

# 2014-2016 SON CATALOG

## ADDENDUM



ADDENDUM TO  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
SCHOOL OF NURSING AT HOUSTON  
2014-2016 CATALOG

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## Message from the Dean

### Change from:



As it passes its 40th anniversary, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Nursing is the highest-ranked nursing graduate school in Texas and among the Top Five Percent in the United States. Our Nurse Anesthesia program is ranked No.26 of 100 programs nationwide. Our graduates at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels are much in demand, and our more than 8,650 alumni are contributing to the global community in leadership, research and entrepreneurial positions.

Our home is a state-of-the-art facility for teaching, research and student services, located in the heart of Houston's world-famous Texas Medical Center. The eight-story, \$57-million nursing building, encompassing 195,000 sq. ft., is certified with the coveted LEED® Gold rating for its sustainability and environmentally friendly design. Recognized as one of the top green buildings in the U.S., the School of Nursing and Student Community Center has received 11 prestigious local, state and national architectural design awards since opening in 2004.

To ensure financial assistance to our students, we have been the fortunate recipients of endowments with a current market value of \$11.8 million. We also are the grateful beneficiaries of financial support from the PARTNERS organization, which now holds a \$1.47-million endowment and recently awarded its 100th full nursing scholarship. We all are committed to "pass it on," so that future generations of caregivers can be educated in this, the world's largest healthcare center, and by our world-class faculty.

Nurses stand a better than average chance for employment compared to college graduates in other fields. Hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and a variety of other clinical facilities now prefer nurses with bachelor's degrees, especially those who have completed internships/residencies after graduation. Advancing a nursing career increasingly requires additional education at the master's and doctoral levels.

Within a diverse interdisciplinary environment, we emphasize the role of nurses working as part of a healthcare team, from RNs to nurse practitioners to Doctors of Nursing Practice. More and more, nurse researchers are making themselves known as scholars and contributors to scientific discovery. Some UTHealth programs are one-of-a-kind in the nation.

Our pacesetter legacy in academic programs, practice and research has carried us far along the path to success. The UTHealth nursing graduate of the future must meet the challenge of practicing in a healthcare model that is undergoing constant change. But one thing is certain: the UTHealth School of Nursing will be working to achieve a common vision – delivering innovative solutions that will create the best hope for a healthier future.

Patricia L. Starck, D.S.N., R.N., FAAN  
John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor  
Dean, UTHealth School of Nursing  
Senior Vice President for Community Affairs  
UTHealth Office for Advancement

## Change to:



I am honored to be the new dean of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Nursing, which is among the Top Five Percent of nursing graduate schools in the United States. Our graduates at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels are in high demand, and our more than 9,600 alumni are contributing to the global community in leadership, research and entrepreneurial positions.

Our home is a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility for teaching, research and student services, located in the heart of Houston's world-famous Texas Medical Center. The eight-story, \$57-million nursing building, encompassing 195,000 sq. ft., is certified with the coveted LEED® Gold rating for its sustainability and environmentally friendly design. Recognized as one of the top green buildings in the U.S., the School of Nursing and Student Community Center has received 11 prestigious local, state and national architectural design awards since opening in 2004.

To ensure financial assistance to our students, we have been the fortunate recipients of endowments with a current market value of \$11.8 million. We also are the grateful beneficiaries of financial support from the PARTNERS organization, which now holds a \$1.6-million endowment and recently awarded its 100th full nursing scholarship. We all are committed to "pass it on," so that future generations of caregivers can be educated in this, the world's largest healthcare center, and by our world-class faculty.

BSN nurses are in high demand. Hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and a variety of other clinical facilities now prefer nurses with bachelor's degrees, especially those who have completed internships/residencies after graduation. Advancing a nursing career increasingly requires additional education at the master's and doctoral levels. The majority of our graduates go on to graduate school.

Our graduates are educated in a diverse interdisciplinary environment, where we emphasize the role of nurses in the interprofessional healthcare team, from RNs to nurse practitioners to Doctors of Nursing Practice. Nurse researchers, graduates and faculty in collaboration with other disciplines are contributors to scientific discovery.

Our pacesetter legacy in academic programs, practice, and research has carried us far along the path to success. The UTHealth nursing graduate of the future must meet the challenge of practicing in a healthcare model that is undergoing constant change. But one thing is certain: the UTHealth School of Nursing will be working to achieve a common vision – delivering innovative solutions that will create the best hope for a healthier future. We educate nursing leaders.

Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, FAAN  
John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor and Dean  
Huffington Foundation Chair for Nursing Education Leadership

## Administration

### Delete:

Patricia L Starck, DSN, RN, FAAN  
Dean, School of Nursing and Senior Vice President of Community Affairs, UTHealth  
John P. McGovern Distinguished Professorship in Nursing

Susan Benedict, PhD, CRNA, FAAN  
Assistant Dean and Department Chair: Acute and Continuing Care  
Professor and Director of Global Health  
Co-director Campus-wide Program in Interprofessional Ethics

Nancy Bergstrom, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Associate Dean, Research  
Theodore J. & Mary E. Trumble Professorship in Aging Research

Nancy H Busen, PhD, FNP-BC, APRN  
Assistant Dean & Department Chair, Family Health  
Margaret A. Barnett/PARTNERS Professorship in Nursing

Melissa Ethington, PhD, RN  
Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Programs

### Add/Change:

**Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA**  
John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor and Dean  
Huffington Foundation Chair for Nursing Education Leadership

**Robert G Hanks, PhD, FNP-C, RN**  
Assistant Dean and Department Chair, Family Health  
Academic Project Manager - GNE Project

**Joanne V Hickey, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FCCM**  
Coordinator, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program  
Patricia L. Starck/PARTNERS Endowed Professorship in Nursing

**Deborah J. Jones PhD, MS, RN**  
Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Assistant Dean & Department Chair, Nursing Systems

**Janet C Meininger, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
Lee and J.D. Jamail Distinguished Professor  
Associate Dean, Research (Interim)

**Susan D Perez, MBA**  
Associate Dean, Management

**Cathy L Rozmus, PhD, RN**  
Associate Dean, Academic Affairs  
PARTNERS Professorship in Nursing  
Assistant Vice President for Institutional Assessment & Enhancement, UTHealth

**Kristen Starnes-Ott, PhD, CRNA**

Bette P. Thomas Distinguished Professorship for Innovative Healthcare Delivery  
Assistant Dean & Department Chair, Acute and Continuing Care (Interim)  
Track Director, Nurse Anesthesia

**Geri Wood, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Professor of Nursing  
Coordinator, Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program

**Change on page 91 (updating administration personnel)**

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**School of Nursing Programs**

**Add:**

**The Master of Science in Nursing** program combines online courses with face-to-face courses and clinical experiences offering flexibility to students. The curriculum depends on the clinical concentration the student selects. Students may choose from among the following clinical concentrations:

Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner  
Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Nurse Anesthesia  
Nursing Education  
Nursing Leadership and Administration  
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

**Forensic Nursing Science Completion Program**

The Forensic Nursing Science post-graduate concentration focuses on different aspects of forensic care and delivery, and it is customized to the student's primary program specialty. Students who are enrolled in a qualifying graduate degree nursing program/track and have not taken any clinical courses are eligible to request admission into the Forensic Nursing Science concentration. The FNS didactic courses will be taken concurrently with the student's other graduate courses. The clinical component will be taken the semester after graduations from the primary MSN program.

**DNP in Nursing Informatics**

The DNP post-MSN DNP program and School of Biomedical Informatics are collaborating to offer this new option in informatics. Nursing informatics is the specialty that integrates nursing science with multiple information and analytical sciences to identify, define, manage and communicate data, information, knowledge and wisdom in nursing practice. This field of practice makes a major contribution in achieving patient-centered care and delivering quality health care to the public.

**Combined PhD-DNP Program**

The combined PhD-DNP Program is offered to highly motivated students as top leaders in nursing for the future. The program is designed to be efficient and effective in meeting the objectives of each program to produce clinical and research scholars in a reasonable time frame with other combined doctorates in other disciplines. The combined program is 94 credits. Five categories of students are envisioned:

Nurses that have a DNP and would like to earn a PhD  
 Nurses who have a PhD and would like to earn a DNP  
 Nurses who are currently enrolled in the DNP program who wish to also pursue the PhD  
 Nurses who are currently enrolled in the PhD program who wish to also pursue the DNP

**Change on page 13-14 (new programs offered)**

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**Change From**

**The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)** program prepares nurses to be both clinical scholars who will practice at the highest level of advanced practice nursing and leaders in health care. DNP practice emphasizes evidence-based care, translating research into practice, integration of informatics, quality improvement initiatives, and innovative models of care and practice to achieve outstanding quality health outcomes for patients, populations, and society. DNP graduates work independently and collegially with health professionals and others to shape health care on the local, state, national, and international level.

**Change To:**

**The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)** program prepares nurses to be both clinical scholars who will practice at the highest level of advanced practice nursing and leaders in health care. DNP practice emphasizes evidence-based care, translational science and translating research into practice, integration of informatics, quality improvement and safety initiatives, innovative models of care and practice, systems leadership and population health to enhance patient outcomes, cost-effective care, and effective healthcare delivery models. DNP graduates work independently and collaboratively with health professionals and others to shape and deliver high quality health care on the local, state, national, and international level.

The DNP program offers both a post-MSN to DNP curriculum and a BSN to DNP nurse anesthesia curriculum.

**Change on page 14 (clarifying the DNP program)**

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**BSN Pacesetter Sequence of Courses**

Change from:

<b>Required Courses for the BSN Degree (Pacesetter Program)</b>		<b>Semester</b>
N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3515	Adult Health Care I	4
N3515B	Adult Health Care I Clinical	2
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N3521	Gerontologic Nursing	2
N3523	Adult & Older Adult Health Care II	4
N3523B	Adult & Older Adult Health Care II Clinical	3
N3526	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care	4
N3526B	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care Clinical	2
N3532	Reproductive Health Care	4
N3532B	Reproductive Health Care Clinical	2
N3536	Child & Adolescent Health Care	4
N3536B	Child & Adolescent Health Care Clinical	2

N3540	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2
N4521	Community/Public Health Nursing Practice	3
N4521B	Community/Public Health Nursing – Clinical	3
N4527	Professional Practice & Leadership	3
N4528	Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings	2
N4528B	Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings Clinical	4
N4530W	Critical Synthesis Application	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

**Change to:**

**Required Courses for the BSN Degree (Pacesetter Program) Hrs**

N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3515	Adult Health Care I	4
N3515B	Adult Health Care I Clinical	2
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N3521	Gerontologic Nursing	2
<b>N3523</b>	<b>Adult &amp; Older Adult Health Care II</b>	<b>3</b>
N3523B	Adult & Older Adult Health Care II Clinical	3
N3526	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care	4
N3526B	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care Clinical	2
N3532	Reproductive Health Care	4
N3532B	Reproductive Health Care Clinical	2
N3536	Child & Adolescent Health Care	4
N3536B	Child & Adolescent Health Care Clinical	2
N3540	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2
N4521	Community/Public Health Nursing Practice	3
N4521B	Community/Public Health Nursing – Clinical	3
N4527	Professional Practice & Leadership	3
<b>N4528</b>	<b>Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings</b>	<b>3</b>
N4528B	Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings Clinical	4
N4530W	Critical Synthesis Application	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

Change from:

**BSN Pacesetter Program - Sequencing of Courses**

		<b>Semester Hours</b>
<b>Semester I</b>		
N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3515	Adult Health Care I	4
N3515B	Adult Health Care I Clinical	2
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N3540	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
<b>Semester II</b>		
N3521	Gerontologic Nursing	2
N3523	Adult and Older Adult Health Care II	4
N3532	Reproductive Health Care	4
N3526	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care	4
N3526B	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care Clinical	2
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2

**Semester III**

N3536	Child & Adolescent Health Care	4
N4521	Community/Public Health Nursing Practice	3
N4521B	Community/Public Health Nursing – Clinical	3
N4527	Professional Practice & Leadership	3
N4528	Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings	2

**Semester IV**

N3523B	Adult and Older Adult Health Care II Clinical	3
N3532B	Reproductive Health Care Clinical	2
N3536B	Child & Adolescent Health Care Clinical	2
N4528B	Management of Patients in High Acuity Clinical	4
N4530W	Critical Synthesis Application	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>

**Change to:****BSN Pacesetter Program - Sequencing of Courses**

<b>Semester I</b>		<b>Semester Hours</b>
N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3515	Adult Health Care I	4
N3515B	Adult Health Care I Clinical	2
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N3540	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
<b>Semester II</b>		
N3521	Gerontologic Nursing	2
<b>N3523</b>	<b>Adult and Older Adult Health Care II</b>	<b>3</b>
N3532	Reproductive Health Care	4
N3526	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care	4
N3526B	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care Clinical	2
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2
<b>Semester III</b>		
N3536	Child & Adolescent Health Care	4
N4521	Community/Public Health Nursing Practice	3
N4521B	Community/Public Health Nursing – Clinical	3
N4527	Professional Practice & Leadership	3
<b>N4528</b>	<b>Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Semester IV</b>		
N3523B	Adult and Older Adult Health Care II Clinical	3
N3532B	Reproductive Health Care Clinical	2
N3536B	Child & Adolescent Health Care Clinical	2
N4528B	Management of Patients in High Acuity Clinical	4
N4530W	Critical Synthesis Application	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>

## RN-BSN Sequence of Courses

### Change from:

<b>Required Courses for the RN-BSN Degree</b>		<b>Semester Hours</b>
N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3701	Professional Practice & Promotion of Health	4
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2
N3601	Community Health for RNs	3
N3602	Community Health Project for RNs	2
N3702	Issues in Professional Practice	4
N3703	Management & Leadership	4
N3704	Synthesis for RNs: Application for Change into Practice	3
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N4526	Role Transition for RNs	2
N6102W	Information Systems in Advanced Nursing Practice	1*
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>

\*The RN-BSN Program curriculum includes one graduate-level course (N6102W Information Systems) which is transferable (with earned grades of "B" or higher) toward the MSN degree. Credit for this course may be applied to both the Baccalaureate and Master's degrees.

### RN-BSN Program – Sequencing of Courses

<b>Semester I</b>		<b>Semester Hours</b>
N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N3701	Professional Practice & Promotion of Health	4
N6102W	Information Systems in Advanced Nursing Practice	1
<b>Semester II</b>		
N3703	Management and Leadership	4
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2
N3702	Issues in Professional Practice	4
<b>Semester III</b>		
N3601	Community Health for RNs	3
N3602	Community Health Project for RNs	2
N3704	Synthesis: Application for Change into Practice	3
N4526	Role Transition for RNs	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>

### Change to:

<b>Required Courses for the RN-BSN Degree</b>		<b>Semester Hours</b>
N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3701	Professional Practice & Promotion of Health	4
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2
N3601	Community Health for RNs	3
N3602	Community Health Project for RNs	2
N3702	Issues in Professional Practice	4
N3703	Management & Leadership	4
N3704	Synthesis for RNs: Application for Change into Practice	3
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N4526	Role Transition for RNs	2

N6102W	Preparation of Scholarship Skills for Adv Prac Nursing	1*
	<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

\*The RN-BSN Program curriculum includes one graduate-level course (N6102W Preparation of Scholarship Skills for Advanced Practice Nursing) which is transferable (with earned grades of “B” or higher) toward the MSN degree. Credit for this course may be applied to both the Baccalaureate and Master’s degrees.

### RN-BSN Program – Sequencing of Courses

Semester I		Semester Hours
N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N3701	Professional Practice & Promotion of Health	4
N6102W	Preparation of Scholarship Skills for Adv Prac Nrsng	1
Semester II		
N3703	Management and Leadership	4
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2
N3702	Issues in Professional Practice	4
Semester III		
N3601	Community Health for RNs	3
N3602	Community Health Project for RNs	2
N3704	Synthesis: Application for Change into Practice	3
N4526	Role Transition for RNs	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

### BSN Courses

#### Add:

#### **N3562 The End of Life: Interprofessional Perspectives on Death and Dying**

This interprofessional course is designed to familiarize the student with multiple aspects of the end-of-life experiences. Faculty will lead discussions concerning physiological processes, communication, ethical, legal, economic, and spiritual issues related to dying and death. Selected videos will be used to enhance topical discussions. Learning experiences include preparing an Advance Directive, a reflective journal, and selected group presentation.

Prerequisites: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

#### **N3564 Introduction to Applied Health Informatics**

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to informatics knowledge by the integration of health science, information management, and computer technology and to prepare students to utilize clinical information technologies to improve patient safety and health care outcomes. This course focuses on health information applications, ethical and privacy issues in health care informatics, and clinical information tools and emerging technologies for clinical practice. Students will have opportunities to examine clinical information system (CIS) and evaluate the appropriate use of health information technology for clinical practice. In addition, this course will focus on health informatics applications in education and research.

Prerequisites: Enrollment in the BSN Program or Instructor’s permission.

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**Change on page 109 (new courses offered)**

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**Change from:**

**N3523 Adult and Older Adult Health Care II**

This course focuses on young, middle, and older adults experiencing an array of physiological disorders, and provides the opportunity for implementation of the nursing process in a variety of health care settings with a focus on secondary and tertiary prevention. Emphasis is on professional health care that reflects comprehensive, humanistic, altruistic, and inter-professional values. The course helps the student to incorporate professional standards as a basis for practice, to use critical thinking, to set priorities for patient care, to make nursing judgments, and to apply selected theory and research findings to provide holistic care to adults.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3540  
Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

**N3523B Adult and Older Adult Health Care II Clinical**

This course focuses on young, middle, and older adults experiencing an array of physiological disorders, and provides the opportunity for implementation of the nursing process in a variety of health care settings with a focus on secondary and tertiary prevention. Emphasis is on professional health care that reflects comprehensive, humanistic, altruistic, and inter-professional values. The course helps the student to incorporate professional standards as a basis for practice, to use critical thinking, to set priorities for patient care, to make nursing judgments, and to apply selected theory and research findings to provide holistic care to adults.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3536, N3540, N4521, N4521B, N4528  
Co-requisites: N3532B, N3536B, N4528B  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical/Lab 9)

**N3536 Child and Adolescent Health Care**

This course offers the student the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills for the care of children and families in various health care settings. It includes information from current literature, research, and practice pertinent to growth and development, psychosocial, cultural, and physical needs of children with emphasis focused on health promotion, health maintenance, and health restoration. Specific nursing theories, developmental theories, coping, grief and grieving, and system theories, for the care of children and families are explored. The nursing role and collegial relationships critical to holistic, humanistic, and altruistic care of families and children from multicultural backgrounds experiencing various stressors are discussed. Selected community resources and legal and ethical considerations in the care of children and families will be identified. The clinical portion of the course is designed to offer students the opportunity to apply theory, nursing process, and critical thinking skills to the care of children and families. Generalized and specialized ill child and well child settings are used for clinical placement.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3540,  
Co-requisite: N4521, N4521B, N4527  
Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

**N4527 Professional Practice and Leadership**

This course explores selected leadership and management theories and concepts used in health care delivery. Selected issues relevant to nursing practice and education are presented as they relate to the student's adjustment to the professional nursing role. Professional nursing

issues include scope of practice based on statutory laws and regulations, legal and ethical responsibilities, substance abuse/mental health, career development, and workplace issues.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N4512  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N4528 Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings**

This course focuses on both the theoretical content related to nursing management of patients in high acuity care areas and the clinical application of this content in a compassionate holistic manner. The course incorporates theoretical applications and research findings in the areas of nutrition, prevention, rehabilitation, and socio-cultural aspects. The clinical component of this course is designed to provide a clinical practicum of high acuity care experiences guided by a preceptor. The course will emphasize application of theoretical concepts, research findings, advanced technology, and standards of professional nursing used in caring for patients from culturally diverse populations experiencing physiological and psychosocial alterations at various stages of the wellness/illness continuum. Psychosocial, lifespan, and behavioral concepts encountered by patients with high acuity disorders and trauma will be discussed. The management/leadership component of this course focuses on perspectives of the professional nursing role for the 21st century as demonstrated through professionalism, leadership, collaborative practice, critical thinking, and application of the nursing process in patient care.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3536, N3540, N4512, N4527

Co-requisites: N3536, N4521, N4521B

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: (Lecture 2)

### **N4528B Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings**

This course focuses on both the theoretical content related to nursing management of patients in high acuity care areas and the clinical application of this content in a compassionate holistic manner. The course incorporates theoretical applications and research findings in the areas of nutrition, prevention, rehabilitation, and socio-cultural aspects. The clinical component of this course is designed to provide a clinical practicum of high acuity care experiences guided by a preceptor. The course will emphasize application of theoretical concepts, research findings, advanced technology, and standards of professional nursing used in caring for patients from culturally diverse populations experiencing physiological and psychosocial alterations at various stages of the wellness/illness continuum. Psychosocial, lifespan, and behavioral concepts encountered by patients with high acuity disorders and trauma will be discussed. The management/leadership component of this course focuses on perspectives of the professional nursing role for the 21st century as demonstrated through professionalism, leadership, collaborative practice, critical thinking, and application of the nursing process in patient care.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3536, N3540, N4512, N4521, N4521B, N4527, N4528

Co-requisites: N3523B, N3532B, N3536B,

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: (Clinical 12)

### **Change to:**

### **N3523 Adult and Older Adult Health Care II**

This course focuses on young, middle, and older adults experiencing an array of physiological disorders, and provides the opportunity for implementation of the nursing process in a variety of health care settings with a focus on secondary and tertiary prevention. Emphasis is on professional health care that reflects comprehensive, humanistic, altruistic, and inter-professional values. The course helps the student to incorporate professional standards as a basis for practice, to use critical thinking, to set priorities for patient care, to make nursing

judgments, and to apply selected theory and research findings to provide holistic care to adults.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3540

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N3523B Adult and Older Adult Health Care II Clinical**

This course focuses on young, middle, and older adults experiencing an array of physiological disorders, and provides the opportunity for implementation of the nursing process in a variety of health care settings with a focus on secondary and tertiary prevention. Emphasis is on professional health care that reflects comprehensive, humanistic, altruistic, and inter-professional values. The course helps the student to incorporate professional standards as a basis for practice, to use critical thinking, to set priorities for patient care, to make nursing judgments, and to apply selected theory and research findings to provide holistic care to adults.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3540

Co-requisites: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical/Lab 9)

### **N3536 Child and Adolescent Health Care**

This course offers the student the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills for the care of children and families in various health care settings. It includes information from current literature, research, and practice pertinent to growth and development, psychosocial, cultural, and physical needs of children with emphasis focused on health promotion, health maintenance, and health restoration. Specific nursing theories, developmental theories, coping, grief and grieving, and system theories, for the care of children and families are explored. The nursing role and collegial relationships critical to holistic, humanistic, and altruistic care of families and children from multicultural backgrounds experiencing various stressors are discussed. Selected community resources and legal and ethical considerations in the care of children and families will be identified. The clinical portion of the course is designed to offer students the opportunity to apply theory, nursing process, and critical thinking skills to the care of children and families. Generalized and specialized ill child and well child settings are used for clinical placement.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517 or N3517W, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3540, N4512

Co-requisite: N4527

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N4527 Professional Practice and Leadership**

This course explores selected leadership and management theories and concepts used in health care delivery. Selected issues relevant to nursing practice and education are presented as they relate to the student's adjustment to the professional nursing role. Professional nursing issues include scope of practice based on statutory laws and regulations, legal and ethical responsibilities, substance abuse/mental health, career development, and workplace issues.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N4528 Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings**

This course focuses on both the theoretical content related to nursing management of patients in high acuity care areas and the clinical application of this content in a compassionate holistic manner. The course incorporates theoretical applications and research findings in the areas of nutrition, prevention, rehabilitation, and socio-cultural

aspects. The clinical component of this course is designed to provide a clinical practicum of high acuity care experiences guided by a preceptor. The course will emphasize application of theoretical concepts, research findings, advanced technology, and standards of professional nursing used in caring for patients from culturally diverse populations experiencing physiological and psychosocial alterations at various stages of the wellness/illness continuum. Psychosocial, lifespan, and behavioral concepts encountered by patients with high acuity disorders and trauma will be discussed. The management/leadership component of this course focuses on perspectives of the professional nursing role for the 21st century as demonstrated through professionalism, leadership, collaborative practice, critical thinking, and application of the nursing process in patient care.

Prerequisites: **N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3540, N4512**

Co-requisites: **None**

**Three** Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: (Lecture **3**))

### **N4528B Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings**

This course focuses on both the theoretical content related to nursing management of patients in high acuity care areas and the clinical application of this content in a compassionate holistic manner. The course incorporates theoretical applications and research findings in the areas of nutrition, prevention, rehabilitation, and socio-cultural aspects. The clinical component of this course is designed to provide a clinical practicum of high acuity care experiences guided by a preceptor. The course will emphasize application of theoretical concepts, research findings, advanced technology, and standards of professional nursing used in caring for patients from culturally diverse populations experiencing physiological and psychosocial alterations at various stages of the wellness/illness continuum. Psychosocial, lifespan, and behavioral concepts encountered by patients with high acuity disorders and trauma will be discussed. The management/leadership component of this course focuses on perspectives of the professional nursing role for the 21st century as demonstrated through professionalism, leadership, collaborative practice, critical thinking, and application of the nursing process in patient care.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, **N3523B\***, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3536, N3540, N4512, N4521, N4521B, N4527, N4528

\* **(Students are REQUIRED to successfully complete the clinical rotation for N3523B, BEFORE they can begin the clinical rotation for N4528B. Students who do not successfully complete N3523B, are not allowed to continue enrollment in N4528B)**

Co-requisites: **None**

**Four** Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: (Clinical **12**))

### **Change on page 47 (changes to course descriptions)**

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## **MSN Application Procedure**

### **Change from:**

1. A completed application for admission (electronic submission preferred).
2. A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee.
3. Official scores for the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) taken within five years preceding application.
  - o Nurse Anesthesia applicants: on the GRE is accepted. The Program prefers and strongly recommends a score of 500 or greater on each of the Verbal and Quantitative sections and a minimum score of 3.5 on the written section. For the

- revised GRE, the recommended score is 153 Verbal, 144 Quantitative, with the written section remaining at 3.5.
- The Program prefers and strongly recommends that other MSN applicants submitting GRE scores have a combined minimum score of 1000 from the verbal section and quantitative sections and a minimum score of 3.0 on the analytical writing section. For the revised GRE, the recommended combined score is 297 with the analytical writing section remaining at 3.0. The Program prefers and strongly recommends applicants submitting MAT scores have a minimum score of 400.
  - The GRE/MAT score submission requirement may be waived for applicants who have previously successfully earned a prior master's degree (the exception does not apply to applicants to the Nurse Anesthesia program).

**Change to:**

1. A completed application for admission (electronic submission preferred).
2. A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee.
3. **Official scores for the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) are required for Nurse Anesthesia applicants only. The Program prefers and strongly recommends a score of 500 or greater on each of the verbal and quantitative sections and a minimum score of 3.5 on the written section. For the revised GRE, the recommended score is 153 Verbal, 144 Quantitative, with the written section remaining at 3.5.**

**Change on page 55-57 (GRE requirement deleted for all MSN programs except Nurse Anesthesia)**

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**MSN Nursing Leadership and Administration Program Degree Plan**

**Change from:**

**Nursing Leadership and Administration**

<u>Core Courses</u>	Hours
N5501W      Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Nursing	2
N6102W      Information Systems for Advanced Nursing Practice	1
N5506W      Statistics in Nursing	2
N6105W      Evaluation and Application of Research	3
 <u>Advanced Practice Core Courses</u>	
N6101W      Clinical & Epidemiologic Research for Adv Nursing Practice	3
N6165W      Advanced Practice Role in Population Health	3
 <u>Leadership/Administration Courses</u>	
N6701      Transforming Healthcare through Nursing Leadership	3
N6702      Organizational Development: Creating Cultures of Excellence	2
N6702B      Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 1	1
N6703      Developing and Leading Human Performance	3
N6704      Improving Organizational Development and Patient Safety	2
N6704B      Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 2	1
N6705W      Nursing Leadership and Administration Role Focus	2
N6706      Healthcare Financial Management	2
N6706B      Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 3	1
N6707W      Analyzing Issues in Quality Improvement	1

N6103 W	Informatics and Healthcare Technologies	3
<u>Preceptorship</u>		
N6710	Nursing Leadership Preceptorship	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>38</b>

**Change to:**  
**Nursing Leadership and Administration**

<u>Core Courses</u>		Hours
N5501W	Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Nursing	2
N6102W	Preparation of Scholarship Skills for Advanced Practice Nursing	1
N5506W	Statistics in Nursing	2
N6105W	Evaluation and Application of Research	3
<u>Advanced Practice Core Courses</u>		
N6101/6101W	Clinical & Epidemiologic Research for Adv Nursing Practice	3
N6708	Role of Nurse Leader in Advancing the Health of Populations	2
<u>Leadership/Administration Courses</u>		
N6701	Transforming Healthcare through Nursing Leadership	3
N6702	Organizational Development: Creating Cultures of Excellence	2
N6702B	Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 1	1
N6703	Developing and Leading Human Performance	3
N6704	Improving Organizational Development and Patient Safety	2
N6704B	Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 2	1
N6705W	Nursing Leadership Role Focus	2
N6706	Healthcare Financial Management	3
N6706B	Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 3	1
N6707W	Analyzing Issues in Quality Improvement	1
N6103 W	Informatics and Healthcare Technologies	3
<u>Preceptorship</u>		
N6710	Nursing Leadership and Administration Role Preceptorship	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>38</b>

**Add:**

**Post Masters Completion Forensic Nursing - Required Courses**

<u>Required Courses</u>		Hours
N6380	Forensic Nursing Science 1	2
N6381	Forensic Nursing Science II	2
N6378	Forensic Nursing Science Practicum/Clinical (120 hours)	2
N7379	Forensic Nursing Science Practicum/Clinical II (180 hours).	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

**Change on page 61 (Change in some courses but no change to overall required hours)**

**MSN Courses**

**Add:**

**N6378 Forensic Nursing Science Practicum/Clinical I**

This course is a 120 hour clinical course in which the student will have hands on experience supervised by a preceptor in an approved site. The student will describe and analyze competencies within the practice area of the choice. The practice areas can range from medicolegal death investigation agencies, clinical forensic nursing programs, law firms, law enforcement agencies but are not limited to these settings.

Prerequisites: N6380

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

**N6379 Forensic Nursing Science Practicum/Clinical II**

This course is a 180 hour clinical course in which the student will have hands on experience supervised by a preceptor in an approved site. The student will describe and analyze competencies within the practice area of the choice. The practice areas can range from medicolegal death investigation agencies, clinical forensic nursing programs, law firms, law enforcement agencies but are not limited to these settings.

Prerequisites: N6378, N6379, N6380

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

**N6380 Forensic Nursing Science I**

This comprehensive course addresses the theoretical principles and practical application of forensic nursing science in a variety of settings across the lifespan. Students learn a holistic approach to forensic nursing that integrates principles from the natural, biological, physical, social, and forensic sciences. They apply principles of pathophysiology and assessment to formulate a forensic nursing plan at the individual, family, community, and global units. Students explore concepts of interprofessional collaboration and communication, family, and group dynamics, research, and epidemiology in a variety of settings. There is a focus on the application and integration of the forensic nursing evaluation process for practice, education, research, and injury prevention.

Prerequisites: None

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**N6381 Forensic Nursing Science II**

This course concentrates on advanced concepts in forensic nursing science in order to provide nurses with in depth understanding of patient, families, populations, and system outcomes. Students utilize critical thinking and synthesis to evaluate practice, education, leadership, and prevention strategies in forensic settings. This course explores in depth the individual, community, sociocultural, economic, and environmental factors related to violence and injury.

Prerequisites: N6378, N6380

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**N6657 Writing for Publication**

This course presents graduate nursing students with the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills that will enable them to communicate effectively in writing for publication. Information and strategies for dissemination of scholarly works through publication in professional journals and other venues is the focus. The processes of peer review and critique and editing are practiced. The anticipated outcome is a paper suitable for submission for publication in a professional journal.

Prerequisites: Graduate Standing

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**N6659W Addressing Problem Substance Use in Primary Care**

This online interdisciplinary course provides students with knowledge, skills, and tools to identify and manage tobacco, alcohol, and drug (AOD) use in patients across the lifespan. Students will have opportunity to apply evidence based prevention, screening techniques, interventions, and referral strategies to a variety of case scenarios. In addition, students will explore the individual and socio-political impact of substance abuse and identify various roles for clinician intervention and advocacy. Assignments and discussions promote critical analysis of current practice and potential implications for practice improvement.

Prerequisites: Graduate Standing or permission of instructor  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Online 3)

**N6708W Role of Nurse Leader in Advancing the Health of Populations**

This course examines the political, economic, behavioral, ethical, and legal foundations that influence population health from both a current and historical perspective. Learners study current social, legislative, and technologic trends in health care as they relate to professional nursing. The learner is encouraged to develop the skills needed to assume a leadership role within the US health care delivery system by incorporating concepts related to population health and health promotion.

Prerequisites: None  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**Change on page 75-76 (new courses offered)**

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**Change from:**

**N6102W Information Systems in Advanced Nursing Practice**

This introductory course provides an overview of the use of computer technology for nursing research and practice. Computer-based resources including word processing, presentation software, bibliographic software, search engines and databases are used to assist in acquisition, maintenance, and presentation of information in a scholarly format.

Prerequisite: None  
One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1 – online)

**N6705W Nursing Leadership and Administration Role Focus**

This is the seventh course in the Nursing Leadership and Administration in Health Systems graduate program. The purpose of this course is to provide a structure to explore personal and professional issues related to the leadership/administrative role. Learners will dialogue with nursing leaders and administrators about opportunities and challenges of organizational management and nursing leadership.

Prerequisites: N6701, N6702, N6703, N6704, 6706, 6707  
Co-requisite: N6710  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**Change to:**

**N6102W Preparation of Scholarship Skills for Advanced Nursing Practice**

This introductory course provides an overview of the use of computer technology for nursing

research and practice. Computer-based resources including word processing, presentation software, bibliographic software, search engines and databases are used to assist in acquisition, maintenance, and presentation of information in a scholarly format.

Prerequisite: None

One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1 – online)

### **N6705W Nursing Leadership Role Focus**

This is the seventh course in the Nursing Leadership and Administration graduate program. The purpose of this course is to explore personal and professional issues related to the leadership role.

Prerequisites: N6701, N6702, N6702B, N6703, N6704, N6704B, N6706, N6706B, N6707W

Co-requisite: N6705W

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**Change on page 84 (changes to courses offered)**

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## **BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program**

Change from:

### **BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program Degree Plan**

NOTE: The degree plan is subject to change at any time.

		<b>CREDIT</b>
<b>SUMMER 1</b>	6401 Adv. Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry for Nurse Anesthesia	6
	6802 Ethics and Health Policy	3
	6103W Informatics and Healthcare Technologies	3
<b>FALL 1</b>	6404 Adv. Anatomy, Physiology & Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthesia	6
	6801 Scholarly Foundations for Advanced Practice	3
	6414 DNP Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia I	1
	5506W Statistics in Nursing	2
<b>SPRING 1</b>	6402 Adv. Pharmacology and Chemistry for Nurse Anesthesia	4
	6406 Organizations, Finance & Practice Management in Nurse Anesthesia	4
	6420 Translational Approaches in Clinical Practice	3
	6101 Clinical & Epi Research	3
<b>SUMMER 2</b>	6403 Adv. Pharmacology and Pharmacogenetics for Nurse Anesthesia	4
	6405 Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	6
<b>FALL 2</b>	6408 Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	6
	6152W Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	2
	6152B Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis Lab	1
	6807 Evidence-based Practice Principles	3
<b>SPRING 2</b>	6409 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I	10
	6410 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia I	2
	6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia	1
<b>SUMMER 3</b>	6411 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum II	10
	6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia	2

<b>FALL 3</b>	6412 Nurse Anesthesia Practicum III 6413 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia II 6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia	10 2 2
<b>SPRING 3</b>	6415 Nurse Anesthesia Practicum IV 6416 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia III 6417 DNP Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia II	10 2 1
	<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>112</b>

**Change to:**

**BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program Degree Plan  
– For students beginning Summer 2015**

**NOTE:** The degree plan is subject to change at any time.

		<b>CREDIT</b>
<b>SUMMER 1</b>	6401 Adv. Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry for Nurse Anesthesia 6802 Ethics and Health Policy N6152W Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis N6152B Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	6 3 2 1
<b>FALL 1</b>	6404 Adv. Anatomy, Physiology & Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthesia 6801 Scholarly Foundations for Advanced Practice 6414 DNP Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia I 5506W Statistics in Nursing	6 3 1 2
<b>SPRING 1</b>	6402 Adv. Pharmacology and Chemistry for Nurse Anesthesia 6406 Organizations, Finance & Practice Management in Nurse Anesthesia 6101 Clinical & Epi Research 6417 DNP Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia II	4 4 3 1
<b>SUMMER 2</b>	6403 Adv. Pharmacology and Pharmacogenetics for Nurse Anesthesia 6405 Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	4 6
<b>FALL 2</b>	6408 Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice 6807 Evidence-based Practice Principles 6858 Information Systems/Technology for the Improvement of Healthcare	6 3 3
<b>SPRING 2</b>	6409 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I 6410 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia I 6420W Translational Approaches in Clinical Practice	10 2 3
<b>SUMMER 3</b>	6411 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum II 6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia	10 2
<b>FALL 3</b>	6412 Nurse Anesthesia Practicum III 6413 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia II 6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia	10 2 2
<b>SPRING 3</b>	6415 Nurse Anesthesia Practicum IV 6416 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia III 6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia II	10 2 1
	<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>112</b>

**BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program Degree Plan  
– For students beginning Summer 2016**

NOTE: The degree plan is subject to change at any time.

		<b>CREDIT</b>
<b>SUMMER 1</b>	6401 Adv. Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry for Nurse Anesthesia 6152W Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis 6152B Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis - Lab 5506W Statistics in Nursing	6 3 2 2
<b>FALL 1</b>	6404 Adv. Anatomy, Physiology & Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthesia 6402 Adv.Pharmacology and Chemistry for Nurse Anesthesia 6802 Health Policy, Politics, and Ethics	6 4 3
<b>SPRING 1</b>	6406 Organizations, Finance & Practice Management in Nurse Anesthesia 6403 Adv. Pharmacology and Pharmacogenetics for Nurse Anesthesia N6418W Foundations of Scholarly Nurse Anesthesia Practice	4 4 3
<b>SUMMER 2</b>	6405 Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice 6405B Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice Lab 6101 Clinical and Epidemiologic Research 6414 DNP Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia	6 1 3 1
<b>FALL 2</b>	6408 Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice 6408B Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice Lab 6807 Evidence-based Practice Principles 6858W Information Systems/Technology for the Improvement of Healthcare	6 1 3 3
<b>SPRING 2</b>	6409 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I 6410 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia I N6420W Translational Approaches in Clinical Practice	10 2 3
<b>SUMMER 3</b>	6411 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum II 6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia	10 2
<b>FALL 3</b>	6412 Nurse Anesthesia Practicum III 6413 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia II 6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia	10 2 2
<b>SPRING 3</b>	6415 Nurse Anesthesia Practicum IV 6416 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia III 6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia	10 2 1

	<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>112</b>
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**Change on page 84 (changes to degree plans)**

**BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program**

**Add:**

**N6418W Scholarly Foundations of Advanced Nurse Anesthesia Practice**

This foundational course focuses on analyzing Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) competencies, role, and scholarship as the foundation for scholarly practice at the DNP level. Post-baccalaureate registered nurses will be introduced to the foundations of science and scientific inquiry. The scientific literature will be examined to increase understanding of design and statistical analysis for building science and application to entry-level advanced nursing practice. The theoretical bases for practice, including nursing and borrowed theories are analyzed for application to practice. Evidence based practice, leadership, innovation/change, and interprofessional collaboration/teams are analyzed as fundamental components of DNP practice. Practice inquiry, as a type of clinical investigation that closely aligns with the actual complexity of entry-level advanced practice nursing, investigated as a means of guiding science based practice. The scholarly analysis of peer-reviewed literature will be introduced.

Prerequisites: Admission to DNP-Nurse Anesthesia Program  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 3)

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**Change on page 101 (changes to courses offered)**

**PhD Courses**

**Change from:**

**N7501 Structure of Scientific Inquiry**

This course provides the student with the underpinnings of scientific inquiry by examining the structure of science as it relates to the discipline of nursing. Ways of knowing are explored and analyzed. Components of theory, specifically concepts, laws, boundaries, and system states are analyzed. The philosophical underpinnings of qualitative and quantitative methods of scientific inquiry are discussed.

Prerequisite: PhD Standing  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7501D Structure of Scientific Inquiry**

This course provides the student with the underpinnings of scientific inquiry by examining the structure of science as it relates to the discipline of nursing. Ways of knowing are explored and

analyzed. Components of theory, specifically concepts, laws, boundaries, and system states are analyzed. The philosophical underpinnings of qualitative and quantitative methods of scientific inquiry are discussed.

Prerequisite: PhD Standing

Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**Change to:**

**N7501 Conceptual Basis of Nursing Science**

This course provides the student opportunity to identify the key concept of his/her program of research. This concept will serve as the focal point for the development of a conceptual framework that will guide the student's research and practice. Approaches to concept and theory development are introduced and middle range theories are evaluated.

Prerequisite: PhD Standing

Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7501D Conceptual Basis of Nursing Science**

This course provides the student opportunity to identify the key concept of his/her program of research. This concept will serve as the focal point for the development of a conceptual framework that will guide the student's research and practice. Approaches to concept and theory development are introduced and middle range theories are evaluated.

Prerequisite: PhD Standing

Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

## DNP Application Process

**Change from:**

**Doctor of Nursing Practice Application Process**

Applicants should submit the following information to the Office of the Registrar (unless otherwise noted):

- A completed application for admission.
- A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee
- One official copy of a transcript from each institution attended. (If attended any UTHealth school, an official transcript is not necessary. Electronic submission preferred.

Transcript(s) should show:

- A Baccalaureate degree in nursing earned from a nationally accredited program.
- A master's degree or post-masters certificate as an advanced practice nurse (clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner or nurse anesthetist) or nurse leadership (or equivalent) from a nationally accredited program with a GPA of 3.0 or above.
- A completed graduate level statistics course within the last 5 years with a grade of B or higher.
- A completed graduate level nursing or equivalent research course within the last 5 years with a grade of B or higher.
- Evidence of epidemiology content integrated into a course or as a separate course.

**Change to:**

## Doctor of Nursing Practice Application Process

Applicants should submit the following information to the Office of the Registrar (unless otherwise noted):

- A completed application for admission.
- A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee
- One official copy of a transcript from each institution attended. (If attended any UTHealth school, an official transcript is not necessary. Electronic submission preferred. Transcript(s) should show:
  - A Baccalaureate degree in nursing earned from a nationally accredited program.
  - A master's degree or post-masters certificate as an advanced practice nurse (clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner or nurse anesthetist) or nurse leadership (or equivalent) from a nationally accredited program with a GPA of 3.0 or above.
  - A completed graduate level statistics course with a grade of B or higher.
  - A completed graduate level nursing or equivalent research course with a grade of B or higher.
  - Evidence of epidemiology content integrated into a course or as a separate course.

**Change on page 109 (deleted 5 year time frame for statistics and research prerequisite courses)**

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## DNP Courses

**Add:**

### **N6840I DNP Preceptorship I for Informatics**

This course is the first of a two-part preceptorship designed to introduce the students to the role and practice as a nurse informatics specialist. The student applies knowledge and skills related to innovative health information technology to support and improve patient care through participation in interprofessional teams.

Prerequisites: Enrollment in DNP Nursing Informatics option  
Two Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

### **N6841I DNP Preceptorship II for Informatics**

This is the second preceptorship course designed to increase the scope and expertise of the student's specialization role and practice as a nurse informatics specialist. The student combines nursing science with multiple informatics and analytic sciences to utilize data, information, and knowledge to improve healthcare delivery. The student uses informatics principles to support nursing practice that improves the quality, safety, and efficiency of health care. The student has the opportunity to cultivate collaborative relationships through participation in interprofessional teams.

Prerequisites: Enrollment in DNP Nursing Informatics option  
Two Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

**Change on page 119 (new courses offered)**

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**Change from:**

**N6802 Ethics and Health Policy**

The focus of this course is to gain competencies in ethical analysis of complex patient care dilemmas and to use an ethical framework in the analysis, design, implementation, and evaluation of health policies related to healthcare, financing, practice regulation, access, patient safety, quality, and efficacy. The policy process, both ideal and practical, will be examined. Students will examine the development of health policy legislation and the evolution to its final stage, including analysis of intended and unintended consequences. The course includes discussion of healthcare paradigms of our nation, healthcare reforms and current events and issues.

Prerequisite: acceptance into the DNP program

Co-requisite: N6801

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**N6830 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement**

The course continues to focus on development of components of the Clinical Scholarship Portfolio including refinement of the plan, methodology, and implementation of the Practice Inquiry Project. Students will prepare an overview of the work completed on the Practice Inquiry Project for approval to implement the project.

Prerequisites: N6846

One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Seminar 2)

**N6850 Nurse Executive I**

This course is designed to enhance leadership competencies, such as leading change, strategic thinking, and resilience, of executive nurse leaders through integration of theory and development of new skills that can be applied to a variety of nursing, healthcare, community and corporate settings. Emphasis will be placed on the nurse executive's leadership role development and its applied strategic utilization to provide organizational direction, strengthen the profession of nursing, and advance the competencies of future leaders. The course introduces new skills integrated through practice, reflection, and self- and group assessment.

Prerequisite: DNP standing or permission of instructor

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**N6851 Nurse Executive II**

An introduction to the principles of economics, financing and budgeting within the context of the healthcare environment. Essential economic and financial theory for the healthcare provider will be examined and financial methodology will be introduced. Specific weekly topics will be presented based on modules addressing principles of economic theory in healthcare, public and private financing in healthcare, and budgeting principles.

Prerequisite: DNP standing or permission of instructor

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**N6852 Nurse Executive III**

In this seminar, students will be guided in the process of evidenced-based project development, including formulation of goals and objectives, refinement of project design, implementation strategies, development of tools and or forms for data collection, identification of resources (personnel and fiscal), and evaluation. Through group discussion, students will participate in a process of peer consultation and critique in support of project refinement.

Prerequisite: DNP standing or permission of instructor  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**Change to:**

**N6802 Health Policy, Politics, and Ethics**

The focus of this course is to gain competencies in ethical analysis of complex patient care dilemmas and to use an ethical framework in the analysis, design, implementation, and evaluation of health policies related to healthcare, financing, practice regulation, access, patient safety, quality, and efficacy. The policy process, both ideal and practical, will be examined. Students will examine the development of health policy legislation and the evolution to its final stage, including analysis of intended and unintended consequences. The course includes discussion of healthcare paradigms of our nation, healthcare reforms and current events and issues.

Prerequisite: acceptance into the DNP program  
Co-requisite: N6801  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**N6830 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement**

The course continues to focus on development of components of the Clinical Scholarship Portfolio including refinement of the plan, methodology, and implementation of the Practice Inquiry Project. Students will prepare an overview of the work completed on the Practice Inquiry Project for approval to implement the project.

Prerequisites: N6846  
**One-Three Variable** Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Seminar 2-6)

**N6850 Executive Leadership, Human Resources, Delivery Systems, and Teams**

This course will prepare the learner to function in a nursing leadership role and an executive position in a healthcare organization through the exploration and analysis of effective leadership and personal leadership styles. The learner will be prepared to optimize the use of human capital within the nursing organization. Additionally, the learner will be prepared to be a contributing member of the executive team in organizational decisions related to human resource management.

Prerequisite: DNP standing or permission of instructor  
**Two** Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**N6851 Healthcare Finance and Strategic Planning**

This course will prepare the learner to function as the business and strategic leader of the nursing organization. In addition, the learner will be prepared to be a contributing member of the executive team in business, financial, organizational change, and strategic planning for the organization.

Prerequisite: **N6850** or permission of instructor  
**Two** Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**N6852 Organizational Performance Standards, Quality, and Safety**

This course will prepare the learner to function as an organizational leader in: interpreting healthcare trends, policy, and research; analyzing external and internal measures of quality, safety, and customer satisfaction; and developing operational approaches to maximize organizational effectiveness. Additionally, the learner will be prepared to function as a contributing colleague within the executive team of the organization for system effectiveness.

Prerequisite: DNP standing or permission of instructor  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

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**Change on page 75 (changes to existing courses offered)**

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**Add:**

**N6854 Writing for Publication**

This course focuses on developing competence in disseminating knowledge, expertise, and findings from quality improvement, evidence-based practice and research through scholarly writing and publications. The course provides an overview of the concepts of scholarly and professional writing as well as the processes involved in developing professional publications including selection of a topic and target audience, preparation and submission of a manuscript, the peer review process, the revision process, and mentorship in writing.

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the DNP program  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**N6858W Information Systems/Technology for the Improvement of Health Care**

This course is designed to develop competencies in the use of health care information systems/technology to support and improve patient care and healthcare systems and to provide leadership within healthcare systems and/or academic settings. Knowledge and skills related to information systems/technology and patient care technology prepare the student to apply new knowledge, manage individual and aggregate level information, apply budget and productivity tools for practice and administrative decision support, use information systems/technology resources, and assess the efficacy of patient care technology appropriate to a specialized area of practice.

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the DNP program  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**N6859 Nurse Executive Practicum**

This course is a clinical practice component for DNP students enrolled in the nurse executive track who have not completed 500 hours of supervised practice at the graduate level prior to entering the DNP program. The purpose of this course is application of organizational development principles, techniques to evaluate and improve complex health systems, application of financial management concepts in the healthcare setting, quality improvement and patient safety in a practice setting through project development and implementation. It is designed to increase the breadth and depth of the student's specialization role and practice as a nurse executive.

Prerequisite: Admission to the DNP Nurse Executive option  
One-Four Variable Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 4-16)

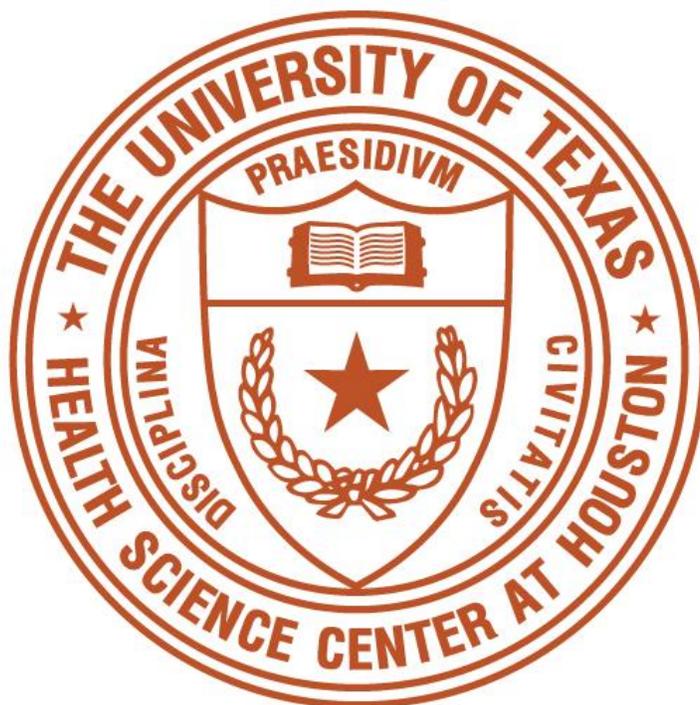
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**Change on page 120-121 (new courses offered)**

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# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF NURSING AT HOUSTON

## 2014-2016 CATALOG



The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award certificate, baccalaureate, masters, doctoral, and special professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

This catalog is a general information publication only. It is not intended to nor does it contain all regulations that relate to students. Applicants, students, and faculty are referred to UTHealth General Catalog. The provisions of this catalog and/or the General Catalog do not constitute a contract, expressed or implied, between any applicant, student or faculty member and The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston or The University of Texas System. The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston reserves the right to withdraw courses at any time, to change fees or tuition, calendar, curriculum, degree requirements, graduation procedures, and any other requirement affecting students. If such changes occur, they will become effective whenever the proper authorities so determine and will apply to both prospective students and those already enrolled.

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## Message from the Dean



As it passes its 40th anniversary, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Nursing is the highest-ranked nursing graduate school in Texas and among the Top Five Percent in the United States. Our Nurse Anesthesia program is ranked No.26 of 100 programs nationwide. Our graduates at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels are much in demand, and our more than 8,650 alumni are contributing to the global community in leadership, research and entrepreneurial positions.

Our home is a state-of-the-art facility for teaching, research and student services, located in the heart of Houston's world-famous Texas Medical Center. The eight-story, \$57-million nursing building, encompassing 195,000 sq. ft., is certified with the coveted LEED® Gold rating for its sustainability and environmentally friendly design. Recognized as one of the top green buildings in the U.S., the School of Nursing and Student Community Center has received 11 prestigious local, state and national architectural design awards since opening in 2004.

To ensure financial assistance to our students, we have been the fortunate recipients of endowments with a current market value of \$11.8 million. We also are the grateful beneficiaries of financial support from the PARTNERS organization, which now holds a \$1.47-million endowment and recently awarded its 100th full nursing scholarship. We all are committed to "pass it on," so that future generations of caregivers can be educated in this, the world's largest healthcare center, and by our world-class faculty.

Nurses stand a better than average chance for employment compared to college graduates in other fields. Hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and a variety of other clinical facilities now prefer nurses with bachelor's degrees, especially those who have completed internships/residencies after graduation. Advancing a nursing career increasingly requires additional education at the master's and doctoral levels.

Within a diverse interdisciplinary environment, we emphasize the role of nurses working as part of a healthcare team, from RNs to nurse practitioners to Doctors of Nursing Practice. More and more, nurse researchers are making themselves known as scholars and contributors to scientific discovery. Some UTHealth programs are one-of-a-kind in the nation.

Our pacesetter legacy in academic programs, practice and research has carried us far along the path to success. The UTHealth nursing graduate of the future must meet the challenge of practicing in a healthcare model that is undergoing constant change. But one thing is certain: the UTHealth School of Nursing will be working to achieve a common vision – delivering innovative solutions that will create the best hope for a healthier future.

Patricia L. Starck, D.S.N., R.N., FAAN

John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor

Dean, UTHealth School of Nursing

Senior Vice President for Community Affairs

UTHealth Office for Advancement

## 2014-2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

### Fall Semester 2014

Semester Begins	August 25, 2014
Classes End	December 12, 2014
Exams	December 15 -19, 2014

### Spring Semester 2015

Semester Begins	January 12, 2015
Classes End	May 8, 2015
Exams	May 11 - 15, 2015

*Spring Break*                      *March 9 - 13, 2015*

### Summer Sessions 2015

#### 12 Weeks

Session Begins	May 26, 2015
Classes End	August 17, 2015
Exams	August 18 - 19, 2015

#### 1st 6 Weeks 2015

Session Begins	May 26, 2015
Classes End	July 6, 2015
Exams	July 7, 2015

#### 2nd 6 Weeks 2015

Session begins	July 8, 2015
Classes End	August 18, 2015
Exams	August 19, 2015

Holidays will be announced in the schedule of classes.

## 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR

### Fall Semester 2015

Semester Begins	August 24, 2015
Classes End	December 11, 2015
Exams	December 14-18, 2015

### Spring Semester 2016

Semester Begins	January 11, 2016
Classes End	April 29, 2016
Exams	May 2-6, 2016

*Spring Break*                      *March 7-11, 2016*

### Summer Sessions 2016

#### 12 Weeks

Session Begins	May 23, 2016
Classes End	August 12, 2016
Exams	August 15-16, 2016

#### 1st 6 Weeks 2016

Session Begins	May 23, 2016
Classes End	July 1, 2016
Exams	July 5, 2016

#### 2nd 6 Weeks 2016

Session begins	July 6, 2016
Classes End	August 12, 2016
Exams	August 15-16, 2016

Holidays will be announced in the schedule of classes.

## **Administration**

### **Patricia L Starck, DSN, RN, FAAN**

Dean, School of Nursing and Senior Vice President of Community Affairs, UTHealth  
John P. McGovern Distinguished Professorship in Nursing

### **Susan Benedict, PhD, CRNA, FAAN**

Assistant Dean and Department Chair: Acute and Continuing Care  
Professor and Director of Global Health  
Co-director Campus-wide Program in Interprofessional Ethics

### **Nancy Bergstrom, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Associate Dean, Research  
Theodore J. & Mary E. Trumble Professorship in Aging Research

### **Nancy H Busen, PhD, FNP-BC, APRN**

Assistant Dean & Department Chair, Family Health  
Margaret A. Barnett/PARTNERS Professorship in Nursing

### **Melissa Ethington, PhD, RN**

Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Programs

### **Joanne V Hickey, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FCCM**

Coordinator, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program  
Patricia L. Starck/PARTNERS Endowed Professorship in Nursing

### **Deborah J. Jones PhD, MS, RN**

Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Assistant Dean & Department Chair, Nursing Systems

### **Susan D Perez, MBA**

Associate Dean, Management

### **Cathy L Rozmus, PhD, RN**

Associate Dean, Academic Affairs  
PARTNERS Professorship in Nursing  
Assistant Vice President for Institutional Assessment & Enhancement, UTHealth

### **Geri LoBiondo-Wood, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Professor of Nursing  
Coordinator, Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program

## School of Nursing

Established in 1972, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston is ranked in the top five percent of nursing schools in the country. Our campus is located in the Texas Medical Center, and School of Nursing (SON) students enjoy the resources of a distinguished health science center combined with the expertise of the world's largest medical center. The School offers a broad range of coursework resulting in both undergraduate and graduate degrees, and provides a wide variety of settings in which students and faculty can study, conduct research, and participate in clinical practice. The School of Nursing is one of six academic units of UTHealth. The other units, in chronological order of establishment, are: School of Dentistry (1905), Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (1963), School of Public Health (1967), Medical School (1970), and School of Biomedical Informatics (2000). The School of Nursing offers an undergraduate program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a graduate program leading to the degrees of Master of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing, and Doctor of Nursing Practice.

### Programs

**The Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing** program is designed for students who wish to enter the profession of nursing and/or for nurses who have earned an associate degree or diploma in nursing and desire to obtain the baccalaureate degree.

**The Master of Science in Nursing** program combines online courses with face-to-face courses and clinical experiences offering flexibility to students. The curriculum depends on the clinical concentration the student selects. Students may choose from among the following clinical concentrations:

- Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse Anesthesia
- Nursing Education
- Nursing Leadership and Administration

The **BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia** Program is a practice doctorate program that prepares baccalaureate nurses to manage the anesthesia needs of patients across their lifespan. The primary outcome of the nurse anesthesia concentration is the development of the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise in all types of anesthesia and phases of anesthesia care. The BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia program is designed to equip future nurse anesthetists with the knowledge and skills to implement best evidence-based practice, translational science, safety and quality improvement in nurse anesthesia practice. Additional experiences in systems leadership to enhance patient outcomes, cost-effective care and healthcare delivery models are included in the doctoral course of study.

The Council on Accreditation (COA) of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs approved the UTHealth School of Nursing to enroll its first BSN-DNP class in the summer semester of 2014.

**The Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)** program is designed to produce nurse scientists who will conduct research focused on health and health care; nurse educators; and nurse leaders who, in collaboration with other health care professionals, will implement and evaluate innovative practice models in health care delivery systems. The PhD curriculum is organized around a multidimensional framework that recognizes the scholarship of discovery, application, integration, and teaching (Boyer, 1990). The curriculum also focuses on three levels of prevention, i.e., primary, secondary, and

tertiary. This dimension of the framework is consistent with the SON philosophy that nursing is committed to health promotion, prevention and early detection of disease, restoration of wellness, continuing care for persons with chronic illnesses, and rehabilitation services. The research focus of the program is health care interventions and outcomes.

**The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)** program prepares nurses to be both clinical scholars who will practice at the highest level of advanced practice nursing and leaders in health care. DNP practice emphasizes evidence-based care, translating research into practice, integration of informatics, quality improvement initiatives, and innovative models of care and practice to achieve outstanding quality health outcomes for patients, populations, and society. DNP graduates work independently and collegially with health professionals and others to shape health care on the local, state, national, and international level.

The School of Nursing and School of Public Health jointly offer a dual MSN/MPH program that allows students to earn both degrees. The dual degree program offers courses that help prepare advanced practice public health nurses for leadership positions in public, community, and occupational health fields.

The School of Nursing takes great pride in the quality and variety of educational experiences it is able to offer the undergraduate and graduate students. The School's central location in the Texas Medical Center allows students to observe and participate in providing high quality health care with the latest advancements in technological assistance. At the same time, concentrated efforts are made to avoid the de-personalization often inherent in the use of technology in a health science center. Therefore, much emphasis is placed on individualized, humanistic care.

SON students are involved in health care institutions that are at the forefront in their fields serving both the private and public sectors. In addition, the surrounding community is rich in opportunities for students to participate in health promotion, illness prevention, long-term care, rehabilitation, and home health care for people of all ages and of various cultural backgrounds. The School also takes pride in the success rate of undergraduate students on State of Texas licensure examination and the success of both undergraduate and graduate students in making significant contributions to health care.

### **Accreditation**

All School degree programs are accredited by appropriate agencies. The School of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) through December 31, 2021. The CCNE is located at One DuPont Circle, NW, Suite 530 Washington, DC 20036 Phone: (202) 887-6791 Fax: (202) 887-8476. For more information about CCNE, go to their website at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Accreditation/index.htm>

The baccalaureate program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing. <http://www.bon.state.tx.us/>

The Nurse Anesthesia program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. <http://www.aana.com/>

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award certificate, baccalaureate, masters, doctoral, and special professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

## **Philosophy of the School of Nursing**

The School's philosophy reflects the beliefs of the faculty and supports the mission of the School. Faculty members contribute to the university's mission of education, research, and practice, which includes care of individuals, groups and communities. The faculty believes that people, health, and nursing are interrelated and exist in a dynamic global environment.

People are viewed as holistic beings with inherent dignity and worth who participate in decisions that affect their health across the lifespan. Health decisions are influenced by values, beliefs, and perceptions, as well as ethical, legal, cultural, spiritual, social, political and economic forces.

Health is viewed as a dynamic continuum of wellness and illness in individuals, groups and communities. Health care is an interdisciplinary effort focused on health promotion, disease prevention, illness-care, rehabilitation and palliative activities through partnerships between patients and health care providers.

Nursing as a health profession contributes to the management of health issues of individuals, groups and communities in diverse environmental settings. Nurses are prepared as members of an interdisciplinary team to work with others to deliver safe patient-centered care emphasizing evidence-based practice, quality improvement approaches and emerging technology.

Education for nurses supports learning as a lifelong process. Undergraduate education prepares entry-level generalists to provide safe and quality care to diverse client populations in a variety of settings. Graduate education at the master's level prepares specialists in advanced clinical practice roles. Doctoral education prepares clinical practice and research scholars who function at the highest level of professional practice and contribute to the body of scientific knowledge. Continuing education promotes learning experiences for nurses to update and advance knowledge and skills, fostering professional development and improvement of health care.

Research supports and advances nursing science, the evolving body of knowledge that serves as the basis of the profession. The School of Nursing fosters an environment that promotes research, that includes, but is not limited to, biobehavioral, clinical and translational research.

Nursing practice is viewed as the dynamic interaction between the profession of nursing and communities relative to the health care needs of its constituents. Community based-practice and service contribute to health promotion, disease prevention, and the well being of individuals, groups and communities.

## **School of Nursing Mission**

As part of a comprehensive health science university, the mission of the School of Nursing is to educate nurse clinicians and scientists, discover and translate advances in the biomedical and social sciences, and model best practices and innovation in clinical care regionally, nationally and globally. We pursue this mission in order to improve quality of care and the health and well-being of individuals, groups, communities.

## **School of Nursing Vision**

We are pacesetters in education, research, and clinical practice. We educate nurse clinicians and scientists within a diverse interdisciplinary environment to meet the dynamic work force and health care needs of our national and global societies. We contribute to nursing knowledge via biobehavioral, clinical and translational research. We are national and global leaders in clinical practice with innovative models of clinical

excellence. We provide a creative environment that fosters scholars and visionaries for the health care system.

### **Equal Opportunity**

To the extent provided by applicable law, no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. For more detailed information, see the information on the web at:

[http://legal.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/hoop/02/2.04\\_equalopportunity.html](http://legal.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/hoop/02/2.04_equalopportunity.html).

### **Clinical Facilities**

Clinical learning experiences are available at numerous institutions in the Texas Medical Center affiliated with the university.

The Memorial Hermann Hospital System, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, The Methodist Hospital, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Texas Children's Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, Harris Health System, TIRR Memorial Hermann, The Veterans Affairs Medical Center-Houston, and The University of Texas Harris County Psychiatric Center, as well as a wide variety of other health care facilities, are affiliated with the School of Nursing.

In addition to these extensive hospital resources, students have opportunities for learning experiences in other facilities, such as neighborhood health centers, nursing homes, day care centers, city and county health departments, mental health facilities, physicians' offices, and clinics. A unique opportunity for clinical training exists at UT Health Services, a nurse-managed clinic.

### **School of Nursing Centers**

#### **Center for Nursing Research**

The School of Nursing provides research services through its Center for Nursing Research (CNR). The Associate Dean for Research, a statistician, a biostatistician, and the CNR staff assist faculty and students with preparation and submission of grant proposals for extramural funding, design of research methods and statistical analyses, electronic entry and analysis of data, and processing of Institutional Review Board (IRB) and agency approvals. The CNR provides post-award support for faculty and students. The CNR sponsors research seminars and workshops, processes graduate student travel for research presentations and informs faculty and students of funding opportunities and research conferences. See the CNR's website for details:

<https://nursing.uth.edu/research/default.htm>.

The Center for Nursing Research houses over 6,000 square feet of bio-behavioral research laboratories that include bioscience, controlled environment, behavioral stress reduction, energy field, biomedical engineering and preclinical care laboratories.

All students are charged with knowledge of and compliance with UTHealth HOOP Policy 168, Conduct of Research (<http://www.uthouston.edu/hoop/policy.htm?id=1448184>). All proposals for extramural funding related to School work must be submitted by the CNR through UTHealth's Office of Sponsored Projects. Awards are made to UTHealth. The CNR staff will advise students on institutional policies regarding indirect cost recovery and review of research. Generally, a minimum of one month is needed to process applications for extramural funding.

## **Center For Education and Information Resources (CEIR)**

<https://nursing.uth.edu/centers-progs/ceir/default.htm>

The Center for Education and Information Resources is responsible for providing comprehensive and advanced technology solutions for the faculty and students of the School of Nursing. The CEIR department researches and implements student application software, performance measurement tracking applications, web communication systems, and state-of-the-art classroom instructional technology. The department also supports faculty and students in the areas of instructional design and distance education. Through the continual implementation of the latest instructional and medical electronic applications, the CEIR provides tomorrow's nurses and today's faculty with the technological information they need to become leaders in the changing medical arena.

The CEIR operated Learning Resource Center is located in the SON building in room 306. It provides faculty, students and staff with classroom technology support, computer lab support, and educational reserve material support.

CEIR also manages room scheduling for the School of Nursing.

## **Center on Aging**

<https://nursing.uth.edu/centers-progs/coajump.htm>

Founded in 1987, the Center on Aging is an interdisciplinary center, focused on improving the quality of life for an aging society through research, education, patient care, community service and institutional development. The Center engages in research related to stroke survivors and their caregivers, pressure ulcer prevention and treatment, health-related quality of life, and other aging-related topics. Gerontological nursing content is integrated into the nursing curriculum, and shared through workshops, online conferences, and community presentations. The Center advocates for quality patient care through the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program that serves over 75 assisted living and 250 nursing facilities in Harris County.

## **Center for Substance Abuse Education, Prevention and Research**

<https://nursing.uth.edu/centers-progs/csa/default.htm>

The Center for Substance Abuse Education, Prevention and Research promotes education, evidence-based practice, and research on substance use disorders. The Center provides direction for national multidisciplinary faculty initiatives to foster substance use competencies in the health professions. Federally-funded research studies focus on preventing substance abuse in adolescents, exploring mindfulness-based stress-reduction as an adjunct to recovery, and examining the relationship between alcohol use and elder self-neglect.

## **General Information**

### **Academic and Student Affairs**

It is the responsibility of the Dean of the School of Nursing, or the designated representative, to administer all rules governing academic and student affairs. The Dean, in consultation with School faculty, may dismiss a student pursuant to School policy; the Dean may decline readmission to any student.

### **Alumni Association**

The primary purpose of the Alumni Association is to promote the interests of the School, to promote the professional standards and educational advancement of nursing, and to raise scholarship funds for nursing students. Information regarding membership dues

and alumni activities may be obtained from:

Development Office  
The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston  
6901 Bertner Avenue, Room 869 Houston, Texas 77030  
(713) 500-2006  
(Community website: <http://uthsonalumni.org>)

## **Calendars**

<http://registrar.uth.tmc.edu/>

The academic calendar for each term is located on the Registrar's webpage. It includes the dates of the terms, add/drop deadlines, tuition payment deadlines, holidays, and other important deadlines.

Additional calendars are located on the "Current Student" section of the School of Nursing website <https://nursing.uth.edu/currstudent/>

## **Computer Requirement and Recommendations**

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/prospstudent/applresources/compreq.aspx>

School of Nursing students are required to have a personal computer to access educational materials, reference material, and email for communication with faculty, staff, and other students. Students have the option to purchase a desktop or laptop system. At this time, students are responsible for supporting their personal computers and the recommended software and hardware components used.

## **Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screening**

<http://www.precheck.com/>

[http://www.surscan.com/nursing\\_students.html](http://www.surscan.com/nursing_students.html)

Security screening, including criminal background and drug screens, is a requirement for enrollment at the School. Students will be screened following admission and prior to enrollment. A "HOLD" will be placed on a student's enrollment until clearance documentation is received. Accepted applicants who do not consent to a criminal background check and/or drug screening will be removed from the accepted student list.

UT SON will designate the company(ies) approved to do the required screening. Screening results from any company other than the company(ies) designated will not be accepted.

Background checks should be valid for the duration of the student's enrollment in the program if the student has not had a break in enrollment. A break in enrollment is defined as not being enrolled. A student who has had a break in enrollment for more than one semester will be required to submit another background check and drug screen

Enrolled students are required to disclose to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs any arrest(s) for and/or any criminal charges of any misdemeanor or felony offenses, and/or any misdemeanor or felony convictions and/or deferrals of adjudication (other than minor Class C traffic violations) within 30 days of occurrence. Nondisclosure or falsification of this required information may be grounds for dismissal from the School.

## **Significant Findings In Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screening**

Applicants accepted for admissions who appear to have significant findings in their

background check or positive findings on their drug screenings will have their case referred to a review panel appointed by the School. In such circumstance, applicants shall be informed that the vendor was not involved in any decision adverse to the student, will be informed how to contact the vendor, and shall have the opportunity to challenge the accuracy or completeness of the report with the vendor.

Applicants accepted for admission who have significant findings on their background checks will be referred to the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) in order to obtain a declaratory order. The admitted student may be allowed to enroll when official documentation is received from the BON confirming eligibility to sit for the NCLEX-RN or for continuing licensure. Enrollment could be deferred for up to one year while the matter is resolved.

If the Board of Nursing denies eligibility to sit for the NCLEX-RN or for continuing licensure, the accepted student will be removed from the accepted student list. A new application for admission will be considered if the BON ruling is reversed in the future.

### **Degree Plans**

The student is responsible for knowing degree requirements and enrolling in courses that fit into her/his degree program. Students are also held responsible for knowing the School's regulations in regard to the standard of work required for continuance in the program. It is the student's responsibility to complete the necessary paperwork (if requesting petition for equivalency credit) and to plan ahead for certain courses, as some courses are offered only once a year.

### **Email for UT Students**

The customary, everyday method of communication with students is via their UTHealth email address. Each SON student is provided a UTHealth email address. SON students must ensure that they are able to receive and send UTHealth email messages.

Problems either receiving or sending email messages should be reported to the HELP desk at (713) 486-4848. It is each student's responsibility to check for new UTHealth email messages on a daily basis and respond when necessary. Students have limited space on the email server and must empty their "in boxes" and "sent boxes" periodically to make sure they continue to receive all email messages.

### **Essential Skills for Nurses**

Nurses must be able to demonstrate cognitive skills in critical thinking and logical/analytical thinking. Nurses must also have psychomotor skills, including fine motor dexterity, physical strength, coordination, and proper body mechanics. Observational skills are also required, such as the ability to hear within the normal decibel range, the ability to read English in regular to extra-fine print, and the ability to palpate/auscultate.

### **Eligibility to Sit for RN Licensure Exam**

Students admitted to the undergraduate program must meet legal requirements for licensure to be eligible to take the licensing examination after graduation. Applicants and nursing students may voluntarily seek a declaratory order from the Texas Board of Nursing in regard to criminal convictions, mental illness, and/or chemical dependency in order to determine eligibility for licensure. Students are encouraged to confirm their eligibility before enrolling in the program. Information regarding the declaratory order process may be found at the Texas Board of Nursing website ([www.bon.state.tx.us/](http://www.bon.state.tx.us/)).

### **Grade Grievance Procedure (School Policy #S1660)**

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acadaff/>

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades or evaluations, it is the obligation of the student to first make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the faculty member with whom the grievance originated. Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. The faculty member's judgment is final unless compelling evidence suggests discrimination, differential treatment, or error.

### **Grades**

Grade reports are available to students at the end of each semester through myUTH at [https://my.uth.tmc.edu/psp/myuth/MYUTH/ENTP/h/?tab=UT\\_EP\\_NVT\\_SIGNON](https://my.uth.tmc.edu/psp/myuth/MYUTH/ENTP/h/?tab=UT_EP_NVT_SIGNON)

### **Graduation**

Official commencement ceremonies are held each year in May. Graduates are not eligible to participate in commencement prior to completion of their respective program requirements. (<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.htm>)

### **Certification Requirements**

Each student must provide the Student Affairs Office with evidence of current Class "C" CPR certification consistent with the requirements of the American Heart Association.

### **Inactive Status**

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/studentaffairs/>

Any student requesting inactive status must complete an "Inactive Form" located online. The student must secure clearance from the various offices noted on that form and must return the form to the Student Affairs Office.

A student remaining out of the program for more than one semester must notify the Registrar's Office in writing when she/he wishes her enrollment reactivated. A student on inactive status for two or more semesters will be considered for readmission on a case-by-case basis.

### **Needlestick and/or Body Fluid/Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure**

<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/med/students-current/needlestick.htm>

UT Student Health Services operates a Needlestick Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week to expedite students' treatment in case of needlestick or body fluid exposure. Regardless of the hospital or clinic where the students are working, the procedure is the same. Students should have a "Needlestick" sticker on the back of their student identification badges. If a student sustains a needlestick or has an accidental exposure to bloodborne pathogens:

#### **Page (713) 500-OUCH 24 hours a day**

Do NOT go to the nearest emergency room. The page will be answered promptly and the student will receive specific instructions and information. After paging the hotline, the student should remain by the phone.

Most calls will be answered within 5-10 minutes. The student will be asked to give a detailed description of the incident. Baseline labs will be checked, as well as the labs on the source patient. Then the student will be counseled on overall risk, and told if treatment is necessary. The student will be given follow-up labs at defined intervals over the next six to twelve months.

## **Ninety-nine (99) Hour Rule**

A resident doctoral student who has a total of 100 or more semester credit hours of doctoral work at an institution of higher education is required to pay nonresident doctoral tuition rates. Contact 713-500-3361 for more information.

## **Petitions for Equivalency Credit**

Students requesting to transfer a course from another university must complete a "Petition for Equivalency Credit" form (found under "forms" at this link: <http://son.uth.tmc.edu/currstudent/>), attach the syllabus for the transfer course, and submit the request to the Student Affairs Office. Also, the student must have an official transcript on file showing the course with a satisfactory grade (B or above for graduate students and C or above for undergraduates). Courses cannot be transferred if older than seven years (PhD), five years (MSN or DNP) or three years (BSN). Undergraduate courses must be at least a junior or senior level course to be considered for equivalency.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is using another person's work or ideas without giving credit. Plagiarism is dishonest because it misrepresents the work of another as your own. This includes both copying the work verbatim or re-phrasing the ideas of another without properly acknowledging the source. When preparing work for course requirements, such as papers, care plans, take home examinations, etc., students should take care to differentiate between their ideas and language and information derived from other sources. Sources include, but are not limited to published and unpublished materials, the Internet, and information and opinions gained directly from other people, including faculty or other students. Whenever ideas or facts are obtained from a student's reading and research, the sources must be properly cited according to standards set by the School of Nursing and contained in the current edition of Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

Plagiarism is considered a violation of academic integrity and professional honesty. Students who are found to have plagiarized shall be subject to disciplinary action. Penalties may include, but are not limited to failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the program, or dismissal from the School. Collaboration in the completion of written assignments is prohibited unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in the written course syllabus. Students must acknowledge any collaboration and its extent in all submitted course work.

**SafeAssign** is a software tool offered on Blackboard. It can be used to check the originality of a written assignment against a database of journal articles, other copyrighted, texts, and papers submitted by other students worldwide. SafeAssign is one tool among many that can be used to help students learn about proper attribution of written work; however, students have the final responsibility for work that is submitted as their own.

## **Policies**

### **HOOP (Handbook of Operating Procedures)**

Students are responsible for knowledge of and compliance with University regulations concerning student conduct and discipline as set forth in the UTHealth Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOOP) Policy 186, and the School's policies. A reference copy of the HOOP Policy is available in the Office of Student Affairs.

For information regarding student academic and conduct issues, contact:

Dr. Cathy Rozmus  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston  
6901 Bertner, Room 844, Houston, Texas 77030

Students who author research papers, dissertations and/or theses have the opportunity upon request to have these papers available to interested members of the public.

## **School of Nursing School and Program Policies**

([www.son.uth.tmc.edu](http://www.son.uth.tmc.edu))

### **School Policies**

(These policies are applicable to ALL students, regardless of the program in which they are enrolled.)

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/schoolpolicies.htm>

### **Program Policies**

#### **Undergraduate Program Policies**

(These policies are applicable to all undergraduate students.)

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.htm>

#### **Master of Science in Nursing Policies**

(These policies are applicable to all students enrolled in the MSN program, post-masters programs, and non-degree seeking students.)

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.htm>

#### **PhD Program Policies**

(These policies are applicable to all students enrolled in the PhD program.)

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.htm>

#### **DNP Program Policies**

(These policies are applicable to all students enrolled in the DNP program.)

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.htm>

#### **BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program Policies**

(These policies are applicable to all students enrolled in the DNP program.)

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.htm>

### **Professionalism**

Throughout program and related activities, students are responsible for knowledge of and compliance with standards of professional behavior. Failure to maintain professional behavior standards may be grounds for academic action, including lowering of course grade (including a failing grade), regardless of a student's performance with regards to other course academic standards, probation, or dismissal from the School.

### **Scholarships**

The School of Nursing Scholarship Committee encourages all new students to complete a scholarship application form.

Scholarship information may be found online at

All applicants and recipients must be students:

- a. currently enrolled in the School of Nursing;
- b. in good academic standing (minimum of 2.0 for BSN students, minimum of 3.0 for graduate students), and
- c. enrolled at least half-time in the respective program (Undergraduate - six hours for fall and spring semesters, five hours for summer semester; graduate - five hours for fall and spring semester and three hours for summer semester).

The following factors may be considered in awarding scholarships (depending on criteria for each scholarship): 1) academic record, 2) academic achievement, 3) involvement in nursing organizations, 4) involvement in community services, 5) financial need, 6) program of study, and 7) sociocultural/socioeconomic status.

Students subject to selective service registration will be required to file a statement that the student has registered or is exempt from selective service registration in order to be eligible to apply for federal financial aid. In addition, effective January 1, 1998, the selective service requirement is also applicable to students applying for financial assistance funded by State revenue.

Students are encouraged to contact the Scholarship Coordinator to obtain information about eligibility criteria and scholarships awarded in the student's area of study.

**For more information contact:**

Kimberly Sarden  
Office of Student Affairs  
The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston  
6901 Bertner Avenue, Room 220, Houston, Texas 77030  
(713) 500-2102

**Sigma Theta Tau**

The Zeta Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing was chartered at The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston in May 1981. There are over 405 chapters in collegiate schools of nursing in the United States, Canada, Taiwan, South Korea, and Australia. The purposes of Sigma Theta Tau are to recognize the achievement of scholarship of superior quality, recognize the development of leadership qualities, foster high professional standards, encourage creative work, and strengthen commitment on the part of individuals to the ideals and purposes of the profession of nursing. The Zeta Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau has no formal affiliation with The University of Texas System or The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston.

**Criteria eligibility for undergraduate student:**

1. Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
2. Ranks in upper 35% of graduating class
3. Meets the expectation of academic integrity

**Criteria eligibility for masters/doctoral student:**

1. Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
2. Completed one-fourth of graduate curriculum
3. Meets the expectation of academic integrity

**Criteria eligibility for Community Leader:**

1. Minimum of a baccalaureate degree

2. Recent marked contribution to nursing in one of the following areas: Education, Practice, Research, Administration, Publication, Other
3. Two endorsements (from active Sigma Theta Tau members)
4. Meets the expectation of academic integrity

### **Student Accountability**

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acadaff/school.cfm>

Students are held accountable for knowledge of degree requirements and enrolling for courses that fit into her/his degree program. Students are also held responsible for knowledge of the School of Nursing's regulations in regard to the standard of work required for continuance in the undergraduate and graduate programs. It is the responsibility of the student to read, keep abreast and adhere to the most current University and School of Nursing policies (<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.htm>). For in-depth details of all university governance, see <http://www.uthouston.edu/hoop/>.

### **Student Conduct and Discipline**

Students are specifically charged with responsibility for knowledge of and compliance with regulations concerning student conduct and discipline as set forth in the UTHealth Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOOP) Policy 186 (<http://www.uthouston.edu/hoop/policy.htm?id=1448220>).

### **Student Organizations**

#### **UT Student Nurses' Association (UTSNA)**

All students enrolled in the School are eligible for membership in the local chapter of the Texas Nursing Students' Association. Through UTSNA, nursing students are represented on campus committees and in campus activities involving students. Memberships in both the Texas Student Nurses' Association and the National Student Nurses Association are available.

#### **Student Government Organization (SGO)**

The Student Government Organization includes undergraduate and graduate students and is the primary liaison between the student body, faculty, and administration. It was formed to give all students a voice in school policy matters. Every student is a member and there are no dues. The Student Government Organization meets once a month with faculty advisors and invited administrative representatives. Issues discussed range from student curriculum concerns to school policy changes.

#### **Prayer Group**

The Prayer Group is open to all students. The purpose of the Prayer Group is to provide an opportunity for all students to come together and support one another in prayer. The Prayer Group seeks to provide social, emotional, mental and spiritual support.

#### **Students with Disabilities**

A student seeking disability accommodation must initiate a request to the School's Section 504 Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs, who will meet with the student to acknowledge the request, gather information, and explain the process. (<http://www.uthouston.edu/hoop/policy.htm?id=1448050>).

### **Tuition and Fees**

Beginning fall 2014, undergraduate resident tuition is \$184 per semester credit hour, while graduate resident tuition is \$232 per semester credit hour. The Texas Higher

Education Coordinating Board determines non-resident tuition, and when appropriate, Board-authorized graduate tuition can be added by the institution. The fall 2014 non-resident rate for undergraduates is \$806 per semester credit hour and \$875 for non-resident graduate students per semester credit hour. Pursuant to state law, a portion of tuition is now designated for capital renewal, deferred maintenance, and bond retirement for the construction of new buildings.

## **Fees and Charges**

Certain compulsory and voluntary fees should be anticipated at the School of Nursing. Compulsory fees are required of all students. Voluntary fees are not required, but the students may elect to subscribe to any of the services listed under voluntary fees. All fees are subject to change.

Academic Regalia Rental	See Voluntary Fees
Clinical Placement Fee	See Compulsory Fees
Lab Fee (per Course)	See Compulsory Fees
Liability Insurance	See Compulsory Fees
Nursing Achievement Exam Fee	See Compulsory Fees
Nursing Alternative Instruction Delivery Fee	See Compulsory Fees
Nursing Technology Resource Fee	See Compulsory Fees
Simulation Fee	See Compulsory Fees

## **Compulsory Fees**

**Clinical Placement Fee:** The clinical placement fee of \$135 per semester is assessed to BSN Pacesetter students to defray the cost of software, supplies and personnel needed for clinical placement of students.

**Graduation Fee:** A graduation fee of \$75 is payable at registration for the student's final semester. This fee covers expenses associated with graduation but does not cover rental of the cap and gown. This fee is charged whether or not the student attends graduation.

**Lab Fee:** The clinical/lab fee is assessed to students enrolled in courses with a clinical and/or lab component. Clinical/lab fees vary from \$16.00-\$30.00 per each course with a clinical/lab component.

**Liability Insurance:** All nursing students will be required to pay liability insurance fee regardless of other coverage the student may have. Upon registration, nurse practitioner and DNP students will be assessed \$61 per year, nurse anesthesia students will be assessed \$110 per year, and all other students will be assessed \$14.50 per year for liability insurance. Graduate students who are members of the US Armed Forces on active military duty have professional liability coverage through their branch of service and will not be assessed this fee. Students who enroll mid-year will be charged a prorated amount. Liability insurance fees are nonrefundable and are subject to change without notice.

**Nursing Achievement Exam Fee:** An achievement exam fee is assessed to all BSN students every term to cover the cost of administering and processing their nursing achievement exams. BSN Pacesetter students are assessed \$180 per semester and RN-BSN students are assessed \$120 per semester.

**Nursing Alternative In-State Instruction Delivery Fee:** Students who receive instruction via distance learning programs are assessed \$80 per semester credit hour.

**Nursing Technology Resource Fee:** The technology resource fee of \$140 per

semester is assessed to cover the cost of educational software and maintenance and operations expense for the computers in the School of Nursing computer labs, cost of clinical simulation labs, computer testing, distance technology and individual course capturing for Blackboard posting.

**Simulation Fee:** The simulation fee of \$165 per semester is assessed to BSN Pacesetter students cover the costs of personnel, supplies, standardized patients, AV and hi-fidelity equipment in the simulation labs. The simulation laboratories are designed to provide students with a realistic patient experience in a laboratory setting.

### **Voluntary Fees**

**Academic Regalia:** The charge for the regalia (cap and gown) is approximately \$64 for undergraduate students to purchase, \$95 for master's students to purchase, and \$85 for doctoral students to rent.

**Other Expenses:** Cost of books per semester is approximately \$920. This amount varies per program. A School of Nursing student is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer. Undergraduate students will also need to purchase uniforms, lab coats, shoes, name pins, and identification insignia.

### **Withdrawal Due to Military Service**

Any student withdrawing from the School to perform active military services as a member of the US armed forces or Texas National Guard will be readmitted without requiring reapplication if the student is otherwise eligible to register for classes. (This provision does not apply to a student who withdraws from the School solely to perform one or more training exercises as a member of the National Guard.) On readmission of the student, the School shall (1) provide to the student any financial assistance previously provided by the School to the student before the student's withdrawal if the student meets current eligibility requirements for the assistance, other than any requirement directly affected by the student's service, such as continuous enrollment or another similar timing requirement; and (2) allow the student the same academic status that the student had before the student's withdrawal, including any course credit awarded to the student by the institution. The School may require reasonable proof from a student of the fact and duration of the student's active military service.

Similarly, if a student enrolled in the School fails to attend classes or engage in other required activities because the student is called to active military service that is of a reasonably brief duration, as determined by the HECB and the student chooses not to withdraw from the School, the School shall excuse a student from attending classes or engaging in other required military service to which the student is called, including travel associated with the service. A student whose absence is excused under this provision may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to complete an assignment or take an examination from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. An instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to satisfactorily complete the assignment or examination within a reasonable time after the absence.

## **The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and University of Houston ROTC Cross-Enrollment Program**

The goal of the U.S. Army ROTC program is to develop technically competent, physically fit, and highly motivated men and women for positions of responsibility as

commissioned officers in the active Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard. Upon completion of the curriculum, students should have an understanding of the fundamental concepts and principles of the military as an art and as a science. The leadership and managerial experience gained through ROTC provides great benefit for students in both their civilian endeavors and their military careers.

### **Statutory Authority**

General statutory authority for establishment and operation of the ROTC program, including the scholarship program, is contained in Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 103 (Sec. 2102-2111). Specific rules and procedures are found in U.S. Army Regulation 145-1.

### **Course Credit**

ROTC classes may be taken for elective credit toward any degree plan at the University of Houston. Freshman and sophomore level classes are open to all students, regardless of age or physical condition. No military obligation is incurred as a result of enrollment in these courses. Junior and senior level courses are more restrictive and do require a military obligation. ROTC scholarship students also incur a military obligation.

### **Four-Year Program**

The four-year program is divided into two courses: the basic course, which is normally attended by students during their freshman and sophomore years, and the advanced course attended during the junior and senior years. Advanced course students also attend a six-week advanced training camp at Fort Lewis, Washington between their junior and senior years.

### **Basic Course**

The basic course consists of four semesters of military science, which includes MSCI 1210, 1220, 2210, and 2220. These freshman and sophomore level classes are open to all students without military obligation.

### **Advanced Course**

Students entering the advanced course must enter into a contract to pursue and accept a commission in the active Army, Army Reserve, or National Guard. To be considered for contracting into the advanced course, the student must be a full-time student in a course of instruction that leads to a degree in a recognized academic field; have a minimum of two years of academic work remaining in a curriculum leading to a baccalaureate or advanced degree; be under age 30 when commissioned; and pass a physical examination.

### **Two-Year Program**

The two-year program is designed for students who did not take the basic course but are otherwise eligible to enroll in the advanced course. This program allows students completing their sophomore year to attend a four-week internship during June and July at Fort Knox, Kentucky in lieu of taking the first two years of ROTC. There is no military obligation for attending Basic Camp. The Army provides transportation, room, and board. Students are paid approximately \$900 for the four-week period.

### **Laboratory Requirements**

A military science laboratory is required for students enrolling in MSCI 1210, 1220, 2210, 2220, 3310, 3320, 4310, or 4320. This laboratory provides opportunities for marksmanship training, rappelling, drill and ceremonies, communications training, and other activities.

### **Veterans**

Veterans who have served on active duty or in the Army Reserve/National Guard are

also eligible for the ROTC program. Although veterans are not required to take the basic course, they are encouraged to do so. All students, including veterans, must have a minimum of 54 credit hours prior to enrolling in the advanced course.

### **National Guard and Army Reserve Members**

Students enrolled in ROTC may also be a member of the Army Reserve or National Guard. Through the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP), those students enrolled in the advanced course will be assigned in a leadership position as a cadet and receive pay and entitlements from the Guard or Reserve at the pay grade of Sergeant (E-5).

### **Scholarships**

The United States Army offers on a competitive nationwide basis various four-, three-, and two- year scholarships. The scholarships will cover up to \$20,000 of tuition. Recipients will also receive benefits for educational fees (to include lab fees), a book allowance of \$450 per semester, and a subsistence allowance of \$300-\$500 per month. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and must be under age 27 on the anticipated graduation date. Applications are available from the military science department. Veteran applicants can extend the age limit up to a maximum of 3 years, based on prior active duty service.

### **Other Financial Aid**

All students enrolled in the advanced course will receive a subsistence allowance of \$300-\$500 per month. For more information contact the Military Science Department. GI Bill recipients still retain benefits.

### **Tuition**

Members of the Army or the National Guard, Texas State Guard, or other reserve forces may be exempted from the nonresident tuition fee and other fees and charges.

### **Special Training**

Basic and advanced course students may volunteer for and attend the U.S. Army Airborne and air assault courses during June, July and August. Cadet Troop Leadership training positions are also available to advanced course cadets during the summer months.

### **Miscellaneous**

Military textbooks and uniforms are furnished to all cadets. The Corps of Cadets sponsors an annual military ball in addition to other social events throughout the school year. The Department of Military Science sponsors extracurricular activities such as the University of Houston Color Guard and the Ranger Challenge Team.

### **Minor in Military Science**

To qualify for a minor in military science, students must complete a minimum of 18 semester hours of course work, of which 12 must be advanced. Nine semester hours must be completed in residence, of which six must be advanced. Students must also attend advanced camp. Students must attain a 2.00 grade point average or higher in Military Science courses attempted at the University. Students may receive credit for 1000 and 2000-level courses based on prior military training, completion, of ROTC Basic Camp, completion of JROTC training, or completion of one year at a service academy.

### **First Year**

#### **MSCI 1125:1126: Physical Readiness Training**

**Cr. 1. (0-3)**

Open to all students. Utilizes Army fitness techniques; develops strength, flexibility and endurance; develops self-confidence through leadership training and physical activities.

#### **MSCI 1131: Advance Physical Fitness Course**

Prerequisite: Must be ROTC cadet, physically demanding, develops skills through team competition, and land navigation, assembly/ disassembly of weapon, tactics, and assembly of one-man rope bridge. Students are also required to attend fitness training five times a week. Participants compete for Ranger Challenge slots. Selected cadets compete against other teams at the annual Ranger Challenge competition.

### **MSCI 1210 Introduction to ROTC**

Learn fundamental concepts of leadership in both classroom and outdoor laboratory environments. Increase self-confidence through team study and activities in basic drill, physical fitness, rappelling, first aid, and basic marksmanship. Develop communication skills to improve individual performance and group interaction. Attend a one-hour classroom session and a required lab. No military commitment is required for attending this course.

### **MSCI 1220: Introduction to Leadership**

Learn and apply principles of effective leadership. Reinforce self-confidence through participation in physically and mentally challenging training with upper division ROTC students. Develop communication skills to improve individual performance and group interaction. Relate ethical values to the effectiveness of a leader. Includes training on survival skills and self-defense, and a one-hour classroom session and a required lab. No military commitment is required for attending this course.

## **Second Year**

### **2210:2220: Military Leadership Development**

**Cr. 2. (2-2)**

Characteristics of leadership, problem analysis, decision making, oral presentations, first aid, small unit tactics, land navigation, basic radio communication, marksmanship, fitness training, and rappelling. Fitness training required two times per week in addition to class and lab. No military commitment is required for attending this course.

### **2810: Basic Camp** (formerly 2410)

**Cr. 8.**

Student will not receive credit for both basic course work and basic camp. Prerequisite: Approval of the department chair. No military obligation is associated with this course. This course is a six-week off-campus field training practicum to introduce students to the Army and leadership.

## **Third Year**

### **3198:3298:3398: Special Problems**

**Cr. 1-3 per semester**

Prerequisite: junior standing and consent of department chair.

### **3310:3320: Advanced Military Science**

**Cr. 3. (3-2)**

Prerequisite: MSCI 2220 or consent of the chair. The students are given the concepts of leadership; preparing combat orders; military instruction principles; small unit tactics; tactical communications; and fitness training. Class is designed to prepare students for advanced camp. Fitness training required three times per week in addition to class and lab.

### **3491: Summer Field Training**

**Cr. 4.**

Prerequisite: MSCI 3320 or consent of the chair. This course provides off-campus field training practicum stressing application of leadership management with emphasis on tactical and special military skills. Provides experience by placing students in demanding and stressful leadership situations.

## **Fourth Year**

### **4310:4320: Advanced Military Science**

**Cr. 3. (3-2).**

Prerequisite: MSCI 3320 or consent of the chair. Students are given the concepts of leadership and command; military law; administration/staff operations and procedures; dynamics of the military team; training management; ethics and professionalism. Fitness training required three times per week in addition to class and lab.

# **Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Program**

## **BSN Program Objectives**

Upon the successful completion of the baccalaureate program in nursing, graduates should be able to:

1. Provide Patient Centered Nursing Care using a systematic approach (e.g. the nursing process) to meet health care needs for individuals, families, populations and communities in diverse settings.
2. Collaborate with inter-professional team members and patients to resolve complex health problems to promote improve or maintain optimum health.
3. Implement evidence-based practice including application of theories and models from nursing, natural, and behavioral sciences and humanities as well as methods of scientific inquiry/research in delivery of nursing care.
4. Apply quality improvement approaches to monitor outcomes and processes of care to continuously improve the quality and safety of health care.
5. Utilize informatics to recognize, locate, evaluate store and classify information in order to mitigate error and use the information to support patients', nurses' and other providers' decision making.
6. Demonstrate professionalism by accepting responsibility and accountability for nursing practice and its outcome and valuing lifelong learning.
7. Utilize management and leadership theories, concepts and skills in the practice of professional nursing.

## **Degree Requirements**

### **Pacesetter Program**

The Pacesetter Program is program of study in which all of the nursing theory courses are offered in the first three semesters followed by a full-time, clinically intensive fourth semester. There will also be clinical experience labs and simulation during the first three semesters to complement the didactic material. Students must have a minimum of 60 semester hours credit or 90 quarter hours comprised of both prerequisite and elective work in order to be enrolled in the nursing program. Students are admitted to this program in the fall semester.

The upper-division nursing program consists of 60 semester hours offered in four full-time semesters for basic students. Upon successful completion of the program, students are awarded the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and are eligible to take the National Council of Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a registered nurse.

### **RN-BSN Program**

The University of Texas at Houston School of Nursing has a continuing commitment to assist returning registered nurses in attaining the baccalaureate degree in three semesters. All RN students will have the opportunity to receive advanced placement credit of 29 hours upon completion of specific courses.

**The RN-BSN Program** permits undergraduate students to take approved graduate-level course who submit a GRE (Graduate Record Examination) combined minimum score of 1000 from the verbal section and the quantitative section and a minimum score of 3.0 on the analytical writing section or submit a score of 400 or greater on the Miller's Analogy Test (MAT). For the revised GRE, the recommended combined score is 297 with the analytical writing section remaining at 3.0.

A maximum of eleven credit hours (with earned grades of “B” or higher) are transferable toward the MSN degree. Other master’s level courses may be taken with the permission of graduate faculty.

N5501	Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Nursing (Required for the MSN in Leadership Administration degree)	2
N6102	Information Systems in Advanced Nurse Practice (Required for the MSN in Leadership Administration degree)	1
N5506	Statistics in Nursing (Required for all MSN degrees)	2
N6101	Clinical & Epidemiological Research for Advanced Practice (Required for all MSN degrees)	3 *
N6151	Advanced Pathophysiology (Required for all MSN degrees, except the MSN in Nurse Anesthesia)	3 *

\*Credit for these two courses may be applied to both the Baccalaureate and Master's degrees. (Exception: students in the Nurse Anesthesia program who previously took N6151 Advanced Pathophysiology are still required to take N5513 & N5514 Anatomy and Physiology for Nurse Anesthesia I & II).

The RN-BSN student may apply to the MSN Program at the completion of the BSN program. RN-BSN students who are allowed to take graduate courses are not guaranteed admission to the MSN Program.

### **Deadlines for Application**

To be considered for admission into the Undergraduate Program, completed applications must be received in the Registrar’s Office by the dates listed below. Late applications will be considered for the subsequent admission period if requested in writing by the student.

### **Pacesetter Program (Admits Fall, Spring, and Summer terms)**

**Fall Application Deadline:** January 15  
**Spring Application Deadline:** August 15  
**Summer Application Deadline:** December 1

**Documentation Deadline:** All prerequisite courses must be completed before students may begin School of Nursing classes.

### **RN-BSN Program**

**Spring Application Deadline:** September 1  
**Summer Application Deadline:** January 15

**Documentation Deadline:** All prerequisite courses must be completed before students may begin School of Nursing classes.

### **Admission to the Undergraduate Program**

#### **Admission Criteria**

In order to more clearly reflect the UT School of Nursing's diversity within its educational environment, the School’s admission policy makes explicit the multiplicity of factors taken into consideration in the admissions process. These admission factors are not assigned a specific weight or point value. The School of Nursing considers the totality of each application and gives consideration to the following factors:

1. Intellectual capacity, based on consideration of undergraduate prerequisite GPA and the prerequisite science GPA; academic awards and honors, scholarly accomplishments; degree of difficulty of undergraduate academic program; pre-professional evaluations (THEA); previous college courses and/or degree(s); personal interview or request to complete a questionnaire; and any other relevant data submitted;
2. Interpersonal and communication skills, based on evidence of being well-written and well-spoken, exemplified by written essay, the application, and the personal interview or questionnaire; and any other relevant consideration that the student or his or her pre-professional advisors may present;
3. Breadth and depth of pre-nursing educational experiences, based on consideration of factors in the record reflecting a combination of a strong scientific background and also an ability to understand the complex non-scientific problems facing healthcare workers and patients, e.g., ethical, cultural, or socioeconomic problems; consideration of community or charitable service, e.g., volunteering to help the less fortunate; extracurricular activities and organizations; leadership positions; employment history; recognition for humanitarian service; and awareness and direct knowledge of cultural elements as they may impact on healthcare;
4. Potential for service to Texas, with consideration given to Texas residency; applicant's goals for the future; multilingual proficiency; culture/socio-economic status, race/ethnicity, potential for future provision of health services to underserved areas or needed specialties; and linguistic skills appropriate to the Health Professions Shortage Area the applicant wishes to serve;
5. Motivation, with consideration given to success in overcoming adverse economic or educational conditions; employment history occurring simultaneously with undergraduate academic preparation; participation in activities requiring time management skills; constantly improving undergraduate record; veteran status, and experience in health-related activities;
6. Integrity, with consideration given to any academic integrity violation; conduct or disciplinary problems in college;
7. Technical standards, related to observation, communication, timeliness in psychomotor skills, intellectual and cognitive abilities, behavioral and social attributes; and
8. Ethical standards, related to personal demeanor and behavior.

### **BSN Admissions Requirements**

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Office of the Registrar:

1. \$60 non-refundable application fee;
2. Evidence of a minimum GPA of 2.75 or better in the required 60 hours of nursing prerequisites, and a minimum GPA of 3.0 or better in the required science prerequisites;
3. One official transcript of all course work from every college or university previously attended directly to the Registrar's Office. Electronic submission is preferred; (If previous college coursework from a country other than the USA is submitted, the coursework must be evaluated by a credentialing service before submission (see "Foreign Transcript" below). This information will be used to determine what courses can be counted to satisfy the prerequisites. An official copy of the credentialing service evaluation must be submitted to the Registrar's Office.)
4. Evidence of completion of at least 40 hours of the required 60 hours of prerequisite work by the program application deadline. Eight of those 40 hours must be from the science prerequisites (Human Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, Chemistry). If admitted into the program, an applicant must complete all 60 hours of prerequisites by the start of the program.

5. Evidence of completion of the HESI A2 Entrance Exam. Registration can be accessed by contacting Elsevier. HESI scores resulting from more than two attempts will not be accepted. View the registration instructions at <http://son.uth.tmc.edu/prospstudent/bsn/hesi.htm>. (The HESI A2 Entrance Exam is not required for the RN-BSN program).

### **RN-BSN Program Option**

Students accepted to the RN-BSN program may be approved to take designated graduate courses while completing the RN-BSN degree requirements that will apply to any of the School's [Master's programs](#).

To be approved to take graduate courses while completing RN-BSN requirements, it is recommended the applicant submit a score of at least 400 on the Miller Analogy Test or a combined minimum score of 1000 on the first two sections and a 3.0 on the writing portion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). For the revised GRE, the recommended combined score is 297 with the analytical writing section score remaining at 3.0.

After acceptance to the RN-BSN Program, the student may substitute a maximum of six semester hours of graduate level courses for BSN degree requirements. A maximum of 11 credit hours (with earned grades of "B" or better) are transferable toward the MSN program.

Additional Requirements (if admitted into all BSN programs):

Admission and enrollment is expressly contingent upon successful completion of outstanding prerequisites (if any), immunization screening, immigration status clearance, and Health Care Provider Basic Life Support CPR certification.

All new students must successfully clear the mandatory drug and criminal background screenings prior to enrollment. All applicants should review the appropriate UTHealth policies in advance (<http://www.uthouston.edu/hoop/policy.htm?id=1448168> ) and (<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/documents/schoolpolicies/s1270.pdf>

### **Full Admission**

This category applies to applicants who meet all admission requirements:

1. Completion of all prerequisite courses (60 semester hours or 90-quarter hours with a minimum grade of "C" in each course);
2. A minimum prerequisite grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale;
3. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in prerequisite science courses; and
4. Completion of the HESI A2 Exam (not required for RN-BSN Applicants).

### **Provisional Admission**

This category applies to applicants who have not completed all the requirements for admission. These students are required to complete and submit evidence of completion of all requirements for full admission. Provisional admission may be granted at the discretion of the Baccalaureate Council only for the deficiency of up to two prerequisite courses. All other prerequisite courses must be completed prior to admission. However, applicants must complete all outstanding prerequisite courses with a minimum grade of "C" prior to initial enrollment in courses.

In order to change status to full admission, the student must complete all outstanding prerequisites with a minimum grade of "C" by the date specified by the given. Failure to achieve full admission status by the specified time period will result in a hold being

placed on the student's registration. The student will not be allowed to progress in course work until all prerequisites are complete.

### **Conditional Admission**

The Baccalaureate Council may grant conditional admission after evaluation of the applicant's record. This category applies to a student who does not meet full admission requirements. A 3.0 cumulative grade point average for the first nine semester hours is required or the student must withdraw or be dismissed from the program. Students who are dismissed may appeal the dismissal through the Baccalaureate Council.

### **Non-Degree Admission**

The non-degree admission category is designated for applicants who wish to take courses without seeking a degree. Permission from the Baccalaureate Council must be obtained for enrollment in undergraduate courses. Enrollment is dependent upon class availability and clinical resources.

### **Applicant Selection**

The Baccalaureate Council will make admission decisions. All applicants will be notified in writing whether they have been accepted into the UTHealth School of Nursing. Acceptance into the program is applicable only to the semester for which the applicant applied. If the applicant does not enroll in that semester, she/he may request to be considered for a subsequent semester.

### **Essential Skills for Nurses**

Nurses must be able to demonstrate cognitive skills in critical thinking and logical/analytical thinking. Nurses must possess and demonstrate psychomotor skills, including, but not limited to fine motor dexterity, physical strength, coordination, and proper body mechanics. Observational skills, such as the ability to hear within the normal decibel range, the ability to read English in regular to extra-fine print, and the ability to palpate/auscultate, are also required.

### **Eligibility to Sit for RN Licensure Exam**

Students admitted to the undergraduate programs must meet requirements for licensure to be eligible to take the licensing examination after graduation. The Texas Board of Nursing determines eligibility for licensure. Applicants and nursing students may voluntarily seek a declaratory order from the Texas Board of Nursing regarding matters affecting an individual's eligibility for licensure:

- criminal convictions history;
- being placed on probation or community supervision whether or not adjudicated guilty;
- being sentenced to serve jail or prison time or granted pre-trial diversion;
- pleading guilty, no contest, or *nolo contendere* to any crime in any state, territory, or country;
- having unresolved arrests, whether or not on appeal (excluding minor Class C traffic violations);
- having deferred adjudications or other "pretrial diversion" with or without a finding of guilt;
- DUIs, DWIs, and PIs;
- mental illness; and/or
- chemical dependency.

Students are encouraged to confirm their eligibility for licensure before enrolling in the School's programs. Information regarding the declaratory order process may be found at the Texas Board of Nursing website ([www.bon.state.tx.us/](http://www.bon.state.tx.us/)). Obtaining a declaratory order or other disclosure to the Board of Nursing does not relieve an applicant or student

from his/her obligation to disclose the matters listed above to the School.

**Core Curriculum Policy**

Students who will be receiving their first baccalaureate degree from UTHealth must successfully complete the Texas Core Curriculum requirements. The core curriculum consists of 42 semester credit hours in specified component areas. The table below lists core curriculum requirements and courses that may be used to satisfy them.

If a student’s transcript from another Texas public college or university indicates that the student has completed that institution’s core curriculum, no additional core curriculum requirements will be imposed. If a student has not completed the core requirement at another Texas institution prior to entering the institution, UTHealth will accept academic credits from another Texas public college or university (core curriculum courses successfully completed with grades of “C” or higher only). The same requirements also apply to out-of-state students.

<b>Texas Core Curriculum Component Areas and Requirements</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
Communication (English rhetoric/ composition) – <i>ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, ENGL 1311, ENGL 1312, ENGL 2311, ENGL 2314, ENGL 2315, or equivalent*</i>	6
Mathematics - <i>3 hours in Algebra - MATH 1314 or higher; 3 hours in Statistics – MATH 1342, MATH 1442, MATH 2342, MATH 2442, or PSYC 2317, or equivalent</i>	3
Natural Sciences – <i>Courses with prefixes BIOL, CHEM, GEOL, PHYS, HORT, or other natural sciences</i>	9
Humanities & Visual and Performing Arts  <i>Must include: 3 hours in visual/performing arts – Courses with prefixes ARTS, DANC, MUAP, MUEN, MUSI, DRAM, or equivalent; 3 hours in “other,” including literature, philosophy, modern or classical language/literature, and cultural studies**</i>	6
Social and Behavioral Sciences - <i>Must include: 6 hours in U.S. history – either HIST 1301&amp; HIST 1302, or HIST 1301 &amp; HIST 2301; 6 hours in political science</i>	18
<b>Total Texas Core Curriculum Semester Credit Hours</b>	<b>42</b>

## Prerequisite Courses

Applicants must complete the following courses from any accredited college or university with a grade of “C” or better in each course. A minimum overall prerequisite grade point average of 2.75 and 3.0 in the science courses is required prior to admission.

American Government	3
Texas Government	3
United States History	6
Introduction to Psychology	3
Introduction to Sociology	3
Growth and Development through the Lifespan or Family Growth & Development	3
Statistics	3
Visual or Performing Arts	3
Human Anatomy and Physiology	8
Microbiology	4
Chemistry	4
Nutrition	3
English Composition	6
Introduction to Philosophy or Logic or Ethics	3
Electives	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

Six semester hours in American Government or Political Science which includes “consideration of the Constitution of the United States” and an emphasis on Texas Government and six semester hours in United States History are required by the **Texas Education Code**, Section 51.301 et seq. College Level Examination Program (CLEP) credits must appear on an official transcript from an institution showing both grade and hours received. As many as three (3) semester credits or its equivalent in Texas History may be submitted as partial satisfaction of this history requirement.

Must take a component laboratory with all science courses.

Only university-parallel courses taken in an accredited college or university may be accepted as electives. Technical or vocational courses are not university-parallel courses. Neither practical nursing nor physical education courses may be accepted as electives.

## Foreign Transcript

Applicants who have completed part or all of their education at schools outside the United States must submit their official transcripts for a course-by-course descriptive evaluation through the Educational Credential Evaluators, (ECE), P.O. Box 514070, Milwaukee, WI 53203 (414) 289-3400 (<http://www.ece.org>). ECE is an agency which specializes in the evaluation of foreign education credentials. The use of this professional service assures consistency and accuracy of the evaluation of educational credentials. An original copy of the evaluation must be sent directly from ECE to the Registrar’s Office prior to applying.

## Texas Success Initiative - TSI (Formerly TASP)

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI), formerly TASP, is a state-mandated program that is designed to improve student success and outcomes in college. Any student seeking to enroll in an UTHHealth undergraduate program must provide proof of successful completion of the Texas Success Initiative prior to being enrolled. For more information on specific testing requirements, testing exemptions, and college readiness, go to <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/tsi>.

## Transfer of Credit from Another School of Nursing

Individuals who transfer into the School’s BSN program from another nursing school

must have completed the 60 hours of required prerequisite courses and meet the criteria for admission. Syllabi from all prior nursing courses must be submitted in order for those courses to be considered for transfer credit. All nursing courses to be transferred must be junior or senior level undergraduate courses.

Applicants who have completed the prescribed Field of Study in Nursing (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2002) will be considered for admission to the RN-BSN program. Applicants not in academic or financial good standing and therefore not entitled to continue at another institution will not be admitted as transfers to the School of Nursing.

### **Transient Students**

The transient student category is designated for students enrolled in good academic standing at another nursing program who wish to enroll in selected courses at the School of Nursing. Permission must be obtained from the Baccalaureate Degree Council. Transient student status may be obtained by providing a completed application, written consent of the Dean at the parent institution, and written consent of the instructor of the course at the School of Nursing.

### **Required Courses for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program**

<b>Required Courses for the BSN Degree (Pacesetter Program)</b>		<b>Semester</b>
N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3515	Adult Health Care I	4
N3515B	Adult Health Care I Clinical	2
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N3521	Gerontologic Nursing	2
N3523	Adult & Older Adult Health Care II	4
N3523B	Adult & Older Adult Health Care II Clinical	3
N3526	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care	4
N3526B	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care Clinical	2
N3532	Reproductive Health Care	4
N3532B	Reproductive Health Care Clinical	2
N3536	Child & Adolescent Health Care	4
N3536B	Child & Adolescent Health Care Clinical	2
N3540	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2
N4521	Community/Public Health Nursing Practice	3
N4521B	Community/Public Health Nursing – Clinical	3
N4527	Professional Practice & Leadership	3
N4528	Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings	2
N4528B	Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings Clinical	4
N4530W	Critical Synthesis Application	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>

<b>Required Courses for the RN-BSN Degree</b>		<b>Semester Credit Hour</b>
N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3701	Professional Practice & Promotion of Health	4
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2
N3601	Community Health for RNs	3
N3602	Community Health Project for RNs	2
N3702	Issues in Professional Practice	4
N3703	Management & Leadership	4
N3704	Synthesis for RNs: Application for Change into Practice	3
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N4526	Role Transition for RNs	2
N6102W	Information Systems in Advanced Nursing Practice	1*
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>

\*The RN-BSN Program curriculum includes one graduate-level course (N6102W Information Systems) which is transferable (with earned grades of “B” or higher) toward the MSN degree. Credit for this course may be applied to both the Baccalaureate and Master’s degrees.

#### **Advanced Placement Credit**

RN-BSN students, upon successful completion of N3701, N3702, N3703, and N3704, will receive Advanced Placement Credit for the following courses:

N3515	Adult Health Care I	6
N3523	Adult and Older Adult Health Care II	7
N3526	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care	6
N3532	Reproductive Health Care	5
N3536	Child & Adolescent Health Care	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>29</b>

The RN-BSN Program permits undergraduate students, who submit a combined Graduate Record Examination (GRE) minimum score of at least 1000 on both the verbal and quantitative sections and a 3.0 on the writing portion. For the revised GRE, the recommended combined score is 297 with the analytical writing section remaining at 3.0. Students may also submit a score of 400 or greater on the Miller’s Analogy Test (MAT) to proceed in an accelerated sequence.

A maximum of 10 additional credit hours (with earned grades of “B” or higher) are transferable toward the MSN degree. Students who are approved to take these graduate-level courses should meet with their advisors to determine a revised degree plan.

N5501	Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Nursing (Required for the MSN in Leadership Administration degree)	2
N5506	Statistics in Nursing (Required for all MSN Degrees)	2
N6101	Clinical & Epidemiological Research for Advanced Practice (Required for all MSN degrees)	3
N6151	Advanced Pathophysiology (Required for all MSN degrees, except the MSN in Nurse Anesthesia)	<u>3</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>

The RN-BSN student may apply to the MSN Program at the completion of the BSN program. RN-BSN students who are allowed to take graduate courses are not guaranteed admission to the MSN Program.

## **BSN Pacesetter Program - Sequencing of Courses**

<b>Semester I</b>		<b>Semester Hours</b>
N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3515	Adult Health Care I	4
N3515B	Adult Health Care I Clinical	2
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N3540	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
<b>Semester II</b>		
N3521	Gerontologic Nursing	2
N3523	Adult and Older Adult Health Care II	4
N3532	Reproductive Health Care	4
N3526	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care	4
N3526B	Psychiatric & Mental Health Care Clinical	2
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2
<b>Semester III</b>		
N3536	Child & Adolescent Health Care	4
N4521	Community/Public Health Nursing Practice	3
N4521B	Community/Public Health Nursing – Clinical	3
N4527	Professional Practice & Leadership	3
N4528	Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings	2
<b>Semester IV</b>		
N3523B	Adult and Older Adult Health Care II Clinical	3
N3532B	Reproductive Health Care Clinical	2
N3536B	Child & Adolescent Health Care Clinical	2
N4528B	Management of Patients in High Acuity Clinical	4
N4530W	Critical Synthesis Application	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>

## **RN-BSN Program – Sequencing of Courses**

<b>Semester I</b>		<b>Semester Hours</b>
N3511	Health Assessment	3
N3517	Pathophysiology	3
N3701	Professional Practice & Promotion of Health	4
N6102W	Information Systems in Advanced Nursing Practice	1
<b>Semester II</b>		
N3703	Management and Leadership	4
N4512	Research Critique & Utilization	2
N3702	Issues in Professional Practice	4
<b>Semester III</b>		
N3601	Community Health for RNs	3
N3602	Community Health Project for RNs	2
N3704	Synthesis: Application for Change into Practice	3
N4526	Role Transition for RNs	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>

## **Undergraduate Academic Requirements for Progression**

### **Academic Probation**

If at the end of any semester a student's cumulative credit hour grade point average for courses taken in the School of Nursing falls below 2.0, or there is a grade below "C" on the record for that semester, the student will be placed on academic probation. Students shall be notified that they are on academic probation.

### **Removal from Academic probation**

Students who are on academic probation will be removed from such probation at the conclusion of the term in which they have achieved an overall 2.0 grade point average, with no grade below a "C" for that term.

### **Academic Dismissal and Appeal**

Students must meet the respective grading policy for the program in which they are enrolled [Grading policies for the master's program are found in G5670; grading policies for the doctoral program are found in D7610 (PhD) and D8040 (DNP); the grading policies for the undergraduate program are found in U3670].

### **Procedure**

If a student does not meet academic criteria for progression in a program, the Office of Student Affairs will send a letter informing the student of the deficiency and that dismissal is required pursuant to the appropriate grading policy, with a copy to the Office of the Dean. If the student wishes to appeal the application of the grading policy resulting in dismissal, the student must submit a written request to appeal the dismissal within five business days of receipt of the notification letter, attaching supporting documentation, to the Chair of the appropriate council (Baccalaureate Council, Masters Council, Doctor of Nursing Practice Council, or PhD Council. The Councils are standing committees of the School of Nursing that assist with decision making and the implementation of policies concerning the admission, readmission, progression, and graduation of students).

The appropriate Council, upon receipt of the request, will review the request by no later than the next scheduled meeting and render its final recommendation in writing to the Dean or designee with a copy to the student. Time for a response by the Council may be extended by the Dean for good cause. A student may appeal the decision of the Council to the Dean or designee by submitting a written request with supporting evidence within five business days of receipt of the Council's recommendation. The determination of the Dean or designee is final.

### **Attendance at Another Institution While on Academic Probation**

Students who leave the School of Nursing while on probation may be readmitted to the School but will be readmitted on academic probation, even if they have attended another institution between leaving and returning to the School of Nursing.

### **Dean's List Honors**

Undergraduate students earning Dean's List Honors are recognized as having achieved a level of academic excellence by earning a minimum term grade point average of 3.5 while enrolled in more than four hours during that term.

### **Full-time and part-time**

A full-time undergraduate student is one who is registered for at least 12 semester hours during the Fall and Spring semester, nine hours during the 12-week summer semester, or five semester hours during the six-week summer semester. A part-time student is one who is registered for fewer hours than the stated requirement for full-time status. Undergraduate students wishing to enroll in more than 18 semester hours must petition and receive approval from the Baccalaureate Degree Council.

### **Grading Policy**

Undergraduate students must make a grade of "C" or better in any course before progression to the next sequence of courses.

Students who receive two grades below "C" in any two courses, or who receive two grades below "C" in the same course, will no longer be eligible to continue in the Nursing

Program. The designation of "WF" is considered to be a grade below "C" and is incorporated in calculating the grade point average (GPA). Students will be placed on academic probation when their cumulative GPA falls below 2.0. Note: Undergraduate students shall have at least a 2.0 GPA to meet the GPA requirements for graduation.

Students in the Bacc2 Program can progress through the three-semester sequence with grades of C or above. A grade below C in any course will result in dismissal from the Bacc2 Program. A student who is dismissed from the Bacc2 Program may meet with the BSN Coordinator for consideration whether the student may continue in the generic program.

Original grades remain on a student's record with a final repeated grade to be used to compute the student's GPA.

### **Grading System**

The School's curriculum is based on sequential learning. Accordingly, a student must have a grade of "C" or better in any course before progression to the next sequence of courses. In computing grade point averages, the following scores are used: A = 4 points; B = 3 points; C = 2 points; D = 1 point; and WF/F = 0 points. The course requirements and mechanisms for determining grades are described in each course syllabus.

### **Eligibility for Graduation: Undergraduate**

To be eligible for graduation with a BSN degree, students must:

1. Have a minimum cumulative 2.0 grade point average;
2. Successfully complete the prescribed curriculum for which they are registered and must meet all other School of Nursing requirements;
3. Submit official transcripts of courses taken outside the School to the Office of the Registrar;
4. Complete a minimum of 31 hours in the program in residency;
5. Apply for graduation in myUTH by the final semester;
6. Pay the required graduation fee;
7. Complete the clearance packet and clear through all designated offices; and,
8. Be enrolled in the semester in which graduating.

### **Graduation with Honors: Undergraduate**

To graduate with honors, an undergraduate student must have the following cumulative grade point average:

<b>Highest Honors</b>	<b>3.90 - 4.00</b>
<b>High Honors</b>	<b>3.70 - 3.89</b>
<b>Honors</b>	<b>3.50 - 3.69</b>

Only nursing course work taken at the School of Nursing will be used in determination of honors.

### **Honors Program**

Senior level (3rd and 4th semester) BSN students may participate in the School's Honor Program. The goals of the Honors Program are to:

- Encourage scholarly achievement in talented and highly motivated students;
- Promote a high level of achievement in nursing education and practice;
- Promote further education in nursing by providing faculty research mentors;
- Stimulate creative and critical thinking;
- Facilitate acquisition of research and leadership skills.

Approximately five percent of the class meeting the criteria below will be invited to participate in the Honors Program. These students will be identified and encouraged to apply at the end of the second semester (spring) in the junior year on the basis of:

- Minimum of 3.5 GPA in School coursework, including successful completion of N4512 Research Critique and Utilization with a grade of A.
- Merit of a proposal/statement for Honors participation. This should be no longer than one page double-spaced, using APA fifth edition guidelines, and should describe the candidate's career goals and reason for applying to the Honors Program. If the candidate has a particular research interest, it should be included in this statement. However, it is not necessary to have a predetermined research interest to be considered eligible, as the candidate's interest would be used only to facilitate placement with a particular mentor. Note: identifying a particular interest does not guarantee placement with that type of research mentor.
- Faculty recommendation.

Participants will be selected by the Honors Program Advisory Council based on the above criteria. Once selected, students will be identified as Honors Students, which will entitle them to a one-on-one mentorship opportunity with a faculty researcher, special recognitions, participation in various special activities, and additional scholarship opportunities. Students will be required to enroll in a one credit-hour Honors Independent Study with the selected mentor for each of the fall and spring semesters, complete 45 contact hours per semester in mutually agreed upon activities, and present the Honors Project at the end of their fourth (last) semester.

Interested students who meet the Program's criteria should send the evidence of GPA and research grade (an official transcript is not necessary); the completed student letter, and at least one faculty recommendation letter to the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs by the appropriate date:

If second semester is in:

Spring then deadline is April 1.

Summer then deadline is July 1.

Fall then deadline is November 1.

Applicant's shall include a cover letter with student's name, address, e-mail, and phone. Students will be notified of acceptance into the Honors Program and mentor assignment by the end of the second semester.

### **Repetition of a Course**

A student must petition the Baccalaureate Degree Council to be allowed to repeat a course. If a student repeats a failed course, the official grade is the last one earned.

### **Semester Hour of Credit**

One semester hour of credit is awarded for three clock hours per week of clinical/laboratory experience, or one clock hour per week of didactic experience, or two clock hours per week of seminar experience.

### **Incomplete Work**

—A grade of "I" indicates that student work in a course is incomplete for the semester. To receive an "I" grade, a student must submit a request for an incomplete status to the instructor prior to the last class day of the course. Failure to remove an "I" prior to the end of the following semester will result in the student receiving an "F" in the course.

## **Time Limits**

Requirements for a single undergraduate degree must be completed within three years. An extension may be granted if approved by the Baccalaureate Degree Council.

## **Undergraduate Program Course Descriptions**

*Course descriptions are not intended as an assurance or warranty of achievement of specific skills or knowledge*

### **NOTE:**

- *Course numbers ending in "W" denote courses that are web-based or mainly online that may require some campus visits.*
- *Course numbers ending in "D" denote courses that are taught through distance education and include a distance education fee.*
- *Course numbers ending in "B" denote courses that are clinical and include additional fees.*

### **N3511 Health Assessment**

This course is designed to introduce concepts and skills required to evaluate the health status of a client and document appropriate findings. The course provides a holistic approach that integrates principles from the physical and social sciences. Students learn to use physical examination findings and interview data to formulate nursing diagnoses that guide the nursing process. There are a variety of educational approaches including lecture, online interactions, and laboratory experiences. Course activities encourage students to use critical thinking skills necessary for nursing practice.

Prerequisite: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1; Clinical/Lab 3)

### **N3511W Health Assessment**

This course is designed to introduce concepts and skills required to evaluate the health status of a client and document appropriate findings. The course provides a holistic approach that integrates principles from the physical and social sciences. Students learn to use physical examination findings and interview data to formulate nursing diagnoses that guide the nursing process. There are a variety of educational approaches including lecture, online interactions, and laboratory experiences. Course activities encourage students to use critical thinking skills necessary for nursing practice.

Prerequisite: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1; Clinical/Lab 3)

### **N3515 Adult Health Care I**

This course introduces major theories and concepts necessary to provide holistic nursing care to adults from diverse cultures with selected physiological disorders. These theories and concepts are introduced using a wellness-illness continuum and serve as a basis for critical thinking and use of the nursing process in the care of adult patients. Concepts such as health, culture, environment, aging, nutrition, and the professional nurse role in direct patient care and in collaboration with other health care providers are addressed. Students are provided the opportunity to master nursing technologies in a variety of laboratory and clinical situations.

Co-requisites: N3511, N3517, N3540

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N3515B Adult Health Care I Clinical**

This course introduces major theories and concepts necessary to provide holistic nursing care to adults from diverse cultures with selected physiological disorders. These theories and concepts are introduced using a wellness-illness continuum and serve as a basis for critical thinking and use of the nursing process in the care of adult patients. Concepts such as health, culture, environment, aging, nutrition, and the professional nurse role in direct patient care and in collaboration with other health care providers are addressed. Students are provided the opportunity to master nursing technologies in a variety of laboratory and clinical situations.

Co-requisites: N3511, N3515, N3517, N3540  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical/Lab 6)

### **N3517 Pathophysiology**

This course focuses on the etiologic, symptomatologic, and pathologic aspects of selected human diseases across the life span. Concepts of health promotion, disease prevention, disease progression, and treatment are approached from a cellular and multi-system perspective. Influences of genetic, ethnic, cultural, and temporal variables on human disease are analyzed. Content aims at stimulating critical thinking. Research-based pathophysiologic knowledge will be applied to nursing management of illness and health restoration.

Prerequisites: None  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N3517W Pathophysiology**

This course focuses on the etiologic, symptomatologic, and pathologic aspects of selected human diseases across the life span. Concepts of health promotion, disease prevention, disease progression, and treatment are approached from a cellular and multi-system perspective. Influences of genetic, ethnic, cultural, and temporal variables on human disease are analyzed. Content aims at stimulating critical thinking. Research-based pathophysiologic knowledge will be applied to nursing management of illness and health restoration.

Prerequisites: None  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N3521 Gerontologic Nursing**

This course is designed to explore current issues and concepts related to aging. Theories of aging and concepts such as health, culture, spirituality, and environment are addressed. The overall goal is to facilitate understanding of older persons and their unique needs in order to provide holistic care and foster a better quality of life.

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: N3511  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1; Clinical/Lab 3)

### **N3523 Adult and Older Adult Health Care II**

This course focuses on young, middle, and older adults experiencing an array of physiological disorders, and provides the opportunity for implementation of the nursing process in a variety of health care settings with a focus on secondary and tertiary prevention. Emphasis is on professional health care that reflects comprehensive, humanistic, altruistic, and inter-professional values. The course helps the student to incorporate professional standards as a basis for practice, to use critical thinking, to set priorities for patient care, to make nursing judgments, and to apply selected theory and research findings to provide holistic care to adults.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3540  
Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N3523B Adult and Older Adult Health Care II Clinical**

This course focuses on young, middle, and older adults experiencing an array of physiological disorders, and provides the opportunity for implementation of the nursing process in a variety of health care settings with a focus on secondary and tertiary prevention. Emphasis is on professional health care that reflects comprehensive, humanistic, altruistic, and inter-professional values. The course helps the student to incorporate professional standards as a basis for practice, to use critical thinking, to set priorities for patient care, to make nursing judgments, and to apply selected theory and research findings to provide holistic care to adults.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3536, N3540, N4521, N4521B, N4528  
Co-requisites: N3532B, N3536B, N4528B  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical/Lab 9)

### **N3526 Psychiatric and Mental Health Care**

This course applies the nursing process to the care of individuals, families, and groups with psychiatric and mental health disorders. Diversity of age, gender, race, culture, developmental level, education, and socioeconomic backgrounds is emphasized. Issues of mental health and mental illness throughout the lifespan are examined. The professional nurse's role as a member of a collegial mental health care team in the 21st century is addressed. Opportunity is provided to develop skills in applying concepts of psychiatric nursing to the care of individuals and groups in inpatient and outpatient settings. The acceptance of responsibility and accountability for practice is reaffirmed. Personal and professional growth is promoted.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3540

Co-requisites: N3526B

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N3526B Psychiatric and Mental Health Care Clinical**

This course applies the nursing process to the care of individuals, families, and groups with psychiatric and mental health disorders. Diversity of age, gender, race, culture, developmental level, education, and socioeconomic backgrounds is emphasized. Issues of mental health and mental illness throughout the lifespan are examined. The professional nurse's role as a member of a collegial mental health care team in the 21st century is addressed. Opportunity is provided to develop skills in applying concepts of psychiatric nursing to the care of individuals and groups in inpatient and outpatient settings. The acceptance of responsibility and accountability for practice is reaffirmed. Personal and professional growth is promoted.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3540

Co-requisites: N3526

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 6)

### **N3532 Reproductive Health Care**

This course is designed to offer students the opportunity to apply critical thinking and clinical judgments to the health care of the childbearing family from a holistic and humanistic perspective. Students integrate theories of nursing, family, systems, role, development, and communications and apply them to childbearing families. Nursing process, research, and ethical professional standards are applied to normal and high-risk childbearing families in various settings. Students critically analyze health care needs and resources of multicultural childbearing families and the ability of the health care system to meet those needs. Health assessment, health promotion, disease prevention, and management of normal and high-risk conditions in the prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum periods will be the focus. The course is designed for students to examine the impact of the nursing perspective in an interdisciplinary approach to health care. The clinical portion of this course is designed to offer students the opportunity to apply theory, nursing process, critical thinking, and to develop psychomotor skills related to the care of women and neonates.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3540; N4521

Co-requisite: N3523, N3526, N3526B

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N3532B Reproductive Health Care Clinical**

This course is designed to offer students the opportunity to apply critical thinking and clinical judgments to the health care of the childbearing family from a holistic and humanistic perspective. Students integrate theories of nursing, family, systems, role, development, and communications and apply them to childbearing families. Nursing process, research, and ethical professional standards are applied to normal and high-risk childbearing families in various settings. Students critically analyze health care needs and resources of multicultural childbearing families and the ability of the health care system to meet those needs. Health assessment, health promotion, disease prevention, and management of normal and high-risk conditions in the prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum periods will be the focus. The course is designed for students to examine the impact of the nursing perspective in an interdisciplinary approach to health care. The clinical portion of this course is designed to offer students the opportunity to apply theory, nursing process, critical thinking, and to develop psychomotor skills related to the care of women and neonates.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3527, N3532, N3536, N3540, N4512, N4521, N4528  
Co-requisite: N3523B, N3536B, N4528B  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 6)

### **N3536 Child and Adolescent Health Care**

This course offers the student the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills for the care of children and families in various health care settings. It includes information from current literature, research, and practice pertinent to growth and development, psychosocial, cultural, and physical needs of children with emphasis focused on health promotion, health maintenance, and health restoration. Specific nursing theories, developmental theories, coping, grief and grieving, and system theories, for the care of children and families are explored. The nursing role and collegial relationships critical to holistic, humanistic, and altruistic care of families and children from multicultural backgrounds experiencing various stressors are discussed. Selected community resources and legal and ethical considerations in the care of children and families will be identified. The clinical portion of the course is designed to offer students the opportunity to apply theory, nursing process, and critical thinking skills to the care of children and families. Generalized and specialized ill child and well child settings are used for clinical placement.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3540,  
Co-requisite: N4521, N4521B, N4527  
Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N3536B Child and Adolescent Health Care Clinical**

This course offers the student the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills for the care of children and families in various health care settings. It includes information from current literature, research, and practice pertinent to growth and development, psychosocial, cultural, and physical needs of children with emphasis focused on health promotion, health maintenance, and health restoration. Specific nursing theories, developmental theories, coping, grief and grieving, and system theories, for the care of children and families are explored. The nursing role and collegial relationships critical to holistic, humanistic, and altruistic care of families and children from multicultural backgrounds experiencing various stressors are discussed. Selected community resources and legal and ethical considerations in the care of children and families will be identified. The clinical portion of the course is designed to offer students the opportunity to apply theory, nursing process, and critical thinking skills to the care of children and families. Generalized and specialized ill child and well child settings are used for clinical placement.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3525B, N3532, N3540, N4512, N4521, N4521B, N4527  
Co-requisite: N3523B, N3532B, N4528B,  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 6)

### **N3540 Pharmacotherapeutics**

This course focuses on the use of pharmacological agents in adult clients to prevent illness and maintain and restore wellness, and addresses relevant background information needed by the nurse to develop a plan of therapeutic intervention and to evaluate patient's response to drugs. Drug effects and management of clients receiving pharmaceutical agents is viewed from a holistic perspective.

Co-requisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N3560 Ethics: Historical Lessons**

This course will explore ethics through the perspective of historical case studies. Examples include the response of communities and governments to infectious diseases, research without consent of subjects, as well as the central role played by physicians and nurses in planning and implementing genocide in the name of eugenics and racial hygiene during the Holocaust and other genocides. The course will focus on exploring the lessons we can learn from history as we confront the challenges of problems in today's society and in the future.

Prerequisites: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N3601 Community Health for RNs**

The course introduces the student to the integration of professional nursing with public health principles and methods in order to apply the nursing process to the community. Students have the opportunity to learn comprehensive methods for assessment and identification of populations at risk for major community health problems. The course emphasizes approaches for both inter- and intra-disciplinary strategies, using the health care system and community resources, to promote health and prevent disease for these at risk populations.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3701, N4512

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N3601W Community Health for RNs**

The course introduces the student to the integration of professional nursing with public health principles and methods in order to apply the nursing process to the community. Students have the opportunity to learn comprehensive methods for assessment and identification of populations at risk for major community health problems. The course emphasizes approaches for interdisciplinary and intra-disciplinary strategies, using the health care system and community resources, to promote health and prevent disease for these at risk populations.

Prerequisites: N3511W, N3701W, N4512W

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N3602 Community Health Project for RNs**

In this course, students and faculty collaborate with professional and community partners to promote health and prevent disease in a population. The focus is on integration of professional nursing and public health principles and methods to apply the nursing process to individuals, groups, and populations. Students collaborate to assess populations at risk, analyze community health problems, plan interventions, and develop an evaluation plan.

Prerequisite: N3511, N3701, N4512

Co-requisite: N3601

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 6)

### **N3602W Community Health Project for RNs**

In this course, students and faculty collaborate with professional and community partners to promote health and prevent disease in a population. The focus is on integration of professional nursing and public health principles and methods to apply the nursing process to individuals, groups, and populations. Students collaborate to assess populations at risk, analyze community health problems, plan interventions, and develop an evaluation plan.

Prerequisite: N3511W, N3701W, N4512W

Co-requisite: N3601W

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 6)

### **N3701 Professional Nursing Practice**

Theories are explored as a foundation for professional nursing practice. This course examines what it means for nursing to be a profession. The historical and theoretical foundations of professional nursing will be explored. Nursing will be analyzed in light of characteristics of a profession. The competencies expected of a professional nurse as well as the standards necessary to provide evidence based patient centered care will be examined. Group process and dynamics will be applied in developing and implementing a project.

Prerequisite: None

Co-requisite: N6102W

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N3701W Professional Nursing Practice**

Theories are explored as a foundation for professional nursing practice. This course examines what it means for nursing to be a profession. The historical and theoretical foundations of

professional nursing will be explored. Nursing will be analyzed in light of characteristics of a profession. The competencies expected of a professional nurse as well as the standards necessary to provide evidence based patient centered care will be examined. Group process and dynamics will be applied in developing and implementing a project.

Prerequisite: None

Co-requisite: N6102W

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N3702 Issues in Professional Practice**

This course explores issues relating to evidenced-based professional nursing practice. Professional standards of care, professional boundaries of practice, accountability, responsibility and cultural sensitivity will be discussed. Ethical theories and principles will be examined in relation to legal and ethical issues. The impact of biomedical ethics on the role of the nurse will be analyzed. The Nurse Practice Act, the Code of Ethics for Nurse, and other statutory laws, rules and regulations, legal and ethical responsibilities as well as workplace policies are examined.

Prerequisite: N3701

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N3702W Issues in Professional Practice**

This course explores issues relating to evidenced-based professional nursing practice. Professional standards of care, professional boundaries of practice, accountability, responsibility and cultural sensitivity will be discussed. Ethical theories and principles will be examined in relation to legal and ethical issues. The impact of biomedical ethics on the role of the nurse will be analyzed. The Nurse Practice Act, the Code of Ethics for Nurse, and other statutory laws, rules and regulations, legal and ethical responsibilities as well as workplace policies are examined.

Prerequisite: N3701 W

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N3703 Management and Leadership**

Emphasis will be placed on the leadership and management roles of the nurse in a inter-professional team practice. This course explores skills needed for fiscal responsibility, quality improvement, advocacy, leadership and management. Multiple career and educational opportunities for nursing will be explored. Organizational management and leadership theories will be examined as they apply to professional practice. Organizational standards for health care facilities will be examined.

Prerequisite: None

Co-requisite: N3702 or N3702W

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N3703W Management and Leadership**

Emphasis will be placed on the leadership and management roles of the nurse in a inter-professional team practice. This course explores skills needed for fiscal responsibility, quality improvement, advocacy, leadership and management. Multiple career and educational opportunities for nursing will be explored. Organizational management and leadership theories will be examined as they apply to professional practice. Organizational standards for health care facilities will be examined.

Prerequisite: None

Co-requisite: N3702 or N3702W

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4)

### **N3704 Synthesis: Application for Change into Practice for RNs**

The focus of this course is the role of a change agent. Change theories will be utilized for developing a change project that will initiate a change in process, policy, or procedure in the practice setting. This course draws from past experience and knowledge acquired in previous

program courses. Informatics will be used to support and form the foundation for the change project.

Prerequisites: N3701/N3701W, N3702/N3702W, N3517W, N3511W and N6102W  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

#### **N4498 Selected Topics in Nursing**

This course gives the student the opportunity to explore and study a specific area of interest in nursing. The selected topics offered by the faculty reflect a variety of contemporary nursing subjects.

Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor  
One to Four Variable Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1-4, Lab TBD, Clinical TBD)

#### **N4499 Independent Study in Nursing**

This course gives the student an in-depth study in a specific topic area. Topic and mode of study must be agreed between student and instructor.

Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor  
One to Four Variable Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1-4, Lab TBD, Clinical TBD)

#### **N4512 Research Critique and Utilization**

This course provides the student with the opportunity to acquire knowledge that promotes development of a nursing research consumer. The course focuses on the relationship of the science of nursing to the practice of nursing. The course gives the student the opportunity to become familiar with the various methods of scientific inquiry including the components of the research, process, and concepts and terms associated with the process. Orientation to the research process gives the student the opportunity to develop a basis for critically evaluating research findings and applying the results to practice in a variety of clinical settings.

Prerequisite: None  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

#### **N4512W Research Critique and Utilization**

This course provides the student with the opportunity to acquire knowledge that promotes development of a nursing research consumer. The course focuses on the relationship of the science of nursing to the practice of nursing. The course gives the student the opportunity to become familiar with the various methods of scientific inquiry including the components of the research, process, and concepts and terms associated with the process. Orientation to the research process gives the student the opportunity to develop a basis for critically evaluating research findings and applying the results to practice in a variety of clinical settings.

Prerequisite: None  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

#### **N4521 Community/Public Health Nursing**

In community/public health nursing, the group, community, or population is the unit of care. Professional nursing and public health principles and methods are emphasized in applying the nursing process to populations. The focus is on identifying determinants of health, prioritizing problems, prevention, and advocating for those who might benefit from community/public health nursing services.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3536, N3540, N4512, N4527  
Co-requisite N4521B, N4528  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

#### **N4521B Community/Public Health Nursing - Clinical**

In this course, students and faculty collaborate with professional community partners to promote health and prevent disease in a population. The focus is on integration of professional nursing and public health principles and methods to apply the nursing process to individuals, groups, and populations. Students collaborate to assess populations at risk, analyze community health problems, plan interventions, and develop an evaluation plan.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3536, N3540, N4512

Co-requisite: N3536, N4521, N4528, N4527

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 9)

### **N4526W Role Transition for RNs**

Educational and role development opportunities for nurses will be examined. The importance of professional goal development for future nursing roles will be explored. Different opportunities for advanced practice nursing will be investigated. Professional responsibility for lifelong learning through a myriad of professional organizations and activities will be explored.

Prerequisites: N3701/N3701W, N3702/N3702W, N3703/N3703W, N3704/N3704W, and N4512

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 6)

### **N4526W Role Transition for RNs**

Educational and role development opportunities for nurses will be examined. The importance of professional goal development for future nursing roles will be explored. Different opportunities for advanced practice nursing will be investigated. Professional responsibility for lifelong learning through a myriad of professional organizations and activities will be explored.

Prerequisites: N3701/N3701W, N3702/N3702W, N3703/N3703W, N3704/N3704W, and N4512

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 6)

### **N4527 Professional Practice and Leadership**

This course explores selected leadership and management theories and concepts used in health care delivery. Selected issues relevant to nursing practice and education are presented as they relate to the student's adjustment to the professional nursing role. Professional nursing issues include scope of practice based on statutory laws and regulations, legal and ethical responsibilities, substance abuse/mental health, career development, and workplace issues.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N4512

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N4528 Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings**

This course focuses on both the theoretical content related to nursing management of patients in high acuity care areas and the clinical application of this content in a compassionate holistic manner. The course incorporates theoretical applications and research findings in the areas of nutrition, prevention, rehabilitation, and socio-cultural aspects. The clinical component of this course is designed to provide a clinical practicum of high acuity care experiences guided by a preceptor. The course will emphasize application of theoretical concepts, research findings, advanced technology, and standards of professional nursing used in caring for patients from culturally diverse populations experiencing physiological and psychosocial alterations at various stages of the wellness/illness continuum. Psychosocial, lifespan, and behavioral concepts encountered by patients with high acuity disorders and trauma will be discussed. The management/leadership component of this course focuses on perspectives of the professional nursing role for the 21st century as demonstrated through professionalism, leadership, collaborative practice, critical thinking, and application of the nursing process in patient care.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3536, N3540, N4512, N4527

Co-requisites: N3536, N4521, N4521B

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: (Lecture 2)

**N4528B Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings**

This course focuses on both the theoretical content related to nursing management of patients in high acuity care areas and the clinical application of this content in a compassionate holistic manner. The course incorporates theoretical applications and research findings in the areas of nutrition, prevention, rehabilitation, and socio-cultural aspects. The clinical component of this course is designed to provide a clinical practicum of high acuity care experiences guided by a preceptor. The course will emphasize application of theoretical concepts, research findings, advanced technology, and standards of professional nursing used in caring for patients from culturally diverse populations experiencing physiological and psychosocial alterations at various stages of the wellness/illness continuum. Psychosocial, lifespan, and behavioral concepts encountered by patients with high acuity disorders and trauma will be discussed. The management/leadership component of this course focuses on perspectives of the professional nursing role for the 21st century as demonstrated through professionalism, leadership, collaborative practice, critical thinking, and application of the nursing process in patient care.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3536, N3540, N4512, N4521, N4521B, N4527, N4528

Co-requisites: N3523B, N3532B, N3536B,

Four Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: (Clinical 12)

**N4530W Critical Synthesis Application**

This course provides the student with the opportunity to apply test-taking and reasoning skills to adults, children, and families, and to integrate concepts from pathophysiology, pharmacology, and health assessment, nursing research, and clinical experiences using NCLEX review references, online resources, discussion, problem-based learning, case studies, and critical thinking approaches.

Prerequisites: N3511, N3515, N3515B, N3517, N3521, N3523, N3526, N3526B, N3532, N3536, N3540, N4512 or N4512W, N4521, N4521B, N4527, N4528

Co-requisites: N3523B, N3536B, N3532B, N4528B

One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Web-based/Lecture 1)

# Master of Science in Nursing Degree Program

## MSN Program Objectives

The Master of Science in Nursing Program is designed to provide an opportunity for the student to become a leader. The graduate makes significant contributions to the improvement of health care and influences health care policy through advanced clinical practice and research in order to meet the current needs of society.

Graduates are given the opportunity to:

- Perform effectively in a beginning functional role in advanced nursing practice.
  - Synthesize theories from natural, behavioral, and social sciences to support advanced clinical nursing and functional role development.
  - Evaluate the use of nursing theory as a base for advanced nursing practice.
  - Demonstrate expertise in a specialized area of clinical nursing practice.
  - Function effectively in a beginning functional role as an administrator, teacher, clinical specialist, nurse practitioner, or nurse anesthetist.
- Contribute to the development of nursing knowledge through research.
  - Evaluate the use of nursing theory as a base for advanced nursing practice.
  - Contribute to the development of a body of nursing knowledge through research, theory testing, and use of findings.
  - Demonstrate a sufficient knowledge base for entry into doctoral study.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the Advanced Practice Nurse in health care delivery system.
  - Collaborate with other disciplines to systematically improve healthcare.

## Master of Science in Nursing Programs

Education at the master's level prepares graduates to assume leadership roles in clinical practice, nursing administration and nursing education. Advanced nursing practice graduates are prepared for entry into the Doctoral of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, and all graduates are prepared for higher education through the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) program.

The program of study leading to the MSN degree combines online courses with face-to-face classes and clinical experiences offering flexibility to students. The curriculum depends on the clinical concentration the student selects.

The non-degree post-master's Completion Programs of study combine online courses with face-to-face courses and clinical experiences offering flexibility to students. The curriculum varies per program. Students have the following six clinical concentrations from which to choose:

- **Adult/Acute Care Nurse Practitioner**
  - *Post Masters Adult/Acute Care Nurse Practitioner*
- **Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner**
  - *Post Masters Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner*
- **Family Nurse Practitioner**
  - *Post Masters Family Nurse Practitioner*
  - *Post Masters Emergency/Trauma*
- **Nurse Anesthesia**
- **Nursing Education**
  - *Post Masters Nursing Education*
- **Nursing Leadership and Administration**
  - *Post Masters Leadership and Administration*

In addition, the School of Nursing in conjunction with The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston offers a dual MSN-MPH degree. Applicants wishing to enter the coordinated program must apply to each school separately and meet the admission requirements of both schools.

## **Clinical Concentrations**

Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner: The Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program prepares graduates to manage the care of adult patients with complex health deviations in tertiary settings. This option is for those who wish to focus on adult acute care. The curriculum focuses on all aspects of advanced practice including assessment, diagnosis, and disease management as well as technical skills required to manage care for acutely, critically, or chronically ill adults.

Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner: The Adult/Gerontology Primary Care program prepares graduates to care for adults and geriatric clients, including the frail elderly. This program is an adult primary care focus.

Family Nurse Practitioner: The Family Nurse Practitioner program prepares graduates to care for clients across the lifespan. The FNP program contains content related to a variety of populations including pediatric, women's health care, psychiatry, and adults of all ages in a primary care setting. Students may choose to add an optional emergency concentration to the FNP program which prepares graduates to provide care in an emergency department/center.

Nurse Anesthesia: The Nurse Anesthesia program prepares graduates to manage the anesthesia needs of patients of all ages. The course of study prepares students to administer all types of anesthesia, including general, regional, local, and conscious sedation.

Nursing Education: The Nursing Education program prepares graduates to become leaders in nursing with skills in educating future nurses, nursing staff, and patients. The curriculum focuses on assessment of student learning, curriculum design and instruction, teaching strategies, and evaluation. A special emphasis will be placed on electronic communication and technology in education.

Nursing Leadership and Administration : This program prepares graduates to become leaders in nursing in both health care organizations and academic settings. This problem-based, highly interactive program blends real-time issues in nursing with research and knowledge drawn from successful businesses, the science of organization development, innovations in quality improvement, and the psychology of learning.

## **Deadlines for Application**

To be considered for admission into the MSN or post-masters program, completed applications must be received in the Registrar's Office by the dates shown below.

Program	Application Term	Application & Documentation Deadline
<b>MSN PROGRAMS</b>		
MSN in Family Nurse Practitioner	Summer and Fall	March 1
MSN in Adult/Acute Nurse Practitioner	Summer and Fall	March 1
MSN in Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner	Summer and Fall	March 1
MSN in Leadership and Administration	Fall	April 15
	Summer	Feb 15
MSN in Education	Fall	April 15
	Summer	Feb 15
MSN in Nurse Anesthesia	Fall	Oct 1
<b>POST-MASTERS PROGRAMS</b>		
Post Masters NP programs (Family, Adult/Gerontology, & Adult/Acute)	Summer and Fall	March 1
	Spring	September 15
Post Masters Emergency Program	Summer and Fall	March 1
	Spring	September 15
Post Masters in Education & Leadership/ Administration)	Fall	April 15
	Spring	September 15
	Summer	Feb 15
<b>POST-BACCALAUREATE (for UT grads only)</b>		
Non-Degree Post Baccalaureate	Fall	April 15
	Spring	September 15
	Summer	Feb 15

### **MSN/MPH Option**

The School of Nursing in conjunction with The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston offers a dual degree: [MSN-Master of Public Health \(MPH\)](#). Students applying for this option must apply and be admitted to each school separately. School of Nursing deadlines are applicable for MSN and School of Public Health (SPH) deadlines are applicable for the MPH (see SPH Catalog for admission requirements and deadlines).

### **Admission – MSN Program**

#### **Admission Criteria**

The admission policy makes explicit the multiplicity of factors taken into consideration in a holistic admissions process. These admission factors will not be assigned a specific weight or point value. The School of Nursing considers the totality of each application and gives importance to the following factors:

1. Intellectual capacity, based on consideration of the overall collegiate GPA, standardized test scores (GRE, MAT, TOEFL); academic awards and honors, scholarly accomplishments; degree of difficulty of undergraduate academic program; and any other relevant data submitted;

2. Interpersonal and communication skills, based on evidence of being well-written and well-spoken, exemplified by standardized test scores in verbal abilities, and any other relevant considerations that the student may present;
3. Breadth and depth of nursing educational experiences, based on consideration of factors in the record reflecting a combination of a strong scientific background and also an ability to understand the complex nonscientific problems facing healthcare workers and patients, e.g., ethical, cultural, or socioeconomic problems; consideration of community or charitable service, e.g., volunteering to help the less fortunate; extracurricular activities and organizations; leadership positions; employment history; recognition for humanitarian service; and awareness and direct knowledge of cultural elements as they may have an impact on healthcare;
4. Potential for service to the State of Texas, with consideration given to Texas residency; applicant's goals for the future; cultural/socioeconomic status; race/ethnicity; potential for future provision of health services to under-served areas or needed specialties; and linguistic skills appropriate to the Health Professions Shortage Area the applicant wishes to serve;
5. Motivation, with consideration given to success in overcoming adverse economic or educational conditions; employment history occurring simultaneously with undergraduate education; participation in activities requiring time management skills; constantly improving undergraduate record; veteran status, and experience in health-related activities;
6. Integrity, with consideration given to any academic integrity violation and/or conduct or disciplinary problems in college or the workplace; and
7. Technical standards, related to observation, communication, psychomotor skills, intellectual and cognitive abilities, behavioral and social attributes

### **Interview**

MSN applicants may be interviewed during the admission process. Applicants are evaluated on additional elements, which include public or community service, humanitarian service, extracurricular activities, communication skills, and experiences. In the categories of public or community service and humanitarian service, consideration is given to an interest in service to underserved areas and populations.

### **Full Admission**

1. A completed application for admission (electronic submission preferred).
2. A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee.
3. Official scores for the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) taken within five years preceding application.
  - Nurse Anesthesia applicants: on the GRE is accepted. The Program prefers and strongly recommends a score of 500 or greater on each of the Verbal and Quantitative sections and a minimum score of 3.5 on the written section. For the revised GRE, the recommended score is 153 Verbal, 144 Quantitative, with the written section remaining at 3.5.
  - The Program prefers and strongly recommends that other MSN applicants submitting GRE scores have a combined minimum score of 1000 from the verbal section and quantitative sections and a minimum score of 3.0 on the analytical writing section. For the revised GRE, the recommended combined score is 297 with the analytical writing section remaining at 3.0. The Program prefers and strongly recommends applicants submitting MAT scores have a minimum score of 400.

- The GRE/MAT score submission requirement may be waived for applicants who have previously successfully earned a prior master's degree (the exception does not apply to applicants to the Nurse Anesthesia program).
4. One official copy of a transcript from each institution attended (if attended any UTHealth school official transcript not necessary). Electronic submission is preferred. Transcript(s) should show:
    - A Baccalaureate degree in nursing earned from an accredited program. Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
    - A Master's degree in nursing from an accredited school if post-Master's applicant.
    - A completed basic statistics course.
    - A completed Organic Chemistry I or Biochemistry course within the last 6 years if Nurse Anesthesia applicant.
  5. Three (3) satisfactory academic/professional references (individual references should be provided with an applicant letter of reference form).
  6. One official copy of TOEFL score if international applicant. TOEFL scores can be no more than two years old. A minimum score of 550 is required on the paper exam, a minimum score of 213 on the computer-based exam, or a minimum score of 86 on the internet-based exam.
  7. A course-by-course evaluation of international credentials by Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) for individuals with degrees from outside the US.
  8. Evidence of current Texas nursing licensure or for ost-master's applicants, evidence of nursing licensure in state of residence.
  9. Documentation of BCLS, ACLS, or PALS certification.
  10. A professional curriculum vitae or resume.
  11. Documentation on application of minimum work experience for chosen clinical concentration.

### **Conditional Admission**

The Master's Degree Council may grant conditional admission after evaluation of the applicant's record. This category applies to a student who does not meet the full admission requirements. A 3.0 cumulative grade point average for the first nine semester hours is required or the student must withdraw or be dismissed from the Program. The student may appeal the dismissal through the Master's Council.

### **Provisional Admission**

This category applies to students who have not completed all the requirements for admission. These students are required to complete and submit evidence of completion of all requirements for full or conditional admission during the first term of enrollment in order to continue in the Program.

### **Non-Degree Admission**

The non-degree admission category is for those post-baccalaureate or post-masters students who wish to take courses without seeking a degree. Post-baccalaureate students may not register for any courses that have a clinical component without approval in advance from the Master's Council. Non-degree students may wish to apply to the MSN Program. At the time the application is reviewed, the student must have provided an official transcript, GRE or MAT score, reference letters, evidence of a current Texas RN license, and evidence of fulfillment of the statistics requirement. A

maximum of nine semester hours, with grades of “B” or better, may be proposed toward the master’s degree in nursing.

### **MSN Application Procedure**

#### **Applicants should submit the following to the Office of the Registrar:**

1. A completed application for admission (electronic submission preferred).
2. A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee.
3. Official scores for the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) taken within the last five (5) years.
  - Nurse Anesthesia applicants: only the GRE is accepted. A score of 500 or greater on each of the Verbal and Quantitative sections and a minimum score of 3.5 on the written section is required. For the revised GRE the combined minimum is 297 with the analytical writing section remaining at 3.0.
  - Other MSN applicants submitting GRE scores must have a combined minimum score of 1000 from the verbal section and the quantitative section and a minimum score of 3.0 on the analytical writing section. For the revised GRE the combined minimum is 297 with the analytical writing section remaining at 3.0. Applicants submitting MAT scores must have a minimum score of 400.
  - This requirement may be waived for applicants who have completed a prior master’s degree (Does not apply to Nurse Anesthesia applicants).
4. One official copy of a transcript from each institution attended. If attended any UTHealth school, an official transcript is not necessary. Electronic submission is preferred. Transcript(s) should show:
  - A Baccalaureate degree in nursing earned from an accredited program. Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
  - A Master’s degree in nursing from an accredited school if Post-Master’s applicant.
  - A completed basic statistics course.
  - A completed Organic Chemistry I or Biochemistry course within the last 6 years if Nurse Anesthesia applicant.
5. Three satisfactory academic/professional references. (individual references should be provided with an [applicant letter of reference form](#) ).
6. One official copy of TOEFL score if international applicant. TOEFL scores can be no more than two years old. A minimum score of 550 is required on the paper exam, a minimum score of 213 on the computer-based exam, or a minimum score of 86 on the internet-based exam.
7. A course-by-course evaluation of international credentials by Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) for individuals with degrees from outside the US.
8. Evidence of current Texas nursing licensure or for post-master’s applicants, evidence of nursing licensure in state of residence.
9. Documentation of Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) if Adult/Gero; Family, Education, or Nursing Leadership and Administration
10. Documentation of BCLS, Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification if Nurse Anesthesia.
11. Documentation of BCLS and ACLS if Adult/Acute Care.
12. A professional curriculum vitae or resume.
13. Documentation on application of minimum work experience for chosen clinical concentration:

### **Clinical Concentration**

Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nursing  
Adult/Gerontology Primary Care  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Nurse Anesthesia

### **Years Experience as Registered Nurse**

One year experience in critical care  
One year clinical experience  
One year clinical experience  
One year experience in critical care;  
two years preferred

## **Non-Degree Post-Masters Admissions Procedures**

### **Applicants should submit the following to the Office of the Registrar:**

1. A completed application for admission (electronic submission preferred).
2. A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee (pay online or send check or money order payable in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank in the U.S. to: Office of the Registrar, UTHSC-H, P.O. Box 20036 Houston, Texas 77225). Note: The application fee is not due by the deadline for your program.
3. One official copy of a transcript from each institution attended (if attended any UTHealth school official transcript not necessary). Electronic submission is preferred.
4. Evidence of current Texas nursing licensure or evidence of nursing licensure in state of residence.
5. Documentation of BCLS if Adult/Gero Primary Care; Family Nurse Practitioner, Education, or Nursing Leadership and Administration
6. Documentation of BCLS and ACLS required if Adult/Gerontology Acute Care.

### **Essential Skills for Nurses**

Nurses must be able to demonstrate cognitive skills in critical thinking and logical/analytical thinking. Nurses must possess and demonstrate psychomotor skills, including, but not limited to fine motor dexterity, physical strength, coordination, and proper body mechanics. Observational skills, such as the ability to hear within the normal decibel range, the ability to read English in regular to extra-fine print, and the ability to palpate/auscultate, are also required.

### **Applicant Selection**

The Master's Council will make selections from the pool of the applicants. Evaluation of the total information available to the selection committee results in a final decision for acceptance of the applicants into the program.

All applicants will be notified in writing whether or not they have been accepted into the program. Acceptance into the program is applicable only to the semester for which the applicant applied.

As soon as the entering student receives the registration materials in the mail, she/he should make an appointment with the assigned MSN advisor to develop a degree plan.

### **Academic Common Market**

The School of Nursing Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Degree Program has been approved through the Southern Regional Education Board for the Academic Common Market (ACM). The ACM is an interstate agreement among southern states for sharing academic uncommon programs. Participating states arrange for their residents who qualify for admission to enroll in specific programs in other states on an in-state tuition basis. The ACM is available only to states that are members of the Southern Regional Educational Board. Non-Texas residents who are accepted to the MSN Program and who are eligible to be considered for in-state tuition through the ACM must contact the Office of the Registrar to receive information on the procedure for applying through the ACM for in-state tuition.

## **Transfer of Credit**

A student may submit MSN course credits earned at other universities for application toward the MSN Degree. The following restrictions apply:

- The course must clearly relate to the student's approved program of study.
- Nine semester hours may be transferred from accredited institutions outside The University of Texas System.
- An unlimited number of hours may be transferred from institutions within The University of Texas System, but the student must complete a minimum of 26 hours in residency at the SON. Students may not transfer credit hours for clinical courses, preceptorship courses, or synthesis courses (thesis and thesis options).
- Substitution for a required course in School's master's program must be approved by the faculty member who teaches that course. The course must have been taken within the five-year time limit to complete master's program degree requirements.
- The transcript must show a grade of "A" or "B" in the course.
- The course may not be transferred if it was used to apply to another completed degree.
- All courses to be transferred must be at the graduate level.
- The student must submit a letter of good academic standing and eligibility to continue at the institution from which transferring.

## **Courses Taken in Other University of Texas System Institutions**

All students who have been admitted to the MSN Program and who plan to take courses applicable to a nursing degree in a University of Texas component other than UTHealth must obtain approval in advance from the advisor prior to taking such courses. A transcript must be sent to the Office of the Registrar immediately upon the completion of the course(s).

## **Transient Students**

The transient student category is designed for students who are enrolled and in good academic standing in a MSN program at an institution other than UTHealth. Students who obtain permission from the Master's Council may enroll in selected courses at the School.

Transient students are required to:

1. Submit a completed application to the Office of the Registrar, meeting deadlines for admission;
2. Provide written consent from the parent institution;
3. Provide written consent of the instructor of the course at the School; ;
4. Obtain approval by the Master's Degree Council.

## Master of Science in Nursing Curriculum

NOTE: The curriculum and the number of required credit hours vary among program.

### Nurse Practitioner Role Curriculum

<u>Core Courses</u>		Hours
N5506W	Statistics in Nursing	2
N6103 W	Informatics and Healthcare Technologies	3
N6105W	Evaluation and Application of Research	5
Or		
N6807	Evidenced Based Practice	5
 <u>Advanced Practice Core Courses</u>		
N6101/W	Clinical & Epidemiologic Research for Adv Nursing Practice	3
N6152W	Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	2
N6152B	Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	1
N6165W	Advanced Practice Role in Population Health	3
N6151W	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
N5529W	Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
 <u>Clinical Courses</u>		
NXXXX	Clinical Courses	10
N6551	Diagnostic Tests	2
 <u>Preceptorship</u>		
NXXXX	NP Preceptorship	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>41</b>

### Nurse Anesthesia Curriculum

<u>Core Courses</u>		Hours
N5506W	Statistics in Nursing	2
N6807	Evidenced Based Practice Principles	3
N6802	Ethics & Health Policy	3
 <u>Advanced Practice Core Courses</u>		
N5513	Adv Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathophysiology for NA I	6
N5514	Adv Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathophysiology for NA II	6
N6152W	Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	2
N6152B	Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	1
N5517	Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesia	7
 <u>Clinical Courses</u>		
N5540	Nurse Anesthesia Role Practicum I	11
N5541	Nurse Anesthesia Role Practicum II	11
N5542	Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	3
N5585	Fundamentals of Nurse Anesthesia Practice I	6
N5586	Fundamentals of Nurse Anesthesia Practice II	6
N5587	Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I	11
N5588	Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum II	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>90</b>

## Nursing Leadership and Administration

<u>Core Courses</u>		Hours
N5501W	Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Nursing	2
N6102W	Information Systems for Advanced Nursing Practice	1
N5506W	Statistics in Nursing	2
N6105W	Evaluation and Application of Research	3
<u>Advanced Practice Core Courses</u>		
N6101W	Clinical & Epidemiologic Research for Adv Nursing Practice	3
N6165W	Advanced Practice Role in Population Health	3
<u>Leadership/Administration Courses</u>		
N6701	Transforming Healthcare through Nursing Leadership	3
N6702	Organizational Development: Creating Cultures of Excellence	2
N6702B	Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 1	1
N6703	Developing and Leading Human Performance	3
N6704	Improving Organizational Development and Patient Safety	2
N6704B	Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 2	1
N6705W	Nursing Leadership and Administration Role Focus	2
N6706	Healthcare Financial Management	2
N6706B	Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 3	1
N6707W	Analyzing Issues in Quality Improvement	1
N6103 W	Informatics and Healthcare Technologies	3
<u>Preceptorship</u>		
N6710	Nursing Leadership Preceptorship	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>38</b>

## Nursing Education Concentration Curriculum

<u>Core Courses</u>		Hours
N5506W	Statistics in Nursing	2
N6101/W	Clinical & Epidemiologic Research for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
N6105W	Evaluation & Application of Research in Adv Practice Nursing	3
<u>Advanced Practice Core Courses</u>		
N5529W	Advanced Pharmacology	3
N6152W	Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	2
N6152B	Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	1
N6151W	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
<u>Education Courses</u>		
N6190	Family Health I	3
N6190E	Nursing Education Clinical I	2
N6191	Family Health II	3
N6191E	Nursing Education Clinical II	2
N6136W	Curriculum Planning and Development	3
N6137W	Education Course in Curriculum Evaluation	3
N6131W	Electronic Communication and Technology in Education	3
<u>Preceptorship</u>		
N6730	Advanced Clinical Practice: Education Role Preceptorship	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>39</b>

## **Non-Degree Post-Masters Nurse Practitioner Curriculum**

Students enrolled for a post master's completion certificate must meet the following requirements. Students may meet these requirements by either taking the courses, achieving course objectives using validation procedure, or through equivalency credit (transferring courses from another university). Equivalency credit is not granted for clinical courses and preceptorships.

All students must complete the following Advanced Practice Core courses or have written approval and verification of having taken them:

N6101/W	Clinical & Epidemiologic Research for Adv Nursing Practice	3
N6152W	Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	2
N6152B	Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	1
N6165W	Advanced Practice Role in Population Health	3
N6151W	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
N5529W	Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3

### **Post Masters Nurse Practitioner - Required Courses**

<u>Advanced Practice Core Courses</u>		Hours
N6101/W	Clinical & Epidemiologic Research for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
N6152	Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	2
N6152B	Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	1
N6165W	Advanced Practice Nursing Role in Population Health	3
N6151W	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
N5529W	Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
 <u>Clinical Courses</u>		
NXXXX	Clinical Courses	10
N6551	Diagnostic Tests	2
 <u>Preceptorship</u>		
NXXXX	NP Preceptorship	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>29</b>

### **Post Masters Nursing Leadership and Administration - Required Courses**

<u>Required Courses</u>		Hours
N6165W	Advanced Practice Role in Population Health	3
N6701	Transforming Healthcare through Nursing Leadership	3
N6702	Organizational Development: Creating Cultures of Excellence	2
N6702B	Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 1	1
N6703	Developing and Leading Human Performance	3
N6704	Improving Organizational Development and Patient Safety	2
N6704B	Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 2	1
N6707W	Analyzing Issues in Quality Improvement	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>

## Post Masters Nursing Education Concentration - Required Courses

Required Courses		Hours
N6136	Curriculum, Planning, Development	3
N6137	Curriculum Evaluation	3
N6131W	Electronic Communication and Technology in Education	3
N6741	Education Role & Preceptorship	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>

### Academic Requirements for MSN Progression

To be eligible for graduation with an MSN degree, a student must:

- have a minimum cumulative 3.0 grade point average;
- successfully complete the prescribed curriculum for which they are registered and must meet all other requirements of the School of Nursing;
- submit official transcripts of courses taken outside the School of Nursing to the Office of the Registrar;
- complete a minimum of 51% credit hours in residency in the program. These credit hours must include the required clinical courses, preceptorships, and thesis or thesis option courses;
- apply to graduation in myUTH prior to the established deadline each term;
- pay the required graduation fee;
- Complete the clearance packet and clear through all designated offices; and
- be enrolled during the term of graduation.

See policy G5670 Eligibility for Graduation for more information  
<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.htm>

### The Semester Hour

One semester hour of credit is given for four clock hours per week of clinical experience, one clock hour per week of lecture, or two clock hours per week of seminar.

### Adding, Dropping and Withdrawing from Courses

Students may add, drop, and withdraw from courses with the approval of the instructor and advisor and within certain guidelines and deadlines. A student may be allowed to withdraw from the same course only twice. The policies regarding adding, dropping, and withdrawing from courses may be found at:

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.aspx#>

Students should consult the Registrar's Office website regarding deadline dates for adding, dropping, and withdrawing from courses.

On the recommendation of the instructor and with approval of the Dean, a student may be required to withdraw from a course at any time because of neglect or for lack of preparation. Under such circumstances, the symbol "WF" will be recorded.

### Classification of Students

#### Full-time and Part-time

A full-time student is one who is registered for at least nine semester hours during the Fall and Spring semesters, six hours during the 12-week summer session, or three semester hours during the six-week summer session or enrolled in at least three semester credit hours during one 6-week summer session or a total of six semesters credits if enrolled in more than one summer sessions. A part-time student is one who is

registered for fewer hours than the stated requirement for full-time status.

### **Grading System**

The grading system in the School of Nursing is based on a letter grade system. In computing grade point average per hour, the following scores are used: A = 4 points; B = 3 points; C = 2 points; D = 1 point; and WF/F = 0 points. The mechanisms for determining grades and course requirements are described in each course syllabus.

Permission from the instructor must be obtained before a course may be taken on a pass-fail basis. If a student fails a pass/fail course, the "F" is computed in calculating the grade point average.

### **Academic Probation**

If at the end of any term, a student's cumulative grade point average for the hours taken in the School of Nursing falls below 3.0 and/or there is a grade below "B" on the record for that term, she/ he will be notified and placed on academic probation.

### **Removal from Academic probation**

Students who are on academic probation will be removed from such probation at the conclusion of the term when they have achieved an overall 3.0 grade point average.

### **Attendance at another institution while on Academic probation**

Students who leave the School of Nursing while on probation and are readmitted to the School of Nursing will be readmitted to the School on academic probation, even if they have attended another institution between leaving and reentering the School of Nursing.

### **Academic Dismissal and Appeal**

Students must meet the respective grading policy for the program in which they are enrolled [Grading policies for the masters program are found in G5670; grading policies for the doctoral program are found in D7610 (PhD) and D8040 (DNP); the grading policies for the undergraduate program are found in U3670].

### **Procedure**

If a student does not meet academic criteria for progression in a program, the Office of Student Affairs will send a letter informing the student of the deficiency and that dismissal is required pursuant to the appropriate grading policy, with a copy to the Office of the Dean. If the student wishes to appeal the application of the grading policy resulting in dismissal, the student must submit a written request to appeal the dismissal within five business days of receipt of the notification letter, attaching supporting documentation, to the Chair of the appropriate council (Baccalaureate Council, Masters Council, Doctor of Nursing Practice Council, or PhD Council. The Councils are standing committees of the School of Nursing that assist with decision making and the implementation of policies concerning the admission, readmission, progression, and graduation of students).

The appropriate Council, upon receipt of the request, will review the request by no later than the next scheduled meeting and render its final recommendation in writing to the Dean or designee with a copy to the student. Time for a response by the Council may be extended by the Dean for good cause. A student may appeal the recommendation of the Council to the Dean or designee by submitting a written request with supporting evidence within five business days of receipt of the Council's recommendation. The determination of the Dean or designee is final.

### **Time Limits**

Requirements for a single MSN degree must be completed within five years. A one-year extension may be granted if a written petition submitted to the Master's Degree Council

by the student is approved in advance.

## **Master of Science in Nursing Program Course Descriptions**

*Course descriptions are not intended as an assurance or warranty of achievement of specific skills or knowledge*

### **NOTE:**

- *Course numbers ending in “W” denote courses that are web-based or mainly online that may require some campus visits.*
- *Course numbers ending in “D” denote courses that are taught through distance education and include a distance education fee.*
- *Course numbers ending in “B” denote courses that are clinical and include additional fees.*

### **N5501W Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Nursing**

This course provides an overview of philosophical and theoretical bases used in nursing science. Relevant theories are explored with the aim of synthesis in development, evaluation, and application of theory in nursing.

Prerequisite: Graduate student status or permission of instructor  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2 - online)

### **N5506W Statistics in Nursing**

This course focuses on the understanding of statistics as it relates to the research process. Descriptive and inferential statistics are addressed. The fundamental knowledge needed to apply descriptive and inferential statistics to selected research questions and/or hypotheses will be included.

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2 - online)

### **N5513 Advanced Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthesia I**

This introductory graduate-level course provides the student an opportunity to study anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry of the cell, muscle, nervous, and cardiovascular systems, with particular reference to their applicability to anesthesia and acute care management. The student will be given the opportunity to engage in critical thinking regarding the effects of anesthetics on physiologic functions and its relation to a patient's state of health/wellness as it interacts with culturally diverse populations in the 21st century.

Prerequisite: Nurse Anesthesia students only  
Six Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 6)

### **N5514 Advanced Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthesia II**

This intermediate graduate-level course provides the student an opportunity to build upon basic knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the respiratory, endocrine, and renal systems with particular reference to anesthesia, respiratory, and acute care management. The student will be given the opportunity to engage in critical thinking regarding the effects of anesthesia on normal physiologic functions of the respiratory, endocrine, and renal systems.

Prerequisite: N5513 or permission of instructor  
Six Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 6)

### **N5517 Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesia**

This graduate-level course provides the student an opportunity to learn the uptake, distribution, biotransformation, and excretion of anesthetic agents, neuromuscular blocking agents, and accessory drugs used in anesthesia with particular reference to dosage, mechanisms of action, characteristic drug effects, factors modifying drug effect and dosage, toxicity, and indications and contraindications for use. The student will be given the opportunity to engage in critical thinking regarding the effects of anesthetics on homeostatic functions and its relation to a client's state of health/wellness as it interacts with culturally diverse populations in the 21st century.

Prerequisite: N5514

Three to Seven Variable Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3-7)

**N5521 Special Topics in Nursing Electives**

Selected nursing topics covered vary from semester to semester based on student interest and faculty availability.

Prerequisite: MSN standing or permission of instructor

One-Nine Variable Semester Credit (Lecture TBD; Lab TBD; Clinical TBD)

**N5522 Independent Study in Nursing**

This course allows the student an opportunity to pursue a detailed in-depth study in a specific topic area. The topic and mode of study for the course must be agreed upon by student and instructor.

Prerequisites: MSN standing or permission of instructor

One-Four Variable Semester Credits: (Lecture, lab or clinical: TBD)

**N5523W Introduction to Epidemiology for Advanced Nursing Practice**

Designs and methods of epidemiologic, population-based studies are analyzed and evaluated. Concepts and methods used to assess the health of populations, evaluate health services and screening programs, and measure health outcomes will be addressed. Concepts and methods that have implications for the advanced practice of nursing will be emphasized.

Prerequisites: MSN standing or permission of instructor

One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1 - online)

**N5529 Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice**

This course focuses on the analysis of advanced pharmacological and pharmacokinetic principles and the application of these principles to selected drug categories. Emphasis is on those drugs most commonly used in obstetric/gynecological, pediatric, adult and geriatric nursing practice. Analysis of selected health problems is integrated with the development of scientifically based clinical pharmacological management of these problems.

Prerequisite: N6151

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**N5540 Nurse Anesthesia Role Practicum I**

This advanced graduate level clinical course provides the student an opportunity to continue supervised clinical experience in the administration and management of anesthesia agents and techniques for all types of surgery and all patient age groups. This course is the first of a two-course sequence designed to prepare the student for the nurse anesthetist's role using a multi-theoretical framework as a foundation. This course provides the student an opportunity to explore current issues relevant to the practice of nurse anesthesia, and to address such issues from a legal, functional, historical, ethical, political, professional, and nursing theory framework. The history of anesthesia, the history of nurse anesthesia, psychology of the surgical patients, and stress management techniques are presented also. The course will review, discuss, and integrate clinical cases with physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacologic principles. The student will be given the opportunity to engage in critical thinking regarding the effects of these various principles on homeostatic functions and its relation to a patient's state of health/wellness as it interacts with culturally diverse population in the 21st century.

Prerequisite: N5588

Eleven Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 50)

**N5541 Nurse Anesthesia Role Practicum II**

This is an advanced course, the second of a two-course sequence, which provides the student an opportunity to study components of the nurse anesthetist role using a multi-theoretical framework. The course will review, discuss, and integrate clinical cases with physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacologic principles. Grades are based on performance of stated clinical objectives. The student will be given the opportunity to engage in critical thinking regarding the effects of these

various principles on homeostatic functions and its relation to a patient's state of health/wellness as it interacts with culturally diverse population in the 21st century.

Prerequisite: N5540

Eleven Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 50)

### **N5542 Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia Practice**

This course will provide the student the opportunity to acquire knowledge and understanding, and to focus on nurse anesthesia practice in a variety of practice settings. A study of the history of anesthesia and nurse anesthesia practice and the relationship of that practice in the development and growth of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists is included. The legal aspects of practice, including malpractice and reimbursement, will be explored. The various functional roles of the nurse anesthetist related to administration, education, research, and consultation with an orientation to administration, quality assurance/risk management, and the teaching-learning process and research. The student will be given the opportunity to engage in critical thinking regarding the effects of these various principles on homeostatic functions and its relation to his/her client's state of health/wellness as it interacts with culturally diverse population in the 21st century. This course will enable the student to acquire knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the historical aspects of anesthesia, to be aware of the legal ramifications concerning the administration of anesthesia, and understand the current issues affecting the nurse anesthetist's role in administration, education, and research.

Prerequisites: MSN standing and admission to Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Track

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N5585 Fundamentals of Nurse Anesthesia Practice**

This is an introductory graduate-level course that provides the student an opportunity to learn the principles and practice of anesthesia, which includes pre- and post-anesthesia evaluation of the patient. A multi-theoretical framework serves as a nursing practice base for these evaluations. The students also are introduced to formulation of an anesthetic care plan, anesthetic techniques, prevention of patient complications, procedures and equipment requirements, monitoring, record keeping, care of equipment, and application of physical properties of medical gases and the delivery of anesthetic agents. The student engages in critical thinking regarding the effects of these various principles on homeostatic functions and its relation to a patient's state of health/wellness as it interacts with culturally diverse patient populations in the 21st century.

Prerequisites: N5513, N5514, N5517

Six Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 5; Lab 3)

### **N5586 Fundamentals of Nurse Anesthesia Practice II**

This advanced graduate-level course provides the student an opportunity to learn specific anesthesia requirements for diverse population groups using principles and practices learned in N5585. Principles and techniques of regional anesthesia are also included. A multi-theoretical framework serves as the foundation for patient evaluation and intervention. Students are also introduced to formulation of an anesthetic care plan, anesthetic techniques, prevention of patient complications, procedures and equipment requirements, monitoring, record-keeping, and care of equipment. The student will be given the opportunity to engage in critical thinking regarding the effects of these various principles on homeostatic functions and its relation to a patient's state of health/wellness as it interacts with culturally diverse population in the 21st century.

Prerequisites: N5585

Six Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 4; Clinical 6)

### **N5587 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I**

This introductory MSN level clinical course provides the student an opportunity to obtain supervised clinical experience in the administration and management of anesthesia for patients undergoing surgical procedures. Pass/Fail grades are based on stated clinical objectives. The course will review, discuss, and integrate clinical cases with physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacologic principles. The student will be given the opportunity to engage in critical thinking regarding the effects of these various principles on homeostatic functions and its relation to a patient's state of health/wellness as it interacts with culturally diverse population in the 21st century.

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Prerequisites: Successful completion of didactic courses (minimum overall GPA of 3.0)  
Eleven Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 50)

### **N5588 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum II**

This intermediate MSN level clinical course provides the student an opportunity to obtain supervised clinical experience in the administration and management of anesthesia for patients undergoing surgical procedures. Pass/Fail grades are based on stated clinical objectives. The course will review, discuss, and integrate clinical cases with physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacologic principles. The student will be given the opportunity to engage in critical thinking regarding the effects of these various principles on homeostatic functions and its relation to a patient's state of health/wellness as it interacts with culturally diverse population in the 21st century.

Prerequisite: N5587

Nine Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 50)

### **N6101 Clinical and Epidemiologic Research for Advanced Nursing Practice**

This course focuses on the research process from problem formulations to analysis and interpretation. Clinically based studies as well as epidemiologic population-based studies are analyzed and evaluated. This course provides a survey of research designs and methods from quantitative, qualitative, and epidemiological perspectives. In addition, concepts and methods used to assess the health of populations, to evaluate health services and screening programs, and to measure health outcomes will be addressed. Implications for the advanced practice of nursing will be emphasized.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: N5501, N5506

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6101W Clinical and Epidemiologic Research for Advanced Nursing Practice**

This course focuses on the research process from problem formulations to analysis and interpretation. Clinically based studies as well as epidemiologic population-based studies are analyzed and evaluated. This course provides a survey of research designs and methods from quantitative, qualitative, and epidemiological perspectives. In addition, concepts and methods used to assess the health of populations, to evaluate health services and screening programs, and to measure health outcomes will be addressed. Implications for the advanced practice of nursing will be emphasized.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: N5501, N5506

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6102W Information Systems in Advanced Nursing Practice**

This introductory course provides an overview of the use of computer technology for nursing research and practice. Computer-based resources including word processing, presentation software, bibliographic software, search engines and databases are used to assist in acquisition, maintenance, and presentation of information in a scholarly format.

Prerequisite: None

One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1 – online)

### **N6105W Evaluation and Application of Research**

This synthesis course provides students with the opportunity to integrate theory, research and practice. Students will evaluate research findings to answer questions about a nursing topic using information derived from selected databases. Students will summarize the current state of knowledge about the nursing topic and discuss practice implications. Results will be reported in a written manuscript that adheres to guidelines for reporting nursing research in refereed publications.

Prerequisites: N5501, N6101, Clinical I Courses

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3 – online)

### **N6131W Electronic Communication and Technology in Education**

This course is designed to prepare the nurse educator to incorporate electronic media and technology into curriculum design. Students will discuss concepts, models, and instructional strategies that lead to the effective design of an online environment. Students will acquire the necessary skills to create an online course.

Prerequisite: Admission to the graduate program or permission of the instructor.  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6136W Curriculum Planning and Development**

This is the first core course in the graduate sequence designed to prepare students to teach in programs of basic professional education, staff development, and/or patient education. The course focuses on components of curricular and instructional design, teaching and learning theories, assessment of learner characteristics, and teaching strategies. Students will have an opportunity to plan and deliver a unit of instruction for a selected group of learners.

Prerequisite: Admission to the graduate program or permission of the instructor.  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6137W Curriculum Evaluation**

This is the second core course in the graduate sequence designed to prepare students to teach in programs of basic professional education, staff development, and/or patient education. The course focuses on conceptual and theoretical models of evaluation, components of the evaluation process in education, curriculum and program evaluation, and evaluation of student learning. Students will have an opportunity to critique evaluation methods and to develop evaluation plans.

Prerequisites: Admission to the graduate program or permission of instructor.  
Semester Hours: 3 Credit Hours (online with two optional classes at the SON)

### **N6151W Advanced Pathophysiology**

This course focuses on the pathogenesis of human disease as a consequence of abnormalities and alternations of normal physiologic function, based on a molecular and cellular framework. Regulatory and compensatory mechanisms that aim at maintaining and restoring homeostasis in response to changes in the internal and external environment are explored. Students are encouraged to apply critical thinking processes of deduction, induction, analysis, and synthesis in integrating pathophysiologic alterations encountered in their clinical practice with the theoretical framework presented in class.

Prerequisite: None  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6152W Physical Examination and Differential Diagnosis**

The focus of this course is on the theoretical principles and practical application of health assessment throughout the life cycle. Students will have the opportunity to develop critical thinking and decision-making skills through collection of data, analysis of symptoms, and application of the process of differential diagnosis. Decisions will be based on analysis of subjective and objective data gathered through the process of obtaining a health history, performing physical examination, and interpreting laboratory data. Laboratory and clinical experiences provide an opportunity for application and integration of health assessment skills needed for the advanced practice of nursing.

Prerequisite: None  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2, Clinical 0)

### **N6152B Physical Examination and Differential Diagnosis - Lab**

The focus of this course is on the theoretical principles and practical application of health assessment throughout the life cycle. Students will have the opportunity to develop critical thinking and decision-making skills through collection of data, analysis of symptoms, and application of the process of differential diagnosis. Decisions will be based on analysis of subjective and objective data gathered through the process of obtaining a health history,

performing physical examination, and interpreting laboratory data. Laboratory and clinical experiences provide an opportunity for application and integration of health assessment skills needed for the advanced practice of nursing.

Prerequisite: None

One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 0, Lab 3)

### **N6165W Advanced Practice Role in Population Health**

This course examines the philosophical, political, economic, ethical and legal frameworks of advanced nursing practice roles from both a current practice and historical perspective. Students study current social, professional, legislative, and technological trends in health care as they relate to advanced practice nursing. The student is encouraged to develop the skills needed for role assumption and leadership within the health care delivery system and explore key clinical, legal, and ethical foundations/issues which impact advanced practice nursing. The course prepares advanced practice nurses to incorporate population health, health promotion, and health education into practice.

Prerequisites: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6190 Family Health I**

This is the first of a two-course didactic sequence to prepare Family Health students for patient and family education. The course uses a systems approach to acute and chronic health deviations with emphasis on assessment, differential diagnosis, symptom management, and disease treatment. Students learn principles of health promotion, risk education, and disease prevention and interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to provide patient education across the lifespan.

Prerequisites: N6152, N5529W, N6136

Co-requisites: N6151, N6190E

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6190E Nursing Education Clinical I**

This course serves as a foundation in patient educational concepts across the life span. Students apply developmental theories, age-specific development, and screening procedures to the care of patients. The clinical experience facilitates the development of teaching/learning skills in providing care for individual patients, families and groups. Students apply interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to the provision of care to patients across the lifespan.

Prerequisite: N6190, N6190E

Co-requisite: N6191

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 6)

### **N6191 Family Health II**

This the second of a two-course didactic sequence to prepare Family Health students to teach content related to the management of acute and chronic health problems encountered in primary care patients across the lifespan. Students focus on the domains and competencies of providers of primary health care. The course provides a systematic approach to assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of common acute and chronic illnesses. Students explore factors that impact health status and utilization of community resources to educate providers to manage health deviations of patients across the lifespan.

Prerequisite: N6190, N6190E

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6191E Nursing Education Clinical II**

This is the second of a two-course sequence that serves as a foundation in health provider education concepts across the lifespan. Students focus on management of acute and chronic health problems encountered by nurses in primary care health care. The clinical experience facilitates the development of teaching/learning skills in assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of common acute and chronic illnesses. Students apply interdisciplinary and collaborative

approaches in educating providers to enhance utilization of community resources to improve the health status of primary care patients.

Prerequisite: N6190, N6190E

Co-requisite: N6191

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 6)

### **N6194 Family Nurse Practitioner I**

This is the first of a two-course sequence to prepare Family Nurse Practitioner program students for primary care practice. The course uses a systems approach to acute and chronic health deviations with emphasis on assessment, differential diagnosis, symptom management, and disease treatment. Students learn principles of health promotion, risk reduction, and disease prevention and interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to provide care to families across the lifespan.

Prerequisite: N6152

Co-requisites: N5529W, N6151, N6194B, N6551

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6194B Family Nurse Practitioner I Clinical**

This course is the first of a two-course clinical sequence to prepare Family Nurse Practitioner program students in the primary care setting. The course focuses on a systems approach to health concerns seen in the primary care setting with emphasis on assessment, differential diagnosis, symptom management, and disease treatment. Students apply concepts of health promotion, risk reduction, and disease prevention to individuals and families across the lifespan. Clinical experiences enable students to develop clinical reasoning skills required as an advanced practice nurse for individual clients and their families.

Prerequisite: N6152

Co-requisites: N5529, N6151, N6194, N6551

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

### **N6195 Family Nurse Practitioner II**

This is the second of a two-course didactic sequence to prepare Family Nurse Practitioners for the management of acute and chronic health problems encountered in the primary care of patients across the lifespan. Student focus is on the domains and competencies of the family nurse practitioner as direct provider of primary health care. The course provides a systematic approach to the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of common acute and chronic illnesses. Students explore factors that impact health status and the utilization of community resources to help manage health deviations of patients across the lifespan.

Prerequisites: N6194, N6194 B, N6151, N6551, N5529

Co-requisite: N6195 B

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6195B Family Nurse Practitioner II Clinical**

This is the second of a two-course clinical sequence that provides clinical experiences for the Family Nurse Practitioner student. Focus is on the refinement of clinical reasoning skills needed to treat individual clients and their families in primary care. There is emphasis on the development of collaborative relationships with other health care providers and environmental factors that impact health status. Students explore health deviations of acute and chronic disorders and community resources to help manage common primary care health concerns. Course experiences enable students to progress toward increasing independence in clinical practice.

Prerequisites N6194, N6194 B

Co-requisite: N6195

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

### **N6230W Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner I**

This is the first of a two-course series focusing on the recognition and management of manifestations of acute health deviations in acute and critical care settings. Pathophysiologic and

pharmacokinetic concepts are applied in formulating differential diagnoses and evidence-based management plans for adults across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on use of a holistic approach to care. The processes of communication, family and group dynamics, research, and epidemiology will be applied across acute care settings.

Prerequisites: N6152, N6151

Co-requisites: N5529, N6551, N6230B

Three Semester Credit Hours: (Contact hours per Week: 2 Seminar, 1 Lecture)

### **N6230B Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Clinical Practicum I**

This 120-hour clinical course provides the student with the foundation to apply principles of health promotion and disease management in younger and older adults across acute care settings. The student will utilize methodologies that facilitate critical thinking and application of advanced practice skills. Emphasis is placed on the use of a holistic and collaborative approach to care within a clinical experience supervised by a preceptor. The clinical experience provides an opportunity for clinical decision-making in acute care settings.

Prerequisites: N6152, N6151

Co-requisites: N5529, N6551, N6230

Two Semester Credit Hours: (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

### **N6231W Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner II**

This is the second of a two-course series focusing on the recognition and management of manifestations of acute health deviations in acute and critical care settings. Pathophysiologic and pharmacokinetic concepts are applied in formulating differential diagnoses and evidence-based management plans for adults across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on use of a holistic approach to care. The processes of communication, family and group dynamics, research, and epidemiology will be applied across acute care settings.

Prerequisites: N6230, N6230B

Co-requisites: N6231B

Three Semester Credit Hours (Contact hours per week: Seminar 2, Lecture 1)

### **N6231 B Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner II – Clinical**

This is the second course in a two-course clinical series that provides the student with the foundation to apply principles of health promotion and disease management in younger and older adults across acute care settings. The student will utilize methodologies that facilitate critical thinking and application of advanced practice skills. Emphasis is placed on the use of a holistic and collaborative approach to care within a clinical experience supervised by a preceptor. The clinical experience provides an opportunity for clinical decision-making in acute care settings.

Prerequisites: N6230, N6230B

Co-requisite: N6231

Two Semester Credit Hours (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

### **N6271 Emergency Trauma Care I**

This is the first course in the emergency care sequence. Students concentrate on recognition and management strategies of health deviations, including acute/non-urgent and chronic exacerbation/maintenance of conditions across the life span. The students focus population of individuals and families who seek care in an emergency department and/or episodic/urgent care clinic. They utilize critical thinking and case synthesis to evaluate management and treatment of acute and chronic injury and disease conditions. Students are educated about the delivery of care to multicultural individuals and navigation through health care systems. The course addresses these issues using an interdisciplinary framework that includes legal and ethical factors.

Prerequisites: Master's degree as NP and certified

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

### **N6271B Emergency Trauma Care I - Clinical**

This course is a 45-hour clinical course in which the student will have hands on experience supervised by a preceptor in a approved clinical site. The clinical sites can range from urgent care

to minor emergency settings, but are not limited to these settings. The student will be expected to experience non-urgent through urgent conditions that include management of acute and chronic care injury and disease in pediatric through gerontologic age ranges.

Prerequisite: Master's degree as NP or acceptable to emergency concentration while in an NP program

Two Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

### **N6272 Emergency Trauma Care II**

This course is the final didactic course in the emergency care sequence and concentrates on recognition and management strategies of health deviations, including urgent and emergent acute and chronic exacerbation/maintenance of conditions from a lifespan perspective. The patient population is individuals and families who seek care in emergency department and/or critical care settings. Students utilize critical thinking and case synthesis to evaluate management and treatment of acute and chronic injury and disease conditions in urgent and high acuity settings. Pre-hospital and trauma management are components of this course. Consideration of access to care and benchmark delivery of evidence-based care in multiple methods of health care delivery systems affect legal and ethical care of patients.

Prerequisites: N6271, N6271B

Two Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

### **N6272B Emergency Trauma Care II - Clinical**

This course is a 45-hour clinical course in which the student has direct care experience supervised by a preceptor in a clinical site. Clinical sites include urgent, emergent, pre-hospital and critical care settings, but are not limited to these settings. The student will experience urgent and emergent critical conditions that include management of acute and chronic care injury and disease in pediatric through gerontologic age ranges.

Prerequisites: N6271, N6271B

Three Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 12)

### **N6304 Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner I**

This is the first of a two-course sequence designed to prepare students for advanced practice. The course uses a systems approach to common health deviations with emphasis on assessment, differential diagnosis, symptom management, and disease treatment. Students learn principles of health promotion, risk reduction, disease prevention and interdisciplinary/collaborative approaches to managing care for adult patients from adolescence through the lifespan.

Prerequisite: N6152, N6151

Pre/Co-requisite: N5529, N6551

Three semester hours (Contact hours per week: Seminar 4; Lecture 1)

### **N6304B Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner I Clinical**

The focus of the course is on assessment, diagnosis, and management of health conditions in adults across the lifespan. The course provides the student with the foundation to apply principles of health promotion and disease managements. Students utilize methodologies that facilitate critical thinking and the application of advanced practice skills in holistic patient management. Course activities promote the synthesis of theory and research into advanced clinical practice. The clinical experience provides an opportunity for independent and interdisciplinary experiences in clinical decision-making in diverse clinical settings.

Prerequisite: N6152, N6551

Co-requisite: N6304, N5529, N6151

Two semester houses (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

### **N6305 Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner II**

This is the second of a two-course sequence. The course provides the student with a foundation to recognize acute and chronic health deviations in adult across the lifespan. The course emphasizes critical thinking and an evidence-based approach in the assessment, diagnosis,

thinking and an evidence-based approach in the assessment, diagnosis, and management of health conditions in the young, middle, and older adults.

Prerequisite: N6304, N6304B

Co-requisite: N6305B

Three semester hours (Contact hours per week: Seminar 4; Lecture 1)

### **N6305B Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner II Clinical**

This course is a continuation of the clinical sequence. The focus of the course is on assessment, diagnosis, and management of health conditions in adults across the lifespan. The course provides the student with the foundation to apply principles of health promotion and disease managements. Students utilize methodologies that facilitate critical thinking and the application of advanced practice skills in holistic patient management. Course activities promote the synthesis of theory and research into advanced clinical practice. The clinical experience provides an opportunity for independent and interdisciplinary experiences in clinical decision-making in diverse clinical settings.

Prerequisite: N6304, N6304B

Co-requisite: N6305

Two semester hours (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

### **N6312W Gerontology I: Physiology and Social Issues in Aging**

This survey course focuses on biological, psychological, and social theories of aging and contextual issues surrounding the provision of health and social services to the elderly.

Prerequisite: None

One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Web-based lecture: 1)

### **N6313W Gerontology I: Primary Care and Pharmacotherapeutics in Aging**

This course addresses physiological changes and pharmacotherapeutic considerations in aging from the robust to the most frail of the elderly. The student will be prepared to apply knowledge of physiological changes in aging to assess and diagnose health status. Evidence-based strategies to plan safe effective pharmacotherapeutic and complementary alternative interventions in health promotion, disease prevention, single disease states, and co-morbidities are emphasized.

Prerequisite: None

One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Web-based lecture: 1)

### **N6314W Gerontology I: Primary Care in Aging**

This course focuses on models of care for chronic disease and episodic illness in primary care settings. Students critically analyze evidence-based strategies to optimize evaluation and management based on the appropriate goals of care, e.g., cure, maintenance, rehabilitation, symptom management, and comfort in dying. Evidence-based strategies are emphasized to plan safe effective pharmacotherapeutic and complementary alternative interventions across the health spectrum. Primary care strategies are evaluated for cultural diversity, health care disparity, and health literacy of the individual and their families.

Prerequisites: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6315 Gerontology I: Primary Care in Aging Clinical**

This course is designed to assist the advanced practice nurse to assess, diagnose, and manage episodic and chronic health conditions in primary settings serving older adults. Students utilize methodologies that facilitate critical thinking and application of advanced practice skills in holistic patient management in the context of chronic symptoms, co-morbidities, and functional impairment. Students apply episodic and chronic disease management principles and selected models of care for older adults. Course activities promote the synthesis of theory and research into advanced clinical practice.

Prerequisites: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 135)

**N6316 Gerontology II: Care of the Frail Older Adult**

This course addresses the physical and psychosocial health, functioning, and well-being of older persons with an emphasis on frail older adults. The biological, psychological, and social theories of aging will be examined. Students will analyze contextual issues that surround the provision of health services to frail older adults. Focusing on the geriatric syndromes, the student will develop assessment skills and therapeutic interventions that are culturally appropriate across a variety of settings from independent living to skilled institutionalized care. Students will have the opportunity to evaluate strategies to promote health, minimize disability, and maximize quality of life. Evidence based standards of care from the geriatric interdisciplinary literature are evaluated to promote competency in assessment, intervention, and evaluation of older adults, their families, and the environments in which care is delivered.

Prerequisites: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**N6317 Gerontology II: Care of the Frail Older Adult Clinical**

The focus of the course is on the application of chronic disease management principles and selected models of care for older adults in the context of syndromes in aging. Emphasis is on assessment, diagnosis, and management of selected syndromes associated with aging, co-morbidity, and frailty. Students utilize methodologies that facilitate critical thinking and application of advanced practice skills in holistic patient management in the context of syndromes of aging, co-morbidities, and functional impairment. Course activities promote the synthesis of theory and research into advanced clinical practice.

Prerequisites: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 135)

**N6551 Diagnostic Tests and Procedures**

This course is designed for students preparing for the Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist role. The basis of student learning will utilize evidenced-based research to appropriately gather, interpret and manage objective clinical diagnostic data. Educational role students will utilize the information in the course to develop curricula to teach concepts of evaluation and managing diagnostic data to a specified target audience.

Prerequisite: None

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1; Clinical 3)

**N6554B Gerontology I Clinical: Primary Care**

This course is designed to assist the advanced practice nurse to assess, diagnose, and manage common acute and chronic health conditions in older adults. Designed to build on primary care management principles for older adults with acute health deviations, methodologies will be utilized that facilitate critical thinking and application of advanced practice skills in holistic patient management. This course incorporates the synthesis of theory and research into advanced clinical practice.

Prerequisites: N6101, N6151, N6152, N6551

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 6)

**N6555 Gerontology II: Chronic Disease Management**

In this course, models of care for chronic disease are the framework to focus on disease management, rehabilitation and symptom management in children/adolescents, adults or older adults. Relationships between physical and psychosocial dysfunction and pathophysiology and etiology are explored. Students critically analyze evidence-based strategies to optimize function in chronic illness. Assessment, intervention, and evaluation strategies are evaluated for cultural diversity, health care disparity, and literacy of the individual and their families. Clinical application of the concepts in selected populations, e.g., children/adolescents, adults, and older adults occurs in the companion clinical course.

Prerequisite: N6554B

Two Semester Credits: (Contact hours per week: Lecture: 1, Seminar 2)

**N6556B Gerontological II Clinical: Chronic Care**

The focus of the course is on the application of chronic disease management principles and selected models of care for adults across the lifespan. Emphasis is on assessment, diagnosis, and management of selected chronic health conditions in adults. The course provides the advanced practice nurse with the foundation to facilitate learning of principles in chronic disease management in academic and clinical settings. Students utilize methodologies that facilitate critical thinking and application of advanced practice skills or education in holistic patient management in the context of chronic symptoms, co-morbidities, and functional impairment. Course activities promote the synthesis of theory and research into advanced clinical practice and nursing education.

Co-requisite: N6555

Two Semester Hours (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**N6557 Gerontology III Clinical: Syndromes In Aging**

The focus of this course is on the application of chronic disease management principles and selected models of care for older adults in the context of syndromes in aging. Emphasis is on assessment, diagnosis, and management of selected syndromes associated with aging, co-morbidity, and frailty. The course provides the nurse educator with the foundation to facilitate learning related to principles in syndromes management in academic and clinical settings. Students utilize methodologies that facilitate critical thinking and application of advanced practice skills or education in holistic patient management in the context of syndromes of aging, co-morbidities, and functional impairment. Course activities promote the synthesis of theory and research into advanced clinical practice and nursing education.

Prerequisite: N6555

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 6)

**N6627 Writing for Publication**

This course presents graduate nursing students with the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills that will enable them to communicate effectively in writing for publication. Information and strategies for dissemination of scholarly work through publication in professional journals and other venues is the focus. The process of peer review and critique and editing are practiced. The anticipated outcome is a paper suitable for submission for publication in a professional journal.

Prerequisite: Graduate Standing

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**N6650 Ethics: Historical Lessons**

This course will explore ethics through the perspective of historical case studies. Examples include the response of communities and governments to infectious diseases, research without consent of subjects, as well as the central role played by physicians and nurses in planning and implementing genocide in the name of eugenics and racial hygiene during the Holocaust and other genocides. The course will focus on exploring the lessons we can learn from history as we confront the challenges of problems in today's society and in the future.

Prerequisites: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**N6701 Transforming Healthcare through Nursing Leadership**

This is the first course in the Nursing Leadership and Administration graduate program. The purpose of this course is to prepare nurses for leadership with patients, families, and other healthcare team members. The course provides a global context for the complex issues within contemporary healthcare as well as essential skill sets for coordinating clinical care and leading and developing teams. The course is relevant for nurses who aspire to lead at the point of care or in formal management positions.

Prerequisite: Admission to MSN in Nursing Leadership and Administration program

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

**N6702 Organizational Development: Creating Cultures of Excellence**

This is the second course in the Nursing Leadership and Administration graduate program. The purpose of this course is to prepare nurses to utilize organizational development principles and techniques to evaluate and improve complex health systems. Standards and criteria from national quality recognition programs will be used to support the design of structures for system improvement and creation of high performing organizations.

Prerequisite: N6701

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**N6702B Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 1**

This course is the practice component of N6702. The purpose of this course is application of organizational development principles and techniques to evaluate and improve complex health systems (60 supervised practice hours).

Prerequisite: N6701; Co-requisite: N6702

One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1)

**N6703 Developing and Leading Human Performance**

This course is the third course in the Nursing Leadership and Administration graduate program. The purpose of this course is to expand knowledge regarding the utilization of the healthcare workforce. The course focuses on contemporary human resource management issues, current research, and related theoretical perspectives.

Prerequisites: N6701, N6702, N6702B

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Seminar 2 Lecture 1)

**N6704 Organizational Quality Improvement and Patient Safety**

This is the fifth course in the Nursing Leadership and Administration graduate program. The purpose of this course is to prepare nurses to build and maintain safe care environments utilizing principles of quality improvement including strategies for creating and sustaining quality, customer satisfaction, and patient safety. Prerequisites: N6701, N6702, N6702B, N6703, N6707W

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**N6704B Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 2**

This course is the practice component of N6704. The learner will apply principles and techniques of quality improvement and patient safety in a practice setting through project development and implementation (60 supervised practice hours).

Prerequisite: N6701, N6702, N6702B, N6703, N6707W; Co-requisite: N6704

One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1)

**N6705W Nursing Leadership and Administration Role Focus**

This is the seventh course in the Nursing Leadership and Administration in Health Systems graduate program. The purpose of this course is to provide a structure to explore personal and professional issues related to the leadership/administrative role. Learners will dialogue with nursing leaders and administrators about opportunities and challenges of organizational management and nursing leadership.

Prerequisites: N6701, N6702, N6703, N6704, 6706, 6707

Co-requisite: N6710

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**N6706 Healthcare Financial Management**

This is the sixth course in the Nursing Leadership and Administration in Health Systems graduate program. This course is designed as an introduction to financial management for students preparing for nursing leadership roles. The course examines the financial management environment of the health services industry and how this environment affects today's nurse leading managers. Students will examine, review and apply the principles and concepts of financial and managerial accounting including the understanding of and interpretation of financial statements. This course will discuss the concepts of cost and revenue and their application to the various reimbursement models, involving clinical and fiscal responsibility. This course includes budgeting, strategic planning concepts, with emphasis on healthcare reform and the application of nursing quality and value.

Prerequisites: Permission of track director  
Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6706B Nursing Leadership and Administration Practice 3**

This course is the practice component of N6706. The purpose of this course is the application of financial management concepts in a healthcare setting (60 supervised practice hours).

Co-requisite: N6706  
One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1)

### **N6707W Analyzing Issues in Quality Improvement**

This is the fourth course in the Nursing Leadership and Administration graduate program. The purpose of this course is to introduce concepts and philosophy of quality improvement in a healthcare setting at departmental and institutional levels.

Prerequisites: N6701, N6702, N6702B; Co-requisite: N6703  
One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1)

### **N6710 Nursing Leadership and Administration Preceptorship**

This is the eighth course in the Nursing Leadership and Administration graduate program. The purpose of this course is synthesis and application of leadership and administrative knowledge and principles in a practice setting. Learners, preceptors, and faculty collaborate to create learning experiences that foster growth and development in leadership and administrative roles (180 supervised practice hours).

Prerequisites: N6701, N6702, N6702B, N6703, N6704, N6704B, N6706, N6706B, N6707W; Co-requisite: N6705W  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Seminar 2 Lecture 1)

### **N6730 Advanced Clinical Practice: Education Role Preceptorship**

This course is designed for graduate nursing students in nursing preparing for faculty positions in programs of basic professional education, staff development, or consumer education. The course addresses curriculum and instructional design, principles of teacher-learner communication learner assessment, and evaluation. Emphasis is on development, implementation, and evaluation of nursing curriculum and instruction through a preceptorship. The course will foster intellectual inquiry, accountability, professionalism, cultural sensitivity, collegiality, critical thinking, and creativity in the student in pursuit of the educator role.

Prerequisites: N6156, N6157, N6158  
One-three Semester Variable Credits (Contact hours per week: Seminar 2; Clinical 3-6)

### **N6740 Advanced Clinical Practice: Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship**

This course focuses on the synthesis of theory and research into advanced clinical practice. The emphasis is on holistic care in which physical, cultural, economic, and legal/ethical forces and resources of the individual/family/community are applied in case management.

Prerequisites: Graduate & Advanced Practice Core; clinical sequence  
One-nine Semester Variable Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 3-27)

### **N6741 Advanced Clinical Practice: Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship**

This course focuses on the synthesis of theory and research into advanced clinical practice. The emphasis is on holistic care in which physical, cultural, economic, and legal/ethical forces and resources of the individual/family/community are applied in case management.

Prerequisites: Graduate & Advanced Practice Core; clinical sequence  
One-nine Semester Variable Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 3-27)

**N6742 Advanced Clinical Practice: Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship**

This course focuses on the synthesis of theory and research into advanced clinical practice in the acute care setting. The emphasis is on holistic care in which physical, cultural, economic, and legal/ethical forces and resources of the individual/family/community are applied in case management.

Prerequisites Graduate & Advanced Practice Core; clinical sequence  
One-nine Semester Variable Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 3-27)

**N6744 Advanced Clinical Practice: Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship**

This course focuses on the synthesis of theory and research in providing advanced clinical practice for older adults. The emphasis is on holistic care in which physical, cultural, economic, and legal/ ethical forces and resources of the individual/family/community are applied in case management for older adults.

Prerequisites: Clinical I, II, and III didactic and clinical coursework  
One-nine Semester Variable Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 3-27)

**N6752 Advanced Clinical Practice: Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship**

This course focuses on the synthesis of theory and research into advanced clinical practice. The emphasis is on holistic care in which physical, cultural, economic, and legal/ethical forces and resources of the individual/family/ community are applied in case management of clients across the life span in primary care settings.

Prerequisites: All clinical courses and N6175 and N6176. All clinical hours in all other courses must be completed before beginning nurse practitioner preceptor ship hours.  
One-six Semester Variable Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 90-360)

**N6754W Advanced Clinical Practice: Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship**

This course focuses on the synthesis of theory and research in providing advanced clinical practice for older adults. The emphasis is on holistic care in which physical, cultural, economic, and legal/ethical forces and resources of the individual, family, and community are applied in case management for older adults.

Prerequisites: All clinical courses  
One-eight Semester Variable Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 4.2 – 33.3)

## **Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice Program**

The **BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program** is a practice doctoral curriculum that prepares baccalaureate nurses to manage the anesthesia needs of patients across the lifespan. The primary outcome of the nurse anesthesia concentration is the development of the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise in all types of anesthesia and phases of anesthesia care. The BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia program is designed to equip future nurse anesthetists with the knowledge and skills to implement best evidence-based practice, translational science, safety and quality improvement in nurse anesthesia practice. Additional experiences in systems leadership to enhance patient outcomes, cost-effective care and healthcare delivery models are included in the doctoral course of study.

### **About the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program**

- The curriculum of 112 semester hours (36 months, nine continuous semesters of full-time study) meets or exceeds the Council on Accreditation (COA) of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs requirements for both the academic and clinical experience. It is a “front-loaded” curriculum that allows students to achieve competency in basic sciences with integration of knowledge into clinical anesthesia practice during the clinical phase of the program.
- Coursework in the BSN-DNP curriculum occurs on the Houston campus utilizing a format to enhance interaction with classmates and faculty.
- During the final 16 months of the program, students rotate to clinical sites inside the Texas Medical Center, sites within the vicinity of the Texas Medical Center and suburban healthcare institutions. These clinical sites provide students with an exceptional clinical experience.
- The students experience more than 40 hours of simulation-based faculty-facilitated instruction in the School’s high-fidelity simulation operating room laboratory before and during the clinical phase of the program. The program also provides simulated experiences with ultrasound-guided techniques for vascular access and neural conduction blockade as well as advanced airway management modalities.
- The culminating scholarly work of the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program is the Clinical Scholarship Portfolio (CSP). The CSP consists of several components of scholarly work and is designed to provide students with a faculty-guided opportunity to translate knowledge into a clinical anesthesia practice inquiry. Investigating and designing an inquiry to improve anesthesia-related safety, quality, outcomes, practice, delivery or policy aligns with the Institute of Medicine’s six aims: healthcare safety, effectiveness, patient-centeredness, timeliness, efficiency or equity. The goal of the CSP experience is to provide a foundation for future scholarly endeavors.
- Graduates of the program are eligible to take the National Certification Examination (NCE) for Nurse Anesthetists offered by the National Board of Certification/Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA).
- While the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program is a new offering, the NCE administered by the NBCRNA pass rates for nurse anesthetists graduating from the Master’s program at UTHealth School of Nursing are high, while attrition rates remain low.

## **Accreditation of the BSN-DNP Program**

The BSN-DNP program is accredited by the [Council on Accreditation \(COA\) of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs](#), 222 S Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Phone: (847) 692-7050, Fax: (847) 692-6968.

## **BSN-DNP Program Objectives**

The curriculum of the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program is designed to provide the student with knowledge, skills and abilities relating to the provision of professional nurse anesthesia care while incorporating the COA doctoral competencies and AACN DNP Essentials.

Upon completion of the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia program of study, the student will be able to:

1. Evaluate the scientific, theoretical, technical and homeostatic underpinnings associated with the provision of nurse anesthesia care
2. Formulate a patient-centered, physiologically sound and evidence-based plan of anesthesia care for patients from diverse populations across the lifespan, while taking into account the surgical procedures and comorbid conditions.
3. Implement the formulated anesthesia plan in a safe, efficient and cost-effective manner to ensure the best possible patient outcome.
4. Analyze physiologic responses to anesthesia and the surgical procedure and implement scientifically sound interventions in response to these changes.
5. Evaluate nurse anesthesia care to promote improved outcomes, reduction in complications, improved safety and quality of anesthesia care delivery.
6. Collaborate effectively with interprofessional teams by fostering open, respectful communication and shared decision-making.
7. Investigate the strength and applicability of scientific evidence in anesthesia and health care. Integrate best evidence into clinical practice for the delivery of optimal health care.
8. Demonstrate the highest legal, moral and ethical standards of nurse anesthesia while accepting responsibility for one's own actions as a health care professional.
9. Generate practice improvement initiatives that impact patient/population outcomes, safety, quality or innovation in anesthesia care delivery or healthcare.
10. Demonstrate personal and professional excellence while advancing the field of nurse anesthesia while recognizing the importance of life-long learning.
11. Utilize information technology to promote patient outcome improvement and optimal clinical decision-making.
12. Analyze and promote policy initiatives that improve healthcare delivery while serving as an effective advocate for patients, vulnerable populations and the nursing profession.
13. Exhibit leadership skills appropriate for an entry-level professional practitioner at the micro-, meso-and macrosystem levels to facilitate improved patient, population and healthcare outcomes.

## **Deadline for Application**

To be considered for admission into the BSN-DNP, applications must be received in the Registrar's Office by July 1.

## **Admission – BSN-DNP Program**

### **Admission Criteria**

The admission policy makes explicit the multiplicity of factors taken into consideration in a holistic admissions process. These admission factors will not be assigned a specific weight or point value. The School of Nursing considers the totality of each application

and gives importance to the following factors:

1. Intellectual capacity, based on consideration of the overall collegiate GPA, standardized test scores (GRE, TOEFL); academic awards and honors, scholarly accomplishments; degree of difficulty of undergraduate academic program; and any other relevant data submitted;
2. Interpersonal and communication skills, based on evidence of being well-written and well-spoken, exemplified by standardized test scores in verbal abilities, and any other relevant considerations that the student may present;
3. Breadth and depth of nursing educational experiences, based on consideration of factors in the record reflecting a combination of a strong scientific background and also an ability to understand the complex nonscientific problems facing healthcare workers and patients, e.g., ethical, cultural, or socioeconomic problems; consideration of community or charitable service, e.g., volunteering to help the less fortunate; extracurricular activities and organizations; leadership positions; employment history; recognition for humanitarian service; and awareness and direct knowledge of cultural elements as they may have an impact on healthcare;
4. Potential for service to the State of Texas, with consideration given to Texas residency; applicant's goals for the future; cultural/socioeconomic status; race/ethnicity; potential for future provision of health services to under-served areas or needed specialties; and linguistic skills appropriate to the Health Professions Shortage Area the applicant wishes to serve;
5. Motivation, with consideration given to success in overcoming adverse economic or educational conditions; employment history occurring simultaneously with undergraduate education; participation in activities requiring time management skills; constantly improving undergraduate record; veteran status, and experience in health-related activities;
6. Integrity, with consideration given to any academic integrity violation and/or conduct or disciplinary problems in college or the workplace; and
7. Technical standards, related to observation, communication, psychomotor skills, intellectual and cognitive abilities, behavioral and social attributes
8. At least one year of full time employment (or part-time equivalent) as a direct patient care RN in a critical care setting such as an intestine care unit (ICU).

### **Interview**

During the interview, BSN-DNP applicants are evaluated on additional elements, which include public or community service, humanitarian service, extracurricular activities, communication skills, and experiences. In the categories of public or community service and humanitarian service, consideration is given to an interest in service to underserved areas and populations.

### **Full Admission**

This category applies to students who have completed all the requirements for admission and have met all admission criteria.

### **Conditional Admission**

The BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program Council may grant conditional admission after evaluation of the applicant's record. This category applies to a student who does not meet the full admission requirements. A 3.0 cumulative grade point average for the first nine semester hours is required or the student must withdraw or be dismissed from the Program. The student may appeal the dismissal through the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program Council.

### **Provisional Admission**

This category applies to students who have not completed all the requirements for

admission. These students are required to complete and submit evidence of completion of all requirements for full or conditional admission during the first term of enrollment in order to continue in the Program.

## **BSN-DNP Application Procedure**

### **Applicants should submit the following to the Office of the Registrar:**

1. A completed application for admission (electronic submission preferred).
2. A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee. (paid through MyUTH)
3. Official scores for the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) taken within the last five (5) years. A score of 500 or greater on each of the Verbal and Quantitative sections and a minimum score of 3.5 on the written section is highly recommended. For the revised GRE, a minimum score of 153 Verbal; 144 Quantitative; with a minimum score on the written section remaining at 3.5.
4. One official copy of a transcript from each institution attended. If attended any UTHealth school, an official transcript is not necessary. Electronic submission is preferred. Transcript(s) should show:
  - a. A Baccalaureate degree in nursing earned from an accredited program. Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
    - o A completed basic statistics course.
    - o A completed Organic Chemistry I or Biochemistry course within the last 6 years.
14. Three satisfactory academic/professional references. (Individual references should be provided with an [applicant letter of reference form](#) ).
15. One official copy of TOEFL score if international applicant. TOEFL scores can be no more than two years old. A minimum score of 550 is required on the paper exam, a minimum score of 213 on the computer-based exam, or a minimum score of 86 on the internet-based exam.
16. A course-by-course evaluation of international credentials by Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) for individuals with degrees from outside the US.
17. Evidence of current, unencumbered Texas nursing licensure or current state licensure
18. Documentation of BCLS, Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification.
19. A professional curriculum vitae or resume.
20. Documentation on application of minimum work experience for chosen clinical concentration:

### **Essential Skills for Nurses**

Nurses must be able to demonstrate cognitive skills in critical thinking and logical/analytical thinking. Nurses must possess and demonstrate psychomotor skills, including, but not limited to fine motor dexterity, physical strength, coordination, and proper body mechanics. Observational skills, such as the ability to hear within the normal decibel range, the ability to read English in regular to extra-fine print, and the ability to palpate/auscultate, are also required.

### **Applicant Selection**

The BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program Council will make selections from the pool of the applicants. Evaluation of the total information available to the selection committee results in a final decision for acceptance of the applicants into the program.

All applicants will be notified in writing whether or not they have been accepted into the program. Acceptance into the program is applicable only to the year for which the applicant applied.

As soon as the entering student receives the registration materials in the mail, she/he

should make an appointment with the assigned BSN-DNP nurse anesthesia faculty advisor to review their degree plan.

### **Transfer of Credit**

A student may submit graduate course credits earned at other universities for application toward the BSN to DNP Nurse Anesthesia Degree. The following restrictions apply:

- The course must clearly relate to the student's approved program of study.
- Nine semester hours may be transferred from accredited institutions outside The University of Texas System.
- An unlimited number of hours may be transferred from institutions within The University of Texas System, but the student must complete a minimum of 26 hours in residency at the SON. Students may not transfer credit hours for clinical courses, preceptorship courses, or synthesis courses. Previous nurse anesthesia coursework from another program or university is non-transferable.
- Substitution for a required course in School's BSN-DNP program must be approved by the nurse anesthesia program director. The course must have been taken within the five-year time limit to complete BSN to DNP program degree requirements.
- The transcript must show a grade of "A" or "B" in the course.
- The course may not be transferred if it was used to apply to another completed degree.
- All courses to be transferred must be at the graduate level.
- The student must submit a letter of good academic standing and eligibility to continue at the institution from which transferring.

### **Courses Taken in Other University of Texas System Institutions**

All students who have been admitted to the BSN-DNP Program and who plan to take courses applicable to a nursing degree in a University of Texas component other than UTHealth must obtain approval in advance from the advisor prior to taking such courses. A transcript must be sent to the Office of the Registrar immediately upon the completion of the course(s).

## BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program Degree Plan

NOTE: The degree plan is subject to change at any time.

		CREDIT
<b>SUMMER 1</b>	6401 Adv. Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry for Nurse Anesthesia	6
	6802 Ethics and Health Policy	3
	6103W Informatics and Healthcare Technologies	3
<b>FALL 1</b>	6404 Adv. Anatomy, Physiology & Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthesia	6
	6801 Scholarly Foundations for Advanced Practice	3
	6414 DNP Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia I	1
	5506W Statistics in Nursing	2
<b>SPRING 1</b>	6402 Adv. Pharmacology and Chemistry for Nurse Anesthesia	4
	6406 Organizations, Finance & Practice Management in Nurse Anesthesia	4
	6420 Translational Approaches in Clinical Practice	3
	6101 Clinical & Epi Research	3
<b>SUMMER 2</b>	6403 Adv. Pharmacology and Pharmacogenetics for Nurse Anesthesia	4
	6405 Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	6
<b>FALL 2</b>	6408 Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	6
	6152W Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis	2
	6152B Physical Exam & Differential Diagnosis Lab	1
	6807 Evidence-based Practice Principles	3
<b>SPRING 2</b>	6409 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I	10
	6410 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia I	2
	6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia	1
<b>SUMMER 3</b>	6411 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum II	10
	6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia	2
<b>FALL 3</b>	6412 Nurse Anesthesia Practicum III	10
	6413 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia II	2
	6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio in Nurse Anesthesia	2
<b>SPRING 3</b>	6415 Nurse Anesthesia Practicum IV	10
	6416 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia III	2
	6417 DNP Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia II	1
	<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>112</b>

### Academic Requirements for BSN-DNP Progression

To be eligible for graduation with a DNP degree, a student must:

- have a minimum cumulative 3.0 grade point average;
- successfully complete the prescribed curriculum for which they are registered and must meet all other requirements of the School of Nursing;
- submit official transcripts of courses taken outside the School of Nursing to the Office of the Registrar;
- complete a minimum of 51% credit hours in residency in the program. These credit hours must include the required clinical courses, preceptorships, and thesis or thesis option courses;
- submit an "Application for Degree" form to the Office of the Registrar prior to the deadline established each term;

- pay the required graduation fee;
- Complete the clearance packet and clear through all designated offices; and
- be enrolled during the term of graduation.

### **The Semester Hour**

One semester hour of credit is given for four clock hours per week of clinical experience, one clock hour per week of lecture, or two clock hours per week of seminar.

### **Adding, Dropping and Withdrawing from Courses**

Students may add, drop, and withdraw from courses with the approval of the instructor and advisor and within certain guidelines and deadlines. A student may be allowed to withdraw from the same course only once. The policies regarding adding, dropping, and withdrawing from courses may be found at:

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programolicies.aspx#>

Students should consult the Registrar's Office website regarding deadline dates for adding, dropping, and withdrawing from courses.

On the recommendation of the instructor and with approval of the Dean, a student may be required to withdraw from a course at any time because of neglect or for lack of preparation. Under such circumstances, the symbol "WF" will be recorded.

### **Classification of Students**

#### **Full-time and Part-time**

A full-time student is one who is registered for at least nine semester hours during the Fall and Spring semesters, six hours during the 12-week summer session, or three semester hours during the six-week summer session or enrolled in at least three semester credit hours during one 6-week summer session or a total of six semesters credits if enrolled in more than one summer sessions. A part-time student is one who is registered for fewer hours than the stated requirement for full-time status.

#### **Grading System**

The grading system in the School of Nursing is based on a letter grade system. In computing grade point average per hour, the following scores are used: A = 4 points; B = 3 points; C = 2 points; D = 1 point; and WF/F = 0 points. The mechanisms for determining grades and course requirements are described in each course syllabus.

Permission from the instructor must be obtained before a course may be taken on a pass-fail basis. If a student fails a pass/fail course, the "F" is computed in calculating the grade point average.

#### **Academic Probation**

If at the end of any term, a student's cumulative grade point average for the hours taken in the School of Nursing falls below 3.0 and/or there is a grade below "B" on the record for that term, she/ he will be notified and placed on academic probation.

#### **Removal from Academic probation**

Students who are on academic probation will be removed from such probation at the conclusion of the term when they have achieved an overall 3.0 grade point average.

#### **Attendance at another institution while on Academic probation**

Students who leave the School of Nursing while on probation and are readmitted to the School of Nursing will be readmitted to the School on academic probation, even if they

have attended another institution between leaving and reentering the School of Nursing.

### **Academic Dismissal and Appeal**

If a student does not meet the academic criteria for progression in the program, a letter of academic dismissal will be sent to the student. The BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program Council assists with the decision-making and implementation of policies concerning the admission, readmission, progression, and graduation of students. If the student wishes to request that the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Degree Council reconsider its recommendations, the student must submit a written request within five working days to the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Council with evidence in support of the request. The Council, upon receipt of the request, will review the request and render its final recommendation in writing to the Dean with a copy to the student within 15 working days. A student dissatisfied with the action taken by the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Council may then appeal directly to the Dean by submitting a written request with supporting evidence within five working days of receipt of the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Council's recommendation. The student will be notified of the Dean's decision within five working days. The determination of the Dean is final, and there is no further appeal.

### **Time Limits**

Requirements for a single BSN-DNP degree must be completed within five years. A one-year extension may be granted if a written petition submitted to the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia Council by the student is approved in advance.

### **BSN-DNP Program Course Descriptions**

*Course descriptions are not intended as an assurance or warranty of achievement of specific skills or knowledge*

#### **NOTE:**

- *Course numbers ending in "W" denote courses that are web-based or mainly online that may require some campus visits.*
- *Course numbers ending in "D" denote courses that are taught through distance education and include a distance education fee.*
- *Course numbers ending in "B" denote courses that are clinical and include additional fees.*

#### **N6401 Advanced Human Physiology and Pathophysiology I**

This is a doctoral-level course that provides the nurse anesthesia graduate student an opportunity to build upon both basic and advanced previous knowledge. The course comprises advanced anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology the human organ systems with an emphasis on the clinical application to anesthesiology. Part I will cover the neurologic, musculoskeletal and respiratory systems at the biochemical, cellular, tissue and systems level. The graduate student will engage in analysis, synthesis and evaluation of the effects of general drugs, anesthetics and anesthetic adjuncts on normal physiologic and pathophysiologic functions.

Prerequisites: Admission to Nurse Anesthesia Program

Co-requisites: None

Six Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 6)

#### **N6402 Advanced Pharmacology & Chemistry for Nurse Anesthesia**

Advanced Pharmacology & Chemistry for Nurse Anesthesia involves an in-depth exploration of human pharmacology principles with a distinct focus on anesthetic agents and adjuncts. The course begins with an examination of the chemistry concepts associated with pharmacologic principles and the molecular basis of pharmacotherapeutic actions. Uptake, distribution, biotransformation, and elimination of clinically utilized anesthesia pharmacotherapeutics and adjunctive agents are discussed in detail. A predominate focus of this course is the translation of anesthetic pharmacotherapeutic principles into clinical anesthesia practice.

Prerequisites: Admission to Nurse Anesthesia Program  
Co-requisites: None  
Four Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 4)

### **N6403 Advanced Pharmacology & Pharmacogenetics for Nurse Anesthesia**

Advanced Pharmacology & Pharmacogenetics for Nurse Anesthesia continues the in-depth exploration of human pharmacology begun in N68xx. The uptake, distribution, biotransformation, and elimination of clinical pharmacotherapeutics utilized for the management of pathophysiologic conditions and the impact that these agents have on anesthetic care are discussed in detail. Pharmacogenetic disorders and the anesthetic implications of these disorders are also examined.

Prerequisites: Successful completion (grade of B or better) of N6401 – Advanced Anatomy, Physiology & Biochemistry for Nurse Anesthesia & N6402 – Advanced Pharmacology & Chemistry for Nurse Anesthesia  
Co-requisites: None  
Four Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 4)

### **N6404 Advanced Human Physiology and Pathophysiology II**

This is a doctoral-level course that provides the nurse anesthesia graduate student an opportunity to build upon both basic and advanced previous knowledge. The course comprises advanced anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology the human organ systems with an emphasis on the clinical application to anesthesiology. Part II will cover the cardiovascular, renal, endocrine and gastrointestinal/hepatic systems at biochemical, cellular, tissue and systems level. The graduate student will engage in analysis, synthesis and evaluation of the effects of general drugs, anesthetics and anesthetic adjuncts on normal physiologic and pathophysiologic functions.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of both N6401 Advanced Human Physiology and Pathophysiology I  
Co-requisites: None  
Six Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 6)

### **N6405 Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice**

This is a doctoral level course that examines, through a variety of approaches, the basic premises and delivery of anesthesia to patients. Students will explore various anesthetic techniques, anesthetic delivery systems, airway management, pre-anesthetic evaluation, fluid and blood component therapy, and basic anesthesia technology, equipment and monitoring modalities. Student will engage in critical thinking while synthesizing principles examined in the course to critique and develop evidence-based, fundamentally sound and safe anesthesia plans of care for healthy patients (physical status I) undergoing selected basic surgical procedures.

Prerequisites: Successful completion (grade of B or better) of N6401 – Advanced Anatomy, Physiology & Pathophysiology I for Nurse Anesthesia & N6402 – Advanced Pharmacology & Chemistry for Nurse Anesthesia  
Co-requisites: Enrollment in N6403 –Advanced Pharmacology & Pharmacogenetics for Nurse Anesthesia  
Six Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 5; Lab 3)

### **N6406 Organizations, Finance and Practice Management in Nurse Anesthesia**

This course focuses three of the most important elements of nurse anesthesia practice which support clinical practice in all practice settings. **Leadership** includes the differentiation of the various styles of leadership and their impact on the management of a successful practice. **Finance** includes the business plan for the practice setting, legal aspects of practice, malpractice and reimbursement, which will be explored in an integrated manner. **Management** includes the various functional roles of nurse anesthesia related to administration, education, research and consultation with an orientation to administration, quality assurance/risk management, and the teaching learning process and research. In addition, this course will allow evaluation of professional issues essential to the field such as wellness and substance misuse, historical aspects of anesthesia, the legal ramifications concerning the administration of anesthesia and current issues affecting the nurse anesthetist's role in administration, education, and research.

Prerequisites: Admission to Nurse Anesthesia Program  
Co-requisites: None  
Four Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 4)

### **N6408 Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice**

This is a doctoral level course that examines the advanced anesthetic implications associated with subspecialty anesthesia practice. The predominant focus of this course is subspecialty anesthesia practice, including obstetrical, pediatric, neurosurgical, regional, thoracic, trauma and burns, cardiothoracic/vascular anesthesia and chronic pain management. Building upon foundations developed in N6405, students explore anesthetic implications for advanced disease states, patient populations and complex surgical procedures. Students are expected to develop and evaluate advanced anesthetic care plans that address pathophysiologic implications, procedural implications, anesthetic techniques, prevention and management of patient complications, and equipment and monitoring requirements for specific types of subspecialty anesthetic cases. High-fidelity simulation activities and weekly clinical rotations are utilized to solidify concepts examined.

Prerequisites: Successful completion (grade of B or better) of N6404 – Advanced Anatomy, Physiology & Pathophysiology II for Nurse Anesthesia; N6403– Advanced Pharmacology & Pharmacogenetics for Nurse Anesthesia; N6405 – Basic Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice  
Co-requisites: None  
Six Semester Hours (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 4; Clinical 6)

### **N6409 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I**

The first clinical practicum of an advanced graduate-level nurse anesthesia program provides an opportunity to optimize the student's theoretic foundation in anesthesia and anesthetic-related basic sciences. The course will promote the development of critical thinking abilities and reflective examination of practice. Relevant clinical objectives are introduced within the focus of the practicum.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia (N6408)  
Co-requisites: Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia I (N6410)  
Ten Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Clinical 50)

### **N6410 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia I**

This is the first of the three-semester clinical anesthesia seminar courses in which the nurse anesthesia-DNP student demonstrates breadth, depth, and synthesis of knowledge and skills related to nurse anesthesia clinical practice and the DNP role. While the predominant focus of this course is the exploration of clinical anesthesia issues, issues involving population health and policy/advocacy are also analyzed (AACN DNP Essentials I, V, VII, & VIII). The health of the nation and the impact of health care policy on anesthesia practice and the healthcare system are evaluated.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of N6408 – Advanced Principles of Nurse Anesthesia Practice II  
Co-requisites: Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I (N6409)  
Two Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Seminar 4)

### **N6411 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum II**

The second clinical practicum of an advanced graduate-level nurse anesthesia program provides an opportunity to optimize the student's theoretic foundation in anesthesia and anesthetic-related basic sciences. The course will promote the development of critical thinking abilities and reflective examination of practice. Relevant clinical objectives are continued with the focus of the practicum.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I (N6409)  
Co-requisites: None

Ten Semester Hours (Contact Hours Per Week: Clinical 50)

### **N6412 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum III**

The third clinical practicum of an advanced graduate-level nurse anesthesia program provides an opportunity to optimize the student's theoretic foundation in anesthesia and anesthetic-related basic sciences. The course will promote the development of critical thinking abilities and reflective examination of practice in sub-specialty clinical areas. Relevant clinical objectives are continued with the focus of the practicum.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I (N6411)

Co-requisites: Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia II (N6413)

Ten Semester Hours (Contact Hours Per Week: Clinical 50)

### **N6413 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia II**

This is the second of the three-semester clinical anesthesia seminar courses in which the nurse anesthesia-DNP student demonstrates breadth, depth, and synthesis of knowledge and skills related to nurse anesthesia clinical practice and the DNP role. While the predominant focus of this course is the exploration of clinical anesthesia issues, issues involving organizational/systems leadership, evidence-based practice and information technology are also analyzed (AACN DNP Essentials I, II, III, IV, & VIII). Organizational leadership for improving quality and the use of technology to improving anesthesia and healthcare are evaluated. Best practice, guideline and benchmarking methodologies are also examined.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of N6410-Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia I; N6409 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I; N6411 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum II

Co-requisites: Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum III (N6412)

Two Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Seminar 4)

### **N6414 DNP Role Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia I**

This clinical DNP Role Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia course encompasses a beginning of a directed and focused experience based on a student's individualized interests and Clinical Practice Improvement Initiative (CPII). The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to select AACN DNP Essentials. The processes of planning, implementing and evaluating programs for improving care outcomes and delivery, as well as the CPII are also introduced. The student is expected to gain clinically relevant exposure to: systems thinking and leadership, translation and implementation practices, quality and outcomes management and interprofessional collaboration.

Prerequisites: Admission to Nurse Anesthesia Program

Co-requisites: None

One Semester Credit (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 1)

### **N6415 Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum IV**

The final clinical practicum of an advanced graduate-level nurse anesthesia program provides an opportunity to optimize the student's theoretic foundation in anesthesia and anesthetic-related basic as well as advanced sciences. The course enhances the development of critical thinking abilities and reflective examination of practice in sub-specialty clinical areas. Demonstration of evidence based practice principles is highlighted and relevant clinical objectives are continued with the focus of the advanced practicum.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I (N6412)

Co-requisites: Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia III (N6416)

Ten Semester Hours (Contact Hours Per Week: Clinical 50)

### **N6416 Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia III**

This is the third of the three-semester clinical anesthesia seminar courses in which the nurse anesthesia-DNP student demonstrates breadth, depth, and synthesis of knowledge and skills related to nurse anesthesia clinical practice and the DNP role. While the predominant focus of this course is the exploration of clinical anesthesia issues, issues involving evidence-based

practice, clinical scholarship and interprofessional collaboration are also discussed (AACN DNP Essentials I, III, VI, & VIII). The impact of interprofessional collaboration on patient outcomes is evaluated. Intraprofessional and interprofessional communication, team-building, teamwork and team leadership are analyzed.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia II (N6413); and Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum III (N6412)

Co-requisites: Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum IV (N6415); DNP Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia II (N6417)

Two Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Seminar 4)

### **N6417 DNP Role Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia II**

This clinical DNP Role Inquiry in Nurse Anesthesia course encompasses a directed and focused experience based on a student's individualized interests and Clinical Practice Improvement Initiative (CPII). The purpose of this course is to increase the student's competency in relation to AACN DNP Essentials, IOM recommendations and COA criteria. The processes of planning, implementing and evaluating programs for improving care outcomes and delivery, as well as the CPII are disseminated during this course. The student will distinguish and contrast clinically relevant exposure to: systems thinking and leadership, translation and implementation practices, quality and outcomes management and interprofessional collaboration.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia II (N6413); and Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum III (N6412)

Co-requisites: Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum IV (N6415); Seminars in Nurse Anesthesia III (N6416)

One Semester Credit (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 1)

### **N6420 Translational Approaches in Clinical Practice**

The course is designed to critically examine the state of the science of translational science including concepts, models, and methods for translation and implementation of evidence and research into practice. Within the scope of an identified clinical problem and population of interest, the student will critically review the literature that addresses the problem, significance, population, practice setting, and expected outcomes as a basis to implement and disseminate a change in practice and care. Students examine current and future leadership and innovation roles of DNPs for quality and safety standards in translational and implementation of evidence-based practice. There is emphasis on practitioner-researcher collaboration to build science and best practice and intra-and interprofessional collaboration to implement change and embed it into practice. Evaluation of implementation and practice change are also discussed.

Prerequisites: Admission to Nurse Anesthesia Program; Successful completion of Scholarly Foundations (N6801)

Co-requisites: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 3)

### **N6430 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Development in Nurse Anesthesia**

The course focuses on preparing the Clinical Scholarship Portfolio (CSP) and Clinical Practice Improvement Initiative (CPII). Each student will identify a clinical practice problem that she or he wishes to address and develop into a CPII proposal with the guidance and mentorship of their advisor. Investigating and designing a program to improve anesthesia-related safety, quality, outcomes, practice, delivery or policy aligned with the Institute of Medicine's six aims: health care safety, effectiveness, patient-centeredness, timeliness, efficiency or equity will be necessary for the CPII/CSP and provide the foundation for future scholarly endeavors.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of non-clinical phase courses in Nurse Anesthesia Program

Co-requisites Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Practicum I, II or III (N6409, N6411, or N6412)

One Semester Credit (Contact Hours Per Week: Lecture 1)

## **Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program**

The PhD in Nursing program prepares advanced students to become scientists who conduct research in health care and who contribute to the expansion of knowledge as nursing educators and leaders in the healthcare system. Graduates will be leaders who improve health and enrich healthcare systems through the integration of theory, research and practice.

In contrast to the practice-based Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), this doctoral program is rooted in foundations of theory and research needed to develop educators, leaders and discoverers of knowledge in the field of health care.

We understand that students have varied needs and learning styles, so courses are offered in a mixed face-to-face and online method. Also, our dynamic PhD program may be completed on a part-time or full-time schedule.

Our outstanding faculty is committed to preparing nurse scholars and scientists who can lead in extending the body of nursing knowledge. We foster a collegial and supportive environment with close faculty interaction. Our learning atmosphere is distinctive, challenging and includes rich mentoring experiences.

The School's dedicated Center for Nursing Research promotes collaborations, enhances scholarship and stimulates clinically relevant investigative questions and innovative approaches. We offer unique access to expert faculty researchers in a comprehensive six-discipline academic health center. Doctoral students also have access to courses and resources in the affiliated institutions of the Texas Medical Center, a vibrant academic and healthcare community in the heart of Houston.

Whether you see your future in the nursing world as a faculty member or as a clinical researcher, UTHealth's PhD in Nursing program is the next exciting step toward enhancing your career trajectory.

### **Program Objectives**

The curriculum of the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing degree program is designed to prepare graduates to:

1. Synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge from nursing and other academic disciplines in relation to health and healthcare.
2. Conceptualize, design, and conduct clinical and population-based research that advances science.
3. Extend, promote, and disseminate knowledge generated by independent, collaborative, and transdisciplinary research and scholarship.
4. Articulate health care issues and policy in relation to social, ethical, and cultural phenomena related to the area of scholarship.

### **Application Deadline**

To be considered for admission to the PhD Program, completed applications must be received in the Office of the Registrar by April 1.

### **Admission to the PhD Degree Program**

#### **Admission Criteria**

The School of Nursing considers the totality of each application and gives importance to the following factors:

- Intellectual capacity, based on consideration of the overall collegiate GPA; standardized test scores (GRE, TOEFL); academic awards and honors; scholarly accomplishments; degree of difficulty of previous academic programs; pre-professional evaluations; personal interview; and any other relevant data

submitted;

- Interpersonal and communication skills, i.e., evidence of being well-written and well-spoken exemplified by standardized test scores in verbal abilities; any other relevant considerations that the student may present;
- Community service, as evidenced by extracurricular activities, membership and leadership in organizations, volunteer, and humanitarian services;
- Awareness and direct knowledge of cultural elements' impact on healthcare;
- Breadth and depth of nursing and other experiences, based on consideration of factors in the record reflecting a combination of a strong scientific background and an ability to understand the complex problems facing health care providers and patients, e.g., ethical or socioeconomic problems;
- Potential for service to the State of Texas, with consideration given to Texas residency; applicant's goals for the future; cultural/socioeconomic status; race/ethnicity; potential for future provision of health services to underserved areas or needed specialties; linguistic skills appropriate to the Health Professions Shortage Area to which the applicant wishes to serve;
- Motivation, with consideration given to success in overcoming adverse economic or educational conditions; employment history; participation in activities requiring time management skills; experience in health-related activities;
- Integrity, with consideration given to any academic integrity violation; conduct or disciplinary problems in college and/or the workplace;
- Technical standards, related to observation, communication, timeliness of psychomotor skills, intellectual and cognitive abilities, behavioral and social attributes; and
- Ethical standards, related to personal and professional demeanor and behavior.

### **Application Process**

Applicants must provide all of the following:

- A completed application for admission to the PhD program to the Registrar's Office;
- A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee.
- Evidence of a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree from accredited nursing programs;
- A GRE score of 500 or greater on both the verbal and quantitative sections and a 3.0 score or greater on the writing portion. For the revised GRE the combined minimum is 297 with the analytical writing section remaining at 3.0. The GRE requirement may be waived if the applicant has a min GPA of 3.5 on their master's coursework;
- An official copy of the TOEFL scores if required. A minimum score of 550 (on the paper exam), a minimum score of 213 (on the computer-based test) is accepted, or a minimum score of 86 (on the internet-based exam). Send score to the Registrar's Office. TOEFL scores can be no more than two years old.
- Eligibility for licensure as a Registered Nurse in Texas. (International students may petition for admission under related policy);
- Three letters of recommendation from employers and university professors (at least one possessing an earned doctoral degree);
- A professional curriculum vita and a portfolio that documents practice expertise, scholarly activities, and publications;
- A written statement of area of research interest, career goals and reasons for desiring doctoral study.

### **The Interview**

Qualified PhD applicants will be interviewed by faculty members to provide an opportunity to assess the compatibility of the Program to an applicant's educational needs and career goals. The match of the applicant's interests and goals with faculty

members' areas of research, scholarship, teaching, and practice expertise is assessed. Consideration will be given to applicants who reflect a commitment to clinical practice, teaching, and research, and interest in service to underserved areas and populations.

### **Applicant Selection**

The PhD Council will make the selection of applicants. Evaluation of the total information available to the selection committee leads to the final decision for acceptance of the applicants into the program.

All applicants will be notified in writing whether they have been accepted into the Program. Acceptance into the program is applicable only to the semester for which the applicant applied.

### **Full Admission**

The PhD Council may grant full admission after evaluation of the applicant's record. This category applies to an applicant that meets all admission requirements.

### **Conditional Admission**

The PhD Council may grant conditional admission after evaluation of the applicant's record. This category applies to an applicant who does not meet full admission requirements. A 3.0 cumulative grade point average for the first nine semester hours is required or the conditionally admitted student will be dismissed from the Program. (Students who are dismissed may appeal their dismissal to the PhD Council.)

### **Provisional Admission**

Provisional admission may be granted to applicants who have not completed all the requirements for full admission. These students are required to complete and submit evidence of completion of all requirements for full or conditional admission during the first term of enrollment in order to continue in the program.

### **Transfer of Credits**

A student may submit graduate course credits earned at other universities for application toward the PhD degree. Requirements for transfer of credit are as follows:

1. The course must clearly relate to the student's approved program of study.
2. Nine semester hours taken prior to admission may be eligible for transfer from accredited institutions outside The University of Texas System. After the student is enrolled in the program, eligibility will be assessed.
3. An unlimited number of hours may be transferred from institutions within The University of Texas, but the student must complete a minimum of 34 hours in residence in the Program.
4. All credits that are transferred as electives must be approved by the student's advisor.
5. All credits transferred as cognates must be approved by the student's dissertation chair.
6. Substitution for a doctoral program required course must be approved by the faculty advisor and the PhD Council.
7. The transcript must show an "A", "B", or "P" in the course.
8. The course must have been taken within the seven-year time limit to complete doctoral degree requirements.
9. The course may not be transferred if it was used to apply to another completed degree.
10. All courses to be transferred must be graduate level courses.

See PhD Student Policy, D7980 Transfer of Credit

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.htm>).

### **Courses Taken in Other University of Texas System Institutions**

All students who have been admitted to the PhD Program and who plan to take courses applicable to a nursing degree in a University of Texas System component other than the School of Nursing must obtain approval from the advisor prior to taking such courses. A transcript must be sent to the Office of the Registrar immediately upon the completion of the course(s).

### **Candidacy Exam**

The candidacy examination serves as a basis for determining the student's readiness for pursuing dissertation research. The student should demonstrate a command of the theoretical and methodological issues related to the selected topic as a basis for pursuing research in a specific population of interest. The candidacy examination is viewed as a continuing step in the educational process, building on previous course work and leading to the dissertation proposal defense and the dissertation.

### **The Residency Course Sequence**

The residency course sequence is designed to prepare clinical research scholars who will develop, test, and implement innovations in health care delivery with the overall aim of improving health outcomes. During this sequence of courses (N7530, N7550, N7543, N7552) the student participates in interdisciplinary interactions, planning, and the development of a research problem. The student works with an interdisciplinary team of faculty mentors who have established practices and research programs. Courses in this sequence are taken concurrently with those in theory, and research. These theory-research-practice links provide the basis for the student to develop a dissertation topic clinically focused yet grounded in a strong theoretical base.

### **Dissertation Requirement**

For students completing a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD), an original research dissertation that constitutes a substantial contribution to the body of knowledge in nursing must be completed under the direction of a Dissertation Committee Chairperson, who is a member of the School of Nursing faculty.

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/prospstudent/phd/faculty.aspx>(faculty list);

<http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.aspx#>(dissertation program information).

Please refer to the dissertation handbook for more specific details, sample forms, and discussion of the two dissertation options.

### **PhD Student Academic Advisement Policy**

All doctoral students will be advised by a nursing faculty member. The student is assigned to an advisor upon admission to the program. The advisor continues with the student during the program of study as long as it is mutually agreeable between the student and advisor. The student's advisor may also serve on the mentorship team, candidacy committee, and dissertation committee. The student has the option to ask another eligible faculty member to assume the advisor role anytime during the program until the appointment of the Dissertation Committee. Upon the appointment of a Dissertation Committee, the Chairperson of the Dissertation Committee becomes the faculty advisor for the remainder of the program. If a student changes advisors, it is the student's responsibility to provide written notice to the present advisor, the Doctoral Program Coordinator, and the Office of Student Affairs.

### **Grading Policy – PhD Program**

For students admitted to the PhD Program Fall 2006 and thereafter, the grading system

is based on a letter grade system using A, B, C, D, & F. The criteria for determining grades and course requirements are described in each course syllabus.

### **Grading Scale**

90 – 100 = A  
80 - 89 = B  
70 - 79 = C  
60 - 69 = D  
0 - 59 = F

PhD students must maintain a 3.0 (B) cumulative average. A student will be placed on academic probation if her or his overall GPA fails below 3.0. Students must raise their GPA to 3.0 or above during the next semester of enrollment in required courses. A PhD student may be placed on probation for a maximum of three terms and remain in the PhD program. Students exceeding these limits will be dismissed from the program.

The symbol of “I” is reported when the student has not completed all the assignments for the course because of unavoidable circumstances. The “I” is valid for one semester following the course. To receive an “I”, a student must submit a request for an incomplete status to the instructor prior to the last class day of the course. Failure to remove an “I” prior to the end of the following semester will result in the student receiving an “F” in the course.

Any grade below a “B” (C, D, and F) is considered a failing grade. Courses must be repeated if a grade below a “B” is achieved in any course. If a grade below a “B” is received in any course, the student will be placed on academic probation. If a student receives a grade below a “B” in a course, the student is allowed to repeat the course one time. The academic probation will be removed after successful completion of the failed course. If a second grade below a “B” in the same course is earned, the student will be dismissed from the program. If a student receives two grades below a “B” in any two courses in the same or different semesters, the student will be dismissed from the program.

With the consent of the instructor, the symbol of “W” is given when a student wishes to withdraw from a course, up to and including the last day of class. If the student repeats a course, which the student has failed in the School of Nursing, the official grade is the last grade earned.

Courses transferred from other universities or schools must have a grade of B or above. All courses that will be applied to the PhD plan of study must have a grade of A, B, or P.

### **Time Limitations - PhD**

Students are required to complete all the requirements for the PhD degree within seven calendar years from the time of registration as a doctoral student. Students must be enrolled for the semester in which they complete their degree requirements.

### **Degree Requirements**

The program is a post-master’s curriculum comprised of 66 semester hours distributed as follows: residency course sequence, 12 hours (N7530, N7552, N7543, N7550); nursing theory, 3hours (N7501); research design and methods, 9 hours (N7540, N7541, and one elective course in research design or methods); biometry, 8 hours (N7505, or N7506); cognates taken outside the School to support the focus of the residency; candidacy exam, 1 hour, and dissertation, 12 hours; electives to support specific interests and goals of each student which may be taken within or outside the School, 9 hours; and dissertation, 12 hours. The electives and cognates taken must be at the graduate level. The cognates chosen should reflect the focus of the dissertation

research, should be taken outside the School of Nursing, and must be approved by the Dissertation Chairperson. The Advisor or the Dissertation Chairperson can approve electives.

### Sample Full-Time Degree Plan

#### Fall 1

N7501	Structure of Scientific Inquiry*	3
N7530	Analysis of the Context of Health Care*	3
N7505	Advanced Statistics for Clinical Research I	4

#### Spring 1

N7540	Advanced Research Designs & Methods I*	3
XXXXX	Cognate I**	3
N7506	Advanced Statistics for Clinical Research II	4

#### Summer 1

N7543	Inter-Professional Dimensions of Research*	3
XXXXX	Elective I**	3

#### Fall 2

N7541	Design of Measurement in Nursing Research & Practice*	3
N7542	Advanced Research Designs & Methods II*	3
XXXXX	Cognate II**	3

#### Spring 2

XXXXX	Research Methods Elective**	3
XXXXX	Cognate III**	3
N7550	Science-Based Practice*	3

#### Summer 2

N7590	Candidacy	1
XXXXX	Elective II**	3

#### Fall 3

N7552	Innovations in Practice*	3
N7600	Dissertation	6

#### Spring 3

XXXXX	Elective III**	3
N7600	Dissertation	6

**TOTAL 66**

\* Required courses are offered one time a year only.

\*\* These courses may be selected from offerings at UTHealth or other universities through enrollment agreements.

\*\*\* NOTE: The electives and cognates taken must be at the graduate level. The cognates chosen should reflect the focus of the dissertation research and should be taken outside the School of Nursing and must be approved by the Dissertation Chairperson. The Advisor or the Dissertation Chairperson can approve electives.

### Sample Part-Time Degree Plan

#### Fall I

N7501	Structure of Scientific Inquiry*	3
N7505	Advanced Statistics for Clinical Research I	4

#### Spring I

N7540	Advanced Research Designs & Methods I*	3
N7506	Advanced Statistics for Clinical Research II	4

#### Summer I

XXXXX	Elective I**	3
XXXXX	Elective II**	3

#### Fall II

N7542	Advanced Research Designs & Methods II	3
N7530	Analysis of the Context of Health Care*	3

#### Spring II

XXXXX	Elective III**	3
XXXXX	Cognate I**	3

(continued on next page)

<b>Summer II</b>		
N7543	Inter-professional Dimensions of Research*	3
XXXXX	Cognate II**	3
<b>Fall III</b>		
N7541	Measurement in Nursing Research & Practice*	3
XXXXX	Cognate III**	3
<b>Spring III</b>		
N7550	Science-Based Practice*	3
XXXXX	Advanced Research Methods Elective**	3
<b>Summer III</b>		
N7590	Candidacy	1-3
<b>Fall IV</b>		
N7552	Innovations in Practice*	3
<b>Spring IV</b>		
XXXXX	Dissertation	6
<b>Summer IV</b>		
N7600	Dissertation	6
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>

## Academic Requirements for PhD Progression

### The Semester Hour

One semester hour of credit is given for three clock hours per week of clinical experience, one clock hour per week of lecture, or two clock hours per week of seminar.

### Withdrawing from Courses

Students may withdraw from a course with the approval of the instructor at any time up to and including the last day of class in any semester. The symbol "W" is recorded to indicate a drop without prejudice and penalty;

On the recommendation of the instructor and with approval of the Dean, a student may be required to drop a course at any time because of neglect or for lack of preparation. Under such circumstances, the symbol "W" will be recorded.

### Full-time and Part-Time

A full-time graduate student is one who is registered for at least nine semester hours during the Fall and Spring semester, six hours during the 12-week summer session, or three semester hours during the six-week summer session. A part-time student is one who is registered for fewer hours than the stated requirement for full-time status.

### Withdrawal Requiring Application for Readmission

Students withdrawing from the School who wish to be considered for readmission must submit a written request to the Office of the Registrar (this excludes taking a semester for Inactive Status.)

### Inactive Status

A student in good standing who desires to take one semester off may do so without penalty. A student remaining out of the program for more than one semester must notify the Registrar's Office in writing when she/he wishes her/his file reactivated, and the student will be considered for readmission on an individual basis. Any student withdrawing or requesting inactive status must complete an Inactive Form, which may be found in the Student Affairs Office. This constitutes official inactivation.

## PhD Program Course Descriptions

*Course descriptions are not intended as an assurance or warranty of achievement of specific skills or knowledge*

NOTE:

- *Course numbers ending in “W” denote courses that are web-based or mainly online that may require some campus visits.*
- *Course numbers ending in “D” denote courses that are taught through distance education and include a distance education fee.*
- *Course numbers ending in “B” denote courses that are clinical and include additional fees.*

### **N7501 Structure of Scientific Inquiry**

This course provides the student with the underpinnings of scientific inquiry by examining the structure of science as it relates to the discipline of nursing. Ways of knowing are explored and analyzed. Components of theory, specifically concepts, laws, boundaries, and system states are analyzed. The philosophical underpinnings of qualitative and quantitative methods of scientific inquiry are discussed.

Prerequisite: PhD Standing

Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

### **N7501D Structure of Scientific Inquiry**

This course provides the student with the underpinnings of scientific inquiry by examining the structure of science as it relates to the discipline of nursing. Ways of knowing are explored and analyzed. Components of theory, specifically concepts, laws, boundaries, and system states are analyzed. The philosophical underpinnings of qualitative and quantitative methods of scientific inquiry are discussed.

Prerequisite: PhD Standing

Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

### **N7505 Advanced Statistics for Clinical Research I**

This course is the first part of a two-semester series on statistical methods for clinical research. This first course focuses on knowledge and application of univariate statistics and multivariable modeling using methods such as analysis of variance, generalized linear models, and survival analysis. Computer-based exercises using statistical software will give students applied experience with the statistical methods.

Prerequisite: Master's level statistics course

Four Semester Credits (Lecture 4)

### **N7505D Advanced Statistics for Clinical Research I**

This course is the first part of a two-semester series on statistical methods for clinical research. This first course focuses on knowledge and application of univariate statistics and multivariable modeling using methods such as analysis of variance, generalized linear models, and survival analysis. Computer-based exercises using statistical software will give students applied experience with the statistical methods.

Prerequisite: Master's level statistics course

Four Semester Credits (Lecture 4)

### **N7506 Advanced Statistics for Clinical Research II**

This course is the second part of a two-semester series on statistical methods for clinical research. This second course focuses on measurement problems, descriptive statistics, graphics, sampling distributions, hypotheses testing, and comparison of samples, non-parametric methods, and applications. Basic design issues are discussed as are ethical considerations in design and analysis.

Prerequisite: N7505

Four Semester Credits (Lecture 4)

**N7506D Advanced Statistics for Clinical Research II**

This course is the second part of a two-semester series on statistical methods for clinical research. This second course focuses on measurement problems, descriptive statistics, graphics, sampling distributions, hypotheses testing, and comparison of samples, non-parametric methods, and applications. Basic design issues are discussed as are ethical considerations in design and analysis.

Prerequisite: N7505  
Four Semester Credits (Lecture 4)

**N7521 Special Topics in Nursing**

Selected nursing topics covered vary from semester to semester based on student interest and faculty availability.

Prerequisite: PhD standing or permission of instructor  
One to Nine Variable Semester Credits: (Lecture TBD; Lab TBD; Clinical TBD)

**N7521E Evidenced-based Practice Principles**

This course provides the student with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skill in the principles of evidence-based practice that will assist in moving clinical practice to an evidence-based foundation. The course provides the student with the essential principles, skills and tools of evidence based nursing practice. The steps of evidence-based practice are presented. Special emphasis will be focused on formulating a question, searching and appraising the literature/evidence and how to use the best evidence. The course will also focus on the methods of assessing results relative to interventions, harm, diagnosis, prognosis and risk. The differentiation between evidence-based practice, quality improvement and research utilization will be presented. Principles for the advanced practitioner either in clinical practice or administration on how to stimulate and create an environment for the integration of evidence-based practice in both organization and clinical practice will be included.

Prerequisites: Graduate Level Statistics and Graduate Level Research  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7521D Evidenced-based Practice Principles**

This course provides the student with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skill in the principles of evidence-based practice that will assist in moving clinical practice to an evidence-based foundation. The course provides the student with the essential principles, skills and tools of evidence based nursing practice. The steps of evidence-based practice are presented. Special emphasis will be focused on formulating a question, searching and appraising the literature/evidence and how to use the best evidence. The course will also focus on the methods of assessing results relative to interventions, harm, diagnosis, prognosis and risk. The differentiation between evidence-based practice, quality improvement and research utilization will be presented. Principles for the advanced practitioner either in clinical practice or administration on how to stimulate and create an environment for the integration of evidence-based practice in both organization and clinical practice will be included.

Prerequisites: Graduate Level Statistics and Graduate Level Research  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7521D Special Topics in Nursing**

Selected nursing topics covered vary from semester to semester based on student interest and faculty availability.

Prerequisite: PhD standing or permission of instructor  
One to Nine Variable Semester Credits: (Lecture TBD; Lab TBD; Clinical TBD)

**N7522 Advanced Research Elective: Qualitative Data Collection**

This course focuses on qualitative research perspectives, methods, and techniques. The course is intended for students who have had some previous course work or experience related to qualitative research. This course provides opportunity for practical application on techniques used

in collecting qualitative data. The course stresses interview techniques, fieldwork including participant observation, and other forms of data collection. During this course students will engage in experiences gathering and initial analysis of interviews and fieldwork. Students will critique the methods and the quality data collected. The course will utilize both in-class didactic and seminar activities as well as on-line discussions. Students are expected to actively participate in discussions of class materials as well as critiques of each other's work. These discussions will take place in both the classroom and on-line. Students will apply course content to an research plan.

Prerequisites: Graduate status and some coursework or practical experience in qualitative methodologies

Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

#### **N7522D Advanced Research Elective: Qualitative Data Collection**

This course focuses on qualitative research perspectives, methods, and techniques. The course is intended for students who have had some previous course work or experience related to qualitative research. This course provides opportunity for practical application on techniques used in collecting qualitative data. The course stresses interview techniques, fieldwork including participant observation, and other forms of data collection. During this course students will engage in experiences gathering and initial analysis of interviews and fieldwork. Students will critique the methods and the quality data collected. The course will utilize both in-class didactic and seminar activities as well as on-line discussions. Students are expected to actively participate in discussions of class materials as well as critiques of each other's work. These discussions will take place in both the classroom and on-line. Students will apply course content to an research plan.

Prerequisites: Graduate status and some coursework or practical experience in qualitative methodologies

Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

#### **N7523 Advanced Research Elective: Qualitative Data Analysis**

This course examines qualitative research perspectives, methods, and techniques and focuses on specific approaches for qualitative data analysis. This course is designed to build on previous coursework or experience related to qualitative inquiry. This course provides opportunity for practical application on techniques used in analyzing qualitative data. Descriptive approaches and structural approaches are explored. Emphasis is placed on maintaining rigor in the analytic process. Students perform and critique textual analysis and apply coding and classification techniques for managing, organizing and interpreting data. The course aims to develop critical, reflexive analytic skills. Students apply course content to a research plan.

Prerequisites: N7522 Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods, N7540 and N7542 recommended.

Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

#### **N7523D Advanced Research Elective: Qualitative Data Analysis**

This course examines qualitative research perspectives, methods, and techniques and focuses on specific approaches for qualitative data analysis. This course is designed to build on previous coursework or experience related to qualitative inquiry. This course provides opportunity for practical application on techniques used in analyzing qualitative data. Descriptive approaches and structural approaches are explored. Emphasis is placed on maintaining rigor in the analytic process. Students perform and critique textual analysis and apply coding and classification techniques for managing, organizing and interpreting data. The course aims to develop critical, reflexive analytic skills. Students apply course content to a research plan.

Prerequisites: N7522 Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods, N7540 and N7542 recommended.

Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7524 Health Disparities Education, Awareness, Research and Training Consortium (HDEART)**

More than 20 years of research demonstrate that there are wide disparities in health throughout America. Health disparities are differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions that exist when specific population subgroups are compared. This course will examine the social and societal factors that are fundamental in creating disparities in health. The course will focus on the formulation of public policy objectives to reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7524D Health Disparities Education, Awareness, Research and Training Consortium (HDEART)**

More than 20 years of research demonstrate that there are wide disparities in health throughout America. Health disparities are differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions that exist when specific population subgroups are compared. This course will examine the social and societal factors that are fundamental in creating disparities in health. The course will focus on the formulation of public policy objectives to reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7525 Biobehavioral interactions in Research**

This course is designed to provide an overview of biobehavioral interactions among psychosocial, behavioral, environmental, and individual factors and biological responses in relation to health and health-related outcomes. The course content is focused on a review of selective biobehavioral theories and conceptual models, in-depth exploration and critical analysis of current biobehavioral interaction research, discussions on conceptual and methodological issues, effectiveness of selective non-pharmacological interventions on biobehavioral and health outcomes, and future directions for research in this area.

Pre and Co-requisites: N7501, N7540, or permission of the instructor  
Three Semester Credits: (Contract Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7525D Biobehavioral interactions in Research**

This course is designed to provide an overview of biobehavioral interactions among psychosocial, behavioral, environmental, and individual factors and biological responses in relation to health and health-related outcomes. The course content is focused on a review of selective biobehavioral theories and conceptual models, in-depth exploration and critical analysis of current biobehavioral interaction research, discussions on conceptual and methodological issues, effectiveness of selective non-pharmacological interventions on biobehavioral and health outcomes, and future directions for research in this area.

Pre and Co-requisites: N7501, N7540, or permission of the instructor  
Three Semester Credits: (Contract Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7526 Biological Laboratory Practicum for Biobehavioral Research**

This course is designed to provide basic laboratory skills training for performing a biological assay (e.g., enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) and related activities. This practicum will assist student learners to collect and store biological samples in an appropriate manner and perform the assay to generate quality-controlled biological data for biobehavioral and related research. The course content will focus on laboratory and clinical safety, sample (e.g., saliva and blood) collection and storage, and substantial skills training for performing and interpreting the data of a biological assay with quality control.

Pre and Co-requisites: N7501, N7540, N7541 or permission of the instructor  
Three Semester Credits: (Contract Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

### **N7526D Biological Laboratory Practicum for Biobehavioral Research**

This course is designed to provide basic laboratory skills training for performing a biological assay (e.g., enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) and related activities. This practicum will assist student learners to collect and store biological samples in an appropriate manner and perform the assay to generate quality-controlled biological data for biobehavioral and related research. The course content will focus on laboratory and clinical safety, sample (e.g., saliva and blood) collection and storage, and substantial skills training for performing and interpreting the data of a biological assay with quality control.

Pre and Co-requisites: N7501, N7540, N7541 or permission of the instructor  
Three Semester Credits (Contract Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

### **N7530 Analysis of the Context of Health Care**

Elements of the context of health care for identified populations will be analyzed. Among these elements are the environmental, social and policy factors impacting the health of the identified population, the systems available to provide health care to that population, the impact of health policy and health care financing on utilization of care, and issues associated with access, cost, quality and outcomes of health care.

Prerequisite: PhD Standing  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Seminar 2, Clinical 6)

### **N7530D Analysis of the Context of Health Care**

Elements of the context of health care for identified populations will be analyzed. Among these elements are the environmental, social and policy factors impacting the health of the identified population, the systems available to provide health care to that population, the impact of health policy and health care financing on utilization of care, and issues associated with access, cost, quality and outcomes of health care.

Prerequisite: PhD Standing  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Seminar 2, Clinical 6)

### **N7540 Advanced Research Designs and Methods I**

This is the first course in a two-course series on advanced design and methods in nursing research. A variety of research design and methods for population-based and clinical studies are analyzed, critiqued, and proposed. In the first course, observational (non-experimental) research designs are examined. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches are included.

Prerequisite: N7501  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

### **N7540D Advanced Research Designs and Methods I**

This is the first course in a two-course series on advanced design and methods in nursing research. A variety of research design and methods for population-based and clinical studies are analyzed, critiqued, and proposed. In the first course, observational (non-experimental) research designs are examined. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches are included.

Prerequisite: N7501  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

### **N7541 Application of Measurement Theory to Biomedical and Health Science Research**

In this course, the student will survey measurement theories and analyze measurement strategies for biomedical and health science research. The course will encompass the selection and evaluation of appropriate measures and development of a proposal for establishing evidence for biometric and/or psychometric performance of the selected instrument(s).

Prerequisites: N7501, N7505 or Statistics Equivalent, N7506 or Statistics Equivalent, N7540  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7541D Application of Measurement Theory to Biomedical and Health Science Research**

In this course, the student will survey measurement theories and analyze measurement strategies for biomedical and health science research. The course will encompass the selection and evaluation of appropriate measures and development of a proposal for establishing evidence for biometric and/or psychometric performance of the selected instrument(s).

Prerequisites: N7501, N7505 or Statistics Equivalent, N7506 or Statistics Equivalent, N7540  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7542 Advanced Research Designs and Methods II**

This is the second course in a two-course series on advanced design and methods in nursing research. A variety of designs and methods for population-based and clinical studies are analyzed, critiqued, and proposed. In the second course, the emphasis is on experimental designs and methods and studies that use both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Students are provided opportunities to synthesize content and skills acquired in both courses in the development of a research proposal.

Prerequisites: N7501, N7540  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7542D Advanced Research Designs and Methods II**

This is the second course in a two-course series on advanced design and methods in nursing research. A variety of designs and methods for population-based and clinical studies are analyzed, critiqued, and proposed. In the second course, the emphasis is on experimental designs and methods and studies that use both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Students are provided opportunities to synthesize content and skills acquired in both courses in the development of a research proposal.

Prerequisites: N7501, N7540  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7543 Inter-professional Dimensions of Research**

Content in this required course focuses on analyzing the contributions of multiple disciplines to the student's development of a science based model to guide their research. Students will conduct a systematic review of the literature to determine gaps in the state of the science for their area for research. Students will also analyze the implications of inter-professional collaboration as it relates to conducting research and translating research to practice. This course will culminate with the development of a state of the science paper and research model that will provide direction for their research trajectory.

Prerequisite: N7530  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7543D Inter-professional Dimensions of Research**

Content in this required course focuses on analyzing the contributions of multiple disciplines to the student's development of a science based model to guide their research. Students will conduct a systematic review of the literature to determine gaps in the state of the science for their area for research. Students will also analyze the implications of inter-professional collaboration as it relates to conducting research and translating research to practice. This course will culminate with the development of a state of the science paper and research model that will provide direction for their research trajectory.

Prerequisite: N7530  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

**N7550 Science-based Nursing Practice**

This course builds on previous nursing coursework that includes identification of a population of interest and development of an interdisciplinary practice model. The course provides an opportunity for students to explore the relationships between clinical practice and research. Students explore the research questions, theoretical models, research designs, and ethical issues critical to maintaining a science-based nursing practice in an identified area of practice.

Students are guided through a process of developing a proposal to study a clinically relevant problem, identifying preliminary work that needs to be completed prior to beginning the study, and completing an application to the UTHealth Institutional Review Board.

Prerequisites: N7501, N7530, N7540, N7541, N7542, N7543, N7505 or Statistic Equivalent, N7506 or Statistic Equivalent  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

### **N7550D Science-based Nursing Practice**

This course builds on previous nursing coursework that includes identification of a population of interest and development of an interdisciplinary practice model. The course provides an opportunity for students to explore the relationships between clinical practice and research. Students explore the research questions, theoretical models, research designs, and ethical issues critical to maintaining a science-based nursing practice in an identified area of practice. Students are guided through a process of developing a proposal to study a clinically relevant problem, identifying preliminary work that needs to be completed prior to beginning the study, and completing an application to the UTHealth Institutional Review Board.

Prerequisites: N7501, N7530, N7540, N7541, N7542, N7543, N7505 or Statistic Equivalent, N7506 or Statistic Equivalent  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Lecture 3)

### **N7552 Innovations in Practice**

This course extends the content and experience of the previous practice courses. The student's science-based model will be implemented and evaluated while collecting pilot data for the proposed dissertation research. The practice experiences will continue and include the conduct of pilot research with the population and environment of interest.

Prerequisites: N7501, N7530, N7550, N7540, N7541, N7543  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Seminar 2; Clinical 6)

### **N7552D Innovations in Practice**

This course extends the content and experience of the previous practice courses. The student's science-based model will be implemented and evaluated while collecting pilot data for the proposed dissertation research. The practice experiences will continue and include the conduct of pilot research with the population and environment of interest.

Prerequisites: N7501, N7530, N7550, N7540, N7541, N7543  
Three Semester Credits (Contact Hours per Week: Seminar 2; Clinical 6)

### **N7590 Candidacy Examination**

The candidacy examination serves as a basis for determining the student's readiness for pursuing dissertation research. The student should demonstrate a command of the theoretical and methodological issues related to the selected topic as a basis for pursuing research in a specific population of interest. The candidacy examination is viewed as a continuing step in the educational process building on previous course work leading to the dissertation proposal defense and the dissertation.

Prerequisites: N7501, N7530, N7540, N7541, N7542, N7543, N7550, N7505 or Statistics Equivalent, N7506 or Statistics Equivalent  
One-Three Semester Variable Credit (Contact Hours per Week: TBD)

### **N7600 Dissertation**

An original research dissertation that constitutes a substantial contribution to the body of knowledge in nursing is completed under the direction of a Dissertation Committee Chairperson, who is a member of the School of Nursing faculty. Dissertation topics are directed toward development of knowledge relevant to nursing practice interventions, client populations, and their health and health problems and outcomes of health care interventions.

Prerequisites: N7501, N7530, N7540, N7541, N7542, N7543, N7550, N7552, N7505 or Statistics Equivalent, N7506 or Statistics Equivalent. Successful completion of candidacy examination, nine semester credit hours of electives and nine semester credit hours of cognates.

One-Twelve Variable Semester Credits  
(Contact Hours per Week: TBD)

**N7700 Independent Study in Nursing**

This course allows the student an opportunity to pursue a detailed in-depth study in a specific topic area. The topic and mode of study for the course must be agreed upon by the student and instructor.

Prerequisites: PhD standing or permission of instructor

One-Six Semester Variable Credits: (Lecture TBD; Lab TBD; Clinical TBD)

## **Doctor of Nursing Practice Program**

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a practice doctorate that prepares advanced practice nurses and nurse managers/directors to be clinical scholars and nurse executives recognized for translational science, outstanding innovative evidence-based patient/population care and leadership in nursing practice and health care delivery. The DNP program is a post-masters program that admits nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, and nurse managers. Students are admitted once a year in the fall. The DNP curriculum is comprehensive, with flexibility in the course scheduling. The program includes 32-43 credit hours.

In order to meet the needs of working advanced practice nurses and nurse managers, classes are scheduled in blocks of intense instruction to minimize travel and impact on work schedules. Students attend classes two days each month (Thursdays and Fridays only) and also engage in on-line learning activities. Most students enroll in two courses each semester. The course work can be completed through a part-time or full-time program of study. Students can complete the program in five to eight semesters. Individualized clinical and fellowship experiences are planned to support the student's goals and achievement of the national DNP competencies.

### **Nurse Executive Curriculum**

Leadership is critical to the redesign and execution of a new healthcare system to meet societal needs for health care. The DNP Program prepares nurse managers/directors to shape and influence the preferred future in health care. Graduates of the nurse executive program are prepared for high-level executive leadership positions in organizations and systems to advance the quality and cost effectiveness of care and outcomes for populations and communities through innovative evidence-based practices and resource management.

### **Nurse Anesthesia Curriculum**

The changing demands of the healthcare environment require that nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) have the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise currently available. Nurse anesthetists are an integral part of healthcare delivery and provide critical access services to tertiary medical centers, community hospitals, and rural areas. The DNP program provides education in evidence-based practice, quality improvement, systems leadership and research application methods that lead to improved clinical anesthesia outcomes in complex systems.

### **Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist Curriculum**

The dynamic healthcare environment and opportunities for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to lead translational research into practice, to design new models of care and practice at the individual and population level requires doctorally prepared clinical scholars to assume these positions. The DNP program provides innovative preparation in translational science, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, systems leadership, and research application methods to support high level quality and safety health outcomes for patients, populations, and organizations.

Each DNP student is assigned an advisor (faculty mentor) at the time of enrollment in the DNP program. The advisor is selected based on clinical expertise and interest congruent with the student's area of interest. The advisor and DNP student complete a degree plan and outline the individualized preceptorship and fellowship experiences based on the student's interest and professional goals. The advisor also supervises the development of components of the Clinical Scholarship Portfolio (CSP). The CSP, the dissertation equivalent for the DNP program, is a collection of required components that demonstrates a student's scholarship as a clinical scholar practicing at the highest level

of advanced practice or nursing administration; it provides evidence of competency in all domains of DNP practice. The CSP includes a major Practice Inquiry Project, comprehensive cases studies, and other examples of scholarly work related to the competencies outlined in the DNP Essentials.

### **Program Objectives**

Upon completion of the Doctor of Nursing (DNP) program graduates will be prepared to:

- Critically evaluate and translate evidence into practice to support high quality outcomes.
  - Practice at the highest level of advanced practice nursing or nursing administration providing expanded health care access to individuals, groups, populations, and communities to address complex health care needs.
  - Critically evaluate and translate evidence into practice to ensure patient safety and achieve high quality outcomes.
  - Utilize evidence-based knowledge, research, ethical standards, technology, and high level clinical judgment to advance quality of care and health outcomes for individuals and populations.
- Use leadership and interprofessional collaboration skills to deliver safe, effective comprehensive, seamless, and cost-effective care.
  - Assume high-level clinical and executive leadership roles in nursing, health care organizations, and other health related settings.
  - Demonstrate achievement of all DNP competencies as published by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.
- Evaluate and influence health care policies, organizations, and systems.
  - Utilize evidence-based knowledge, research, ethical standards, technology, and high- level clinical judgment to advance quality of care and health outcomes for individuals and populations.
  - Design and evaluate innovative programs and models of care for individuals and populations, based on best science and evidence, which address prevention, health promotion, treatment, and management of health needs.
  - Integrate quality improvement and translational science and strategies to create and sustain change at the population, organization, and policy levels.

### **Application Deadline**

Students are admitted to the DNP program in the Fall semester only. To be considered for admission to the DNP Program, completed applications must be received in the Office of the Registrar by April 01. However, applications are accepted throughout the year for admission to the next entering class.

### **Admission to the DNP Program**

#### **Admission Criteria**

The School of Nursing considers the totality of each application and gives importance to the following factors:

- Intellectual capacity, based on consideration of the overall collegiate GPA; standardized test scores (GRE, TOEFL); academic awards and honors; scholarly accomplishments; degree of difficulty of previous academic programs; pre-professional evaluations; personal interview; and any other relevant data submitted;

- Interpersonal and communication skills, i.e., evidence of being well-written and well-spoken exemplified by standardized test scores in verbal abilities; any other relevant considerations that the student may present;
- Community service, as evidenced by extracurricular activities, membership and leadership in organizations, volunteer, and humanitarian services;
- Awareness and direct knowledge of cultural elements' impact on healthcare;
- Breadth and depth of nursing and other experiences, based on consideration of factors in the record reflecting a combination of a strong scientific background and an ability to understand the complex problems facing health care providers and patients, e.g., ethical or socioeconomic problems;
- Potential for service to the State of Texas, with consideration given to Texas residency; applicant's goals for the future; cultural/socioeconomic status; race/ethnicity; potential for future provision of health services to underserved areas or needed specialties; linguistic skills appropriate to the Health Professions Shortage Area to which the applicant wishes to serve;
- Motivation, with consideration given to success in overcoming adverse economic or educational conditions; employment history; participation in activities requiring time management skills; experience in health-related activities;
- Integrity, with consideration given to any academic integrity violation; conduct or disciplinary problems in college and/or the workplace;
- Technical standards, related to observation, communication, timeliness of psychomotor skills, intellectual and cognitive abilities, behavioral and social attributes; and
- Ethical standards, related to personal and professional demeanor and behavior.

### **Doctor of Nursing Practice Application Process**

Applicants should submit the following information to the Office of the Registrar (unless otherwise noted):

- A completed application for admission.
- A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee
- One official copy of a transcript from each institution attended. (If attended any UTHealth school, an official transcript is not necessary. Electronic submission preferred. Transcript(s) should show:
  - A Baccalaureate degree in nursing earned from a nationally accredited program.
  - A master's degree or post-masters certificate as an advanced practice nurse (clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner or nurse anesthetist) or nurse leadership (or equivalent) from a nationally accredited program with a GPA of 3.0 or above.
  - A completed graduate level statistics course within the last 5 years with a grade of B or higher.
  - A completed graduate level nursing or equivalent research course within the last 5 years with a grade of B or higher.
  - Evidence of epidemiology content integrated into a course or as a separate course.
- Three (3) letters of reference attesting to the applicant's academic ability and potential for doctoral study (including one reference from a professional colleague and one from a faculty member).
- If an international applicant, one official copy of TOEFL score. TOEFL scores can be no more than two years old. A minimum score of 550 is required on the paper exam, a minimum score of 213 on the computer-based exam, or a minimum score of 86 on the internet-based exam.
- If an international applicant with degrees earned outside the U.S, a course-by-course evaluation of international credentials is required by Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE).

- For advanced practice nurses, eligibility or approval to practice as an advanced practice nurse by the Texas Board of Nursing.
- For advanced practice nurses, current certification by a nationally recognized credentialing organization in the advanced practice role.
- Documentation of a minimum of one year work experience in the advanced practice role.
- A 500-word typed statement of area of practice interest, career goals, and reasons for desiring doctoral study. Email to [soninfo@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:soninfo@uth.tmc.edu) or mail to Student Affairs Office, Attn: Admissions, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 6901 Bertner Avenue, Houston, Texas 77030.
- A curriculum vita that documents practice experience, professional activities, and presentations/publications.
- Qualified applicants will be interviewed by faculty members to provide an opportunity to assess whether the program interfaces with applicant's educational needs and career goals.

**Additional Requirements (if admitted into program):**

- Acceptance into the DNP program is contingent upon successful completion of a content or a course in epidemiology, a graduate level statistic, in addition to requirements applicable to all students. For students who do not have the required pre-requisite courses (e.g. epidemiology, statistics, research) there are opportunities to meet these requirements before enrollment in the DNP program.

**Applicant Selection**

The Doctor of Nursing Council will make the selection of applicants who will be offered admission into the program. Evaluation of all the available information is considered in the final decision for acceptance into the program.

All applicants will be notified in writing whether they have been accepted into the DNP program. Admission into the program is applicable only to the semester for which the applicant applied. If the student does not enroll in that semester, the applicant will need to reapply for future consideration.

**Full Admission**

The DNP Council may grant full admission after evaluation of the applicant's record. This category applies to an applicant that meets all admission requirements.

**Conditional Admission**

The DNP Council may grant conditional admission after evaluation of the applicant's record. This category applies to an applicant who does not meet requirements for full admission. A 3.0 cumulative grade point average for the first nine semester hours is required to continue in the program.

**Provisional Admission**

Provisional admission may be granted to applicants who have not completed all the requirements for admission (e.g. prerequisite courses). These applicants are required to complete and submit evidence of completion of all requirements for full or conditional admission during the first term of enrollment in order to continue in the program.

As soon as the entering student receives the registration materials in the mail, she/he should contact the DNP Coordinator to develop a degree plan. See DNP policies regarding degree plans at: <http://son.uth.tmc.edu/acadaff/>.

**Transfer of Credits**

A student may request transfer of graduate course credits earned at other universities

for application toward The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston DNP program. Regulations for transfer of credits are as follows:

1. The course must clearly relate to the student's approved program of study and match course content.
2. A total of six semester hours taken prior to admission may be eligible for transfer from accredited institutions outside The University of Texas System. After the student is enrolled in the program, eligibility will be assessed.
3. Substitution for a required course in The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston's graduate programs must be approved by the student's faculty advisor and coordinator of the DNP Program.
4. A course grade of "A" or "B" must have been earned to be eligible for transfer into the DNP program.
5. The course may not be transferred if it was used to apply to another completed degree program.
6. All courses must be graduate level courses for eligibility for transfer.

### **Courses Taken in Other University of Texas System Institutions**

All students who have been admitted to the DNP Program and who plan to take courses applicable to a nursing degree in a University of Texas System component other than the School of Nursing must obtain approval from their advisor prior to taking such courses. A transcript must be sent to the Registrar's Office immediately upon the completion of the course(s).

### **Clinical Scholarship Portfolio**

The Clinical Scholarship Portfolio (CSP) is a collection of required components that demonstrates a student's scholarship as a clinical scholar practicing at the highest level of advanced practice nursing. The CSP is evidence of competency in all domains of doctoral level practice. Submission of an acceptable CSP is a requirement for completion of the DNP program and graduation.

### **Placement in Program**

Upon successful completion of first semester course work and by no later than the end of the second semester, the student will be assigned to a faculty advisor for CSP by the Coordinator of the DNP program with recommendations from the DNP Council. The advisor will be selected based on clinical practice expertise congruent with the student's area of clinical interest.

### **Advisement Process**

The CSP advisor and student will meet to discuss strategies and a timeline for developing CSP components. Other faculty or clinical preceptors may be included to assist in mentoring the student for select components of the CSP. Guidelines for the various CSP components will be reviewed. A written plan is developed to serve as a guide. The student and portfolio advisor will meet periodically to review the progress of the CSP.

### **Approval of Clinical Scholarship Portfolio**

An acceptable CSP is a requirement for completion of the DNP program and graduation. Once the CSP advisor approves the portfolio, it is forwarded to the coordinator of the DNP program. A panel will be assigned by the DNP coordinator to review the CSP. The review panel will consist of two faculty members with appropriate clinical expertise who will review the CSP for scholarship. The panel will recommend approval, need for revision, or rejection of the CSP to the DNP Council. The DNP Council will make the final decision regarding acceptance of the CSP by a 2/3 majority vote.

## Clinical Scholarship Portfolio

There are three scheduled N6830 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio (CSP) Advisement credits scheduled in the degree plan. However, a student will continue to enroll in N6830 until the CSP is completed.

The student will submit a completed portfolio within one year of registration for N6870A. In order to maintain student status, the student will register for Clinical Portfolio Advisement (CSP) for one credit for each semester thereafter until the CSP is completed and approved.

## Prerequisite Courses for DNP Program

A prerequisite for acceptance into the DNP program is a two-three credit graduate level statistics course and epidemiology content or the one-credit on-line epidemiology course offered by School of Nursing.

## Doctor of Science in Nursing Programs

The DNP program is a post-master's program which admits nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, and nurse executives. Students have the following three options from which to choose:

- *DNP for Post MSN Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists*
- *DNP for Post MSN Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists*
- *DNP for Post MSN Nurse Executive*

## DNP for Post MSN Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists

### FALL – YEAR 1

N6801	Scholarly Foundations of Advanced Practice	3
N6803	Population Health and Health Outcomes	3

### SPRING – YEAR 1

N6807	Evidence-Based Practice Principles	3
N6820	Comparative Effectiveness Research	3

### SUMMER – YEAR 1

N6808	Translational Science	3
NXXXX	Elective	3

### FALL – YEAR 2

N6802	Ethics and Health Policy	3
N6847	Organizations and Systems Leadership	3
N6830	Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement	1

### SPRING – YEAR 2

N6842A	Advanced Management of Complex Health Conditions	2
N6840B	DNP Preceptorship I	2
N6830	Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement	1

### SUMMER – YEAR 2

N6841B	DNP Preceptorship II	2
N6845	Practice Management	2

### FALL – YEAR 3

N6860A	DNP Advanced Seminar I	2
N6860B	DNP Fellowship I	2
N6830	Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement	1

### SPRING – YEAR 3

N6870A	DNP Advanced Seminar II	2
N6870B	DNP Fellowship II	2

**TOTAL CREDITS 43**

**DNP for Post MSN Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists****FALL – YEAR 1**

N6801	Scholarly Foundations of Advanced Practice	3
N6802	Ethics and Health Policy	3

**SPRING – YEAR 1**

N6807	Evidence-Based Practice Principles	3
N6820	Comparative Effectiveness Research	3
N6830	Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement	1

**SUMMER – YEAR 1**

N6808	Translational Science	3
NXXXX	Elective	3
N6830	Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement	1

**FALL – YEAR 2**

N6847	Organizations and Systems Leadership	3
N6860A	DNP Advanced Seminar I	2
N6860B	DNP Fellowship I	2
N6830	Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement	1

**SPRING – YEAR 2**

N6870A	DNP Advanced Seminar II	2
N6870B	DNP Fellowship II	2

**TOTAL CREDITS 32****DNP for Post MSN Nurse Executives****FALL – YEAR 1**

N6801	Scholarly Foundations of Advanced Practice	3
N6847	Organizations and Systems Leadership	3

**SPRING – YEAR 1**

N6807	Evidence-Based Practice Principles	3
N6820	Comparative Effectiveness Research	3

**SUMMER – YEAR 1**

N6808	Translational Science	3
N6850	Nurse Executive I	2
N6830	Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement	1

**FALL – YEAR 2**

N6802	Ethics and Health Policy	3
NXXXX	Elective	
N6830	Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement	1

**SPRING – YEAR 2**

N6851	Nurse Executive II	2
N6840C	DNP Preceptorship I for Nurse Executives	2
N6830	Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement	1

**SUMMER – YEAR 2**

N6852	Nurse Executive III	2
N6841C	DNP Preceptorship II for Nurse Executives	2

**FALL – YEAR 3**

N6860A	DNP Advanced Seminar I	2
N6860B	DNP Fellowship I	2

**SPRING – YEAR 3**

N6870A	DNP Advanced Seminar II	2
N6870B	DNP Fellowship II	2

**TOTAL CREDITS 42**

## **Degree Plan**

Each DNP student will be assigned an academic advisor at the time of admission to the DNP program. The student and the academic advisor will complete a degree plan to specify which courses are to be taken to complete the degree requirements. Both student and advisor will sign the completed plan, which will then be filed in the Student Affairs Office. The student is expected to follow the degree plan. It is the student's responsibility to submit any revision to the degree plan to the Student Affairs Office after approval of the advisor.

## **Academic Advisement Policy**

All DNP students are advised by a DNP faculty member throughout the program. The student is assigned an academic advisor upon admission to the program. The academic advisor provides academic advisement, assists the student in the transition into the DNP program, and helps to identify a faculty member who will become the Clinical Scholarship Portfolio (CSP) advisor. The academic advisor may also serve as the CSP advisor. Selection of a CSP advisor is based on a match of the student's clinical interest with that of the faculty member and a mutual interest in working together through development and acceptance of the CSP.

Once the CSP advisor is identified, the student and faculty member complete the CSP Advisor Form. The form is sent to the DNP program coordinator.

Upon the appointment of the CSP advisor, the CSP advisor becomes the student's academic advisor for the remainder of the program. If a student wishes to change advisors, approval of the DNP Council is required. This request is addressed through the DNP Coordinator. It is the student's responsibility to notify, in writing, the present advisor and the Student Affairs Office of any change.

The transition from the academic advisor to the CSP advisor should occur not later than the end of the Spring semester of the first year of the program.

## **Grading Policy – Doctoral Program**

The grading system for the DNP Program in the School of Nursing is based on a letter grade system using A, B, C, D, and F. The criteria for determining grades and course requirements are described in each course syllabus.

### **Grading Scale**

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

Below 60 = F

Students must earn a grade of "B" or better to pass a course. If a grade below "B" is attained in any course, the student will be placed on probation and will need to retake the course the next time that it is offered. If the student does not achieve a "B" or higher upon the next attempt, she or he will be ineligible to continue in the program and will be withdrawn from the program.

DNP students must maintain a 3.0 (B) cumulative average. A student will be placed on academic probation if her or his overall GPA fails below 3.0. Students must raise their GPA to 3.0 or above in required courses during the next semester of enrollment. A DNP student with full admission status may be placed on probation for a maximum of three terms and remain in the DNP program. Students exceeding these limits will be withdrawn from the program.

The symbol of “I” (Incomplete) is reported when the student has not completed all the assignments for the course. The incomplete is valid for one semester following the course. To receive an incomplete, a student must submit a request for an incomplete status to the instructor prior to the last class day of the course to request an incomplete. Failure to convert an incomplete prior to the end of the following semester will result in the student receiving an “F” in the course.

Any grade below a “B” (e.g. C, D, and F) is considered a failing grade. Courses must be repeated if a grade below a “B” is achieved in any course. If a grade below a “B” is received in any course or any required course, the student will be placed on academic probation. If a student receives a grade below a “B” in a course, the student shall be permitted to repeat the course one time. The academic probation will be removed after successful completion of the failed course. If a second grade below a “B” in the same course is earned; the student will be academically withdrawn from the program. If a student receives two grades below a “B” in any two courses in the same or different semesters, the student will be academically withdrawn from the program.

With the consent of the instructor, the symbol of “W” is given when a student wishes to withdraw from a course, up to and including the last day of class. If the student repeats a course that the student has failed in the School of Nursing, the official grade is the last grade earned.

Courses transferred from other universities or schools must have a grade of B or above. All courses that will be applied to the DNP plan of study must have a grade of A, B, or “P.”

### **Graduation Policy**

The following outlines requirements for eligibility to graduate:

- Complete the required credit hours as outlined for the DNP program
- Earn a grade of “B” in all required courses;
- Successfully complete the comprehensive examination;
- Submit the approved Clinical Scholarship Portfolio according to the established time line;
- Apply for graduation on myUTH prior to the deadline established each term;
- Be enrolled during the term of graduation;
- Pay required graduation fees;
- Clear all designated services on the clearance form; and
- Complete the DNP curriculum within five years from admission or have been granted an extension.

### **Time Limitations - DNP**

Students are required to complete all the requirements for DNP degree within five calendar years from the time of registration as a DNP student at the School. A student must be enrolled continuously until and including the semester in which she/he graduates.

If a student does not complete all requirements for graduation within the five-calendar year time frame, she/he must petition the DNP Council to request a onetime extension of up to one calendar year. The DNP Council may grant the request if there have been extenuating circumstances preventing the student from completing the program.

A student must also be enrolled in the semester in which she/he completes the degree requirements.

## **Academic Requirements for DNP Progression**

### **The Semester Hour**

One semester hour of credit is given for three clock hours per week of clinical experience, one clock hour per week of lecture, or two clock hours per week of seminar.

### **Withdrawing from Courses**

Students may withdraw from a course with the approval of the instructor at any time up to and including the last day of class in any semester. The symbol "W" is recorded to indicate a drop without prejudice and penalty;

On the recommendation of the instructor and with approval of the Dean, a student may be required to drop a course at any time because of neglect or for lack of preparation. Under such circumstances, the symbol "W" will be recorded.

### **Full-time and Part-Time**

A full-time graduate student is one who is registered for at least nine semester hours during the Fall and Spring semester, six hours during the 12-week summer session, or three semester hours during the six-week summer session. A part-time student is one who is registered for fewer hours than the stated requirement for full-time status.

### **Grade Grievance Procedure**

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades or evaluations, it is the student's obligation first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the faculty member with whom the grievance originated. Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. The faculty member's judgment is final unless compelling evidence suggests discrimination, differential treatment, or error.

If the evidence warrants appeal, the student must submit a request in writing within five working days of the first day of the following term, with supporting evidence to the appropriate Department Chairperson. The Chairperson, upon receipt of the request, will review the case and submit a written recommendation to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. If the conflict is with the Department Chair, the grievance will be submitted to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will review the Department Chairperson's recommendation and may request a meeting with the student. After meeting with the student, the Associate Dean will review all the information and send the student a written notification of determination. The appeal process will be completed in a maximum of ten working days.

Should the student request further appeal, the student must inform the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in writing that he/she wishes to appeal. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will submit a written request to the Dean. The determination of the Dean is final, and there is no further appeal. Any grade grievance must be resolved no later than the succeeding term.

### **Withdrawal Requiring Application for Readmission**

Students withdrawing from the School who wish to be considered for readmission must submit a written request to the Registrar's Office. (This excludes taking a semester for Inactive Status.)

### **Inactive Status**

A student in good standing who desires to take one semester off may do so without penalty. A student remaining out of the program for more than one semester must notify

the Registrar's Office in writing when she/he wishes her/his file reactivated, and the student will be considered for readmission on an individual basis. Any student withdrawing or requesting inactive status must complete an Inactive Form, which may be found in the Student Affairs Office. This constitutes official inactivation.

### **Student Responsibility**

The student is held responsible for knowing degree requirements and enrolling for courses that fulfill the degree program. Students are also held responsible for knowing the School of Nursing's regulations in regard to the standard of work required for continuance in the DNP Program.

The policies and procedures for the DNP program may be found on the web at <https://nursing.uth.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/programpolicies.htm>

Policies and procedures which apply to all students in the School of Nursing may be found on the web at <https://nursing.uth.edu/acaddept/academicaffairs/schoolpolicies.htm>

### **DNP Program Course Descriptions**

*Course descriptions are not intended as an assurance or warranty of achievement of specific skills or knowledge*

#### **NOTE:**

- *Course numbers ending in "W" denote courses that are web-based or mainly online that may require some campus visits.*
- *Course numbers ending in "D" denote courses that are taught through distance education and include a distance education fee.*
- *Course numbers ending in "B" denote courses that are clinical and include additional fees.*

#### **N6801 Scholarly Foundations for Advanced Practice**

This foundational course focuses on analyzing DNP competencies, role, and scholarship as the foundation for scholarly practice at the DNP level. The foundations of science and scientific inquiry are explored including the epistemological and ontological bases for scientific methods, theory, and knowledge. The scientific literature is examined to increase understanding of design and statistical analysis for building science and application to practice. Sources of evidence for practice are investigated. The theoretical bases for practice, including nursing and borrowed theories are analyzed for application to practice. Evidence based practice, leadership, innovation/change, and interprofessional collaboration/teams are analyzed as fundamental components of DNP practice. Practice inquiry is investigated as a means of guiding science based practice.

Prerequisite: Admission into the DNP program or by permission of instructor  
Three semester credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

#### **N6802 Ethics and Health Policy**

The focus of this course is to gain competencies in ethical analysis of complex patient care dilemmas and to use an ethical framework in the analysis, design, implementation, and evaluation of health policies related to healthcare, financing, practice regulation, access, patient safety, quality, and efficacy. The policy process, both ideal and practical, will be examined. Students will examine the development of health policy legislation and the evolution to its final stage, including analysis of intended and unintended consequences. The course includes discussion of healthcare paradigms of our nation, healthcare reforms and current events and issues.

Prerequisite: acceptance into the DNP program  
Co-requisite: N6801  
Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

#### **N6807 Evidence Based Practice Principles I**

This course provides the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skill in the principles of evidence-

based practice that will assist in moving clinical practice to an evidence-based foundation. The course provides the student with the essential principles, skills, and tools of evidence-based nursing practice. The steps of evidence-based practice are presented. Special emphasis will be focused on formulating a question, searching and appraising the literature/evidence, and how to use the best evidence. The course will also focus on the methods of assessing results relative to interventions, harm, diagnosis, prognosis, and risk. The differentiation between evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and research utilization will be presented. Principles for the advanced practitioner either in clinical practice or in administration on how to stimulate and create an environment for the integration of evidence-based practice in both organization and clinical practice will be included.

Prerequisites: N6801, N6802

Co-requisite: None

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6808 Translational Science**

This course is designed to critically examine the state of the science of implementation science including concepts, models, and methods for translation and implementation of evidence and research into practice. Within the scope of an identified clinical problem and population of interest, the student will critically review the literature that addresses the problem, significance, population, practice setting, and expected outcomes as a basis to implement and disseminate a change in practice and care. The current and future leadership and innovation roles of DNP's for quality and safety standards in implementation of evidence-based practice are discussed. Intra- and interprofessional collaboration to implement change and embed it in practice is examined including practitioner-researcher collaboration to build science and best practice. Evaluation methods of the processes of implementation and practice change are also discussed. Principles of grant writing to support selected practice changes and programs are presented.

Prerequisites: Admission to the DNP program and N6807

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6820 Comparative Effectiveness Research**

This course will examine various approaches that clinicians and researchers are using currently to conduct Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER), the databases used, and advantages and disadvantages of each approach. Many examples of CER studies, including an understanding of the statistical methods used, will be addressed. The course will emphasize how clinicians of all disciplines can work together to both lead and participate in CER and practice-based evidence studies. Students will have "real-time" CER experience with inter-professional clinicians and researchers by participating in conference calls for ongoing practice-based evidence projects in various clinical areas.

Prerequisite: Admission into the DNP program or by permission of instructor

One semester credit (Contact hours per week: Lecture 1)

### **N6830 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Advisement**

The course continues to focus on development of components of the Clinical Scholarship Portfolio including refinement of the plan, methodology, and implementation of the Practice Inquiry Project. Students will prepare an overview of the work completed on the Practice Inquiry Project for approval to implement the project.

Prerequisites: N6846

One Semester Credit (Contact hours per week: Seminar 2)

### **N6840 Advanced Management of Complex Health Conditions I**

This is the first course in a two-course sequence that focuses on advanced clinical management of patients and populations with complex health care needs. Epidemiology, health promotion and primary, secondary and tertiary disease prevention are addressed to provide greater breadth and depth of the knowledge for the advanced practice nurse. The course includes didactic presentations, clinical applications/ seminars, and a clinical practicum. Evidence-based practice is the foundation for all care rendered. The student is expected to develop high level clinical reasoning and decision making competencies that includes consideration of patient centered

care, safety, quality, systems support, continuity of care, cost-effectiveness, appropriate use of consultants, and demonstration of optimal outcomes within a framework of evidence-based practice.

Prerequisites: Graduate level statistics course, N6101 or equivalent, PH1320, N6801, N6807, N6848, N6808

Co-requisite: N6847

Five Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2; Seminar 2; Clinical 8)

### **N6840B Preceptorship in Advanced Management of Complex Health Conditions I**

This course is the clinical practice component of N6840A and focuses on the direct care of patients within a population of interest. It is designed to increase the breadth and depth of the student's specialization role and practice in the management of patients with complex health problems across the continuum of care. Evidence-based, interprofessional practice is the foundation for all care rendered. The student is expected to develop high level clinical reasoning and decision-making competencies that includes consideration of patient centered care, safety, quality, systems support, continuity of care, cost-effectiveness, appropriate use of consultants, and demonstration of optimal outcomes within a framework of innovative, evidence-based practice.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: Completion of N6840A or concurrent enrollment in N6840A.

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

### **N6841A Advanced Management of Complex Health Conditions II**

This is the second course in a two-course sequence that focuses on advanced clinical management of patients and populations with complex health care needs. Epidemiology, health promotion and primary, secondary and tertiary disease prevention are addressed to provide greater breath and depth of the knowledge for the advanced practice nurse. The course includes didactic presentations, clinical applications/ seminars, and a clinical practicum. Evidence-based practice is the foundation for all care rendered. The student is expected to develop high level clinical reasoning and decision-making competencies that includes consideration of patient centered care, safety, quality, systems support, continuity of care, cost-effectiveness, appropriate use of consultants, and demonstration of optimal outcomes within a framework of evidence-based practice.

Prerequisites: Graduate level statistics course, N6101 or equivalent, PH1320, N6801, N6807, N6848, N6808

Five Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2; Seminar 2; Clinical 8)

### **N6841B Preceptorship in Advanced Management of Complex Health Conditions II**

This course is the clinical practice component of N6841A and focuses on the direct care of patients within a population of interest. The course is designed to increase the breadth and depth of the student's specialization role and practice in the management of patients with complex health problems across the continuum of care. Evidence-based, interprofessional practice is the foundation for all care rendered. The student is expected to develop high level clinical reasoning and decision-making competencies that includes consideration of patient centered care, safety, quality, systems support, continuity of care, cost-effectiveness, appropriate use of consultants, and demonstration of optimal outcomes within a framework of innovative, evidence-based practice.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: Completion of N6841A or concurrent enrollment in N6841A.

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

### **N6845 Practice Management**

This course provides a comprehensive overview of practice, business, finance, and management principles necessary to establish and maintain a successful clinical practice or program.

Prerequisites: N6801, N6802, N6807, N6805, N6808, N6840, N6847, N6848, N6841

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

### **N6847 Organization and Systems Leadership for Quality Improvement and Systems Thinking**

This course focuses on the dynamic and complex health care system and organizational imperatives to deliver quality health care through clinical initiatives based on health policy, industry safety and quality standards, quality improvement, key outcome indicators, and cost-effective care. Organizational change, work environments, business and finance, communications, care delivery models, marketing, and evaluation models are addressed. New models of leadership are addressed relevant to dynamic complex health care systems.

Prerequisites: N6801, N6802, N6807, N6848, N6808

Co-requisite: N6840

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6848 Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes**

The purpose of this course is to explore interprofessional and intraprofessional methodologies that the DNP can use to access health problems and improve the delivery of care and the health outcomes of the population they serve. Methodologies include the use of information systems to identify population health problems, evaluation of how the population accesses and receives care in the health interprofessional and intraprofessional collaboration and consultation to create change.

Prerequisites: N6801, N6802, N6807

Co-requisite: N6808

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6850 Nurse Executive I**

This course is designed to enhance leadership competencies, such as leading change, strategic thinking, and resilience, of executive nurse leaders through integration of theory and development of new skills that can be applied to a variety of nursing, healthcare, community and corporate settings. Emphasis will be placed on the nurse executive's leadership role development and its applied strategic utilization to provide organizational direction, strengthen the profession of nursing, and advance the competencies of future leaders. The course introduces new skills integrated through practice, reflection, and self- and group assessment.

Prerequisite: DNP standing or permission of instructor

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6851 Nurse Executive II**

An introduction to the principles of economics, financing and budgeting within the context of the healthcare environment. Essential economic and financial theory for the healthcare provider will be examined and financial methodology will be introduced. Specific weekly topics will be presented based on modules addressing principles of economic theory in healthcare, public and private financing in healthcare, and budgeting principles.

Prerequisite: DNP standing or permission of instructor

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6852 Nurse Executive III**

In this seminar, students will be guided in the process of evidenced-based project development, including formulation of goals and objectives, refinement of project design, implementation strategies, development of tools and or forms for data collection, identification of resources (personnel and fiscal), and evaluation. Through group discussion, students will participate in a process of peer consultation and critique in support of project refinement.

Prerequisite: DNP standing or permission of instructor

Three Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 3)

### **N6855 Independent Study**

This course allows the student an opportunity to pursue a detailed in-depth study in a specific topic area. The topic and mode of study for the course must be agreed upon by student and

instructor.

Prerequisite: DNP standing or permission of instructor

One-Three Semester Variable Credits: (Lecture TBD; Lab TBD; Clinical TBD)

**N6860A DNP Advanced Seminar I**

This is the first of the two-semester clinical fellowship and seminar courses in which the DNP student demonstrates breadth, depth, and synthesis of knowledge and skills related to the DNP Essentials including the consultation role. Socialization and opportunities for a DNP graduates are discussed. The national agenda for nursing practice in the context of health care reform, trends, and future contributions to health care is analyzed.

Prerequisites: Completion of all first and second year course work, passed the comprehensive examination, and ready for the implementation component of the Practice Inquiry Project.

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**N6860B DNP Fellowship I**

This is the first of the two-semester clinical fellowship experience which is taken concurrently with N6860A. It is a planned and focused experience based on a student's individualized interests for the purpose of increasing the student's competencies in relation to the DNP Essentials.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: Completion of N6860A or concurrent enrollment in N6860B.

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8)

**N6870A DNP Advanced Seminar II**

This is the second of the two-semester clinical seminar courses in which the DNP student demonstrates breadth, depth, and synthesis of knowledge and skills related to DNP practice. Socialization and opportunities for a DNP graduates are discussed. Health care is examined from a national and global perspective and addresses social justice, professional responsibility, health care reform, and national/global health issues.

Prerequisites: Completion of N6860A and N6860B

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Lecture 2)

**N6870B DNP Fellowship II**

This is the second of the two-semester clinical fellowship experience, taken concurrently with N6870A. It is a planned and focused experience based on a student's individualized interests for the purpose of increasing the student's competencies in relation to the DNP Essentials.

Prerequisites/Co-requisite: Completion of N6870A or concurrent enrollment in N6870A.

Two Semester Credits (Contact hours per week: Clinical 8.6)

## Faculty of Instruction

### **Daniel Arellano, MSN, RN, CCRN, CEN, CFRN, ACNP-BC, EMT-P**

Instructor of Nursing, AA, Biology San Jacinto College 2006; BA, Psychology University of Texas at Dallas, 2006 BSN-University of Rochester 2008, MSN, University of Rochester 2010  
Areas of Interest: Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Vasopressor therapy, Septic Shock

### **Terri S. Armstrong, PhD, ANP-BC, FAANP**

Associate Professor and John S. Dunn Professor in Oncology Nursing. BSN, Akron University, 1987; MS, Ohio State University, 1993; Postmasters NP, Ohio State University, 1995; PhD, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 2005.  
Areas of Interest: Neuro-Oncology, Symptom and Toxicity Management.

### **Myron Arnaud, DNP, CRNA**

Assistant Professor and Assistant Director, Nurse Anesthesia Division. BA, The University of Louisiana-Lafayette, 1991; BSN, The University of Louisiana-Lafayette, 1994; MS, Baylor College of Medicine, 2002; DNP, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing.  
Areas of Interest: Nurse Anesthesia; High fidelity patient simulation; Pharmacology

### **Angela Baldonado, RN, MSN, CPN, CCRN**

Instructor of Clinical Nursing. AND, Cardinal Stritch University, 1997; BSN, University of Wisconsin, 1999; MSN, Regis University, 2007.  
Area of Interest: Pediatric Nursing

### **Mara M. Baun, DNSc, RN, FAAN**

Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Distinguished Professor; Coordinator, PhD Program in Nursing. BA, Fontbonne College, 1963; BS, College of St. Catherine, 1965; MSN, Case Western Reserve University, 1970; DNSc, University of California-San Francisco, 1977.  
Areas of Interest: Critical Care and the Health Benefits of Companion Animals

### **Shonta Bell, MSN, RN**

Instructor in Clinical Nursing. Practical Nursing, Pikes Peak Community College, 1989; AAS, Pikes Peak Community College, 1990; BSN, Union University, 2003; MSN, Union University, 2004.  
Areas of Interest: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing

### **Susan Benedict, PhD, CRNA, FAAN**

Assistant Dean and Chair, Department of Acute and Continuing Care, Professor, Director of Global Health. Co-director Campus-wide Program in Interprofessional Ethics, BSN, Villa Maria College/Gannon University 1973; MSN, University of Alabama-Huntsville, 1978; PhD, University of Alabama-Birmingham, 1983.  
Areas of Interest: Global health, ethics, and history of nursing

### **Penelope S. Benedik, PhD, CRNA, RRT-NPS**

Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing. BS, Cardiopulmonary Science, Louisiana State University Medical Center, 1982; BSN, MSN, PhD, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 1992, 1996, 2007.  
Area of Interest: Anesthesia, Respiratory Physiology, Obesity

### **Nancy I. Bergstrom, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Theodore J. and Mary E. Trumble Professor; Director of the Center on Aging. BS, Columbia Union College, 1965; MS, Loma Linda University, 1968; PhD, University of Michigan, 1981.  
Areas of Interest: Aging Research, Predicting and Preventing Pressure Ulcers

### **Lisa Boss, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, CEN**

Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing Systems. BSN, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 1997. MSN, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2004. Post-Master's, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2007. PhD, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2013.

Areas of interest: Nursing leadership, nursing education, loneliness research in elderly population, biobehavioral research in elderly population

**Sandy Branson, PhD, MSN, RN**

Assistant Professor, BS Psychology, University of Houston, 1993; BSN, Texas Woman's University, 1996; MSN- Nursing Leadership and Administration - University of Texas Health Science Center Houston School of Nursing, 2010; PhD, University of Texas Health Science Center Houston School of Nursing, 2013

Research areas of interest: Human-animal interaction, health benefits of interacting with companion animals, biobehavioral interactions and health outcomes, aging/elderly

**Julie Boytim, MSN, CRNA**

Assistant Professor in Clinical Nursing. MSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 2007; BSN University of Texas Medical Branch, 2002.

Area of Interest: Anesthesia

**Juliana J. Brixey, PhD, MPH, MSN, RN**

Associate Professor, BS, Missouri Southern State College, 1974; AD, Missouri Southern State College, 1978; BSN, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 1992; MSN, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 1995; University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health, 2000; University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Health Information Sciences (School of Biomedical Informatics), 2006

Areas of Interest Patient Safety, Interruptions in Workflow, Usability, Use of social media for online education

**Michael F. Brown, MSN, RN**

Director of Simulation and Clinical Performance, Instructor in Clinical Nursing. ADN, Amarillo College, Amarillo TX 2004; BSN-MSN West Texas A&M University, Canyon TX 2008

Areas of Interest: Pediatric Nursing, Integration and development of Simulation into Nursing Curriculum, American Heart Association Instruction, Adaptive Reasoning and its Application within the Nursing Process.

**Nancy Busen, PhD, RN, FNP**

Margaret A. Barnett PARTNERS Professorship in Nursing; Interim Assistant Dean and Chair, Department of Integrative Nursing Care; Professor of Nursing. BSN, University of Michigan, 1967; MSN, Wayne State University, 1973; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 1990.

Areas of Interest: Family and Child Health Care

**Amy O. Calvin, PhD, RN**

Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing. BSN, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 1986; MSN, The University of Texas at Austin, 1991; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2000. Areas of Interest: Adult Health, Palliative and End-of-life Care

**Rebecca Casarez, PhD, RN**

Associate Professor - Clinical. BSN, University of St. Thomas, Houston, 1984; MS, Texas Woman's University, Houston, 1993; PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2005.

Areas of Interest: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, Spirituality and Chronic Illness Management

**Kala Christopherson, MSN, APRN, FNP-C**

Instructor of Clinical Nursing. BS in Community Health, Texas A&M University, 2003; MSN, Vanderbilt University, 2005.

Areas of Interest: Clinical nurse practitioner education, and community healthcare including the underserved population

**Pei-Ying Chuang, PhD, MSN, RN**

Assistant Professor, BSN, University of Dubuque, 1984; MSN, University of Minnesota, 1997; PhD, University of Pittsburgh, 2008.

Areas of interest: Neuroscience and Human Genetics

**Stanley Cron, MSPH**

Research Instructor. BA, The University of Texas at Austin, 1986; MSPH, University of Alabama

at Birmingham, 1994.  
Area of Interest: Statistical analysis

**Stacy A Drake, MSN, MPH, RN, D-ABMDI**

Clinical Instructor. BSN, Bowling Green State University, 1995; MSN, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, 2002; MPH, The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston, 2009;  
Areas of Interest: Systems, Interprofessional Collaborations, Interpersonal violence across the lifespan.

**Allison P Edwards DrPH, MS, RN**

Assistant Professor RN-BSN program. BSN University of Texas Medical Branch, 1987; MS Texas Woman's University 1991; DrPH University of Texas School of Public Health.  
Areas of interest: Surgical Nursing, Health Care Management and Leadership, Bioethics

**Joan Engebretson, DrPH, RN, AHN-BC**

Judy Fred Professorship of Nursing. BSN, St. Olaf College, 1965; MS, Texas Woman's University, 1979; DrPH, The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston, 1992.  
Areas of Interest: Maternal Child and Women's Health, Culture, Qualitative Research, Ethics, Complementary Therapies

**Melissa Ethington, PhD, RN**

Assistant Dean Undergraduate Programs, Professor of Clinical Nursing. BSN, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1998; MSN, University of Phoenix, 2004; PhD, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 2009.  
Areas of Interest: Health Promotion in Children and Adolescents, Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes

**Vaunette Fay, PhD, RN, FNP, GNP**

Professor of Clinical Nursing. BSN, Texas Woman's University, 1970; MSN, Texas Woman's University, 1974; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 1992.  
Areas of Interest: Gerontology, Interdisciplinary Teams, Chronic Care Management,

**Debra L. Fowler, PhD, MBA, RN, CNE**

Assistant Professor, Clinical Nursing. BSN, Northeast Louisiana University, 1974; MSN, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 1978; MBA, Pepperdine University, 1988; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 2009.  
Areas of interest: Nursing leadership and management and nursing education

**Anitra Frederick, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC**

Assistant Professor, Department of Family Health.  
BA Psychology, Texas A&M University, College Station, 2001; BSN, Texas Woman's University – Houston, 2004; MSN, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2010; Post-MSN Nursing Education, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2013; PhD Nursing, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2013.  
Areas of interest: Skin-to-Skin Contact, Mother/Child, Nursing Education

**Martina Gallagher, PhD, MSN, RN**

Assistant Professor. Diploma in Nursing, Baptist School of Professional Nursing, 1990; BSN, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 2001; MSN, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 2001; PhD, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 2005; Postdoctoral fellowship, University of Washington, 2005-2007.  
Area of Interest: Obesity, Cardiovascular Disease Prevention, Health Promotion Interventions in Vulnerable Population with a special interest in Latinos and Community-Based Research, Maternal/Child Health

**Eileen R. Giardino, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, ANP-BC**

Associate Professor. BSN, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 1976; MSN, Widener University, Chester, PA. 1983; PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 1990; ANP & FNP, La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA, 1997.  
Areas of Interest: Nurse Practitioner Education, Child Abuse and Domestic Violence

**Deanna E. Grimes, DrPH, RN, FAAN**

Professor. BSN, Mercy College of Detroit, 1962; MPH, The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston, 1975; MSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 1991; DrPH, The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston, 1988.

Areas of Interest: Public Health/ Community Health Nursing, Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS

**Robert G. Hanks, PhD, RN, FNP-BC**

Assistant Professor. BSN, University of Texas Medical Branch, 1998, MSN, University of Texas Medical Branch 2002; PhD, University of Texas Medical Branch 2008.

Areas of Interest: Nurse Practitioner Education, Nursing Advocacy

**Sandra K. Hanneman, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Professor; Jerold B. Katz Distinguished Professor for Nursing Research; Director, Preclinical Critical Care Laboratory. BSN, University of Florida, 1970; MSN, University of California, San Francisco, 1979; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 1990.

Areas of Interest: Pulmonary Critical Care, Circadian Rhythms

**Rebecca Jo Helmreich, PhD, RN, PNNP, WHNP-BC**

Assistant Professor, Clinical Nursing. BSN, Houston Baptist University, 1983; MSN, University of Texas, 1993; PNNP, University of Texas, 1998, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner- BC 2010.

Areas of interest, Nursing education and research, women's and neonatal health.

**Joanne V. Hickey, PHD, RN, ACNP-BC, FCCM, FAAN**

Professor; Patricia L. Starck PARTNERS Professorship in Nursing; Coordinator of the DNP Program. Diploma, Roger Williams General Hospital School of Nursing, 1961; BSN, Boston College School of Nursing, 1963; MSN, University of Rhode Island, 1973; MA, Rhode Island College, 1980; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1987; Nurse Practitioner Certificate, Duke University, 1995.

Areas of Interest: Neuroscience, Patient Care, Critical Care, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and Doctor of Nursing Practice Programs.

**Yuh-Fong Hong, PhD**

Assistant Professor. B.S., Kaohsiung Medical College, 1991; M.S., Pittsburg State University, 1997; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2005.

Areas of Interest: Genetics and Genomics in Nursing Education and Research; Technology in Nursing Academics and Research; Distance Education and eLearning.

**Deborah Jones, PhD, RN**

Assistant Dean & Department Chair (Interim) Nursing Systems, Assistant Professor, , BSN, Radford University, 1999; MSN, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2002; PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2007.

Areas of Interest: Improving outcomes through Interprofessional best practices, oral health, systemic and critical illness

**Duck-Hee Kang, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Professor; Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Distinguished Professor; Director, Bioscience Laboratory. BS, Yonsei University College of Nursing, Seoul, Korea, 1969; MS, Yonsei University, 1971; PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1993; Postdoctoral Training, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1993-1995.

Areas of Interest: Bio-behavioral interactions, psychoneuroimmunology particularly in Oncology population, complementary and alternative medicine, and Palliative Care, Stress and Symptom Management.

**Susan Krawtz, MSN, RN**

Instructor in Clinical Nursing. BSN, Graceland University, 1975; MSN, The University of Texas Medical Branch, 1992.

Area of Interest: Forensic Nursing

**Rodney Lester, PHD, CRNA**

Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing; Director, Department of Nurse Anesthesia. Diploma, Alexian Brothers Hospital School of Nursing, 1964; BSN, Drury College, 1971; MBA, Drury

College, 1972; MSN, University of Tennessee, 1996; PhD, Texas A&M University, 1988  
Area of Interest: Nurse Anesthesia

**Matthew M. Lewis, DNP, CRNA**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing. BSN, The University of Texas at Austin, 2007; MSNA, Texas Christian University, 2011; DNP, Texas Christian University, 2011.  
Areas of Interest: Nurse Anesthesia, Evidence-Based Practice

**Susanne K Lim, PhD, RN**

Assistant Professor; BSN, Rush University, 1989 MSN, Rush University, 1998 PhD, The University Health Science Center at Houston, 2013  
Area of interest: Mother-Infant Relationship

**Julie Lindenberg, DNP, RN, APRN, FNP-BC, DCC**

Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing. BSN, University of Delaware, 1983; MSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 1989; DNP, Columbia University, 2007.  
Areas of Interest: Family Health, Women's Health, and Primary Care

**Geri LoBiondo-Wood, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Professor, Coordinator, Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program. . Diploma, St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, 1969; BS, University of Rochester 1974; MS, University of Rochester, 1979; PhD, New York University, 1985.  
Areas of Interest: Chronic Illness, Family Health, Transplantation, Child and Adult

**Marianne Marcus, EdD, RN, FAAN**

John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor in Addiction Nursing; Director, Center for Substance Abuse, Education, Prevention and Research. BSN, Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing, 1955; MA, Teacher's College, Columbia University, 1976; MEd, 1977; EdD, 1989, University of Houston.  
Areas of Interest: Substance Use Disorders, Community Health Nursing

**Ngozi D. Mbue, PhD, APRN, ANP-C**

Assistant Professor, Department of Acute and Continuing Care  
BSN, Towson University, Towson Maryland, 1997; MSN, University of Missouri Kansas City, School of Nursing, 2002; PhD, University of Health Science Center, Houston, School of Nursing, 2013  
Areas of Interest: Adult health; diabetes, depression and self-management behaviors of adults with type 2 diabetes.

**Melanie McEwen, PhD, RN**

Associate Professor. Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Programs. BSN, The University of Texas at Austin, 1977; MN, Louisiana State University Medical Center, 1987; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 1990  
Areas of interest: Community and Public Health Nursing; Nursing Theory

**Janet Meininger, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Lee and Joseph D. Jamail Distinguished Professor. BSN, St. Louis University, 1967; MSN, Case Western Reserve University, 1970; PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1979.  
Areas of Interest: Community Health Nursing, Cardiovascular Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Epidemiology

**Karen Mellott, PhD, RN**

Assistant Professor. BS, Pennsylvania State University, 1983; MS, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1991; PhD, Bio-behavioral Clinical Nursing, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2010; Postdoctoral fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2011.  
Areas of Interest: Mechanical Ventilation, Asynchrony, Patient Outcomes in Critical Care, Critical Care Healing Environment

**Daisy G Mullassery MSN, DrNP, WHNP-BC, RNC-OB**

Instructor in Nursing, BSN, Govt. College of Nursing, Calicut University, India, 1989; MSN, Women's Health, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA 2010; DrNP© Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA.

Areas of interest: Women's health - HPV incidence/vaccination Among Minorities in the U.S., Complications of pregnancy among South East Asian women.

**Angela Nash, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Nursing Systems; BSN, University of Texas Austin, 1980 MSN, University of Texas Austin, 1997 PhD, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2013

Areas of interest: (child & adolescent behavioral/mental health in primary Care; Recovery from Adolescent Substance Use Disorder; Health Literacy; Care of the under-served; Nurse Practitioner education

**Christina Renee Nunez, RN PhD**

Assistant Professor Nursing Systems. BSN, Texas Woman's University, 2000; MSN, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 2007; PhD, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2013.

Areas of interest: Community Health Nursing, Nursing Education, Tuberculosis/HIV/Diabetes Research in Minority Populations

**Patricia Obulaney, MSN, ANP-BC**

Instructor in Nursing. BSN, Prairie View A&M University, 1998; MSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 2008.

Areas of interest: Obesity, Type 2 Diabetes & adolescent depression

**Sharon K. Ostwald, PhD, RN, FGSA**

Professor Emerita. Diploma, West Suburban Hospital School of Nursing, 1962; BSN, Wheaton College, 1964; MS, University of Minnesota, 1976; PhD, University of Minnesota, 1986.

Areas of Interest: Chronic Illness, Especially Stroke and Dementia, Family and Caregiver Health

**Dorothy A. Otto, EdD, RN, ANEF**

Associate Professor. BS, University of Houston Central College of Nursing, 1954; MS, Texas Woman's University, 1971; EdD, University of Houston, 1985.

Areas of Interest: Gerontology, Ethical/Legal, and Leadership

**Nikhil Padhye, PhD**

Assistant Professor; Biostatistician. B.Tech., Indian Institute of Technology, 1991; MA (Physics), The University of Texas at Austin, 1994; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1998.

Areas of Interest: Biostatistics, Time Series, Signal Processing, and Complexity Measures.

**Sabrina L Pickens, PhD, MSN, ANP-BC, GNP-BC**

Instructor in Nursing, BSN, University of Incarnate Word, Houston, 1995; MSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, Houston, 2002; Doctoral Candidate, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 2012.

Areas of Interest: Elder Abuse, Self-Neglect, Executive Dysfunction, Cognition

**Bridgette Crotwell Pullis, PhD, RN**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing. BSN, Northeast Louisiana University, 1985; MSN, Texas Woman's University, 1991; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 2006.

Areas of Interest: Child Health Promotion, Emergency Preparedness, and Public Health Education

**Elda Ramirez, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, FAANP**

Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing. BSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 1988; MSN, The University of Texas Medical Branch, 1993; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 2007.

Area of Interest: Emergency Care

**Catherine Reavis, EdD, FNP-BC, FAANP**

Clinical Professor, Texas Tech University, 1995; Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center,

Post-Doctorate Certificate, 1997.

Areas of Interest: Vulnerable Population Health and Wellness, Practice Outcomes

**Laura Rooney, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, DCC, BC-ADM**

Assistant Professor, Clinical Nursing. BS, University of Houston, 1985; BSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 1995; MSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 2002; DNP, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 2009.

Areas of Interest: Primary Care, Diabetes, Clinical Nursing Education

**Mary Ellen Ross, DrPH, RN, APRN-BC**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing. BSN, McNeese State University, 1982; MSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 1988; DrPh, The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston, 2001.

Areas of Interest: Gerontology, and Community Health Nursing

**Cathy L. Rozmus, PhD, RN**

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; PARTNERS Professorship in Nursing, BSN, West Virginia University, 1975; MSN, Vanderbilt University, 1987; PhD, The University of Alabama, Birmingham, 1990.

Areas of Interest: Maternal Child Nursing, and Health Behavior Decision-Making

**Susan D. Ruppert , PhD, RN, ANP-BC, NP-C, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN**

Professor of Clinical Nursing. AAS in Nursing, Illinois Valley Community College, 1974; BSN, Northern Illinois University, 1976; MSN, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 1979; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 1992; FNP, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 1995.

Areas of Interest: Adult/Gerontology, Primary and Acute Care, Endocrine Disorders, Diabetes, Advanced Practice Nursing

**Jennifer Sanner, PhD, RN**

Assistant Professor of Nursing, Department of Nursing Systems. BSN, Kent State University, 1996; MSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 2005; PhD, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 2011.

Areas of Interest: Cardiovascular Disease, Depression, Sleep Disturbance, Genetics, and Clinical Research

**Diane Santa Maria DrPH, MSN, RN, APHN-BC**

Assistant Professor, Nursing Systems; BSN The Ohio State University, 1999; MSN Case Western Reserve University, 2003; DrPH University of Texas School of Public Health, 2013.

Areas of interest: Adolescent Health, specifically adolescent risk behaviors; HIV/STI/teen pregnancy prevention; parental protective factors; homeless youth; Intervention Mapping

**Jacquelyn K. Shaw, MSN, RNC-LRN, CPN, CPNP**

Instructor of Clinical Nursing, BSN. The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 1994; MSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 2008.

Areas of Interest: Pediatrics

**Agnes Shepard, MSN, FNP-BC, ONC**

Instructor, Clinical Nursing, AAS, Philips Beth Israel School on Nursing, 1995; BSN, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2007; MSN, FNP, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2012.

Areas of Interest: Disparities in Health Care, Nursing Education.

**Kathleen Sheppard, PHD, RN**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing. BSN, University of Iowa, 1974; MSN, Marquette University, 1981; PhD, Texas Woman's University 1991.

**Linda Stafford, PhD, RN, CS**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing. BSN, Texas Woman's University, 1963; MSN, Texas Woman's University, 1969; PhD, Texas A&M University, 1978.

Area of Interest: Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing

**Patricia Starck, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Senior Vice President and Dean; Huffington Foundation Chair for Nursing Education Leadership, John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor and Dean. ASN, Georgia SW College, 1959; BSN, Emory University, 1960; MN, Emory University, 1963; PhD, University of Alabama, Birmingham, 1979.

Areas of Interest: Rehabilitation Nursing, Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, Ethics, and Health Policy

**Kristen Starnes-Ott, PhD, BS, CRNA**

Assistant Professor, Clinical Nursing and Director, Nurse Anesthesia Division. BS, East Carolina University, 1992; BSN, Auburn University, 1994; MSN, University of Southern California, 2000; PhD, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 2011

Area of interest: Anesthesia, Breast Cancer, and Comparative Effectiveness Research

**Faith A. Strunk, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, AOCNP**

Assistant Professor, Clinical Nursing, Acute and Continuing Care Department..

BSN, Arizona State University, 1979; MSN, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 1993; PhD, University of Texas HSC School of Nursing, 2013.

Areas of interest: Symptoms in breast cancer survivors, veterans and military family issues

**Edith Summerlin, PhD, RN**

Assistant Professor. BSN, Ohio State University, 1957; MSN, Catholic University of America, 1967; PhD, American University, Washington, DC, 1976.

Areas of Interest: Community Health/Public Health Nursing, Disaster Nursing, and Alzheimer's Disease

**Mariya Tankimovich, MSN, APRN, FNP-C**

Instructor of Clinical Nursing;BA Linguistics, University of California at Los Angeles, 2003; ADN, Montgomery College (NHMCCD), 2006; BSN, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing, 2008; MSN, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing, 2011; DNP, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing, in progress - expected degree date 2014

Areas of interest: Health Promotion and Population Health.

**Rebecca Birch Tsusaki, MSN, RN**

MSN, RN, Teaching Associate, Department of Integrative Nursing Care; ADN, Lakeland College, 1991; BSN, The University of Texas Health School of Nursing at Houston, 2005; MSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 2008; PhD, The University of Texas Health School of Nursing at Houston, 2009.

Areas of Interest: Premature Neonates, Human Lactation, and Maternal Child Nursing.

**Jing Wang , PhD, MPH, MSN, RN**

Assistant Professor. BMed major in Nursing, Jiangxi Medical College, 2005; MSN, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, 2010; PhD, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, 2010; MPH, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, 2010.

Area of Interest: Community Health/Public Health Nursing, Chronic Illness Self-Management, Technology, Lifestyle Intervention, and Health Literacy

**Diane Wind Wardell, PhD, RN, WHNP-BC**

Professor. BSN, St. John College, 1973; MS, State University of New York, 1984; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 1990.

Areas of Interest: Complementary Therapies, Energetic Approaches to Health and Healing, Integrative and Holistic Health Care, Women's Issues

**Nancy F. Weller, DrPH, RN**

Assistant Professor. BSN, The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, 1985; MPH, The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston, 1990; DrPH, The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston 1997; MS, Texas Woman's University, 2010.

Areas of Interest: Community Health Nursing, Population Health, Adolescent Risk Behavior Research, and Practice-Based Research Networks.

**Luba Yamine, PhD, APRN, FNP-C**

Assistant Professor; BSN, Magna Cum Laude: Texas Woman's University, 2006; MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner: University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Nursing, 2009 PhD, Accelerated PhD Scholar: University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Nursing, 2013

Areas of Interest: Psychosocial Stress, Bio-behavioral links between psychosocial factors and physical disease, Cardiovascular Disease, primary and secondary prevention

**Erica Teng-Yuan Yu, PhD, RN**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing. BSN, Kaohsiung Medical College, Taiwan, 1992; MSN, The University of Nebraska Medical Center, 1997; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2006.

Areas of Interest: Cardiovascular Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.