



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

*School of Nursing*

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STUDENT HANDBOOK | 2016-2017





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##### **Accelerated BSN Program**

*Sharon Brewer, MSN, RN*

Phone: (806)414-9937

[sharon.brewer@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:sharon.brewer@ttuhsc.edu)

#### **Austin/Hill Country Area**

##### **Second Degree BSN Program**

*Alexis Mellem, MSN, RN, NNP-BC*

[alexis.mellem@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:alexis.mellem@ttuhsc.edu)

#### **Dallas Area**

##### **Accelerated BSN Program**

*Karen Schmidt, BSN, RN*

[karen.schmidt@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:karen.schmidt@ttuhsc.edu)

#### **Lubbock Campus**

##### **Traditional BSN Program**

*Ann Hagstrom, MSN, RN, CNE*

Phone: (806) 743-2793

[ann.hagstrom@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:ann.hagstrom@ttuhsc.edu)

*Marnette Winner, MSN, RN, OCN*

Phone: (806) 743-9256

[marnette.winner@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:marnette.winner@ttuhsc.edu)

#### **Second Degree BSN**

*Haley Rowden, MSN, RNC-NIC*

Phone: (806) 743-2730

[haley.rowden@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:haley.rowden@ttuhsc.edu)

#### **Permian Basin Campus**

##### **Traditional BSN Program**

*Sonya Morris, BSN, RN*

Phone: (432) 703-5286

[sonya.morris@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:sonya.morris@ttuhsc.edu)

##### **Accelerated BSN Program**

*Adrian Mulig, BSN, RN, CEN, CVRN*

Phone: (432) 703-5106

[adrian.mulig@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:adrian.mulig@ttuhsc.edu)

#### **San Antonio Area**

##### **Veteran to BSN**

*Diana Goodwin, MSN, RN*

Phone: (432) 352-6693

[diana.goodwin@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:diana.goodwin@ttuhsc.edu)

**Academic Retention and Success Coach**

**RN to BSN Academic Advisor**

*Jan Roberts*

Phone: (806) 743-2730

Fax: (806) 743 2792

[jan.roberts@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:jan.roberts@ttuhsc.edu)

# ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

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## MAINTAINING GOOD STANDARDS

Each student MUST meet the objectives of each area of study and is required to:

- Keep apprised of and adhere to the rules and regulations of *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook* at [http://www.ttuhs.edu/student-services/documents/HSC\\_Institutional\\_Student\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.ttuhs.edu/student-services/documents/HSC_Institutional_Student_Handbook.pdf), the School of Nursing *Catalog* at <http://www.ttuhs.edu/son/catalog.aspx>, and policies contained in the most current version of the School of Nursing *Student Handbook*.
- Demonstrate a systematic, safe, accurate, timely, and efficient approach to accomplish each objective and use all materials efficiently.
- Devote adequate time and preparation to class and clinical activities to meet the stated objectives.
- Demonstrate academic integrity in each element of the student's performance.
- Apply ethical behavior appropriate to the standards of a developing professional at all times and particularly in relation to maintaining the confidentiality of information regarding patients and clients.
- Maintain personal health to accomplish the essential functions as defined in the School of Nursing *Catalog*.
- Be aware of professional issues and have the ability to define a personal position in relation to various issues.
- Participate in evaluating the area of study and the School of Nursing.
- Maintain all practice standards, if licensed, as written by the Texas Board of Nursing Nurse Practice Act. <http://www.bon.texas.gov/nursinglaw/npa.html>

## ACADEMIC and PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY

All students entering the School of Nursing must subscribe to the standards and codes of the profession. Patients and society as a whole

expect School of Nursing students, as nursing professionals to adhere to the:

- [TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook](#)
- [American Nurses Association \(ANA\) Code of Ethics for Nurses](#)
- Texas Board of Nursing Unprofessional Conduct Rules:
  - Standards of Practice (Texas Administrative Code §[217.11](#))
  - Unprofessional Conduct (Texas Administrative Code §[217.12](#))

Students who fail to uphold and/or comply with the above codes and standards for safe and professional nursing practice will be considered in violation of the law and/or professional nursing standards. Students holding a license to practice nursing will be subject to the reporting laws on unprofessional conduct.

Academic integrity stands at the heart of the School of Nursing. The SON is bound by a fundamental trust that professors and students alike undertake and present their work honestly. Academic misconduct involves any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process. This includes but is not limited to:

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Falsifying academic records
- Misrepresenting facts ;and
- Any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student or the attempt to commit such an act.

Each student is responsible to become familiar with the various regulations of the University. Each student, in accepting admission, indicates a willingness to subscribe to and be governed by the rules and regulations of University and likewise be responsible for his/her own integrity. For additional information please refer to the



[TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook](#) Part II, E, Other Professional and Ethical School Standards, (2) School of Nursing.

### **ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT and USER RESPONSIBILITIES**

TTUHSC Institutional Policy 56.06

eRaider is an account management system which makes it possible for students, faculty, and staff to obtain and access electronic resources at TTUHSC using a single username and password. An eRaider username and password are required to access many of these resources and to access the TTUHSC domain. New students, faculty, and staff receive an eRaider account upon coming to the Health Sciences Center; access is dependent upon account types (i.e. faculty, staff, and students) and department requirements. Questions regarding eRaider account information should be directed to the I.T. Solutions Center at each respective campus.

### **CIVILITY**

The TTUHSC School of Nursing defines civility as demonstrated behavior that 1) shows respect toward another, 2) causes another to feel valued, and 3) contributes to mutual respect, effective communication and team collaboration. Such demonstration of actions contributes toward a positive environment for learning and working. We acknowledge difference amongst us in terms of values, interests and experiences. While on any of our campus location, facilities, attending any institution or school even, or any school electronic/cyber space (online course, email, telephone, etc.), faculty, staff, students and visitors can all have the expectation of civility from one another.

The School of Nursing view the following ideals as fundamental to civil behavior:

- Adherence to the values of the nursing profession in dealing with students, colleagues and associates.
- Collegiality.

- Courteous and honest communication in both face-to-face and electronic environments.
- Fair and just treatment of all individuals.
- Fostering a diverse school community.
- Freedom from harassment and bullying.
- Refraining from vulgar and offensive language.
- Respectful of diverse cultures and points of view.

All students, upon accepting admission to the TTUHSC School of Nursing, agree to these expectations. The Student Civility Contract ([Attachment A](#)) will be included with all new student orientation information, and all incoming students will acknowledge receipt and understanding of this contract. Any breach of this contract may result in disciplinary consequences that may include the student being subject to immediate dismissal from the program/School of Nursing.

### **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

School of Nursing students and faculty have a responsibility for creating and maintaining an appropriate learning environment in the classroom. The *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook* states, “An environment in which the privileges of citizenship are protected and the obligations of citizenship are understood fosters freedom of discussion, inquiry, and expression. Accordingly, the University community has developed standards of behavior pertaining to students and to student organizations (p. 14).”

### **COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS**

Students spend a considerable amount of time utilizing resources available via the internet including but not limited to checking their TTUHSC email while enrolled in the School of Nursing. Students must own a computer to succeed in the chosen area of study; daily computer access is expected of all students. Students enrolled in the Traditional BSN Undergraduate Program or DNP Program are required to own a laptop to participate in

classroom learning activities. Students enrolled in the Accelerated BSN Program must have a webcam. Students enrolled in the RN to BSN Program must have a webcam and microphone for online course work. The following website contains specific computer system requirements: <http://www.ttuhschool.edu/son/help/system-requirements.aspx>.

### **DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT**

The [TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook](#) prohibits actions against members of the University community, including, but not limited to, behavior disruptive to the normal operation of the University, including students, faculty, and staff.

“Disruptive conduct,” defined by the School of Nursing, means conduct that substantially or repeatedly interferes with the instructor’s ability to teach, or student learning. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Excessive or disruptive tardiness
- Continuous distractive behavior during class presentations
- Utilization of electronic technology, such as laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, etc., during lectures or other learning environments for activities unrelated to class or instruction being provided.
- Distractive or inappropriate behavior in online discussion boards, emails, chat rooms, web and/or video conferences, or other online educational technology.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT**

If a student continues disruptive conduct after the course instructor notifies the student of the unacceptable conduct, the course instructor may request the student to leave class immediately. If the student believes the action is not merited, the student may follow the process for non-grade grievance as outlined in this publication (see Academic Grade Challenges/Appeals and Compliant or Grievance Resolution (Non-

grade Related)). If the student leaves the class, the student shall not receive credit for in-class activities that day. If such action results in a final grade the student believes is incorrect, the student should follow the process outlined in the policy for Academic Grade Challenges/Appeals.

Students should consider the use of electronic technology, such as laptop computers or tablets, during class as a privilege, not a right. The course instructor may withdraw such privileges on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, alleged disruptive behavior may be referred to the Department Chair by faculty or other students in accordance with the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook*. Sanctions for disruptive behavior include but are not limited to dismissal from the School of Nursing.

### **EMAIL ACCOUNT**

#### **(TTUHSC Institutional Policy 56.22)**

The TTUHSC Information Technology Department assigns all students an official TTUHSC email address provided with an initial password code prior to new student orientation. TTUHSC will use this email address for official communications between the institution and students. **Students must use the provided TTUHSC email address while enrolled in the School of Nursing.** Emails will not be redirected or forwarded to another non-TTUHSC account. Because students are responsible for monitoring and responding to any required information sent to this email address, students should check the TTUHSC email daily in addition to other course resources.

### **EQUIPMENT**

Students are responsible for purchasing and maintaining certain pieces of equipment (stethoscopes, etc.). Faculty will specify equipment requirements and post the requirements in the course syllabi. Any TTUHSC School of Nursing equipment checked out to students must return in the same condition as

received. A student must replace or pay TTUHSC for any damaged or misplaced equipment while in a student's possession.

### **IDENTIFICATION BADGE**

#### ***Student Identification Badge (TTUHSC Picture ID)***

TTUHSC students are required to obtain and visibly wear the official TTUHSC identification badge at all times while on any TTUHSC campus or while participating in clinical. Unauthorized use of a badge may be considered grounds for disciplinary action. An identification badge may neither be altered, disfigured nor display any items not part of the original badge. If lost, a replacement must be obtained immediately through the applicable TTUHSC Police Department at the following contact numbers:

- TTUHSC Lubbock (806) 743-2000
- TTUHSC Amarillo (806) 354-5568
- TTUHSC Abilene (325) 676-7948
- TTUHSC Permian Basin: Students need to contact the Regional Dean's office, NOT the Police Department

Refer to [TTUHSC OP 76.02](#) for more information.

### **NAME BADGE**

#### ***School of Nursing Name Badge***

The School of Nursing name badge provides identification of the student and any applicable credentials. If lost, a replacement must be purchased through the appropriate office.

### **PARTICIPATION IN ASSESSMENTS**

#### **Student Feedback (SON OP 10.015)**

The School of Nursing provides several opportunities for student feedback regarding the effectiveness of educational programs and services provided for students. Both formal and informal feedback is solicited. Satisfaction and feedback are solicited through student membership on School of Nursing Councils, focus groups, and completion of satisfaction assessment tools. Individuals or groups of students may provide

unsolicited feedback to faculty and administrators at any time in person, via phone, and via email messages.

Completion of the following student satisfaction assessment tools are mandatory:

- Orientation Satisfaction Assessment tool  
-Completed during the first semester of enrollment. Students access the assessment via an invitation sent to the TTUHSC email address.
- Course Satisfaction Assessment tool  
-Completed for each course enrolled every semester. Students access the assessment via an invitation sent to the TTUHSC email address.
- Combest Center Satisfaction Assessment tool  
-Completed every semester of enrollment with clinicals at the Combest Center. Students access the assessment via an invitation sent to the TTUHSC e-mail address.
- Satisfaction at Graduation Assessment tool  
-Completed during the last semester of enrollment. Students access the assessment via an invitation sent to the TTUHSC email address.

See [SON OP 10.015](#) Mandatory Student Satisfaction Tool Completion Policy for more information.

Students have an additional opportunity to provide feedback six months after graduation by completing the Alumni Assessment and asking the employer to complete the Employer Assessment. The School of Nursing email the links to the Alumni and Employer assessments to the admission email address listed with the Registrar's Office. Students should notify the Registrar of changes to email and permanent address information to ensure delivery.

### **PHONES**

Phones should be placed in silent mode or turned off while students are attending any learning activity at the School of Nursing. Phone



conversations on cell phones or communication including but not limited to texting and/or tweeting must occur outside of the clinical and classroom areas.

## **PROFESSIONAL WRITING/APA**

### **Vision Statement on Professional Writing in Nursing**

- Writing is an essential component of the communication skills helping define professional nursing practice. Clear, precise, logical, appropriate expression of ideas, opinions, and values in nursing is required for the provision of quality care to clients, families, and communities. To become proficient in written communication, students need continual development of the necessary technical, analytical, and persuasive skills.
- Course activities should integrate the continual development of communication skills throughout the curricula in the School of Nursing. High standards for communication (including written communication) lie at the heart of professional nursing practice and should be reflected in all curricular activities.
- The discipline of nursing uses the American Psychological Association (APA) standards to guide clear and precise professional communication. APA format refers to the APA editorial style (grammar, quotations, etc.) as well as standards for content and organization of a paper and ways to express ideas clearly while reducing bias in language. Knowledge and use of the range of APA recommendations permit the attainment of desired written communication skills, in turn, enhancing the nursing profession and the health of populations served by nurses.

The official format style for the School of Nursing is the current edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA). School of Nursing students are required to purchase and use the most current *Publication Manual* of the American Psychological Association (APA). The publication is available

at most bookstores. Students may contact the TTUHSC Libraries for availability. Helpful APA guidelines are located at <http://nursing.ttuhs.edu/apa/> or on the School of Nursing Current Student resources page at <http://www.ttuhs.edu/son/current> under Writing Resources.

Resources to assist in the development of academic writing skills are also available through the TTUHSC Writing Center at <http://ttuhsc.uwc.ttu.edu/>.

## **TUITION and FEES**

Student registration is not complete and enrollment is not official until tuition and fees are paid. If a student fails to make payment, the student's registration will be canceled. The student is responsible for ensuring payment is received in the Bursar's office by the established due dates announced each semester. Questions regarding tuition and fees (payments, returned checks, late fees, refunds, etc.) should be directed to the TTUHSC Student Business Service Office at (806) 743-7867. Refer to the TTUHSC Student Business Services website for more information at: <http://www.fiscal.ttuhs.edu/busserv/bursar/>.

# SCHOOL OF NURSING REQUIREMENTS

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## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Students who matriculate into the TTUHSC School of Nursing are expected to maintain good academic standing while enrolled in accordance with the area of study requirements for completion of the degree or certificate. Minimum academic requirements are detailed in the following sections for each area of study within the school: Traditional BSN Undergraduate Department, Non-Traditional Undergraduate Department (RN to BSN, Accelerated BSN Program: Second Degree BSN and Veteran to BSN), and the Graduate Departments: MSN Leadership Program, MSN APRN Program, Post-Master's certifications and DNP Program.

All progressions, probation, dismissal, suspension, and censure determinations are made based on information received from the TTUHSC Registrar's Office, the School of Nursing Office of Student Affairs, or any other applicable School of Nursing committee or source.

In accordance with the School of Nursing *Catalog*, *School of Nursing Student Handbook*, and *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook*, the Programmatic Councils or Deans may choose or recommend one or more of the following potential actions, as appropriate:

- No progression in the area of study of enrollment until the specified course(s) is/are repeated and an acceptable grade is achieved. (Undergraduate: "C", Graduate: "B")
- Academic probation due to overall and/or semester grade point average below minimum required for area of study of enrollment. (Undergraduate: "C", Graduate: "B")
- Academic probation due to earned grade in required nursing course less than minimum grade required for area of study of enrollment.
- Administrative probation due to violation of professional conduct.
- Removal from probation.
- Censure by written letter. Censure is defined as the finding a student has committed an offense warranting discipline. It is a matter of record only.
- Suspension from the School of Nursing.
- Dismissal from the School of Nursing.

The terms placed on the student's transcript for the appropriate semester might include "academic dismissal", "academic suspension", "administrative probation", "placed on probation", "continued probation", or "good standing". Specific academic requirements are outlined below:

### **Traditional BSN Undergraduate Department** ***Traditional BSN Program***

#### **Maintaining Minimum Academic Requirements**

- Maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) for each semester and overall cumulative.
- A minimum grade of "C" is required in all degree required courses (nursing and non-nursing).
- Students earning a "D", "F" or "WF" in a nursing course are eligible to repeat the same course one time only pursuant to recommendation of course faculty.
- Students earning an overall cumulative GPA or a semester GPA less than a 2.0 in the semester of graduation are ineligible for graduation.

#### **Academic Dismissal**

- Students earning a "D", "F" or "WF" in two nursing courses is cause for academic dismissal.
- Students earning less than a 2.0 or cumulative GPA for two consecutive semesters.
- Students earning a "D", "F", or "WF" in the same nursing course twice.
- Students earning a "D", "F", or "WF" in one course may be required to take a remedial course simultaneously when retaking the

failed course.

- Any student academically dismissed from the TTUHSC School of Nursing Traditional BSN Program is ineligible for readmission.

**Failing to meet expected standards may result in academic dismissal at any time. This includes but is not limited to unsafe clinical practice or violation of the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook*.**

### **Non-Traditional Undergraduate Department RN to BSN Program**

#### **Maintaining Minimum Academic Requirements**

- Maintain a 2.0 GPA for each semester and overall cumulative.
- A minimum grade of “C” in all courses is required.
- Students earning a “D”, “F” or “WF” in a nursing course are eligible to repeat that course one time only pursuant to recommendation of the Non-Traditional Undergraduate Program Council.
- Students earning an overall cumulative GPA or a semester GPA less than a 2.0 in the semester of graduation are ineligible for graduation.

#### **Academic Dismissal**

- Students earning a “D”, “F” or “WF” in two or more nursing courses in one semester is cause for academic dismissal.
- Students earning less than a 2.0 semester or cumulative GPA for two consecutive semesters.
- Students earning a “D”, “F” or “WF” in the same nursing course twice.

**Failing to meet expected standards may result in academic dismissal at any time. This includes but is not limited to unsafe clinical practice or violation of the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook*.**

### **Accelerated BSN Program: Second Degree BSN and Veteran to BSN**

#### **Maintaining Minimum Academic Requirements**

- Maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) for each semester and overall cumulative.
- A minimum grade of “C” is required in all degree required courses (nursing and non-nursing).
- Students earning an overall cumulative GPA or a semester GPA less than a 2.0 in the semester of graduation are ineligible for graduation.

#### **Academic Dismissal**

- Any student who is unsuccessful (achieves a grade of “D” or “F” or “WF”) in any course will be dismissed from the School of Nursing.

**Failing to meet expected standards may result in academic dismissal at any time. This includes but is not limited to unsafe clinical practice or violation of the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook*.**

### **Graduate Department**

#### **MSN APRN Programs and Leadership Programs Maintaining Minimum Academic Requirements**

##### **- MSN Programs**

Grades are reviewed each semester and progression in the MSN Program is determined by the Department Chair and MSN Council.

- Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA with grades at “B” or above in all graduate courses.
- Students earning a “C” or lower in a graduate course are eligible to repeat the same course one time only pursuant to recommendation of course faculty.
- Students earning an overall cumulative GPA or a semester GPA less than a 3.0 in the semester of graduation/completion are ineligible for graduation.
- Students with a cumulative or semester GPA below 3.0 are placed on academic probation.

#### **Academic Dismissal from the TTUHSC School**



of Nursing **MSN Program will result from the following circumstances:**

- Students earning a “C” or lower in two or more graduate courses in one semester
- Students earning a “C” or lower in the same graduate course twice
- Students earning a “C” or lower in a second graduate course even though one graduate course has been retaken and a satisfactory grade of “B” or better has been obtained
- Cumulative semester or cumulative GPA less than 2.0 for two consecutive semesters

**Failing to meet expected standards may result in academic dismissal at any time. This includes but is not limited to unsafe clinical practice or violation of the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook*.**

**Post-Master’s APRN, Education and Informatics Certificates of Completion**

**Maintaining Minimum Academic Requirements**

Grades are reviewed each semester and progression is determined by the Department Chair and the MSN Council.

- Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA with grades of “B” or above in all graduate courses.
- Students achieving “C” or lower in a graduate course are eligible to repeat that course one time only pursuant to recommendation of course faculty.
- Students earning an overall cumulative GPA or a semester GPA less than a 3.0 in the semester of graduation/completion are ineligible for graduation/completion.
- Students with a cumulative or semester GPA below 3.0 are placed on academic probation

**Academic Dismissal from the TTUHSC School of Nursing MSN Program will result from the following circumstances:**

- Students earning a “C” or lower in two or more graduate courses in one semester.
- Students earning a “C” or lower in the same graduate course twice.

- Students earning a “C” or lower in a second graduate course even though one graduate course has been retaken and a satisfactory grade of “B” or better has been obtained.
- Cumulative semester or cumulative GPA less than 2.0 for two consecutive semesters.

**Failing to meet expected standards may result in academic dismissal at any time. This includes but is not limited to unsafe clinical practice or violation of the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook*.**

**DNP Program (Executive Leadership and Advanced Practice Nursing Tracks)**

**Maintaining Minimum Academic Requirements**

Grades are reviewed each semester and progression is determined by the Department Chair, DNP Director, and DNP Council.

- DNP students must maintain a 3.0 GPA with grades of “B” or above in all doctoral courses. Students receiving a “C” or lower in a doctoral course are eligible to repeat the same course one time only pursuant to recommendation of course faculty.
- Students earning an overall cumulative GPA or a semester GPA less than a 3.0 in the semester of graduation are ineligible for graduation.
- Students with a cumulative or semester GPA below 3.0 are placed on academic probation.

**Academic Dismissal from the TTUHSC School of Nursing DNP Program will result from the following circumstances:**

- Students earning a “C” or lower in two or more DNP courses in one semester
- Students earning a “C” or lower in the same DNP course twice
- Students earning a “C” or lower in a second DNP course even though one DNP course has been retaken and a satisfactory grade of “B” or better has been obtained
- Cumulative semester or cumulative GPA less than 2.0 for two consecutive semesters

**Failing to meet expected standards may result in academic dismissal at any time. This includes but is not limited to unsafe clinical practice or violation of the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook*.**

### **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

#### ***Attendance/Inability to Attend Class and Clinical Experiences***

Students are responsible for class participation and clinical attendance.

- Instructors determine the effect of absences on grades at the outset of a given course (see course syllabus). NOTE: Attendance requirements are mandatory.
- Faculty must report in writing to the student when absences may jeopardize the student's standing in the School of Nursing.

NOTE: Excessive absences can constitute cause for dropping a student from class and issuing a grade of "WF". "WF" is calculated in the cumulative GPA.

#### ***Clinical Attendance, Participation and Responsibilities***

- Specific procedures for notifying course faculty and agencies about absences are given during each course's orientation session.
- Students participating in officially approved trips are responsible for notifying faculty of the departure and return schedules. The faculty so notified should not penalize students for such absences, although the students are responsible for the material/experiences missed.

#### ***Online Attendance and Assignment Deadlines***

- Students are to be responsible for knowing when online classes begin and to participate in learning experiences as assigned in the course syllabus and modules.
- If an assignment deadline cannot be met the student is responsible for notifying the faculty prior to the deadline and provide a plan for submitting the required work
- Faculty have the privilege to reduce the total

earned points of a late assignment per syllabus guidelines.

### **CARD HOLDER REQUIREMENTS**

School of Nursing students must be a current card holder in one or more of the following upon entry to the School of Nursing:

- Basic Life Support (BLS)
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS)
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)
- Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP)

Failure to maintain proper certification results in:

- Being withheld from clinical settings,
- Delaying progress through the nursing curriculum, and/or
- A hold being placed on records, and/or
- Delaying graduation

Assisting students to meet the card holder requirements, the F. Marie Hall *SimLife* Simulation Center offers courses for:

- First Aid
- Basic Life Support (BLS) with Automated External Defibrillation (AED) training
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS)
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)

For information contact the F. Marie Hall *SimLife* Simulation Center at (806) 743-2723.

#### ***Undergraduate Programs (Traditional BSN, RN to BSN, Accelerated BSN Program: Second Degree BSN and Veteran to BSN)***

Prior to enrollment in any undergraduate nursing degree program, a current Basic Life Support (BLS) for Health Care Providers card issued by the American Heart Association or American Red Cross is required. Students MUST provide evidence of CURRENT Healthcare Provider status while enrolled for School of Nursing records.

## CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

### Graduate Department

#### MSN Leadership Program and DNP Program

Graduate students in the MSN Leadership Program and the DNP Program are required to:

- Hold BLS certification upon entering the program and provide evidence of current certification while enrolled in the program.

#### MSN APRN Program (Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Midwifery Tracks), Post-Master's APRN Certificate (Nurse Practitioner Tracks)

Graduate students in the MSN APRN and Post-Master's APRN Certificate tracks prior to admission must:

- Hold BLS certification upon entering and provide evidence of current certification while enrolled.
- Prior to enrollment in the first population focus course, students must:
  - For the Family and Adult-Gerontology Acute Care MSN tracks, hold ACLS (Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support) certification.
  - For the Pediatric tracks, hold PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) certification.
  - For the Nurse Midwifery track hold a record of successful completion of a NRP (Neonatal Resuscitation Program).
- All graduate students in the APRN Program (nurse practitioner and nurse midwifery tracks) must provide continued evidence of certification while enrolled. Failure to maintain evidence of current certification will result in suspension of clinical activities.
- Nurse Midwifery students will be required to secure and present proof of their own purchased student malpractice insurance prior to commencing nurse midwifery-specific clinical courses (NURS 5304, 5470, 5571, and 6620). The average cost for a yearly rate is around \$500 and students may select from a carrier of their choice.

## COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM REQUIREMENT

Students enrolled in collaborative programs with other institutions are expected to comply with the general expectations/requirements set by both institutions. The student is responsible for complying with the expectations/requirements from the other institution. Failure to comply with both institutions' requirements could be cause for dismissal from the program(s).

## COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

Undergraduate (prelicensure) students must have a passing score on the comprehensive examination administered in NURS 4620 for the Traditional BSN Undergraduate Program. If the student is not successful on the examination, the student is required to meet with the course facilitator(s) to determine next steps in progression. In the Accelerated BSN Program: Second Degree BSN and Veteran to BSN the comprehensive exams are included in the overall assessment of student performance in a designated course during the final semester of enrollment.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for meeting expectations of all degrees offered at TTUHSC School of Nursing are specified in the School of Nursing *Catalog* in effect at the time of admission to the program.

## GRADUATION / DIPLOMA

### *Intent to Graduate*

Students planning to graduate MUST complete the Intent to Graduate available on the TTUHSC Student Services website at <http://www.ttuhs.edu/student-services/default.aspx>.

Students should create a "Diploma" address in WebRaider to ensure the diploma will be mailed to the proper address. The TTUHSC Student Services office uses the diploma address to mail the diploma only if the diploma is not picked up at commencement or at the request of the student.

Students must be enrolled at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and registered in the School of Nursing for a minimum of one credit hour in the term of graduation.

### ***Graduation under a Particular Catalog***

A student is expected to complete the degree requirements set forth in the School of Nursing *Catalog* in effect at the time the student enters the chosen degree or area of study. Only with the specific approval of the appropriate Department Chair may a different *Catalog* be selected. Students, in all cases, are prohibited from completing the requirements set forth in a *Catalog* more than seven years old. The School of Nursing *Catalog* is published at least biennially and its provisions are applicable during the following academic year, September 1 through August 31. However, a student registering for the first time at TTUHSC during a summer semester is subject to the degree requirements set forth in the School of Nursing *Catalog* effective for the fall semester immediately following the first summer semester of enrollment. Other conditions of graduation and the curriculum program are contained in the School of Nursing *Catalog* posted on the nursing website at <http://www.ttuhs.edu/son/catalog.aspx>.

### **Undergraduate Departments**

***Traditional BSN Undergraduate Department (BSN Program) and Non-Traditional Undergraduate Department (RN to BSN, Accelerated BSN Program: Second Degree BSN and Veteran to BSN)***

Undergraduate students are required to achieve at least a 2.0 overall cumulative GPA to graduate and complete appropriate graduation paperwork electronically at <http://www.ttuhs.edu/student-services/default.aspx>.

### ***Graduation with Honors***

Undergraduate students completing the academic work with a cumulative grade point average of:

- 3.90 to 4.00 are graduated Summa Cum Laude
- 3.70 to 3.89 are graduated Magna Cum Laude

- 3.50 to 3.69 are graduated Cum Laude. Appropriate designation of the honor is made on the diploma. Only students completing an undergraduate degree can receive an honor designation.

### **Graduate Department**

***MSN Leadership Program, MSN APRN Program (Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Midwifery Tracks) and DNP Program***

Graduate students are required to achieve at least a 3.0 overall accumulative GPA to graduate (See School of Nursing *Catalog*). Graduation guidelines, deadlines, and forms are posted on the TTUHSC Student Services webpage <http://www.ttuhs.edu/student-services/default.aspx>. Requirements and deadlines must be met to be eligible to graduate. **Failure to follow the deadlines listed in this website will delay graduation until the following semester.**

***Post-Master's Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Midwifery, Nursing Education and Nursing Informatics Certificates of Completion and Graduation***

Post-Master's Graduate students are required to achieve at least a 3.0 overall accumulative GPA to complete the Post-Master's Certificate (see School of Nursing *Catalog*). Certificates are awarded at the end of the fall, spring, and summer semesters upon meeting certificate requirements (see School of Nursing *Catalog*). Students completing the certificate requirements at the end of the spring semester may take part in the Spring School of Nursing Commencement ceremony. Students completing the certificate requirements at the end of the fall semester and previous summer semester may take part in the Fall School of Nursing Commencement ceremony.

Post-Master's Certificate guidelines, deadlines, and forms are posted on the TTUHSC Student Services web pages <http://www.ttuhs.edu/student-services/default.aspx>. Requirements and deadlines must be met to be eligible to complete the Post-Master's certificate. **Failure to follow**

**the deadlines listed in this website will delay in processing the Post-Master's certificate and Board of Nursing forms.**

### ***School of Nursing Commencement Ceremonies***

Graduation exercises are held at the end of the spring and fall semesters. Students awarded diplomas at the end of the spring semester are eligible to participate in the Spring Commencement ceremony. Students awarded diplomas the previous summer semester or at the end of the fall semester are eligible to participate in the Fall Commencement ceremony.

### ***Diploma***

Diplomas for undergraduate and graduate programs are issued per semester as follows:

- Spring graduates: Diploma is issued in May
- Summer graduates: Diploma is issued in August
- Fall graduates: Diploma is issued in January

### **IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

Students are expected to maintain a general state of good health. Failure to maintain documentation of the following immunization requirements in the appropriate departmental office can result in exclusion from clinical practice and a hold being placed on school records. The immunization information in the following table must be on file for a complete immunization record while enrolled in the School of Nursing.

Other specialty-related immunizations or testing may be recommended to a student or may be required by a clinical agency. All students are expected to personally maintain immunization requirements; this maintenance should be documented in the appropriate departmental office for every semester the student is enrolled at TTUHSC – **NO notification will be sent.**

Students should contact the Managing Director in the Office of Institutional Health/ TTUHSC Infection Control for the most up-to-date information on obtaining immunizations by calling (806) 743-3019.

Keep personal immunization records in a safe place; immunization records are required for all healthcare workers employed in the healthcare industry. All copies of Personal Immunization Records provided to the School of Nursing become the property of the School of Nursing. Never supply the School of Nursing with original documents. There may be a fee charged to receive a copy of the immunization records from School of Nursing files. For additional information, refer to <http://www.ttuhsc.edu/student-services/studenthealth.aspx>.



IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS	
Vaccine	When Required
Hepatitis B series (Hep B)	At the beginning of the initial semester of enrollment to be completed within 6 months, or a titer showing immunity is required.
Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine/titer (MMR)	At the beginning of the initial semester of enrollment, with doses of vaccine or titers showing immunity are required. (Note: Women who need MMR must make an appointment with a health professional to verify pregnancy status before receiving MMR.)
Meningococcal (MCV)	At the beginning of the initial semester of enrollment. Adults 22 years of age or younger within the last five years.
Tuberculosis (TB)	At the beginning of the initial semester of enrollment and annually thereafter. If you have not had a TB test within the last 12 months you must have a 2 step skin test with a minimum of 7 days between the 2 readings.
Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td)	At the beginning of the initial semester of enrollment. (Booster required every 10 years.)
Tetanus, Diphtheria and Acellular Pertussins (Tdap)	At the beginning of the initial semester of enrollment. (Adult - one time dose)
Influenza (Flu)	Required during flu season annually.
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	At the beginning of the initial semester of enrollment – two (2) doses of vaccine or titer showing immunity are required. (TTUHSC does not accept history of the disease)

### LIABILITY INSURANCE

All students (licensed and non-licensed) enrolled in the School of Nursing are required to carry student liability insurance. The School of Nursing provides a blanket policy covering students in any student-related clinical activity. The policy does not cover students in work-related activities (students employed in clinical settings not associated with the School of Nursing curriculum).

- A fee will be automatically added to the student's tuition to pay for the policy
- The student liability insurance blanket policy is for liability purposes only and is NOT a general health insurance policy.
- Students enrolled in the Nurse Midwifery and Post-Master's Certificate Nurse Midwifery tracks are required to carry additional individual (self-purchased) liability insurance.

### LICENSURE - RNs

MSN graduate students are required to have a

Texas RN License or Compact Multistate License. RN-BSN undergraduate students and DNP graduate students must have current licensure as a registered nurse in the United States. Students must maintain current licensure in good standing throughout enrollment in the School of Nursing. The Department Chair/Associate Dean must be notified immediately if the status of licensure changes for any reason. Students residing in neighboring states must also verify Texas RN licensure or Compact Multistate license if the state they reside in is a participating compact state. Students must provide current documentation of Compact Multistate License.

### LICENSURE APPLICATIONS

The Department Chair/Associate Dean for the Traditional BSN Undergraduate Department or the Non-Traditional Undergraduate Department will assist currently enrolled pre-licensure students with the applicable Board of Nursing application process. For the Traditional BSN

Undergraduate Department (BSN Program), the Traditional BSN Undergraduate Department Chair makes arrangements with faculty to meet with graduating students to discuss the procedures to register for the NCLEX-RN examination and to complete the licensure application forms. For Accelerated BSN Program: Second Degree BSN and Veteran to BSN students, information is posted electronically. Failure to meet the Texas BON deadlines or deadlines from licensing boards in other states will delay the licensure process. For further information concerning eligibility for licensure, refer to Texas Statutes Regulating the Practice of Professional Nursing (see the NCLEX-RN Examination Eligibility section of this *Student Handbook*) or contact the appropriate Department Chair.

Students applying for licensure in other states are responsible for contacting the applicable Board of Nursing for an application packet at the beginning of the semester of graduation. Once the packet is received, students should make an appointment with the appropriate Department Chair/Associate Dean to review and process the required documents.

### **NCLEX-RN IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

NCSBN requires for admission to Pearson VUE test centers only the following acceptable forms of identification for domestic test centers:

- Passport books and cards
- Driver's license
- Provincial/Territorial or state identification card
- Permanent residence card
- Military identification card

The only acceptable forms of identification for international test centers are:

- Passport books and cards

All forms of identification listed above must be valid (nonexpired), government-issued identification containing the following

information:

- Name (in Roman characters)
- Photograph
- Signature

Temporary identification (examples include limited term IDs and any ID reading "temp" or "temporary") is only acceptable if it meets the required elements stated above.

### **PERSONAL APPEARANCE / UNIFORM (Clinical Setting and Simulation Center)**

Nursing students are expected to maintain a professional image at all times while in the clinical setting. The professional uniform of the School of Nursing is expected to be worn only for clinically related activities.

<b>Traditional BSN Undergraduate Program Hospital Clinical Setting Uniform Guidelines</b>	
Equipment:	Stethoscope, watch, penlight, Skyscape software/device, scissors, pen, and pad.
Uniform:	The uniform shall be the official Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing uniform (red scrub top and pants) with an embroidered logo affixed to left chest. The uniform shall be clean and without needed repair.
Shoes:	The shoes shall fit securely and be primarily white or black impenetrable material.
Lab Coats:	White, clean and pressed with an embroidered logo affixed to left chest.
Scrub Jacket (optional):	Red or Black scrub jackets with an embroidered logo affixed to left chest may be worn during clinical.
Name Tag and Badge:	These items must be worn with the uniform or the lab jacket in all clinical settings.
Hair:	The student's hair must be clean, neat, and managed in such a way as to not require the student to touch hair during clinical. A student with long hair must secure hair behind his or her head; hair must be off the shoulders. Long hair is defined as any hair length that obstructs peripheral vision when the student bends over at waist level or that may dangle onto a patient or treatment surface.
Makeup:	Wear in moderation. No bright lipsticks, blush, or eye shadow.
Nails:	Nails must be clean and well groomed. Artificial nails are not acceptable. Nails need to be short. Polish, if worn, must be natural/ neutral color.
Perfume/After Shave:	Perfume/After Shave: Avoid wearing perfume, cologne, or aftershave. Clients may not be able to tolerate your favorite scent.
Piercing/Tattoo:	Students may have one stud earring in each ear lobe. All other piercing must be removed for the clinical setting. Tattoos must be covered or not visible during clinical.
Additional:	Additional requirements based on clinical agency policy will be communicated by the Clinical Director.

Hospital Clinical Setting Uniform Guidelines apply in non-hospital settings and hospital preparation time except as stated in the following Non-Hospital Clinical Settings and Non-Direct Care Hospital Setting chart.

<b>Accelerated BSN Program: Second Degree BSN and Veteran to BSN Hospital Clinical Setting Uniform Guidelines</b>	
Equipment:	Stethoscope, watch, penlight, Skyscape software/device, scissors, pen, and pad
Uniform:	The uniform shall be the official Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing uniform (red scrub top and black scrub pants) with patch(s) permanently affixed to approved location(s) on the uniform. See respective orientation materials for information on patches and placement. The uniform shall be clean and without needed repair.
Shoes:	The shoes shall fit securely and be primarily white or black impenetrable material.
Lab Coat:	The lab coat shall be the official Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing jacket (white) with patch permanently affixed to left chest and should be clean.
Name Tag and Badge:	These items must be worn with the uniform or the lab jacket in all clinical settings.
Hair:	The student's hair must be clean, neat, and managed in such a way as to not require the student to touch hair during clinical. A student with long hair must secure hair behind his or her head; hair must be off the shoulders. Long hair is defined as any hair length that obstructs peripheral vision when the student bends over at waist level or that may dangle onto a patient or treatment surface.
Makeup:	Wear in moderation. No bright lipsticks, blush, or eye shadow.
Nails:	Nails must be clean and well groomed. Artificial nails are not acceptable. Nails need to be short. Polish, if worn, must be a natural/neutral color.
Perfume/After Shave:	Perfume/After Shave: Avoid wearing perfume, cologne, or aftershave. Clients may not be able to tolerate your favorite scent.
Piercing/Tattoo:	Students may have one stud earring in each ear lobe. All other piercing must be removed for the clinical setting. Tattoos must be covered or not visible during clinical.
Additional:	Additional requirements based on clinical agency policy will be communicated by Clinical Site Coordinators.

Hospital Clinical Setting Uniform Guidelines apply in non-hospital settings and hospital preparation time except as stated in the following Non-Hospital Clinical Settings and Non-Direct Care Hospital Setting chart.

<b>Non-Hospital Clinical Settings and Non-Direct Care Hospital Setting Clothing:</b>	
Clothing:	Dress reflective of a professional image (Neat and clean street clothing. No denim material, blue jeans, shorts of any kind, miniskirts, bare chests, or midriffs are allowed.)
Lab Coats:	Worn with name tag and ID badge (Street clothes extend below lab coats.)
Shoes:	Dress shoes or boots that are neat and polished.

Exceptions to the dress code may be made in individual courses if stated in the course syllabus or stated by the individual faculty member. For safety purposes, clinical facilities' policies regarding uniforms may require additional conformance.

## **PERSONAL APPEARANCE**

### ***Classroom Attire***

Students are representatives of the TTUHSC School of Nursing and the nursing profession. Therefore, classroom attire is expected to project an image of professionalism. Minimal expectations are outlined below.

1. Shirts: Revealing clothing (e.g., spaghetti strap tops, halter tops, midriffs, work-out tops, muscle shirts, sheer or see-thru) is not permitted and proper undergarments shall be worn and not visible. Shoulders should remain covered at all times. T-shirts with inappropriate logos (advertisement of alcohol, cigarettes, drugs and risqué pictures/slogans) are not permitted.
2. Skirts/Shorts/Dresses: Skirt and shorts length shall be of an appropriate length and may not be tight fitting. Miniskirts and short-shorts are not permitted. Split skirts are permitted, provided they are not tight fitting and fall within the above guidelines.
3. Pants/Slacks: Pants shall be properly fitting. Pants must be worn properly at the hips. Jeans with holes exposing the skin are not permitted. Pajama bottoms or other garments that could be mistaken as casual sleep attire are not permitted. Athletic attire with appropriate length of shirt is acceptable. Undergarments should not be exposed in any way.
4. Scrubs: Scrubs are appropriate for clinical and lab setting, but are not appropriate for everyday use. Exceptions will be made for students who attend class before or after work and wear their employer's required scrubs.
5. Shoes: Shoes must be clean and in good condition. Sandals are acceptable.
6. Hair: Hair should be clean and well groomed. Hair may not be dyed any unnatural hair colors. Facial hair is to be well groomed.
7. Nails: Nails must be neatly manicured (not chipped) and kept at a length that will not interfere with the duties of a nurse.
8. Head Gear: Hats, caps, and other head gear are not permitted in the classroom. Only headgear worn for religious purposes and approved in advance by the Office of Student Affairs is permissible. Bluetooth headsets for phones should not be worn in the classroom setting.

Deviations from the classroom attire standards may be permitted for special occasions or designated "casual Friday" programs.

Students who deviate from these standards may receive a verbal warning and be requested to return home to change into appropriate classroom attire.



## **PREREQUISITES and COREQUISITES**

Certain courses in the curriculum have pre and/or co-requisites, which must be met. The pre-requisite/co-requisite courses are designated in the School of Nursing *Catalog*.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Applications for all scholarships are available either on the TTUHSC School of Nursing Current Student Resources under Financial Information Heading or on the Scholarships & Scholarship Information page <http://www.ttuhschool.edu/son/scholarships>. The Scholarships & Scholarship Information page also contains announcements of all available scholarships and deadlines for acceptance. Students are also provided with information regarding scholarships at both Virtual and On-campus new student orientation. Students are encouraged to complete a new application when financial or other circumstances change.

Before applying for scholarships, students MUST have a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) <http://www.fafsa.gov> on file with the TTUHSC Financial Aid Office.

School of Nursing scholarships are competitive scholarships requiring students to compete with other students, including Texas residents, and the scholarships are awarded by the School of Nursing scholarship committee. Eligible scholarship applications are distributed to the Department Chairs for review with recommendations forwarded to the School of Nursing Scholarship Committee. Distance students may apply for scholarships listed for the Lubbock campus. Eligibility for the scholarship is based upon the criteria established by each donor and the TTUHSC School of Nursing.

According to the Texas Education Code, § [54.213](#): a student with a competitive scholarship of at least \$1,000 for the academic year or summer the student is enrolled and who is a non-resident is entitled to pay the tuition and fees required of

Texas residents without regard to the length of time the student has resided in Texas. For more information, please contact the School of Nursing scholarship office at [sonscholarships@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:sonscholarships@ttuhsc.edu).

## **Permian Basin Students**

Permian Basin Students can only apply for Permian Basin scholarships. For more information for this process, please follow the link for Permian Basin Students at <http://www.ttuhschool.edu/son/scholarships/>.

## **Permian Basin Scholarship Reception**

A yearly Scholarship Reception by the School of Nursing is held during the Spring Semester. Students in attendance at the Permian Basin Campus have the opportunity to receive a limited number of scholarships given during the reception.

## **SCHOOL SCHEDULE OF CLASSES / ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

The School of Nursing's academic calendar is posted on the School of Nursing website at <http://nursing.ttuhschool.edu/calendars/> and the School of Nursing schedules of classes are posted at <http://nursing.ttuhschool.edu/schedules>. The TTUHSC School of Nursing reserves the right to modify schedule of classes at any time during the academic year.

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

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The School of Nursing expects students, faculty, and administration to adhere to TTUHSC institutional and School of Nursing policies and procedures in order to enhance learning and promote a professional environment conducive to meeting the institutional and school mission, vision, and values. The following sections detail policies to support students' academic achievement in the School of Nursing.

### **ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT**

An advisor is assigned to each student upon admission to provide information about the academic program and to assist in making informed decisions. The advisor should also be consulted during pre-registration, for adding/dropping a course, and withdrawing from the School of Nursing. However, the student is ultimately responsible for seeking adequate academic advice, meeting degree requirements, and enrolling in appropriate courses to ensure orderly and timely progress toward the degree or certificate.

### **Traditional BSN Undergraduate Department *Traditional BSN Program***

Academic advisement for students enrolled in the Traditional BSN program is directed by the Department Chair. The Enrolled Student Management Student Affairs Coordinator will assist with academic advisement. The student signs and receives a copy of the degree plan at orientation and is expected to follow the signed degree plan when registering for courses. The Student Affairs Coordinator, under the direction of the Associate Academic Dean for Education Support Services and Student Affairs, and in collaboration with the Department Chair, assists students with academic planning, staying informed of curriculum changes, and facilitating problem-solving related to progression through the degree plan. Program Directors may be consulted regarding academic

advisement when necessary to best meet student needs. Questions regarding registration, adding/dropping a course, and withdrawing from the School of Nursing should be directed to the Student Affairs Coordinator, who will work closely with the Department Chair to assist students.

### **Non-Traditional Undergraduate Department *RN to BSN Program***

Academic advisement for students enrolled in the RN to BSN Program is directed by the Department Chair. The Enrolled Student Management Student Affairs Coordinator will assist with academic advisement. The student signs and receives a copy of the degree plan at orientation and is expected to follow the signed degree plan when registering for courses. The Student Affairs Coordinator, under the direction of the Associate Academic Dean for Education Support Services and Student Affairs and in collaboration with the Department Chair, assists students with academic planning, staying informed of curriculum changes, and facilitating problem-solving related to progression through the degree plan. Faculty may be consulted regarding academic advisement when necessary to best meet student needs. Questions regarding registration, adding/dropping a course, and withdrawing from the School of Nursing should be directed to the Student Affairs Coordinator, who will work closely with the Department Chair to assist students.

### ***Accelerated BSN Program: Second Degree BSN and Veteran to BSN***

Academic advisement for students enrolled in the Second Degree BSN track is directed by the Department Chair. The Enrolled Student Management Student Affairs Coordinator will assist with academic advisement. The student signs and receives a copy of the degree plan at orientation and is expected to follow the signed

degree plan when registering for courses. The Student Affairs Coordinator, under the direction of the Associate Academic Dean for Education Support Services and Student Affairs, and in collaboration with the Department Chair/Associate Dean, assists students with academic planning, staying informed of curriculum changes, and facilitating problem-solving related to progression through the degree plan. Faculty may be consulted regarding academic advisement when necessary to best meet student needs. Questions regarding registration, adding/dropping a course, and withdrawing from the School of Nursing should be directed to the Student Affairs Coordinator, who will work closely with the Department Chair/Associate Dean to assist students.

### **Graduate Department**

#### **MSN Leadership Program and DNP Program**

Academic advisement for students enrolled in the MSN Leadership Program or the DNP Program is directed by specified Program Directors or Department Chair. The Graduate Enrolled Student Management Student Affairs Coordinator will assist with academic advisement. The student receives the degree plan at orientation and is expected to follow the degree plan when registering for courses. The Graduate Student Affairs Coordinator, under the direction of the Associate Academic Dean for Education Support Services and Student Affairs and in collaboration with the Department Chair and/or Program Director, assists students with academic planning, staying informed of curriculum changes, and facilitating problem-solving related to progression through the degree plan. Graduate faculty are consulted regarding academic advisement when necessary to best meet student needs. Questions regarding registration, adding/dropping a course, and withdrawing from the School of Nursing should be directed to the Graduate Student Affairs Coordinator, who will work closely with the Department Chair to assist students.

#### **MSN APRN (Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Midwifery Tracks)**

Academic advisement for students enrolled in the MSN APRN tracks is directed by specified Program Directors. The Graduate Enrolled Student Management Student Affairs Coordinator will assist with academic advisement. The student receives the degree plan at orientation and is expected to follow the degree plan when registering for courses. The Graduate Student Affairs Coordinator, under the direction of the Associate Academic Dean for Education Support Services and Student Affairs and in collaboration with the Department Chair and/or Program Director, assists students with academic planning, staying informed of curriculum changes, and facilitating problem-solving related to progression through the degree plan. Graduate faculty are consulted regarding academic advisement when necessary to best meet student needs. Any question the student has about registration, adding/dropping a course, and withdrawing from the School of Nursing should be directed to the Graduate Student Affairs Coordinator, who will work closely with the Program Directors and Department Chair for the APRN Program to assist students.

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

“Academic misconduct” involves any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student, or the attempt to commit such an act. Refer to the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook* Part II, D Misconduct, (19) Academic Misconduct.

#### ***Filing a Complaint***

Any member of the University community may file a complaint(s) against a student(s) or a student organization(s) for violation(s) of the *TTUHSC Student Handbook Code of Professional and Academic Conduct*.

- Prior to filing a formal complaint by complainant (Faculty, Student, Administrator), a preliminary investigation/discussion with the Department Chair should be conducted to determine if there is a basis for the complaint. Refer to the *TTUHSC Student Handbook Code of Professional and Academic Conduct* Part II, F Disciplinary Procedures, (3) Filing Complaint.
- If there is a basis for the complaint, refer to the [TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook](#).
- The School of Nursing Student Conduct Administrator is the Associate Academic Dean for Education Support Services and Student Affairs. For questions, contact the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs at (806) 743-2025.

### ***Timeline***

The timeline for filing a complaint related to academic misconduct is detailed in the *TTUHSC Student Handbook Code of Professional and Academic Conduct*. A complaint shall be submitted no later than twenty (20) business days from the date of the event. Complaints filed more than twenty (20) business days after the event shall include justification for the delay and the Student Conduct Administrator will accept complaints on a “case by case” basis. Within the School of Nursing, timelines for managing the academic misconduct complaint may be altered at the Student Conduct Administrator’s discretion when extenuating circumstances exist and are clearly documented and communicated to individuals involved with the complaint.

### **ACADEMIC GRADE CHALLENGES/APPEALS**

**If a student believes that a grade on a particular assignment (not a final course grade) received is incorrect, the student shall:**

- Discuss the grade with the faculty who assigned it.
- If the grade is deemed correct, (no miscalculation of grade occurred) then the grade stands as issued. The faculty assigning the grade shall notify the student of the

decision in writing within five (5) business days.

- If the grade issued was in error, (miscalculation of grade occurred) then the faculty corrects the grade and shall notify the student of the grade change within five (5) business days.

If a student receives a grade of less than 80 (B) for a written assignment, the student may request another faculty member to conduct a second, independent, blinded evaluation of the assignment. Students seeking a second evaluation of a failing written assignment must make the request to the course facilitator within five (5) days of the graded assignment being returned to the student. After the second faculty member grades the assignment, the course facilitator and the two evaluators will review and discuss the scores and reconcile the assignment grade. If the two faculty graders cannot reach a consensus grade, the average of the two scores will be used as the assignment grade.

### ***Final Grade Appeal***

It is the policy of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing to affirm the right of its students to a prompt and fair resolution of a complaint or grievance. Thus, this policy recognizes that:

- Every student has a right to receive a grade assigned based on a fair and unprejudiced evaluation of the student’s performance using a method that is neither arbitrary nor capricious; and,
- Faculty have the right to assign a grade based on any method that is professionally acceptable, submitted in writing to all students, and applied equally.

The following procedure provides students with a system by which to file an appeal of a final grade they believe was based on arbitrary or capricious action by the faculty. Only the final course grade as entered into the official TTUHSC system may be appealed. **The burden of proof that such an**

**influence has affected a final grade rests with the student.**

Prior to filing an official grade appeal, the student must meet with the course faculty member to review how the faculty arrived at the final grade. If after the meeting with the faculty the student wishes to pursue filing a final grade appeal, the following procedures shall be followed.

**To appeal a grade, the student shall:**

- Student must file the Final Grade Appeal Form (Attachment A), available online (<http://nursing.ttuhschool.edu/forms/>), within three (3) business days, of the date the final grade is posted in Banner. The Final Grade Appeal Form is to be file with the Associate Academic Dean for Education Support Services and Student Affairs (ADESSA). All documents to support the appeal must accompany the Final Grade Appeal Form. Documents received after the log-in date of the Final Grade Appeal Form will not be accepted.
- The ADESSA will forward the appeal and all supporting documents to the appropriate programmatic Associate Dean/Department Chair.
- The Associate Dean/Department Chair shall meet with the faculty and student separately and review all materials pertinent to the grade appeal.
- After review of all materials, the Associate Dean/Department Chair shall, within five (5) business days from receipt of the formal grade appeal, render a decision. The student shall be notified of the decision via certified mail and/or electronic correspondence to the student's TTUHSC email address. A copy of the decision is forwarded to the ADESSA. The grade appeal decision is deemed received by the student when properly mailed and addressed to the official address on file with the university or received electronically by the student at his/her TTUHSC email address. It is the student's responsibility to keep the university advised of any change in contact

- information such as email or mailing address.
- The decision on the academic substantive review by the appropriate Programmatic Associate Dean/Department Chair is final.
- All records related to the appeal are retained by the office of the ADESSA for a period of three (3) years.
- The student may only appeal issues of procedural due process to the ADESSA.

***Procedural Appeal Process***

- The student may file an appeal on procedural grounds following receipt of the final decision on the appeal of the grade. A procedural appeal should be filed with the ADESSA within two (2) business days of the student receiving the Associate Dean/Department Chair's decision on the grade appeal. Students are to file Request Form (Attachment B) available online (<http://nursing.ttuhschool.edu/forms/>).
- Upon review of all materials and meeting with the student, Associate Dean/Department Chair and faculty, the ADESSA shall render a decision on the procedural appeal with three (3) business day from receipt of the Procedural Appeal.
- The decision of the ADESSA will be sent to the student via certified mail and/or electronic correspondence to the student's TTUHSC e-mail address. The decision of the ADESSA is final.
- All records will be retained in the office of the ADESSA for three (3) years.

**ACADEMIC DISMISSAL / APPEALS**

It is the policy of the TTUHSC School of Nursing to dismiss students who have failed to maintain minimum academic standards as outlined below:

***Procedure for Dismissal***

- A student shall be recommended for dismissal if the Degree Program Council determines that the student has:
  - Not performed satisfactorily in academic pursuits; and/or



- Has been deemed unsafe and/or is a risk to patient care; and/or
- Has been deemed by the applicable Program Council, for just reason, unfit to continue the study of nursing.
- The recommendation will be forwarded to the Dean of the school.
- Upon receipt of the recommendation of the applicable Program Council, the Dean may accept, reject, and/or modify said recommendation.
- Within 10 business days from receipt of recommendations, official notification from the Dean regarding his/her decision will be forwarded to the student via certified mail and/or email.

#### ***Appeals Procedure for Academic Dismissal***

- A student receiving a letter of dismissal may appeal the dismissal within five (5) business days of date of letter by submitting to the Dean through the Associate Academic Dean for Education Support Services and Student Affairs (ADESSA) a written notice of appeal.
- The ADESSA shall appoint an Academic Dismissal Appeals Council upon the recommendation by the Dean, comprised of three (3) members of the faculty to hear and determine the appeal. The applicable Department Chair and the Chair of the appropriate Program Council (or designee) will serve as ex officio members of the Council and will not participate or be present at deliberations.
- The Academic Dismissal Appeals Council will be convened by the ADESSA within ten (10) business days from the date of the receipt of the written notice of appeal. The student shall be notified via certified mail and/or email of the date of the appeal's hearing.
- The burden of proof lies with the student. The student may present a written statement to the Academic Dismissal Appeals Council relative to the appeal at the time of the hearing. The Academic Dismissal Appeals Council may limit the length and presentation

of such statement in accordance with effective management of time.

- The student has no right to be accompanied by a representative at the hearing. Both the Academic Dismissal Appeals Council and student may call witnesses relevant to resolution of the appeal. Should information or witnesses be either repetitious or not relevant, the Academic Dismissal Appeals Council shall take action to expedite the proceedings. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Academic Dismissal Appeals Council shall forward its recommendation to the Dean and the ADESSA within three (3) business days.
- Unless suspended for some justifiable reason pursuant to the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook* and/or *School of Nursing Student Handbook*, the student shall remain on the class roll and may pursue appropriate didactic course work until the appeal is resolved.
- The decision of the Dean is final. The student, the Chair of the applicable Program Council, the applicable Department Chair and the ADESSA will be notified in writing by the Dean within five (5) business days from receipt of the Academic Dismissal Appeals Council decision. The letter to the student will be mailed certified mail and/or email.
- All notices required to be given shall be deemed received by the student upon mailing certified mail to the address on record with the school.

#### ***Appeals Procedure for Non-Dismissal Action(s)***

- The appeal procedure for non-dismissal action(s) shall be the same as the Academic Dismissal Appeal process.

For more information, contact the Assistant Academic Dean of Student Affairs, (806) 743-1732.

#### **ADDING A COURSE**

Students are able to add a course or courses prior to the first day of class and should review the School of Nursing Academic Calendar for

important deadlines (<http://nursing.ttuhs.edu/calendars/>) related to adding a course or courses. Students register for course(s) via the WebRaider Portal at <https://webraider.ttuhs.edu>.

**To add a course to an existing schedule:**

- Contact the applicable Student Affairs Coordinator for approval and changes to the area of study plan.
- After the semester begins, students are able to add course(s) up to the 12th class day for fall, spring, and full summer semesters and 4th class day for summer semesters (summer 1 and/or summer 2). Late registration fees may apply.
- When adding course(s) after the semester's due date, contact the Student Business Services office at (806) 743-7867 to make payment. Payment must be made within two business days.
  - Additional payment and due date information can be found at the Student Business Services web site <http://www.fiscal.ttuhs.edu/busserv/bursar/>.

**CODE OF ETHICS FOR NURSES**

Students are expected to function within the framework of the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code for Nurses (2015). Students may purchase the Code for Nurses by contacting the American Nurses Association Publishing Company or it can be purchased or downloaded [here](#).

**CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT (“STUDENT CODE”)**

All students of the School of Nursing are expected to adhere to the *TTUHSC Code of Professional Conduct* outlined in the [TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook](#). These guiding rules and regulations are present to foster a sense of community and respect among all members of the university community. It states, “each student is responsible for his/her own integrity, and is likewise responsible for reporting possible violations of this Student Code by other students.”

Part II.A.4.

**COURSE LOADS**

**Traditional BSN Undergraduate Department  
*Traditional BSN Program***

Undergraduate enrollment in 12 or more credit hours per semester is considered a full-time student. The number of semester credit hours a student may carry (course load) is regulated by the Department Chair. Students are expected to move through the program continuously. Part-time status will not be allowed except in extenuating circumstances. In determining course load, the Department Chair takes into account the quality of prior scholastic work performed and the types of courses involved. Permission is needed to enroll in more than 20 semester credit hours.

**Non-Traditional Undergraduate Department  
*RN to BSN Program***

**Semester Credit Hours and Course Loads**

The number of semester credit hours a student may carry (course load) is regulated by the Department Chair, taking into account the quality of prior scholastic work performed and the types of courses involved. Permission is needed to enroll in more than 18 semester credit hours. Refer to example course loads in the sample degree plans for the RN to BSN student.

***RN to BSN Transferring Between Course Sections***

Students are assigned to a section of a course based on availability of openings within each section. Students seeking to transfer to another section of a given course must make a request in writing to the RN to BSN Program Director prior to the end of the third class day of the semester. The RN to BSN Program Director will determine if a transfer is feasible based on the availability of space in an alternate course section. Should a transfer be determined to be feasible, the appropriate Student Affairs Coordinator will notify the Registrar, School of Nursing Education Technology, and the affected faculty by email by the end of the business day the transfer is made.

### **Accelerated Second Degree BSN**

#### **Semester Credit Hours and Course Loads**

The Second Degree students are required to complete 55 hours of non-nursing courses and 61 hours of nursing courses. The degree plan for the Second Degree track requires students to enroll in 18 to 23 hours per semester. Permission is needed to enroll in more or less semester credit hours.

### **Accelerated Veteran to BSN**

**Semester Credit Hours and Course Loads** The VBSN Degree students are required to complete 59 hours of non-nursing courses and 61 hours of nursing courses. The degree plan for the VBSN Degree track requires students to enroll in 18 to 23 hours per semester. Permission is needed to enroll in more or less semester credit hours.

### **Graduate Department**

#### **MSN Leadership Program and DNP Program**

Graduate enrollment in 9 or more credit hours in the fall and spring semesters and 6 credit hours in the full summer session is considered full-time enrollment. Fewer than 9 credit hours in the fall and spring semesters and fewer than 6 credit hours in the summer session is considered part-time enrollment. The number of semester credit hours a student may carry (course load) is regulated by the Department Chair for Leadership Programs. In determining course load, the Department Chair takes into account the quality of prior scholastic work performed and the types of courses involved.

#### **MSN APRN Program (Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Midwifery Tracks)**

Graduate enrollment in 9 or more credit hours in the fall and spring semesters and 6 credit hours in the full summer session is considered full-time enrollment. Fewer than 9 credit hours in the fall and spring semesters and fewer than 6 credit hours in the summer session is considered part-time enrollment. The number of semester credit hours a student may carry (course load) is regulated by the Department Chair and/or Program Director for the APRN Program. In

determining course load, the Department Chair and/or Program Director takes into account the quality of prior scholastic work performed and the types of courses involved.

### **COURSE SYLLABI**

Course Syllabi for each School of Nursing course are obtained from Sakai. Course requirements and student expectations are stated in each course syllabus. Obtaining the course syllabi prior to the first day of class is highly recommended. Course facilitators are responsible for development, typing and posting of course syllabi and course modules. Course syllabi and schedules should be posted and available for students one week before classes begin.

### **DEAN'S HONOR LIST / PRESIDENT'S LIST**

#### ***Undergraduate Programs***

Full-time undergraduate students who earn a GPA of 4.0 during a semester are eligible for the President's List. Full-time students who earn a 3.5-3.99 GPA are eligible for the Dean's List, based on information supplied from the Registrar's Office.

### **DROPPING A COURSE**

- Students are able to drop course(s) up to the 12th class day for fall, spring and full summer semesters and 4th class day for summer semesters (summer 1 and/or summer 2) to receive a full refund. See School of Nursing Academic Calendar for deadlines.

#### **To drop a course:**

- Contact course facilitator and/or course faculty.
- Contact the Academic Advisor for approval and changes to area of study plan.
- Drop course(s) via the WebRaider Portal at <https://webraider.ttuhschool.edu>.
  - Dropping a course may delay progression through the curriculum. Students dropping a course to the point of "zero hours" of enrollment are considered to be withdrawing from the School of Nursing (see Withdrawal School of Nursing).

When dropping to zero hours, a student's date of withdraw must be prior to the first class day according to the semester's academic calendar in order to receive a full refund. Thereafter, contact the Student Business Service office at (806) 743-7867 for the appropriate refund schedule or review the Student Financial Information online at <http://www.fiscal.ttuhschool.edu/busserv/bursar/>.

- Undergraduate and graduate students may file a Leave of Absence (see Leave of Absence section of the *Student Handbook*).
- Review tuition and fees information at <http://www.fiscal.ttuhschool.edu/busserv/bursar/> or contact the TTUHSC Student Business Service office for more information at (806) 743-7867.

### **EARLY ALERT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

#### **Traditional BSN Undergraduate Department *Traditional BSN Program***

The Early Alert Program provides resources and assistance to ensure success in earning the degree. Students referred to the Early Alert Program by nursing faculty are required to contact their course facilitators to discuss available services which may include referral to the Retention Counselor for further assistance. Students may also voluntarily access the services of the Retention Counselor.

#### **Non-Traditional Undergraduate Department *RN to BSN Program***

The Early Alert Program provides resources and assistance to ensure success in earning the degree. The Department Chair requests all course faculty to submit the name of a student who may be in jeopardy of course failure to the Enrolled Student Management Student Affairs Coordinator. The Enrolled Student Management Student Affairs Coordinator will contact the student by email encouraging them to discuss available services.

#### **Accelerated BSN Program: Second Degree BSN and Veteran to BSN**

The Early Alert Program provides resources and assistance to ensure success in earning the degree. The Department Chair requests all course faculty submit names of students who may be in jeopardy of course failure at the midpoint of each course to the Enrolled Student Management Student Affairs Coordinator. The Enrolled Student Management Student Affairs Coordinator sends a letter to the student, encouraging the student to discuss available services with their course faculty. Services may include referral to the Retention Counselor for further assistance. Students may also voluntarily access the services of the Retention Counselor.

### **EARLY ALERT GRADUATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

#### **Graduate Department**

##### **MSN Leadership Program and DNP Program**

The Early Alert Program provides resources and assistance to students to ensure success in earning the degree. The Department Chair requests all course faculty submit the names of students who may be in jeopardy of course failure to the Graduate Program Coordinator. The Graduate Program Coordinator develops letters from the faculty to each identified student notifying the student of the current status and encouraging the student to discuss available services with the course faculty.

##### **MSN APRN Program (Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Midwifery Tracks)**

The Early Alert Program provides resources and assistance to students to ensure success in earning the degree or certificate. The Department Chair requests all course faculty submit the names of students who may be in jeopardy of course failure to the Graduate Program Coordinator. The Graduate Program Coordinator develops letters from the faculty to each identified student notifying the student of the current status and encouraging the student to discuss available

services with the course faculty.

### **ENROLLMENT OUT OF SEQUENCE**

Students in the graduate programs may request to take a course out-of-sequence. Approval by the applicable advisor, affected course facilitator(s), Program Director and/or the Department Chair must be obtained through the appropriate program office prior to enrollment.

### **GRADING POLICIES**

#### ***Course Grade Policy***

##### **Undergraduate Courses**

- In order to pass a course, the weighted average of all proctored exams including the final must equal 75% or greater.
- In courses where additional requirements are a weighted portion of the grade, the additional course requirements will only be calculated as part of the final course grade if the average of all proctored exams including the final is 75% or greater.
- For Second Degree, Veteran to BSN and Traditional BSN courses with a clinical component, the clinical portion is graded as follows:
  - A clinical evaluation instrument will be used to determine the grade. The student must earn a 75% or greater on the clinical evaluation instrument to pass the course.
- Rounding of individual items should not be done. Rather, if rounding is done, it should be done for the final course grade only. The final course grade shall accurately reflect the grade earned according to course grading criteria. At the discretion of the faculty, grades may be rounded using classic rounding rules. For example, a grade of 89.5 equals A, whereas a grade of 89.4 equals B.

##### **Graduate Courses**

- In order to pass a course, the average of all exams including the final must equal 80% or greater.
- For courses with a clinical component, the clinical portion is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Regardless of scores earned on exams or additional assignments, the student must pass the clinical portion of the course in order to pass the course. An unsatisfactory or failing clinical performance will result in a final course grade of "F", regardless of the didactic grade.

- The final course grade shall accurately reflect the grade earned according to course grading criteria. At the discretion of the faculty, grades may be rounded using classic rounding rules. For example, a grade of 89.5 equals A, whereas a grade of 89.4 equals B. Rounding of individual items should not be done. Rather, if rounding is done, it should be done for the final course grade only.

#### ***Grade Reports***

Final course grades can be obtained electronically through the WebRaider Portal at <https://webraider.ttuhs.edu>.



### Grading Scale

Traditional BSN Program	Accelerated BSN Program: Second Degree BSN and Veteran to BSN	RN to BSN Program	Graduate Programs: MSN and DNP
90 – 100 = A	90 – 100 = A	90 – 100 = A	90 – 100 = A
80 – 89 = B	80 – 89 = B	80 – 89 = B	80 – 89 = B
75 – 79 = C	75 – 79 = C	70 – 79 = C	70 – 79 = C
60 – 74 = D	60 – 74 = D	60 – 69 = D	60 – 69 = D
< 60 = F	< 60 = F	< 60 = F	< 60 = F

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)	
Type	Formula (Use Grade Point Chart to calculate grade points)
Overall Semester GPA	Divide the total number of grade points acquired during the semester by total number of semester hours of all courses taken at TTUHSC, exclude courses with a “W” grade. (“F” and “WF” courses must be counted in the calculations.)
Cumulative GPA	Divide the total number of grade points earned in all courses taken in the degree program at TTUHSC by total number of semester hours of all courses taken in the degree program at TTUHSC including hours of “F” and “WF”. Repeated courses are counted in the total.
<p>(Multiply the course credit hours by the assigned grade point, and then add all grade points to determine total semester grade points.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An undergraduate student may repeat courses for credit with the prior approval of the program office and applicable Undergraduate Council. When a course is repeated, both grades are used in calculating the GPA and both grades appear on the transcript.</li> <li>• A graduate student may repeat courses for credit with the prior approval of the programmatic director and Graduate Program Council. When a course is repeated, both grades are used in calculating the GPA and both grades appear on the transcript.</li> <li>• Only courses taken and grades received at TTUHSC are used in calculating GPAs.</li> </ul>	

GRADE POINT CHART		
Grade	Assigned Points	Grade Interpretations
A	4	Excellent, meeting degree requirements
B	3	Good, meeting degree requirements
C	2	Average, meeting undergraduate degree requirements; failing to meet graduate degree requirements
D	1	Inferior, passing but not satisfying degree requirements
F	0	Failure, failing to meet degree requirements
P	0	Passing
PR	0	In Progress: given only when the work in a course extends beyond the semester of term; "PR" implies satisfactory performance and is used in thesis, dissertation; or DNP capstone projects, a "CR" will be entered upon approved completion. A "PR" requires the student to be registered in the course for the following semester and consequently the student will pay additional tuition for the course. "PR" is not given in lieu of an "F".
I	0	Incomplete: given only when a student's work is satisfactory in quality but, due to reasons beyond the student's control, has not been completed. An incomplete is not given in lieu of an "F". The faculty person assigning the grade will stipulate, in writing, at the time the grade is given, the conditions under which the "I" was given and may be removed. The student is responsible for completing the required coursework and maintaining contact with the instructor who gave the "I" to ensure the work is completed, graded, and the change to a letter grade is finalized.. The "I" will be replaced with an "F" after the incomplete has remained on record for a year without completion. Withdrawal from the institution will not change the conditions under which the "I" may be removed nor waive the replacement with an "F" after the "I" has remained on the record for a year without completion.
W	0	Withdrawal: given for a course officially dropped during the first five weeks of a term and for a course officially dropped afterwards, provided the student's work is passing at the time the course is dropped.
WF	0	Withdraw Failing: given after the first five weeks of a semester when the student's work is not passing at the time the course is dropped or when the student is required by the Department Chair to drop the course for failure to attend the class. Considered as a failing grade ("F") in calculating GPA.
CR	0	Credit
R	0	Repeated course (TTUHSC SON does not honor grade replacement for required nursing courses.)
X	0	No Grade Designated: given in those instances where one of the above grades is not reported by the faculty. The designation "X" is not used in determining grade point averages.
NP	0	Given if the student has not paid fees by the end of the semester. When delinquent fees are paid the Registrar's Office will be notified and appropriate grade designations will be recorded. (Progression and/or graduation will not occur until "NP" is replaced by an appropriate grade.)
<b>NOTE: The School of Nursing does not honor grade replacement for required nursing courses.</b>		

## **INDEPENDENT / INDIVIDUAL STUDY COURSES**

A student may choose to complete elective course requirements by enrolling in an independent/individual study course. For independent/individual study courses, the student and faculty meet to define specific objectives and complete an Independent/Individual Study Agreement Form. Independent/Individual Study Agreement forms are available online at <http://nursing.ttuhschool.edu/forms/> and must be on file with the applicable Coordinator in the Student Affairs office and the Registrar PRIOR to registering for the course. For more information on Independent/Individual Study Courses, contact the appropriate academic advisor.

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE (LOA) and RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

### ***Undergraduate Students***

Under certain circumstances, the TTUHSC School of Nursing may grant permission for an undergraduate student to go on an official leave of absence. Such a leave may be granted only for personal or family emergency situations, military obligations, or professional development and is granted at the discretion of the appropriate Department Chair. A Leave of Absence will only be granted to an individual who is in good academic standing at the time of the request for the leave. A Leave of Absence will only be allowed for a period of two semesters. Failure to file a Leave of Absence Form and failure to re-enroll will result in the administrative dismissal from the program.

### **Leave of Absence Procedure**

- The student upon initial consideration of a leave of absence must contact their appropriate Student Affairs Program Coordinator to discuss the process to request said leave.
- If student decides to request a leave of absence, the student may obtain the Leave of Absence form (Attachment A) at <http://nursing.ttuhschool.edu/forms/>. It is

the responsibility of the student to obtain, complete and submit the form for approval.

- Upon completion of the form, the student is to submit the form to their Program Department Chair for their review. Student must discuss the request for a leave with their Department Chair. The decision to allow a Leave of Absence rest with the Department Chair.
- If approved, the Office of the Registrar will be informed via a SON Memorandum of the Leave of Absence (Attachment C) to close matriculation. The required signature on the Memorandum will be the dean and/or his representative and the Department Chair. A copy of the Leave of Absence form along with the Memorandum will be maintained in the student's file.
- A Leave of Absence will only be granted for a period of two semesters. Students who do not re-enroll in the semester following the declared expiration of the Leave of Absence will be administratively dismissed from the program.
- Failure to file a Leave of Absence Form and failure to re-enroll will result in the student being administratively dismissed from the program must seek readmission.

### ***Graduate Students***

Graduate students may request a Leave of Absence FOR UP TO ONE (1) YEAR. Students who do not re-enroll in the semester following the declared expiration of the Leave of Absence or for one year must seek readmission. Failure to file a Leave of Absence and failure to re-enroll will result in an institutionally initiated withdrawal. Failure to file a Return from Leave form will delay or prevent enrollment. Graduate students who do not enroll in the summer session do not need to file a Leave of Absence unless no courses are taken in the fall or spring. Leave of Absence Request forms and Return From Leave forms are available online at <http://nursing.ttuhschool.edu/forms/>.

## NCLEX RN EXAMINATION ELIGIBILITY

The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) has identified certain circumstances that may render a potential candidate ineligible for licensure as a registered nurse in the State of Texas. The Petition for Declaratory Order ([http://www.bne.state.tx.us/forms\\_declaratory\\_order.asp](http://www.bne.state.tx.us/forms_declaratory_order.asp)) is a formal disclosure to the BON of an outstanding eligibility issue and permits the BON to make decisions regarding a petitioner's eligibility for licensure prior to entering or completing a nursing program. The Petition should be completed as soon as possible. The review process can take a minimum of three (3) months but could be longer depending on the issue and volume of applications. Students who have obtained a Declaratory Order Petition must notify and inform the Department Chair of the outcome of the petition. If one of the following statements applies to you, a Petition for Declaratory Order must be completed.

- For any criminal offense, including those pending appeal, have you: 1) been convicted of a misdemeanor; 2) been convicted of a felony; 3) pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty; 4) received deferred adjudication; 5) been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty; 6) been sentenced to serve jail or prison time; court-ordered confinement; 7) been granted pre-trial diversion; 8) been arrested or have any pending criminal charges; 9) been cited or charged with any violation of the law; 10) been subject of a court-martial, Article 15 violation or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?
- Are you currently the target or subject of a grand jury or governmental agency investigation?
- Has any licensing authority ever refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, canceled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew a license, certificate or multi-state privilege held by you now or previously, or ever

fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you?

- Within the past five (5) years, have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug? (You may indicate "NO" if you have completed and/or are in compliance with Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses for substance abuse or mental illness.)
- Within the past five (5) years have you been diagnosed with, treated, or hospitalized for schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder?

(You may only exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations.)

**NOTE: Expunged and Sealed Offenses:** While expunged or sealed offenses, arrests, tickets, or citations need not be disclosed, the student has the responsibility to ensure the offense, arrest, ticket, or citation has, in fact, been expunged or sealed. The recommendation is submission of a copy of the court order expunging or sealing the record in question to the Texas Board of Nursing with your application. Failure to reveal an offense, arrest, ticket, or citation that is not in fact expunged or sealed, will at a minimum, subject your license to a disciplinary fine. Non-disclosure of relevant offenses raises questions related to truthfulness and character.

**NOTE: Orders of Non-Disclosure:** Pursuant to Texas Government Code § [552.142\(b\)](#), if you have criminal matters subject of an order of non-disclosure, you are not required to reveal those criminal matters on the declaratory order form. However, a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure may become a character and fitness issue. Pursuant to other sections of the Texas Government Code [Chapter 411](#), the Texas Board of Nursing is entitled to access criminal history record information that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure, even if

you properly did not reveal that matter, the Board may require you to provide information about any conduct that raises issues of character.

Statutes and Rules governing the Petition for Declaratory Order may be found in the Texas Occupations Code §§ [301.257](#), [301.452-304.454](#) (Nursing Practice Act), and in the Board Rules and Regulations relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §§ [213.27-30](#) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §§ [217.11-12](#). These statutes and rules can be located on the BON's website [www.bon.state.tx.us](http://www.bon.state.tx.us).

The Nurse Practice Act (<http://www.bon.texas.gov/nursinglaw/npa.html>) was amended during the 2005 Texas legislative session, adding Texas Occupations Code § [301.4535](#), to authorize the Board of Nursing to deny or revoke licensure to an individual for certain criminal offenses. Under the provision, the BON shall refuse or shall withdraw a license if the person has been convicted of an identified offense or has noted on his or her criminal record a plea of guilty or nolo contendere. The Texas Board of Nursing may consider eligibility for licensure of an applicant, who otherwise would be ineligible for licensure, after the fifth anniversary of the successful completion of and dismissal from probation or parole. The criminal offenses barring licensure, as defined by Texas Penal Code, include the following: murder; capital murder; reckless manslaughter; kidnapping, unlawful restraint, or unlawful transport of a person for payment and punishable as a felony; sexual assault; aggravated sexual assault; indecency with a child, an elderly or disabled person; perpetrator of family violence, an agreement to abduct a child; the sale or purchase of a child; robbery; aggravated robbery; an offense that requires the individual to register as a sexual offender; and convictions for similar crimes in a military tribunal.

### **NON-GRADE COMPLAINT or GRIEVANCE**

It is the policy of the Texas Tech University

Health Sciences Center School of Nursing to affirm the right of its students to a prompt and fair resolution of a complaint or grievance. The purpose of the Grievance Procedure for Non-grade Complaints is to establish a process for students to express and resolve misunderstandings, concerns or grievances that they have with any university employee or fellow student in a prompt, fair and equitable manner. Actions that may be grieved under this procedure include (but are not limited to unless otherwise excluded as defined below) unfair, inequitable or unprofessional treatment, improper application of school policy or procedure or improper disclosure of grades (i.e. FERPA violation). Although the procedure encourages the resolution of the concern informally, a formal grievance is available should the concern not be resolved informally. The formal grievance process constitutes a formal complaint being filed.

Actions that **MAY NOT** be grieved under this procedure include: 1) misconduct actions by another student in accordance with the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook*; 2) sexual harassment by an employee or student; 3) discrimination; and 4) American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance complaints. The above actions can be grieved through the TTUHSC Office of Student Services. Grade Disputes shall be grieved through the TTUHSC School of Nursing.

Non-Grade Complaint resolution procedures include both informal and formal processes. Students should use the formal complaint procedure only as a last resort. Prior to the informal process it may be helpful for the student to consult with the Associate Academic Dean for Student Affairs to clarify the issues involved.

### **Informal Process**

The goal of the informal process is to establish communication between the student and the appropriate faculty/staff member or student for the purpose of providing a forum where the student's questions or concerns can be addressed



and a satisfactory resolution developed.

Prior to filing a formal written grievance, students are encouraged to first address their complaint informally with the faculty, staff, or student involved. The parties involved in the non-grade grievance are encouraged to resolve the misunderstanding, concern, or grievance through discussion. If, after meeting with the faculty/staff or student involved in the grievance, the student remains unsatisfied, the next step in the informal process is for the student to discuss the issue with their department chair, regional dean, or the Associate Academic Dean for Student Affairs (AADESSA) as appropriate. If the issue is not resolved informally, the student has the right to meet with the AADESSA regarding the process for filing a formal grievance.

### **Formal Process**

To file a non-grade grievance, the student shall:

- File the complaint form (Attachment A), available at <http://nursing.ttuhschool.edu/forms/> within ten (10) business days from the date of the last meeting with the appropriate faculty, staff, or fellow student with the AADESSA. The student must include in the complaint form a written statement including any information regarding attempts at resolution, and basis for the allegation that was unfair and the expected remedy or outcome by filing the grievance.
- The AADESSA will submit the complaint form and any accompanying evidence to either the Department Chair (DC) responsible for the faculty member(s) or fellow student involved or the Associate Dean for Business and Finance (ADBF) for the staff member involved. The DC/ADBF shall notify all parties to the complaint and convene an informal meeting with the faculty/staff or fellow student and student filing the complaint separately and review all materials pertinent to the complaint. If two or more students are involved, the DC/ADBF may elect to meet

with the students either separately or jointly. The role of the DC/ADBF is to mediate the dispute. If the DC/ADBF is the faculty/staff member cited in the grievance, he/she should recuse himself/herself and the AADESSA shall mediate the facilitated discussions on the grievance.

- All parties to the complaint will be allowed to submit documentation to the appropriate supervisor. The DC/ADBF will conduct an investigation of the dispute and interview each of the parties to the dispute individually or may at his/her discretion conduct a joint meeting of the parties to mediate and resolve the dispute. No parties other than those involved in the complaint may participate or attend.
- The role of the DC/ADBF is to take evidence as described above, to listen to all parties, and make a final decision regarding the complaint. The DC/ADBF will have ten (10) business days to render a decision from the date of receipt of complaint form. Notification will be sent to the student filing the complaint as well as the faculty/staff member or fellow student via certified mail and/or via email. All substantive decisions of the DC/ADBF are final.

### **Appeal to the Dean**

The student filing the complaint may only appeal issues of procedural due process to the Dean of the School of Nursing. Within five (5) business days of the date of the decision of the DC/ADBF, the student filing the complaint must submit to the Associate Academic Dean for Student Affairs the form for procedural appeal (Attachment B). This form is located at <http://nursing.ttuhschool.edu/forms/>. The decision of the Dean will be sent to the student and faculty/staff or fellow student via certified mail and/or via email within five (5) business days of receipt of the appeal. The decision of the Dean is final.

All records will be retained in the Office of the

Associate Academic Dean for Student Affairs for three (3) years.

### **PASS – FAIL OPTION**

Students may not take any courses required for a degree in nursing as Pass-Fail. Courses previously taken as Pass-Fail will not be transferred for credit if the course is required for a School of Nursing degree.

### **PLACEMENT IN CLINICAL FACILITY**

Every effort will be made to place a student in a clinical facility convenient for the student in terms of location and range of clinical experiences. The decision for clinical placement rests with the faculty teaching in the clinical course. A student may be removed from a clinical setting at any time if the faculty teaching the course believes it is in the best interest of the student. All students are guests of the facility where clinical experiences occur. As such, students are required to adhere to all policies and procedures of the assigned facility.

### **PLACEMENT IN COURSE**

Students progressing through the program in a regular, uninterrupted sequence are assured space in the nursing courses. Limited resources may restrict the School of Nursing from assuring immediate placement in nursing courses to students whose progress through the curriculum has been interrupted.

### **READMISSION**

#### ***Undergraduate Programs***

#### **Traditional BSN Program**

Any student who has been dismissed or who withdrew for academic or disciplinary causes or as a result of a Complaint of Misconduct is ineligible for readmission to the Traditional BSN Program.

#### **Accelerated BSN Program: Second Degree BSN /Veteran to BSN**

All requests for readmission must be made no later than two (2) months prior to the first day of the semester in which readmission is requested. The Accelerated BSN Program Council

is responsible for overseeing all readmission requests via the Admissions and Progressions Committee. A student who left in good standing and seeking readmission shall complete and submit a readmission application showing the expected entry point to the appropriate Student Affairs Coordinator. The Coordinator will notify the chair of the Admissions and Progressions Committee of the request for readmission along with providing the most current transcript, and a summary of the circumstances of the student's withdrawal, if known.

A student who left with a record not in good standing for disciplinary causes must complete and submit a readmission application to the appropriate Student Affairs Coordinator along with a letter explaining the circumstances resulting in the withdrawal/dismissal and the plan to improve or correct performance if offered readmission. The appropriate Student Affairs Coordinator will forward the application, the letter, and any available academic records including the most recent transcript to the chair of the Admissions and Progressions Committee. The Admissions and Progressions Committee shall review all such requests and may take one of the following actions regarding readmission of a student: 1) eligible and admit, 2) eligible pending space availability in nursing courses and in sequence to date of action in relation to other readmission applicants, 3) not eligible. The Admissions and Progressions Committee may assign requirements to be met as a condition of enrollment, i.e. readmission on a part-time degree plan.

Veteran to BSN students who are unable to complete a semester due to having been called to active duty may be "readmitted and re-enrolled as a student without penalty or redetermination of admission eligibility within two years following release from the state or federal active military service. If student does not seek readmission within two years of active service, the student will be required to complete admissions process

to determine eligibility”. (See [SON Operating Policy 30.124](#)-Military Service for additional considerations)

### **RN to BSN Program**

All requests for readmission must be made no later than two (2) months prior to the first day of the semester in which readmission is requested. The RN to BSN Program Council is responsible for overseeing all requests for readmission via the Admissions and Progressions Committee. A student who left in good standing and seeking readmission shall complete and submit a readmission application showing the expected entry point to the appropriate Student Affairs Coordinator. The Coordinator will notify the chair of the Admissions and Progressions Committee of the request for readmission along with providing the most current transcript, and a summary of the circumstances of the student’s withdrawal, if known. A student who left with a record not in good standing for disciplinary causes must complete and submit a readmission application to the appropriate Student Affairs Coordinator along with a letter explaining the circumstances resulting in the withdrawal/ dismissal and the plan to improve or correct performance if offered readmission. The appropriate Student Affairs Coordinator will forward the application, the letter, and any available academic records including the most recent transcript to the chair of the Admissions and Progressions Committee. The Admissions and Progressions Committee review all such requests and may take one of the following actions regarding readmission of a student: 1) eligible and admit, 2) eligible pending space availability in nursing courses and in sequence to date of action in relation to other readmission applicants, 3) not eligible. The Admissions and Progressions Committee may assign requirements to be met as a condition of enrollment, i.e. readmission on a part-time degree plan.

### **Graduate Programs**

All requests for readmission must be made no

later than the application deadline listed in the School of Nursing Catalog for the semester in which readmission is requested. The Graduate Program Department Chairs and MSN and DNP Councils are responsible for overseeing all readmissions to the School of Nursing Graduate Programs. Readmission of a student dismissed or who withdrew for academic or disciplinary causes is also based upon the decision of the appropriate Department Chair and MSN or DNP Council.

A student seeking readmission must comply with the following:

- Submit a letter requesting readmission to the Graduate Program
- Meet all recommendations and requirements set forth by the appropriate Department Chair and MSN or DNP Council
- Complete online application and meet admission criteria for full admission

### **REGISTRATION**

Students register for courses via the WebRaider Portal on the days identified by the TTUHSC Registrar’s Office. Specific information on how to register is provided by the Academic Advisor, after student advisement.

### **SUSPENSION and RETENTION**

Students must meet school and program standards, refer to the [TTUHSC Operating Policy 77.05](#).

### **TEXTBOOKS**

Courses utilize information from various mediums, including textbooks. Specific textbooks may be required to be purchased by the student. Each semester, the required and optional texts are listed for each course on the following website: <http://nursing.ttuhs.edu/textbooks>. Students may purchase the texts through a vendor of the student’s choice.

### **UNSAFE STUDENT PRACTICES**

A student demonstrating any unsafe practices as outlined below may be subject to disciplinary

actions dependent upon the severity of the unsafe practice, including but not limited to, the following: verbal warning, written warning, formal reprimand, failure, and/or dismissal. Every effort will be made to use progressive discipline; however, at the discretion of the faculty member, a student can be failed at any time during the semester for an unsafe practice as defined below.

- Violates or threatens the physical, psychological, microbiological, chemical, pharmacological or thermal safety of the patient.
- Violates previously mastered principles/ learning objectives in carrying out nursing care skills or delegated medical functions.
- Accepts assignments beyond knowledge, education, experience or competence.
- Fails to recognize or accept legal/ethical responsibility for actions as defined in the Nursing Practice Act for the State of Texas or the Code for Nurses of the American Nurses Association.
- Fails to carry out CDC Standard Precautions.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### **ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) affords certain rights to students concerning their educational records. FERPA grants students the right to inspect and review their educational records (with exceptions), to request the records be amended, to have limited control over the disclosure of information contained in their records, and to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures of the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook* shall serve as the annual notification that must be provided to students under FERPA, 34 C.R.F. 99.7, unless individual TTUHSC schools annually notify their students of FERPA rights otherwise.

### **AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

TTUHSC complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and state and local requirements regarding students with disabilities. Under these laws, no otherwise qualified and competitive individual with a disability shall be denied access to or participation in services, programs and activities of TTUHSC solely on the basis of the disability.

Students with grievances related to discrimination on the basis of a disability may contact the ADA Compliance Officer for Students in the Office of Student Services. Any student seeking remedy on the basis of disability must register as a disabled student with the ADA Compliance Office for Students and must provide all required documentation of disability.

### **Documentation Criteria Physical, Sensory, or Health-Related Disabilities**

Documentation in the form of an evaluation

performed by a qualified professional (such as a licensed physician or audiologist) should be provided to the ADA Compliance Officer for Students. Documentation of physical, sensory, or health-related disabilities (including, but not limited to, orthopedic, hearing, visual, systematic, or chronic illnesses) should include:

- A diagnosis of the specific disability (including prognosis if appropriate); and
- An indication of the severity and manner in which the disability limits the student's activity, particularly as it relates to University life; and
- Recommendations for reasonable academic accommodations to equalize the student's opportunities at a post-secondary level.
- Please allow at least **15 University working days** for process of application after all documents have been received by the Office of Student Services.

Students seeking accommodation on the basis of disability **MUST** register with the office of TTUHSC Student Services at <http://www.ttuhs.edu/student-services/ada/default.aspx>.

### **CAREER SERVICES CENTER**

The School of Nursing Career Services Center (CSC) provides programs and services designed to empower students and alumni to actively explore, pursue and implement career and education decisions. Through collaborative partnerships with academic departments and employers the CSC provides the most current and innovative career resources and information.

Examples of Services provided:

- Resume and cover letter development and review services
- Hospital information sessions and career fairs
- Interview preparation, including mock interviews
- Career development sessions, including



- interview attire
- National job search database allows you to apply online

The CSC office is physically located on the Lubbock Campus in room 2C200 and is also available by phone and web cam upon request. Contact the CSC at [SONCareer@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:SONCareer@ttuhsc.edu) or 1-800-493-3954 with questions or suggestions or visit our website at <http://www.ttuhsc.edu/son/career/>.

### **CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Address(s) / Telephone Number(s) / Name**

Students are required to:

- Maintain a current address(s) (i.e. permanent, local, billing, etc.) and telephone number(s) in the TTUHSC WebRaider Portal at <https://webraider.ttuhsc.edu>.
- Notify appropriate Student Affairs Coordinator via email of changes made to WebRaider Portal.
- Contact the TTUHSC Registrar's office at (806) 743-2300 for name change form to be completed and submitted with required documentation.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY/HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996 (HIPAA)**

The School of Nursing is dedicated to ensuring each student is current in issues as they relate to nursing practice and research. One such regulation includes the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Annually, each student is required to provide proof of education in HIPAA training. The training requirements vary by the curriculum; the student will receive information regarding HIPAA training and will be asked to sign a Confidentiality Agreement during New Student Orientation (both face to face and virtual). All proof of training will be placed in the student's advising file located in the Office of Student Affairs. Those who cannot show proof will not be allowed to attend clinical. In addition, release of confidential information

(including verbal communications, written communications, or electronic communications with or about patients or involving patient health information to anyone who does not need the information for treatment, payment, or health care operation) is a cause for dismissal from the School.

### **COUNSELING SERVICES**

As in all professional health fields, if stress is not dealt with effectively, it can interfere with optimal academic performance. For a student experiencing excessive stress, the SON highly recommends self-referral for counseling. The following are the counseling options available for all School of Nursing students.

**Program of Assistance for Students (PAS)** is a professional, confidential, no cost counseling service for students and family members living in their households. Five sessions (per household) per academic year are available from licensed counselors who can provide assistance for a variety of problems related to daily living, including: family and relationship problems, depression, alcohol and drug abuse, anxiety, and stress. No information is released to anyone in the SON and use of the program does not become part of a student's record. The brochure for PAS may be downloaded [here](#).

- **Abilene students** have two options for counseling services: Life Renovations (325) 672-7055 or Dr. Marc Orner, (325) 690-1313.
- **Amarillo students** should contact the Professional Counseling Center at (806) 356-0404.
- **Austin students** should contact the Samaritan Center for Counseling at (512) 451-7337, then "0".
- **Dallas students** should contact the Pastoral Counseling Center at (214) 526-4525.

- **Lubbock students** have two options for counseling services: the Student Counseling Center (SCC) or the Program of Assistance for Students (PAS). For information on the SCC go to the website <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/scc/>. Contact (806) 743-1327 or 1-800-327-0328 for PAS. Detailed information regarding PAS counseling is available [here](#).
- **Permian Basin students** should contact the Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas, (432) 563-4144.
- **San Antonio area students** should contact the Institute for Couple and Family Enhancement, (210) 602-1898.
- **Off-campus distance education students** who want to receive counseling services should contact the Lubbock office of the Program of Assistance for Students at (800) 327-0328 or (806) 743-1327 to inquire about the availability of area counseling services.

A **24-hour crisis/help line** is available to all SON students and members of their household through the Program of Assistance for Students at (800) 327-0328.

- **Tobacco Intervention Program for Lubbock students** – Services are provided by Substance Abuse Professionals in the Southwest Institute for Addictive Disease (SWIAD) <http://www.ttuhsoc.edu/centers/swiad/behavioralhealth/tip/>.

### **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS**

A Criminal Background Check (CBC) must be completed prior to enrollment at TTUHSC School of Nursing in compliance with [TTUHSC OP 10.20](#) and [SON OP 60.081](#). Each student is responsible for the cost of his/her CBC and any additional fees.

All applicants, once offered provisional admission, must complete a criminal background check

prior to the first day of class. Those who do not complete a criminal background check are ineligible for progress in the nursing program. The TTUHSC SON utilized the Texas Board of Nursing criminal background check process for all pre-licensure students. For RN-BSN, MSN and DNP students, the students will be required to use the institutionally approved vendor to process these background checks. Only those individuals with a BON Blue Card, a BON Declaratory Order with No Stipulations and approval from the Associate Dean of Student Affairs will be allowed to matriculate into the program.

In accordance with [TTUHSC OP 10.20](#), students in the School of Nursing shall self-disclose relevant criminal history record information no later than five (5) business days following the charge of a crime. Failure to self-disclose may result in dismissal or withdrawal of acceptance from the university.

Additional background checks are required after a break in enrollment in accordance with [TTUHSC OP 10.20](#).

If an applicant believes the record is in error and gives written notification to the School of his/her intent to challenge the report, matriculation will be put on hold pending the outcome of the challenge. Should the applicant fail to notify the School of his/her intent to challenge or it is determined that the record is accurate at the conclusion of a vendor challenge by an applicant; the admission offer will be withdrawn.

### **DIVERSITY and INCLUSION**

The TTUHSC School of Nursing promotes, supports and embraces diversity amongst our students, faculty and staff as a foundational tenant to accomplishing the vision and mission of the School of Nursing. Therefore, the TTUHSC SON affirms and aligns with the TTUHSC Diversity Statement:

The core foundational value of including the

diverse cultures, lifestyles, personal beliefs and ideas of all those we serve - and serve alongside - provides a positive impact on the health of our regional, national, and global societies. As we pursue excellence in healthcare education, research, and patient care, we will be ever mindful of the strength that is gained through unity in diversity.

### **DRUG FREE SCHOOLS and COMMUNITIES ACT**

The unlawful possession, use or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs on any institutional property or at any of its activities is prohibited. Refer to the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook*. Information on assistance programs may also be obtained from the TTUHSC Student Services Office or the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (RNs & LVNs).

### **EMPLOYMENT**

The decision to work while enrolled as a student in the School of Nursing rests with the individual student; the school assumes no responsibility for student employment. Students should check with their enrolled program to determine if employment is discouraged.

A student employed in a healthcare agency has the responsibility, personally and professionally, to accept and engage in only activities falling within the position description for which qualified. Students employed as nurse assistants or nurse technicians should not practice outside the scope of such position set forth under the Nursing Practice Act. Students currently licensed as registered nurses assume the responsibility for clinical practice under their own professional license issued by the applicable Board of Nursing.

All students should be thoroughly familiar with the [Texas Administrative Code Title 22](#) Part II, Texas Board of Nursing – Rules §224 (Delegation of Nursing Tasks by Registered Professional Nurses to Unlicensed Personnel for Clients with Acute Conditions or in Acute Care Environments)

and §225 (RN Delegation to Unlicensed Personnel and Tasks Not Requiring Delegation in Independent Living Environments for Clients with Stable and Predictable Conditions). Texas Administrative Code Title 22: This information is accessible on the Texas Board of Nursing website at <http://www.bon.state.tx.us/>.

### **FACULTY OFFICE HOURS**

Faculty members maintain a schedule of office hours each semester. These hours are posted for students' convenience. Appointments should be made if posted office hours are inconvenient. Some faculty may choose to have virtual office hours via the Internet or to be available by scheduled appointment.

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Contact TTUHSC Financial Aid Office at (806) 743-3025 or [www.ttuhs.edu/financialaid](http://www.ttuhs.edu/financialaid).

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Students are required by TTUHSC to pay a Medical Service Fee each semester. With this fee, access to healthcare is available at no charge for minimal or limited minor problems. Access to healthcare is through a TTUHSC clinic or a regional contracted provider (when available) for distance students. This fee is waived only for distance students.

TTUHSC and the School of Nursing **strongly recommends** each student maintain health insurance to cover major medical, emergency care, specialty care, and pharmacy services. Students should note many of the facilities where students receive clinical training **require** each student to be covered by health insurance. Hospital or clinic personnel may ask for proof of coverage at any time. Students may be denied access to clinical experience, at the discretion of the facility, if not covered by health insurance.

TTUHSC provides students the opportunity to purchase health insurance. Students may contact the TTUHSC Office of Student Services, Room

2C400 or (806) 743-2300 for more information. The TTUHSC Office of Student Services can provide information on several insurance resources for students or visit [www.ttuhs.edu/studentservices/studenthealth.aspx](http://www.ttuhs.edu/studentservices/studenthealth.aspx) for further information.

### **HEALTH SERVICES FOR TTUHSC STUDENTS**

Medical services for TTUHSC students are available at the Lubbock, Odessa, and Abilene campus. Refer to the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook* online at [www.ttuhs.edu/studentservices/](http://www.ttuhs.edu/studentservices/).

### **INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTING and INVESTIGATION**

Students are required to adhere to TTUHSC OP 75.14. Non-Employee Incident/Injury Procedures and Reporting. The purpose of this Health Sciences Center Operating Policy and Procedure (TTUHSC OP) is to establish procedures for responding to and documenting incidents involving and/or injuries incurred by persons on TTUHSC property including, but not limited to, visitors, patients, volunteers, and students in non-clinical areas.

### **INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

In accordance with the [TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook](#), all TTUHSC students, regardless of school affiliation, will be required to complete a non-credit, online course in interprofessional education. Implementation of this requirement will vary across schools and degree programs.

### **LEGAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**

The purpose of the TTU Student Legal Services is to provide currently enrolled students with confidential legal advice, counsel, and limited representation about personal legal matters. The office aids students in acquiring the skills to cope with common legal matters. Service is limited to advice and the preparation of simple documents. If courtroom representation is necessary, a referral

service to members of the Lubbock County Bar Association is available. <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/sls/>

Any student currently enrolled at TTUHSC who has paid the student services fee is eligible to receive these services at no additional charge. Appointments are recommended, but not required. Telephone consultations will be given in appropriate situations at (806) 742-3289. Contact the TTUHSC Student Services Office at (806) 743-2300 for additional information or an appointment. Legal services for distance education students are not covered by the usual distance education fees.

### **LIBRARY**

The [TTUHSC Libraries of the Health Sciences](#) provide facilities and learning/information resources with three physical sites in Lubbock, Amarillo, and Odessa. The TTUHSC Library system collections presently contain more than 275,563 bound volumes, of which over 219,397 are located in Lubbock and Odessa. Over 69,297 electronic books are also available. The system has 209 print journal subscriptions and approximately 27,129 electronic journals available at all TTUHSC sites. Over 14,610 audiovisuals are also available system-wide. The libraries feature study carrels, interlibrary loan and photocopy services, reference services, and Internet access/connectivity.

The TTUHSC Library's provide electronic access to more than 574 databases including but not limited to: MEDLINE, PubMed, CINAHL Plus with Full Text, Nursing Reference Center, Anatomy.tv, Health and Psychosocial Instruments, LEXICOMP, MICROMEDEX, PsycINFO, MedlinePlus, EXAM MASTER online (NCLEX-RN), Web of Knowledge, Scopus, ERIC, OVID full-text, Cochrane Databases, ClinicalKey, Science Direct ejournals, as well as general and academic TexShare databases. To meet the needs of all TTUHSC users including distance education, the TTUHSC Libraries provide

around-the-clock, seven-days-a week access to several electronic library resources and services. All electronic holdings of the library are available for users through the use of the e-raider account.

Bibliographic tools such as RefWorks and Endnote, full-text electronic journals, and a full array of electronic books are also accessible. Off-site access to licensed electronic resources is available via a proxy server to all TTUHSC faculty, staff, and students. The libraries of the TTUHSC system have a common online catalog for access to holdings at all TTUHSC libraries.

- Preston Smith Library of the Health Sciences, a 50,000 square foot facility on the Lubbock campus, features 30 group study rooms and one computer classroom with 36 computers in the Learning Resource Center (LRC).
- Harrington Library of the Health Sciences in Amarillo, has two computer areas with thirteen stations, 106 seats and three study rooms.
- Library of the Health Sciences in Odessa, has 63 study seats, three study rooms and one computer classroom with 18 work stations.

### **LOCKER INFORMATION (LUBBOCK CAMPUS)**

Lockers are located on the first floor of the Academic Classroom Building for student use. If a student is interested in a locker, please contact Classroom Support (office located on the second floor of the Academic Classroom Building). Locker assignments are made on a first-come first-served basis. All lockers must be cleaned out at the end of each semester. TTUHSC is not responsible for items left in lockers.

### **MEDIA AUTHORIZATION and RELEASE**

The TTUHSC policy ([TTUHSC OP 52.15](#)) applies to all TTUHSC Schools, educational and other activities, and areas owned, operated and/or provided by TTUHSC. It does NOT apply to uses of Images(s) or information for patient treatment or payment purposes (as defined under HIPAA).

Definition of Image(s): Likeness or image(s) including, but not limited to photographs, videotaped images, audio recordings, and digital or other images of any kind or nature.

During new student orientation for each academic program, students are asked to sign a media authorization and release form. The signing of this form allows the School to use the student's name and photographic image in School promotional materials in all forms of media including, but not limited to press, radio, television, internet websites, and printed mediums. The signing of the release is voluntary. A student may indicate on the release that they do not wish the School to use their name and/or photographic image in the School's promotional materials. The media authorization and release form is kept in the student's file for each program.



## ONLINE ACCESS

Accessing the School of Nursing web sites is a requirement for all School of Nursing programs. Access to email, class schedules, course syllabi, and other essential school and health related links is necessary to proceed through the School of Nursing.	
Helpful Internet Addresses	Information found at site
<a href="http://www.ttuhs.edu">http://www.ttuhs.edu</a>	TTUHSC main website, access to all TTUHSC programs, schools, announcement page, etc..
<a href="http://www.ttuhs.edu/son">http://www.ttuhs.edu/son</a>	SCHOOL OF NURSING main website, access to all SON information.
<a href="http://www.ttuhs.edu/son/current/">http://www.ttuhs.edu/son/current/</a>	Current Student Resources for Nursing Students
<a href="http://www.nursecredentialing.org/">http://www.nursecredentialing.org/</a>	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC )
<a href="http://www.nursingworld.org">http://www.nursingworld.org</a>	American Nurses Association (ANA)
<a href="http://www.bon.state.tx.us/">http://www.bon.state.tx.us/</a>	Texas Board of Nursing
<a href="https://www.ncsbn.org/contactbon.htm">https://www.ncsbn.org/contactbon.htm</a>	Contact a Board of Nursing outside Texas

### PARKING / VEHICLE REGISTRATION

All motor vehicles (including motorcycles, etc.) operated on or parked on the campus at any time must be registered at the Traffic and Parking Office, <https://www.fiscal.ttuhs.edu/parking/>. Compliance with the regulations set forth in Campus Traffic and Parking Regulations is required. A pamphlet describing these regulations is available from the Traffic and Parking Office.

### PROFESSIONAL and ACADEMIC CONDUCT

TTUHSC has a responsibility to maintain order within the University community and to discipline any person or people violating the standards, rules and/or policies. Enrollment requires students to share the responsibility. Students agree to abide by the standards, rules and/or policies set forth in the [TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook](#), the TTUHSC Operating Policies and Procedures (<http://www.ttuhs.edu/hsc/op/>), *School of Nursing Catalog*, and *School of Nursing Student Handbook*, as well as any other official University publications.

### REFERENCE LETTERS /RECOMMENDATION FORMS

Professional reference letters can be requested from individual faculty members. Such requests should be submitted in writing directly to the faculty member along with a resume/CV for faculty referral; at least two weeks' notice should be given. Reference letters are not maintained by the School of Nursing. Reference letters requested after graduation should be requested in the same manner. Letter of Recommendation for Students form is located under <http://nursing.ttuhs.edu/forms/>.

### REGISTRATION OF CONVICTED SEX OFFENDERS

[Chapter 62, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure](#), requires that all sex offenders register with local law enforcement authorities. As a result, all sex offenders who intend to be students or attend classes on or at any campus of the Texas Tech University System are required to register (or verify registration) with the campus police department in accordance with article 62.153

of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure no later than seven (7) days of beginning school. In addition, all such sex offenders who intend to volunteer, work or carry on a vocation (including full-time or part-time employees and employees of outside contractors) on any campus of Texas Tech University System for a consecutive period exceeding fourteen (14) days or for an aggregate period exceeding thirty (30) days in a calendar year are required to register with the campus police department within seven (7) days of beginning work on any campus of Texas Tech University System.

In addition, all such sex offenders are required to notify campus police no later than seven (7) days of terminating attendance or work on any campus of Texas Tech University System. Failure to register, as required, may subject such individuals to criminal penalties. Questions about the policy should be addressed to the Texas Tech University Police Department, 413 Flint Avenue, Lubbock, TX, 79409, (806) 742-3931 or email [Police@ttu.edu](mailto:Police@ttu.edu).

### **RELOCATION (Moving) TO A STATE OTHER THAN THE STATE OF TEXAS**

In order for TTUHSC School of Nursing to offer online courses and/or to supervise clinical experiences in a state other than Texas, TTUHSC must comply with the other state's requirements. The requirements differ from state to state. Notification prior to relocating to another state is mandatory for all graduate on-line students, regardless of track, in order to ensure TTUHSC has authority to provide online education and/or clinical experiences in the other state.

Students are required to contact the MSN Student Affairs Coordinator via TTUHSC email providing such notification at a minimum of 60 days prior to the proposed move. Upon receipt of notification the student will be contacted, either by phone or email, as to whether the proposed state is an approved state for TTUHSC to deliver online education and/or to supervise clinical

experiences.

TTUHSC School of Nursing cannot guarantee the student's continuation in the program if the student moves to a state where TTUHSC has no authorization to provide educational services. Please reference the following link to identify states which the TTUHSC has attained authorization [http://www.ttuhschool.edu/son/sao/state\\_authorization.aspx](http://www.ttuhschool.edu/son/sao/state_authorization.aspx).

### **RESEARCH**

Research proposals requiring access to the School of Nursing student population must be made to the School of Nursing Faculty Council and the [Institutional Review Board \(IRB\)](#) for approval prior to conducting research. Potential investigators must meet TTUHSC IRB mandated training requirements prior to submitting proposals to the IRB.

### **SAFE HARBOR**

Safe Harbor (SHPR) in accordance to Texas Board of Nursing Nurse Practice Act{[NPR§[303.005\(b\) and \(e\)](#)]; [Texas Administrative Code Rule [217.19\(a\) \(15\)](#) and Texas Administrative Code Rule [217.20 \(a\)\(15\)](#)]}, may be initiated by a RN prior to accepting an assignment or engaging in requested conduct that the nurse believes would place patients at risk of harm, thus potentially causing the nurse to violate his/her duty to the patient(s). Invoking safe harbor in accordance with rule [217.20](#) protects the nurse from licensure action by the BON as well as from retaliatory action by the employer. In the event during a clinical placement, a nurse assigned to a student(s) invokes Safe Harbor, that student is to immediately notify the faculty.

### **SAFETY**

Exercise caution when traveling to and from cars, buildings, clinical sites, etc. Follow all safety instructions given by faculty members, listed in course syllabi, and contained in the [TTUHSC Safety Handbook](#) as well as those in clinical facility safety materials. Information regarding

TTUHSC Safety Services can be found at [www.ttuhs.edu/admin/safety](http://www.ttuhs.edu/admin/safety). New Student Safety Orientation information is located at [www.ttuhs.edu/admin/safety/student](http://www.ttuhs.edu/admin/safety/student). Students may login to this site to complete STEPS (Safety Training Education Program for Students) and/or Laboratory Safety Essentials training.

### **SAKAI (aka “The Hub”)**

SAKAI is a web-based Collaboration Learning Environment (CLE) application used for online course delivery. It is a full-featured system supporting technology-enabled teaching, learning, research and collaboration. School of Nursing instructors and staff utilize SAKAI tools to organize and provide course materials, assignments, exams and quizzes. SAKAI communication tools are also used to deploy and coordinate activities, course announcements, messages, wikis, chat rooms and discussions forums.

### **SEMESTER HOURS**

The semester hour is the unit of measure for credit purposes. Didactic contact hours are measured on a one-to-one basis; clinical contact hours on a one-to-three basis or as designated in the School of Nursing *Catalog* for the specific program. Approximately two hours in preparation for each hour of didactic class and an appropriate amount of time for preparation for clinical activities are expected.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Sexual Harassment is prohibited under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. SEXUAL HARASSMENT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

The School of Nursing considers sexual harassment in all forms to be a serious offense subject to a range of actions up to and including suspension or dismissal. Sexual harassment is a violation of TTUHSC [OP 51.02](#) and [OP 51.03](#). Refer to the [TTUHSC Institutional Student](#)

[Handbook](#) and the Title IX website located at <http://www.ttuhs.edu/hr/Title9-Home.aspx>. Sexual harassment education is required for all students and is completed at the time of orientation. Contact the appropriate departmental office for further educational information and opportunities.

### **SIMULATION**

The simulation centers located at the various campuses provide unique learning environments. These realistic environments support experiential learning activities promoting the development and maintenance of intra-professional and interprofessional competencies. Faculty and students from the School of Nursing, School of Medicine, School of Allied Health Sciences, School of Pharmacy, and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences are engaged in simulation-based activities supported by these centers.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA / PERSONAL WEB SITES and WEB LOGS**

#### **Guidelines for Students**

TTUHSC School of Nursing recognizes social media sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, etc., and personal Web sites, Web logs, or blogs, can be effective tools for exchanging information. The School of Nursing does not prohibit students from joining and participating in online communities as individuals. However, any online behavior violating the *TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook* brought to the attention of school officials will be treated as any other violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Please contact the Associate Academic Dean of Student Affairs for questions regarding the interpretation of the “Student Code of Conduct.” In addition please reference TTUHSC [OP 67.03](#) Use of Social Media. The policy discusses professional expectations as well as best practices while a student at the School of Nursing.

### **STANDARD PRECAUTIONS**

Students are responsible for adhering to standard precautions as governed by the Center for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC). Information on the CDC standard precautions is disseminated to the students during new student orientation. Students have the responsibility to maintain compliance with the recommendations during all clinical settings. Refer to the CDC Standard Precautions at <http://www.cdc.gov/>.

**During orientation to the School of Nursing, time is allowed for the following:**

- Presentation and discussion of the CDC's Recommended Standard Precautions and
- An in-depth review of the School of Nursing's policies dealing with communicable diseases.
  - Students will not be allowed into the clinical area until they have signed the Consent for Adherence to the CDC's Recommended Standard Precautions. This consent form will be placed in the student's file in the Office of Student Affairs.

Because the potential diseases in a patient's blood and body fluids cannot be known, blood, body fluid, and substance precautions recommended by the CDC should be adhered to for all patients and for all specimens submitted to the laboratory. These precautions, called "standard precautions", should be followed regardless of any lack of evidence of the patient's infection status. Routinely use barrier protection to prevent skin and mucous membrane contamination with:

- Secretions and excretions, except sweat, regardless of whether or not they contain visible blood
- Body fluids of all patients and specimens
- Non intact skin
- Mucous membranes.

***Environmental Control***

Follow the clinical agency's procedures for the routine care, cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces, beds, bed rails, bedside equipment, and other frequently touched surfaces.

***Gloves***

Wear gloves (clean nonsterile gloves are adequate) when touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, and contaminated items. Put on clean gloves just before touching mucous membranes and non-intact skin. Change gloves between tasks and procedures on the same patient after contact with material with a possibility of containing a high concentration of microorganisms. Remove gloves promptly after use, before touching non-contaminated items and environmental surfaces and before going to another patient. Wash hands immediately to avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients or environments.

***Gown***

Wear a gown (a clean nonsterile gown is adequate) to protect skin and prevent soiling of clothing during procedures and patient care activities (splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions or cause soiling of clothing) are possible. Select a gown appropriate for the activity and amount of fluid likely to be encountered. Remove a soiled gown as promptly as possible and wash hands to avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients or environments.

***Hand Hygiene***

- Wash hands after touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, and contaminated items, whether or not gloves are worn. Wash hands before touching a patient, even if gloves will be worn. Wash hands immediately after gloves are removed, between patient contacts, and when otherwise indicated to avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients or environments. Washing hands between tasks and procedures on the same patient may be necessary to prevent cross contamination of different body sites.
- Use plain (non-antimicrobial) soap for routine hand washing.
- Use an antimicrobial agent or waterless antiseptic agent for specific circumstances (e.g., control of outbreaks or hyper endemic

infections) as defined by the infection control program.

### ***Linen***

Handle, transport, and process used linen soiled with blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions in a manner preventing skin and mucous membrane exposures and contamination of clothing and avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients and environments.

### ***Mask, Eye Protection, and Face Shield***

Wear a mask, eye protection, and face shield to protect mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth during procedures and patient care activities (splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions) are possible.

### ***Occupational Health and Blood-borne Pathogens***

- Take care to prevent injuries when using needles, scalpels, and other sharp instruments or devices; when handling sharp instruments after procedures; when cleaning used instruments; and when disposing of used needles. Never recap used needles or otherwise manipulate the needle with both hands and any other technique that involves directing the point of a needle toward any part of the body; rather, use either a one-handed scoop technique or a mechanical device designed for holding the needle sheath. Do not remove used needles from disposable syringes by hand and do not bend, break, or otherwise manipulate used needles by hand. Place used disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp items in appropriate puncture-resistant containers located as close as practical to the area where the items were used. Place reusable syringes and needles in a puncture-resistant container for transport to the reprocessing area.
- Use mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices as an alternative to mouth-to-mouth resuscitation methods in areas where the need for resuscitation is predictable.

### ***Patient Care Equipment***

Handle used patient care equipment soiled with blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposures, contamination of clothing and transfer of microorganisms to other patients and environments. Ensure reusable equipment is not used for the care of another patient until appropriately cleaned and reprocessed and single use items are properly discarded.

### ***Patient Placement***

Place a patient contaminating the environment or who does not (or cannot be expected to) assist in maintaining appropriate hygiene or environmental control in a private room. If a private room is not available, consult with infection control professionals regarding patient placement or other alternatives. Additional information is on reserve in the Preston Smith Library Teach/Learning Center for clinical courses.

### **STATE PRIVACY POLICY**

When TTUHSC “collects information about an individual by means of a form the individual completes and files with the governmental body in either a paper format or an electronic format”, the paper forms or the Internet site used in connection with the electronic form must state:

- With few exceptions, the individual is entitled on request to be informed about the information the state governmental body collects about the individual;
- The individual is entitled to receive and review the information;
- The individual is entitled to have the state governmental body correct information about the individual that is incorrect.

If TTUHSC collects information about a website user on its Internet site, including the identity and computer network location, TTUHSC must post what types of information collected about the website user on the Internet site. Finally, TTUHSC must establish a reasonable procedure



to correct information about an individual.

### **STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCILS FOR BOTH UNDERGRADUATE and GRADUATE DEPARTMENTS**

For purposes of promoting the TTUHSC School of Nursing, four student advisory councils exist to maintain open communication between students and administration/faculty/staff: the Undergraduate Department Advisory Council, the Non-Traditional Electronic Advisory Forums, the Graduate Department Chairs' Advisory Council and the DNP Student Advisory Council. Through the Department Advisory Councils, student representatives advise the administration on ways to improve the educational process while enrolled in the School of Nursing. Student representatives volunteer or are selected by the Department Chairs/Associate Deans to serve on the Department Advisory Councils and are expected to represent their fellow students by bringing forth issues of importance to be addressed by the Council.

### **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

The mission of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing Student Affairs Office is to assist students, across all service regions, in successfully accomplishing their academic goals. The Student Affairs Office serves as the central “hub” for current and prospective students by providing timely and accurate information, quality customer service, personal guidance and advocacy. A student-centered philosophy confirms our commitment to student learning and development; creates focus and meaning in our work and is the driving force of the Student Affairs Office.

The Student Affairs Office takes an active role in building a supportive and respectful community across all campuses and the online classroom. Programs and services are designed, in collaboration with School of Nursing faculty members, to contribute to student development and support academic achievement. Examples

include advising, co-curricular activities promoting education, social and cultural opportunities and community engagement. To ensure highly skilled Student Affairs Coordinators serve our nursing students, continuing education activities like Green Zone and Ally trainings are provided to them. In addition, Coordinators attend presentations focusing on student development and current topics in Student Affairs. These presentations are made available by experts in Higher Education. The Student Affairs Office is dedicated to the growth and development of all students in the School of Nursing. For more information on the School of Nursing Office of Student Affairs, please visit their website at <http://www.ttuhsc.edu/son/sao/>

### **STUDENT TRAVEL POLICY**

Students are required to adhere to the TTUHSC Student Travel Policy in the [TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook](#), Part IX, Student Travel Policy. [TTUHSC OP 77.08](#) regulates any travel undertaken by one or more students presently enrolled at TTUHSC to an activity or event located more than 25 miles from the campus of TTUHSC or traveling abroad.

### **TOBACCO FREE ENVIRONMENT**

The TTUHSC is committed to the health of our students, patients, faculty, staff, and the public in general. As an institution whose mission is to provide excellence in health care education and service, TTUHSC campuses, both indoors and outdoors are smoke-free. Violations will be treated seriously and violators will be subject to disciplinary action as prescribed by existing operating and Board of Regents policies. Refer to the TTUHSC OP 10.19 in the [TTUHSC Institutional Student Handbook](#), Part I, B Tobacco Free Environment.

### **TRANSCRIPTS**

Copies of official transcripts may be obtained by written request at no charge from the TTUHSC Registrar's Office, 3601 4th Street, STOP 8310, Lubbock, Texas 79430, Room 2C400 or by faxing

request to (806) 743-3027. The transcript request form may be found on the Registrar's webpage at <http://www.ttuhs.edu/registrar/>. The written request must contain the following information: student's full legal name, name while enrolled, social security number, current mailing address, current phone number, school attended/enrolled, address(es) to send transcripts, number of copies requested, and signature.

### **TRANSFER BETWEEN CAMPUSES**

Transfer requests from one campus to another are granted based on space availability. [SON OP 30.205](#), Transfer Between Campuses is only applicable to students in the Traditional BSN Undergraduate Program and Accelerated BSN Program who are in good standing.

### **WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL OF NURSING**

#### ***Undergraduate Nursing Students***

Withdrawal from all courses or non-registration/non-enrollment during any semester constitutes withdrawal from the School of Nursing unless a Leave of Absence form has been filed. (See Leave of Absence section of *Handbook*). A student **MUST** file a "Leave of Absence" (LOA) form if the intention of the student is to **NOT** officially withdraw from the School of Nursing. Lack of enrollment in a course without a LOA form constitutes withdrawal from the School of Nursing. If a LOA form is not filed, students are required to file the "Official TTUHSC Withdrawal" form. Withdrawal from the program does not affect the policy regarding incomplete ("I") grades. Grades of "I" at the time of withdrawal will automatically convert to an "F" if not resolved in the originally stated time frame. Contact must be made with the applicable Undergraduate Coordinator and the appropriate Department Chair/Associate Dean for completion of required documentation.

#### ***Graduate Nursing Students***

Withdrawal from all courses or non-registration/non-enrollment during a fall or spring semester

constitutes withdrawal from the School of Nursing. A student not planning to register for any courses in the next fall, spring, or summer semester is expected to withdraw from the program or take a leave of absence (See Leave of Absence section of *Handbook*) Students withdrawing from a graduate program are required to go through the full application process to return to the School of Nursing. Withdrawal for students enrolled in the School of Nursing is processed through the TTUHSC Registrar's Office.

- After talking with the applicable advisor and making the decision to withdraw, the student accesses the School of Nursing withdrawal form from the School of Nursing website: <http://nursing.ttuhs.edu/forms/>
- Student completes and signs the form and submits the withdrawal form to the applicable School of Nursing Student Affairs Office. Attention: Graduate Program Coordinator at 3601 4th Street, STOP 6264, Lubbock, TX 79430 or fax to (855) 282-5826 for MSN/Post-Master's and (855) 285-4063 for DNP.
- The staff in the applicable program office processes the form by having it signed by the appropriate Department Chair and/or Program Director and submitting the form to the TTUHSC Registrar's Office.
- In the event the student withdraws during a current semester of enrollment, the grade of "W" or "WF" are recorded in keeping with the Grading Practices Policy based on the student's standing on the last day of enrollment in each enrolled course.

Withdrawing from the program does not affect the policy regarding incomplete ("I") grades. Grades of "I" at the time of withdrawal will automatically convert to an "F" if not resolved in the originally stated time frame, (one year). Contact must be made with the Graduate Coordinator and the appropriate Department Chair and/or Program Director office for completion of required documentation.