School of Nursing
MSN, DNP, PhD Programs Policy Manual

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

2016-2017
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Non-Discrimination Statement
July 2015

The University of Delaware does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, veteran status, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law in its employment, educational programs and activities, admissions policies, and scholarship and loan programs as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies. The University of Delaware also prohibits unlawful harassment including sexual harassment and sexual violence. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to:

Susan L. Groff, Ed. D.
Director, Institutional Equity & Title IX Coordinator
305 Hullihen Hall Newark, DE 19716 (302) 831-8063
titleixcoordinator@udel.edu

For complaints related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact:

Anne L. Jannarone, M.Ed., Ed.S.
Director, Office of Disability Support Services
Alison Hall, Suite 130, Newark, DE 19716 (302) 831-4643

School of Nursing – Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

Advance healthcare through education, scholarship, practice, and service by promoting excellence, creativity, inclusivity, and engagement.

Vision

Outstanding leadership in nursing education, scholarly inquiry, and healthcare innovation to improve regional, national, and global health and healthcare delivery.

Values

Excellence: Guided by our commitment to excellence, we exhibit integrity and caring and strive for outcomes that make a positive impact on the health of individuals, families, and communities.
Inclusivity: Guided by our commitment to social justice and respect, we strive to engage in research, learner-centered education, and nursing practice that supports diversity.

Engagement: Guided by our commitment to engagement and collaboration, our work is interdisciplinary and supports local communities, and regional, national and global partners.

School of Nursing Philosophy

The School of Nursing derives the general principles of its philosophy from the philosophy and functions of the University of Delaware. The faculty of the School of Nursing is responsible for implementing the nursing education component of the three University functions of teaching, research, and service.

The faculty views human beings as biological, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural systems that have all the properties of open systems. Human beings possess universal needs which influence their capacity for intellectual, emotional, social, and humanistic accomplishments. As they interact with the environment, human beings make choices and decisions that influence need satisfaction.

A society is an organization of individuals and groups that, through interactions, form communities of various sizes and descriptions. Societies are dynamic in nature and culturally diverse. Societies assure that the needs of their members are met. Individuals, families, and communities develop social roles, identities, and values through opportunities provided by the society in which they live.

Because humans are integrated beings, health embodies biological, psychological, spiritual, and sociocultural dimensions. Health is a state of being that fluctuates between varying degrees of wellness and illness. When human needs are altered, varying levels of equilibrium within health may result. If self-regulatory processes fail to maintain or restore wellness, individuals may become functionally inadequate and unable to develop or survive.

Nursing, as a holistic profession, is an essential component of the health care delivery system. Because nursing is concerned with the holistic interrelationship of body, mind, and spirit in an ever changing environment, the profession of nursing practices with an awareness of the integral wholeness of all people, nature, and self. Nursing is based on a rapidly expanding body of scientific knowledge and skills that promotes the achievement, maintenance, or enhancement of dynamic equilibrium across the lifespan. Through the nursing process and nursing research, nurses use the scientific method to advance knowledge and practice in the discipline.

The faculty of the School of Nursing believes that a major goal of education is to develop socially responsible individuals who can think critically, logically, and creatively. The educational system promotes the intellectual, emotional, and social growth of each individual. The goal of the educational process in nursing is students’ internalization of values and beliefs consistent with the roles of professional nurses. An environment
conducive to effective learning is one in which learners and teachers share mutual goals, mutual effort, and mutual respect for individual and cultural differences. Educational outcomes of the teaching/learning process are best achieved when learners are active participants and teachers are role models and facilitators.

Baccalaureate education in nursing prepares learners with diverse educational backgrounds for the first level of professional nursing, the generalist level. Through systematic and sequential experiences, baccalaureate students learn to use critical thinking and make independent judgments, to integrate nursing theory and nursing practice, and to provide comprehensive nursing care to individuals and families in a variety of settings. As professional nurses, baccalaureate graduates evaluate current practices, define ways of improving the quality of professional nursing practice, and use research findings in describing, evaluating, and improving practice. As generalists, professional nurses deliver direct nursing care and are prepared to assume leadership responsibilities in guiding and directing others in the provision of nursing care. In addition, professional nurses collaborate with colleagues and other health professionals in health care delivery. In an ever changing society, baccalaureate nurses participate in defining the emerging roles of professional practice.

Master’s education in nursing builds on theories and practices acquired at the baccalaureate level and provides the basis for doctoral study in nursing. Master’s education socializes learners to advanced nursing roles. Nurses in advanced roles influence the quality of nursing practice and the direction of health care delivery. They function independently and interdependently with peers and members of other health care disciplines in direct and indirect care of individuals, families, and community groups. In addition, these nurses are capable of generating scholarly activity and of defining, developing, and adapting to present and emerging advanced roles in nursing. They serve as leaders in professional, civic, and/or community organizations and may be actively involved in political/legislative issues.

Doctoral study in nursing will advance the art and science of nursing and prepare learners to assume leadership positions in the profession and take responsibility for shaping and advancing healthcare with a goal of improving individual, family, and population health through the integration of theory, research, and evidence-based practice.

In addition to providing opportunities for formal, degree-granting programs, the faculty of the School of Nursing is committed to providing ongoing education for nurses in conjunction with the University Professional and Continuing Studies. The faculty believes that life-long learning is a means for achieving a satisfying and productive life and is of paramount importance in the delivery of safe, effective, and efficient health care.

*Approved by Faculty of the College of Nursing 9/13/94*
*Revised: JS:sg 9/97 Department of Nursing*
*Reviewed: Spring 2004*
*Revised: 5/10*
*Reviewed by Governance Committee 1/2011 Revised 7/9/2013 EW*
Master of Science in Nursing Program

The School of Nursing has suspended admissions to four master’s degree programs: Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Nursing of Children, CNS Adult/Gerontology, Health Services Administration (HSAD), Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP), and their corresponding post-master’s certificate programs. The MSN NP programs are no longer accepting applicants as of July 1, 2016. The final cohort of MSN NP’s (Psychiatric Mental Health, Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Nurse practitioner) and post-master’s certificate applicants will begin classes in the fall of 2016.

The School of Nursing is fully committed to students recently admitted and/or currently attending graduate programs and will ensure that they are able to complete their program

Master of Science in Nursing Program Outcomes

Students who complete the Master of Science in nursing program will have developed the ability to practice as nurse practitioners, or nurse administrators in a variety of healthcare settings. They will demonstrate the following behaviors.

1. Evaluate theories and concepts drawn from nursing, the arts and humanities, and the biological, social, and physical sciences as the basis for practice as nurse practitioners.

2. Analyze the influence of value systems and ethnicity on healthcare practices, healthcare systems, and the roles of nurse practitioners.

3. Demonstrate competence as a clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, or nurse administrator.

4. Collaborate in interdisciplinary efforts to provide health care and improve healthcare delivery systems to local, state, and/or national levels.

5. Assume leadership in interpreting and promoting professional nursing to other members of the profession, other disciplines, consumers, and legislators.

6. Provide leadership in defining, developing, and implementing current and emerging nursing roles.

7. Develop proposals for studies or projects that can contribute to the expansion of nursing knowledge and practice.

8. Demonstrate ethical decision making and professional accountability as a clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, or nurse administrator.

9. Advocate for health legislation at local, regional, and/or national levels.
Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program Overview

MSN Nurse Practitioner Program
The School of Nursing Nurse Practitioner programs require the completion of 43 to 46 course credits. These credits include core courses required of all master's nursing students, and courses specific to each program. Each MSN program requires the student to complete a series of clinical practicum courses.

Post-Masters Certificate
Students admitted as a Post-Masters student already have an MSN. Individual plans of study are determined by the student’s advisor. Student transcripts and previous syllabi may be evaluated to meet required course work for national certification. At the completion of the program, a Post-Masters certificate is awarded.

Full-Time and Part-Time Status
Students enrolled in at least nine (9) graduate (500 level or above) credit hours or in sustaining credit are considered full-time students. Those enrolled for fewer than nine (9) graduate credit hours are considered part-time students, although students holding assistantships are considered full-time with six (6) credits. Generally, a maximum load is 12 graduate credit hours. Additional credit hours may be taken with the approval of the student’s adviser and the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. A maximum course load in either summer or winter session is seven (7) credit hours.

Financial Support
Financial support in the form of traineeships, grants, or teaching assistantships is usually limited to full-time nursing students. Funding is available for part-time students in the last two semesters of study. Limited additional specialty-related funds are available through the Office of the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation in the School of Nursing. Requirements are subject to change.

MSN Graduate Program Options

Nurse Practitioner
- Family/Individual Across the Lifespan Nurse Practitioner (FNP) - 46 credit hours
- Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (AGNP) - 43 credit hours
- Psych Mental Health Nurse Practitioner – 46 credits

DNP – Doctor of Nursing Practice – Variable credits: See below in DNP Section

PhD – Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing Science – 41 credit hours + dissertation (9 credit hours) (See Addendum)

MSN and Post-Master’s Certificate

Admission Requirements – MSN and Post-Masters Certificate

Applications are closed to these programs as of July 1, 2016
Course Waiver Policy (Current students)

Credits are waived when they are part of an awarded degree but are duplicated in the MSN, MS, DNP or a post master’s certificate program. Courses do not have to be substituted for waived credits. For a course to be waived, it must have been taken within the past 5 years and have a grade of B- or better. Students can transfer up to 9 credits with approval into the graduate program.

Transfer of Credit Procedure

University of Delaware Continuing Education Credits

- Students who complete graduate credits with the classification of CEND (Continuing Education Non Degree) at the University of Delaware may use a maximum of 9 graduate credits earned with this classification toward their graduate degree. The CEND credits, grades, and quality points become a part of the student’s academic record and grade point average. CEND credit can be transferred provided that (a) the course was at the 600-800 level, (b) the course was taken within the past 5 years, (c) a grade no less than a B- was received, and (d) the course was in accord with the specific degree program as specified by the Graduate Program Policy Statement of the School of Nursing. Transfer of these credits is initiated by the School of Nursing after the student matriculates.

Another Institution

- Graduate credit earned at another institution is evaluated at the written request of the student. Such a request should include a course description and syllabus and be given to the student’s advisor. At the advisor’s discretion, course materials may be referred to the Graduate Education Committee (GEC) for a decision. A maximum of 9 credits required for the degree will be accepted provided that such credits (a) were earned with a grade of no less than B-, (b) are approved by the student’s advisor or the GEC, (c) are in accord with the specific degree program of the student as specified by the School of Nursing’s Graduate Program Policy Statement, (d) are not older than five years and (e) were completed at an accredited college or university. The student is responsible for having an official transcript sent to the graduate program secretary in the School of Nursing. The School initiates the transfer of credits. The credits, but not the grades or quality points, are transferable to University of Delaware graduate records. Graduate courses counted toward a degree received elsewhere may not be used. Credits from institutions outside of the United States are generally not transferable to the University of Delaware. A student requesting to take a course for transfer of credit from another institution follows the same procedure.

Advisement and Course Registration

Advisement

Each student receives personalized advisement by a faculty member knowledgeable about graduate education at the University of Delaware. An academic advisor is
assigned at the time of admission. The student may change his/her academic advisor and is responsible for notifying the graduate secretary of the change. One of the key responsibilities of the academic advisor is to develop a program of study for the student.

**Plan of Study**
All students need to make sure the department graduate office has an up-to-date academic plan of study on file. A plan may be developed at the time of the student’s initial interview and should be updated at the time of admission, annually or anytime a change is made with the student’s assigned academic advisor. Some courses have co- or prerequisites that must be considered in the plan sequence. It is the student’s responsibility to notify his/her academic advisor of any proposed changes to his/her program of study before they are implemented. The plan of study helps the School of Nursing faculty plan when courses are offered and helps students anticipate their needs in arranging work schedules, childcare, travel, etc.

**Course Registration**

Students can register on the Web using UDISIS, the University’s online interactive student information system. Students are required to register during the pre-registration period for required core and clinical facilities to assure placement. If faculty permission is needed to register for a course, contact the graduate program secretary, by phone (302) 831-8386, e-mail: marianl@udel.edu, or in person. After permission is granted, students wanting to register for distance courses complete the registration through the UD Online Office of Continuing Education. This website (see web sites of interest) has useful information about registration forms, etc. Students are required to register during pre-registration for required core and clinical courses to assure placement.

**Fulfillment of the Research Requirement**

The decision to complete NURS869 Thesis, NURS868 Scholarly Project, or the course NURS687 Nursing Science: Research Application is made by the student in consultation with the academic advisor after completion of NURS609. Each of these options provides an opportunity to explore and use concepts from other disciplines that support expansion of nursing knowledge and advancement of nursing practice. If the student chooses to complete a thesis or scholarly project, the following guidelines apply.

**Thesis Option**
The thesis option requires students to take NURS609 Nursing Science: Theory and Research and 6 credits of NURS869 Thesis. In this option, students design and implement a research study and write the report in a formal paper, the thesis, using APA format, the School of Nursing’s Guide for the Thesis (available from the graduate program secretary in the School of Nursing), and the most current University of Delaware Thesis and Dissertation Manual (available from U-Discover Online).

Students pursuing the thesis option select one research advisor to guide them through the research process. A list of faculty available for thesis advisement is available from the graduate program secretary. The student has the responsibility to initiate discussion with faculty and to ask a faculty member to be the thesis advisor. The thesis advisor
must sign a form, agreeing to the topic and study design. This form is placed in the student’s file. After the student develops the proposal with the guidance of the research advisor, the procedure for the protection of human subjects must be approved by the Office of Research.

Distribution of the required 6 credits for thesis must be approved by the thesis advisor. All 6 credits may not be taken in one semester. Before registering for thesis credits, the student must submit the completed Thesis/Scholarly Project Registration Approval form to the graduate program secretary in the School of Nursing. The final copy of the thesis must be signed by the thesis advisor, indicating approval of the completed project. The completed document is submitted to the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, School of Nursing, for signature and approval. **Submission to the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation must occur 2 weeks BEFORE thesis are due in the Office of Graduate Studies.** Final approval is given by the Office of Graduate Studies.

**Scholarly Project Option**
In the scholarly project option, students take NURS609 Theory and Research and NURS868 Research. The project may include the development of clinical practice guidelines, practice-oriented instruments, or educational programs. The completed project is described in a formal paper using APA format and the School of Nursing Guide to the Scholarly Project (available from the graduate program secretary in the School of Nursing) and the most current University of Delaware Thesis and Dissertation Manual (available from U-Discover Online).

Students electing to do the scholarly project select a project advisor to guide them. A list of faculty available for project advisement is distributed in NURS609 or available through the graduate program secretary. The student has the responsibility to initiate discussion with the project advisor. The advisor must sign a form agreeing to the project topic. This form is placed in the student’s file.

Distribution of the required 3 credits for the scholarly project must be approved by the project advisor. Before registering for project credits, the student must obtain a second reader for the project and submit the completed Thesis/Scholarly Project Registration Approval form to the graduate program secretary in the School of Nursing.

The final copy of the project must be signed by the advisor and second reader, indicating approval of the completed project. The completed document is submitted to the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation School of Nursing, for signature and approval. **Submission to the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation must occur 3 weeks before the end of the semester.**

**NOTE:** Past theses and projects are available to be borrowed from the School of Nursing graduate office in McDowell Hall.

**Nursing Science: Research Application (NURS-687)**
This course follows NURS609 and focuses on the application of research to nursing practice. Includes a critical analysis of research through an organized critique process, examination of data, and examination of facilitators and barriers to research and research utilization, models of research utilization, and methods of quality management.
Thesis/Project Information

Course Requirement
The scholarly project fulfills the graduate program’s terminal objective relating to research. Students who plan to complete a scholarly project must take a Research course and three credits of NURS 868 Research (scholarly project). These credits can be taken in either one semester or sequentially, depending upon the student’s academic schedule, the project advisor’s schedule, and the timetable for completion. Students are encouraged to select a topic early in his/her career and that can be modified and used for the scholarly project.

Choosing a Thesis/Project Advisor
Students should meet with their academic advisor to explore a direction for the scholarly project and to plan an appropriate course of study. Once the potential topic has been identified, students should refer to the list of faculty specialty areas available from the graduate program secretary to ascertain which faculty specializes in the student’s area of interest. Students are encouraged to ascertain faculty availability preferably in their research course but no later than one semester prior to registering for the project because some faculty may be unable to serve as an advisor due to their workload assignment or scheduled sabbatical leave. Students should make an appointment to talk with the potential advisor about the project idea. The advisor and second reader must sign a form of agreement which is available from the SON graduate program secretary. It is important to communicate frequently with the advisor, especially if the timetable for completion has changed.

Change of Thesis/Project Advisor
A student may request a change in thesis or project advisor by notifying the advisor of his/her intent to request a change and then submitting a written request to the advisor’s Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, School of Nursing. In making such requests, students should be aware that it is the prerogative of a new advisor, after reviewing the student’s work, to require substantial revisions and/or refocusing of the thesis or project, regardless of the stage of the research/project. The decision to grant a request for a change of advisor is made by the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, School of Nursing in consultation with the student’s current and prospective thesis or project advisors. If a change in faculty thesis or project advisor becomes necessary because of workload or extended leaves from the School, the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, the student, and the prospective advisor negotiate a reassignment.

Ideas for the Scholarly Project
There are many different possibilities for a scholarly project. It may be a project that benefits a specific institution or meets the student’s own special interest within his/her specialty area. Past ideas have included a proposed year-long orientation program for new managers; educational modules for staff, clients, and families to satisfy a variety of needs; a continuing education program on communicating with foreign staff, or development of a business plan for opening a new patient care unit.
Some other suggestions for topics for the project include but are not limited to: comprehensive review of the literature on a timely topic; refined proposal for a research study; comprehensive curriculum for an educational offering for staff nurses, allied health personnel, or patients; plan for development of a counseling program, focus, or support group.

Additional creative possibilities to consider for the scholarly project: A comprehensive review of the literature of a defined area of knowledge to develop, elaborate, compare, or contrast a concept or concepts with reference to their implication(s) for enriching managerial or administrative practice: A centered investigation in a managerial/administrative role or related area using such methods as interviews and/or observation with a view to proposing a new set of standards, operating protocols, measurement tools, or furthering the theoretical base for managerial/administrative practice.

**Guidelines for Format for Scholarly Project**
The project must be written as a scholarly paper and must adhere to a discipline specific referencing guideline, except where the University of Delaware’s Thesis Guide supersedes, such as the title page, signature page, and table of contents. The main body of the paper is the rationale and process of development of the project. The finished product will include a copy of the actual project, preceded by problem identification, significance of the project, a comprehensive review of the literature, and the process of project development. Typically, the chapter format is similar to the thesis format, although there are fewer chapters. It is recommended that students visit the Graduate and Professional Education Office website [www.udel.edu/gradoffice](http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice). You can find detailed information for current students under graduation information for the formatting of chapters, table of contents, appendices, and signature pages. Students are encouraged to review other completed scholarly projects available from faculty or from the Graduate Program Secretary, 349 McDowell Hall.

**Procedure**
When the scholarly project is complete and the project advisors have signed the signature pages, one copy of the project and all signature pages should be submitted to the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation. Deadline for submission of the project to the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation is one to two weeks after the date published on the University of Delaware calendar for the submission of theses to the Graduate office. Consult your project advisor for the exact date. Once all signatures are complete, students are notified.

Before a grade for the project is submitted, students must supply three copies of the project, (department, advisor, and co-advisor copies) with signed signature pages to the Graduate Program Secretary. The projects must be in either a black or heavy plastic pressure binder (can be purchased at the Lieberman’s).
Grades for Thesis/Project
Until the thesis or project is completed, a temporary grade of S (Satisfactory) or U ( Unsatisfactory) is submitted for any semester or session in which the student is registered for thesis or project credits. When the thesis or project is completed the advisor assigns a letter grade for the work. The advisor may assign one grade for the entire number of credits or may assign a separate grade for each period of registration for thesis or project credits. If a student receives a U for a period of registration, he/she will receive a final grade of B or below for that semester or session.

Sustaining Status
Once a graduate student who is electing a thesis/project option has completed all required credits needed for the degree but has not yet submitted the thesis/project, the student must maintain his/her matriculation in the degree program by registering for Master’s Sustaining: Thesis (UNIV899), Project (UNIV895). All students, including sustaining students, must be registered in the semester in which the degree is officially awarded. Sustaining registration is not required for summer sessions unless the degree is to be awarded at the conclusion of the summer session. Registration for sustaining status is completed by contacting the graduate program secretary. There is a sustaining fee for each semester.

Summary
- The student will approach faculty to gain consent to act as the advisor and co-advisor.

- The student will meet with the scholarly project advisor to discuss and obtain approval of the topic/project and to develop a proposal for the project.

- To register for NURS 668 Research credits, the project advisor must provide written approval of the student’s plan for completion of the scholarly project by signing the thesis/research registration approval form. Forms can be obtained from the Graduate Program Secretary, and are to be returned to the student with the project advisors’ signatures before the student can be registered.

- If human subjects are involved, students must submit the proposal to the University Research and Human Subjects Review Committee. The advisor will indicate when the proposal is developed sufficiently for the student to seek approval from the Human Subjects Review Committee of the University. The Criteria for Approval of Proposals for the Protection of Human Subjects are to be followed in preparing the proposal to submit to the committee and can be obtained from the Graduate Program Secretary.

- The project must show evidence of scholarly effort based on the accurate and appropriate selection and utilization of verified knowledge. The finished project must show evidence of appropriate analysis and synthesis of the information obtained.

- All written material must be in acceptable discipline specific manuscript form
(APA), except where the University of Delaware’s Thesis Guide supersedes such as the title page, signature page, and table of contents.

- When the project is completed, the advisor and co-advisor must sign the approval pages.

- Once advisor and co-advisor approvals have been received, the entire document must be submitted to the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation for signature on the approval pages. Deadline for submission of the project to the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation must occur one to two weeks after the deadline for submission of theses to the Graduate Office. Consult your project advisor for the exact date. The deadline for theses submission is published in the University calendar.

Final copies of the scholarly project are to be in black folders: one copy is to be placed on file in 349 McDowell Hall, Graduate Nursing Office; and two copies should be provided for the advisor and co-advisor.

**Progression in the Program – MSN Students**

Successful progress toward candidacy for the MSN degree is determined by the student’s performance in the courses for which he/she is registered. Graduate students in nursing are subject to the standards for academic status set forth in the University of Delaware Graduate Catalog. To be eligible for an advanced degree, a student’s cumulative grade point average must be at least 3.0.

If a student:

1. receives a grade below a B- in a graduate nursing course will not be counted toward the course requirements for a degree, but is calculated in the student’s cumulative grade point average. A graduate student who receives a grade less than a B- in a required nursing course must repeat the course (both didactic and clinical components). Only two courses may be repeated and each course may be repeated only one time. Students may not progress if they have not earned a B- or better in the prerequisite course/s. If a student fails to obtain a B-or better after repeating course, it will be recommended to the Office of Graduate Studies that the student be dismissed from the program.

2. receives a C- or below in a nursing course with a practicum, he/she will not be permitted to repeat the course, and it will be recommended to the Office of Graduate Studies that the student be dismissed from the program.

Revised 5/19/2015, approved by faculty 5/19/2015.

**Monitoring of Progress**

- Each student is evaluated according to the requirements established by the course instructor or instructors. Didactic courses generally include a combination of the following evaluation measures: written examinations, class
presentations, term papers, and self and/or group evaluations. A practicum within a course may be evaluated by clinical observations, supervision, logs, clinical papers, clinical projects, performance testing, self-evaluation, and preceptor/faculty evaluation.

Each student’s record is reviewed each semester by the student’s advisor. If academic difficulties are identified, the faculty advisor counsels the student and files the recommendations with the Committee for Graduate Education in the School of Nursing.

Change of Program Concentration

Students in good standing may request a change in concentration/option by discussing their interest to change with (a) their academic advisor; (b) the faculty coordinating their current concentration/option; (c) the faculty coordinating the concentration/option they wish to enter; and (d) completing the appropriate form available from the graduate secretary, School of Nursing. The decision to grant a request for a change in program concentration is made based on a space available basis by the faculty coordinating the program. Once permission is granted, the appropriate form must be signed and put into the student’s record.

Maintaining Student Status

Continuous Registration
Failure to comply with the requirement of maintaining continuous registration in courses, in sustaining status, or with approved leave of absence will be taken as evidence that the student has terminated his/her graduate program, and the admitted status to the graduate program will be terminated. The date of termination will be recorded on the student’s transcript.

Leave of Absence
Students who do not register for courses at the University in Fall or Spring semester must request a leave of absence for that semester. Matriculated students who seek a leave of absence from the program must write a letter to their advisor requesting a leave of absence. The school will forward the request to the Office of Graduate Studies. The length of time needed for the leave should be indicated. Upon approval by the Office of Graduate Studies, the student’s academic transcript will note the approved leave in the appropriate semesters. The period of absence will not affect the limitation of time for completion of the degree requirements as stated in the student’s official letter of admission.

Resignation from the University

A graduate student wishing to resign from the University (i.e., terminate his/her association with the University and a specific degree program) may do so by submitting a letter to the Office of Graduate Studies and the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, indicating the reasons for the resignation. The Office of Graduate Studies will cancel the student’s matriculation and indicate the effective date
of the resignation on the student’s transcript.

Student Resources & Information

Student I.D. Cards
All students must carry a valid UD#1 CARD (identification card). New and replacement cards can be obtained at the Student Services Building on Lovett Avenue, weekdays from 8:30-5:00, phone (302) 831-2759. Lost/stolen cards should be reported immediately, 24 hours a day, by dialing (302) UD#1 CARD (831-2273). For more information, visit http://www.udel.edu/registrar/students/idcard.html

Parking Permits
Commuting graduate students may purchase a parking permit, to access an online application for a parking permit, go to http://www.udel.edu/transportation/parking/online-services_epark.html. For fees, go to http://www.udel.edu/transportation/parking/permit-prices.html Office of Campus Public Safety is located at 413 Academy Street, phone (302) 831-7285, e-mail parking@udel.edu. Students may also park and pay an hourly rate in one of the University parking garages.

Grade Reporting
At the end of each term, grade reports are available through UDSIS personal access website. www.udel.edu/udsis

Computing Technical Support
The UD provides technical support to students and has extended hours for a period before and after semesters call (302-831-6000) or http://www.udel.edu/help/

Accessing the Library
University of Delaware users who access the Internet by first connecting to an Internet Service Provider (ISP) other than the University can gain access to materials which are restricted, by license, to University students and staff. If you use an ISP to reach the University's network, you will need to provide your UD user ID and password to access restricted UD Library databases, the UDeploy software site, and some other resources on our campus network. Website: http://www.lib.udel.edu/

Course Delivery Formats
Most courses in the Master’s programs are offered in a web-classroom delivery format. Web-classroom UD Online distance learning courses have online course materials (instructor information, syllabus, handouts, assignments) that must be accessed through Sakai. Website: https://sakai.udel.edu/portal

Ordering Books and Supplies
Textbooks and popular reference books are available at the University Bookstore. Visit the University bookstore’s website to purchase textbooks online or check store hours at http://udel.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=37554&catalogId=10001&langId=-1
The University Bookstore accepts all major credit cards, personal checks, financial aid,
debit cards, and cash.

**Graduate Studies**  
Office of Graduate and Professional Education (Graduate Studies) – www.  
[http://grad.udel.edu/](http://grad.udel.edu/)  
the central location for graduate admissions and enrollment information

**UDSIS**  
The Student Information System (UDSIS) [www.udel.edu/udsis](http://www.udel.edu/udsis) With your student identification number and PIN, you can use UD SIS to access grades, bills, unofficial transcripts, and to change addresses.

**Student Health Services**  
Student Health Services (SHS) is located in Laurel Hall, a free standing ambulatory care center on the main campus south green area at the intersection of South College Avenue and East Park Place. This well-equipped facility provides medical treatment and office consultation space for a variety of outpatient services, as well as an inpatient unit.  
[http://www.udel.edu/studenthealth/](http://www.udel.edu/studenthealth/)

**Writing Center**  
The Writing Center is available to assist students with the technical aspects of preparing formal expository and scientific papers. Staff members at the center are most willing to assist students who have writing problems to improve their scholarly communications.  
The Writing Center is located in 016 Memorial Hall. The phone number is 831-1168 or [http://www/english.udel.edu/wc/](http://www/english.udel.edu/wc/)

**Communication**

**E-mail**  
All students are assigned a UD e-mail address. Faculty and staff will communicate using the UD e-mail address only (not personal e-mail address). The University has set up a method to easily arrange to forward your university e-mail to your personal e-mail (AOL, Hotmail, Comcast, etc.).

To forward your UD e-mail to your personal e-mail, go to [http://www.udel.edu/help](http://www.udel.edu/help).  
You only need to complete this process one time. If you have any questions, contact the University HELP Center at 831-6000.

**Communication with Faculty**  
Faculty members have voice mail and e-mail. Faculty contact information can be accessed from the University of Delaware home page under the directories search link and from the School of Nursing home page. Students may leave telephone or email messages for a faculty member. Calls or messages will be returned as soon as possible. If students wish to speak to someone immediately, they can call 831-1253 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.
Communication with Students
Students must make sure that their current correct name, home address, e-mail address, and home and work telephone number(s) are on file in the graduate office of the School of Nursing so that they can be reached as needed. Students must also update the University Student Information System records through UDSIS.
www.udel.edu/udsis

Academic Honesty
Academic honesty and integrity lie at the heart of the educational enterprise. Students are expected to do their own work and neither to give nor to receive assistance during quizzes, examinations, or other class exercises. One form of academic dishonesty is plagiarism. Faculty may utilize programs such as Turnitin® to evaluate the originality of papers. Students are urged to consult individual faculty members for explanation of procedures for taking tests, writing papers, and completing other course requirements so that students may fully understand their instructor’s expectations. Because faculty and students take academic honesty seriously, penalties for violations may be severe, depending upon the offense as viewed by the Graduate Student Judicial System. The minimum sanction for cases of proven academic dishonesty is an automatic failure for the course and/or expulsion from graduate studies at the University. Access the Official Student Handbook at http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/16-17/code.html

Graduation Information
The University of Delaware holds one Commencement ceremony (May) but confers degrees four times a year (end of fall and spring semesters, and winter and summer sessions). The School of Nursing holds a Convocation ceremony in May.

Application for Graduation
To initiate the process for degree conferral, candidates must submit an “Application for Advanced Degree” obtained from the graduate program secretary in the School of Nursing. Application deadlines are found in the University Academic Year Calendar. The application must be signed by the candidate’s academic advisor and Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation. There is an application fee for master’s degree candidates (PhD students, please refer to Addendum) Students should complete the form, attach a check made out to the University of Delaware, then turn the form into the Graduate Program’s Secretary who will get signatures and send to the Office of Graduate Studies. Students can apply to complete their degree requirements for May, August, December, and February. If a student applies for graduation but does not complete the program requirements, the application will automatically convert to the next completion date.

Application for Graduation with a Post Master’s Certificate

Post Master’s students fill out an Application for Completion of Post Master’s Certificate form that can be obtained from the graduate program secretary in the School of Nursing. There is no application fee.
**Mandatory Clinical Requirements**

**Overview**
All nursing graduate students are required to be in 100% compliance with the clinical requirements outlined below, before registration for clinical courses. Graduate students will not be permitted to enroll in clinical courses until proof of compliance is received by the graduate program clinical coordinator in the School of Nursing.

If a student goes to a clinical site and is found to be out of compliance with any of the below requirements he/she will be required to leave the clinical site and report to the program coordinator. Students risk expulsion from the graduate program if any clinical requirements are not met during a semester. Clinical requirements are subject to change at any time based on agency/hospital requirements.

**Clinical Requirements Overview**
- Photocopy of current Delaware nursing license, license from compact State, or State in which clinical will be arranged.
- Proof of immunization status for:
  - Hepatitis B
  - Rubella
  - Mumps
  - Measles (Rubeola) - if born after 1956
  - German measles (Rubella) - if born after 1956
  - Tetanus (good for ten years)
  - Evidence of current TB status (PPD) or chest X-Ray
  - Evidence of Varicella status (by titer or documentation of having had chicken pox)
  - Pertussis
  - Photocopy of current CPR certification
  - Proof of Bloodborne Pathogens Safety Training
  - Urine Drug Test
  - Criminal Background Check
  - Blood Borne Pathogen Post-Exposure Evaluation and Medical Management Student Waiver
- Additional requirements for the clinical education may be required by the healthcare agency to which a student is assigned.

**Hepatitis B Vaccination**
The Hepatitis B vaccination series is strongly recommended for nursing students because of the potential for exposure to the virus in clinical settings. The vaccination consists of three injections over a six-month period. The first two are administered one month apart; the third injection is administered five months later. All three injections are required to establish immunity.

The vaccination series may be obtained privately or through Student Health Services. If the latter is used, the student will pay for each injection at the time of service. For part-time students who have not paid the Student Health Service Fee, there will be an additional charge for each of the three injections. Students should call Student Health for
an appointment. The series should be started in the spring of your freshman year, in order to have it completed by the fall semester.

Rubella Documentation
Documentation of receiving 2 doses of the Rubella vaccine is required, usually the MMR vaccine.

Mumps Documentation
Documentation of receiving 2 doses of the Rubella vaccine is required, usually the MMR vaccine.

PPD (Mantoux) Skin Test
A PPD skin test with a negative reading is required annually. If a student has a positive PPD skin test, a copy of results of a recent chest x-ray will be required. Students with a history of a positive PPD skin test will also be required to complete a TB symptom review annually. The Annual TB Symptom Review form can be obtained from the Clinical Coordinator at the School of Nursing.

Chickenpox (Varicella)
Verification of immunity to chicken pox by documentation of one of the following:
- Documentation of age-appropriate chickenpox:
  - Preschool-age children (12 months – 3 years): 1 dose
  - School-age children, adolescents, adults: 2 doses
- Verification of history of chickenpox or shingles
- Laboratory evidence of immunity or confirmation of disease

Tetanus
Documentation of receiving a tetanus booster in the past 10 years is required. The tetanus booster can be the tetanus and diphtheria (Td) booster or the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) booster.

Measles (Rubeola)
Documentation of receiving 2 doses of the Rubella vaccine is required, usually the MMR vaccine.

Pertussis
Documentation of receiving a tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) booster at least once.

Annual Flu Shot
An annual flu shot maybe required by some clinical agencies.

CPR Requirement
CPR is a requirement of clinical agencies. There are no exceptions. All students must present a valid Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) card to the Clinical Coordinator. Completion of the American Heart Association (AHA) Healthcare Provider CPR course or the American Red Cross Basic Life Support Course in CPR is the required training.
This level includes one- and two-rescuer CPR for adults, infant CPR, and management of foreign body airway obstruction in both adults and infants.

The University’s Department of Environmental Health and Safety is an accredited American Heart Association training center. Four levels of CPR classes are offered to anyone who is interested. More information is available at http://www.udel.edu/ehs/training/cpr-class-registration.html. Additional classes are arranged through the Student Nurses Association.

**Hazardous Chemical and Bloodborne Pathogens Training**

An annual on-line (http://ehs.facil.udel.edu:1569/EXEC) participation in the University’s bloodborne pathogens educational training and the University’s Right to Know (http://www.udel.edu/ehs/safetycomm/downloads/facultycomplianceguide.pdf) must be completed.

**Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screening Policy**

A single criminal background check must be done before enrollment in clinical courses. This requirement will suffice for the entire nursing program unless clinical agencies alter their requirements (background checks other than those recommended by the School of Nursing may be appropriate). A single urine ten-panel drug screening must be done before enrollment in clinical courses. This requirement will suffice for the entire nursing program unless clinical agencies alter their requirements.

The University of Delaware’s School of Nursing contracts with multiple clinical agencies for clinical education experiences which are an essential component of the nursing curriculum and required to meet the requirements for graduation. An increased number of clinical agencies are requiring all students, participating in activities involving direct client care, to complete criminal background checks and drug screenings. This requirement is a direct reflection of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals (2004) that requires all students and instructors have criminal background checks and drug screening to participate in clinically-related activities within an accredited hospital agency.

To meet the contractual obligations and provide high-quality and essential clinical learning experiences, all nursing students in all nursing degree programs are required to complete criminal background checks and drug screenings. The following guidelines apply:

- In the event of a positive drug screening, the student will be asked to provide a second drug screening. The student will not be allowed to begin or continue clinical activities involving direct client care until documentation of a second negative drug screening is provided. If the second screening is positive, the student will be dismissed from the nursing program and be referred to the University of Delaware’s substance abuse professional at Wellspring.

- If a student’s criminal background check discloses a criminal conviction, such
conviction may be the basis of withdrawal from the program. Positive background checks will be reviewed by the student’s adviser which may include a recommendation of dismissal. Refusal to complete a criminal background check or drug screening will result in dismissal from the nursing program.

Any student dismissed from the nursing program as a result of this policy may appeal the decision to the Graduate Education Committee. The issue on appeal shall be limited solely to whether a screening or background check contains erroneous information, and the appellant must offer direct evidence to rebut the findings.

Revised and approved by GEC 05/19/2015

Blood Borne Pathogen Post-Exposure Evaluation and Medical Management
Student Waiver

This waiver ensures that students who as part of their academic program, are at risk for exposure to human blood, or other potentially infectious materials, understand and acknowledge that the inherent risk of injury and illness is assumed by the student when they decide to enroll in said academic program.

Updated 5/31/2014 jtd

Safety Training

Safety

All students taking on-campus graduate course(s) for the first time will be asked to complete the New Graduate Student Safety Orientation. The goal of the graduate student safety training is to provide a minimum level of safety knowledge for all students and is not meant to replace existing training requirements. This training will be done annually online at http://www.udel.edu/OHS ensuring that all students receive this training.

Department of Environmental Health and Safety

The policy of the University of Delaware is to provide the University community with a safe and healthful work environment. Serious attempts will be made to minimize recognizable hazards. The intent of the University is to comply with all occupational health, safety, and fire regulations and recommended practices. The DEHS has resources available at http://www.udel.edu/OHS. University of Delaware safety policies can be viewed online at http://www.udel.edu/ehs/safetycorner/sc2.html

McDowell Hall Emergency Evacuation Policy and Procedure

Purpose:
This protocol establishes the policy and procedures for evacuating the School of Nursing in the event of a drill or real emergency. The purpose of a fire/evacuation drill is to
practice exiting the building “in a simulated emergency situation” so that when an emergency does arise, panic will be minimized and an orderly evacuation will be accomplished.

**Authority:**
Any person within the School of Nursing who has knowledge of an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the employees, students, and visitors (such as, but not limited to, visual smoke, burning odor, fire, an armed intruder, abnormal heating of materials, hazardous gas leaks, hazardous material or flammable liquid spill) has the authority to activate the fire alarm system by pulling one of the fire alarm handles.

Any person within the School of Nursing who has knowledge of a potential threat to the safety and well-being of the employees, students, and visitors (such as, but not limited to, verbal or written threats, bomb threat, or irate person) should immediately contact Public Safety by University phone (dial 911 or 2222) or by a University Emergency Phone identified by a blue light. Indicate the nature of the threat (i.e., what was said, who said it), all information at hand about the threat, including background information. Public Safety will make a determination as to whether an evacuation is warranted.

**Policy**
All School of Nursing personnel are required to comply with an evacuation order, whether disseminated by fire alarm or through verbal communication. Failure to comply with an evacuation order will result in disciplinary action.

**Procedures:**
Everyone must exit the building immediately when the alarm sounds or when instructed to do so by emergency personnel or designee. Everyone must gather at the **School of Nursing meeting point** – at a distance of 200 ft. from the building to allow the safe arrival of emergency response vehicles. Keep entrances, sidewalks, and driveways clear.

School of Nursing MEETING POINT – All School of Nursing personnel are to meet on the grassy area to the side of McDowell Hall and immediately in front of Willard Hall Education Building. In the case of inclement weather or long-term evacuation, the alternate meeting place will be the main lobby of Willard Hall Education Building. If possible, and you can do so without placing yourself at risk: Gather your keys, purse, briefcase, laptop, and coat as you leave the area.

**NOTE:** **When true emergencies occur,** evacuation may be required for several minutes to several hours before the incident is resolved and the building is safe to reoccupy. Practice gathering your keys, purse, briefcase, laptop, and coat so you will be prepared when an emergency occurs. Shut any open windows and close each door that you go through. Shut down all equipment and computers in the area, if possible.

In case of an emergency, a person with a disability shall do the following: Proceed immediately to the designated “Areas of Refuge” within McDowell Hall: Top of stairwell A – stairwell between elevators at front of building. The top of stairwell B which is the stairwell closest to the Willard Hall Education Building. If an “Area of Refuge” is not
available, proceed immediately to the nearest marked exit and wait inside the stair tower landing. Alert a responsible person of your intentions to wait at the “Area of Refuge” for assistance. Wait for trained emergency responders to rescue you.

If a small contained fire is discovered, the following may be done using good judgment: Evacuate the immediate area of the fire using verbal instructions. Ask for assistance from a person in the immediate area. Extinguish the fire with a portable fire extinguisher. Contact Public Safety at 911 or 2222 and wait for their response. Contact Environmental Health and Safety at 8475 immediately even if no appreciable damage results. This will assure that the City Fire Marshal is notified as required by law, that extinguishers are recharged, insurance reports filed, and hazardous conditions corrected to reduce the chance of recurrence. Do not allow re-occupancy of the immediate fire area until cleared by Public Safety and/or Environmental Health and Safety.

In the event of a true emergency, administrators and persons with information about the cause of the evacuation and special needs of the evacuees shall dial 911 or 2222 and report the emergency and wait for emergency responders.

Supervisors will be expected to account for all of their subordinates and notify the emergency responders if someone is missing. Supervisors will be expected to alert Public Safety and/or Emergency Responders outside the building that a disabled employee is waiting at the “Area of Refuge” for rescue. DO NOT LEAVE the School of Nursing MEETING POINT until instructed to do so by Public Safety or Designated Officer.

**Accidents, Illness & Hazardous Materials**

**Accident & Illness Reporting and Investigation Responsibilities**

Accident reporting/investigation is the responsibility of departmental supervisors and departmental safety committees. Incidents must be reported to the supervisor (instructor) as soon as possible. The DEHS coordinates all accident investigations and receives copies of all employee, student, and visitor investigation report forms. All accidents or illness must be reported. Student and visitor accident reports and investigation report forms must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Health and Safety. Accident/Illness reporting forms for the School of Nursing are located in the Nursing Department office (391 McDowell Hall).

**University Ambulance Procedure**

Call 9-911 for ambulance service. The University of Delaware Emergency Care Unit (UDECU) was founded by students in 1976 to provide quality emergency ambulance service to the University of Delaware campus and community. Today, UDECU is a state certified ambulance run entirely by student volunteers. Crews consist of Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technicians, Certified State of Delaware Ambulance Attendants and Emergency Vehicle Operators. The ambulance is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to handle any emergency situation. The ambulance is a basic life support unit in which the latest non-paramedical equipment and techniques to treat and rapidly transport patients are used.
Hazardous Materials

University personnel from DEHS conduct hazard reviews of all tasks performed on the job and to specify the personal protective equipment (PPE) required for these tasks. Supervisors are required to assure personnel and students follow the procedures outlined in the job hazard analysis and use the required PPE. Students are required to purchase an approved eye protection and any needed protective equipment. These items are to be brought to each laboratory or clinical session as required by the instructor.

The University's Department of Environmental Health and Safety has developed a Chemical Waste Management Program to assure that proper handling and disposal procedures are used to protect the health and safety of the University community and to be in compliance with federal and state regulations governing hazardous and solid waste management. Students will be instructed on the proper disposal of laboratory waste. All biohazardous materials should be placed into a double-lined autoclave container. Uncontaminated glass should be placed into labeled cardboard containers. All waste debris collected during hazardous materials emergency spill clean-up must be packaged, labeled and disposed of as chemical waste.

Injury Procedure & Mandatory Reporting

If an injury occurs, first determine if emergency medical help is required. Examples of when emergency medical help would be required are: excessive bleeding, loss of consciousness, and broken bones. If emergency medical help is required, call 9-911 for police or ambulance on the campus. For a non-life threatening emergency, administer first aid.

If an injury occurs at a clinical location, follow their procedures for reporting the exposure at the facility if indicated. Contact the supervising faculty member as soon as possible to report the injury. The supervising faculty member is responsible for submitting all the required completed forms which include:

1.) First Report of Injury Form; 2.) Injury/Illness/Loss Investigation Report. All forms are to be submitted via FAX or hand-delivery within 24 hours of the personal injury to the following: UD Department of Environmental Health & Safety: 302-831-1528; UD School of Nursing, Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation office: 302-831-4250; and UD Student Health Services: 302-831-6407.

Blood-Borne Pathogen Exposure & Mandatory Reporting

1. Blood Borne Pathogen Exposures - Steps for Student Treatment
   a. Administer first aid, immediately after exposure. Allow a penetrating injury to bleed. Wash the injury site thoroughly with soap and water or rinse the exposed mucous membrane thoroughly with water. If anyone assists with first aid they should wear gloves and eye
protection.
b. After first aid has been administered, the student must notify supervising faculty.
c. Supervising faculty member will complete the Exposure Report Form, First Report of Injury Form and Injury/Illness Loss Investigation Report.
d. If injury occurs Monday-Saturday between 8am-8pm or Sunday 9am-5pm, the supervising faculty member will call the closest Medical Aid unit to alert Medical Aid unit that they are referring a student for treatment for BBP exposure.
   i. Glasgow Medical Aid Unit
      Glasgow Medical Center
      2600 Glasgow Ave., Newark, DE 19702
      302-836-8350
   ii. Medical Aid Unit at Christiana
        HealthCare Center at Christiana
        200 Hygeia Drive, Newark, DE 19713
        302-623-0444
   iii. Medical Aid Unit at Middletown
        Middletown Care Center 124 Sleepy Hollow Drive,
        Middletown, DE 19709
        302-449-3100

e. Contact the closest Christiana Care Emergency Room to alert them that they are referring a student for treatment for BBP exposure.
   i. Christiana ER (Triage Desk) 302-733-1620
   ii. Wilmington ER (Triage Desk) 302-428-4180
f. If injury occurs at a facility out of state or at a significant distance from the above sites, the supervising faculty member will identify the closest urgent care facility or emergency room and contact the identified facility and refer as indicated for BBP exposure.
g. The supervising faculty member will provide the student with a copy of the Exposure Referral Guideline.
h. The supervising faculty member will contact the University of Delaware (UD) Nurse Managed Health Center (NMHC) at 302-831-3195 to notify them that a student has been referred for treatment for BBP exposure and will require follow-up in the NMHC.

2. Blood Borne Pathogen Exposures - Source Evaluation
   a. The supervising faculty member is responsible for having the source patient's blood drawn for:
      i. RAPID HIV testing; no consent is needed. ii. Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C testing.
   b. The supervising faculty member will complete the Source Patient Information Form.

3. Blood Borne Pathogen Exposures - Immediate Post-Exposure Documentation
   a. The supervising faculty member is responsible for submitting all the required completed forms:
      i. Exposure Report Form
      ii. First Report of Injury Form
      iv. Source Patient Information Form
   b. All forms are to be submitted via FAX or hand-delivery within 24 hours of the BBP exposure to the following:
      i. UD Department of Environmental Health & Safety: 302-831-1528
      ii. Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation Office: 302-831-4250
      iii. UD Nurse Managed Health Center: 302-831-3193

4. Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure - Follow-up Care
   a. The Nurse Managed Health Center (NMHC) upon notification and receipt of the above documentation will contact the student to schedule a follow-up office visit for counseling and health care treatment as indicated.
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree

Statement of Purpose and Expectation of Graduate Study

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program prepares graduates to perform at the highest level of advanced nursing practice. With a focus on population health and leadership, students will gain competencies that will allow them to become leaders in practice innovation and policy development that will improve the health of diverse populations. The foundation for practice expertise with a population health focus will enable the graduate to plan and lead evidenced-based interventions, quality improvement strategies and health policy changes that address patient safety, promote patient-centered care, and reduce health disparities among diverse groups. The focus on practice that integrates both primary health care and mental health competencies enables graduates of this program to provide health care in diverse settings to communities and populations that are currently unable to easily access care.

The DNP degree is designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice and offers an alternative to the research-focused doctoral program. This degree prepares students to translate research into the practice setting. It does not prepare the student to conduct original research. Students will develop a practice question and critically appraise available research to develop and implement a practice initiative that represents best practices for improvement of the delivery of healthcare services. Coursework is designed to provide the student the skills to understand the complexities of the health care delivery system in order to influence change and develop policy that improves patient outcomes in a variety of settings.

Degree Offered
Students who successfully complete this program will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from the School of Nursing in the College of Health Sciences.

DNP Program Outcomes

1. Integrate nursing science and practice to plan and develop new practice approaches that lead to improvement of health outcomes for diverse populations.
2. Apply leadership skills to influence inter-professional teams that foster creative innovation in complex healthcare systems.
3. Analyze evidence for translation of research into best practices to improve quality of care.
4. Integrate population health measures to monitor health outcomes of individuals, groups, systems, and populations.
5. Evaluate and utilize healthcare informatics practices and technologies used to promote health improvement and wellness of individuals and populations.
6. Translate principles of population health into clinical care through community engagement and public health initiatives.
7. Contribute to health policy change on the local, national and global levels to improve efficiency and effectiveness of an integrated health care model.
8. Demonstrate competencies in various advanced nursing practice roles with diverse populations across integrated healthcare systems.

Admission to the DNP Program

Students will be admitted as either post-baccalaureate or post-master’s students depending on their prior educational achievement. Admission requirements differ for post-baccalaureate and post-master’s applicants. Admission decisions will be made by the School of Nursing Graduate Education Committee and DNP Subcommittee. Students will be admitted to the program based on their ability to meet the following minimum recommended entrance requirements and enrollment availability.

Post-baccalaureate Applicants:

- Baccalaureate degree in nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited School of Nursing
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Copy of active Registered Nurse (RN) license(s) in the state of Delaware or a compact state (state which has license reciprocity with the Delaware State Board of Nursing) or demonstrated eligibility for licensure

Post-master’s Applicants:

- Master’s degree in nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited School of Nursing with national certification in an area of advanced nursing practice
- Graduate GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Letter from the master’s program indicating the number of clinical hours completed

All Applicants (as applicable):

- Relevant professional experience
- Copy of license in a state where clinical practice may be arranged
- Completion of a master’s level statistics course in the past 5 years with a grade of B- or better
- Official results from the TOEFL or IELTS exam taken within the last 2 years (for non-native English speaking applicants only). The minimum TOEFL score is 100; the minimum IELTS is 6.5.
- A written statement that clearly identifies the applicant’s career goals and how admission to the program will facilitate his or her professional objectives.
- Three letters of recommendation: two from an academic, and one from employer and/or other professional source. Academic references must be from someone who is doctorally prepared and who can attest to the student’s capacity to complete a doctoral program.
- A successful interview with the DNP Program Coordinator and members
of the DNP Subcommittee.

- Demonstrated competence in written communication through submission of a writing sample
- A curriculum vitae or resume

Application Deadlines

Applications will only be accepted once a year during the Spring semester. See the School of Nursing website for additional information.

Degree Requirements for the DNP Degree

The DNP Program is available at two entry levels – post-baccalaureate and post-masters. There is a core curriculum that all students must complete, and courses specific to population-focused advanced practice nursing concentrations that lead to eligibility to sit for national certification. The course requirements for this program include 14 DNP core courses, 5 NP core courses and 7-8 courses specific to the population foci. These include family nurse practitioner (FNP), adult-gerontology nurse practitioner (AGNP) and psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP).

All students must complete the DNP and NP core courses. Clinical hours are included in course requirements for both core courses and for population-focused concentration courses. Students are admitted as cohorts into 3-year full-time and 5-year part-time plans of study and are expected to maintain progression with their cohort as outlined upon admission. However, students must complete all course work within a 7-year time frame in order to be eligible to earn the degree.

Post-Baccalaureate DNP Program

The Post-baccalaureate DNP program requires the completion of 78 course credits. Students entering the Post-baccalaureate DNP Program will choose a population-focused clinical concentration and complete all courses to meet eligibility requirements to become certified and licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). There are full time and part time options for the post-baccalaureate program. Upon program completion, students will be eligible to apply for a national certification exam in one of the population foci. Credits for the specific population-foci are as follows:

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP): 78 credit hours and 1120 clinical hours (direct care: 784 /indirect: 336)
- Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (AGNP): 78 credit hours and 1120 clinical hours (direct care: 784 /indirect: 336)
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP): 78 credit hours and 1008 clinical hours (direct care: 672 /indirect: 336)
Tables below indicate all courses, credits and clinical hours required for the specific concentrations:

**DNP Core Courses***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Clinical Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS881 Population Health I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS882 Population Health II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS813 Leadership and Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS844 Population Healthcare Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS843 Policy and Finance for Healthcare Delivery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS883 Evidence-based Practice I: Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS886 Evidence-based Practice II: Translation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS852 Integrated Healthcare Delivery I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS873 DNP Project I: Problem Identification</td>
<td>3(1+2)**</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS874 DNP Project II: Planning &amp; Development</td>
<td>3(1+2)**</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS900 DNP Project III: Implementation</td>
<td>3(1+2)**</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS910 DNP Project IV: Evaluation &amp; Dissemination</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS920 Clinical Role Immersion – Post-master’s*** OR NURS921 Clinical Role Immersion- Post-baccalaureate</td>
<td>1-3 (Variable or course waiver*** 5 (2+3)</td>
<td>56-168 or course waiver*** 168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS870 Writing for Dissemination</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>36-41</strong></td>
<td><strong>336-504</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Post-master’s students are required to take only DNP Core Courses  
**1+2 indicates 1 credit of didactic hours and 2 credits of clinical hours  
***This course may be waived for post-master’s students who have completed 664 or more clinical hours in their master’s program.

**Nurse Practitioner Core Courses***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Clinical Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS621 Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS622 Advanced Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS677 Advanced Health Assessment &amp; Diagnostic Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS853 Integrated Healthcare Delivery II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS818 Advanced Nursing Science</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NP Core Courses are taken by students in all concentrations.

Course requirements for the available concentrations are listed on the following tables:

**Population-Focus: Family Nurse Practitioner***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Clinical Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS691 Primary Care I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS692 Primary Care NP Practicum I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS693 Primary Care II</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS694 Primary Care NP Practicum II</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS679 Primary Care of Children</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS678 Primary Care of Women</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population-Focus: Adult- Gerontology Nurse Practitioner*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Clinical Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS691 Primary Care I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS692 Primary Care NP Practicum I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS693 Primary Care II</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS694 Primary Care NP Practicum II</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS695 Primary Care of Frail/Older Adults</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS678 Primary Care of Women</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS696 Primary Care NP Practicum III</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGNP Total</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP Core Courses Total</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNP Core Courses Total</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>78</td>
<td>1120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Post-baccalaureate students also take DNP Core Courses
**NURS921 is substituted for NURS920

Population-Focus: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Clinical Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS668 Advanced Clinical Neuroscience</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS669 Advanced Psychopharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS671 Psychiatric/Mental Health NP I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS672 Psychiatric/Mental Health NP Practicum I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS673 Psychiatric/Mental Health NP II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS674 Psychiatric/Mental Health NP Practicum II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS675 Psychiatric/Mental Health NP III</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS676 Psychiatric/Mental Health NP Practicum III</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych NP Total</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP Core Courses Total</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNP Core Courses Total</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>78</td>
<td>1008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Post-baccalaureate students also take DNP Core Courses*
**NURS921 is substituted for NURS920

Post-master’s DNP Program

The post-master’s DNP program includes completion of all DNP core courses, a total of 36 course credits. Additional credits (1-3) will be required in a clinical immersion final course, depending on the number of clinical hours completed in the previous master’s program. The purpose of these credits is to ensure that students complete a total 1,000 clinical hours as recommended by the AACN. Students who apply to the post-master’s DNP option must hold national certification in an area of advanced nursing practice. Their
pathway through the program will vary by the credentials they present upon admission and will also depend on their career goals. There is a part time option for the post-master’s program. The plan of study for the post-master’s DNP can be completed in either 2 or 3 years.

1. Post-master’s with license and certification as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) [clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist, or nurse midwife] for the individual who seeks certification as a nurse practitioner.

Requirements:

Students will complete all DNP core courses (listed on page five) and all nurse practitioner courses specific for the population focus of their choice in order to be eligible to apply for national certification. Applicants who have completed more than 500 hours in their master’s program and desire credit for these hours must submit a letter from their master’s program documenting the number of hours completed. The advanced pharmacology course taken in previous master’s coursework will only be approved provided it has been taken within the previous 3 years before matriculation. If the course is older than 3 years, it must be completed prior to beginning population-specific clinical courses.

The following table is an example of a plan of study for a post-master’s student seeking a new advanced practice nurse role:

**Required courses for a post-master’s DNP student licensed as a CNS with a Master’s degree, seeking certification as an Adult-Gerontology NP (Sample)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Clinical Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS881 Population Health I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR7RS882 Population Health II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS881 Leadership &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS844 Population Healthcare Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS843 Policy and Finance for Healthcare Delivery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS852 Integrated Healthcare Delivery I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS883 Evidence-based Practice I: Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS886 Evidence-based Practice II Translation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS873 DNP Project I: Problem Identification</td>
<td>3 (1+2)*</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS784 DNP Project II: Planning and Development</td>
<td>3 (1+2)*</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS900 DNP Project III: Implementation</td>
<td>3 (1+2)*</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS910 DNP Project IV: Evaluation &amp; Dissemination</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS870 Writing for Dissemination</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS691 Primary Care I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS692 Primary Care Practicum NP I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS693 Primary Care II</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS694 Primary Care Practicum II</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS695 Primary Care of Frail/Older Adults</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS678 Primary Care of Women</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS696 Primary Care Practicum III**</td>
<td>3**</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS853 Integrated Healthcare Delivery II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*1+2 indicates 1 credit of didactic hours and 2 credits of clinical hours
**This course will be offered for 1 credit with 56 hours of clinical. Three credits of this course will be required with a total of 112 hours.

2. Post-master’s with national certification in a non-APRN area of nursing practice (e.g. nurse educator, nurse administrator).

Requirements:
Students will complete all DNP core courses. Applicants will be given credit for 500 clinical hours upon entering the program.

3. Post-master’s with previous nurse practitioner certification and licensure seeking certification in an additional nurse practitioner population focus

Requirements:
Students will complete all DNP core courses. Because these students will enter with different clinical backgrounds, the clinical component of the program will include an individualized plan of study. Student transcripts and previous syllabi may be evaluated for equivalence to selected required course work for national certification.

Post-DNP Certificate

DNP-prepared nurses with national certification in an area of nursing practice may seek preparation as a nurse practitioner in one of the concentrations offered. In this case, students will complete only those courses required for the population-focused NP program of their choice that will allow them to apply for national certification. A certificate will be awarded.

Clinical Hours Requirements

According to the AACN *DNP Essentials*, DNP students need a minimum of 1,000 hours of post-baccalaureate supervised clinical practice hours to achieve the DNP competencies. Beyond the traditional MSN, clinical experiences at the DNP level expand the student’s practice to DNP level expectations. Post-baccalaureate students will receive all required hours in the program. Post-master’s students will complete the number of hours required to have a total of 1000 hours, including hours completed in their master’s program. Post-master’s applicants will be required to submit, at the time of admission, a letter from their master’s degree-awarding institution that indicates how many hours they completed in their master’s program.

All students will be expected to complete a minimum of 336 indirect care clinical hours at the DNP level. Indirect care hours refer to experiences in clinical settings that do not involve direct care of patients and generally support the development and execution of the DNP Project (see below). For students who need additional hours in order to satisfy the 1,000-hour requirement, these can be completed by registering for the Clinical Role Immersion course, which can be taken for variable clinical credits (1-3). This course may be waived for students with greater than 664 clinical hours in their previous master’s program.
Particular areas of focus for indirect care practice experiences include:

1. Translation of research evidence into practice, including the complexities of motivating and achieving sustainable practice changes and staff behaviors in clinical environments.
2. Systems leadership for improving patient and healthcare outcomes.
3. Specific DNP competencies that the student may lack or has yet to develop. Students are encouraged to review the AACN DNP Essentials document and identify specific competencies in their practices that they would like to strengthen through their clinical hour requirements.
4. Development of skills that support successful completion of the student’s DNP Project.

The DNP Project

All DNP students will complete an evidence-based practice project as a requirement for graduation. Students will identify a practice problem, perform a critical appraisal of the evidence for best practices, and propose and implement a practice change in the health care setting. The DNP project is a culmination of the knowledge and skills gained throughout the DNP program. The entire experience provides students the opportunity to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills gained. The planning, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of the project is an opportunity to demonstrate an analytical approach to programmatic, administrative, policy, or practice issues in a format that supports the synthesis, transfer, and utilization of knowledge.

Types of DNP Projects

The following is a list of examples of projects (not exhaustive) that may be developed and implemented by a DNP student:

- System modification for quality improvement processes
- Information technologies applied in the health care setting to improve health outcomes
- Health care delivery innovations
- Analysis and application of a health care policy
- Health education program with consumer or professional teams
- Elements of a clinical practice guideline in the health care setting

Students will be encouraged to consult the NONPF Recommended Criteria for NP Scholarly Projects in the Practice Doctorate Program (NONPF, 2007) for criteria for project development and suggestions for types of projects.

DNP Project Policies

1. DNP Project Team

The DNP Project Team is assembled during NURS874 DNP Project II: Planning and Development. The roles and expectations of the various DNP Project Team members are described below. The process for creation, modification, and approval of the DNP Project
Tea

**DNP Student Leader:** The student’s role is to lead the DNP Project Team. The DNP student is expected to effectively develop, implement, evaluate, and disseminate the DNP Project under the supervision of their Faculty Mentor and team. It is expected that the student will use advanced critical thinking and judgment to determine the need for additional guidance and will seek mentoring from DNP Project team members or other experts as appropriate. It is expected that the student will seek feedback, readily accept critique of any aspect of the project’s development, implementation, evaluation, or dissemination, and promptly incorporate feedback as provided. With the guidance from the DNP Project Faculty Mentor, the student will demonstrate the ability to effectively navigate a range of recommendations from DNP Project team members or clinical stakeholders. It is expected that the student will use expert leadership skills in developing partnerships with community members, clinical agency personnel, and stakeholders, follow all agency policies/guidelines, and adhere to the highest level of ethical behavior and professional standards. The student is expected to maintain consistent and effective communication with course faculty and the DNP Project Faculty Mentor and Team members. The student will be knowledgeable of and follow all policies and guidelines related to the DNP Project and its final products. It is expected that the student will demonstrate a high level of scholarship and will complete the project and submit all assignments in a timely manner.

**DNP Project Faculty Mentor:** The student should first select a DNP Project Faculty Mentor. Student identification and selection of the Faculty Mentor is conducted in conjunction with course faculty teaching DNP Project I: Problem Identification and NURS874 Project II: Planning and Development. Selection is dependent upon mutual agreement of the student and the faculty member who is asked to serve as the Faculty Mentor and is subject to approval by the DNP Program Coordinator. The student and Faculty Mentor will work together, often intensively, over an extended period of time, so careful selection is essential. The Faculty Mentor must be a doctorally-prepared faculty member in the SON. The choice of the Faculty Mentor should be made based on the student’s proposed area of clinical inquiry and the faculty member’s clinical and scholarly expertise. A recommended approach for students to use in identifying a Faculty Mentor is to become informed about faculty members’ clinical and scholarly interests and areas of expertise. The Faculty Mentor may or may not have served as the student’s academic advisor. He/she must be the team member most competent to supervise the project as a whole, but is not the only resource person for all aspects of the project.

The Faculty Mentor assumes primary responsibility for oversight of the DNP Project during the NURS900 DNP Project III and NURS910 DNP Project IV courses. If identified early, the Faculty Mentor may choose to begin working with the student during the DNP Project I and/or II courses in collaboration with the course faculty, if the course faculty approves. The Faculty Mentor monitors the student’s progress and guides the student to completion of the DNP Project and the required final DNP Project products. The following outlines the role of the Faculty Mentor:

- Assure IRB compliance and serve as faculty of record on IRB submission (when
Mentor the student throughout the preparation of the DNP Project proposal: the project development, implementation, evaluation process, and the (final DNP Project products).

Collaborate with student to schedule DNP Project Team meetings for proposal presentation and final DNP Project presentation.

Lead DNP Project Team review and approval of the DNP Project Proposal and the final DNP Project products (DNP Portfolio, DNP Project brief, final DNP Project presentation, and DNP Project manuscript).

Communicate effectively with DNP student and team members.

Provide feedback to student on written drafts in a timely manner.

Document student progress toward completion of DNP Project requirements.

Mentor School of Nursing faculty with interest in participating in DNP Projects.

DNP Project Team Members: With the help of the DNP Project Faculty Mentor, the student selects members of her/his DNP Team. In addition to the Faculty Mentor, the team must consist of a minimum of two members, at least one of whom must be doctorally-prepared faculty of the UD SON. A Professor Emeritus may serve on a DNP Team and count as a SON member. The third member may be a SON faculty member or someone from outside the SON who is an expert in the student’s clinical area. In addition to the Faculty Mentor, one other team member must be doctorally-prepared. Additional team members must be at least master’s-prepared. Note that only doctorally-prepared faculty will approve the final project.

It is not necessary for the student to consult team members equally about each aspect of the clinical problem and approach. Members should be consulted primarily on those aspects directly related to their specific areas of expertise. Additional faculty or clinical resource persons may be consulted as needed. It is the joint responsibility of the student and Faculty Mentor to make the final decisions on problem and method, even if decisions are made that one or more team members believe to be less than optimal. The team’s responsibility is to act in an advisory capacity rather than as directors of the project. The following outlines the role of DNP Team Member:

- Critique drafts of the developing DNP Project proposal.
- Participate in team review and approval of the DNP Project Proposal and the final DNP Project products (DNP Project Brief, final DNP Project Presentation, and DNP Project Manuscript).
- Provide feedback to the student on written drafts in a timely manner.
- Communicate concerns to student and Faculty Mentor in a timely manner.

DNP Project Team Membership – Appointments and Changes: To formalize the DNP Project Team, the student obtains signatures from all team members on the DNP Project Team Appointment or Change Request Form (Form 1, below). The form is submitted to the DNP Program Coordinator for approval. If approved, the DNP Program Coordinator will forward to the Graduate Program Administrative Assistant to place in the student’s file. If not approved, the DNP Program Coordinator will communicate rationale and
recommendations to the student and DNP Project Faculty Mentor and the student will be expected to revise the proposal.

Changes in Faculty Mentor must be discussed with and approved by the DNP Program Coordinator. Changes in DNP Project Team membership must be approved by the Faculty Mentor. Change requests are to be made on the DNP Project Team Appointment or Change Request Form (Form 1 below). If approved, the DNP Program Coordinator will forward to the Graduate Program Administrative Assistant to place in the student’s file. If not approved, the DNP Program Coordinator will communicate rationale and recommendations to the student and the Faculty Mentor.

2. DNP Project Proposal Process

Developing the DNP Project Proposal

During NURS874 DNP Project II: Planning and Development, the student will develop and present the DNP Project Proposal. Students will receive guidance from course faculty with regard to the development of the proposal, including both the written project brief and the oral presentation. Students are encouraged to align their proposal with the Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQUIRE) Guidelines (see http://squire-statement.org/). Students should also reference the DNP Project final evaluation guideline to be used by the DNP Project Team during the proposal and final presentation sessions. These are the DNP Project Proposal Evaluation Framework and the DNP Project Final Evaluation Framework (Forms 2 and 4).

A suggested organization of the DNP Project proposal is provided below. Students should consult with DNP Project II course faculty for possible variations to this format which may be appropriate to their project. All pages should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numbers in the upper right corner beginning with the Title Page. The most recent edition of the APA Style Manual should be consulted for greater specificity. The sequence of content is:

PROPOSAL: (30 page limit, double spaced)
- Title Page with copyright (p. 1)
- Abstract (p. 2) (Maximum of 350 words)
- Table of Contents (p. 3)

Section I Introduction (5-10 pages)
- Introduce the Problem
- Develop the Background
- Present the Theoretical Framework
- State the Purpose and Rationale
- State the practice question addressed by the project

Section II Review of the Literature (10-12 pages)
- Provide a systematic EBP literature review
- Summarize the findings
- Implications for Nursing
- Implications for present project and/or research
3. DNP Project Presentation

Students will present their DNP Project Proposals during DNP Project II: Planning and Development course. The proposal will be presented after the DNP Project Team is assembled. It is expected that all DNP Project Team members will be in attendance (live or virtual). The student is responsible for distributing an electronic copy of the written DNP Project proposal to course faculty and to the DNP Project team members at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled presentation.

 Typically, the student begins the session presentation with a 15-minute presentation of the proposed DNP Project. In the ensuing discussion, team members may question the student about any aspect of the project as well as relevant clinical and methodological considerations. The proposal presentation should be viewed as a working session in which differences of opinion can be resolved. Team members’ suggestions serve to insure the project’s feasibility, clinical relevance, and quality.

4. DNP Project Proposal Approval Process

It is the student’s responsibility to bring the DNP Project Proposal Evaluation Framework (Form 2, below) and the DNP Project Proposal Approval Form (Form 3, below) to the proposal presentation. The student gives these documents to the DNP Project Faculty Mentor at the beginning of the session.

After the presentation session, the student and the audience are asked to leave the room while the team critiques the presentation. The proposal defense will be evaluated by DNP Project Team members according to DNP Project Proposal Evaluation Framework (Form 4, below). The team identifies any changes or additional work to be done, and determines the outcome of the proposal presentation. The student is then invited back into the room and is informed of the result.

If no revisions or additions are needed, team members will sign the DNP Project Proposal Approval form. The Faculty Mentor then submits the DNP Project Proposal Approval form to the SON DNP Coordinator who signs and routes the form for appropriate signatures. If the revisions or additions are minor, team members will sign the DNP Project Proposal Approval form. The Faculty Mentor, however, will not sign, date, or submit the form until the student satisfactorily completes and submits all revisions. The team discusses with the student any changes or additional work to be done and establishes a deadline by
which such changes or additions are to be submitted. Once revisions are completed, the Faculty Mentor submits the DNP Project Proposal Approval form to the SON DNP Coordinator who signs and routes the form for appropriate signatures.

If major revisions or additions to the project proposal are required, dates will be established for submission of a revised proposal and for the presentation. Neither the Faculty Mentor nor the members will sign and date the DNP Project Proposal Approval form unless and until these major changes or additions have been presented and the entire DNP Project Proposal is found satisfactory. It is important to note that whenever revisions are recommended and depending on the degree of revision, it may be necessary for the student to take an incomplete in DNP Project II.

In the event that 1) the team judges the DNP Project to be so unsatisfactory in execution that making it acceptable would virtually require starting over, or 2) the student does not submit and defend the required revisions or additions by the agreed-upon date, or 3) the team judges the submitted revisions or additions to be unsatisfactory, the team may report that the student has not passed the DNP Project written and oral presentation and may recommend dismissal from the program, or fail DNP II with an option to retake it. In such a situation, the team should submit a written report detailing the rationale for the recommendation to the DNP Program Coordinator.

5. Implementation of the DNP Project

Conducting the DNP Project
After the project proposal has been approved by the DNP Project Team, the process of implementing the project may begin in the next course, DNP Project III: Implementation. In many cases the project involves the use of primary or secondary data about human subjects, therefore both administrative approval and Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval must be obtained before data collection begins. Procedures and time delay in obtaining administrative and research review clearance vary with the type of project.

Administrative Approval: The student must secure a letter from the appropriate official in the clinical agency, which states that the project described may be conducted there. Students should determine if the clinical agency requires human subjects review, if applicable.

Institutional Review Board Approval: Before beginning data collection (or analysis of pre-existing data), the student must assure the protection of human rights by having the proposal reviewed and approved by the UD IRB. The DNP Project Faculty Mentor is jointly responsible with the student for the accuracy of the information provided to the UD IRB and must co-sign the IRB forms with the student. The UD IRB meeting schedule is posted on the UD Research web site. Students are required to close all studies with the IRB prior to graduation.

6. DNP Project as Part of Funded Grants
DNP students who elect to develop a project with principal investigators who have funded
grants must secure permission for copyrighting of their final project, if necessary, from their DNP Project Faculty Mentor and/or the principal investigator with whom they are conducting the project. It is advisable to reach an understanding at the outset about authorship and credit for any publications that may result from the project. Manuscripts submitted that represent student-led projects should have the student listed as first author.

7. Final DNP Products

Completion of the DNP Project is accompanied by several final products that are required for DNP Project IV: Evaluation and Dissemination. The final products related to the project required of all DNP students include the DNP Project Brief or Poster, the Final DNP Project Presentation, and the DNP Project Manuscript. In addition, the DNP Project Portfolio will be required to showcase achievement of all program outcomes and competencies. The DNP degree is awarded after successful completion of all final products.

DNP Project Brief or Poster

The purpose of the DNP Project Brief or Poster is to provide the project clinical agency with a synopsis of the project in order to encourage sustainability. Students will determine which format is most appropriate for the specific agency. The project brief is a densely written (5 page limit) scholarly description of the overview of the evidence supporting the project implementation, as well as the DNP project scope, methods, results, and implications. Alternatively, students may develop a poster for presentation to the agency stakeholders. The poster provides the same information as the project brief. The purpose of the project brief or poster is to provide a concise report that will be made available to stakeholders at the agency in which the project was implemented.

When the DNP Project Faculty Mentor decides that the final draft project brief/poster is ready for distribution to the team, the student has the responsibility to distribute an electronic and/or hard copy to the DNP Project team members based on their preferences. Team members will have three weeks from the distribution date to thoroughly critique the project brief/poster and provide to both the student and the DNP Project Faculty Mentor, written feedback either electronically or written hard copy. If written hard copy feedback is provided, the team member is responsible for ensuring its legibility and for arranging delivery and/or pick up. Team members have the responsibility to read the project brief/poster in the allotted time.

A suggested organization of the project brief/poster is provided below. Students should consult with their team for possible variations to this format that may be appropriate to their project. The most recent edition of the APA Style Manual should be consulted for greater specificity. The sequence of content is:

- Title Page (for brief)
- Executive Summary/Abstract
- Practice Question
- Significance of the Problem
- Summary of the Evidence
• Project Implementation Strategies (with analysis of the process)
• Barriers Encountered and Solutions
• Findings with Analysis
• Implications
• Appendix for Budget Justification (no more than one page; if doing a poster, this is submitted separately)
• References (not part of the five page limit)

After successful completion of all DNP requirements, the student will submit a final copy of the project brief or poster to the SON for permanent inclusion into the electronic SON DNP Project Repository.

DNP Project Final Presentation

Scheduling the DNP Project Presentation: Students will prepare a PowerPoint for presentation to course faculty and members of the DNP team. The project presentations sessions will be open to all SON students and faculty, as well as the UD community-at-large. After incorporating revisions offered by Team members into the project brief or poster, the Project Faculty Mentor determines that it is ready for presentation. Presentations will take place on scheduled days at the end of the semester, arranged by the DNP Project IV course faculty. Students have the responsibility to inform project team members of the date of the presentation and to distribute an electronic copy of the revised project brief/poster to the DNP Project team members at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled presentation. Students may present their project to the clinical agency after successfully completing the formal, on-campus DNP Project presentation. The decision to do so should be made in conjunction with the DNP Project Faculty Mentor and authorized clinical agency personnel.

Format and Procedures for the DNP Project Presentation: It is the student’s responsibility to bring the DNP Project Final Evaluation Framework (Form 4, below) and DNP Project Final Approval form (Form 5) to the presentation. The student gives these documents to the Project Faculty Mentor at the beginning of the session. The Project Faculty Mentor introduces the Team members, the doctoral student, and his/her proposal title. The student begins the session with a 20-minute presentation of the DNP Project. The following is a suggested organization of the presentation:
• Practice Question
• Significance of the Problem
• Summary of the Evidence
• Project Implementation Strategies (with analysis of the process)
• Barriers Encountered and Solutions
• Findings with Analysis
• Implications

Team members will question the student about any aspect of the project itself and the relevant clinical and methodological considerations in a 10-minute session following the formal presentation. The team Faculty Mentor may invite members of the audience to ask questions or make comments, but is not required to do so.

After this public session, the student and the audience are asked to leave the room while
the team prepares a critique. The DNP Project Team members complete the DNP Project Final Evaluation Framework. The team identifies any revisions or additional work to be done, and determines the outcome of the entire DNP Project. The student is then invited back into the room and is informed of the result. If no revisions are needed, team members will sign the DNP Project Final Approval form.

The Faculty Mentor then submits the DNP Project Final Approval form to the SON DNP Coordinator who signs and routes the form for appropriate signatures. If the revisions are minor, team members will discuss with the student any changes or additional work to be done and establish a deadline by which such revisions are to be submitted. Team members will sign the DNP Project Final Approval form. The Faculty Mentor, however, will not sign, date, or submit the form until the student satisfactorily completes and submits all revisions. Once revisions are completed, the Faculty Mentor submits the DNP Project Final Approval form to the SON DNP Coordinator who signs and routes the form for appropriate signatures.

It is important to note that whenever revisions are recommended and, depending on the degree of revision, it may be necessary for the student to take an incomplete in DNP Project IV.

If major revisions to the DNP Project are required, dates will be established for submission of a revise project brief and for a new presentation. Neither the Faculty Mentor nor the team members will sign and date the DNP Project Final Approval form unless, and until, these major revisions or additions have been presented and the entire DNP Project is found satisfactory.

In the event that 1) the team judges the DNP Project to be so unsatisfactory in execution that making it acceptable would virtually require starting over, or 2) the student does not submit and defend the required changes or additions by the agreed-upon date, or 3) the team judges the submitted changes or additions to be unsatisfactory, the team may report that the student has not passed the DNP Project and oral defense and may recommend, on a Report of Final Examination, that the degree not be awarded. In such a situation, the team should submit a written report detailing the rationale for the recommendation to the DNP Program Coordinator. The student may be given an incomplete at the discretion of the course instructor.

**DNP Project Manuscript**

A manuscript of publishable quality is an expected final product of the DNP Project and is required of all students in DNP Project IV: Evaluation and Dissemination. While students may not be required to submit the manuscript, (this is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course), they may choose to do so after consulting with their DNP Project Faculty Mentor. Students are required to identify and provide the name of a suitable journal (based on journal scope and readership) and to provide a copy of the author guidelines. Student will follow the author guidelines set forth by that journal. Detailed guidelines for manuscript development will be provided in Writing for Dissemination and DNP Project IV. Depending on the type and scope of the project, and the journal chosen, students are encouraged to align their manuscript with the Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQUIRE) Guidelines (see [http://squire-](http://squire-).
Members of the Project team may be co-authors of the manuscript, however, this arrangement is determined at the discretion of the student. Students should be listed as first author.

**DNP Portfolio**

Another final product of the program is the Portfolio which is also required for DNP Project IV. Students are required to maintain a DNP Portfolio for the duration of the program. The Portfolio will showcase the student’s work and will demonstrate achievement of all program outcomes and competencies, including work related to individual courses, as well as project-related work. Instructions for developing and maintaining the portfolio will be provided at the beginning of the program.

**Timetable and Satisfactory Progress toward the DNP Degree**

The Post-baccalaureate DNP degree may be completed on a full- or part-time basis. Two plans of study for each of the concentrations are available: the 3-year full-time plan, or the 5-year part-time plan. The post-master’s DNP may be completed by following either a 2- or 3-year plan of study. All students are required to complete the degree in a 7-year timeframe. (Please see Appendices 1, 2 and 3 for all full- and part-time plans of study).

**Grade Requirements and Consequences for Failure to Make Progress**

Successful progress toward completion of the DNP degree is determined by the student’s performance in the courses for which he/she is registered. Graduate students in nursing are subject to the standards for academic status set forth in the University of Delaware Graduate Catalog. To be eligible for an advanced degree, a student’s cumulative grade point average must be at least 3.0. The progression policy is as follows:

1. If a student receives a grade below a B- in a graduate nursing course, the course will not be counted toward the requirements for a degree, but is calculated in the student’s cumulative grade point average. A graduate student who receives a grade less than a B- in a required nursing course must repeat the course. Only two courses may be repeated and each course may be repeated only one time. Students may not progress if they have not earned a B- or better in the prerequisite course/s. If a student fails to obtain a B- or better after repeating a course, it will be recommended to the Office of Graduate Studies that the student be dismissed from the program.

2. If a student receives a failure in a clinical practicum course that is graded on a pass/fail basis, the student will not proceed in the program until the course is re-taken and a grade of pass is obtained.

Clinical practicum courses and population-focused specialty didactic courses must be taken as co-requisites unless otherwise specified in the course syllabus. When these courses are offered only once/year, receiving a non-passing grade in any of these courses may result in delaying the expected date of graduation by one year.
**Monitoring of Progress:** Each student is evaluated according to the requirements established by course faculty. Didactic courses generally include a combination of the following evaluation measures: written examinations, class presentations, term papers, and self and/or group evaluations. A practicum course may be evaluated by clinical observations, supervision, logs, clinical papers, clinical projects, performance testing, self-evaluation, and preceptor/faculty evaluation.

Each student’s record is reviewed each semester by the student’s advisor. If academic difficulties are identified, the faculty advisor counsels the student and files the recommendations with the Committee for Graduate Education in the School of Nursing.

**Change of Program Concentration:** Students in good standing may request a change in concentration by discussing their interest to change with their academic advisor and the DNP Coordinator. They must complete the appropriate form available from the graduate secretary, School of Nursing. The decision to grant a request for a change in program concentration is made by the DNP Coordinator. Once permission is granted, the appropriate form must be signed and put into the student’s record. It must be noted that a change in program concentration may delay the expected graduation date.

**Maintaining Student Status:** All students are expected to maintain continuous registration. Failure to comply with the requirement of maintaining continuous registration in courses, in sustaining status, or with approved leave of absence, will be taken as evidence that the student has terminated his/her graduate program, and the admitted status to the graduate program will be terminated. The date of termination will be recorded on the student’s transcript.

**Leave of Absence:** Students who do not register for courses at the University in Fall or Spring semester must request a leave of absence for that semester. Matriculated students who seek a leave of absence from the program must write a letter to their advisor requesting a leave of absence. The school will forward the request to the Office of Graduate Studies. The length of time needed for the leave should be indicated. Upon approval by the Office of Graduate Studies, the student’s academic transcript will note the approved leave in the appropriate semesters. The period of absence will not affect the limitation of time for completion of the degree requirements as stated in the student’s official letter of admission.

**Resignation from the University:** A graduate student wishing to resign from the University (i.e., terminate his/her association with the University and a specific degree program) may do so by submitting a letter to the Office of Graduate Studies and the School of Nursing Director of Graduate Practice Programs indicating the reasons for the resignation. The Office of Graduate Studies will cancel the student’s matriculation and indicate the effective date of the resignation on the student’s transcript.

**DNP Project Progress Timetable Guidelines:** The timetables for DNP Project completion for each concentration are outlined in the plans of study (Appendices 1-3). All DNP Project steps are completed within specific courses. The process for obtaining approval of the project proposal, presentation of the project results and forms required are addressed in Appendix 4.
Protocol for Grievance Procedure: Students who think that they have been graded inappropriately or receive what they perceive as an unfair evaluation by a faculty member may file a grievance in accordance with the University of Delaware polices. (See [http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/15-16/grievance.html](http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/15-16/grievance.html)) Students are encouraged to contact the School of Nursing DNP Coordinator to file a formal grievance in an effort to resolve the situation informally.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing Science Program

Statement of Purpose and Expectation of Graduate Study in Program
The University of Delaware, School of Nursing PhD in Nursing Science program prepares researchers and academic faculty for positions in college, university, and health care settings. Graduates are prepared to advance the art and science of nursing and to assume leadership positions in the profession. They will take responsibility for shaping and advancing healthcare, with a goal of improving individual, family and population health through the integration of theory, research, and evidence-based practice.

The PhD in Nursing Science Program emphasizes specific areas of study in which nursing makes a significant contribution towards health. These areas are defined by the research expertise of faculty in the context of interdisciplinary resources available at the University of Delaware and Delaware Health Sciences Alliance campuses and the local, national and international communities. Graduates are prepared to collaborate with other scientists and health professionals to contribute to the development of knowledge. The breadth of focus of the PhD in Nursing Science curriculum ranges from nursing research in the bio-behavioral sciences to health services.

Degree Offered
The degree awarded to those who complete this program will be a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing Science. Students may apply to the program either as a post BSN or post-master’s student.

PhD in Nursing Science Program Outcomes

1. Generate new knowledge through research and theory testing;

2. Reflect a nursing and interdisciplinary perspective in research and scholarly endeavors;

3. Evaluate the relationship of the expanded knowledge base in nursing and external forces (i.e., economic, demographic, political, cultural) on the provision of health care to society, the education of nurses, and the development of health policy;

4. Contribute to solutions that advance health care in a culturally diverse society through communication of knowledge to the intra- and
interdisciplinary scientific communities and the Community-at-large;

5. Examine ways in which nursing knowledge and practice are related to and influenced by historical developments, philosophical thought, and cultural diversity.

**Curriculum Map of PhD in Nursing Science Courses with Program Outcomes**

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<th>PhD Courses</th>
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**Admission to the PhD in Nursing Science Program**

Applicants must submit all of the following items directly to the Office of Graduate Studies using the online admission process before admission can be considered:

A $75 nonrefundable application fee must be submitted with the application. Credit card payment is accepted with the online application. Checks must be made payable to the University of Delaware. Applications received without the application fee will not be processed. Foreign students must use a check drawn on a U.S. bank or an International Postal Money Order. Applicants must submit essays to specific questions asked on the application, a resume and a personal statement.

Applicants must submit at least three letters of recommendation. All letters of recommendation can be uploaded as part of the online application. If mailed, send collectively to the Office of Graduate and Professional Education. Applicants who meet admission criteria may be invited to interview with the PhD program coordinator and members of the SON PhD Program Subcommittee.

One official transcript of all U.S. colleges attended must be sent directly from the institution to the Office of Graduate and Professional Education or be provided in a sealed envelope with the application packet. Students who have attended the University of Delaware need not supply a transcript from Delaware. If the rank of the student is not displayed on the transcript or diploma, the SON may request an official letter of
explanation and ranking from the institution where the degree was earned.

One official transcript of all non-U.S. based college records is required. The transcript must list all classes taken and grades earned. If the transcript does not state that the degree has been awarded, send a degree certificate that states that the degree has been awarded. If the degree has not been awarded or the degree certificate has not been issued, evidence of the awarded degree must be provided prior to the first day of classes in the term of admission. For institutions that issue documents only in English, send the English original. For institutions that issue documents both in English and a foreign language, send both the English language original and the foreign language original. For institutions that issue documents only in a foreign language, send the foreign language original and a certified translation in English. The translation must be certified by an official of the issuing institution, a state- or court- appointed translator, or the Embassy of the issuing country in the United States. If it is necessary to send non-original documents:

The documents must be original “attested copies,” officially attested to by the issuing institution or the Embassy of the issuing country in the United States; and certified translations must be originals, no copies will be accepted.

International students must demonstrate a satisfactory level of proficiency in the English language if English is not the first language. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is offered by the Education Testing Services in test centers world-wide. The University requires a paper-based TOEFL score of at least 600 or at least 100 IBT with a speaking score of 20. TOEFL scores more than two years old cannot be validated and cannot be considered official. A waiver of the TOEFL exam is allowed only when a degree has been earned in a country where English is the primary language or a degree has been earned already in the United States. The SON will also accept the IELTS, the International English Language Testing System that is jointly managed by the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations, British Council and IDP: IELTS Australia. A band score of 6.5 is expected by the University, with no individual sub-score below 6.0.

International students must be offered admission to the University and provide evidence of adequate financial resources before a student visa will be issued. The University has been authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students. The University has more than 1000 international graduate students enrolled from more than 96 countries. International students are required to purchase the University-sponsored insurance plan or its equivalent.

All first-time international students are required to attend the Orientation Day for new international students which take place before classes begin.

It is a Delaware State Board of Health regulation and a University of Delaware mandate that all graduate students with a birth date after January 1, 1957, be immunized for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). Also, students may be required to provide evidence of PPD (Mantoux) Tuberculosis Screening Test within 6 months prior to beginning of classes. Students who are admitted beginning January 2002 are required
to show proof of vaccination against meningococcal disease unless granted a waiver. Students should refer to and complete the Student Health Services Immunization Documentation form upon admission. For additional requirements see mandatory clinical requirements.

**Expected Minimum Requirements for Admission**
Admission decisions will be made by the School of Nursing (SON) PhD Program Subcommittee. Students will be admitted to the program based on enrollment availability, identification of an appropriate and available committee advisor and their ability to meet the following minimum recommended entrance requirements. There are two pathways to admission to the PhD program. Candidates may enter either with a baccalaureate degree in nursing or with a master’s degree

- A baccalaureate in nursing degree from an accredited college or university if entering the BSN to PhD track.
- A master’s degree in nursing (or other health related discipline, e.g. health administration) from an accredited college or university if entering the MSN to PhD track.
- An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher; and/or a Master’s Degree GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- A written statement of goals and objectives that clearly identifies the applicant’s research and curriculum interests and explains how admission to the program will facilitate his or her professional objectives. The statement should indicate how the applicant’s research interest aligns with the research expertise of a SON faculty member. One of the personal statement application questions will solicit this information.
- Three letters of recommendation from an academic, employer and/or other professional source who can address the scholarship potential of the applicant. All letters of recommendation should be uploaded by each reference person to the Office of Graduate Studies online application website.
- Official results from the TOEFL or IELTS exam taken within the last 2 years (for non-native English speaking applicants only)
- Copy of active Registered Nurse (RN) license(s)
- A curriculum vitae or resume
- An interview with the PhD program Director and/or PhD Subcommittee member(s) is required prior to admission.
- All students are expected to demonstrate competence in oral and written communication.
- A critical writing sample; this sample should demonstrate the student’s ability to critique and synthesize the literature on a specific topic related to his/her dissertation research area of interest. One of the personal statement application questions will solicit this information.
- Knowledge of statistics is expected. Completion of a master’s level statistics course in the last five years is required. If students need to complete a statistics
course to meet this requirement, but meet all other admission criteria, provisional admission may be granted with the condition that they enroll in an appropriate master’s level statistics course before beginning PhD in Nursing Science coursework.

Degree Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

The Doctorate of Philosophy in Nursing Science requires 62 credits including 53 credits of graduate level coursework and 9 credits of dissertation if entering post BSN. Post master’s students are required to take 50 credits which includes the 9 credits of dissertation. The coursework will be specified in the student’s plan of study and must include the following:

Core Courses (13 credits):
NURS 810: Philosophical and Theoretical Basis of Nursing Science (3)
NURS839: Nurse Scientist Seminar (1)
NURS849: Philosophy, Theory & Curriculum in Nursing Education (3)
NURS843: Policy and Finance for Healthcare Delivery
NURS 850: Dissertation Proposal Seminar (1)

Research/Methods/Analysis Courses (16 credits):
Statistics from ED, PSYCH, SOC (6)
NURS 812: Responsible Conduct of Research (1)
NURS 814: Advanced Quantitative Research in Nursing Science (3)
NURS 816: Advanced Qualitative Research in Nursing Science (3)
Research Methodology Course (3)
Course offered by other departments, relevant to student’s research focus

Cognates (12 credits):
Electives taken to build substantive knowledge in area of dissertation topic. (12)
Electives are intended to enhance and broaden the student’s scholarly involvement, build and inter- professional team of advisors, and build toward successful completion of the dissertation.

Additional Cognates for the post BSN student (12 credits)
Electives taken to build substantive knowledge in area of dissertation topic.

NURS 964: Pre-Candidacy Study (3-12P/F)
Research and readings in preparation of dissertation topic and/or comprehensive examination for doctoral students before admission to candidacy but after completion of all required course work

Dissertation (9 credits):
NURS 969: Doctoral Dissertation (9)
NURS 999: Dissertation Sustaining (if needed)
Progression to PhD Candidacy & Dissertation Defense

**SON Documents to be Submitted**
- Program of Study

**Program Processes**
- Enrolled in semester in which 30-34 credits will be completed
  - Finalize program of study, chair & composition of proposal committee & submit to SON Grad office
- Enrolled in semester in which final 6-10 core, methods-stats, cognate & special topics course credits will be completed
  - Within 1st month submit to PhD coordinator:
    - Letter of intent & proposed date of Written Comprehensive Exam & Proposal Defense
    - Schedule interview with comprehensive exam committee
    - 1 week before interview: provide committee with final program of study, examples of course products, CV & specific aims of proposed research

**Comprehensive Exam-Proposal Semester**
- All core, methods-stats, cognate & special topics courses have been completed
- Enrolled in Dissertation Proposal Seminar (NURS850 – 1 credit), Writing for Dissemination (NURSXXX – 2 credits), & Pre-Candidacy Study (NURS964 – 3-84 credits)

**UD Documents to be Submitted**
- New Project Protocol Form on IRBNet.org
- Recommendation for Candidacy for Doctoral Degree Form
- Application for Advanced Degree
- Certification of Doctoral Dissertation Defense
- Approval page to GPE for Vice Provost signature

**Final Semester-Examination and Dissertation Defense**
- Criteria: Successful completion of Comp. Exams; Completed at least 41 credit hours; Completed at least 9 dissertation hours; Pre-Candidacy hours (if needed); Dissertation sustaining hours (if needed); Requirements completed within time limit of 14 consecutive semesters (7 years) or exception approved. See "Step by Step Graduation Guide" [http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/pdm/proc/steps.html](http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/pdm/proc/steps.html)
  1. Submit Application for Advanced Degree in the beginning of final semester
  2. Set up your final examination/dissertation defense date with SON Graduate Program Assistant. Contact Joanne Marce, SON.
  3. Submit the PhD Pre-Defense Completion Form at least 3 weeks prior to scheduled defense date.
  5. Submit Certification of Doctoral Dissertation Defense with all required signatures to the Office of Graduate & Professional Education (GPE) & copy to SON Graduate Program Assistant.
  7. Prepare a PDF version of your dissertation & schedule an appointment with the Office of GPE to submit final required documents.
Non-Coursework Requirements

Residency requirements
At least three academic years of graduate work are normally required for the Ph.D. degree. At least one continuous academic year must be devoted exclusively to full-time study (6 credit hours per semester) in the major field in residence at the University of Delaware. This residency requirement may be fulfilled using a fall and spring semester combination or a spring and fall semester combination, but summer or winter sessions do not meet the qualification. Course credit earned in a Master’s program at the University of Delaware may be applied toward the doctoral degree residency requirement if the candidate is receiving both degrees from the University in the same major field.

Comprehensive examination
A written comprehensive examination will evaluate knowledge in three areas of content at completion of all course work. These areas include core course content, research methods and analysis, and area of cognate concentration. Successful completion of the written comprehensive examination is required prior to scheduling the dissertation proposal defense.

English proficiency
It is required that all students in the program be proficient in both the verbal and written English language.

University Code of Conduct and academic honesty
Students are expected to adhere to the University of Delaware Code of Conduct. Violations may result in immediate dismissal from the program. Policies on academic honesty can be found at [http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/16-17/code.htm](http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/16-17/code.htm)

Petitions for Variance in Degree Requirements

Planned program of study and revisions
Students are required to work with their advisor during their first semester of study to develop a plan of study. The plan must first be approved by the academic advisor and then the PhD in Nursing Science Program Coordinator/Subcommittee by the end of the first semester of study in the PhD program. Potential for transfer of credit and course substitutions will be evaluated on an individual basis by the PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee. After approval of the plan of study, students may need to alter their plan due to change of research focus, new course offerings, scheduling conflicts, or other extenuating circumstances. Students who wish to make changes in their plan of study must first obtain approval from their academic advisor then the PhD in Nursing Science Program Coordinator/Subcommittee.

Completion Deadlines
Students are expected to complete the PhD program in seven years. Students requesting an extension of their time of study must submit a written request to their academic advisor and the PhD in Nursing Science Program Coordinator/Subcommittee.
The request will be forwarded to the University’s Office of Graduate Studies. The Office of Graduate Studies will determine the student’s eligibility for a time extension and will notify the student in writing of its decision to grant an extension.

Faculty Advisor and Advisement

Faculty members advise students whose background, goals and objectives are compatible with their own research and funding. The SON PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee matches the student with an advisor. The faculty member serving as advisor accepts responsibility for oversight of the student’s academic progress in the program.

If during the course of a student’s academic program, the advisor is unable or unwilling to continue as advisor, the student will discuss options for a new advisor with the SON PhD in Nursing Science Program Committee. The new advisor must be identified within 6 months in order for the student to be considered making satisfactory progress toward the degree.

Students may also elect to switch to a different advisor at any time with the approval of the PhD in Nursing Science Program Committee and with the consent of the new faculty advisor. Switching advisors does not change the deadlines for completing the requirements for a degree.

Process and Procedures for Comprehensive Examination

Definition and Scope of Comprehensive Examination

One written and one oral comprehensive examination are required for progression to candidacy. The purpose of the written comprehensive examination is to illustrate the student’s ability to integrate course content into practical use as a nurse scientist. The written examination will evaluate knowledge in three areas of content at the completion of course work: (a) core course content, incorporating areas of cognate concentration, (b) research methods and analysis, incorporating areas of cognate concentration, and (c) professional issues and roles relevant to PhD-prepared nurses as scientists, academicians and leaders in health care. The oral comprehensive examination will be the defense of the dissertation proposal. See Defense of the dissertation proposal, under Procedures for dissertation approval in the School of Nursing.

Administration of written comprehensive examination

Two dates will be established for distribution of written comprehensive examinations to students, one at the beginning of the semester and one at the end of the semester. The Coordinator of the PhD Program, in consultation with the PhD Student Advisors/Mentors, is in charge of scheduling. Comprehensive written examination will be administered to students as a take-home exam with a contracted amount of time negotiated with student not to exceed one month.

Written examination committees

Members of examination committees are comprised of at least three (3) members of the
faculty who were responsible for course content being evaluated, with a minimum of one faculty representing each area being evaluated (core, research methods and analysis, professional issues and roles). One member will serve as chair. The Coordinator of the PhD Program will call the initial meeting of the committee and initiate the process. Chairs of the committees are responsible for delivering the examination to students and notifying students of their exam results within two weeks of completion. Committee Chairs also are required to notify the Coordinator of the PhD Program of results of examinations within two weeks of the exam.

Pre-requisites and Schedule of Examinations
All Ph.D. core, research/methods/analysis, and cognate course requirements, including any outstanding incomplete grades, must be completed before students are eligible to take the written comprehensive examination and are eligible to enroll in NURS 964: Pre-Candidacy Study, NURS 870 Writing for dissemination and NURS 850: Dissertation Proposal Seminar (during semester in which comprehensive examinations are conducted). During the first month of the last semester of course work students are required to declare, in writing, to The Coordinator of the PhD in Nursing Science Program their intent and anticipated date to take the written comprehensive examination. The Coordinator will notify the relevant Committee members. The Committee will schedule an interview with the student to explore his or her level of preparedness. Students are expected to provide Committee members with written documentation of their preparedness in each area at least a week before the interview (e.g. courses taken, etc.), including the Specifics Aims page of their proposed dissertation.

Students are encouraged to take both written and oral comprehensive exams in the same semester. If unable to take both exams within the same semester, students must complete both exams and any repeat exams needed by the next consecutive semester.

Grading

The outcome of examinations is determined by majority vote. There are four possible outcomes: Pass with distinction, Pass, Conditional outcome, Fail.

• Conditional Outcome: Students receiving this grade are required to complete additional work within two months of formal notification of the committee’s decision.
• If the committee is satisfied with the quality of the work, the student will receive a grade of Pass.
• If the committee is not satisfied with the quality of the work, the student will receive a grade of Fail.

Within one week of formal notification of the grade, students will receive a written evaluation from the chair of the examination committee.

Students who fail a written exam, or any part thereof, may request a re-reading from the original examination committee. This request is to be submitted within 14 days of the student receiving the detailed written evaluation.
Repeat Examinations
Successful passing of written examination is required prior to scheduling the oral
examination (proposal defense). Only one repeat for each of the three areas of the
written examination is permitted (core, research methods and analysis, and professional
issues and roles). Failure on a repeat examination is a
permanent failure for that area. Permanent failure in one area shall result in dismissal from
the program.

Guidelines for approving research proposals involving human or animal subjects
Students are required to complete Human Subjects training prior to conducting research. Students must receive approval from the University Institutional Review Board (IRB) and
any other required regulatory review boards (including facility or hospital) as early as
possible prior to the presentation and defense of a dissertation proposal that involves the
use of human subjects. Information about developing consent forms and submitting
studies for review by the IRB can be obtained from the UD Office of Research
http://www.udel.edu/research/preparing/hum_ansub-protocolreview.htm

The student will select a dissertation chair upon approval of the academic advisor (who
may be the same) and with approval of the PhD in Nursing Science Program
Subcommittee. The student and his/her dissertation chair will create a dissertation
committee at the time the student begins to develop the dissertation proposal.

The dissertation committee shall include at least three university faculty members from
within the PhD in Nursing Science program, and one member from outside of the
program. The dissertation chair must be a member of the faculty in the PhD in Nursing
Science program, and at least one of the committee members must be from outside the
SON with the approval of the PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee. All PhD
dissertation committee members must hold a doctoral degree.

Faculty who have retired or resigned from the university may maintain committee
membership or continue to chair committees of students whose work began under their
direction prior to their retirement or departure from the university. Faculty who do not
have regular faculty status may co-chair the dissertation committee provided that the
other co-chair meets the definition for regular faculty status.

Outside committee members must hold a doctoral degree, and may include individuals
not affiliated with the University of Delaware SON. These individuals from outside of the
University may be nationally recognized for their expertise in the content or methodology
of the dissertation research. The PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee must
approve dissertation committee members from outside of the SON and from outside the
University.

Prior to the defense, the student must complete and send the Confirmation of
Dissertation/Executive Position Paper Committee form
http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/forms/committeeconfirmation.pdf to the Office of
Graduate Studies.

**Departmental and Student Procedures for Changes in Committee Members**

It is expected that the student will have a proposal that develops and evolves during the course of study. If the research focus varies significantly from the original plan, or in the case of other extenuating circumstances, students may request to change their dissertation committee chair and committee members. The dissertation chair can only be changed with approval of both the current and prospective dissertation chair and the PhD Program Subcommittee. Other members of the committee may change due to various extenuating circumstances. It is the responsibility of the student in conjunction with the dissertation chair to replace members who withdraw from the committee during the dissertation process.

**Establishment of Dissertation Committee**

The student will select a dissertation chair upon approval of the academic advisor (who may be the same) and with approval of the PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee. The student and his/her dissertation chair will create a dissertation committee at the time the student begins to develop the dissertation proposal.

The dissertation committee shall include at least three university faculty members from within the PhD in Nursing Science program, and one member from outside of the program. The dissertation chair must be a member of the faculty in the PhD in Nursing Science program, and at least one of the committee members must be from outside the SON with the approval of the PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee. All PhD dissertation committee members must hold a doctoral degree.

Faculty who have retired or resigned from the university may maintain committee membership or continue to chair committees of students whose work began under their direction prior to their retirement or departure from the university. Faculty who do not have regular faculty status may co-chair the dissertation committee provided that the other co-chair meets the definition for regular faculty status.

Outside committee members must hold a doctoral degree, and may include individuals not affiliated with the University of Delaware SON. These individuals from outside of the University may be nationally recognized for their expertise in the content or methodology of the dissertation research. The PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee must approve dissertation committee members from outside of the SON and from outside the University.

Prior to the defense, the student must complete and send the Confirmation of Dissertation/Executive Position Paper Committee form [http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/forms/committeeconfirmation.pdf](http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/forms/committeeconfirmation.pdf) to the Office of Graduate Studies.

**Departmental and Student Procedures for Changes in Committee Members**
It is expected that the student will have a proposal that develops and evolves during the course of study. If the research focus varies significantly from the original plan, or in the case of other extenuating circumstances, students may request to change their dissertation committee chair and committee members. The dissertation chair can only be changed with approval of both the current and prospective dissertation chair and the PhD Program Subcommittee. Other members of the committee may change due to various extenuating circumstances. It is the responsibility of the student in conjunction with the dissertation chair to replace members who withdraw from the committee during the dissertation process.

Procedures for Dissertation Approval in the School of Nursing

Defense of the dissertation proposal
A copy of the dissertation proposal must be available to faculty dissertation committee members at least two weeks in advance of the proposal defense. The dissertation proposal defense will be scheduled only after a majority of members of the dissertation committee have determined that a defense is appropriate. The candidate will present a summary of the proposed research, and will then field questions from the committee, attending faculty, and invited guests. After all questions have been fielded, the dissertation committee will meet privately to decide whether the proposal is accepted, rejected, or accepted with stipulations. A majority vote of the committee is required to accept the proposal. Results of the meeting will then be presented to the student.

Defense of the dissertation
The format of the dissertation must adhere to guidelines specified in the University's Thesis and Dissertation Manual. The manual is available electronically on the Web at http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/forms/thesismanual.pdf The dissertation defense will be scheduled only after the dissertation committee chair has determined that a defense is appropriate. The candidate will present a summary of the completed research, and will then field questions from the committee attending faculty, and invited guests. After all questions have been fielded, the dissertation committee will meet privately to decide whether the dissertation is accepted, rejected, or accepted pending revisions. A majority vote of the committee is required to accept the dissertation. Results of the meeting will then be presented to the student.

Processing the final document
Three copies of the dissertation must be approved by the chair of the student's dissertation committee, the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, and the Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education. The dissertation is to be signed by the dissertation chair and all members of the dissertation committee. A separate abstract and abstract approval page must be submitted with the dissertation. The dissertation must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval not later than seven weeks prior to the degree conferral date. The dissertation defense must be completed prior to the submission date and the certification of a successful defense, accessible at http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/forms/certificationdefense.pdf must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies.
Timetable and Definition of Satisfactory Progress towards the Degree

Academic load and progression
Students who are full time will enroll in 9 credits each semester. Per University policy, students who are hired as research assistants or teaching assistants may enroll in 6 credits each semester and be considered full time. Normal progression has been described in section IV C-D on p. 38. The PhD in Nursing Science Subcommittee will review the progress of each student annually and students will receive written notification of goals met and goals to achieve in the coming year. Students will be notified in writing if they are not progressing as planned. The chair of the PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee will request a written justification of the student’s failure to progress and will request a revised plan of study.

Grade requirements
A passing grade is required for all pass/fail courses and examinations. Students must have a minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 3.0 to be eligible for the degree. Students are required to obtain a B- or above in all graded courses in order to progress in the program. All graduate-numbered courses taken with graduate student classification at the University of Delaware are applied to the cumulative index. Credit hours and courses for which the grade is below "C-" do not count toward the degree even though the grade is applied to the index. Student who fail an examination are required to successfully complete the examination within 6 months.

Only courses listed within the student’s approved plan of study may be used toward the degree requirements. Students who wish to make changes in their program of study must obtain approval from their advisor and the PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee for all changes.

Consequences for failure to make satisfactory progress
Students should progress to degree completion within 7 years. Students who fail to progress in course work as planned will be notified in writing of their progress by the chair of the PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee. Students are required to submit a written revised plan to continue in the PhD in Nursing Science Program. This revised plan must be approved by the PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee. Each student will be evaluated on an individual basis for extenuating circumstances influencing their progress toward degree completion.

Academic deficiencies (cumulative grade point average < 3.0) are handled using the University’s Academic Probation Policy. http://academ iccatalog.udel.edu/Pub_ShowCatalogPage.aspx?CATID=1589

Students who fail the comprehensive examination (and who display evidence of potential to complete the degree – see B.4.c), dissertation proposal defense, or dissertation defense will receive one additional opportunity to repeat the process and defend a new or modified examination, dissertation proposal, or dissertation within 6 months.
Protocol of grievance procedure if student recommended for program termination
Students who feel that they have been graded inappropriately or receive what they perceive as an unfair evaluation by a faculty member may file grievances in accordance with the University of Delaware policies. See http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/10-11/grievance.html Students are encouraged to contact the School of Nursing PhD in Nursing Science Program Coordinator, the SON Graduate Program Coordinator and/or the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation prior to filing a formal grievance in an effort to resolve the situation informally.

Dissertation Progress Timetable and Guidelines

University requirements and deadlines for admission to doctoral Candidacy
Upon the recommendation of the doctoral student's dissertation committee and the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, students may be admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. The stipulations for admission to doctoral candidacy are that the student has (1) a program of study approved; (2) completed one academic year of full-time graduate study in residence at the University; (3) passed the comprehensive exam; and (4) had a dissertation proposal accepted by the dissertation committee. The deadline for admission to candidacy for the fall semester is August 31, for the spring semester is January 31 and for the summer semester is April 30. Responsibility for seeing that admission to candidacy is secured at the proper time rests with the student.

Registration requirements prior to doctoral candidacy
Course registration requirements are determined by the student's approved program of study. Once the student has registered for all course requirements in a program of study but has not yet met all of the stipulations for passing into candidacy, the student must maintain registration during the fall and spring semesters in course(s). Students who are classified G1 (pre-candidacy) and are holding a graduate assistantship or tuition scholarship must be registered for a minimum of six graduate credits, and those holding a fellowship must be registered for a minimum of nine graduate credits.

Defense of the dissertation proposal
A copy of the dissertation proposal must be available to faculty dissertation committee members at least two weeks in advance of the proposal defense. The dissertation proposal defense will be scheduled only after a majority of members of the dissertation committee have determined that a defense is appropriate.

Dissertation Proposal
Committee members should sign the final copy of the approved proposal. A signed copy of the approved dissertation proposal should be forwarded to the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation. The Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation signs the Candidacy Form.

Registration requirements following admittance to doctoral candidacy
Once a student has met all of the stipulations for candidacy and becomes classified
with G2 status (candidacy), the student is required to register for nine credits of Doctoral Dissertation. Students may not register for Doctoral Dissertation until admitted to candidacy (G2 status). Registration in Doctoral Dissertation and Doctoral Sustaining (999) is restricted to students with G2 status. Once the student has registered for nine credits of Doctoral Dissertation, the student is required to maintain matriculation in the doctoral program by registering in Doctoral Sustaining (999) in subsequent semesters until the degree is awarded. All students must be registered in the term in which the degree is officially awarded. Sustaining registration is required in summer/winter session if the degree is awarded at the conclusion of the summer/winter session.

**Defense of the dissertation**

The dissertation defense will be scheduled only after the dissertation chair has determined that a defense is appropriate.

The dissertation defense will be open to the public, and invitations will be sent to all College of Health Sciences (CHS) faculty and students at least two weeks prior the defense date.

A copy of the dissertation must be made available to faculty dissertation committee members at least two weeks prior to the dissertation defense.

The dissertation is expected to reflect the results of original and significant research written in a scholarly and literate manner worthy of publication. The dissertation must be approved by the dissertation chair, the CHS Dean, the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, and the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education.

**Dissertation**
The dissertation is to be signed by the dissertation chair and all members of the dissertation committee. The certification of a successful defense must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies. The dissertation must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval by the announced semester deadline of the Office of Graduate and Professional Education. The student sets up an appointment with the Office of Graduate and Professional Education to submit the required documents. Detailed instructions for completing the dissertation process and forms are found at http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/polproc/index.html

The following forms are submitted:

- Title page (3 originals)
- Three original sets of the signature pages showing approval of the
dissertation paper by Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation and CHS Dean
- Three copies of the abstract on cotton bond
- The dissertation paper as a PDF file
- Certification of Doctoral Defense
- Survey of Earned Doctorates

General Student Responsibilities & Resources

Students must make sure that their current correct name, home address, e-mail address, and home and work telephone number(s) are on file in the Graduate Office of the School of Nursing so that they can be reached as needed. Students must also update the University Student Information System records through UDISIS (www.udel.edu/udsis).

Students teaching and/or doing research in the School of Nursing laboratories and/or affiliated clinical agencies must comply with the mandatory clinical requirements (see mandatory clinical requirements) Additional requirements may be necessary dependent on the healthcare agency to which a student affiliates.

Vehicles are not provided for School of Nursing students. Students are responsible for their own transportation to class, laboratory, research and other clinical sites.

PhD in Nursing Science students will have individual file folders labeled with their name in an unlocked filing cabinet in the PhD Student Resource Room on the third floor of McDowell Hall. This folder is used for notes from faculty, for returning course work, etc. in sealed envelopes to maintain confidentiality. Students should check their mailbox as indicated when they are in McDowell Hall.

Students will have access to the SON copy machine for use when conducting work as research assistants and teaching assistants. Students will have access to the SON faculty computer room in McDowell Hall when working as research and teaching assistants. A PhD Student Resource Room is available on the third floor of McDowell Hall and includes carrels/desks, computers, a telephone, and storage/file cabinets. Students have access to McDowell Hall Computing Center during normal operating hours.

Student Government and Organizations

A student representative will be a member of the PhD in Nursing Science Program Subcommittee. Participation in other School of Nursing committees will be solicited as needed and may include but are not limited to Safety Committee, Evaluation and Assessment Committee, and Student Advisement Committee. Students will be encouraged to become involved in the University’s Graduate Student Senate. Doctoral students also will be encouraged to become active members of professional organizations such as the Eastern Nursing Research Society, American Nurses Association, Delaware Nurses
Association, Sigma Theta Tau International (including the University's Beta Xi chapter), and other professional organizations representing their clinical specialty and research interests.

Graduate Student Travel Support

Travel for professional meetings or presentations will be funded as grants and SON funds allow. Decisions will be made on an individual basis.

The SON will help with support for travel expenses incurred by full-time graduate or PhD graduate students who are making formal presentations of their scholarly work at regional, national, and international meetings of recognized professional organizations. Full-time PhD graduate student who is presenting at a conference will need to provide verification of acceptance with the travel request. If travel involves reporting on sponsored research, it will be appropriate to pay for that travel with grant monies.

Information on how to request travel funds is found below. Please note that this will be strictly adhered to for all graduate/PhD student travel. All requests for travel support must be sent to the Coordinator of the PhD Program no later than October 7th for travel anticipated in the academic year.

Travel Application Process

Complete the Professional Development Award for Graduate Students Application Form (http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/forms/profdevaward.pdf) and submit it to the Coordinator of the PhD program by October 7th. Applications will be reviewed quickly and students will be notified if their application was approved at the SON level.

If students have applied to present at a conference but do not know their acceptance status by the October 7th deadline, or, if students are considering submitting a conference abstract for presentation, they should still apply for funding from the SON by the deadline. All SON travel awards will be approved for the year by November 30th, and no additional travel awards will be approved later in academic year, except in extenuating circumstances with permission of the Program Coordinator.

After approval by the SON, submit the Professional Development Award for Graduate Students Application Form to the Office of Graduate and Professional Education (OGPE). Students must apply to the OGPE for travel funding in order to receive any travel funds from the SON.

See the maximum award available from the OGPE for the academic year; however, funds may be provided at a lower level. The SON will match up to the maximum allowable award provided by the OGPE. If the total amount of a trip is less than the combined SON/OGPE award, each unit will provide up to half of the cost of the trip.

A student can receive the OGPE award two times only during the time s/he is a student. If SON funds permit, money for a third or fourth trip might be possible.
Students will follow procedures instituted for making conference arrangements. As soon as students receive confirmation that their paper or poster has been accepted for presentation, they should make an appointment immediately with SON Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation’s Administrative Assistant (AA). She will request a Debit Card for students with a maximum balance equal to the amount of travel funds they have been approved to receive and will assist students in making travel arrangements for transportation and hotels as needed. Students may not use their own credit card(s) to make any reservations. Students will not be reimbursed for any expenses charged to their own account(s). There will be NO exceptions to this rule.

Only conference registration, travel arrangements (air, train, and ground) and lodging/hotel will be reimbursed. Food, beverages and incidentals (newspapers, internet charges, phone calls, etc.) will not be reimbursed, even if they are under amount of the award.

All receipts, including travel documents (airline or train tickets and boarding passes), conference registration, and lodging/hotel invoices must be kept and submitted to the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation’s AA upon the student’s return. Students should schedule another meeting with the Sr. Associate Dean for Nursing and Healthcare Innovation’s AA within 15 days of return from the conference and she will help navigate the University’s Works Program to reconcile the Debit Card statement.

Students must be able to provide verification that they were a conference presenter/participant, not just an attendee. Conference programs listing student’s name and notification of presentation must be submitted along with all receipts.

**Approvals:**

4-12-2010 / PhD in Nursing Science Program Approved by University of Delaware Faculty Senate;

5-11-2010 / PhD in Nursing Science Program Approved by University of Delaware Board of Trustees;

2-20-2013 / Revisions to the Process and Procedures for Comprehensive Examination Approved by the PhD in Nursing Science Subcommittee and the SON Graduate Education Committee.

5-8-2014/

*Manual revised and updated July 2016: GEC*