

**Doctor of Nursing Practice
Program Handbook**

2026-2027



**West Virginia University
School of Nursing
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The WVU Graduate Catalog is the official reference for all program and course information.

The website is catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/

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Handbook and Policy Change Disclaimer

Revisions of existing policy may be made at any time to correct misspellings, or for simple clarification of wording or expression. Changes that are substantive will go through an approval process. The Handbook will be published online once a year, prior to the start of fall semester, incorporating any policies or language changed in the preceding 12 months.

Welcome from the Dean

At the West Virginia University School of Nursing, our faculty, staff, and students take to heart our mission as part of a land-grant university. Specifically, we aim to improve the health of West Virginians, as well as regional and global communities. We will achieve this mission through the delivery of excellent student-centered programs and evidence-based teaching, scholarship, and service. As a School of Nursing, we envision improving the quality of life across all populations. To do this, we will address the social determinants of health through nurse-led policy, education, research, service, and practice initiatives. Throughout our campus locations, on campus and online, we will remain guided by our values — Integrity, Excellence, Compassion, Respect, Engagement, and Inclusivity — in all that we do. Collectively, we are committed to addressing the unique needs of our students and the populations we serve. We aim to create an environment where individuality is encouraged, ethics are prioritized, and learning, discovery, and innovation can flourish.

Dean Hulsey

West Virginia University School of Nursing

The [West Virginia University School of Nursing \(WVU SON\)](#) offers innovative curricula for baccalaureate through doctoral nursing educational programs. Students are prepared at the WVU School of Nursing for the roles of skilled practitioner, educator, and researcher in a rich scholarly environment. These roles are aimed at facilitating learning, providing health services, and generating new knowledge to directly benefit the residents of West Virginia and advance the discipline of nursing.

WVU SON Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

The mission of the WVU School of Nursing is to improve the health of West Virginians, as well as our regional and global communities, through the delivery of excellent student-centered programs and evidence-based teaching, scholarship, and service.

Vision

The WVU School of Nursing envisions improving the quality of life across all populations by addressing the social determinants of health through nurse-led policy, education, research, service, and practice initiatives.

Values

The WVU School of Nursing is an organization that values integrity, excellence, compassion, respect, engagement, and inclusivity. We commit to addressing the unique needs of the students and populations we serve and to creating an environment where individuality is encouraged, ethics are prioritized, and learning, discovery, and innovation can flourish.

Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing, master's degree program in nursing, and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs at West Virginia University are accredited by the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education](#), 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

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Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

Application for Admission and Admission Information:

Available on the SON website: <https://nursing.wvu.edu/students/graduate-programs/doctor-of-nursing-practice/application-information/>

Admission Related Policies may be found in the following Appendices:

Graduate Provisional Admission Policy: Appendix 1

Transfer of Course Work Information Policy: Appendix 2

Readmission Policy: Appendix 3

Program Description

The WVU SON offers a post-master's program of study leading to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. The DNP degree prepares nurses to practice at the highest level of professional nursing. Graduates of the DNP program advance the application of nursing knowledge through the translation and implementation of evidence for practice to improve health outcomes for diverse populations. This expert level practice builds on past advanced practice education, experience, and certification. Throughout the curriculum, students are guided in the processes of self-development aimed at pursuing excellence in scholarly, clinical, and professional endeavors.

The DNP-prepared nurse is prepared to participate in healthcare in various roles, including, but not limited to:

- Advanced practice nurse
- Nurse clinical specialist or manager
- Nurse leader
- Nurse entrepreneur
- Nurse administrator
- Nurse educator
- Nurse policy and/or health care advocate
- Nurse consultant
- Nurse quality improvement specialist

Relevant Professional Standards and Guidelines

- [American Association of Colleges of Nursing \(AACN\) 2026 Essentials](#)
- [American Nurses Association \(ANA\) Code of Ethics \(2025\)](#)

WVU SON Post-master's DNP Program Learning Outcomes

- Integrate theories from nursing and other disciplinary knowledge to enrich clinical judgment and innovate advanced nursing practice.
- Design initiatives that promote individualized, compassionate, equitable and evidence-based quality healthcare for individuals, families, and communities.
- Lead inter-professional teams to translate evidence and communicate nursing science and expertise to collaboratively optimize care, strategically address SDOH, and advocate for equitable health outcomes for populations.
- Disseminate scholarly work of evidenced-based practice or quality improvement initiatives designed to improve health and transform health care.
- Evaluate policy, practice, and complex care systems to promote quality, safety, and inclusivity, reduce risk, and improve outcomes for diverse populations.

- Analyze information from communication technologies and informatic processes to drive decision making, support professionals in the delivery of cost-effective care and QI or EBP initiatives.
- Model behaviors that reflect accountability, integrity, and characteristics that align with professional and ethical nursing standards.
- Engage in activities and self-reflection that foster compassionate self-care, resilience, well-being, lifelong learning, awareness of biases, and support the acquisition of nursing expertise and assertion of leadership.

Program Outcome Measures

“Benchworks” Survey Data for program graduates meet the following program outcome measures at 5.5 or above on a 1-7 scale:

- Satisfaction with Quality of Faculty and Instruction
- Overall Satisfaction
- Overall Learning
- Program Effectiveness

Additionally, program graduates meet the following measures:

- Program completion rate is 70% or higher.
- Employment rate is 80% or higher

Alignment of Program Learning Outcomes with the 2026 AACN Essentials, encompassing the Domains & Concepts

Essential	AACN Concept	WVUSON Post-master's DNP Program Learning Outcomes
Domain 1: Knowledge for Nursing Practice Descriptor: Integration, translation, and application of established and evolving disciplinary nursing knowledge and ways of knowing, as well as knowledge from other disciplines, including a foundation in liberal arts and natural and social sciences. This distinguishes the practice of professional nursing and forms the basis for clinical judgment and innovation in nursing practice.	Clinical Judgment Communication Compassionate Care Access, Connection, and Engagement Ethics Evidenced-Based Practice Health Policy Social Determinants of Health	Integrate theories from nursing and other disciplinary knowledge to enrich clinical judgment and innovate advanced nursing practice.
Domain 2: Person-Centered Care Descriptor: Person-centered care focuses on the individual within multiple complicated contexts, including family and/or important others. Person-centered care is holistic, individualized, just, respectful, compassionate, coordinated, evidence-based, and developmentally appropriate. Person-centered care builds on a scientific body of knowledge that guides nursing practice regardless of specialty or functional area.	Clinical Judgment Communication Compassionate Care Access, Connection, and Engagement Ethics Evidenced-Based Practice Health Policy Social Determinants of Health	Design initiatives that promote individualized, compassionate, equitable and evidence-based quality healthcare for individuals, families, and communities.
Domain 3: Population Health Descriptor: Population health spans the healthcare delivery continuum from public health prevention to disease management of populations and describes collaborative activities with both traditional and non-traditional partnerships from affected communities, public health, industry, academia, health care, local government entities, and others for high quality, safe, and accessible patient care for all populations.	Clinical Judgment Communication Compassionate Care Access, Connection, and Engagement Ethics Evidenced-Based Practice Health Policy Social Determinants of Health	Lead inter-professional teams to translate evidence and communicate nursing science and expertise to collaboratively optimize care, strategically address SDOH, and advocate for equitable health outcomes for populations.
Domain 4: Scholarship for Nursing Discipline Descriptor: The generation, synthesis, translation, application, and dissemination of nursing knowledge to improve health and transform health care.	Clinical Judgment Communication Compassionate Care Access, Connection, and Engagement Ethics Evidenced-Based Practice Health Policy Social Determinants of Health	Disseminate scholarly work of evidenced-based practice or quality improvement initiatives designed to improve health and transform health care.
Domain 5: Quality and Safety Descriptor: Employment of established and emerging principles of safety and improvement science. Quality and safety, as core values of nursing practice, enhance quality and minimize risk of harm to patients and providers through both system effectiveness and individual performance	Clinical Judgment Communication Compassionate Care Access, Connection, and Engagement Ethics Evidenced-Based Practice Health Policy Social Determinants of Health	Evaluate policy, practice, and complex care systems to promote quality, safety, and inclusivity, reduce risk, and improve outcomes for diverse populations.
Domain 6: Interprofessional Partnerships Descriptor: Intentional collaboration across professions and with care team members, patients, families, communities, and other stakeholders to optimize care, enhance the healthcare experience, and strengthen outcomes	Clinical Judgment Communication Compassionate Care Access, Connection, and Engagement Ethics Evidenced-Based Practice Health Policy Social Determinants of Health	Lead inter-professional teams to translate evidence and communicate nursing science and expertise to collaboratively optimize care, strategically address SDOH, and advocate for equitable health outcomes for populations.
Domain 7: Systems-Based Practice Descriptor: Responding to and leading within complex systems of health care. Nurses effectively and proactively	Clinical Judgment Communication Compassionate Care	Evaluate policy, practice, and complex care systems to promote quality, safety, and inclusivity, reduce risk, and improve

coordinate resources to provide safe, high quality, and accessible care across all populations.	Access, Connection, and Engagement Ethics Evidenced-Based Practice Health Policy Social Determinants of Health	outcomes for diverse populations.
Domain 8: Informatics and Healthcare Technologies Descriptor: Information and communication technologies and informatics processes are used to provide care, gather data, form information to drive decision making, and support professionals as they expand knowledge and wisdom for practice. Informatics processes and technologies are used to manage and improve the delivery of safe, high-quality, and efficient healthcare services in accordance with best practice and professional and regulatory standards	Clinical Judgment Communication Compassionate Care Access, Connection, and Engagement Ethics Evidenced-Based Practice Health Policy Social Determinants of Health	Analyze information from communication technologies and informatic processes to drive decision making, support professionals in the delivery of cost-effective care and QI or EBP initiatives.
Domain 9: Professionalism Descriptor: Formation and cultivation of a sustainable professional nursing identity, accountability, perspective, collaborative disposition, and comportment that reflects nursing's characteristics and values.	Clinical Judgment Communication Compassionate Care Access, Connection, and Engagement Ethics Evidenced-Based Practice Health Policy	Model behaviors that reflect accountability, integrity, and characteristics that align with professional and ethical nursing standards.
Domain 10: Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development Descriptor: Participation in activities and self-reflection that foster personal health, resilience, and well-being, lifelong learning, and support the acquisition of nursing expertise and assertion of leadership.	Clinical Judgment Communication Compassionate Care Access, Connection, and Engagement Ethics Evidenced-Based Practice Health Policy	Engage in activities and self-reflection that foster compassionate self-care, resilience, well-being, lifelong learning, awareness of biases, and support the acquisition of nursing expertise and assertion of leadership.

DNP Program Coursework

Credit Hours

The Post-master's DNP program can be completed in as few as 32 credit hours. Additional clinical and project credit hours may be required to meet program outcomes. The time to completion of the DNP program varies depending on the amount of time needed to complete a DNP project and clinical immersion hours. See Progression Plans for recommended progression and timelines.

DNP Full-time Progression Plan

	Fall		Spring		Summer	
Year 1	NSG 704 Foundations of Leadership for the Advanced Practice Nurse	3	NSG 707 Evidenced-Based Practice and Quality Improvement Methods for the DNP	3	NSG 745 Clinical Immersion*	1
	NSG 739 Scientific Underpinnings for the DNP-prepared Advanced Practice Nurse Role	3	NSG 754 Advanced Informatics & Healthcare Technologies	3	NSG 829 Clinical Data Analysis and Visualization	3
					NSG 830 DNP Project Development**	2
	Total Credits	6	Total Credits	6	Total Credits	6
Year 2	NSG 702 Population Health Promotion	3	NSG 710 Advanced Nursing Practice Issues, Policy, and Ethics	3	NSG 745 Clinical Immersion*	1-2
	NSG 745 Clinical Immersion*	1-2	NSG 745 Clinical Immersion*	1-3	NSG 832 DNP Project Evaluation and Dissemination	1-2
	NSG 831 DNP Project Implementation**	1-2	NSG 831 DNP Project Implementation**	1-2		
	Total Credits	5-7	Total Credits	5-8	Total Credits	2-4
Year 3	NSG 745 Clinical Immersion*	2-5				
	NSG 832 DNP Project Evaluation and Dissemination	1				
	Total Credits	3-6				
					Total Program Credits = 32***	

*Total clinical immersion hours for NSG 745 are required to be a minimum of at least 5 credit hours-300 clock hours.

**Total DNP project credit hours are required to be a minimum of at least 6 credit hours-100 clock hours. NSG 830, 831, and 832 count toward project credit hours (with at least 2 credit hours each); the total number of credit hours of NSG 831 (minimum of 2) varies depending on the depth, breadth, and timeline of a student's project.

***Individual progression plans to be developed based on previous course work. Total credit hours will vary based on the verification and approval of course work and/or post-baccalaureate precepted clinical hours gained prior to admission to the program.

DNP Part Time Progression Plan

	Fall		Spring		Summer	
Year 1	NSG 739 Scientific Underpinnings for the DNP-prepared Advanced Practice Nurse Role	3	NSG 754 Advanced Informatics & Healthcare Technologies	3	NSG 829 Clinical Data Analysis and Visualization	3
	Total Credits	3	Total Credits	3	Total Credits	3
Year 2	NSG 704 Foundations of Leadership for the Advanced Practice Nurse	3	NSG 707 Evidenced-Based Practice and Quality Improvement Methods for the DNP	3	NSG 745 Clinical Immersion*	1
					NSG 830 DNP Project Development**	2
	Total Credits	3	Total Credits	3	Total Credits	3
Year 3	NSG 702 Population Health Promotion	3	NSG 710 Advanced Nursing Practice Issues, Policy, and Ethics	3	NS 745 Clinical Immersion*	1-2
	NSG 745 Clinical Immersion*	1	NSG 745 Clinical Immersion*	1-3	NSG 832 DNP Project Evaluation and Dissemination **	1-2
	NSG 831 DNP Project Implementation**	1-2	NSG 831 DNP Project Implementation**	1-2		
	Total Credits	5-6	Total Credits	5-8	Total Credits	2-3
Year 4	NSG 745 Clinical Immersion*	1-5				
	NSG 832 DNP Project Evaluation and Dissemination **	1-2				
	Total Credits	2-7				
					Total Program Credits = 32***	

*Total clinical immersion hours for NSG 745 are required to be a minimum of at least 5 credit hours-300 clock hours.

**Total DNP project credit hours are required to be a minimum of at least 6 credit hours-100 clock hours. NSG 830, 831, and 832 count toward project credit hours; the total number of credit hours of NSG 831 (minimum of 2) varies depending on the depth, breadth, and timeline of a student's project.

***Individual progression plans to be developed based on previous course work. Total credit hours will vary based on the verification and approval of course work and/or post-baccalaureate precepted clinical hours gained prior to admission to the program.

DNP Course Descriptions

Courses are offered via web-based modalities in asynchronous and synchronous formats. Students should assume that they will be assigned to a regular day and time for a synchronous course offering unless noted otherwise. Class attendance and participation are expectations in the DNP program. It is a strong University and WVU SON recommendation that students employed in full-time work should enroll for no more than six hours of doctoral level course work at any time.

NSG 702: Population Health Promotion: credits. (Didactic, Summer only). Prerequisite – None. In-depth study and analysis of clinical prevention and population health for individuals, aggregates, and populations utilizing advanced nursing practice and program evaluation strategies for the promotion of health and prevention of disease across populations.

NSG 704: Foundations of Leadership for the Advanced Practice Nurse 3 credits. (Didactic, Fall only). Prerequisite – None. Explore foundations of personal, professional, and leadership development within the role of the advanced practice nurse.

NSG 707 Evidenced-Based Practice and Quality Improvement Methods for the DNP: 3 credits. (Didactic, Spring only). Prerequisites – NSG 724. This course provides an overview of EBP, QI and research methodologies with a focus on the translation of research into nursing practice. Methods that inform the design of system-level advanced nursing clinical practice interventions are examined to include: clinical practice problem exploration, evidence search and critical appraisal, and practice change implementation, evaluation, and dissemination.

NSG 710: Advanced Nursing Practice Issues, Policy, and Ethics 3 credits. (Didactic, Spring only). Prerequisite – None. An analysis of health policy and advanced nursing practice issues with a focus on advocacy for nursing leadership, ethics, and finance.

NSG 739: Scientific Underpinnings for the DNP-prepared Advanced Practice Nurse Role 3 credits. (Didactic, Fall only). Prerequisite – None. This course introduces students to competencies necessary to practice at the highest level within the nursing discipline. The role of the Doctor of Nursing practice-prepared advanced practice nurse is examined in the context of historical, ethical, environmental, clinical, technological, and professional perspectives.

NSG 745: Clinical Immersion: 1 to 5 credits – Variable and repeatable. (Clinical). Prerequisite – 739. Provides for the mastery of skills relative to the state of the science in a particular area of practice.

NSG 754 Advanced Informatics & Healthcare Technologies: 3 credits. (Didactic, Spring only) Prerequisite – None. Evaluation and utilization of information systems and technology to improve quality, safety, and system outcomes to improve health care.

NSG 829: Clinical Data Analysis and Visualization. This required course provides students with the skills to collect, manage, analyze, and interpret clinical data to evaluate quality improvement and evidence-based practice initiatives. Students will apply data analysis techniques and use data visualization tools to support clinical decision making and dissemination.

NSG 830 DNP Project Development: 2 credits. (Project, Summer only). Prerequisite – NSG 707 NSG 707 and NSG 829 may be taken concurrently. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student will utilize a framework to develop a scholarly DNP Project to address a clinical problem health policy to address the identified problem.

NSG 831 DNP Project Implementation: 1 to 2 credits – Variable and repeatable. (Project). Prerequisite – NSG 830. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student will lead an interprofessional team to implement and evaluate a scholarly initiative that addresses a clinical problem

NSG 832 DNP: DNP Project Evaluation and Dissemination : 2 credits. (Project). Prerequisite – NSG 830, NSG 831 (minimum 2 credits). This culminating DNP Project course provides an opportunity for students to disseminate their project outcomes and practice implications, reflect on professional growth cultivated during the project journey, and develop a comprehensive portfolio demonstrating how the project has fostered competency at the highest level of the AACN *Essentials*.

DNP Supervised Clinical Practice Hour Elements

DNP Supervised Clinical Practice Hour Requirements

The WVU School of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). **Per CCNE, DNP program graduates are required to have a 'minimum of 1,000 hours of practice post-baccalaureate as part of a supervised academic program'** (CCNE Standards of Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs, 2024, p. 20). Of these 1,000 post-baccalaureate supervised practice hours, the initial 500 hours are typically attained through practica within a Master of Science in Nursing curricula. Previously precepted master's level clinical hours may be counted as part of the first 500 practice hours, but they must be verified, evaluated, and approved by the DNP Program Director and the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs through a Gap Analysis and Course Credit Form (See Appendix 4) to be counted in the 1,000 post-baccalaureate supervised practice required hours to complete the WVU SON DNP program.

Attainment of additional post-baccalaureate supervised practice hours is decreed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). The AACN 2026 Essentials require all advanced-level programs to include **a minimum of 500 practice hours focused on attaining the Level 2 sub-competencies**. These 500 practice hours are typically acquired in the post-master's DNP program to complete the 1,000 post-baccalaureate hours when added to the 500 completed at the master's level clinical hours but may include hours from the master's level program if more than 500 were attained at the master's level. If the master's degree-granting institution can provide evidence the student completed additional supervised practice hours that met specific Level II sub-competencies in addition to 500 clinical practicum hours, a gap analysis and course credit may be appropriate for transfer credit of up to 100 clinical practice hours. Previously precepted master's level clinical hours may be counted for additional practice hours only if they are verified, evaluated, and approved by the DNP Program Director and the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs through a gap analysis and course credit form (See Appendix 4).

The 500 practice hours to be completed in the post-master's DNP program to complete the required 1,000 post-baccalaureate supervised practice required hours include both direct and indirect practice experiences. The 500 practice hours are the minimum number of hours a student will need to complete to demonstrate the advanced-level competencies delineated in the Essentials. The 500 hours required for all advanced-level nursing programs in the 2026 Essentials addresses only the student's preparation for advanced-level competencies, not the specialty/role competencies (although some overlap is expected for most roles/specialties). The 500 practice hour minimum for advanced-level programs delineated in the 2026 Essentials can be distributed across the curriculum as faculty deem most appropriate, including some hours for work on the DNP final project if they meet the Essentials definition of practice. If a student holds a master's degree in nursing, is certified in an area of advanced nursing practice, and is not seeking preparation in a different area of nursing practice, attainment of the Essentials Level II sub-competencies must still be demonstrated and attained. This is best achieved by ensuring Level II sub-competencies are addressed in the post-master's DNP curriculum.

The student plan of study for the Post-master's DNP degree at the WVU SON requires that a minimum of 400 precepted clinical hours must be earned at the DNP level *within this program*, even if they document 1000 hours or more of precepted clinical practicum hours in their MSN or Post-MSN program. If the student shows evidence of 600 hours of precepted clinical practice from their MSN program, and the hours are approved, that leaves 400 hours to complete (to equal 1000 post-baccalaureate supervised practice hours). Additional guidance for calculation of the hours needed within the WVU SON Post-master's DNP program may be found in Appendix 4. To attain the required hours,

students in the program should complete at least 100 hours for the DNP Project under the supervision of a Faculty of Record (FOR) and at least 300 hours in Clinical Immersion (with precepted clinical experiences) to meet the requirements for the degree. In this case, the student may complete the practice hours through a combination of previously earned precepted hours plus the required 400 hours within the WVU SON DNP program as long as they have opportunities to demonstrate all of the Level-2 subcompetencies throughout the program. (Note: The 500 practice hours, which include direct and indirect care hours, required in the 2026 Essentials are considered a minimum number of hours to attain and demonstrate in one's practice the Level 2 sub-competencies.) However, practice hours in the post-master's DNP program are expected to focus on those competencies/sub-competencies that have not been attained or fully attained previously in their advanced nursing program. For example, hours may need to focus more intensely on the indirect areas of practice, particularly at the systems level, quality, safety, policy, etc. The completion of the DNP project provides an opportunity for students to develop and demonstrate many of the advanced-level sub-competencies. Therefore, post-master's students who are not seeking to be prepared in another advanced nursing specialty or role would need to meet the university's requirements for the degree plus any Level II competencies/sub-competencies they have not achieved in their master's program.

DNP Supervised Clinical Practice Hour Courses

DNP Clinical Immersion

The clinical immersion hours will serve to provide an in-depth clinical practicum experience for students. This advanced practicum will provide various opportunities, including to gain advanced clinical skills, link policy making with clinical systems, translate research into practice and/or serve as change agents for health care. The DNP Clinical Immersion course (NSG 745) faculty will create an individualized clinical plan with each student to meet the goals and outcomes of their clinical practicum. The clinical experience will be facilitated by a faculty member (see below for additional information about clinical preceptors). **The student must be licensed in the state in which their clinical site is located.** Clinical Immersion can occur over as many semesters of work as needed, registering for the appropriate number of credits each semester, to obtain 300 (or more, if necessary) hours. Clinical-to-clock-hour ratios in the DNP program at WVU SON are 1:4. Therefore, if a student needs to complete 300 hours of clinical experience, their total credits of clinical required will equal 5 credits, which can be registered for over the course of as many semesters as the student wishes once they have completed core coursework.

DNP Project

Another program requirement decreed by the AACN is the development, implementation, and evaluation of a DNP Project. According to the AACN, doctoral education is distinguished by the completion of a specific project that demonstrates synthesis of the student's work and lays the groundwork for future clinical scholarly work directed at improving health or organizational outcomes in the area of focus. The DNP curriculum primarily involves mastery of an advanced specialty within nursing practice and methods of practice improvement and change. The DNP Project courses (NSG 830, 831 & 832) are used to accomplish mastery of the DNP curricular content. Guided by faculty and with assistance of stakeholders in the area of interest, the DNP Project demonstrates the student's ability to identify a practice or system-related problem through clinical immersion, to synthesize and critically appraise the evidence related to addressing that practice problem, to negotiate within the system, to implement evidence-based change within an organization, to implement that change, and to systematically measure the results of the practice or system-related change initiative. The DNP Project documents the outcomes of the student's educational experiences and summarizes the student's growth in knowledge and expertise. The experience is designed to apply the breadth and depth of knowledge and skills gained within the doctoral program in a specific practice area. The project demonstrates identification and work toward resolution of a practice problem

through the scholarship of application, rather than the scholarship of discovery associated with a PhD program of study. The DNP Project is *not* intended to *test new models, develop new theory, or test hypotheses*; rather, it is the identification of a systems problem and implementation and evaluation of an evidence-based innovation, or a quality improvement initiative aimed at solving the identified problem. Because the project involves innovation based on existing evidence, the objectives and evaluation generally focus on system change, rather than health outcomes. The rigor of the project process and evaluation should be different than, but comparable to the PhD dissertation. For practice doctorates, requiring a dissertation or other original research is contrary to the intent of the DNP. The DNP primarily involves mastery of an advanced specialty within nursing practice. Therefore, other methods must be used to distinguish the achievement of that mastery. Unlike a dissertation, the work may take a number of forms. DNP projects include quality improvement, policy analysis, demonstration, clinical inquiry, translation of evidence-based practice, or program evaluation initiatives.

The DNP Project typically demonstrates student mastery of various 2026 AACN Level 2 Essentials (individual and relative to each project) as well as curricular content. The project occurs along a predictable timeline and should demonstrate the student's ability to identify a practice or system-related problem, synthesize and critically appraise the evidence addressing the practice problem, negotiate within the system to implement sustainable evidence-based change, implement that change, and systematically measure the outcome of the initiative. DNP Project work occurs over as many semesters of work as needed, registering for the appropriate number of credits each semester, to obtain at least 6 total project-related credit hours (see Progression Plans for NSG 830, NSG 831, and NSG 832). Students are to document clinical hours (both direct and indirect) for at least 100 hours relative to the DNP project work. Occasionally, a student may pursue a policy analysis, program evaluation, or another type of DNP project. In those cases, the student and FOR will develop the processes and procedures to achieve the aims of that type of initiative. At the culmination of the project, students prepare a manuscript and present their work to the public, key stakeholders, and the DNP Project Team.

DNP Supervised Clinical Practice Hour Information

DNP Clinical Log

All clinical experiences (for both direct and indirect hours for NSG 745, NSG 830, NSG 831, and NSG 832) must be recorded in a clinical log (Typhon). The clinical log includes documentation of clinical hours at approved sites (with approved preceptors) and correlation for each hour to the AACN Essentials Level II subcompetencies assigned to the DNP Clinical experiences. By graduation, the student must have recorded all required clinical hours with the required information. This log will become part of the student's permanent file. To prepare the log, each student must request that their site and preceptor be added to the log database (Typhon). The course coordinator of the immersion course will enter the information into the log. Following each semester in Clinical Immersion, each student must evaluate all sites and preceptors.

Students must follow the procedures outlined when entering information into the Typhon log. Students are to avoid copying/cutting and pasting information from patient charts. Documentation practices will be presented by clinical practica faculty each semester, and all documentation in the Typhon log will be reviewed by faculty.

Per HIPAA privacy laws, students must NOT include any protected health information (PHI). This includes initials, medical record numbers, and many other identifying pieces of information that students have access to within the clinical rotation as a student.

In the event that student documentation practices are flagged by a faculty, practice partner, or other entity, students will be pulled from the clinical agency until the issue is resolved. Students who are not permitted to attend clinical due to a privacy/HIPAA violation are still required to complete all clinical objectives/ required practice hours. No

additional hours will be permitted. Students do not meet all clinical behaviors will fail the clinical component of the course.

Faculty, employees, and students at the West Virginia University Robert C. Byrd HSC also must abide by the HSC Standards, policies, procedures and Interim HIPAA Privacy and security policies reviewed upon admission and during annual required HSC IT Security Awareness Training which contain vital information relating to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

Violation/ Breach of HIPAA may result in immediate dismissal from the School of Nursing.

As HIPAA is a federal law, students found to be in violation/breach of HIPAA will be found in violation of WVU Student Conduct Code 6.1 J: Violation of federal, state, or local law and appropriate sanctions.

Preceptors

Each DNP student will select, with the input of their faculty member, a preceptor, or preceptors for their clinical experience. The preceptor must be an expert in the area in which the DNP student wishes to develop expertise. While increasing at a steady rate, there are currently few nurses prepared at the DNP level who can serve as the clinical preceptor for DNP students. Therefore, the clinical preceptor will not necessarily be a DNP-prepared advanced practice nurse. Examples of persons who might fill the position of clinical preceptor include an advanced practice nurse or other professional with a doctoral degree; an advanced practice nurse with considerable experience and recognition as an expert in a particular clinical field; a physician with specialized training and experience; a nurse with a high level administrative position such as Director, Vice President, President, or CEO within a health care organization; a doctorally-prepared nurse educator; a nurse with an advanced business or other degree, etc. The clinical preceptor must hold a position in the organization where he/she can facilitate the DNP student's access to clinical services, organizational information, decision makers, and other personnel in order to meet the DNP student's clinical experience outcomes and implement the project (if applicable) during the practicum within the organization.

When possible and practical, the DNP student is encouraged to select a clinical preceptor outside of their current work setting. An exception may be in large organizations, for example, where the DNP student would be placed for the clinical course with a clinical preceptor outside the department or unit where they are employed. The line between current employment and clinical immersion hours and project(s) (if applicable) must be clear to the organization, the preceptor, faculty, the DNP Project Team (as applicable), and the DNP student.

Students cannot be precepted by a person to whom they report or supervise in their workplace. Likewise, they cannot be precepted by a spouse or other family member. Failure to disclose this information will constitute academic dishonesty.

Faculty, Student, and Preceptor Roles

An essential component of a DNP program is a group of expert preceptors who can help students develop clinical expertise and transition to the highest level of advanced nursing practice. The role of the preceptor is complementary to that of the faculty member. The triad of faculty member, student, and preceptor must collaborate to assure that the student meets personal and program outcomes. Following are assumptions about the role of each of these participants and guidelines for program implementation.

Faculty Role

1. The ultimate responsibility for assuring that students have appropriate, individualized learning experiences lies with the course faculty.
2. The ultimate responsibility for evaluating student learning and assignment of the course

- grade lies with the course faculty.
3. Evaluation of graduate student learning in the clinical areas includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Meaningful, periodic contact with students.
 - b. Regular contact with preceptors.
 - c. Periodic faculty, preceptor, and student discussion of student progress, accomplishments, identified areas for improvement, and ability to meet needs in the clinical site.

Preceptor Role

1. The major roles of the preceptor are to help the student develop clinical or leadership expertise in a focused area, to serve as a role model and immersion facilitator.
2. In order to fulfill this role, preceptors must:
 - a. Have an understanding of student's learning needs.
 - b. Have information regarding students' previous experiences and knowledge base.
 - c. Have clarity regarding evaluation criteria.
3. Preceptors participate actively in the evaluation process with faculty and students.

Student Role

1. Students bring a common knowledge base from core courses and previous experience to the clinical experience.
2. Students have different personal and professional experiences that enhance their knowledge base.
3. Students recognize their clinical areas of strength and the gaps in knowledge.
4. Students share their experiences and identified gaps in knowledge with faculty to facilitate planning for immersion placements.
5. Students participate actively in the evaluation process with faculty and preceptors.

DNP Supervised Clinical Hour Experience General Expectations

1. Students meet with the course faculty to identify appropriate, individualized learning experiences for the clinical courses. Faculty will consider past experiences, learning needs for role implementation, geographic area, and facility capabilities for offering appropriate preceptorship when planning clinical placements.
2. Course faculty and students will work together to identify and contact appropriate preceptors. No family member or direct supervisor may serve as a preceptor for students in clinical sites. A signed affiliation agreement must be in place prior to any student rotation in a clinical site. Faculty provide in writing to the preceptor the course syllabi, evaluation criteria, and tools. Preceptors are required to provide a CV or resume to be kept on file.
3. Faculty initiates contact with students and preceptors on a periodic basis. This will serve as an opportunity to proactively problem solve, identify learning needs, and negotiate additional experiences.
4. Students participate in ongoing evaluation with the preceptor and faculty member. Thoughtful self-evaluation is an expectation. Students document their immersion experiences in the electronic Clinical Log.

Affiliation Agreements (Contracts) for Clinical Sites

The SON has existing clinical contracts across West Virginia and other states. Students are also welcome to develop their own clinical sites from the area or outside of West Virginia. However, it may take 2-3 months to establish new contractual arrangements, so students should begin to work early with faculty to make those arrangements. Students may not participate in clinical practicum in any agency in which there is not a current affiliation agreement. A list of current affiliation agreements is available to

DNP students.

[State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements \(SARA\) for Clinical Placements](#)

Universities offering distance education must abide by the laws of each state in which students are placed for their practicum experience. A State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) must be in place to allow a WVU nursing student to participate in clinicals. There are several states at this time that may **not** allow WVU nursing students to participate in a practicum experience, and therefore a site placement cannot be guaranteed. Visit [WVU Online State Authorization](#) to determine if your state has been approved for clinical placements.

Note: Because of SARA limitations, students must inform the program director, advisors, and WVU SON Student Services, one year in advance of moving to another state for clinical practicum assignments. Some states have very prohibitive regulations about students in clinical rotations. State board of nursing requirements vary for students and faculty participating in a clinical rotation in another state. In some instances, alternate plans for a clinical site must be made. WVU SON will work to accommodate all students, but some states may have regulations that prohibit participation in a clinical rotation.

[*DNP Portfolio*](#)

The DNP Portfolio is prepared by each student in the final project course, NSG 832, through submissions to the online portfolio site (Typhon). The purpose of the DNP portfolio is for the student to synthesize how the WVU SON DNP curriculum helped the student attain mastery of the 2026 AACN Level 2 Essentials as demonstrated by Domain. The submission should include a compilation of the student's papers, projects, or other assignments from courses across the curriculum. One to two pieces of evidence per each AACN Level 2 Domain must be included with a narrative to describe the rationale for the use of the piece of evidence is sufficient to meet this requirement. The student should conclude the portfolio with a statement summarizing how the curriculum contributed to the student's achievement of the program's outcomes and personal growth in professional knowledge, expertise, and leadership.

DNP Program General Information

Mandatory Fall Orientation

All new students enrolled in the DNP program are required to attend an online fall orientation. The date of the orientation will be sent to students in a letter from the program director prior to the beginning of the semester.

Maintenance of Nursing Licensure and Certifications

Registered Nurse (RN) Licensure and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Certification(s)

All DNP students are required to maintain continuous RN licensure and APRN certification (if an APRN) during enrollment in the DNP program. If a student's RN license and/or APRN certification is renewed during the program, the student should provide documentation of this renewal to the academic advisor. If the student's RN license lapses or becomes encumbered due to a disciplinary action, or the APRN certification lapses, the student will be dismissed from the DNP program. In order to participate in clinical immersion and DNP project courses, students must maintain an unencumbered RN and/or APRN license in the state in which he or she plans to implement the DNP project or engage in clinical immersion.

Technical/Functional Standards

Students will be required to meet program outcomes, clinical facility requirements, WV state code for nursing programs, and the technical standards independently with or without reasonable accommodations. It is recommended that students report any potential issues regarding meeting these outcomes at the time of admission to avoid problems with clinical placement and progression in nursing courses. Students cannot attend clinical if there are limitations in the ability to safely provide care to assigned patients.

The WVU SON is committed to [Campus Engagement and Compliance](#) in the educational preparation of healthcare professionals. WVU SON personnel strive to provide quality opportunities to students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

WVU Office of Student Accommodations (OSA), WVU SON personnel, and clinical agencies collaborate with students with disabilities regarding options available for academic and nonacademic accommodations. Students are not required to disclose their disability; however, registration with WVU OSA is required to seek reasonable accommodations. Students seeking academic or nonacademic accommodations should contact the WVU Office of Accessibility Services. More information regarding OAS services can be found at <https://osa.wvu.edu/>.

Students will be required to meet program outcomes, clinical facility requirements, WV state code for nursing programs, and the following technical standards independently with or without reasonable accommodations. It is recommended that students report any potential issues regarding meeting these outcomes at the time of admission to avoid problems with clinical placement and progression in nursing courses. Students cannot attend clinical if there are limitations in the ability to safely provide care to assigned patients. Students are encouraged to reach out to OSA or program administrators if they are unsure whether or not they have a qualified disability or are able to meet the technical standards. Reasonable accommodations cannot be implemented retroactively. If any change occurs in the student's ability to perform these skills, whether temporary or permanent, the BSN Program Director must be notified. The student may be required to provide documentation from a health care provider, noting any restrictions or necessary accommodations.

Technical/Functional Outcomes and Standards

Patient-centered Care

- Provide direct patient care in a variety of settings, including, but not limited to, long-term care facilities, community agencies, hospitals, and primary care clinics
- Conduct comprehensive and focused patient assessments (including, but not limited to, skills in interviewing, observation, auscultation, palpation, and percussion)
- Create a safe care environment that results in high-quality patient outcomes
- Implement evidence-based interventions for managing acute and chronic care
- Apply psychomotor skills to accurate, effective skill demonstrations and safe, efficient patient care
- Provide emergency care, including, but not limited to, assisting patients during a fall, a fire, or cardiac arrest
- Manage the interaction of multiple patient functional problems
- Move, transfer, and position patients or equipment safely under a variety of circumstances
- Participate in emergency preparedness and disaster response
- Manage care for individuals that approximates a workload appropriate for student level

Communication

- Communicate effectively and sensitively with the healthcare team, patient, and patient support network (in electronic, oral, and written form)
- Provide appropriate and individualized education
- Demonstrate effective delegation and supervision

Affect and Professionalism

- Develop awareness of patient and peer spiritual beliefs and values
- Demonstrate tolerance for ambiguity and unpredictability in the healthcare system
- Deliver compassionate and holistic care
- Implement patient and family care around end-of-life and palliative care issues
- Engage in caring, healing, and therapeutic relationships
- Demonstrate emotional stability to function under stress and adapt to changing environments inherent to the classroom and practice settings

Cognition, Critical Thinking, and Clinical Judgment

- Synthesize and analyze data to provide quality care and solve patient care and healthcare system problems
- Complete mathematical calculations related to medication administration and patient data
- Successfully complete course and program examinations
- Demonstrate sound judgment.

Academic Expectations

Student Participation in Online Courses

Students in online courses have the professional responsibility to devote their full attention to the class while it is in session, just as they would in a traditional classroom setting. Students may not attend an online class session while responsible for patient care in the workplace. If a student is permitted by an employer to participate in an online course during working hours, he or she must do so away from the clinical setting and only after being completely relieved of patient responsibilities. Students will not be permitted to make up course work or testing that is missed if called back to the workplace.

Writing Expectations

Graduate education requires high level writing skills. WVU SON adopted a writing plan for all graduate programs below:

- All faculty will refuse to accept poor writing and will actively promote good writing.
- Students' writing skills will be reinforced from course to course over the curriculum.
- One writing assignment will be required in every course.
- A standard rubric to evaluate writing will be used in all courses (see Appendix 5).
- Faculty will not allow re-writes of final submitted papers.
 - If a teacher decides to accept drafts, he or she must incorporate in the syllabus expectations for the drafts and the final submissions.
- All students are encouraged to have a non-peer proofreader, who is willing to critically analyze writing.

Two books will be the standard writing resources for every course.

1. American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
2. Venolia, J. (2001). Write right: A desktop digest of punctuation, grammar, and style. (4th ed.). Berkley, CA: Ten Speed Press.

Standard writing resources will be used to improve students' writing as follows:

1. The Purdue Online Writing Lab (Perdue OWL), <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>. This includes online writing tutorials that can be used as needed.
2. Drake University, A Writing Tutorial for Graduate Students. <http://www.educ.drake.edu/aded/tutorial.htm>. This is a clearinghouse of writing resources that can be used as needed.

Responsible Conduct of Research Training

All graduate students are responsible for completing the Responsible Conduct of Research course at WVU within 30 days of matriculation into graduate coursework (see Appendix 6 for directions). Students will receive a letter with instructions from the Program Director related to recording their completion of the course, and other pre-program requirements.

Technology Requirements for the DNP Program

The graduate programs at WVU make use of the latest in technological advances. You will need to have access to appropriate hardware, software, and systems to be successful. The following is a guide and recommendations for technology.

Computer Specifications

- Microsoft Office (includes Word, Excel, Power Point, and Outlook) is required for all WVU SON coursework and may be obtained free at <https://it.wvu.edu/services/student-resources>.

- Microphone and speakers; headsets are preferable.
- Webcam, if your PC or MAC is not video enabled.
- Supported browsers and operating system for SOLE and Collaborate are available at <http://soleportal.com/documentation/general-help-info/help-center/supported-browsers/>
- OIT has recommended computer specifications which may be located at <https://it.wvu.edu/services/student-resources>. Click on “Student Technology Guide.”

High-speed internet connectivity is essential. Please be advised when purchasing high-speed internet access there is usually an additional cost for the fastest connectivity. The recommended minimum speed for online coursework is 10 mbps. Consult internet service providers regarding connection speed or check speed by an Internet Speed Test (search in Google). DSL and high-speed cable are not available in some rural areas and students must resort to high-speed satellite internet service. Dial-up connections do not work with online classroom technology. If dial-up is the only access available, looking for alternate sites to attend class where high speed connection is available, is recommended. A wireless internet connection is not recommended. The platforms for live classes work best with a wired internet connection.

Computer skills

It is an expectation that students be familiar with operating and using electronic technology. The skills of word processing on Microsoft Word, database utilization, internet competence, and email use, including the use of attachments, are essential to course work in the graduate program. It is an expectation that students are proficient with these computer skills. Please visit <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/education> for online tutorials to help with Microsoft Office product use.

If an update of general computer skills is needed, please refer to the following book: Joos, I., Wolf, D., & Nelson, R., (2020) Introduction to Computers for Health Care Professionals 7th Edition. MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

WVU Login

All students are assigned a WVUID number, username, and account. Students must obtain a WVUID prior to claiming your account. If the student previously attended WVU, the WVUID and username will be the same, but the account will need to be reclaimed if it has not recently been active. Please follow the steps below to find the WVUID and claim the username and account:

Find your WVU Login

1. Go to <https://login.wvu.edu/self-service>
2. Under Alternate WVUID Lookup, enter date of birth, then select “Social Security Number” from the ID Type drop down box and enter SS#.
3. Click Look Up.
4. Write down the WVUID number and memorize it! (Or at least keep it where it will be able easily retrievable.)

Claim Your Account

1. Go to <https://login.wvu.edu> and click the Claim Account button
2. Enter name and date of birth
3. In the ID Type drop-down field, select WVUID and enter the 9-digit WVU ID number found on the admission letter
4. Answer the validation question

5. Read and accept the Annual Security Responsibility Statement
6. Select three different security questions
7. Create a password
8. Write down and memorize the username and password. This will be used for all WVU logins unless otherwise instructed.

WVU Student Email System

All students in the University have access to email through the Mountaineer Information Express (MIX) system. Students must use this email system for all graduate program coursework and any related communication. No other email addresses will be used by faculty or administrators to contact you or to notify you of course related or program related information. MIX can be accessed from any computer or mobile phone with internet access at portal.wvu.edu. The username and password will be the WVU login noted above.

Students should access MIX as soon as possible. The WVU SON and faculty will send important information through this account, and request that students check the account daily. Students will be accountable for any information found in MIX email. The MIX homepage has a great tutorial that should be completed before classes begin.

Duo-Token/Okta Policy

The use of two-factor authentication for access to secure, targeted websites from all HSC campuses, including HSC offices, labs, offsite locations and WVU Medicine hospitals/clinics is required. This is to ensure uniformity across all WVU campuses. WVU's academic administrators determined that for this critical security initiative to succeed, no group of people and no physical location should be exempt. All HSC classrooms require the use of two-factor authentication. To ensure a secure testing area, students will not be permitted to use their smartphones or smart watches in the classroom to access the two-factor authentication app.. Additional information regarding dual authentication can be found through [WVU IT](#).

Distance Course Delivery

The courses in the graduate program will be delivered via distance education technologies using the SOLE (Study, Observe, Learn, Engage) platform for course deliveries. Technologies used within SOLE include Collaborate and Panopto webcast.

SOLE (Study, Observe, Learn, Engage)

SOLE is the WVU Health Sciences Center's (HSC) portal for online education and information. It is a web-based tool for students to access courses and for instructors to build and maintain those courses. SOLE was developed by HSC Information Technology Services as an open-ended system for online course development and management with a single-login and user-friendly environment. Login to SOLE at <https://sole.hsc.wvu.edu/> using the WVU Login username and password. Students are expected to check SOLE courses and mix e-mail on at least a daily basis. If assistance is needed with SOLE, please go to the SOLE information page at <https://its.hsc.wvu.edu/sole-support/>

Panopto Webcast

Webcast technology is used for many of the asynchronous lectures. Webcast uses web-based streaming video and synchronized multimedia presentation. The West Virginia University School of Nursing has adopted webcast technology to deliver some core graduate nursing content.

Collaborate

Collaborate delivers synchronous real-time online classes. When logged into SOLE, from the home page of each course there are links to the Collaborate sessions. Students are an active participant in the Collaborate sessions, discussing issues using the microphone or answering live poll questions. Because exchange of ideas is an important function of University education, students are required to be present for these real-time Collaborate sessions, unless otherwise instructed by faculty. Prior to the first live class in Collaborate, please be sure computer meets the following requirements:

Audio Wizard

Run the Audio Wizard as soon as possible to be sure that any computer being used supports Collaborate. This Audio Wizard should be completed on every computer used to access coursework. The audio wizard may need to run each time to access Collaborate. High speed internet access through a cable modem, DSL, or satellite is needed.

WVU Student Identification Card

Students who wish to obtain a WVU Student Identification (ID) Card must have paid the special fees included in their tuition and fees invoice. To get the ID card, take a copy of the paid invoice to the Student ID Office in the Mountainair or to the Student Services Office in Charleston. The personnel there will validate the invoice and take a picture. The cards are usually ready in five to seven working days. Students must have a valid photo ID when picking up the card. For information on obtaining a photo ID call 304-293-2273. For a non-photo student ID email vvucard@mail.wvu.edu.

Tuition, Transportation, and Other Costs

Students pay [tuition](#) and fees shown in the WVU Graduate Catalog, plus special fees and deposits as required. Fees are subject to change without notice. Students' expenses vary widely according to their individual course of study. Students are expected to provide their own transportation, equipment, and instruments for the immersion courses. Some clinical experiences require the student to travel in a multi-county area. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to all immersion/clinical experiences.

Cost estimates are provided based on historical and current expenses by item as noted and these prices may change at any time based on change in costs to perform services, changes in fees, or change in vendors. Specific immunizations are required (cost dependent on type of immunization and administering organization). Criminal background checks are required and conducted by Precheck/Sentry. Students are responsible for fees (subject to change without notice) associated with acquiring and tracking immunizations, criminal background check, and urine drug screening (UDS). UDS via Precheck/Sentry MD is approximately \$143 at admission; \$39 per additional occurrences (such as for annual updates or reasonable suspicion for screening). Additional fees (subject to change without notice) may be incurred associated with academic testing (e.g., proctoring), required course materials (such as textbooks), equipment necessary for online classrooms (e.g., microphone, speaker, webcam, internet services; cost varies), registration/clinical scheduling (e.g., myClinicalExchange—if required by the clinical facility where a student is completing immersion hours; historically approximately \$38), Typhon group clinical log (approximately \$70-125), and fees associated with graduation (regalia).

HIPAA Requirements

All students are required to provide verification of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

(HIPAA) training from their place of employment. If a student has not had HIPAA training, training must be completed prior to the first week of nursing classes (training is offered to students in the HSC programs free of cost; information on how to access the course in the Graduate SOLE site will be provided in the admission letter). All students enrolled in the WVU SON Graduate Program are required to provide verification or complete training on HIPAA in PreCheck/SentryMD.

Student Health Insurance and Responsibility for Medical Expenses

Students must have health insurance while they are enrolled in the WVU SON. Health insurance is available through the Student Health for students who are enrolled in 6 or more credits. Students who have private health insurance can apply for a waiver of insurance coverage through WVU. The waiver application to show proof of insurance and opt-out of the WVU sponsored health insurance plan is available at <http://studentinsurance.wvu.edu/>.

Student Resources

Academic Advising

Students in the program will have two advisors in the WVU SON: a faculty advisor, whose name will be found in the letter of admission, and an academic advisor. A faculty advisor is an experienced faculty member who will be available to help with issues encountered. The Director of the MSN/DNP programs will serve as the faculty advisor until a student is paired with a Faculty of Record (FOR) during the DNP project development course. If questions arise about which courses are needed, transfer credits, a change in track or progression plan, students should contact the faculty advisor. Academic advising is shared by Jeffrey Wilson jfwilson@hsc.wvu.edu and Brandy Toothman btoothman@hsc.wvu.edu, who will assist with many of the technical details encountered, such as course registration, dropping courses, filing forms, and so forth. If there are problems with registration, contact Mr. Wilson or Mrs. Toothman. Contact should be initiated with your faculty and academic advisors each semester prior to registration, and at any time there is need of advice regarding academic plans.

Any changes in the progression plan must be processed with your academic advisor and sent to the program director. Changes in the progression plan will only be approved if space is available. Students are expected to contact their faculty and academic advisors each semester before registering for courses. It is expected that students will phone or e-mail the faculty advisor in advance to set up appointments. Every effort is made by the faculty to accommodate students' schedules.

Students must be sure that a correct home and work phone number as well as address are on record with both the faculty advisor and the WVU SON Office of Student Services. If such information changes, the student must notify the faculty advisor, Office of Student Services, and the Office of the University Registrar immediately.

Students should make and keep their own copies of all forms, documents, letters, etc. that relate to progression or academic standing in the program. Examples include registration forms, grade reports, and grade modification forms, the admission letter, and letter from the program director.

Registering for Courses

Prior to registering for courses, students must consult with their academic or faculty advisor. Course offerings are listed in the Schedule of Courses, which is published each semester, typically near the middle of the term. The Schedule of Courses is available on the WVU Office of the University Registrar page: <https://starss.wvu.edu/StudentRegistrationSsb/ssb/term/termSelection?mode=search>

Credit Loads

Graduate students must limit their course credit load if they are also employed. University policy recommends that students who are employed full-time (40 hours) enroll in no more than six credits in any one term.

Graduate students should plan for a minimum of one classroom hour per registered credit per week and three outside hours of preparation per registered credit per week (e.g., 5 credits are equivalent to 5 classroom hours/week + 15 outside hours/week = 20 hours/week). This rule should be taken into consideration when planning work and school time.

Financial Aid

Financial aid may not be available every semester depending on the individual progression plan and

number of credits taken. Financial aid is not available for certificate programs.

For information concerning forms of financial assistance available to students, and application forms contact:

WVU Financial Aid Office
Evansdale Crossing (2nd Floor)
62 Morrill Way
Morgantown, WV 26506
Telephone 304-293-1988

Campus Library and Computer Labs

Morgantown

The [Health Sciences Library](#) in Morgantown supports the schools of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Public Health at the WVU Robert C. Byrd HSC (2nd floor HSC, see link for hours). The library makes available extensive information resources, access services, and instruction to support the teaching, research, and service functions of WVU. The library has knowledgeable staff which link students and others with relevant information in digital and traditional formats. The library offers many resources to students including, computer workstations, computer equipped study rooms, study tables and carrels with laptop compatible power and data ports, and wireless internet. Virtual resources are available at <https://lib.wvu.edu/healthsciences/services>.

Charleston

The [Health Sciences Library Charleston](#) offers computer access for students in the HSC Library (1st Floor, see link for hours). Library computers have access to Microsoft Office, Internet Explorer, Cochrane Library, and Nursing Primary care programs. Virtual resources are available at <https://library.wvu.edu/libraries/charleston>.

Information Technology Services (ITS)

Morgantown Health Sciences Center (HSC) Information Technology Services (ITS)

Room: 2356 HSS

Phone: 304-293-3631; Email: hsc_helpdesk@hsc.wvu.edu

Hours: Spring & Fall Semesters: Mon-Thurs: 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Fri: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Semester Breaks & Summer: Mon-Fri: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WVU ITS

Phone: 304-293-4444; Email: ITSHelp@mail.wvu.edu

Hours: Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Sat-Sun: – 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Student Resources: <https://it.wvu.edu/services/students>

If you encounter problems any time during online coursework, the WVU ITS or HSC ITS Help Desk should be able to assist you. You should not call the instructor for help with technical problems.

Graduate Peer Student Tutor

Peer Student tutoring provides an opportunity for students who may be struggling with nursing courses or content to be tutored by a nursing student who has excelled in the course the student tutee is having difficulty with. Tutors may facilitate tutee learning through assisting tutees in summarizing/applying

content of notes or instructor power points, explaining content that is not understood by the tutee, suggesting review activities, posing questions for tutees to answer, or assisting with test-taking strategies. See Graduate Peer Student Tutor Policy and Procedure section for more information.

Graduate Student Policies and Procedures

SON Professional Standards Policy

All students of the University and, to the extent applicable, all student organizations are expected and required to obey federal, state, and local laws, to comply with the policies of the West Virginia University Board of Governors (WVU BOG), with institutional or campus rules and regulations, with directives issued by any University official, and to observe standards of conduct appropriate for an academic institution. Any alleged violation to the Campus Student Code will be reported to the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

Students are expected to adhere to academic requirements and standards in all academic settings, such as classrooms, laboratories, and clinics, and during any activities that are part of academic requirements such as clinical and observational experiences. In addition, all students in the WVU SON are expected to uphold and demonstrate professional and personal moral standards as defined and described in the following documents:

- West Virginia Code and Legislative Rules; Section 30-7 and Title 19
- American Nurses Association Standards of Practice
- American Nurses Association Code for Professional Nurses
- American Nurses Association Code of Ethics

The WVU SON graduate student is expected to practice with responsibility and accountability as a professional nurse and professional nursing student. The ultimate goal of nursing practice is to promote health while preventing harm to others. The WVU SON believes that this goal will be attained if the student's daily nursing practice is guided by the Standards of Professional Practice. These standards reflect minimum acceptable professional conduct.

- The role of the professional nurse involves demonstrating attitudes, values, and behaviors consistent with professional nursing practice. Behavior in conflict with professional nursing practice is inconsistent with professionalism and will not be tolerated.
- Unprofessional behaviors consist of actions that do not demonstrate the minimum behaviors described as acceptable nursing practice. Incidents may be a single event or a pattern of behaviors. Professional Standards include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Maintain professional integrity,
 - ii. Practice within boundaries of the nursing student role,
 - iii. Comply with the policies and procedures of the WVU SON, course syllabi, the clinical agency, and the West Virginia RN Board (WVBON),
 - iv. Demonstrate behaviors consistent with expectations outlined by program outcomes and competencies.
 - v. Maintain HIPAA privacy laws at all times, including documentation of clinical hours/experiences in the TYPHON log

The WVBON requires that the program report misdemeanors or felonies and that applicants for licensure undergo a criminal background check and provide an explanation of any criminal incident. Depending on the Board's action, applicants for licensure may be barred from taking the NCLEX-RN, disciplinary action may be applied, and/or the nursing license may be restricted. An active, unencumbered nursing license is required to remain in some WVU SON programs.

Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge, attitudes, professional values, personal qualities, and behaviors consistent with the nursing role. Therefore, there is tangible link between professional role and

academic achievement. Students who violate WVU SON professional standards and/or policies outside the purview of the [Campus Student Code](#) may receive a penalty for failing to meet academic or professional requirements or standards, including but not limited to a final grade reduction or other penalties. See [Graduate Academic Penalties](#). Violations of WVU SON professional standards and/or policies unrelated to clinical experiences will be reviewed on an individual basis. Any violation that could potentially alter progression through immediate course failure, program dismissal, delay in graduation, or university suspension/expulsion will be referred to the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and the [WVU Student Conduct process](#)

A faculty member witnessing a violation that interferes with the ability to meet immediate classroom, clinical, or safety has the discretion to dismiss the student from the experience. In this instance, the program director must be notified that the student was dismissed and if SON personnel believe it is necessary to suspend student participation of certain activities until resolution has been completed and documented.

WVU HSC Medical Cannabis Policy

The West Virginia University Health Sciences Center (HSC) is comprised of the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health. Student curricular requirements often include both direct and indirect patient care learning assignments and required competencies set forth by accrediting bodies. Upon graduation, students are required to obtain licensure from their professional licensing boards prior to practicing clinically.

HSC students are not prohibited from receiving a cannabis certification from a healthcare practitioner and possessing a valid identification card issued by the Bureau for Public Health within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources under WV 16A-1-1. However, WV 16A-5-10 states that medical cannabis patients may be prohibited by an employer from performing any duty which could result in a public health or safety risk while under the influence of medical cannabis. Due to patient care requirements within each schools' curricula and the need to obtain professional licensure prior to employment, use and/or consumption of cannabis is not permitted while enrolled or actively performing in any clinical program within the WVU HSC. WVU HSC is subject to the federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, which prohibits possession of cannabis, even medical cannabis, anywhere on campus. Additional information can be found here: [2024 Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Booklet](#).

Policy on Incivility, Bullying, and Workplace Violence from ANA Position Statement

ANA's Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements states that nurses are required to "create an ethical environment and culture of civility and kindness, treating colleagues, co-workers, employees, students, and others with dignity and respect." Similarly, nurses must be afforded the same level of respect and dignity as others (ANA, 2015a). Thus, the nursing profession will no longer tolerate violence of any kind from any source. All registered nurses and employers in all settings, including practice, academia, and research must collaborate to create a culture of respect, free of incivility, bullying, and workplace violence. Best practice strategies based on evidence must be implemented to prevent and mitigate incivility, bullying, and workplace violence; to promote the health, safety, and wellness of registered nurses; and to ensure optimal outcomes across the health care continuum. This position statement, although written specifically for registered nurses and employers, is also relevant to other health care professionals and stakeholders who collaborate to create and sustain a safe and healthy interprofessional work environment. Stakeholders who have a relationship with the worksite have a responsibility to address incivility, bullying, and workplace violence.

The full position statement is available at: [ANA Code of Ethics](#)

Academic Integrity Statement (Policy)

It is the desire of the WVU SON faculty to create and foster a positive learning environment that promotes professionalism, integrity, and mutual trust. Nursing students are expected to act with integrity and honesty in all didactic and clinical settings, regardless of the nature of the assignment or activity or percentage weight toward course grade. For example, the WVU SON places as high an expectation on academic integrity for assignments, quizzes, and short discussion board writing submissions as it does for exams or end-of-semester papers. WVU defines academic dishonesty in its policy referenced above and includes any dishonest act during didactic or clinical activities that violates professional nursing standards. Such standards can be found in the American Nurses Association ([ANA Code of Ethics](#) (2015) and the [ANA Scope and Standards of Practice](#) (2015). All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. The WVU SON follows the [WVU Policy on Student Academic Integrity](#).

It is important that instructors and students adhere to rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and on all assignments and coursework to maintain the integrity of the education provided and ensure the validity of student assessment. In addition, RN licensure and safe nursing practice require that students exhibit characteristics of good moral character, including honesty and integrity. Students are strongly encouraged to ask a faculty member or administrator if they are unsure if a practice would be considered academic dishonesty prior to engaging in that practice. Students and faculty are expected to model the highest professional standards and to report possible instances of academic dishonesty. Any questions about professional standards or policies may be directed to the instructor, program director, or Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs.

Formal complaints of academic dishonesty shall be filed with the Director of Academic Integrity by any Authorized Reporter (typically the Instructor of Record). Complaints should be submitted to the Director of Academic Integrity within ten (10) academic days following the discovery of the alleged incident of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty sanctions may range from remedial/educational sanctions to university expulsion. The comprehensive Academic Integrity policy, process, and list of sanctions can be found in the [WVU Policy on Student Academic Integrity](#).

Social Media Policy

WVU is committed to free and open expression and supports its faculty, staff, and students in the use of social media to connect with each other and to accelerate teaching and learning. Social media is a powerful tool that carries with it many rewards, but with those rewards come personal and institutional risks. The University has developed these guidelines to assist the University community in the safe, legal, and effective use of blogs, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Foursquare, and other social media outlets, and to protect users' personal and professional reputations and the institutional reputation of the University. Because technology evolves constantly, these Guidelines will be monitored and revised as deemed necessary. HSC ITS Social Networking Sites, Blogs, & Instant Messaging Policy may be found here: [WVU Social Media Guidelines](#)

1. Use of social media must comply with all applicable University policies, guidelines, and regulations, including but not limited to: Board of Governors policies, Division of Human Resources policies, Administration and Finance policies, and University Relations and Information Technology Services standards and procedures.
2. All use of technology resources must comply with the Information Technology Services [Acceptable Use of Data and Technology Resources Policy](#).
3. Users must not post confidential information about West Virginia University, its faculty, staff, or students.

4. Faculty, employees, and students at the West Virginia University Robert C. Byrd HSC also must abide by the HSC Standards, policies, procedures and Interim HIPAA Privacy and security policies reviewed upon admission and during annual required HSC IT Security Awareness Training which contain vital information relating to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Violation/ Breach of HIPAA may result in immediate dismissal from the School of Nursing.
5. Content managers must follow all WCAG 2.0 and 508 Compliance recommendations including captioning of all videos with correct spelling and grammar as well as other accessibility guidelines including alt tags for graphics. If a video is not transcribed by another group, it should not be shared.

Electronic Device Policy

Cell phones, laptops, and any devices with ringtones or other audible notifications must be silenced when in the classroom, workshop, or clinical area. Students may not accept or access personal cell phone calls or text messaging in the direct patient care or simulation area. Students must adhere and will be subject to WVU SON and clinical institution policies regarding cell phone use and social media activity.

Health Information and Credential Documentation Policy upon Admission

All West Virginia University School of Nursing (WVU SON) students in clinical-based programs must submit and verify approval of immunizations, immunity, compliance with clinical requirements, and other important documentation in order to safeguard students and protect patients in the clinical setting.

Students are required to purchase a Precheck/SentryMD account. Students are responsible for maintaining the current information in the Precheck/SentryMD account, including items that must be maintained continuously or that expire as outlined below.

A packet of instructions will be distributed to students upon admission, and students are responsible for checking all relevant email accounts (required to use MIX email account) to verify that submissions were approved. If there are any unresolved issues or extenuating circumstances, it is the student's responsibility to contact Precheck/SentryMD and/or the program director prior to the deadline.

Graduate nursing students are required to maintain and document active unencumbered RN licensure. APRN certification maintenance and documentation is also required for those who are in programs that require it for admission. Students must immediately report any event or circumstance that could impact the status of continued RN licensure or APRN certification. Failure to do so or allowing a license or certification to expire would result in dismissal from the program.

The following documents are required for admission in all WVU SON graduate programs (excluding the PhD Program). Official documentation must come from a physician, health clinic, etc., and parental written documentation of immunization records is not considered adequate. Please note that students will need to meet all clinical facility requirements prior to clinical experiences, even if they are not listed in this policy. **Please note: It may take up to 5 days for Sentry to process documents. Please submit accordingly.**

Documentation required as a condition for admission

- Proof of RN licensure and APRN certification (if a requirement of the program)
- Criminal Background Check (See Background Check Policy) Please note that students rotating to Pennsylvania clinical sites will have additional background check requirements that may take up to 3 months to process.
- Current American Heart Association BLS and ACLS certification (CRNA only)

- Urine drug screen (See Drug and Alcohol Screening Policy) (within six weeks of the first day of classes) Students are required to repeat the drug screen if the negative result is dilute. Drug screens are completed through PreCheck and uploaded to SentryMD.

Documentation required upon admission

- Signed handbook signature page
- Signed academic integrity policy page
- Current American Heart Association BLS CPR certification for adult, child, and infant
- Current American Heart Association PALS certification (CRNA only)
- HIPAA training completion certificate (found in SOLE)
- Official documentation of tetanus and pertussis immunization within the last 10 years (and prior to expiration)
- Official documentation of Varicella (Chicken Pox): **must have 2 dose vaccine series OR** positive surface antibody titer date. If antibody titers are required, quantitative lab report including values and reference range required. *If Non-Immune titer results, repeat two-dose series. If there is only documentation of “history of disease,” a varicella titer is required. If that titer is negative, documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine is required.
- Official documentation of initial immunization and booster for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR), **must have a 2-dose series on file**, Dose #1 given at age 12-15 months and Dose #2 given approx. 1 month after first dose **OR** positive surface antibody titers are required. If antibody titers are required, a quantitative lab report including values and reference range is required. *If Non-Immune titer result, a booster is required
- Hepatitis B: Submit a HepB Surface Antibody Quantitative (numerical result) Titer proving immunity AND proof of a completed HepB Vaccine Series. *If you receive a Non-Immune Titer result, a single challenge dose of hepatitis B vaccine should be administered, and then repeat the antibody Titer 4-6 weeks after the last vaccine dose. If the titer continues to indicate non-immunity, the full vaccine series would need to be completed with a repeat antibody Titer 4-6 weeks after the last vaccine dose. **If the test is still negative after a second vaccine series, the person should be referred for follow up testing and clearance by a health care provider. Submit all documentation to Sentry MD during the process
- Official documentation of a negative current (within 6 months) Quantiferon-TB Gold serum screening test.
- Official documentation of Varicella (Chicken Pox): **must have 2 dose vaccine series OR** positive surface antibody titer date. If antibody titers are required, quantitative lab report including values and reference range required. *If Non-Immune titer results, repeat two-dose series.
- Documentation of full Covid-19 Vaccination (if required by a clinical facility)(recommended that all students that are vaccinated upload the documentation). **The COVID-19 vaccine is highly recommended. Some clinical agencies outside the WVUH system may require the COVID-19 vaccine.** Upload documentation of vaccination and any booster received.
- OSHA-Required Training Compliance Certificate
- Proof of health insurance

WVU School of Nursing Drug and Alcohol Screening Policy

The WVU SON has an obligation to protect the public and its students while also respecting students’ privacy rights. Students are also obligated to follow our code of academic and professional integrity. Drug and alcohol screening policies at the academic program level must balance safety and privacy rights. This drug and alcohol screening policy applies to all WVU SON programs that incorporate a clinical component, direct patient care provision, and/or handling prescription medication. Students are required

by clinical agencies to undergo a urine drug screen prior to clinical experiences. In addition, the SON and its students must follow clinical facility policies and requirements regarding drug and alcohol screening. Positive drug or alcohol screens may preclude participation in clinical rotations. This could, in turn, prevent the completion of the clinical course requirements and/or completion of the nursing program, or result in admission ineligibility or program dismissal.

Routine Urine Drug Screening Requirements Upon Program Admission

Students enrolled in programs with clinical components are required to submit a urine drug screen within six weeks of first day of classes through PreCheck/Sentry MD (see the PreCheck/Sentry MD Documentation Policy). Repeat specimen collection for a positive result is prohibited. Students are required to repeat a 'negative dilute' result and are responsible for the cost of the repeat test.

Upon admission, students will be tested for the following substances: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, PCP, and propoxyphene.

New program applicants with a positive drug screen will be ineligible for admission to the program and will forfeit their admission "seat."

- Students who refuse substance screening upon admission will be treated as a positive result, and will be ineligible for admission to the program.
- Repeat specimen collection for a positive blood or urine result is prohibited.

Reasonable Suspicion ("For Cause") of Substance Use

- Random and "for cause" drug and/or alcohol screening may be documented through PreCheck/Sentry MD, a participating LabCorp facility, or a clinical facility. Students enrolled in courses with clinical components may be subject to additional alcohol testing and/or drug screening if reasonable suspicion for testing and/or screening is found (see Consent Form for Alcohol, Drug, and Substance Testing).
- By signing Handbook Signature Page you are consenting for the agency's laboratory to collect blood, urine, or saliva samples from me to conduct necessary medical tests to determine the presence or use of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances. Further, consenting for the release of the test result(s) and other relevant medical information to the WVU SON Dean, Associate Dean, and Program Director. Students are responsible for posting test results and other relevant medical information into their SentryMD accounts. Refusal to consent and/or providing results of testing is considered a positive result and associated with disciplinary actions that may include dismissal from the nursing program.

Reasonable suspicion of substance use requires some level of objective information to believe that drugs and/or alcohol are involved. Reasonable suspicion of substance (drugs or alcohol) use may be considered in the presence of the following factors:

1. Direct observation of the student engaging in drug or alcohol related activity
2. Direct observation of the student demonstrating symptoms of being under the influence, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Slurred speech
 - b. Odor of alcohol on breath or person
 - c. Unsteady gait
 - d. Dilated pupils or bloodshot/glassy eyes
 - e. Disoriented or confused behavior
 - f. Observed behaviors indicative of hallucinations

- g. Unexplained accident or injury
- 3. Documented pattern of erratic behavior or sudden change in demeanor
- 4. Documented sudden change in performance, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness
 - b. Decline in academic performance, including missed deadlines
 - c. Work habits in the clinical environment, including increased errors
- 5. Specific and reliable information from a credible source

Upon notification of suspicion, students must immediately:

- A. Follow PreCheck procedures for drug and/or alcohol testing. This would apply to students in the community setting and/or during business hours, or per facility/preceptor/faculty discretion. Students utilizing Pre-Check should follow the following steps:
 - Go to the Student Check Web Portal Page and place an order for the reasonable suspicion package.
 - Proceed to testing site to complete testing.
- OR
- B. Present to emergency department at the clinical facility for drug and/or alcohol testing. Student must use a cab or rideshare (at the student's expense) to a clinical facility for testing. This applies to students who are placed in clinical sites/off shift, or per facility/preceptor/faculty discretion. Students will upload test results and other relevant medical information into their SentryMD accounts within 24 hours of receiving results.

Students must notify their program director of the request for testing within 24 hours.

- Following reasonable suspicion drug and/or alcohol testing, the student is responsible for finding transportation to and/or from the testing site at their expense. Under no circumstances will the student be allowed to drive home or return to class or clinical following testing.

Students may not be permitted to begin or return to the clinical rotation until drug screen results are available.

Prohibited Substances for Reasonable Suspicion

Prohibited substances may include but are not limited to: cannabinoids, anesthesia/anesthetics, phencyclidine (PCP), cocaine, amphetamines, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, propoxyphene, methadone, methaqualone, methamphetamine, buprenorphine, opiates, and opioids. Students may not be under the influence of alcohol while performing patient care duties or handling prescription medication.

Students utilizing pre-check for lab testing may be testing for the following: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, PCP, propoxyphene, oxycodone, buprenorphine, and fentanyl, and alcohol.

Students utilizing a clinical facility may be tested for the following substances, including but not limited to: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, oxycodone, buprenorphine, fentanyl, MDMA, alcohol, or per the clinical providers discretion.

Students utilizing a clinical facility for drug testing may use the provider letter denoted in Appendix 8 when presenting to the lab.

Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by individuals under the age of 21 is a violation of

state liquor laws. Likewise, it is illegal for anyone to provide alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 21.

Any student under the influence of drugs or alcohol during a clinical experience may pose serious safety and health risks, not only to themselves, but also to all those who work with them and to patients for whom they provide care. The unlawful possession, use, or sale of illegal drugs, prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, and/or alcohol poses an unacceptable risk for unsafe patient care. On-campus and off-campus incidents involving alcohol or prohibited substances will be referred to the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and may result in a violation pursuant to this policy.

Prescribed Substances

Students who are prescribed any substance that may impair their alertness or cognition while enrolled in a nursing course with a clinical component must notify their instructor as soon as possible and prior to clinical experiences, medication administration, or patient care. Students are permitted to take prescribed medications that may affect urine drug screen results as long as the student is able to safely provide care. Students taking legally prescribed medications that may affect urine drug screen results must notify PreCheck when completing **drug screening requirements upon program admission**. Students prescribed medications that may or that may impair their alertness or cognition must notify the Program Director and refrain from participating in clinical experiences. Absences from clinical may prevent the student from meeting clinical objectives and impact program progression.

Positive Alcohol and Drug Screens

Any positive alcohol or drug screen may result in a violation of academic program policies and professionalism standards.

Refusal of a Blood or Urine Screen

Refusal of a blood or urine screen, or refusal to present to a facility for testing, will be treated as a positive result. Repeat specimen collection for a positive result is prohibited.

Incidents involving alcohol or prohibited substances will be referred to the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and may result in a sanction pursuant to this policy. Interim suspension measures or an immediate leave of absence may be necessary during the investigation and/or during follow-up treatment and support. Required documentation will be outlined in a formal outcome letter and will be maintained with the student's academic program record.

The WVU SON recognizes that chemical dependency is an illness that can be treated. Assistance for students who are dependent on a chemical substance is available through WVU and [WV Restore](#), and any sanction regarding a violation of this policy will result in a WV Restore referral. If, through disciplinary proceedings and the resulting sanctions, the student is permitted to return to the academic program, full compliance with the recommendations of the counseling/support program will be required.

Under the University's [Campus Student Code](#) and WV law, bystanders and those affected by drug or alcohol overdose may be safe from prosecution and may not face charges if they seek medical assistance in an emergency.

Student Injury or Blood and Bodily Fluids Exposure Policy

An exposure incident is defined as follows:

- Injury with a contaminated sharp object (e.g., needle-stick, scalpel-cut)
- Spills or splashes of blood or other potentially infectious material onto non-intact skin (e.g.,

cuts, hangnails, dermatitis, abrasions, chapped skin) or onto a mucous membrane (e.g., mouth, nose, eye).

- If a student has an exposure to blood/bodily fluids as described above, the student must first wash the injury site with soap and water, and immediately notify the faculty or preceptor.

Students experiencing an exposure or injury must notify the agency preceptor and WVU SON faculty of the exposure or injury and be treated according to the agency protocol. Students must immediately report any health incident to the preceptor. They are required to complete the treatment and documentation required by the facility and the SON Incident Report Form. When treatment is not available in the clinical agency, the student should be referred to Student Health Service. Follow-up care is the responsibility of the student through his/her primary health providers. *All costs related to testing and treatment are the responsibility of the student.*

Students that incur injuries that do not involve exposure to blood or body fluids must contact their own personal physician for care. Students with allergies to specific personal protective equipment that is provided by the clinical site are responsible for obtaining whatever special products they require. The cost of these supplies is the responsibility of the student. Assistance will be provided in directing the student to suppliers.

Background Check Policy

Students are required by clinical agencies to undergo federal and state criminal background checks and a urine drug screen prior to clinical experiences. Felony convictions, some serious misdemeanors, and positive drug screens may preclude participation in clinical rotations. This could, in turn, prevent the completion of clinical course requirements and completion of the nursing program or result in admission ineligibility or program dismissal.

In addition, the WVBON requires that applicants for licensure undergo a criminal background check and answer the following question: *Have you EVER been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor or pled nolo contendere to any crime, had record expunged or been pardoned?* An application that indicates a criminal history is considered a non-routine application and must be reviewed by the WVBON staff and possibly referred to the Board's Disciplinary Review Committee.

Procedure for Criminal Background Checks

1. Students will have a criminal background check at admission documented through PreCheck (See PreCheck/SentryMD Documentation Policy).
2. If the background check indicates a criminal history, the clinical agency will be notified and will determine whether or not to allow the student to participate in clinical experiences at that agency.
3. If the student is unable to participate in clinical experiences, the student will not be able to complete clinical course requirements, and, therefore, will not be able to meet requirements to complete the nursing program.
4. Students will be required to complete a Statement of Criminal Record form (**Appendix 9**) each semester they are enrolled in nursing courses to indicate any changes that have occurred related to the criminal record.
5. Students who are charged with or convicted of a crime may be subject to admission ineligibility, dismissal, suspension, or lesser disciplinary sanctions.
6. **Students who experience a "Citation" or "Arrest" while enrolled in the nursing program must notify the SON Office of Student Services within 72 hours of the citation or arrest Statement of Criminal Record.**

Graduate Peer Student Tutor Policy and Procedure

Peer Student tutoring provides an opportunity for students who may be struggling with nursing courses or content to be tutored by a nursing student who has excelled in the course the student tutee is having difficulty with. Tutoring is offered for any course as long as there are tutors available for the eligible student(s).

- **Policy:** Tutors may facilitate tutee learning through assisting tutees in summarizing/applying content of notes or instructor power points, explaining content that is not understood by the tutee, suggesting review activities, posing questions for tutees to answer, or assisting with test-taking strategies. The peer tutor may share his/her notes with students, but may not share any completed assignments, testing materials, or test banks that the tutee student does not already have access to.
- **Procedure:**
 - Potential peer student tutors will be identified by nursing faculty for the courses having tutorship opportunities and will be contacted by the tutor program coordinator to determine interest.
 - Students can access the peer tutor resource based on recommendation of a course coordinator, program director, or an advisor. Students who have struggled with a prior nursing course or who have been placed on probation for GPA of <3.0 should be referred. Alternatively, students can self-identify for the program, if they have received a grade of (80%) or lower on a test in a current course or an overall final grade of C in a prior nursing course.
 - The tutor will meet with the tutee at least three times per semester, but no more than weekly (unless approved by the Tutor Coordinator), for a period of time between one and two hours. Tutors will be paid by the School of Nursing. Tutors will log tutoring time via “clocking in and out” of the tutor sessions (if the tutor is on WVU campus), or by emailing the Tutor Coordinator at the end of the week. Tutoring may be conducted face-to-face or remotely in 1:1 tutor to student sessions.
 - Student tutors will be employed on an hourly basis by the School of Nursing and will be required to clock their tutor time (or email the Tutor Coordinator with tutoring hours) for payment. Tutors will be required to sign the peer tutor contract and complete a brief virtual orientation.
 - At the conclusion of the semester, both the tutee and the tutor will evaluate the tutoring arrangement via an anonymous survey.

Student Appeal and Complaint Policies

The primary purpose of the appeal procedure is to allow review of a penalty or sanction in cases in which a student believes that due process was not followed or that the penalty or sanction was imposed unfairly or inconsistently with regard to course requirements and policies, or with program and University standards and regulations. Students have the right to appeal a final grade, academic penalty, or charge of academic dishonesty that they believe reflects a capricious, arbitrary, or prejudiced academic evaluation or reflects discrimination based on race, gender, age, disability, veteran status, religion or creed, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Additional grounds for appeal may include unreasonable severity penalty, demonstrable prejudice in the decision-making process, a belief that the evidence does not support the finding of responsibility (in the case of academic dishonesty) or the choice of penalty, or additional evidence or new information that was not considered in determining the penalty.

If a student does not appeal an academic penalty or fails to follow the appeal procedures described below, the academic penalty will be upheld.

Appeal of a Final Grade

For WVU SON, the Level 1 appeal should be submitted through WVU email to the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs, and Level 2 appeals are submitted to the Dean. Please refer to the [WVU Policy for Appeal of a Final Grade](#) for more information.

Appeal of an Academic Penalty

Students may also appeal academic penalties other than a final grade, such as admissions decisions, program dismissals, academic notice, or progression policy penalties. This type of appeal is not used for academic dishonesty cases. Please refer to the [WVU Policy for Appeal of an Academic Penalty](#) for additional information. Level 3 appeals are submitted through WVU email to the graduate associate provost.

In the WVU SON, the Academic and Professional Standards Committee presides over the Level 1 appeal. The letter of appeal should be submitted through WVU email to the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs, who will forward the appeal to the committee chairperson. Level 2 appeals are submitted through WVU email to the Dean.

Appeal of a Charge and/or Penalty Based on Academic Dishonesty

A student who has been found responsible for violating the WVU Policy on Student Academic Integrity may initiate an appeal by submitting a written appeal following the instructions provided in the notice of outcome. The student must file an appeal within 10 academic days from the date the outcome letter is sent. If no appeal is submitted within that time frame, the sanction(s) will be applied, no appeal will be considered, and the matter will be concluded. The student's appeal must include the documentation and evidence forming the basis of their appeal, and must be based on one or more of the recognized grounds for appeal listed in the [WVU Policy on Student Academic Integrity](#). The student may appeal the finding of responsibility, the sanction(s), or both. The Office of Academic Integrity must provide all relevant documentation to the Provost upon their request. The Provost assesses the available evidence and makes a decision about the appeal based on that evidence. The sanction(s) under review may be upheld, lessened, or dismissed entirely, but not aggravated, by the Provost. The Provost communicates the decision in writing via WVU e-mail to the student and other individuals or committees that have been involved in the charge or appeal to that point. The Office of Academic Integrity retains all documentation related to the appeal for 5 years. Once the Provost has issued a decision, the matter is final and binding upon all involved.

Appeal of an Admission Decision

If an application for admission into a graduate program is denied, the applicant may request the reasons for refusal of admission by writing to the specific graduate program coordinator (see [Academics](#) page). Note that meeting the minimum requirements for admission into a graduate program does not ensure admission. An applicant may appeal to the graduate program coordinator for reconsideration if the applicant can document either factual errors in processing the application or that the decision was arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory in nature. Appeals must be submitted within 30 calendar days of the date of the admission denial. If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the appeal by the graduate program coordinator, the applicant may appeal to the dean of the college or school. The decision of the dean, as the provost's designee, shall be rendered within 20 calendar days of the receipt of the appeal and is final. Please see [Graduate Admission Denial](#).

Formal Student Complaints

The WVU SON has formal processes in place for student appeals and complaints. The institution and program utilize the formal appeals process to facilitate student appeals related to a final grade, academic

penalty, academic dishonesty charge, and admission decision. Formal student complaints are submitted to the Associate Deans via [survey](#)-distributed weekly in the pulse and via email communication from the Associate Deans. Student can choose to identify themselves or submit anonymously. The Associate Dean for the program identified in the complaint keeps a file with formal complaints and follows up with appropriate actions on a case-by-case basis based on the nature of the complaint. Students may also file a complaint through the WVU complaint [form](#).

Graduate Progression Policies

Student success and program completion are among the highest priorities. The following policies outline standards and procedures related to progression and graduation and describe options available when students determine that a change in intended progression is desired. The goal of these policies is to encourage progression, persistence, and completion while creating mechanisms for flexibility required to achieve that same goal.

Students must be continuously enrolled in School of Nursing programs in order to maintain active status. Failure to continue in established progression plan will result in program dismissal. Summer term enrollment is only required if the student's program of study/progression plan is dependent on summer for an on-time graduation. If a student experiences extenuating circumstances and needs to interrupt enrollment in any way, the following policies should be reviewed carefully. If a student needs to withdraw from any courses or decides not to enroll for the next semester, the student must meet with the academic and faculty advisors.

Academic Standards for Progression Policy

To progress in the graduate programs, a student must meet these academic standards. Failure to meet the criteria will result in dismissal from the program.

1. Grade Point Average (GPA) requirements:

Degree seeking graduate students are required to maintain a 3.0 program GPA. A student who falls below a 3.0 in program courses after nine or more credit hours are completed in the program will be placed on academic notice.

- Full-time degree-seeking graduate students will have only one semester to bring up the GPA to the 3.0 requirement. Failure to raise the program GPA to 3.0 by the next enrolled semester will result in program dismissal.
- Part-time graduate students will have two semesters to bring up the GPA to the 3.0 requirement. Failure to raise the program GPA to 3.0 by the next enrolled semester will result in program dismissal.

2. Course grade requirements:

- a. Students must earn A, B, C, Pass, or Satisfactory in all required courses.
- b. A grade of F, Fail, or Unsatisfactory in any course results in program dismissal.
- c. Students can only carry forward one C grade in a nursing course. A second C in any nursing course will result in program dismissal.
- d. Students can only carry forward two course withdrawals (resulting in a "W" on the academic transcript). The withdrawals cannot occur in the same course more than one time.

3. Course age requirements:

Students are permitted to continue in a graduate nursing program for a maximum of 7 years following their term of admission to the programs. A course completed more than 7 years prior to the term of degree or certificate completion will be reviewed by program administrators and the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs. The student may be required to validate current knowledge in the subject area, repeat the course(s), or complete competency evaluation. The [University's time limit requirements](#) must also be met.

Grading Scale Policy

The grading scale for nursing as posted in each course syllabus is:

A = 93-100, B = 85-92, C = 77-84, F = 76 and below.

Grades are calculated to two decimal places (hundredths) and are rounded at the 0.5 level. Rounding will occur on final grades only and not on individual assignments or in grading categories. The following grading scale illustrates incorporation of rounding procedures. Percentage ranges are strictly enforced, and no additional rounding will occur.

Extra Credit and Bonus Point Policy

No bonus points or extra credit will be offered in nursing courses (courses with the prefix NSG). Bonus points are defined as any points (or percentages) added to the student's score that do not also add the same number of points (or percentages) to the total possible for the course. No academic points will be awarded for survey completion, research participation, or other non-academic, non-clinical activities.

Incomplete Grade Policy

The grade of Incomplete (I) is a temporary grade assignment used when unforeseen, non-academic circumstances arise that prohibit students from completing the last course assignments or examinations at the end of the semester (for more detailed information and the formal policy, see http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/advising_and_evaluation/#Incompletes). To request an Incomplete, students must submit this form to the instructor before the end of the term. It is the instructor's decision whether or not an Incomplete will be assigned, with final approval of the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs. An Incomplete Contract (form) must be completed by the student before a grade of "I" is assigned. See Incomplete Form in Appendix 8. Students must remedy the Incomplete prior to the end of the add/drop period of the next semester to enroll in a course for which the Incomplete serves as a prerequisite, course in sequence, or repeatable course.

Partial Credit/Partial Scoring Exam Policy

All instructor-created exams are scored based on complete and correct responses only. Partial credit will not be awarded for answers to any exam questions that are incomplete, partially correct, or demonstrate only partial understanding. Each question must be answered fully and accurately to receive credit.

LOA Policy

Students may request a leave of absence (LOA) or a partial LOA for extenuating circumstances, such as family and parental leave, military duty, jury duty, or significant changes in health or financial status. The student is required to submit an LOA and Withdrawal Form with the rationale, requested time period, and revised progression plan to the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs (who consults with program administrators). Requests that include partial semesters and/or individual courses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for timeframe implications. Additional documentation may be required to clarify the circumstances for the request. Students are encouraged to evaluate the [WVU Withdrawal Policies](#), the financial implications of the decision, the effects of the LOA on program progression and the 7-year time limit, and [International Student Policies](#) as applicable. While students may be permitted to request a partial LOA and withdrawal from individual courses, WVU policies regarding course refunds should be carefully considered.

An LOA is not equivalent to a withdrawal or a dismissal, and there are specific limitations. Students are not permitted to have more than one LOA, and each LOA is limited to one semester. If unforeseen circumstances prevent the student's return to a program following a one-semester LOA, the student may

request a one-semester extension, which is only granted in extreme circumstances. Transcript W's that are part of an approved LOA do not count against the student and are not subject to the Academic Standards for Progression policy.

If a student is on an approved LOA, it is the student's responsibility to notify the advisor to schedule classes for the semester following the LOA and to seek a review of the revised progression plan. If the LOA was due to a significant change in health status, the student may be required to provide documentation from a healthcare provider that he or she is able to return to the nursing program and perform all aspects of the student role.

If a student does not return to the program during the contracted semester, it will be considered a withdrawal and will require readmission to continue in the program (See LOA & Withdrawal Policy Appendix 9 and Readmission Policy Appendix 3). Exceptions will be granted if required courses are not offered the semester in which the student is expected to return. Retrospective LOA requests will not be accepted. Students planning to return from an LOA are highly encouraged to maintain their Sentry/Pre-check account. This account must be up to date by the end of the first week of the semester the student is returning.

Withdrawal Policy

A withdrawal is defined as withdrawing from the program or failing to enroll in any given semester of the progression plan (see summer exception above). Students who withdraw must submit the LOA and Withdrawal Form, meet with the program administrator, and complete the Exit Interview Survey. Students must follow this process to leave in good standing and to be eligible for readmission at a later date (See LOA & Withdrawal Policy Appendix 9 and Readmission Policy Appendix 3). Withdrawals resulting in Ws on the transcript will be subject to the Academic Standards for Progression Policy.

Health Information and Credential Documentation Policy: Progression

Graduate nursing students are required to maintain and document active unencumbered RN licensure. APRN certification maintenance and documentation is also required for those who are in programs that require it for admission. Students must immediately report any event or circumstance that could impact the status of continued RN licensure or APRN certification. Failure to do so or allowing a license or certification to expire would result in dismissal from the program.

The following documents are required for progression in all WVU SON graduate programs (excluding the PhD Program). Official documentation must come from a physician, health clinic, etc., and parental written documentation of immunization records is not considered adequate. Please note that students will need to meet all clinical facility requirements prior to clinical experiences, even if they are not listed in this policy.

Requirements

Documentation required upon admission

- Signed handbook signature page
- Signed academic integrity policy page
- Current American Heart Association BLS CPR certification for adult, child, and infant
- Current American Heart Association PALS certification (CRNA only)
- HIPAA training completion certificate (found in SOLE)
- Official documentation of tetanus and pertussis immunization within the last 10 years (and prior to expiration)
- Official documentation of Varicella (Chicken Pox): **must have 2 dose vaccine series OR** positive surface antibody titer date. If antibody titers are required, quantitative lab report including values

and reference range required. *If Non-Immune titer results, repeat two-dose series. If there is only documentation of “history of disease,” a varicella titer is required. If that titer is negative, documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine is required.

- Official documentation of initial immunization and booster for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR), **must have a 2-dose series on file**, Dose #1 given at age 12-15 months and Dose #2 given approx. 1 month after first dose **OR** positive surface antibody titers are required. If antibody titers are required, a quantitative lab report including values and reference range is required. *If Non-Immune titer result, a booster is required
- Official documentation of a complete Hepatitis B series (3 doses) and a positive Hep. B titer. If the Hep. B titer is negative, the 3-dose series must be repeated. **Titers must include a numerical result or numerical reference ranges. *If Non-Immune titer result, repeat full vaccine series and submit to Sentry MD.**
- Official documentation of a negative current (within 6 months) Quantiferon-TB Gold serum screening test.
- Official documentation of Varicella (Chicken Pox): **must have 2 dose vaccine series** **OR** positive surface antibody titer date. If antibody titers are required, quantitative lab report including values and reference range required. *If Non-Immune titer results, repeat two-dose series.
- Documentation of full Covid-19 Vaccination (if required by a clinical facility)(recommended that all students that are vaccinated upload the documentation). **The COVID-19 vaccine is highly recommended. Some clinical agencies outside the WVUH system may require the COVID-19 vaccine.** Upload documentation of vaccination and any booster received.
- OSHA-Required Training Compliance Certificate
- Proof of health insurance

Documentation required every semester

- Completed Statement of Criminal Record Form

Documentation required every year

- Proof of RN licensure and APRN certification (if a requirement of the program)(prior to expiration)
- Current American Heart Association BLS CPR certification for adult, child, and infant (prior to certification expiration)
- Current American Heart Association ACLS and (CRNA only-prior to certification expiration)
- Urine drug screen (See Drug and Alcohol Screening Policy)(within one month of expiration)
Students are required to repeat the drug screen if the negative result is dilute. Drug screens are completed through PreCheck and uploaded to SentryMD.
- HIPAA training completion certificate (found in SOLE)
- Completed TB questionnaire (If students miss the annual TB questionnaire, the TB screening required upon admission will need to be repeated)
- Official documentation of an influenza vaccine (November 15 deadline)
- Signed handbook signature page
- Maintain Health Insurance

Compliance

Compliance requirements include any items that are due at the beginning of the semester and items that will become due prior to the end of the semester. Students must exhibit compliance prior to the beginning of each semester. It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that students complete all requirements for admission and ANNUAL requirements by August 1 for fall, Jan. 1 for spring, May 1 for summer) to avoid course point reduction. Students noncompliant on the first day of classes each semester will only

have the add/drop week to remedy documentation errors. AFTER THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS, PENALTIES WILL BE APPLIED.

An evaluation method for documentation compliance will be placed in every course syllabus. Faculty will receive reports regarding compliance from program administrators. Students receiving a series of immunizations are required to document each step of the series as it is received. **Students will not be penalized as long as they are following the recommended timeline for each step in the series.**

Non-compliance of this policy is considered a violation of WVU SON Professional Standards.

Per the WVU SON Professional Standards policy, students are to:

Comply with the policies and procedures of the WVU SON, course syllabi, the clinical agency, and the West Virginia RN Board (WVBON)

See [Graduate Academic Penalties](#)

No student will be permitted to engage in clinical hours until all requirements have been met.

Students who are not permitted to attend clinical due to non-compliance are still required to complete all clinical objectives/ required practice hours. No additional hours will be permitted. Students do not meet all clinical behaviors will fail the clinical component of the course.

Students who are enrolled in non-clinical courses and who are non-compliant with these requirements will receive a grade deduction in the lowest numeric course taken in the semester for each week that they are non-compliant.

Students non-compliant by the end of the second week of classes in the semester- 2% reduction in the final course grade.

Students non-compliant by the end of the third week of classes in the semester- 5% reduction in the final course grade.

Students non-compliant by the end of the fourth week of classes in the semester- 7% reduction in the final course grade.

Students non-compliant by the end of the fifth week of classes in the semester-24% reduction in the final course grade.

Student who are non-compliant with flu vaccines will receive a 2% deduction in the final course grade if students are non-compliant.

- **Please note: It may take up to 5 days for Sentry to process documents. Please submit accordingly.**

Vaccine Exemption Policy

Students may request medical or religious vaccine exemptions. **Medical vaccine exemption** requests should be directed to the [Office of Accessibility Services](#).

West Virginia University (“WVU”) students seeking a religious exemption from a vaccine mandate of a WVU Health Sciences Educational Program must submit a form for review. Following this review, the student will be notified if the exemption is approved. This form is for a **Religious** exemption ONLY. Please see APPENDIX 11 for additional information on how to request this form.

Students who are granted medical or religious exemptions for vaccination requirements must upload written confirmation to Sentry prior to the beginning of the semester. Students requesting vaccine exemptions are to follow the Health Information and Credential Documentation Policy and Compliance Requirements as denoted above. Students who fail to submit required documentation for exemptions by August 1 for fall, Jan. 1 for spring, May 1 for summer and are subject to course point deduction or removal from clinical, as stated above.

Additionally:

- Receiving an exemption may delay or prohibit the timely completion of the academic program at WVU.
- Students will be required to wear a mask and take any other reasonable precautions that may be requested by the clinical site to which the student is assigned to protect against the spread of contagions.
- All rotation and experiential sites may not be available, and this delay may prohibit timely completion of the academic program at WVU.
- This exemption may not be recognized or accepted at sites that are not owned or operated by WVUHS, and those sites may require me to go through their religious exemption request process.
- In addition, some sites that are not owned or operated by WVUHS may refuse to grant an exemption, and students may not be able to participate in those rotations or experiences, which may delay or prohibit the timely completion of my program at WVU.
- Students are responsible for securing the clinical site that honors their vaccine exception.

Graduation Requirements

It is essential that students meet with the academic and faculty advisors each semester to discuss progression and graduation requirements. Students should also track progress in Degree Works. Students must complete all program and University requirements at http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/degree_regulations/#Graduation. Students in a degree program **must be enrolled in classes in the semester in which they plan to graduate**. Finishing an incomplete does not fulfill this requirement.

Final DNP Project Defense, Presentation, Theses and Dissertations

Students are required to complete the “Final Defense/Presentation” as a “Paper/Final Project” and all relevant forms as per the Office of Health Sciences Research and Graduate Education (<https://health.wvu.edu/research-and-graduate-education/graduate-education/policies-and-forms/>) in accordance with University Policies for Theses and Dissertations (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/degree_regulations/#thesesdissertationstext). All requirements for the Defense **must be met in order to proceed with graduation**. **Specific requirements include:**

- Only after the thesis or dissertation committee has tentatively approved the student’s written thesis or dissertation can the final defense be scheduled. Otherwise, the defense should not proceed.
- The student’s committee chairperson must obtain approval of the time, place, and committee members for the defense from the college or school dean or designee at least two weeks before the defense date.
- All dissertation defenses are open to the public and the university community and must be posted on the University calendar by the college or school dean or designee.
- The student cannot be considered as having satisfactorily passed their defense if there is more than one unfavorable vote among members of the committee. All committee members, including the chair, are considered equal voting members. Results of each defense must be reported to the college or school dean or designee within two business days. If the defense is not passed, a repeat of the defense may be scheduled only with approval from the college/school dean or designee.
- The student and all committee members are normally expected to be physically present for a defense, but virtual participation in defense proceedings is permitted (with videoconferencing preferred). Anyone attending the defense electronically must remain available and able to communicate during the entire time of the defense.
- **Additional details available at:**
http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/degree_regulations/#thesesdissertationstext

Manuscript submission to the Electronic, Theses, and Dissertations (ETD) website

The final version of all WVU SON DNP project manuscripts must be submitted electronically through the University Libraries [Electronic Theses and Dissertations](#) website. Information about formatting, submission, and approval of electronic theses and dissertations is provided at this website. Submission of Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) **is required for graduation**. Students must complete library-specific committee signature form for ETD submission (available on the ETD website). Students must submit ETD by posted deadline to graduate during that term.

Graduation Checklist

A checklist of requirements for graduation must be signed by the student’s Academic and Faculty Advisors. See appendix 12 for Graduation Checklist. It is essential that students meet with their Academic Advisor each semester throughout the Program to discuss progression and graduation requirements so that all Graduation Checklist requirements are met by the time of graduation. In the final semester, the student must submit an [Application for Graduation](#).

References

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). (2006). The essentials of doctoral education for advanced nursing practice. Washington D.C. Accessible online at <https://www.aacnnursing.org/portals/42/publications/dnpessentials.pdf>
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). (2015). The Doctor of Nursing practice: Current issues and clarifying recommendations. Accessible online at <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/DNP/DNP-Implementation.pdf>
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). (2026). The essentials: core competencies for professional nursing education. Accessible online at <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Publications/Essentials-2026.pdf>
- American Nurses Association (ANA). (2025). Code of Ethics for Nurses. Accessible online at: <https://codeofethics.ana.org/home>
- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). (2024) Standards for accreditation of baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs. Accessible online at <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/CCNE/CCNE-Education-Standards-2024.pdf>
- National Task Force. (2022). Standards for quality nurse practitioner education (6th ed.). AACN. Accessible online at <https://www.nonpf.org/page/NTFStandards>

Appendices

Appendix 1: Graduate Provisional Admission Policy

Provisional graduate admission may be offered to students when they have earned a baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree from a regionally accredited college or university but do not meet the criteria for regular admission. Provisionally admitted graduate students may have program-defined deficiencies or an undergraduate or graduate scholastic record that shows promise but is below the required 3.0 for admission to the nursing program. Students will be considered for provisional admission on a case-by case basis depending upon space available and other qualifications.

Provisions of Admission

Provisional graduate admission may be offered to students when they have earned a baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree from a regionally accredited college or university but do not meet the criteria for regular admission. Provisionally admitted graduate students may have *program-defined deficiencies* or an undergraduate or graduate scholastic record that shows promise but is below the required 3.0 overall and/or nursing GPA required for admission to the nursing program. Students will be considered for provisional admission on a case-by case basis depending upon space available and other qualifications.

If admitted, all graduate students are required to maintain a 3.0 in all work attempted in the nursing program. International students may not be admitted provisionally because such students are not eligible to receive a student visa. WVU will only submit visa paperwork for regularly admitted graduate students.

Provisional graduate students who fail to meet the provisions of admission or who fail to achieve the required grade point average will be dismissed from the program and reclassified as non-degree.

Reclassification of Graduate Students

Provisional graduate students may be reclassified as regular graduate student's if/when they meet the program requirements specified in the offer of admission and the WVU minimum grade point average of 2.75.

Academic records of full-time degree seeking students who are admitted provisionally will be reviewed no later than the end of the term in which the students complete 18 credit hours.

Appendix 2: Transfer of Course Work

For degree seeking students, twelve semester credits of course work with a grade of B- or better may be transferred from institutions accredited at the graduate level in consultation with the program administrator and permission of the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs.

A student wishing to transfer credit from another institution must confer with his or her academic advisor and obtain a transfer of graduate credit form from the WVU Office of Student Services. This form requires the signature of the program administrator.

- The applicant must provide a letter of good standing from the program in which currently enrolled and/or any graduate program in which courses were taken but the program was not completed.
- The student should provide information about the course for transfer including the name of the institution with address and zip code, the course number and the name, and the course descriptions and syllabi as published by that institution, including the WVU course it replaces or the requirement it meets. Courses for transfer will be evaluated for equivalency by the program administrator and Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs (or designee).
- The student must have an official transcript from all attended institutions sent to the Office of the University Registrar. Failure to submit an original transcript will result in nullification of the transfer of credit. If the Registrar already has an official transcript, additional copies are not required.
- Nursing courses that will be 7 years old or older at the time of projected graduation will not be accepted. Students may request an exemption from the 7-year time limit for core advanced practice pharmacology, pathophysiology, and assessment courses as long as the student has a current advanced practice certification and current work experience as an advanced practice nurse. The University's time limit requirements must also be met.
http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/degree_regulations/#timelimitstext
- Transfer of Course Work/Credit SAMPLE FORM on next page



West Virginia University

[illegible]

Appendix 3: Readmission Policy

Any student who has been dismissed from the West Virginia University School of Nursing or any other nursing program may be considered for readmission if the dismissal was academic and was followed by successful completion of an additional degree. Any student who has withdrawn from the WVU School of Nursing program may be considered for readmission. Students may apply for readmission in accordance with the following guidelines and criteria but must follow the standard admission procedures. Students must meet all original admission requirements.

- Students previously enrolled in a WVU nursing program must complete all exit procedures and forms during the semester of withdrawal to be eligible for readmission.
- Readmission to a WVU graduate nursing program will be considered one time only.
- Students unable to complete the program within 7 years of the original admission date (will be required to restart the program if readmitted).
- Readmission is not guaranteed and is dependent upon space available, applicant qualifications, and academic discretion.
- Students may be required to repeat courses, revise the original progression plan, and/or validate clinical skills/knowledge obtained from previous courses.

Appendix 4: Verification of Precepted Post-BSN Clinical Hours and Calculation of Remaining Clinical Immersion Hours to be Attained at WVU SON as required for DNP Degree

Verification of Precepted Post-BSN Clinical Hours will be performed for each Post-master's DNP student via a gap analysis to determine the number of Clinical Immersion Practicum hours required of each student to meet the post-BSN 1000 hour requirement for the DNP. Completion of the Verification Form: Precepted Post-BSN Clinical Hours (next page) by the student and external Post-BSN graduate program director is essential for this analysis. Any hours accrued prior to admission must have been academically supervised and completed in an approved practice setting.

All students must complete the *student section* of the Verification Form. Each student must document the number of precepted clinical hours completed in their MSN or post MSN program. For students who cannot document the number of clinical hours completed in their MSN or post MSN program, the minimum number of hours required by the certification body at the time of the student's advanced practice certification will be used.

Once completed, the student then forwards the form to the appropriate person from his or her MSN or post-MSN program for verification of precepted clinical hours.

The form will then need to be returned to Mr. Jeffrey Wilson at the WVU SON (jfwilson@hsc.wvu.edu). This form must be received by Mr. Wilson by no later than December 1, of the year of admission.

If students do not have this form completed by the deadline, documentation of clinical hours will not be accepted. Students will be required to complete the full 1000 clinical hours in the DNP program.

The DNP Program Director and Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs will evaluate verified hours on the form to ensure the hours meet the criteria for approval. The number of approved hours will be counted toward the 1000 post-BSN precepted clinical hours.

The student plan of study for the Post-master's DNP degree at the WVU SON requires that a minimum of 400 precepted clinical hours must be earned at the DNP level in this program, though more may be required. For example, if a student shows evidence of 600 hours of precepted clinical practice from their MSN program, and the hours are approved, that leaves 400 hours to complete (to equal 1000 post-baccalaureate hours). To reach these 400 hours, students in the program must complete at least 100 hours for the DNP Project under the supervision of a Faculty of Record (FOR), with completion of at least 300 hours in Clinical Immersion (with precepted clinical experiences) to meet the requirements for the degree.

Post-BSN Hours	Post-BSN (MSN/Post-MSN) Credit	Clinical Time Log	DNP Project Activities Log	Total
Post-master's DNP	Up to 600	At least 300	100	1000+

Clinical Immersion hours attained in the Post-master's DNP courses **must** be documented in the clinical log (Typhon).

Verification Form: Precepted Post-BSN Clinical Hours

The American Academy of Colleges of Nursing have mandated that all DNP graduates have completed at least 1000 hours of precepted post-BSN clinical experiences in their specialty area. Each student must document the number of precepted clinical hours completed in their MSN or post-MSN program. For students who cannot document the number of clinical hours completed in their MSN or post-MSN program, the minimum number of hours required by the certification body at the time of the student's advanced practice certification will be used (See the West Virginia University School of Nursing DNP Handbook). Each student enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at West Virginia University School of Nursing is responsible for providing documentation of his or her precepted post-BSN clinical hours.

To be completed by the Student:

Student Name	
Post-BSN Program Name	
Date of Program Completion	

To be completed by external Post-BSN Program Director:

List the clinical practicum/immersion course(s) corresponding to any precepted post-BSN clinical hours from student's prior graduate program.

Course Name and Description	Number of precepted Post-BSN clinical hours
Total number of hours precepted Post-BSN	

Post-BSN Program Director

Signature/Title: _____

Date: _____

Phone/email: _____

Return completed form to:

Attn: Jeffrey Wilson

Fax: 304-347-1346

West Virginia University School of Nursing – Charleston Division

3110 MacCorkle Avenue, SE, Room 2025

Charleston, WV 25304-1299

jfwilson@hsc.wvu.edu

Upon reception of the completed form, the DNP Program Director and Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs will evaluate verified hours on the form to ensure the hours meet the criteria for approval toward the 1000 post-BSN precepted clinical hours. A Gap Analysis & Course Credit Documentation Form (as example noted below) will be filed and provided to each Post-master's DNP student for calculation of Clinical Immersion hours needed to be attained within the WVU SON DNP Program.

Gap Analysis & Course Credit Documentation Form
Approval of Precepted Post-BSN Clinical Hours to meet DNP Program Requirements
To be completed by DNP Program Director

The form below documents the results of the evaluation and any additional explanation for the Precepted Post-BSN Clinical hour(s) accepted in lieu of/ equivalent to DNP Clinical Immersion clinical hours in the WVU SON DNP program.

Student Name: _____

Previously Completed Graduate or Postgraduate Program Institution Name: _____

Previously Completed MSN Program/Population Completed: _____

Year of graduation: _____

List any courses (clinical) from WVU SON required for the identified DNP postgraduate program. List each course separately.	List the courses and/or clinical hours, accepted from student's prior graduate program that align with the course in the 1st column. Add an explanatory note and/or course description when the course title does not fully describe the expected content.	List the number of clinical hours the student completed that will be accepted to fulfill the WVU SON DNP postgraduate program requirements.
NSG 745 Clinical Immersion	WVU School of Nursing Family Practicum 1 5 credit hours 300 clinical practice hours Course description: Supervised practicum designed to facilitate the student's competency at the advanced practice level in the delivery of primary health care across the lifespan.	300
	Family Practicum 2 5 credit hours 300 clinical practice hours Course description: Supervised practicum that builds on Family Practicum 1 and applies theory and evidence to the advanced practice of nursing. Further role and competency development at the advanced practice level of lifespan primary health care.	300
	Total number of Previously Precepted Post-BSN Clinical Hours Accepted	600
	Remaining number of Precepted Post-BSN Clinical Hours Required to be Attained in the WVU SON DNP Program	400

Program Director Printed Name

Program Director Signature

Date

Appendix 5: WVU SON Writing Rubric

Criteria	Evaluation Standard/Comments				
	Unacceptable	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
Paragraph structure (logic): • Development • Coherence • Clarity	There is no clear topic sentence. The paragraph does not build upon and support a single coherent idea. Sentences have no clear relationship. Transition words are inappropriate or absent.	The topic sentence is not the first sentence in the paragraph. The order in which ideas in the paragraph are presented is not coherent. Transition from sentence to sentence, or paragraph to paragraph is abrupt.	The topic sentence is the first sentence in the paragraph but the relationship of topic sentence to paragraph development is difficult to discern. Transition words are limited.	One idea is stated in each paragraph topic sentence (first sentence) but not adequately developed in the paragraph. Transition words are used inconsistently.	The topic sentence is the first sentence in each paragraph. One idea is stated in the paragraph topic sentence and developed logically in the paragraph. Transition words are used consistently to maintain the flow of thought.
Sentence structure (syntax): • Parallel construction • Subject verb agreement • Noun pronoun agreement • Precision • Economy of expression	Most sentences are flawed by errors in parallel construction, subject verb agreement, noun pronoun agreement, precision, and economy of expression.	Sentence structure is adversely affected by many errors in parallel construction, subject verb agreement, noun pronoun agreement, precision, and economy of expression.	Sentence structure is weakened by more than a few errors in parallel construction, subject verb agreement, noun pronoun agreement, precision, and economy of expression.	Sentence structure meets criteria except for occasional errors in parallel construction, subject verb agreement, noun pronoun agreement, precision, and economy of expression.	Sentence structure demonstrates correct use of parallel construction, subject verb agreement, noun pronoun agreement, precision, and economy of expression.
Word choice: • Appropriate word choice for topic and audience • Appropriate verb tense	Poor word choice is very frequent and may include incorrect use for	Poor word choice is frequent and may include incorrect use for topic, audience and	Word choice does not meet criteria and may incorrectly use for topic, audience, and verb	Word choice meets criteria except for occasional errors in correct use for topic,	Word choice demonstrates correct use for topic, audience, and verb tense. There is avoidance of errors

• Avoidance of jargon • Avoidance of anthropomorphism • Avoidance of gender bias • Avoidance of errors with referents • Avoidance of pretentious words	topic, audience, and verb tense. There are many errors in jargon, anthropomorphism, gender bias, referent error, and use of	verb tense. There are many errors in jargon, anthropomorphism, gender bias, referent error, and use of pretentious words.	tense. There are more than a few errors in jargon, anthropomorphism, gender bias, referent error, and use of pretentious words.	audience and verb tense. There are few errors in jargon, anthropomorphism, gender bias, referent error, and use of pretentious words.	in jargon, anthropomorphism, gender bias, referent error, and use of pretentious words.
Mechanics: • Spelling • Punctuation • APA (<i>Faculty should delete this from the rubric if APA style is not appropriate for a given assignment.</i>)	Errors in spelling and punctuation are very frequent. There is little to no evidence of an understanding of the APA style for citation in text, reference list headings, or paragraph length.	Writing is adversely affected by errors in spelling and punctuation. There is little evidence of an understanding of the APA style for citation in text, reference list headings, or paragraph length.	Writing is weakened by occurrence of errors in spelling and punctuation. There are more than a few violations in APA style for citation in text, reference list, headings, and paragraph length.	Writing demonstrates meeting the criteria except for minor errors in spelling and punctuation. There are few violations in APA style for citations in text, reference list, headings, and paragraph length.	Writing demonstrates correct use of spelling and punctuation. APA style for citations in text, reference list, headings, and paragraph length are followed.

Writing Rubric Definitions and Resources

- **Paragraph development**
 - Definition: A process resulting in the clear statement of a main idea and supporting details in multiple sentences.
 - Resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/606/01/>
- **Paragraph coherence**
 - Definition: Singularity of focus in a paragraph. Ideas are linked through logical or verbal bridges.
 - Resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/561/04/>
- **Paragraph clarity**
 - Definition: Each idea presented relates directly to the paragraph's topic sentence.
 - Resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/600/01/>
- **Parallel construction**
 - Definition: Using similar patterns of words to show that 2 or more words have the same importance.
 - Resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/623/1/>
- **Subject verb agreement**
 - Definition: A singular subject takes a singular verb, while a plural subject takes a plural verb.
 - Resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/599/01/>
- **Noun pronoun agreement**
 - Definition: Pronoun should be consistent with the noun it replaces.
 - Resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/595/01/>
- **Precision**
 - Definition: Using the exact words needed and eliminating extraneous words.
 - Resource: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/engagement/index.php?category_id=2&sub_category_id=2&article_id=66
- **Economy of expression**
 - Definition: Limiting word usage to a clean, direct style that is most effective in expressing the idea.
 - Resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/572/01/>
- **Word choice for topic and audience**
 - Definition: Selecting words that are appropriate for the age, culture, and education of the reader.
 - Resource: <http://www.umuc.edu/writingcenter/onlineguide/chapter2-04.cfm>
- **Verb tense**
 - Definition: Consistency of verb tense within the paragraph and paper.
 - Resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/601/1/>
- **Jargon**
 - Definition: Language specific to one group or profession that might not be understandable to everyone.
 - Resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/608/01/>
- **Anthropomorphism/personification**
 - Definition: Attributing human characteristics to anything other than a human being.
 - Resource: <http://www.uwf.edu/edd/internal/Documents/Anthropomorphism.htm>
- **Gender bias**
 - Definition: The use of gender-specific pronouns when referring to nouns that include both

genders.

- Resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/14/>

- **Referent**

- Definition: A clear connection between the pronoun and the noun that precedes it.
- Reference: <http://www.towson.edu/ows/proref.htm>

- **Pretentious or flowery words**

- Definition: Dramatic, flamboyant words that do not necessarily convey the desired meaning.
- Resource: <http://www.uhv.edu/ac/newsletters/writing/grammartip2005.11.15.htm>

- **Punctuation**

- Definition: Proper use of symbols to indicate structure and organization of thought, including commas, quotation marks, apostrophes, and hyphens.
- Resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/6/>

- **Spelling:**

- Definition: The forming of words with letters in the correct sequence.

Appendix 6: Responsible Conduct of Research Graduate Student Guide

As a graduate student at West Virginia University, you are required to meet particular federal and University-wide standards regarding the responsible conduct of research (RCR). To meet these standards, you must complete an online RCR course offered by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). You can take the course any time after receipt of your acceptance, but it must be completed *within 30 days of the beginning of your initial semester*. Failure to do so may affect your status within the College and the University in general.

To complete the CITI RCR course (*please note that you do not yet have to be enrolled at WVU to register with CITI and complete the necessary training*), please follow the steps below:

1. Navigate your browser to <http://www.citiprogram.org>
2. Click on the “Register Here” link
3. For registration question one, enter West Virginia University into “Participating Institutions” and go to question two, leaving all other fields blank
4. Enter your desired username and password (please make record of both, but if you forget these, they can be e-mailed to you if you contact the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance), then go to question three
5. For registration question three, select a security question and enter a security answer, then go to question four
6. Enter your first name and last name, then go to question five
7. Enter a primary and secondary (optional) e-mail address, then go to question six
8. For registration question six, indicate “No” and your professional affiliation as “none,” then go to question seven
9. Read the question and enter your response, then go to question eight
10. Enter your response to the question about completing a course survey
11. Click the “Submit” button
12. On the page that follows, enter your language preference, your institutional e-mail address (this can be any e-mail address), your department, and your expected role in research you may be conducting in the future, along with any other fields you would like to fill in, then click the “Submit” button
13. On the next page, under Question 1, indicate which RCR course you would like to take. Please note that you should choose the one that best matches your field. For example, Dentistry students will need to take either the **Biomedical Responsible Conduct of Research Course** if you intend on collecting any biological samples or performing any medical procedures in the future or the **Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Course** if you do not intend on doing so but instead intend on conducting surveys, interviews, questionnaires, or non-medical observations. If you are not sure which you will do, complete the Biomedical RCR Course.
14. Leave all other selections on this page blank and scroll down to click the “Submit” button
15. On the next page, click the “No” button
16. You will then be taken to your CITI Main Menu. Here, you will need to click “Enter” next to the RCR course you selected, then click on “The Integrity Assurance Statement” to begin your course.
17. You must complete all Elective modules (the first listing shown) with an 80% score or higher to complete the course, but you may close your browser and complete each module at your leisure.

Once you have completed the course, the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance (ORIC) will be immediately notified. You do not need to submit any paperwork to ORIC. Information about ORIC RCR is available at [Responsible Conduct of Research at West Virginia University](#). If you have any questions about the RCR requirements or would like advice on which RCR course to complete, please call the ORIC at 304-293-7073.

Appendix 7 Drug Testing Letter

Dear Provider,

_____ (student name) is a current student at the WVU School of Nursing. The student is reporting to your clinical facility for drug testing. The SON suggests the student be tested for the substances listed below. You may add additional substances per your discretion and clinical judgement.

Students utilizing a clinical faculty may be tested for the following substances, including but not limited to: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, oxycodone, buprenorphine, fentanyl, MDMA, alcohol, or per the clinical providers discretion.

Appendix 8: Request for an Incomplete

Request for an Incomplete

To request an Incomplete, students must submit this form to the instructor before the end of the term. It is the instructor's decision whether or not an Incomplete will be assigned, with final approval of the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate Programs. An Incomplete Contract (this form) must be completed before a grade of "I" is assigned.

To be completed by the student:

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

WVU ID#: _____ Student WVU Email Address: _____

Course Prefix and Number: _____ CRN: _____ Program: _____

Semester & Year Course was Taken: _____ Name of Instructor: _____

Reason for Requesting Incomplete:

_____ I understand that I must fulfill the conditions established by my instructor (below) in order to remove the grade of "I." I understand that if I do not complete the work in the allotted time, the grade of "I" may automatically change to the grade of "IF"; my instructor may also request to change the "I" to the grade identified below. I understand that grades of "IF" will be calculated as grades of "F" in the cumulative grade point average unless the terms of this contract are fulfilled and a grade modification is submitted. I understand that a grade of "I" may prevent me from progressing in my degree plan and/or entering a field placement.

***Incomplete contracts are not final until the appropriate administrators have approved it. After submitting the request for an incomplete, students will receive notification if the contract has been approved or rejected.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Continued on next page

To be completed by the Instructor (if approved)

Rationale for assigning a grade of "I"

Student's last date of attendance _____

Meets the following criteria for an incomplete (check all that apply):

- ☐ Unforeseen, non-academic circumstances arose that prohibited the student from completing the last course assignments or examinations.
- ☐ The student was active in the course up until the last day of the 13th week of classes.

Work necessary to complete this contract and remove the grade of "I" (In all cases attach a syllabus. Attach assignments, and copies of the student's grades, if appropriate.)

Date by which the terms of this contract must be fulfilled: _____

*Must be prior to the last day of classes of following semester.

If the student does not fulfill the terms of this contract in the time allotted, the grade of "I" will be changed to the overall grade earned in the course, including grades for work that was not completed. The overall grade earned thus far is _____

If the instructor is not available to evaluate the work assigned in this contract, the student may submit that work to the Program Director for evaluation.

Signature	Date	Approve	Deny
Instructor: _____	_____	_____	_____
Program Director: _____	_____	_____	_____
Associate Dean: _____	_____	_____	_____

WVU Incomplete Grade Policy

A grade of I (Incomplete) is a temporary grade assignment

- unforeseen, non-academic circumstances arise that prohibit students from completing the last course assignments or examinations at the end of the semester
- typically assigned because of an excused absence from the final examination, or because assignments are unavoidably incomplete (as determined by the instructor)
- student will have been active in the course up until the last day of the 13th week of classes and earned at least a D- to be eligible to request an incomplete
- Student must request; instructor may not assign a grade of I without the student's agreement

copy: Student
Department (Office where course offered)
Student's Advisor
Instructor
Associate Dean

Appendix 9: Leave of Absence (LOA) or Withdrawal Form

WVU SCHOOL OF NURSING
APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE or PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL
For the BSN, MSN, Post-MSN, DNP, and PhD Programs

Name (Print): _____ Student ID#: _____

Date: _____ WVU MIX Email Address: _____

Present Program & Track (if applicable): _____

Students should contact their program director and academic advisor regarding their intent to take a leave of absence or withdraw from the program. Please review the LOA and withdrawal policies located in the program handbook.

It is my desire to:

☐ Take a Leave of Absence (Please include rationale below and any relevant documentation)

LOA Start Semester & Date: _____

LOA Intended Semester & Date of Return: _____

**Please note: It is the student's responsibility to contact the Advisor, Track Coordinator, and Program Director by the following date prior to the term in which you plan to return:*

July 1 to return in January; November 1 to return in May; February 1 to return in August

There is no guarantee that there will be a clinical placement available for you when you return. Decisions will be made based on space availability and availability of course or track offering.

Rationale for LOA Request:

☐ Withdraw from the Program & University**

Effective Date: _____

***Please note: If you withdraw from the program and would like to reapply in the future, you are required to follow the LOA policy to be eligible for continuation or readmission.*

SCHOOL OF NURSING USE ONLY

Program Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Associate Dean Signature: _____ Date: _____ Accepted ☐ Denied ☐

Notifications Made To:

Course Professors ☐
Academic Advisor ☐

Track Coordinator ☐
Associate Dean ☐

Comments: _____

Appendix 10: Statement of Criminal Record

STATEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORD

My signature verifies that:

(True or False)

_____ a) I have not been cited, arrested, or convicted of any felony or misdemeanor in the past 12 months.

_____ b) I will notify the West Virginia University School of Nursing Student Services Department within 24 hours of any citations, arrests, or convictions.

If any of the above statements are answered False, you must explain below.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 11: Vaccine Exemption (Religious)

WVU Health Sciences Center Student Vaccine Religious Exemption Request Form

West Virginia University (“WVU”) students seeking a religious exemption from a vaccine mandate of a WVU Health Sciences Educational Program must submit this form for review to the Chancellor’s Office at vaxreligiousexemption@hsc.wvu.edu. Following this review, the student will be notified if the exemption is approved. This form is for a **Religious** exemption ONLY. **Medical vaccine exemption** requests should be directed to the [Office of Accessibility Services](#).

Students who wish to request a religious exemption from a vaccine should contact one of the following to request the PDF form. This form will be submitted electronically to the HSC Chancellors office by the student.

Dr. Stacy W. Huber- swhuber@hsc.wvu.edu

Ms. Brandy Toothman-bthoothman@hsc.wvu.edu

Mr. Jeff Wilson-jfwilson@hsc.wvu.edu

By submitting and signing the form you agree to the following terms and conditions:

- I understand and agree that receiving an exemption may delay or prohibit my timely completion of my program at WVU.
- I understand and agree that I will be required to wear a mask and take any other reasonable precautions that may be requested of me by the clinical site to which I am assigned to protect against the spread of contagions.
- I understand and agree that all rotation and experiential sites may not be available to me and that this delay may prohibit my timely completion of my program at WVU.
- I understand and agree that this exemption may not be recognized or accepted at sites that are not owned or operated by WVUHS, and that those sites may require me to go through their religious exemption request process. In addition, I understand and agree that some sites that are not owned or operated by WVUHS may refuse to grant an exemption, and I may not be able to participate in those rotations or experiences, which may delay or prohibit my timely completion of my program at WVU.

Appendix 12: DNP Graduation Checklist

- _____ Discussed graduation with faculty advisor
- _____ Registered for credit in the semester of graduation
- _____ Submitted Application for Graduation and Diploma
- _____ Documented all required precepted Clinical Immersion hours into electronic clinical log system (Typhon) and received countersigning approval of completion by supervising faculty
- _____ Documented all required DNP Project hours into electronic clinical log system (Typhon) and received countersigning approval of completion by supervising faculty
- _____ Completed DNP Portfolio in online system (Typhon). Portfolio link uploaded with password in the NSG 832 SOLE site and rubric graded as approved by supervising faculty.
- _____ Submitted completed Alumni Data Request Sheet to Student & Alumni Services Office
- _____ Final clinical practicum evaluations completed online if applicable
- _____ ETD Submitted (DNP Project Manuscript)

Faculty of Record (Advisor) Signature: _____
Date: _____

Academic Advisor Signature: _____
Date: _____

Appendix 13: DNP Program Handbook Signature Page

West Virginia University School of Nursing DNP Program Handbook Signature Page

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to read and clarify my understanding of the contents of the WVU Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Handbook and to access my WVU email account at least weekly while I am a student at WVU. The DNP Program Handbook is updated annually, and emails are distributed regularly by DNP faculty, director, and advisors. These documents represent formal means of communication between DNP students and the School of Nursing. Receiving information distributed to students through these mechanisms is the responsibility of the student.

I have received and read the 2026-2027 WVU Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Handbook.

Please sign, date, and submit to the Precheck/Sentry account.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____