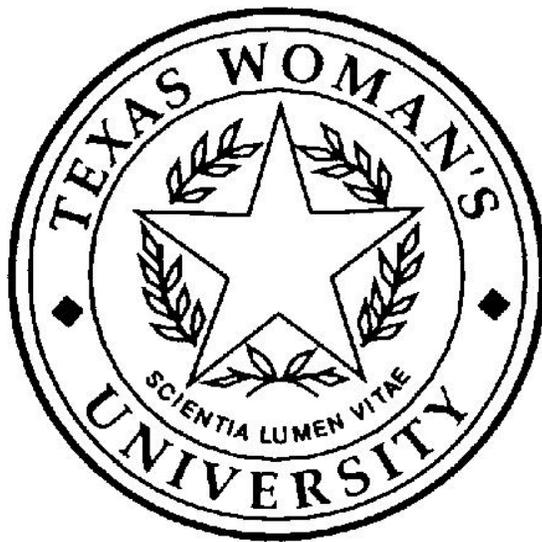


Texas Woman's University

College of Nursing Student

Handbook



Reviewed June 2017

Disclaimer

This Handbook is neither a contract nor an offer to make a contract. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information enclosed, the Handbook is updated only once a year prior to the start of the fall term. Texas Woman's University College of Nursing reserves the right to make changes at any time with respect to course offerings, degree requirements, services, policies, or any other subject addressed in this document. The information enclosed is provided solely for the convenience of the students and readers.

This Handbook supersedes all previous versions of the Handbook. Students are accountable for familiarizing themselves with its contents and for compliance with the policies and procedures contained within.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

This book contains information for all nursing programs. All blue underlined text contains a hyperlink to other resources on both TWU websites and public websites. Place your mouse over the text, hold the CTRL button and left click the mouse to navigate to the website. At the time of publication, all hyperlinks work properly.

Texas Woman's University College of Nursing

College of Nursing Student Handbook Verification

Please note: Students are required to acknowledge utilizing this form or another method (ie online or other) and to **stay current with the latest posted handbook at all times.**

I have accessed the current online College of Nursing Student Handbook, and I have reviewed the contents in this handbook. I understand that any questions regarding the policies contained in this handbook should be directed to the campus Associate Dean or Assistant Dean.

Name: (Please Print) _____

Signature: _____

Program: Bachelor's Master's DNP PhD (Please Circle Appropriate Program)

TWU Student ID #: _____

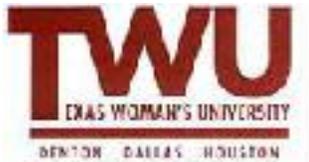
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I. Letter from the Dean



College of Nursing
P.O. Box 425498 Denton, TX 76204-5498
940-093-2401 FAX 940-093-2437

*Pioneering Nursing's Future:
An Adventure in Excellence*

Welcome to Texas Woman's University College of Nursing!

We have entered a remarkable time for nursing. The demand for knowledgeable and compassionate nursing professionals has never been greater. Changes in the health care system have challenged us to advance the science and practice of nursing in order to meet the demands for accessible and effective health care. There has never been a time that has offered nurses such diverse opportunities to serve as health care leaders or make as significant an impact on the delivery of quality care to people around the world.

As a nationally recognized leader in nurse education and innovative research in the field of nursing science, TWU College of Nursing and our distinguished faculty work hard to ensure that tomorrow's nurses and scientists are ready to advance this profession as professional health care team leaders, as clinicians, and as educators.

TWU College of Nursing has distinguished itself as an innovator and facilitator in the delivery of relevant, accessible and student-centered nursing education. Your admission to TWU indicates you are ready to join a long list of notable and accomplished students and alumni! Whether you are looking to pursue or advance your nursing career, or if you are interested in joining the ranks of a talented faculty, TWU College of Nursing offers an extremely sound foundation upon which to build your future.

Warm Regards,

Anita G. Hufft, PhD, RN
Dean and Professor of Nursing
Texas Woman's University
College of Nursing
PO Box 425498
Denton, TX 76204-5498

II. Mission and Vision

A. University

1. **Mission**

Texas Woman's University cultivates engaged leaders and global citizens by leveraging its historical strengths in health, liberal arts, and education and its standing as the nation's largest public university primarily for women. Committed to transformational learning, discovery, and service in an inclusive environment that embraces diversity, Texas Woman's inspires excellence and a pioneering spirit.

B. College of Nursing

1. **Mission**

The College of Nursing seeks to support and empower students of all ages and ethnic groups to address the health care needs and issues of the people in Texas, the nation and the world through acquiring nursing knowledge and leadership skills for entry level, advance practice and scientific roles by integrating health promotion and disease prevention with diverse groups in a time of rapid technological and societal change.

2. **Vision**

Pioneering Nursing Future: An Adventure in Excellence

3. **Philosophy**

The College of Nursing at Texas Woman's University offer a diverse multi campus setting and awards degrees at the Baccalaureate, Master's and Doctoral levels. This philosophy is congruent with the mission of the university and its commitment to prepare students for leadership and service built on a solid liberal education base and quality professional programs. It is consistent with the fundamental beliefs about nursing and nursing's contract with society as described by the American Nurses Association in *Nursing's Social Policy Statement* (2010). The preparation of nurses for service and leadership is guided by the current *AACN Essentials of Nursing (2008, 2011)* and the Texas Board of Nursing *Differentiated Essential Competencies for the Baccalaureate degree*.

The faculty of nursing builds this philosophy on our beliefs about the key concepts included in nursing's predominant theoretical metaparadigm and on our beliefs about education and learning. Individuals are holistic human beings in constant interaction with their environment; each has inherent worth and dignity, and is unique in capabilities, beliefs, and interests. Individuals are an integral part of culturally diverse families, groups, communities and populations. Society influences an individual's perception of health care needs, and is charged with the responsibility for aiding the individual, particularly those in vulnerable populations, in the fulfillment of these needs. Society entrusts nurses as competent providers of optimal health care and education. Health is a state of physiological, psychological, socio-cultural, developmental and spiritual functioning that allows individual members to achieve maximum potential. The health of an individual has a direct effect upon the family, group, community, and population. Health promotion and disease prevention are employed at all societal levels to improve population health.

Nursing is a synthesis of art and science. Practitioners of nursing balance the use of science and technology with the art of caring to achieve optimal outcomes. The science of nursing is based on nursing theories, natural and behavioral sciences, and patient care technologies. This knowledge, together with current evidence, clinical/critical reasoning, and multiple ways of knowing is used to develop, evaluate, and achieve safe patient care and optimum health outcomes across all environments. The art of nursing, grounded in the human sciences, is exemplified by characteristics of caring such as presence, authenticity, advocacy, empowerment, and connections with people across all cultures in their experiences of health. Nurses interact with individuals, families, groups, communities and populations, in collaboration with other healthcare professionals, for the purposes of promoting, maintaining, protecting and restoring health in all stages of the life cycle or supporting a peaceful death. Nurses guide, mentor, support and lead other nurses to achieve excellence in nursing practice. Nurses are prepared to function in leadership roles and to address the political, social, ethical, economic, and policy issues that affect health care at local, state, national and international levels. Fundamental to nursing are the values of altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity, and social justice.

We, as a community of nurse educators, believe that education, research, and service are the foundation for the practice of professional nursing. Faculty is responsible for contributing to the vitality of the college and the university community and for developing, maintaining, and evaluating educational programs. Faculty is responsible for and committed to provide learning experiences which enable students to cultivate critical thinking, clinical judgment, leadership skills, and professional nursing values needed to function competently and cultivate caring practices in an increasingly complex health care system. Faculty is committed to developing supportive learning environments that encourage students to successfully achieve the objectives of the offered program. Faculty is responsible for contributing to an environment conducive to academic freedom, service, and scholarship. Students, as adult learners with multiple roles, are responsible for contributing to the learning environment by being actively involved in the learning process; to seek, to question, to propose and implement new ideas using peer, faculty, and university resources to further their own learning and to serve the greater community.

Revised and Approved by faculty 8/2012

4. **Foundational Documents**

The following documents are foundational to the study of nursing. The student is responsible for reading and understanding and acting in accordance with the principles outlined in these documents. The web links are provided for each of the documents.

AACN Essentials of Baccalaureate Education

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/education-resources/baccessentials08.pdf>

AACN Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/education-resources/MastersEssentials11.pdf>

AACN Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/publications/position/DNPEssentials.pdf>

ANA Standards for Clinical Practice

<http://www.nursingworld.org/scopeandstandardspractice>

ANA Code of Ethics

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/CodeofEthicsforNurses>

Texas Board of Nursing

http://www.bon.texas.gov/laws_and_rules_rules_and_regulations.asp#

Differentiated Education Competencies

https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/differentiated_essential_competencies-2010.pdf

III. Student Services and Resources

A. Office of Student and Academic Services (OSAS)

Mission

The Division of Student Life actively supports the mission of Texas Woman's University and its learning environment.

It is the mission of the Division of Student Life at Texas Woman's University to support and enhance the student's academic experience by providing services and programs that holistically develop the student. These programs and services are provided on all campuses and at a distance via a variety of media. The Division of Student Life seeks to provide the environment and support to assist TWU's students to reach their potential in leadership and community service.

Office Locations

[Denton Campus](#)

Student Union; Room 2006

Phone: 940-898-3615

Fax: 940-898-3629

[T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Science, Dallas Campus](#)

5500 Southwestern Medical Blvd

Suite 3600

Phone: 214-689-6697

Fax: 214-689-6688

[Institute of Health Sciences - Houston Campus](#)

6700 Fannin St. Room 2300

Phone: 713-794-2157

Fax: 713-794-2169

B. Communication:

1) **Pioneer Alert**

Texas Woman's University Department of Public Safety uses a variety of methods to alert students, faculty, and staff in case of a significant emergency on a campus. In case of an emergency the **Pioneer Alert** system can deliver emergency messages from the police to an affected campus by the following methods:

- a. Campus Computer
- b. Text message
- c. Personal E-mail
- d. Personal Telephone

To receive notification by text message, personal telephone, or personal e-mail you must [register your information into a secure database by going here](#). The information entered is secure and will never be used for any reason other than emergency alert notification.

2) **Email**

Your email account is created automatically when you create your Pioneer Portal account. Email is available on and off campus via your Pioneer Portal account.

All TWU communication is sent through your Portal email. If you do not check your Portal email you MUST forward it to another account. You may do so by logging into Pioneer Portal, clicking "My Settings," then "Forward/Unforward" my email.

To access your email from the web (on and off campus):

- Log in to [Portal](#), then click on My Email. You may also click on [Google Mail](#) from the TWU Internet Home Page (bottom left)
- A new page will load.
- In the "username@twu.edu" box, type in your username followed by "@twu.edu". For example, jpioneer@twu.edu
In the "Password:" box, type in your Portal password.
- Click Sign In.

Campus Closing – Severe Weather

A severe weather watch may be defined as an atmospheric condition which is likely to produce severe weather. A severe weather warning may be defined as severe weather occurring in the area which necessitates precautions being taken. Severe weather may be defined as tornadoes, cyclones, and high winds.

For information on bad weather closings at TWU, please call the appropriate information number below:

Denton.....940-898-3430
Dallas.....214-689-6631
Houston...713-794-2310

You may also find information on your local radio and TV stations You will also be notified by a [Pioneer Alert](#) message.

Radio Stations		Television	
Dallas:	KRLD 1080 AM	Dallas:	Channels 4, 5, 8, & 11
	KLIF 1190 AM	Denton:	Cable: Channel 25
Houston:	KPRC 950 AM	Houston:	KPRC TV - Channel 2
	KTRH 740 AM		KTRK TV - Channel 13
	KIKK 96 FM		
	KODA 99.1 FM		

Please note: IF THE CAMPUS IS CLOSED, YOU CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN THE CLINICAL SETTING. If you are in a clinical setting when the Campus closes, you will be required to leave the site immediately, or when it is safe to do so.

C. Nursing Student Organizations

a. [Texas Student Nurses Association](#)

Texas Nursing Students' Association, Inc. (TNSA) is a student nursing association dedicated to promoting professionalism and leadership for today's students

b. [National Student Nurses Association](#)

The National Student Nurses' Association mentors the professional development of future registered nurses and facilitates their entrance into the profession by providing educational resources, leadership opportunities, and career guidance.

c. [Sigma International Honor Society of Nursing](#)

Mission

The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is to support the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide.

Vision

The vision of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma International is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service and learning to improve the health of the world's people.

Membership

Membership is by invitation to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, and to nurse leaders exhibiting exceptional achievements in nursing.

TWU Beta Beta Chapters

- 1) [Dallas/Denton Sigma Beta Beta Chapter](#)
- 2) [Houston Sigma Beta Beta Chapter](#)

D. University-wide Student Organizations

- 1) A full list of all student organizations and contact information is located at [Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach - Texas Woman's University](#)
- 2) Student Government
 - a. [Denton](#)
 - b. [Dallas](#)
 - c. [Houston](#)

E. Online Courses

By state definition and by TWU's definition, online courses have 51%-100% of their content delivered online. All TWU utilize the Blackboard program. You must establish a TWU Pioneer Portal to take a course on Blackboard. To learn Blackboard, read the following online pages:

[System Check*](#)
[Pioneer Portal*](#)
[Blackboard*](#)
[Virtual Library*](#)
[Learning Online*](#)
[Technology](#)

IV. Policies and Procedures

A. Registration

1. You will register for your classes through Pioneer Portal. You may download the instructions at http://www.twu.edu/downloads/registrar/how_to_register.pdf
2. [Special Instructions for courses with restricted entry](#)

If a course is restricted, only the department may provide the 5 digit course code for a student to be able to register. In this case, the student must use "**Express Registration**" to complete registration for this course. You will get the course code from you academic advisor.

B. Academic Advisors

1. Each student will be assigned a faculty academic advisor. Academic advisement is primarily provided during individual appointments at the Denton Campus, Houston and Dallas Centers. The Program Coordinators are available to students who encounter problems or need further assistance.

C. Academic Conduct and Professional Integrity

1. Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the foundation of the academic community. Because each student has the primary responsibility for being academically honest, students are responsible for reading and understanding all sections in the [University Student Handbook](#) relating to standards of conduct and academic life. Students who violate University or College of Nursing rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure or removal from a course, disciplinary probation, and/or dismissal from the College of Nursing and the University.

2. Definitions:

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, falsification, falsifying academic records, or other acts intentionally designed to provide an unfair advantage to the student and/or the attempt to commit such acts.

- a. **Cheating** includes, but is not limited to, intentionally giving or receiving unauthorized aid or notes on examinations, papers, or class assignments intended to be individually completed. It also includes the unauthorized copying of tests or any other deceit or fraud related to the student's academic conduct or violating the guidelines set out by a faculty member for assignments and/or exams.
- b. **Collusion** occurs when a student collaborates with another person without authorization when preparing an assignment.
- c. **Fabrication** occurs when a student makes up data or results and records or reports them.
- d. **Falsification** occurs when a student manipulates research materials, equipment or processes or changes or omits results such that the clinical experience or research is not accurately reflected in the records.
- e. **Plagiarism** occurs when a student obtains portions or elements of someone else's work, including materials prepared by another person or agency, and presents those ideas or words as her or his own academic work. The intentional or unintentional use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment shall constitute plagiarism.

D. Attendance

1. The University expects students to attend all classes regularly and punctually. It is a policy of the University not to allow a fixed number of "cuts" in any class. The only excused absences are for:

- a. Illness certified by a licensed health care provider
- b. Serious illness or death in student's immediate family
- c. Being away from the campus with the sanction of the University or for a religious holiday

An excused absence does not exempt a student from their academic requirements.

Instructors may report students to Student Life for excessive absences or tardiness. The student endangers their standing in a course by not attending class. Instructors will list each absence. The Vice President of Student Affairs will notify such students that their academic records are in jeopardy.

Instructors must keep a record of class attendance and include it in the semester report to the Registrar. The total number of absences is to be entered on the grade report at the end of the semester.

2. Religious Holidays

The state law allows students in Texas Colleges and Universities to make up missed work if they are absent because of a religious holy day. The law requires an institution of higher education to allow a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day at another time. The student must notify the instructor prior to the day of the planned absence. The law defines a "religious holy day" as a day observed by a religion whose place of worship is exempt from property taxation under state law. If a student plans to be absent for an [observance](#), written notice must be given to each instructor by the 15th day of the semester.

The law, which became effective August 1985, further states that a student who is excused under these conditions, may not be penalized for the absence; but the instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to satisfactorily complete the assignment or examination.

E. Disability Support Services

It is the policy of Texas Woman's University to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. This college will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local law, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact Disability Support Services and the faculty member in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

The Disability Support Services Office is designated to respond to the special needs of students with disabilities. The professional staff in this office acts as the centralized clearing house for provision of those accommodations/services that will most appropriately meet each student's needs. The office provides or locates appropriate services that allow students to have equal access to academic programs and services. Disability Support Services endeavors to provide the assistance and encouragement that the student needs in meeting the challenges of university life.

To obtain services a student must meet the following criteria:

1. Receive notice of acceptance to TWU.
2. Complete an application form available through the Disability Support Services Office.
3. Provide documentation indicating the presence of an impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities.
4. Apply well in advance of the semester for which assistance is needed to obtain services in a timely manner.

Additional information, including a Campus Access Guide, may be obtained by contacting [Disability Support Services](#), CFO 106, P. O. Box 425966, Denton, TX 76204-5379, 940/898-3835, (Voice) or TDD access at 940/898-3830. dss@twu.edu

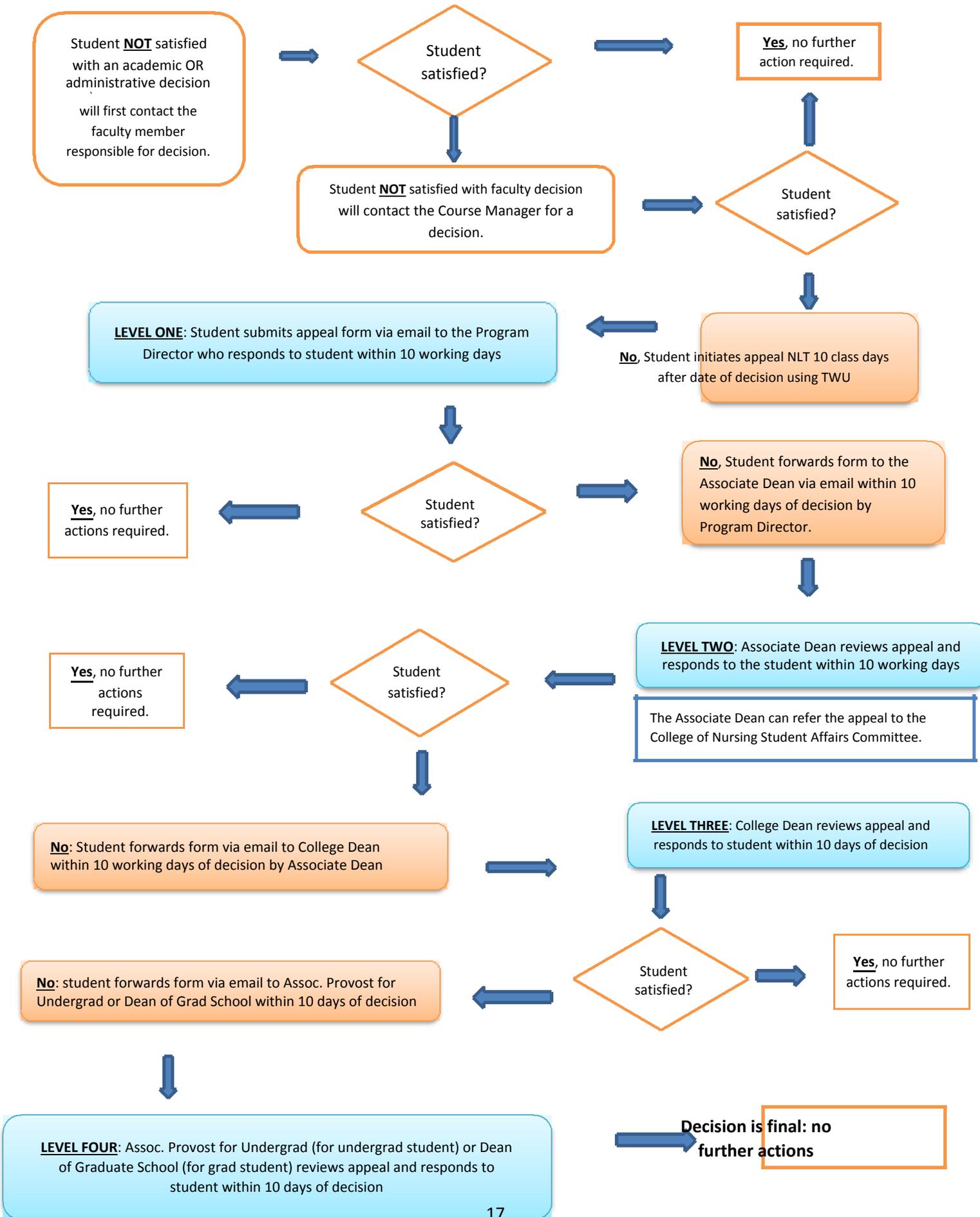
F. Academic Appeal

Texas Woman's University is committed to the fair treatment of all students who have complaints and appeals. The university has traditionally guaranteed students every opportunity for a fair, prompt, and thorough review of complaints and appeals. Students are encouraged to begin resolving a complaint or appeal at the level at which the complaint or appeal originated. Students should follow university procedures and deadlines to advance a complaint or appeal. TWU's [Academic/Administrative Complaints and Appeals policy \[PDF\]](#) (Policy 1.18) guides students in the complaint and appeal process.

Complaints or appeals at each level must be made in writing no later than 10 class days after the date of the decision at the previous level unless otherwise stipulated in state or federal law. The 10 days for appeal at each level do not include weekends, holidays, or days between academic sessions. The faculty member or administrator receiving the complaint or appeal will respond within 10 class days, not including weekends, holidays, or days between academic sessions. Review and decision may require a longer period of time.

The [TWU Academic/Administrative Complaint and Appeal Form \[Word\]](#) is to be used for complaints and appeals. To select the appropriate office to begin the process, consult [Procedures for Academic/Administrative Complaints and Appeals of TWU Decisions \[Word\]](#) document. The procedures provide directions for the sequence of offices each type of complaint or appeal should follow to a final decision. The form may be completed electronically and submitted by email to the appropriate office within 10 days of the occurrence of the complaint. Addendums are permissible to concisely document the complaint and may be attached to the email or delivered to the corresponding office. Please print a copy of the completed document at each level for your records.

See Academic/Administrative Complaint and Appeals Process on the next Page (17)



G. Immunizations

State law requires all college and university students in health care or ancillary programs to show proof of certain immunizations. **These requirements must be met prior to your first clinical course, affiliation or practicum.** You can find the [basic state requirements for health care majors online](#), **for the most up to date information.**

Information for specific requirements is sent with the acceptance letter. Please visit the Student Health Services Web site at <http://www.twu.edu/student-health-services/default.asp> or call 940.898.3825 for more information about requirements.

Students must provide proof of required immunizations and AHA BLS certification as specified by faculty. Additional requirements may apply based on clinical facility.

KEEP COPIES FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS.

H. Graduation

1. **Degree Plan**

Any student planning to graduate should make an appointment with his/her faculty advisor and submit a degree plan to the designated office, Program Coordinator or Associate Dean at least one year before the intended semester of graduation.

2. **Graduation Application**

At the beginning of the semester of anticipated graduation, the student must file the [application for graduation](#) by the published deadline. (See University Calendar at [Academic Calendars - Registrar - Texas Woman's University](#) for deadlines.)

3. **Graduation Ceremonies**

Graduation ceremonies are held two times each year in Denton at the close of the fall and spring semesters. Graduation ceremonies are held in Houston once each year in May.

4. **Graduation with Honors**

Undergraduate students who have attended TWU at least two semesters with a minimum of 45 hours and who have the following grade point average based on TWU course work are recognized as honor graduates at commencement exercises and on their diplomas:

Summa Cum Laude 4.00
Magna Cum Laude 3.70-
3.99 Cum Laude 3.50-3.69

I. Transportation

Students are expected to have access to transportation since clinical assignments require travel to various clinical agencies in the community. Requests for special consideration related to transportation may not be granted since transportation is required.

J. Citation Style

The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), current edition, is used by the CON for citations, references, and papers. Students are expected to comply with this formatting style.

K. Social Media

Social network sites such as Facebook, Snap Chat, LinkedIn, Twitter, are digital platforms and distribution mechanisms which facilitate student communicating with other students. Participation in such platforms may have both positive and negative consequences. Students are not restricted from using such platforms, it is expected that you will follow acceptable social and professional behaviors and comply with all federal government regulations including, but not limited to HIPAA guidelines.

- Be extremely careful of what you post on line.
- If you identify yourself as a TWU CON Student, everything you post reflects on you and the university. Post wisely.
- You may create a private class page/site, but you may not create a public TWU CON page.
- Do not share information about tests, clinical sites, patients, or faculty online.
- Remember, your future employer will search your Social Media Pages prior to employment. Only post things that can pass the “Front Page of the Newspaper Test” (Would you be comfortable if your material were on the front page of the newspaper?)
- [Texas Board of Nursing position statement on Social Media](#)
- [ANA on Social Media](#)

V. Bachelor of Science (BS) Program

A. Program Goals

1. The goals of the baccalaureate nursing program are to prepare students who should be able to:
 - a. Practice in a professional manner in an entry level nursing position.
 - b. Incorporate current research findings into practice.
 - c. Collaborate with clients, families, health care providers, and communities in the coordination of health care.
 - d. Demonstrate novice leadership skills within the organizational structure of Health care settings.
 - e. Think critically in managing health care problems.
 - f. Demonstrate commitment to the profession of nursing.
 - g. Care for culturally diverse populations through health protection, health promotion and health maintenance activities
 - h. Communicate effectively in professional nursing practice. *Approved by Faculty Organization*

B. Academic Policies and Procedures

1. Essential Elements for Nursing Practice

Texas Woman's University is committed to affording equal educational opportunity to all individuals qualified for admission to its academic programs. To succeed, all students must meet specified performance standards of the University and the specific program of study.

The College of Nursing has identified those performance standards which are expected of all students enrolled in the nursing program and

these are attached for your information. The "General Outline for Essential Elements for Nursing" includes the expectations for all University students as well as those specific to nursing. The College of Nursing "Core Performance Standards" gives specific examples of the performance standards that are specific to nursing.

These standards are provided for your information as you begin the nursing program so that you will know what will be expected during the program. If any student requires reasonable accommodation to meet these performance standards, it is the responsibility of the student to register with [Disability Support Services](#) and to notify the faculty member in a timely fashion.

a. Academic Readiness: The student, with or without reasonable accommodations must be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate eligibility for scholarship at the post-secondary level by:
 - Satisfying general admission requirements of Texas Woman's University
 - Satisfying specific admission requirements unique to a program selected as an academic major.
- 2) Demonstrate the ability to profit from advanced scholarship by:
 - Communicating with an academic advisor
 - Planning an academic schedule appropriate to the content area selected as a major.

b. Academic Progress: The student, with or without reasonable accommodations, should be able to:

1. Profit from learning experiences relevant to program objectives, including such means as:
 - Attending scheduled class lectures, laboratory sections, etc.
 - Satisfying specific course/program objectives as specified in the course syllabi.
 - Demonstrating competencies through evaluation procedures adopted by the academic program.
 - Complete degree plans and other student progress records as required by the program and University.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking skills deemed appropriate for the academic level and discipline content, including such means as:
 - Successfully completing the University Core Curriculum requirements.
 - Comprehending appropriate professional literature.
 - Articulation information specific to the academic major.
 - *Demonstrating critical thinking and cognitive abilities sufficient for problem solving and clinical judgment.
3. Demonstrate eligibility to assume a professional role at program completion, including such means as:
 - Meeting all matriculation requirements specific to the

program.

- *Interacting in a productive manner with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
- *Demonstrating communications skill sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form. (Communications is understandable to others).
- *Demonstrating mobility sufficient to move independently from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.
- *Demonstrating motor skills sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.
- *Demonstrating visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care.
- *Demonstrating tactile abilities sufficient for physical assessment and therapeutic interventions.
- Completing certification/licensure requirements if needed for employability

****elements specific to nursing***

c. Conduct with the Academy:

The student with or without reasonable accommodations, must be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate behaviors appropriate to study at the post-secondary level, including such means as:
 - abiding by the current University Policies for [student conduct](#).
 - interacting appropriately with peers, faculty, and the professional community.

d. Academic Advisement

Academic advisement by faculty is primarily provided during individual appointments at the Denton Campus, Houston and Dallas Centers. The Baccalaureate Coordinators are available to students who encounter problems or need further assistance.

Responsibilities

- 1) Responsibilities of the Faculty:
 - Review the student's permanent file which includes a projected degree plan and dated notes of contacts with student.
 - Be available to students by posting office hours and/or responding to requests for appointments.
 - Provide academic advisement regarding course selection, requirements for progression and graduation, and resources and referrals as needed.
 - Identify potential scholarship/awards nominees.
 - As requested, assist with completion of degree plans.

2) Responsibilities of the Student

- Know the name and contact information of their academic advisor
- Maintain a file of transcripts, grade reports, and all communications with the University.
- Obtain and read the Texas Woman's University Student Handbook, Bachelor of Science Nursing Student Handbook, and the current University Catalog at the time of initial enrollment at TWU.
- Promptly submit transcripts to the Student Records in Denton for courses completed at other colleges/universities.
- Prior to registration each semester make an appointment with the designated faculty member, according to the procedure at each center.
- Prior to withdrawing from a course, consult with the appropriate faculty and the Program Coordinator/Associate Dean.
- If encountering difficulties in academic or clinical matters, seek guidance, resources and/or referrals from the appropriate faculty and program coordinator.
- Review and sign a degree plan at the designated time, one year prior to anticipated graduation.
- Notify the Program Coordinator in writing when
 - part time enrollment will delay progression and graduation.
 - requesting to return after withdrawing or failing a nursing course.
 - desiring to resume one's nursing studies after an absence from the University.

e. Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used in the College of Nursing

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

72-79 = C

60-71 = D

0-59 = F

In order to pass a course, students must pass all exams with an average of 72% **BEFORE any other assignment grades are added in for the final grade.**

Example: If your exam grades average 70%, and the other assignment grades bring the overall grade to a 75%, the student will not pass the course because the exam grade average is below 72%. In this case, the student would earn a D, which is considered a failing grade in the undergraduate nursing programs.

f. Honor Roll

Undergraduate students are placed on the Honor Roll when they have in the preceding semester received credit for no fewer than nine (9) hours with grade points totaling 3.3 times the hours of credit and with no failing grades. Honor roll cards are issued by the Office of the [Vice President for Academic Affairs](#) after commencement for both the Fall and Spring Semesters.

g. Policy on Grade Rounding:

1. Rounding is confined to the final course grade.
Grades on individual exams (including comprehensive or HESI specialty), assignments and projects are recorded in grade book (Blackboard) as calculated to: two decimal places (84.48; not 85.486 nor 84)
2. Final course grades will be rounded to the closest whole number using the 0.5 math rule. If the final course grade is not a whole number, the following rounding rules apply:
 - a. If the number is 0.5 or greater, then round up to the next whole number (>85.50 = 86)
 - b. If the number is less than 0.5 (0.49), then round down to the previous whole number (<85.49 = 85).
3. The assignment of a final course grade reflects evaluation data as specified in the syllabus. After the final grade is posted, a student may be not complete additional work to change the grade.

h. Academic Policies:

1. A minimum grade of C is required in pathophysiology
2. A minimum grade of C is required in all courses in the upper division nursing major. If a student earns a grade of D, F, or WF in a nursing course, including Pathophysiology, that course must be repeated. A course in which a grade of less than C (D, F, or WF) was earned may be repeated only once.
3. A student who has earned a grade of less than C (D, F, or WF) in two nursing courses (including Pathophysiology) or who has earned a grade of less than C (D, F, or WF) twice in the same nursing course (including Pathophysiology) will be dismissed from the nursing program. **There will be no exceptions.** For the purpose of removal from the nursing program, a grade of less than C is counted even if the course has been successfully repeated.
4. Students receiving a grade of I, D, F, or WF in a nursing course may not progress in courses for which that course is a prerequisite
5. All nursing courses must be completed within a period of five consecutive calendar years from the date of first enrollment in a nursing course. Any current or returning student unable to complete the program within this allotted time frame must apply and compete for admission as a beginning nursing student.
6. To be eligible to graduate, students who are not already licensed in Texas as a registered nurse are required to take a nursing comprehensive exam. The student will be given two opportunities to achieve a passing score on the exam.

i. Dismissal

The College of Nursing reserves the right to dismiss from the nursing program any student who is assessed to be a threat to the welfare of another, is unsafe in clinical practice, or who does not uphold the ethical standards of the profession.

j. Readmission into Nursing Program

If a baccalaureate student, who was in good academic standing, has been absent from the program for more than one year, the procedure for re-entry into the nursing program includes those strategies determined by the faculty to assess the student's knowledge and skills consistent with re-entry at a specific level in the curriculum. These strategies may include:

- (1) Placement test(s)
- (2) Clinical skills assessment
- (3) Other assessment strategies identified to measure knowledge, clinical skills or other competencies necessary to progress in the nursing program.

Performance in designated assessment strategies will determine the level of re- entry. Enrollment will be based on the availability of clinical faculty and clinical space.

An individual who has been unsuccessful in meeting the progression requirements, after being admitted into the baccalaureate program in the College of Nursing, is eligible to apply to the College of Nursing and be considered for admission as a new student in the baccalaureate program after a period of five (5) years.

k. Priorities for Class Enrollment

Enrollments in nursing courses are limited and are determined by the number of faculty available to teach each course. Teaching assignments are based on projections of class size for each course and every attempt is made to assure there are enough faculty to meet projected needs. However, there are times when the number of students seeking enrollment is more than the space available in the class. The College of Nursing has established priorities for determining who may enroll in a course if there is not space for all students. The following groups are listed in order of priority.

- 1) Ongoing fulltime students who are in good academic standing.
- 2) Ongoing part-time students who are in good academic standing.
- 3) Previously enrolled students who were in good standing when they stopped taking nursing courses.
- 4) Ongoing students transferring from one TWU clinical center to another.
- 5) Ongoing students in good academic standing previously enrolled in the course who withdrew with a WP.
- 6) Students who are seeking to repeat a course because they earned a grade less than C the first time they took the course.
- 7) Students seeking to transfer from another nursing program.

l. NCLEX-RN Candidate Information

- 1) Licensure as a Registered Nurse

Upon admission to upper division courses of the College of Nursing,

each student is required to review specific rules and regulations of the Texas Board of Nursing. Every student is responsible for reading information regarding application for licensure in the state of Texas. The Texas Board of Nursing determines criteria for eligibility for licensure. Students should access the Board of Nursing website at www.bon.state.tx.us to examine the Nurse Practice Act and its regulations. Detailed information about critical issues in a student's background may affect eligibility, and the student should contact the board for information regarding possible submission of a Declaratory Order (Sec. 301-257). Board approval of candidates who apply for the NCLEX-RN examination to be licensed in the state of Texas is necessary.

1) Application Process

The application process for initial licensure by examination has several steps. Please contact the Undergraduate Program Coordinator on your campus for specific information.

If you have questions, contact the Texas Board of Nursing at <http://www.bon.texas.gov>

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe, #3-460

Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 305-7400

2) Students Desiring to Take the NCLEX Out-of-State

For instructions, the student must contact the state board of nursing of the state in which he or she desires to take the exam. The Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does not process out-of-state applications.

C. Clinical Policies and Procedures

1. Requirements for enrollment in Clinical Nursing Courses

At the time of enrollment in clinical nursing courses, the student must provide proof of:

- a. Current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification (CPR) from the American Heart Association. Certification must include one person, two person CPR and choking for infant, child, and Adult, and use of one way valve breathing. It must also include use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) from the American Heart Association (AHA). It must be a healthcare provider course. Online courses will not be accepted.
- b. Current required immunizations. Information for specific requirements is sent with the acceptance letter. Please visit the Student Health Services Web site at <http://www.twu.edu/student-health-services/default.asp> or call 940.898.3825 for more information about requirements.

Students must provide proof of required immunizations and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation American Heart Association Basic Life Support (AHA BLS) certification as specified by faculty. Additional requirements may apply based on clinical facility to which the student is assigned.

All clinical credentials will be submitted and archived through a vendor identified by the College of Nursing. Students are responsible for submitting credentials prior to the due date so that records will be processed in sufficient time for verification before a clinical placement can occur. If students have any questions they should immediately contact their program coordinator or the office of the Associate Dean or Assistant Dean.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL STUDENTS KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS.

- c. Drug testing and criminal background screenings are conducted by vendors designated by the College of Nursing. Students may be required to have additional drug screening at the discretion of the College of Nursing faculty or by request of the clinical facility in which the student is placed. Please review drug policy at <https://twu.edu/media/documents/nursing/Student-Drug-Screen-Policy-Procedure-Faculty-Org-Policy-Manual-1-2018.pdf>
- d. Professional liability insurance will be provided for each student through the TWU student professional liability group policy.

2. Core Performance Standards

Nursing Care must be delivered in a timely fashion for safe and effective nursing care to be given to the patient/client

Issue	Standards	Examples
Critical Thinking Cognitive Ability	Critical thinking sufficient for clinical judgment	Ability to handle multiple tasks and problem solve simultaneously. Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations; utilize the nursing process in developing nursing care plans; and perform dosage calculations in a time frame to deliver safe care.
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	Establish rapport and maintain professional demeanor with patient/client, family, and colleagues.
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form. Communication is understandable to others.	Explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, document and interpret nursing actions and patient/client responses.
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	Moves around in patient's rooms, work spaces, and treatment areas and can administer cardiopulmonary procedures. Able to coordinate eyes and hands or fingers rapidly and accurately in making precise movements with speed when providing patient care.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.	Motor skills of lifting, carrying, pushing, and pulling are required. Physical ability to lift and transfer 50 pounds and carrying of objects up to 25 pounds. Physical ability of bending or stooping 1 inch from the floor and of reaching overhead to retrieve or place items on patient/unit shelves; to intermittently push objects over 100 pounds; stand/walk for 8 -12 hours.

Issue	Standards	Examples
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.	Hears, with and without background noises, monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, and cries for help
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care.	Assess and observe patient/client responses; able to identify and distinguish colors and shades of the same color; able to successfully perform nursing skills that require visual accuracy such as preparing precise medication doses in syringes, identifying specific medications by visualization, and observing patient monitoring equipment.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessments	Finger dexterity to perform palpation and percussion functions of the physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic interventions (e.g. insertion of an indwelling catheter). Perceives attributes of objects such as size, shape, temperature, or texture.

3. Universal Precautions

Since medical history and examination cannot reliably identify all patients infected with HIV or other blood-borne pathogens, blood and body-fluid precautions should be consistently used for ALL patients. This approach, previously recommended by CDC, and referred to as "[universal blood and body-fluid precautions](#)" or "universal/standards precautions," should be used in the care of ALL patients, especially including those in emergency-care settings in which the risk of blood exposure is increased and the infection status of the patient is usually unknown.

- a. All health-care workers shall routinely use appropriate barrier precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids of any patient is anticipated. Gloves shall be worn for touching blood and body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin of all patients, for handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids, and for performing venipuncture and other vascular access procedures. Gloves shall be changed after contact with each patient. Masks and protective eyewear or face shields shall be worn during procedures that are likely to generate droplets of blood or other body fluids to prevent exposure of mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, and eyes.

Gowns or aprons shall be worn during procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood or other body fluids.

- b. Hands shall be washed before and after examining each patient. Hands and other skin surfaces shall be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids. Hands shall be washed immediately after gloves are removed.
- c. All health-care workers shall take precautions to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels, and other sharp instruments or devices during procedures; when cleaning used instruments; during disposal of used needles; and when handling sharp instruments after procedures. To prevent needle-stick injuries, needles shall not be recapped, purposely bent or broken by hand, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand. After they are used, disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp items shall be placed in puncture-resistant containers for disposal; the puncture-resistant containers shall be located as close as practical to the use area. Large-bore reusable needles shall be placed in a puncture-resistant container for transport to the reprocessing area.
- d. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouth-pieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices shall be available for use in areas in which the need for resuscitation is predictable.
- e. Health-care workers who have exudative lesions or weeping dermatitis should refrain from all direct patient care and from handling patient-care equipment until the condition resolves.
- f. Pregnant health-care workers are not known to be at greater risk of contracting HIV infection than health-care workers who are not pregnant; however, if a health-care worker develops HIV infection during pregnancy, the infant is at risk of infection resulting from perinatal transmission. Because of this risk, pregnant health-care workers should be especially familiar with and strictly adhere to precautions to minimize the risk of HIV transmission.

Implementation of universal blood and body-fluid precautions for ALL patients eliminates the need for use of the isolation category of "Blood and Body Fluid Precautions" previously recommended by CDC for patients known or suspected to be infected with blood-borne pathogens. Isolation precautions (e.g., enteric, "AFB") should be used as necessary if associated conditions, such as infectious diarrhea or tuberculosis, are diagnosed or suspected. (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/universal.html>)

4. Guidelines for Professional Appearance

a. Dress Code:

The uniform policy of the agency in which the student practices must be followed. In addition, the student must comply with the TWU Guidelines. When there are questions not specifically addressed in this policy, it is the faculty member's role to determine what professional appearance is.

Clothing:

- 1) **Uniform:** The official undergraduate nursing student uniform is to be specifically ordered from only the TWU chosen vendor to maintain professionalism and uniformity. The uniform is maroon (not wine) colored pants (or skirt) with a maroon (not wine) colored top (or dress) with the Texas Woman's University College of Nursing patch (or embroidered patch) on the left sleeve. Each scrub top will be embroidered with the TWU logo on the right front chest area in white in order to discriminate with other hospital employees with similar colored scrubs.
Exception: In some clinical courses, (Re. pediatrics), students may wear scrub or uniform tops that comply with hospital rules and which are consistent with what is worn in the clinical agency.
- 2) **Identification – Name badge/patches:** Must be worn on uniform and lab coats in clinical as well as on campus for security and identifying purposes.
- 3) **The TWU patch** is to be worn on the left sleeve of the uniform and lab coat. The name tag is to be worn on the left side of the chest (above the chest level). The name should be followed by "S.N." (Student Nurse) or "R.N." (Registered Nurse) whichever applies. Student Nurse may be spelled out on the second line of the name tag. Texas Woman's University may be on the third line. The TWU/clinical facility photo ID should be worn in the center of the chest on the V of the scrub top.
- 4) **Shoes:** Shoes should be clean and free of stains. White or black professional nursing shoes or plain white OR white or black leather– look impermeable, (non-mesh), low top athletic shoes are to be worn with uniform.
- 5) **Hosiery:** Sock and support sock colors are solid white, black, tan or maroon to wear with pants. White hosiery should be worn with dresses.
- 6) **Optional Jacket or Scrub Jacket:** Navy blue (only) standard navy polyester jacket or scrub jacket with TWU patch on left sleeve and TWU embroidered on the right chest.
Exception: There may be some units that restrict jackets such as burn unit or the OR.
- 7) **Preclinical Attire:** Appropriate, professional-looking attire is mandatory. (No jeans). Lab coats or complete uniform will be worn during preclinical visits.
- 8) **Professional-looking attire** includes wearing hose (or socks) and closed toe shoes. As noted below, wearing perfumed products is forbidden. Other personal habits (see below) should be observed for

preclinical visits.

- 9) **Laboratory Coats:** A white standardized lab coat with $\frac{3}{4}$ length and long sleeves, with TWU patch and TWU logo embroidery will be worn for the J1 White Coat Ceremony. In addition, if not in uniform, it is to be worn over street clothes when the student is in the hospital on school business other than direct patient care.
- 10) **Other Clothing:** Faculty will inform students if clothing other than official uniform is to be worn for a clinical experience. An optional white T-shirt (long or short sleeved) may be worn under clothing for warmth.

b. **General Appearance**

- 1) **Clothing:** Should be clean and wrinkle free. Skirts should reach the knees. Shirts should be buttoned or zipped. When wearing scrubs, tee-shirts or other undergarments that are worn underneath should be white and not have visible pictures, prints, Logos, etc.
- 2) **Hair:** Hair management must conform to infection control guidelines and standards of professional appearance. Hair should be off the collar and pulled back. Hair must be only natural hair colors: no decorative hair colors, etc. **Men's facial hair must be clean and neatly trimmed close to the face.**
- 3) **Cosmetics:** Should be conservative. Do not wear perfumed products.
- 4) **Fingernails:** Should be short, neatly trimmed, and clean. **(Nails should not extend past fingertips).** No artificial nails or **nail polish**
- 5) **Jewelry:** No jewelry, with the following exceptions: (a) watch, (b) plain wedding band, (c) stud/button style earrings, (d) keepsakes on chains long enough to be concealed under the uniforms
- 6) **Body piercing:** No more than two (2) studs or button style earrings per ear lobe; no visible body piercings – (that is, no tongue, no eyebrow piercings, nose, etc.)
- 7) **Body art:** No visible tattoos are allowed. All tattoos must be covered.

c. **Personal Habits**

- 1) **Personal Hygiene:** Good personal hygiene is mandatory. Unclean, unkempt appearance, unpleasant body or breath odors, including smoke odors, are not acceptable. Strong scents are to be avoided, as noted above.
- 2) **Uniform:** The uniform and lab coat are not for street attire. The TWU patch and identification pin may not be worn while working for a salary.
- 3) **Eating:** Eating should be confined to appropriate areas. No chewing gum while in uniform and/or in clinical areas.
- 4) **Smoking:** Smoking and use of other tobacco products is always discouraged. The use of **any** tobacco product while in a clinical uniform, or in the clinical setting, is prohibited. If you or the clinical uniform smells

of tobacco use, you may be dismissed from the clinical setting. **TWU is a smoke free university.**

- 5) **Language:** Polite, professional in nature. No profanity or vulgar slang on the campus or in the clinical setting.

D. Nursing Pin

Upon successful completion of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree, you will have the opportunity to purchase and wear the College of Nursing pin. The Texas Woman's University Nursing Pin reflects the history of the College of Nursing. As an official symbol of the TWU College of Nursing, it cannot be replaced with any other color, wording, or design. See the picture below.



VI. Master of Science (MS) Program

College of Nursing Graduate Degrees

A. Program Goals

- The Master of Science program in nursing prepares students to Practice in advanced role areas
- Implement research and theory-based practice
- Engage in independent, autonomous nursing practice in a specialized area
- Disseminate, apply, and participate in research
- Use collaboration, leadership, and negotiation to affect health care policy
- Think critically in making decisions in complex situations
- Engage in behavior that reflects how they commit to professional values and practices
- Deliver specialized care to culturally diverse populations by protecting, promoting and maintaining health activities

B. Academic Policies and Procedures

1. Clinical Credentialing Requirements

All nursing students must meet program requirements before they take the clinical courses or internships.

a. L i c e n s u r e

You must have a current license to practice professional nursing in the USA. You must show your license to practice professional nursing in Texas to your clinical instructor and the graduate secretary each semester you take a course with a clinical component

b. L i a b i l i t y Insurance

Before you enroll in courses with a clinical component or practicum, you must present proof of your liability insurance purchased through a TWU student professional liability group policy. Its cost will vary according to the length of time of coverage sought. The liability insurance will be automatically billed to your student tuition bill.

c. Drug Screen/Criminal Background Checks

You must have a drug screen and a background check. Standards for criminal background screening are those commonly required of employees of hospitals. A background check will review your criminal history seven years back from the date of application. If your background check reveals

- Felony convictions;
- Misdemeanor convictions, probated sentences, or felony deferred adjudications involving crimes against persons;
- Misdemeanor convictions related to moral turpitude;
- Felony-probated sentences or deferred adjudications for the sale, possession, distribution, or transfer of narcotics or controlled substances; or

- Registered sex offenses

TWU will remove you from the nursing program. If you are convicted of a criminal offense while you are enrolled in the program, you must report to the Associate Dean or Assistant Dean within three days of the conviction. You may be readmitted to the program if the Texas Board of Nursing for the State of Texas issues a Declaratory Order stating that you are eligible for license renewal or that you may return to practice.

All clinical credentials will be submitted and archived through a vendor identified by the College of Nursing. Students are responsible for submitting credentials prior to the due date so that records will be processed in sufficient time for verification before a clinical placement can occur. If students have any questions they should immediately contact their program coordinator or the office of the Associate Dean or Assistant Dean.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL STUDENTS KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS.

2. Academic Readiness

To demonstrate academic readiness, you must demonstrate eligibility for scholarship at the post-secondary level by:

- Satisfying general admission requirements of TWU
- Satisfying the specific admission requirements of the program that you select as an academic major

Demonstrate how you will profit from advanced scholarship by

- communicating with an assigned academic advisor
- planning an academic schedule appropriate to program objectives

3. Academic Progress

To demonstrate academic progress, you must:

Show that you will profit from learning experiences relevant to program objectives by:

- Attending scheduled class lectures, laboratory sections, and participating in online course delivery
- Satisfying specific course/program objectives that your syllabi specify
- Demonstrating competencies through the academic program's evaluation procedures
- Completing a degree plan and other progress records as required by the program and TWU

Demonstrate critical thinking skills deemed appropriate for the academic level and discipline content by

- Successfully completing the University Core Curriculum requirements
- Comprehending appropriate professional literature
- Integrating professional literature to evidence-based practice
- Articulating information specific to the academic major

- Demonstrating critical thinking and cognitive abilities sufficient for problem solving and clinical judgment*

Demonstrate eligibility to assume a professional role after completing the program by:

- Meeting all requirements to matriculate from the academic program
- Interacting productively with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds
- Demonstrating sufficient written and verbal communication skills
- Moving independently between rooms and maneuvering in small spaces
- Demonstrating motor skills sufficient to provide safe, effective nursing care
- Demonstrating hearing ability sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care*
- Demonstrating visual ability sufficient for to observe and assess patients while giving care *
- Demonstrating tactile abilities sufficient for physical assessment, therapeutic interventions and computer competency *
- Completing any certification/licensure requirements you need

* Elements specific to Nursing

4. Core Performance Standards

The College of Nursing establishes Core Performance Standards that you must follow while

Issue	Standard	Examples
Critical Thinking Cognitive Ability	Critical thinking sufficient for clinical judgment.	Ability to: Handle multiple tasks and problem solve simultaneously. Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations Utilize the nursing process in developing nursing care plans Perform dosage calculations in a time frame to deliver and manage safe care
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.	Ability to: Establish rapport and professional demeanor with patients, clients, family, and colleagues.
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form. Communication is understandable to others.	Ability to: Explain treatment procedures Initiate health teaching Document and interpret nursing actions and patient/client responses.

Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	Ability to: Move around in patient's rooms, work spaces and treatment areas and administer cardiopulmonary procedures. Coordinate eyes and hands or fingers rapidly and accurately in making quick, precise movements when providing patient care.
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Issue	Standard	Examples
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care	Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be capable of lifting, carrying, pushing, and pulling • Lift and transfer 50 lbs. (23Kg). • Bend or stoop one inch from the floor and reach overhead to retrieve or place items on patient/unit shelves • Intermittently push objects over 100 lbs. (46 kg) and walk for 8-12 hours.
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care	Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, and cries out for help in the midst of background noises and other sounds.
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care	Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and observe patient and client responses • Identify and distinguish colors and shades of the same color.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment	Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform palpation and percussion functions of physical examination and/or therapeutic interventions, and using a computer. • Perceive an object's size, shape, temperature, or texture.

C. Course Work

The degree track you select determines how many credits you need to complete the program. Students complete at least 41 semester hours.

Nurse Practitioner

The Nurse Practitioner (NP) tracks require 46 credit hours. Please see the [College of Nursing Nurse Practitioner](http://www.twu.edu/nursing/nurse-practitioner.asp) (<http://www.twu.edu/nursing/nurse-practitioner.asp>) webpage for the most up to date curriculum.

[Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner \(A/GNP\)](#) (Dallas and Houston Only)

[Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner \(A/G ACNP\)](#) (Houston Only)

[Family Nurse Practitioner](#) (Denton, Dallas and Houston)

[Pediatric Nurse Practitioner](#) (Dallas Only) [Women's](#)

[Health Nurse Practitioner](#) (Dallas Only)

Nursing Education (100% Online)

The nursing education track requires 40 credit hours. Please see the [College of Nursing, Education](http://www.twu.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/nursing-education/) (<http://www.twu.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/nursing-education/>) webpage for the most up to date curriculum.

Nursing/Health Systems Management

Students complete a major in nursing/health systems management and a minor in health care administration.

D. RN to MS in Nursing

The RN MS Program offers registered nurses holding an associate degree or diploma from a nationally accredited program an opportunity to enroll in a program leading to a Master of Science degree with a major in nursing. For more information please follow this link: <http://www.twu.edu/nursing/rn-ms.asp>

E. Certificate Programs

Individuals who have a master's degree in nursing may be considered for admission to a post-master's certification program. For more information, please follow this link: <http://www.twu.edu/nursing/post-ms-certificate.asp>

F. Advisement

Academic advisement is an essential component of any program of study. You are encouraged to seek academic advisement on a regular basis throughout your program.

Advisory Committee

The coordinator of the master's program at each campus or center serves as the initial advisor for you as a new graduate student. **You must contact the coordinator before you enroll in any course to plan a program of study.** The master's program coordinator will consider the practice area you choose and assign you an academic advisory committee when you enroll for the first course you take for credit toward your master's degree. The committee will consist of at least two graduate faculty members, and they will have primary authority in planning your academic program, what courses you should take, and what credit you transfer from other institutions. The Graduate School dean will officially approve your committee when he or she accepts your degree plan. Contact the chairperson of your

Academic advisory committee after you register for your first courses and contact your committee any time while you study at TWU.

G. Your Degree

You must submit a degree plan that outlines your program of study. Your academic advisory committee implements your input into your degree plan.

Your Degree Plan

After you complete twelve semester hours of coursework, submit a copy of your degree plan to the campus or center Master's program coordinator or to the graduate secretary. Your Academic Advisory Committee must approve your degree plan. Your degree plan will go before the Associate Dean of the College of Nursing and the Dean of the Graduate School so they can approve it. If they approve it, the Graduate School will mail you the approved copy of your degree plan.

Degree Plan Changes

After your file your degree plan, you can change your course of study by completing a Change of Degree Program form. The Advisory Committee Chairperson, the Associate Dean of the College of Nursing, and the Dean of the Graduate School must approve the form.

H. Student Opportunities

Traineeships, Scholarships, and Graduate Assistantships

TWU maintains the University Financial Aid Office that provides financial assistance to students who qualify. You can receive work, grants, loans, assistantships, or scholarships or some combination of these, but only some students will receive nursing teaching, research assistantships, or nursing scholarships. Apply for assistantships and scholarships several months before you enroll for courses. If you receive a full-time assistantship (20 hours per week) or a competitive scholarship, you qualify for in-state tuition.

Advanced Education Nurse Traineeships

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funds advanced education nurse traineeships if you are completing your degree plan within twelve months. You can find an application for a traineeship with the program coordinator or at the Dean's office.

APN Recognition by the Texas State Texas Board of Nursing

Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) graduates may apply to the Texas Board of Nursing to register as an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN). You can find application packets and complete instructions on the [Texas Board of Nursing website](#). The Master's program coordinator must fill out and sign Part II of the application.

Application for Certification Examination

A variety of Certification Examinations are available to NP and CNS students, depending on their specialty area of study. Most certifying bodies require a written confirmation of a student's actual or proposed graduation dates as well as curriculum information. Submit these forms should be submitted to the appropriate master's program coordinator to complete them.

You should be familiar with the [BNE rules for advanced practice](#) since these rules govern their practice in Texas. Additionally, you should adhere to the time frames after your graduate to take certification exams and to register with the state as an APN. The Texas Board of Nursing advanced practice rules explain these time frames.

VII. Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

A. Program Goals

The information provided in this handbook may serve as an additional resource for initiation and successful completion of the following endeavors:

1. Academic program planning
2. Acknowledgement and realization of all necessary criteria for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from both the College of Nursing as well as the Graduate School

This information is intended to clarify and to supplement, not to replace, the information in the *Graduate Catalog*. Each DNP student should read the *Graduate Catalog* thoroughly and comply fully with all requirements of the College of Nursing and the Graduate School.

Mission

The TWU Doctor of Nursing Practice is designed to prepare Nurse Practitioners and Certified Nurse Midwives to function as expert clinicians who integrate and evaluate evidenced-based practices in acute and primary care settings. The DNP curriculum broadens and expands upon the skills of the master's prepared Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) to include: enhanced clinical expertise; implementation of healthcare informatics technologies; and to increase depth in the application of scientific advances and health care organizational concepts to nursing practice.

Goals

Upon completion of the doctoral nursing program, the graduate will have attained the requisite knowledge and expertise to:

- Apply evidence from nursing and the biophysical, psychosocial, behavioral, and clinical sciences to complex health issues.
- Implement health care delivery models and strategies designed for quality improvement in patient care.
- Analyze existing research and design and conduct evaluations of clinical interventions to implement evidence-based practice.
- Employ an evidence-based framework when conducting research on clinical interventions.
- Develop and advocate for health care policy.
- Collaborate with other health professionals to provide high quality, ethical patient-centered care that meets current standards of best practice.
- Synthesize concepts of health promotion and protection and disease prevention in managing complex health problems.
- Apply expert clinical judgment in providing comprehensive assessment, diagnosis, and management of health and illness in diverse populations.
- Provide visionary nursing leadership through contributions to the management and guidance of health care systems.

B. Academic Policies and Procedures

General Information about the Doctor of Nursing Program at TWU

The Doctor of Nursing Practice is a Distance Education program that uses the hybrid delivery method. The objectives of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program have been

developed to be consistent with *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice* (American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN], 2006.)

The DNP program at TWU is offered to post-master's-degree-prepared Nurse Practitioners or Certified Nurse Midwives who have graduated from accredited educational institutions. All students admitted to the DNP program at TWU are Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) in the Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) who have graduated from an accredited educational institution and who has meet the eligibility requirements to be recognized as an APRN by the Texas Board of Nursing. The DNP program is designed to prepare APRNs to function as expert clinicians in primary and acute-care situations and to integrate evidence-based practice at a very sophisticated level of professional performance.

The full-time DNP program (including foundation courses in nursing, informatics, genetics, business and health systems management, and health care policy), requires six semesters of enrollment over a 24-month time period. Part-time options are also available. The curriculum includes two 15-week clinical practicums designed to integrate advanced diagnosis and differential diagnoses, informatics, technology, evidence-based interventions, genetics, and outcomes measurement. DNP graduates will earn 46 semester credit hours beyond the master's degree program. Part-time and full-time [DNP Curriculum exemplars are available on the TWU College of Nursing website.](#)

Progression Requirements

A minimum grade of B in each nursing course and 3.0 grade-point average is required to continue in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. The student may repeat only one nursing course in which a grade of less than B is earned. If a course must be repeated, the student cannot progress in the program until that course has been successfully completed.

Scholastic Probation

If the student's cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 in one semester, the student is placed on scholastic probation. Failure to attain a 3.0 cumulative GPA in the next regular semester will result in dismissal from the program.

Program Dismissal

A student who has earned a grade of less than B (C, D, F, or WF) in two nursing courses at the graduate level or who has earned a grade of less than B (C, D, F, or WF) twice in the same graduate level nursing course will be removed from the DNP Program. A student who has earned a grade of C in a non-nursing course may repeat that course once to obtain a B or an A.

A student who has provisional admission will be dismissed from the DNP Program the first time the GPA falls below a 3.0.

Withdrawal

A grade of W or WF is assigned when a student withdraws from a course prior to the penalty date. After the penalty date, a W will be assigned if the student's average grade in the course at the time of withdrawal is 80% or higher. A grade of WF will be assigned if the student's average grade is below 80%.

Student Rights

DNP students have all rights specified in the TWU [Graduate Student Catalog](#)

Grade Appeal Process

The College of Nursing appeal procedure is available from the DNP Program Coordinator or the Associate Dean. The Graduate School appeal procedure can be found in the TWU *Student*

Elements Related to DNP Curriculum

Clinical Course Requirements

Prior to clinical experiences, DNP students must follow College of Nursing procedures regarding immunization, drug screens, criminal background checks, and liability insurances. (See Graduate Handbook ([Student Life Texas Woman's University](#)))

DNP students must maintain good standing of all appropriate licensures (including Nurse Practitioner or Certified Nurse Midwifery status) from the State Board of Nursing. The student must notify the College of Nursing immediately of any change in nursing licensure, including pending investigations. In addition, students enrolling in clinical coursework must meet all requirements of the clinical facility.

C. Scholarly Project

i. Purpose

The DNP candidate will perform a required Scholarly Project that demonstrates the higher order thinking skills gained through the required and elective course work.

ii. Process

Each required course throughout the DNP program will offer the DNP candidate opportunities to identify, describe, and analyze areas of individual clinical interest. Toward the end of each candidate's Degree Plan, NURS 6303 will provide the student dedicated time to: (a) complete an analysis of evidence-based practice literature in a clinical area of interest; (b) formulate and implement an evidence-base intervention project; and (c) evaluate project outcomes, including implications for future research.

iii. Scholarly Paper and Presentation

Scholarly papers submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals and public presentations about clinical practice inquiry are incorporated into the DNP program.

D. Advisement

Academic Advisement

Prior to admission to the doctoral program, the DNP Program Coordinator acts as an advisor for the student. At the time of admission to the DNP Program, each student is assigned a major advisor from the nursing faculty and an advisory committee, as specified in the Graduate Handbook. Prior to enrolling in any course work, students must contact the DNP Program Coordinator.

E. The Doctor of Nursing Degree Plan

All Doctor of Nursing Practice Program students must file a degree plan with the Graduate School in accordance with the policies of the [Graduate Student Catalog](#). It is the student's responsibility to work with the advisor to develop the degree plan prior to completion of 18 semester hours. All degree plans should be submitted to the Graduate School one year prior to the graduation date.

The Degree Plan must cite exact course numbers and titles. Any transfer credit approved by the committee must have an official transcript filed with the Graduate Office. When the Degree Plan form has been completed, it must be signed by all members of the Degree Plan Committee (DPC).

Once the degree plan has been filed and approved by the Dean of The Graduate School, any changes in courses must be approved by the DNP Program Coordinator and a Change in Degree Plan must be filed with the Graduate School Office.

If the Dean of the Graduate School finds the Degree Plan unacceptable, the College of Nursing will be notified. The DNP Program Coordinator will assist the student in making the appropriate revisions or advise the student regarding any additional documentation required.

F. Financial Assistance: Full and Part-Time Students

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Students desiring a university scholarship or financial aid should contact the University Financial Aid Office for information. Students should apply for scholarships or university financial aid and scholarships several months in advance of enrollment.

Graduate Assistantships

A limited number of nursing teaching graduate assistantships and nursing scholarships are available. Students desiring an assistantship should contact the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Coordinator on the Dallas Campus for information and applications. Graduate Assistant applications must be filed with the Associate Dean of the College of Nursing on the Dallas campus for review and recommendation.

Students receiving full-time assistantships (20 hours per week) are eligible for in-state tuition and health insurance. In order to take advantage of the health insurance benefits, the student must: (a) work at least 20 hours per week, (b) have an appointment for a minimum of 4 1/2 months, and (c) enroll for the health insurance with the Human Resources Office within 31 days of their employment/eligibility data. Students interested in this benefit should contact the Human Resources Office for specific details.

If an assistantship is approved, it is necessary to complete required Human Resource forms prior to the payroll deadline in order to receive payment. Graduate Assistants will need to present proof of citizenship and employment eligibility (i.e., state driver's license and Social Security card) to the Office of Human Resources in Denton.

Graduate Assistants are paid monthly on the first working day of the month following the month worked. Before a paycheck can be disseminated, all of the required Human Resources Office forms must have been completed.

DNP students may not hold assistantships for more than 4 years. Students holding assistantship must be enrolled in 9 credit hours and not more than 12 credit hours. Under special circumstances, the Dean of the College of Nursing and the Dean of the Graduate School may grant special permission for a student enrolled in 6 credit hours to receive an assistantship.

Research Assistants

Opportunities also exist for students to serve as research assistants for faculty with funded research projects. Candidates for these positions will be selected by the funded faculty member. Research assistants are generally compensated at the same level as teaching assistants.

G. Additional Information

Each candidate for the doctoral degree in the College of Nursing is personally responsible for meeting requirements and deadlines. If there are any questions concerning requirements or deadlines, students should contact the DNP Program Coordinator.

Students should keep the Graduate School and the College of Nursing informed of their personal addresses and phone numbers.

Students should keep a personal copy of all forms and papers filed with the Graduate School (e.g., Doctoral Degree Program, Application for Graduation, etc.).

VIII. DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

A. Program Goals

The information provided in this handbook is to assist students in (1) academic program planning and (2) meeting the requirements of the College of Nursing and the Graduate School for completing the PhD degree in nursing science. This information is intended to clarify and to supplement, not to replace, the information in the Graduate Catalog. Each student should read thoroughly and comply fully with all requirements of the College of Nursing and the Graduate School.

The curriculum is organized to support scholarly development. To provide students with a foundation in research, both didactic and experiential opportunities in quantitative and qualitative research methodologies are incorporated. Throughout the core curriculum, theory and research components are linked because the faculty believes that they are inseparable in practice.

Clinical aspects of nursing are important. Students are expected to enter the program with a clinical area of expertise obtained in a master's degree program and by means of clinical practice. This clinical area may serve as the impetus for research during the doctoral program. Efforts are made to match faculty and student research interests.

The program offers students opportunities for significant study in areas of individual interests through a broad selection of substantive and methodological elective courses. The advisory committee can assist students in securing elective experiences that will facilitate their knowledge and research expertise. Electives may be found within the College of Nursing and in other disciplines at TWU and other area universities with whom TWU has affiliation agreements.

Mission

The PhD program at Texas Woman's University College of Nursing develops nurse scholars who contribute to the profession of nursing. Scholars are those nursing leaders who discover, integrate, apply, and disseminate knowledge to promote the health of society. The emphasis of the PhD program is on research, primarily in the areas that influence women's health.

Goals

The goals of the doctoral nursing program are to prepare students who should be able to:

- Engage in scholarship that will add to the body of nursing knowledge/science.
- Influence professional values and practice.
- Investigate substantive questions of human health.
- Integrate knowledge from nursing and other disciplines to address problems of human health.
- Teach and mentor other nurses and nurse scholars.

B. General Requirements

Admission Requirements

All applicants must meet the general requirements for admission to the Graduate School. In addition to these general requirements, the College of Nursing requires the following for admission to the doctoral program:

Link to admission requirements for PhD student is found at: [Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science - Texas Woman's University](#)

*Nursing credentials of international students will be assessed individually.

Admission to the nursing doctoral degree program may be awarded on an unconditional or provisional basis. The criteria for unconditional admission are:

If a student has been provisionally admitted, the conditions necessary for full admission will be specified in the admission letter from the Graduate School. Once the conditions for full admission have been met, the student should petition the Graduate School through the College of Nursing for advancement from Provisional Admission to Unconditional Admission. This request is made through the Doctoral Program Coordinator. Failure to meet conditions of provisional admission results in the student's removal from the program. Admission to the PhD program is a highly competitive process and the College of Nursing always received more applications than slots available.

Transfer of Credits

The doctoral program consists of a minimum of 60 credit hours beyond the master's degree (a minimum of 90 post-baccalaureate credit hours) plus 12 SCH of research tools that are not included in this total. At least 50 percent of the course credit toward the doctoral degree must be completed at Texas Woman's University. The master's degree in nursing or equivalent is considered to be part of the doctoral program. Up to 30 credit hours of master's level work can be accepted and applied toward post-baccalaureate credit hours. Any additional credit hours from the master's degree cannot be transferred in nor used towards the 72 SCH required for the PhD.

There is no automatic transfer of graduate credit, but students may seek approval for additional transfer credit from the Academic Advisory Committee, as the Academic Advisory Committee has the prerogative to recommend to the Dean of the Graduate School the acceptance of transferrable credit. Only courses from an accredited institution in which a grade of B or better was earned may be considered. No credit toward a graduate degree may be earned through correspondence or through extension work for another institution. A student may apply for consideration for transfer credit only after satisfactorily completing a minimum of nine hours of graduate credit **in the doctoral program** at TWU and upon filing the degree plan. The Academic Advisory Committee reviews the transfer requests based on the student's program of study, research interests and if the transfer credit supports the student's professional and research goals that will add to the science of nursing.

Part-time Enrollment

Students planning part-time enrollment need to consult closely with their advisor and/or the Doctoral Program Coordinator so that required nursing courses can be taken in the recommended sequence. While a full-time student can complete the required course work in three and one-half years, the part-time student will require a longer period of time depending upon their availability to take required course work.

Readmission

Link to readmission criteria for the PhD program: <http://www.twu.edu/nursing/phd-program-requirements.asp>

C. Coursework

1. Length of Program

A full-time student considering the doctoral program should plan on 3 1/2 years of full-time study to complete required course work (excluding dissertation). Full-time study is considered 9 hours of course work per semester. The part-time student will need a minimum of four to five years to complete course work provided 6 hours are taken each semester.

ALL REQUIREMENTS TOWARD A DOCTORAL DEGREE, BEYOND THE MASTER'S DEGREE OR ITS EQUIVALENT, MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN A PERIOD OF TEN CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR YEARS FROM THE DATE DOCTORAL CREDIT IS FIRST EARNED.

By state mandate, doctoral students must pay out-of-state tuition for any doctoral course work taken in excess of 99 credit hours. This policy includes all credits for which students enroll while they are classified as a doctoral student, including courses with grades of PR or WP.

2. Degree Requirements:

Link to general requirements for PhD in Nursing Science:

[Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science - Texas Woman's University](#)

Additional requirements:

- Completion of additional courses deemed necessary for fulfilling academic and career goals.
- Successful completion of the preliminary examination.
- Successful defense of the dissertation.

Special Requirements:

- a. A grade of B or better is required in all required courses. A student who has earned a grade of less than B (C, D, F or WF) in two required courses at the graduate level or who has earned a grade of less than B (C, D, F or WF) twice in the same graduate level required course will be removed from the nursing program. For the purpose of removal from the nursing program, a grade of less than B is counted as a grade of less than B even if the course has been successfully repeated.

- b. Students admitted to the master's program provisionally, based on low GPA, must complete the first 12 hours of graduate courses with grades of B or better in each course; at least 9 hours must be in nursing courses. A provisionally admitted student will be dismissed from the program if a grade of C or lower is made in any course during the probationary period.
- c. If a student who is accepted for the re-education process earns a grade of C or below (D, F, or WF) in one of the required re-education courses, he/she will not be allowed to continue in the re-education process.

A grade of WP is assigned when a student withdraws from a course prior to the penalty date. After the penalty date, a WP will be assigned if the student's average grade in the course at the time of withdrawal is 80% or higher. A grade of WF will be assigned if the student's average grade is below 80%.

The College of Nursing has an appeal procedure should a student wish to appeal a grade. That procedure is available from the Doctoral Program Coordinator or the Associate Dean. The Graduate School appeal procedure can be found on-line at: <http://www.twu.edu/academic-affairs/academic-complaints-appeals.asp>

3. Required Courses in the Nursing Major

Students admitted to doctoral study who have not had a master's level theory course or content equivalent to NURS 5013 Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice, are required to complete this course before beginning the required doctoral courses. In addition, students who are deficient in research course work will be required to enroll in NURS 5023 Research in Nursing. When NURS 5013 and NURS 5023 are taken to meet the admission requirements, they are prerequisites for the doctoral program and the hours are not considered as part of the 60 post-masters credits required for the PhD degree.

Link to course descriptions for electives:
<http://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/>

4. Minor

PhD students may choose to apply their elective hours towards a minor. A minor is available only in the areas in which the University offers a major at the doctoral level. A minimum of 15 hours, or more if required by the department in which the minor is being pursued, is required for the minor. A student choosing a minor must have a faculty member from the minor area on the Academic Advisory Committee and on the Dissertation Committee. Comprehensive exams in the minor area, if any, will be according to the policy of the department in which the minor is pursued. Students must obtain approval and advisement from the minor area prior to pursuing the minor.

5. Research Tools

To complete the first research tool requirement, students must take statistics. The student must complete six hours of graduate level statistics. To complete the second research tool requirement, students may choose one of the following options:

- Library Science

Course 1 – LS 5533 Internet Research for Non-Library Science Majors

Course 2 – LS 5553 Electronic Information Retrieval for Non-Library Science Majors

- Informatics in Health Care

Course 1 – NURS 6323 Informatics and Research in Nursing and Health Care

Course 2 – NURS 6333 Current Topics in Informatics and Research in Nursing and Health Care

Additional option – LS 5363 Health Sciences Information Services and a second course at the approval of the academic advisory committee and/or program coordinator

- Instrumentation

Course 1 – NURS 5273 Measurement and Assessment in

Nursing Course 2 – NURS 6173 Instruments in Nursing Research

Alternate course series at the approval of the academic advisory committee and/or program coordinator

- Professional Writing

Course 1 – NURS 6903 Professional Writing

Course 2 – NURS 6003 Grant Writing

Alternate course series at the approval of the academic advisory committee and/or program coordinator

- Population Health and Epidemiology

Course 1 – NURS 6313. Epidemiology, Health Promotion, and Research in Advanced Nursing Practice

Course 2 – Advanced course taken with approval of academic advisory committee and/or program coordinator

Additional option – a two course (6 credits) sequence at the approval of the academic advisory committee and/or program coordinator

- Global Citizenship (To Be Developed)

Credit hours for research tools do not count toward the total hours required for the degree. As a general guide, an effort should be made to complete the Graduate School Research Tool requirements early in the program of study.

6. The Preliminary Examination

The Preliminary Examination presents questions that integrate and synthesize knowledge gained from required preliminary doctoral course work, including the statistics research tool. The goals of this examination are to assess students' ability to:

- Integrate and synthesize required preliminary doctoral course work,
- Critically synthesize knowledge to articulate meaningful conclusions, and
- Clearly and logically communicate in written text.

The examination will be given during the semester following NURS 6004. Students must pass the Preliminary Examination in order to progress in the program. The examination can be repeated one time only.

Students are eligible to take this examination if they have completed the statistics research tool and the following courses: NURS 6004: Theory and Foundations of Nursing Research, NURS 6023: Philosophy of Nursing Science and NURS 6053: Exploring Scholarship. At each testing, all students will be asked to respond to the same questions in a single testing period. Every attempt will be made to ensure that examinations will be graded anonymously. Students will receive written notification of the results of the examination within 30 working days of the exam. A 'pass' means that the student exhibits competence at, or above, the level necessary to continue doctoral level work; a 'fail' means that the student has a need to increase competence to the level required to do the independent scholarly work required at the doctoral level.

Students whose performance is judged to be inadequate will be given feedback about their performance by their Academic Advisory Committee. The student will collaborate with this committee in developing a plan to address the areas needing improvement. The committee may advise the student regarding review procedures or recommend an Individual Study, or other course work, to address problem areas. Students who are unsuccessful on the exam will be permitted to remain enrolled in their course work for the current semester. Students will only be allowed six (6) hours of course work approved by the advisory committee which is directly related to remediation until the exam is passed.

The examination will be offered once a semester at a regularly scheduled exam period. The student will notify the Doctoral Coordinator when ready to repeat the examination. The examination must be repeated and successfully passed before the student will be allowed to take further degree requirements.

7. Admission to Candidacy

Admission to candidacy occurs following completion of all doctoral work, except dissertation, and recommendation of the Research Committee. Students, who have an unconditional admission to the Graduate School, are in good academic standing, have successfully completed the qualifying exam and have completed all pre-dissertation course work, including electives and research tools, are eligible to be considered for candidacy.

Admission to candidacy is based on the student's demonstrated:

- Depth of knowledge within an identified area of research interest.
- Expertise of theoretical and methodological issues related to the area of research interest.
- Ability to successfully propose and potentially implement the dissertation process.

The initial step of formally applying for candidacy is the selection of a doctoral research committee. The student initiates this by contacting and obtaining the consent of potential committee members. Refer to the current [graduate catalogue](#) for specific information on committee membership.

The student will make a written recommendation for proposed committee members, along with rationale for their selection, to the Associate Dean on the respective campus. In approving appointments, the Associate Dean will consider the student's recommendation, though changes may sometimes be necessary before forwarding the approved appointment to the Dean of the Graduate School. If necessary, changes in committee membership may also be made after the committee has been appointed. A request for a change may be initiated by the student, committee member, or the Associate Dean on the respective campus. Requests for change should be written and routed through the chair of the committee, the Associate Dean on the respective campus, and the Dean of the Graduate School.

Following research committee appointment, the student will:

- a. A r r a n g e a candidacy meeting with the Research Committee.
- b. Prepare and submit a five-page candidacy paper to the committee at least 10 days prior to the meeting. The candidacy paper will:
 - Describe the purpose of the proposed dissertation study.
 - Delineate the importance of the study.
 - Indicate a theoretical framework.
 - Outline an appropriate research methodology.
- c. At the candidacy meeting, the student will critically discuss the need for, and conduct of, the proposed study.
- d. T h e student's candidacy paper and oral presentation will be evaluated by the following criteria:
 - Relevance of research area and its significance for nursing.
 - Evidence of evaluation and synthesis of relevant literature.

- Evidence that the methodological approach is feasible and conceptually sound.
- Logical development of the research idea -- demonstrating intellectual creativity and the ability to conceptualize
- Evidence of scholarly writing.

If the Research Committee finds that the student meets these criteria, the student will be recommended for advancement to candidacy. Written recommendation for admission to candidacy is approved and signed by the dissertation committee chair and the Associate Dean prior to forwarding to the Dean of the Graduate School. If the student does not meet the criteria, the committee will suggest remediation to address problem areas. When the student has completed remediation, the Research Committee will reconvene to consider the student's re-application for candidacy.

Students may, in the last semester of coursework and with the PhD Program's Coordinator's approval, select the Research Committee and apply for candidacy. Candidacy will not, however, be forwarded until both the final coursework has been successfully completed and candidacy has been recommended by the Research Committee. In the semester in which the student applies for candidacy, the student will enroll in a one (1) hour Individual Study with the Research Committee chairperson for the purpose of preparing the candidacy proposal. As with the research tools, this one (1) hour Individual Study does not "count" in the 60 hours toward the degree.

D. Dissertation

Each candidate is required to conduct an independent research project (the dissertation) which exhibits evidence of scholarship and potential for adding to the body of nursing knowledge. The dissertation should be an original research study worthy of publication.

After the student has been admitted to candidacy, she/he may enroll in the first dissertation course (NURS 6983). After one semester of enrollment in this course the candidate receives 3 hours of credit. Subsequent enrollments are in the second dissertation course (NURS 6993) and a grade of progress (PR) is given in NURS 6993 until the semester in which the candidate graduates, at which time credit (CR) is assigned. Thus the candidate earns a total of 6 hours of credit for the dissertation.

The proposal and prospectus may be defended during enrollment in NURS 6983. If not defended during that semester, it may be defended in a subsequent enrollment in NURS 6993. However, the prospectus and the dissertation may not be defended in the same semester.

Graduate School policy requires that only an officially registered candidate may hold conferences with faculty concerning the preparation of a dissertation. This rule applies to both the candidate in actual residence and to the candidate not in residence who is receiving faculty assistance through conferences or correspondence. Therefore, candidates must be enrolled in NURS 6983 or NURS 6993 during semesters when they are working with their dissertation chair.

The choice of a dissertation chair is an important mutual decision between the candidate and faculty member. The candidate, the chair, and the committee should have a shared interest in the research topic and work together to develop the dissertation. The student may request a meeting of the committee to discuss the research project and receive guidance prior to the preparation of the proposal. Please consult the [Graduate Catalog](#) and the <http://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/committees-dissertations-theses-professional-papers/preparation-submission-dissertations-theses-professional-papers/> for a comprehensive discussion of the Policies and Guidelines for Graduate Committees on Theses, Dissertations, and Professional Papers.

In some circumstances, PhD students may wish to pursue research under the guidance of a professor in a different administrative unit (host department). This cooperation between the program unit (nursing) and the host department requires the approval of the administration of both. To initiate this cooperation, the PhD student should confer with the Academic Advisory Committee or the Research Committee and the faculty in the other department. If all are in agreement, the student can proceed with formalizing this arrangement. The necessary form (Agreement on Cooperation in Graduate Research) can be found online at the [Graduate School Webpage](#).

1. The Dissertation Proposal

The candidate prepares a draft of the dissertation proposal for review by the dissertation chair and, following the chair's approval, submits it to the dissertation or research committee. The proposal represents the candidate's cumulative work on the research topic and consists of the 10 page prospectus and chapters 1, 2, and 3, the reference section, and relevant appendices. Even though committee members will read and comment upon these chapters, their approval does not mean that work on these chapters should not continue during the entire dissertation process.

The prospectus must be approved by the Dissertation Committee and the Associate Dean on the respective campus, and if appropriate, the Dean of the College of Nursing. The prospectus typically includes an introduction, a statement of purpose or problem statement, research questions or hypotheses, a selected review of the literature, and a description of the research methods and procedures. The prospectus should contain a maximum of 10 pages, including references, in addition to the title page (which is the [Prospectus Approval Form](#)) and the reference page. Although the instruments are included in the appendices for the proposal, they are not submitted with the prospectus. All proposals must be approved by the TWU Human Subjects Review Committee (HSRC) before the prospectus will be accepted by the Graduate School. The prospectus will, if approved by the committee and the Associate Dean of the respective campus, be filed in the Graduate Office. A copy of the HSRC review form and the prospectus should be placed in the student's file in the College of Nursing.

The content of the proposal will vary somewhat depending on whether the proposed study is quantitative or qualitative. The student should follow the instructions of the dissertation committee regarding the format of the proposal. APA format is to be used for all proposals. Candidates should follow the TWU Graduate School's

<http://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/committees-dissertations-theses-professional-papers/preparation-submission-dissertations-theses-professional-papers/>

This guide contains information which will assist the candidate to meet the requirements of the Graduate School in preparation of the prospectus and the dissertation. This guide specifies margin, type, appendices, and other requirements for the completed dissertation. Copies are available at the University Bookstore, for reference in the libraries, in the graduate office, and by accessing the Graduate School website. The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) is the reference manual to be used by all students in the College of Nursing for the dissertation prospectus and the dissertation.

After receiving approval from the dissertation chair to defend the proposal, the candidate arranges for a committee meeting time according to the protocol on the candidate's home campus. Candidates cannot defend their proposal during the first two weeks of a semester or the last two weeks of a semester (this includes final exam week). Committee members must receive a complete copy of the proposal a minimum of 10 working days before the defense date.

When the proposal is ready to be defended, the following steps are suggested:

- a. The dissertation chair, the student, and the committee determine that the proposal is ready to be defended.
- b. The student is responsible for arranging the dissertation committee meeting according to the protocol on the candidate's home campus.
- c. The proposal defense is convened by the dissertation chair when the committee members are present. The student will give a brief presentation of the proposed research and methodology; committee members will assess the prospectus and the candidate's ability to carry out the research. The committee will also specify whether the study will need to be submitted to the Human Subjects Review Committee for approval, if such approval has not already been sought.
- d. After an appropriate period of discussion, the chair will ask the student (and any others attending the defense) to leave and the committee will discuss the student's proposal and arrive at one of the following conclusions:
 - Unqualified approval: The committee recommends the candidate be approved for the degree by the Associate Dean on the respective campus and the Dean of the Graduate School.
 - Qualified approval: Suggested changes are made under the direction of the chair without another meeting of the committee; the committee will then recommend that the Associate Dean on the respective campus and the Dean of the Graduate School approve granting the degree.
 - Qualified disapproval: The research needs to be repeated or modified, or the major study rewritten extensively and resubmitted for another meeting of the committee. If a second formal defense of the major study is scheduled, two such meetings may not be scheduled in the same semester (Two consecutive summer terms are considered one semester.)

- Unqualified disapproval: The student must prepare a new prospectus or withdraw from the program.

If the proposal receives unqualified approval, the committee members will sign the Prospectus Approval Form at the meeting. If the proposal receives qualified approval, the committee members may wait to sign until the changes are made and circulated to all members, depending upon the nature of the specified changes. However, all committee members should receive a copy of the prospectus as approved by the Associate Dean on the respective campus and the Dean of the Graduate School

- e. The candidate is called back into the room and informed of the decision. When the committee has granted unqualified approval to a prospectus, the student may proceed to the next step. If unqualified approval is not given, the candidate must work with the chair and the committee in making the needed changes or preparing a new proposal.
- f. The candidate submits to the Associate Dean on the respective campus an original and a copy of the approved prospectus and the signed [Prospectus Approval Form](#). If approved, the Associate Dean forwards the signed copy to the Graduate School to be filed and retains the second copy for the candidate's file. The application to the Human Subjects Review Committee and the Agency Permission Form should accompany the prospectus provided these documents have not already been submitted to the Human Subjects Review Committee.

Guidelines for the protection of human subjects are followed for each study. Guidelines for preparation of the [Application to the Human Subjects Review Committee](#) are available through the [Research and Sponsored Programs Office](#) on the Denton campus or from the College of Nursing at the Houston center. If needed, approval from any participating agency where subjects are being sought must also be completed prior to initiation of data collection.

- g. The candidate may begin collecting data after receiving notification from the Dean of the Graduate School that the prospectus has been approved.

2. The Dissertation Defense

When the dissertation is ready to be defended, the committee meets. Candidates must be currently enrolled during the semester in which the dissertation is defended and the semester in which the candidate files the dissertation for graduation. The prospectus and the dissertation cannot be defended in the same semester. A typical expectation would be that the candidate would defend the prospectus during the first semester of candidacy, collect and analyze data during the second semester of candidacy, and write chapters four and five (as well as revise chapters one, two, and three) during the third semester. When the dissertation is ready to be defended, the following steps are suggested (refer to above steps for protocol defense):

The dissertation chair and the candidate, in consultation with the committee, determine that the dissertation is ready to be defended.

- b. The student is responsible for arranging the dissertation committee meeting according to the protocol on the candidate's home campus
- c. The defense is convened by the dissertation chair when the committee members are present. The candidate will give a brief presentation of the research methodology and findings; committee members will then question the student regarding the study.
- d. After an appropriate period of discussion, the chair will ask the candidate (and any others attending the defense) to leave and the committee will discuss the candidate's defense and arrive at one of the following conclusions:
 - Unqualified approval: The committee recommends the candidate be approved for the degree by the Associate Dean on the respective campus and the Dean of the Graduate School.
 - Qualified approval: Suggested changes are made under the direction of the chair without another meeting of the committee; the committee will then recommend that the Associate Dean on the respective campus and the Dean of the Graduate School approve granting the degree.
 - Qualified disapproval: The research needs to be repeated or modified, or the major study rewritten extensively and resubmitted for another meeting of the committee. If a second formal defense of the major study is scheduled, two such meetings may not be scheduled in the same semester (Two consecutive summer terms are considered one semester.)
 - Unqualified disapproval: The candidate is advised to withdraw from the program without completing the degree.
- e. The candidate is called back into the room and informed of the decision. If the decision is in the category of qualified or unqualified disapproval, the Doctoral Program Coordinator and Associate Dean of the campus or center are notified, as well as the Dean of the College of Nursing and the Dean of the Graduate School. The decision is also further reiterated to the student in writing.
- f. The [Certificate of Final Exam and Dissertation Approval](#) (or Signature Page) forms are signed by the chair after all corrections are made. The Signature Page should meet the margins set forth by the Graduate School and should be in the same type face as the rest of the paper.
- g. Approval (Signature Page) form accompanies the copies of the completed and approved dissertation which are filed with the Graduate School; a copy is retained for the student's file.

- h. Upon final approval by the dissertation chair, the candidate is responsible for submitting the completed, corrected version of the dissertation to the Graduate School in accordance with their current submission process.
- i. Students should complete the [graduation checklist](#) to insure that they have completed all the necessary forms and paperwork for graduation.

Students are responsible for knowing the most recent information regarding the filing dates, graduation application dates, and fees required for graduation. This information is available in the Graduate School office and on the [Graduate School's website](#).

3. Tuition Reduction for Final Enrollment in Dissertation

Doctoral students who are Texas residents (those paying in-state tuition) are eligible for a reduced tuition rate when enrolling in the final semester of the dissertation (NURS 6993). Students should complete the [Code 3 form](#), have their major professor sign it and submit it to the Graduate Office. Code 3 can only be assigned for one semester or one summer session; any subsequent enrollment will be at the full tuition rate.

E. Advisement

Prior to admission to the doctoral program, the PhD Program Coordinator acts as an advisor for the student. At the time of admission to the PhD program, each student is assigned a major advisor from the nursing faculty. Prior to enrolling in any course work, students must contact the Doctoral Program Coordinator or their major advisor.

At the completion of 12 specified hours in the program (N6023, N6053, N6004), an advisory committee will be formed for the student. The three members Academic Advisory Committee have the primary authority and responsibility for the academic program of the student. This responsibility includes the preparation, with the student, of a total program of doctoral study which is formalized in the PhD Degree Plan.

The Academic Advisory Committee serves to mentor students as they progress through the program. Each student is asked to compile a portfolio of his/her work to share with the committee in regular meetings held at least once a semester. These meetings provide the opportunity for the committee and student to dialogue about student progress, research interests and possibilities, academic issues or concerns, etc. The student is responsible for scheduling this meeting each semester.

The Academic Advisory Committee chair is the faculty member whom the student should contact for information related to procedures and requirements for degree planning, changes in the program of study and/or changes in committee membership, advisement about courses to be taken, and transfer of credit from other institutions. The student and major advisor prepare the [PhD Degree Program](#) which is approved by the Academic Advisory Committee and then approved and filed in the Graduate School.

F. The PhD Degree Plan

All PhD students must file a degree plan with the Graduate School. It is the student's responsibility to work with her/his advisor to develop the degree plan before completion of 18 semester hours. All degree plans should be submitted to the Graduate School one year prior to the graduation date.

The student and the Academic Advisory Committee work together on the program of study to insure that the requirements of the Graduate School are fulfilled. The Academic Advisory Committee provides guidance to the student with regard to elective courses that will assist the student to focus on an area of interest or a minor.

The Degree Plan must list exact course numbers and titles. Any transfer credit approved by the committee must have an official transcript filed with the Graduate Office. When the Degree Plan form has been completed it must be signed by all members of the Academic Advisory Committee.

When all members of the committee approve of the plan, it is then forwarded to the Coordinator of the PhD Program for approval and signature, and then to the Associate Dean on the respective campus. If approved by the Associate Dean on the respective campus, the Degree Plan is then forwarded to the Graduate Office. If the Dean of the Graduate School approves the Degree Plan, copies of the signed form are sent to the student and the department. Once the degree plan has been filed and approved, any changes in courses must be approved by the Academic Advisory Committee and a Change in Degree Program must be filed with the Graduate Office.

If the Dean of the Graduate School finds the Degree Plan unacceptable, the College of Nursing will be notified. The Academic Advisory Committee will assist the student in making the appropriate revisions or advise the student of the required additional documentation.

G. Financial Assistance

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Students desiring a university scholarship or financial aid should contact the [University Financial Aid Office](#) for information. Students should apply for scholarships or university financial aid and scholarships several months in advance of enrollment.

Teaching and/or Research Assistantships

A limited number of nursing teaching and research assistantships, and nursing scholarships are available. Students desiring an assistantship should contact the Doctoral Program Coordinator on the Denton Campus or the Houston Center for information and applications. Graduate Assistant applications must be filed with the Associate Dean of the College of Nursing (on the campus for which the student is applying) for review and recommendation.

Students receiving full-time assistantships (20 hours per week) are eligible for in-state tuition and health insurance. In order to take advantage of the health insurance benefits, the student must:

- (1) Work at least 20 hours per week,
- (2) Have an appointment of 4 1/2 months or greater, and
- (3) Enroll for the health insurance with the Human Resources Office within 31 days of their employment/eligibility data.

Students interested in this benefit should contact the Human Resources Office for specific details.

If an assistantship is approved the student is required to complete certain forms in the Human Resources Office before the payroll deadline and before the Graduate Assistant can be paid. Graduate Assistants will need to present proof of citizenship and employment eligibility to the Office of Human Resources.

Graduate Assistants are paid monthly on the first working day of the month following the month worked. Before a paycheck can be received all of the necessary Human Resources Office forms must have been completed.

A PhD student may hold an assistantship for not more than four years. A graduate student who pursues both the master's degree and the doctoral degree at TWU may hold an assistantship for no more than six years. Students holding assistantships are expected to be enrolled for a minimum of 9 credit hours; the maximum credit hours in which an assistant can be enrolled are 12. Under special circumstances, the Associate Dean on the respective campus and the Dean of the Graduate School may grant special permission for an assistantship for a student enrolled for 6 hours.

Opportunities also exist for students to be research assistants for faculty who have received funding for their research projects. These research assistants will be selected by the funded faculty. Research assistants are generally funded at the same level as teaching assistants.

H. **DNP to PhD Bridge Program**

Admission Requirements— DNP to PhD Bridge Program

All applicants must meet the general requirements for admission to the Graduate School. In addition to these general requirements, the College of Nursing requires the following for admission to the DNP to PhD Bridge Program:

1. Evidence of graduation from a DNP program offered by a regionally-accredited university with national certification in nursing preferred
2. Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended since high school
3. Two letters of recommendation
4. A letter discussing research interest area and professional goals.
5. A current license to practice professional nursing in the U.S.A. (Nursing credentials of international students will be assessed individually)
6. A curriculum vita or resume
7. Successful completion of a statistics course at the undergraduate or graduate level
8. GRE or MAT scores.

Admission to the nursing PhD degree program may be awarded on an unconditional or provisional basis. The criteria for unconditional admission are:

1. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 in the DNP program **-and-**
2. A preferred score of 460 on the Verbal and 500 on the quantitative portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) **-or-**
3. Score in the 50th percentile on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT).

Applicants who do not meet the unconditional criteria, but who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on prior graduate level course work may be considered for provisional admission on an individual basis. Factors that will be considered in the admission decision are GPA on graduate level course work, GRE verbal and quantitative scores or MAT score, scholarly activities, professional leadership, and work history.

Requirements for the DNP to PhD Bridge Program

3.5-year part-time program for individuals who already have a DNP

All other courses and sequence will be accommodated by the existing PhD program.

Total Hours Required: 35 credit hours beyond the DNP, including 6 hours for dissertation plus 12 hours of research tools. The degree plan must reflect that half of all graduate credits beyond the baccalaureate degree were taken from TWU.

- Program-specific course requirement: NURS 6124 Role Differentiation: Practice to Research 4 credit hours
- PhD Core courses (NURS 6004, NURS 6014, NURS 6024, NURS 6034, and NURS 6053): 19 credit hours
- Women's Health Elective: 3 credit hours
- Education Elective: 3 credit hours
- Research Tools: same requirements as the PhD students (credit would be given for research tools if taken in the DNP program at TWU). Credit hours for research tools do not count toward the total hours required for the degree.

Special Requirements: Same as PhD program

Preliminary Examination: Written preliminary examination covering the content areas of NURS 6053 Exploring Nursing Scholarship, NURS 6124 Role Differentiation: Practice to Research, and NURS 6004. May be repeated one time only.

Final Examination: Oral, over the completed dissertation.

DNP to PhD Bridge Program Curriculum and Sequence of Courses: Please refer to the specific campus program coordinator (Houston or Denton) for this information

Course Descriptions for the DNP to PhD Bridge Program:

The courses are the same as the PhD program except for the following course:

NURS 6124. Role Differentiation: Practice to Research

Comprehensive overview and differentiation of roles and opportunities for nurses involved in practice and research. Consideration of varied factors impacting the two roles including multiculturalism, ethics, philosophy, and policy. Four seminar hours a week. Credit: Four hours.

I. Additional Information

Each candidate for the PhD in the College of Nursing is personally responsible for meeting the requirements and deadlines. If there are any questions concerning any of the

requirements or deadlines, students should contact the chair of their Academic Advisory Committee.

Every student should keep the Graduate School and the College of Nursing informed of the student's current address and phone numbers.

Students should keep a personal copy of all forms and papers filed with the Graduate School, e.g. Doctoral Degree, Program, Prospectus Approval Form, etc.

X. Appendix

History of the College of Nursing

- 1901 -** An educational institution was created by the State Legislature as a multipurpose institution. It was established as a single-sex institution with enrollment limited to women. Originally named the Girls Industrial College, the first students were admitted in September
- 1903** The institution had a dual mission that continues to guide the University today – to provide a liberal education and to prepare young women with a specialized education—for the practical industries of the age. Since its founding, Texas Woman’s University has made significant contributions to the progress and improvement of higher learning in Texas.
- 1934** The name of the institution was changed to the **Texas State College for Women** to describe more accurately the scope of the school.
- 1953** The Board of Regents encouraged the President of the University to investigate opportunities for the development of a collegiate program in nursing. Preliminary planning with Parkland Hospital administrators and board of managers resulted in contractual agreements between the two agencies in November.
- 1954** First collegiate nursing students were enrolled.
- 1958** Full accreditation was granted by the National League for Nursing; first collegiate class was graduated.
- 1958-1959** Maximum enrollment of students was reached in the Dallas Center. An invitation to develop a second clinical center with the Texas Medical Center in Houston was received and contractual agreements were reached.
- 1960-61** Sophomore students registered in Dallas and Houston Centers.
- 1966** Master’s program with a major in Psychiatric-Mental health Nursing admitted first nursing students.
- 1968-69** Accreditation was granted by the National League for Nursing for the Master’ program
- 1970** Sigma Theta Tau, National Honor Society of Nursing, Beta Chapter – Induction of Charter Members from Denton, Dallas, and Houston.
- 1971** Ph.D. in nursing program (first in the Southwest) admitted students to Denton Campus.
- 1972** The University adopted a new academic organization and established the Institute of Health Sciences. The first in the state, the Institute consisted of the College of Nursing, the Schools of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy, and the new School of Health Care Services.

In compliance with Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act and Title IX of the Higher Education Act, TWU admissions policy was amended to allow qualified males into the Institute of Health Sciences and Graduate School.

- 1974** Denton accepted upper division nursing students.
- 1975** Dallas Presbyterian opened as a clinical center.
- 1983** PhD students were admitted to the Houston Center.
- 1988** The master's and baccalaureate programs received 8 years of accreditation from the National League for Nursing.

The College of Nursing Community Health Master's Program received an Advance Nurse Education training Grant from the U.S. Department and Human Services, Division of Public Health. The program was funded for 3 years and in 1992 was funded for an additional 2 years.

De Madres a Madres (from Mothers to Mothers) was founded with seed grant money from the Houston March of Dimes. This is a community-based organization developed by volunteers living in Houston's Hispanic north Side Community and Texas Woman's University College of Nursing faculty and students. The purpose of the organization is to assist neighborhood women to obtain health and social services essential for a healthy pregnancy.

- 1989** **TWU C.A.R.E.S.** (Community Assessment Referral and Education Services), a nurse-managed health center located in a low-income housing project in Denton County, was established. It is an example of the Texas Woman's University College of Nursing's commitment to prepare students to provide care to the underserved. This center was initially developed through the collaborative efforts of students and faculty of the College of Nursing and Marian Hamilton, Director of the Denton Housing Authority. The center provides a richness of education that cannot be found within the traditional academic settings.
- 1991** **Dr. Shirley S. Charter, President of Texas Woman's University**, was appointed by Governor Ann Richards to chair the Health Policy Task Force, which proposed, in 1992, a comprehensive plan to address the health care needs and health insurance needs of all Texans.

The **de Madres a Madres** organization was funded for 43 years by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

- 1992** Dr. Judith McFarlane was appointed as Parry Nursing Chair in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. This was the first endowed nursing chair of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in the nation.
- 1994** Dr. Carol Jones was selected the University's ninth president.

The Family Nurse Practitioner program was started in Denton and Houston.
- 1995** The master's curriculum was revised. The Family Nurse Practitioner program was started in Dallas.

- 1997** The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) review resulted in an 8- year reaccreditation of the program.
- 1998** Programs were offered in the following areas:
- | Clinical Nurse Specialist | Nurse Practitioner |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adult Health | Adult |
| Child Health | Family |
| Community Health | Pediatric |
| Mental Health | Women's Health |
| Women's Health | |
- 2000** Dr. Ann Stuart was selected the University's 10th president.
- 2004** The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) review resulted in a full ten year accreditation of the program.
- 2005** The College of Nursing celebrated its 50th Anniversary with continuing education events celebrating nursing and festivities with local and state dignitaries and nursing alumni.
- 2005** The Memorial Hermann Community Foundation provided \$500,000 to create a Center for Telenursing and Health Informatics on the Houston Center that would provide teaching through simulation, informatics and telenursing.
- 2006** The Nelda C. Stark College of Nursing was named within the newly erected Institute of Health Sciences-Houston Center providing a new home and name for the College of Nursing in Houston.
- 2007** A \$5 million gift from T. Boone Pickens to Texas Woman's University helped fund construction of TWU's new \$32 million T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences-Dallas Center. Mr. Pickens' donation is the largest single gift from an individual to TWU. The new building was completed in January, 2011. This new center houses the physical and occupational therapy programs along with the College of Nursing, combining both the Presbyterian and Parkland Centers into one site at the Parkland Campus.
- 2007** An acute care nurse practitioner major was approved to begin on the Houston Campus. The program began in the fall semester of 2007.
- 2014** Carine M. Feyten became the 11th President and Second Chancellor of TWU

Throughout the years, the College of Nursing has enjoyed the support of both public and private funding sources. Public support has come from the Division of Nursing for construction at the clinical sites in Dallas and Houston, for traineeships and fellowships for students, and for research and special projects. The United States Public Health Service Corps has provided funding for research and training for Clinical Specialist in burn therapy. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) sponsored the Occupational Health Nurse Training Grant. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Helena Fuld Trust have provided funds for faculty development, computerized learning centers and student scholarships. The

March of Dimes has provided both training and research money for the study and prevention of battering during pregnancy. The American Nurses Association, through its Ethnic and Minority Scholars Program, has provided funding for many of our doctoral students. Other sources of funding include the Houston Endowment, the Hob Lizella Foundation, and the Dallas Foundation, Shell Oil, Exxon, and numerous business and professional organizations.

The Parry Foundation in Houston endowed a chair for research and training in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and provided funds for scholarships. The total endowment is 1.6 million dollars. The College sponsors numerous local state and regional conferences in both the areas of research and continuing education. Nurse practitioner programs have been developed to meet the needs of special groups and the community. Examples are school nurse practitioner programs for Dallas and Houston School Districts, adult health practitioner programs for the nurses in the Texas Department of Health and the acute care practitioner program to serve hospitals on the Texas Medical Center.

The College of Nursing Student Handbook is reviewed and updated as necessary by the Student affairs Committee. Last date of review: June 2017.