiatric Diagnostic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NU 827 Advanced Psychiatric Diagnostic</li> </ul>

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Interviewing and Differential Diagnosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NU 828 Advanced Psychopharmacology and Neurobiology.</li> </ul> | <p>Interviewing and Differential Diagnosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NU 828 Advanced Psychopharmacology and Neurobiology.</li> <li>• NU 829 Advanced Health Assessment (gap age group)</li> </ul> | <p>Interviewing and Differential Diagnosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NU 828 Advanced Psychopharmacology and Neurobiology.</li> <li>• NU 829 Advanced Health Assessment</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|

### **PROGRESSION AFTER FAILING GRADE OR NON-ACHIEVEMENT OF REQUISITE GRADE IN A DESIGNATED FOUNDATIONAL COURSE**

Students who do not achieve a grade of “C” or better in any required course or who do not achieve a grade of “B” or better in a designated foundational course will not be allowed to proceed to the next course in that sequence or to further clinical courses until the course has been successfully completed. Given the design and structure of the graduate program, this may mean the student must wait an entire year before resuming classes in the graduate nursing program.

### **ACADEMIC PROBATION AND DISMISSAL**

Faculty will notify the GAPR Committee Chairperson when a grade of “D” or “F” has been earned by a student (or below a grade of “B” in a designated foundational course). A student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0, calculated from grades received for Washburn courses taken to meet the requirements of the current degree program, will be placed on academic probation for a minimum of two semesters (when appropriate, summer semesters are included). The GAPR Committee will provide notification of probationary status to students in writing following review. Students are expected to raise their cumulative grade point average to 3.0 or higher during the probationary period. Students will be notified in writing if they are removed from academic probation based upon improvement in their academic standing.

**DNP Program:** Students who fail to raise their cumulative grade point average to 3.0 or higher in the two-semester period will be dismissed from the graduate nursing program. Academic probation is granted only one time. Any student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0 a second time after being released from academic probation will be dismissed from the program.

**PMHNP Certificate Program:** Students who fail to raise their cumulative grade point average to 3.0 or higher in the following semester period will be dismissed from the graduate nursing program. Academic probation is granted only one time. Any student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0 a second time after being released from academic probation will be dismissed from the program.

## **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 submits a request to the Chairperson of the GAPR Committee requesting reconsideration and stating his/her reasons for disagreement with the decision of the committee. A letter to the Chairperson of the GAPR Committee must accompany this request and 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 Education Committee, which is comprised of all faculty who teach in the graduate programs. The decision of that body is final.

## **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. If approved for readmission, certain courses may need to be repeated.

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM NURSING COURSES**

A student may withdraw from an academic 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 academic calendar. The faculty advisor should be consulted prior to withdrawal. Information will be forwarded to the appropriate Program Director. Withdrawal from a practicum course after the beginning of the semester requires the notification of the course coordinator, faculty advisor, and practicum preceptor. 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. BSN to DNP students who withdraw from one or more courses while in the Fast-Track option will not be allowed to continue in the fast track.

## **LIMITS FOR REPEATING COURSES**

If a student withdraws from or earns a letter grade of “D” or “F” in the same nursing course (or a letter grade of “C”, “D”, or “F” in a course that requires a grade of “B” or better) more than one time, the student will be academically dismissed from the program. Any combination of such grades that are received for the same course twice will result in academic dismissal. At that point, the student may not progress further in the graduate nursing 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 their Program Director. Re-application to the School of Nursing will be necessary should the student desire to re-enter the program. The Program Director will inform the Chair of the GAPR Committee of the student’s change in status.

## **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 School of Nursing Universal Clinical Outcomes,
- 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.

## **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 Associate Dean of Graduate Programs. 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 and will not exceed one academic year in total per student. 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 program outcomes, 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 courses may need to be repeated. If the program or program track has been revised and new curricular requirements established since the previous admission, the student will be responsible for following the new curriculum.

## **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 evaluations 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 of 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 placed in the student file.
3. A meeting is to be scheduled with the student, faculty member, and program director. Recommendations from that meeting will be 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 the 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 completing a graduate program also must submit an *Application for Degree* or *Application for Certificate* to the Registrar's Office by September 15<sup>th</sup> (for fall graduation) or February 1<sup>st</sup> (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 their degree during the following summer term may be permitted to participate in the spring commencement ceremonies. It is during University commencement that DNP students are hooded.

In addition to the commencement ceremonies conducted by the University, graduate students are invited to participate in the School of Nursing Recognition Ceremony held each May and December. At those times DNP graduates are awarded the DNP medallion and PMHNP-C graduates receive a certificate.

### 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 either the DNP or PMHNP-C programs are eligible to apply for national certification in their area of specialty.

## CHAPTER IV - HEALTH POLICIES AND INFORMATION

### HEALTH CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

The School of Nursing partners with *Verified Credentials* to track graduate student health clearance records and conduct pre-program entrance background checks. At the time of admission to the program, students are provided instructions on how to submit their health clearance documentation. They are assessed a one-time 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](mailto:clientservices@verifiedcredentials.com)), or phone (800.938.6090). Graduate students must submit all health clearance requirements by July 1st for the Fall semester (June 1<sup>st</sup> for the DNP Program), and December 1st for the Spring semester. Clinical clearance is issued every semester upon verification of completion of all health requirements, personal health insurance, and CPR certification.

**Students may not participate in any clinical practicums without being compliant with all their health clearance requirements.**

**Students not meeting health clearance requirements by the listed deadlines will be denied access to courses in D2L pending resolution.**

The following documentation is required:

- Complete Pre-entrance Background Check
- Provide Proof of current RN licensure (and APRN licensure if NP status)
- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 every year**) – 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 at the time of program admission. 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 Credential 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.
- Additional requirements may be requested of students based on clinical agency expectations. The School of Nursing reserves the right to request additional clearance information if

needed by agency and affiliation agreement. Examples of additional requirements may include, but are not limited to drug screens, physicals, or color-blind tests.

The School of Nursing does not have a policy that requires students to receive vaccinations for COVID-19. However, a student's clinical site may have a COVID-19 vaccination requirement in place. If that is the case, students will be expected to comply with the COVID-19 vaccination policies of their clinical sites.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

The faculty of the SON follows an infectious disease policy congruent with best practices in health care organizations. This commitment includes a moral obligation to provide compassionate humane care and equal treatment to all persons. The SON 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. 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. Students will be asked to sign a School of Nursing Affirmation and Acknowledgment of Risk agreement prior to the start of the first direct patient care practicum experience.

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.

Faculty and students are expected to follow appropriate agency guidelines while in healthcare settings. Guidelines include the use of protective barriers as necessary as they reduce the risk of exposure to blood and/or body fluids. Examples of protective barriers include gloves, gowns, masks, and protective eyewear. Students who have been exposed to blood and/or body fluids, must report to their agency preceptor, clinical faculty, and course coordinator. An agency and/or SON incident report will be required. Information regarding blood borne exposure may be obtained from [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Information regarding the University's policies and procedures regarding COVID-19 can be found at <https://washburn.edu/student-life/health-safety/index.html>.

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.

## STUDENT INCIDENT REPORT FORM GUIDELINES

Incident reports are designed to provide a written account of incidents that occur involving nursing students while participating in clinical experiences. The document will become part of the student's folder and may be used for evaluation and progression purposes.

The following steps are to be followed within two 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 Program Director who will forward to the GAPR committee chair.
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 copies of the form are to be distributed by the GAPR as follows:
  - a. Student folder
  - b. Instructor
  - c. Dean
  - d. 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)

## CHAPTER V - ACADEMIC RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

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. Faculty nominate and select candidates for this award.

The **Outstanding Doctor of Nursing Practice Project 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. Faculty nominate and select candidates for this award.

### 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

#### SON Scholarships

Students who have been admitted to graduate programs may apply for nursing scholarships through the SON. Scholarship application forms are available in the SON office and on the SON website (<http://www.washburn.edu/sonu>) and must be submitted each year by February 15. Nursing endowed scholarships are awarded by the Financial Aid Office upon recommendation of the SON. 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.

#### Kansas Nurse Educator Scholarship

Students in the DNP program are eligible to apply for scholarship funding through the Kansas Board of Regents through the Kansas Nurse Educator Scholarship. Applicants must reside in Kansas, hold an active Kansas RN license, have earned a baccalaureate degree in nursing, and be pursuing a Masters or Doctor of Nursing degree. If awarded the scholarship, students agree to engage in full-time teaching of nursing in a program in Kansas based on one year for each year of scholarship acceptance. A recipient may engage in part-time teaching of nursing for a period equivalent to the full-time requirement.

Applications are accepted each year at the end of the Spring semester for funding for the following academic year. Contact the Director of Graduate Student Services to receive the application.

#### Loans

##### Federal Loans

Students may apply through the Financial Aid Office for loans. Loans will be unsubsidized and offered based upon completion and review of the student's FAFSA.

If a student desires to use Federal financial aid for a summer program start or for any subsequent summer session, a FAFSA for the desired academic year ending in that summer period needs to be completed. Additionally, the University requires completion of a Summer Aid Application so that any awarded loan funds can be applied to the summer course(s). Assistance in answering questions is available at [financialaid@washburn.edu](mailto:financialaid@washburn.edu).

##### Private Loans

Students can apply for low interest loans through private banks or companies. 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. Scholarship information can be found at <http://washburn.edu/academics/college-schools/nursing/grad/dnp/resources.html>. Students are also encouraged to contact nursing organizations that provide support to graduate students.

## **Grants**

Funds may be available to students who meet criteria related to a specific grant award. There is no guarantee of funding and awards may require additional responsibilities and activities beyond established DNP Program requirements. Students are notified when grant opportunities exist.

## **DRESS CODE**

In all clinical situations, students are expected to present a professional appearance in accordance with standards for attire appropriate to the setting and to wear their SON photo ID badge. Information about obtaining a University student photo ID badge and/or SON photo clinical badge can be obtained from the Director of Graduate Student Services.

## FACILITIES

The facilities of the School of Nursing have been designed with consideration for 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 in Petro 202 may be scheduled by students for practice of assessment skills. An additional computer laboratory in Petro 211 is available to students to complete assignments and to access the Internet.

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 is prohibited in all university buildings, except in specially designated smoking areas. There is no smoking allowed 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 through the university campus directory located at: <https://www.washburn.edu/academics/college-schools/nursing/faculty-list.html>

The SON homepage can be found at: [www.washburn.edu/sonu](http://www.washburn.edu/sonu) with links to graduate program information listed there.

The email address to the School of Nursing office is [nursing@washburn.edu](mailto:nursing@washburn.edu) and the more direct email address for the Director of Graduate Student Services is [graduate-SON@washburn.edu](mailto:graduate-SON@washburn.edu).

Washburn University email is the official notification method used by the University and SON program administrators, faculty, and staff to convey important information in a timely manner.

## 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: <http://www.washburn.edu/current-students/services/index.html>

*Additional policies and procedures can be found in the Washburn University Graduate Catalog found at:*

<http://www.washburn.edu/academics/academic-catalog/>

## **GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK MANAGEMENT**

The Graduate Student Handbook is always available to students at the School of Nursing Graduate Programs website at [http://www.washburn.edu/academics/college-schools/nursing/\\_files/Graduate-Student-Handbook.pdf](http://www.washburn.edu/academics/college-schools/nursing/_files/Graduate-Student-Handbook.pdf).