

# **Southern Adventist University School of Nursing**

**Christ-Centered Excellence  
Caring - Connecting - Empowering**

**Graduate Handbook  
MSN & DNP  
2025-2026**

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*I*  
**INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to Southern Adventist University (SAU) School of Nursing (SON). We are committed to the education of nurses in a Christian setting. Thank you for choosing SAU SON to help you achieve the next step in your professional development and career goals.

This handbook will serve as a guide for many aspects of the Graduate Nursing program. Students are expected to be familiar with the material covered in this handbook and to maintain compliance with the procedures and policies specified herein. Policies may be updated at any time by the SON. Students will be provided this information both verbally and in writing.

Best Wishes for Your Success

**Program accreditation information:**

The Associate of Science, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and DNP degree programs in nursing are fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) (3343 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326).

The School of Nursing is an agency member of the Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs and the Council of Associate Degree Programs of the National League for Nursing.

The School of Nursing is approved by the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

## GRADUATE FACULTY AND STAFF DIRECTORY

NAME	OFFICE PHONE	Office # and Location	E-MAIL @southern.edu	DNP Responsibilities
Buchholz, Jill <i>School of Nursing</i>	2343	2201	jbuchholz	<b>DNP Program Coordinator:</b> Nurse Educator Practicum; MSN Capstone; DNP Semiar; DNP Project
Dedeker, Judy <i>School of Nursing</i>	2945	2419	dedekerj	<b>Graduate Program Coordinator; MSN Program Coordinator:</b> Advanced Assessment; Primary Care of Adults; Primary Care of Children; Acute Care Concepts & Skills; Primary Care Practicum (Adult/geri & Family); MSN Capstone; Genetics; DNP Project
Fisher, Jennifer <i>School of Nursing</i>	2407	1403	gradclinicals	<b>Graduate Clinical Coordinator;</b> Role Development, Clinical Orientation; Primary Care Practicum (Adult/geri & Family)
Gadd, Holly <i>School of Nursing</i>	2942	2305C	hgadd	<b>Dean;</b> Primary Care of Adults; DNP Project
Jordan, Michael <i>School of Nursing</i>	2162	3205	jordanmb	Theory/Research, Issues in QS and Tech, MSN Capstone, Adv Leadership & Mgmt, Adv Leadership & Mgmt Practicum
Lazcano, Antonio <i>School of Nursing</i>	2958	1205	alazcano	Acute Care Concepts & Skills; Acute Care Practicum, Advanced Pathophysiology
Peoples, Linda <i>School of Nursing</i>	2968	2411	lindacannon	Emergency and Disaster Mgmt; Family & Community Systems; Counseling Practicum; Lifestyle Strategies for Psychosocial Hlth; MSN Capstone; DNP Project
Tryon, Lilly <i>School of Nursing</i>	2154	3317	ltryon	Health Promotion, Exercise Modalities; Health Coaching; Coaching Practicum; Nutritional; MSN Capstone; DNP Project
Von Maach, Edelweiss <i>School of Nursing</i>	2153	3103	evonmaack	Adv. Assessment; Healthcare Policy/Econ/Finance; Primary Care of Adults; Primary Care/Adult Gerontology; Primary Care Practicum (Adult/geri & Adult); Geriatric Primary/Long-Term Care
<b>STAFF</b>				
Anderson, Jenifer	2940	2305	andersonjenifer	Secretary/Office Manager
Clinton, Michelle	2170	MH 2005	Mclinton	Office Manager/Technology Support
Johns, Barb	2155	2317	barbj	Faculty Support Secretary
Parks, Lisa	2974	LRC	lisaparks	LRC Coordinator
Thompson, Jamie	2957	1407	jlthompson	Graduate Enrollment Counselor/Graduate Office Manager <b>Fax:</b> 423-236-1957
<b>ADJUNCT Faculty</b>				
Chai, Elena <i>School of Nursing</i>		Adjunct	elenachai	<i>Natural Adjuncts for Health and Healing</i>
Hall, Kristy <i>School of Nursing</i>		Adjunct	knelson	<i>Theory/Research; DNP Project</i>
McKinney, Julie <i>School of Nursing</i>		Adjunct	jkretschmar	<i>Practicum I and II Psych Mental Health</i>

Miller, Shelly <b>School of Nursing</b>		Adjunct	shellymiller	<i>Adv Pharmacology</i>
Perry, Mitzie <b>School of Nursing</b>		Adjunct	mdperry	<i>Primary Care of Children</i>
Valenca, Maria <b>School of Nursing</b>		Adjunct	valencam	<i>Psychopharmacology; Issues in Psych Mental Health; Neuroscience for Mental Health</i>
<b>GRADUATE and PROFESSIONAL STUDIES OFFICE</b>				
Cheung, Corjena	2864	Wright Hall	corjena	AVP of Academic Admin/Dean Graduate Studies
Sayavongsa, Jordan	2694	Wright Hall	jordansayavongsa	Director of Graduate Admissions & Academic Progress <b>Fax: 423-236-1694</b>

## II SAU Nursing Program

### **Our Motto**

Christ-centered Excellence:  
Caring, Connecting, Empowering

### **Our Mission**

The School of Nursing provides a Christian learning environment that nurtures a culture of integrity and academic excellence, and prepares caring, competent professionals to serve the diverse healthcare needs of individuals, families, and communities within a global context.

### **Our Philosophy**

The SON believes that:

- Nurses are accountable to God, the Supreme Being, and to the unique ministry of caring, connecting, and empowering individuals, families, and communities.
- The art of nursing encompasses restoration into God's image, promoting human flourishing, being culturally responsive, reflecting God's laws, and respecting the environment.
- The practice of nursing is a sacred commitment and encompasses whole-person science and knowledge of the human in the illness- wellness continuum.
- The integrated programs from associate degree to doctor of nursing practice prepare the graduate for a variety of healthcare ministry roles within their community.

### **Our Values**

Love

Hope

Service

Trust

#### **Restoration to image of God**

Compassion

Excellence

Kindness

Respect

Integrity

Equality

Justice

Civility

Dignity

## Adventist/Southern Adventist University Framework for Nursing Education and Practice



Adapted from Jones, P. S., James, B. R., Owino, J., Abemyil, M., Paredes De Beltran, & Ramal, E. (2017). A distinctive framework for Adventist education. *The Journal of Adventist Education*, Oct-Dec. Retrieved from <http://jae.adventist.org>

## DEFINITIONS

### BELIEFS

- God is the Supreme Being, the Creator and Sustainer of life.
- The Bible is the word of God and reflects His character of love.
- Every human being is worthy of dignity and respect because they are created in the Image of God.
- The human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- Nursing is a call to ministry through caring, connecting, and empowering.

### HEALTH

- Restoration of the image of God in human beings.
- Development of wholistic well-being and human flourishing.
- Interconnectedness with God and the whole of creation.
- Subjective perception of dynamic state of well-being along the health/wellness continuum.

### ENVIRONMENT

- Respecting and caring for God's physical created world.
- Creating and facilitating a healing environment that inspires hope.
- Reflecting God's laws of beauty and harmony.

### HUMANS

- Created as interactive beings for the purpose of connecting with God, other humans, and all of God's creation.
- Complex integrated beings: physiological- psychological-sociocultural-spiritual, who have the capacity to reason and act.
- Patient: the recipient of care (individual, family, or community). Patient may be referred to as *client* or *resident*, depending on setting.

### NURSING PRACTICE

- Performance of a human science encompassing knowledge of bio-psycho-social-cultural-spiritual well-being.
- Grounded in specific values, beliefs and ethics.
- Accepted as a sacred accountability.
- Guides translational nursing care through evidence-based research.
- Promotes well-being in health status.
- Builds on and extends a legacy of excellence in human flourishing.
- Empowers individuals, families, and communities for change through primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions.

### **NURSING EDUCATION**

- Creates a caring learning environment that fosters critical thinking, professional decision making, and practical skills.
- Integrates values, knowledge, and skills.
- Connects the development of clinical judgment with professional competence.
- Prepares students for interdisciplinary practice.
- Empowers students for personal and professional growth.
- Reflect God's unconditional love.
- Role model a relationship with God.
- Promote wholistic health personally and professionally.

### **ADVENTIST NURSE EDUCATORS**

- Demonstrate caring and respect for each student.
- Connect students with resources that support their successful development.
- Empower students for personal and professional growth.
- Facilitate, nurture, and support the well-being in students.

### **CARING (John 13:34-35)**

- Going beyond the ordinary
- Sensitive, valuing
- Empathy
- Compassionate care with the fruits of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)

### **CONNECTING (Philippians 2: 1-4)**

- Authentic presence.
- Therapeutic communication, touch, and prayer.
- Coordinate and manage care.
- Mentor, facilitate, and advocate
- Sensitivity and vulnerability

### **EMPOWERING (Hebrews 12: 1-2)**

- Christ-Centered Excellence
- Educating for lifelong learning
- Encouraging
- Promoting
- Inspiring
- Motivating
- Valuing
- Role Modeling
- Investing

SCHOOL OF NURSING  
PRACTICE DOMAINS

The nursing graduate **will**:

1. **demonstrate** mastery of the competencies deemed critical for the level of education.
2. **utilize** established and evolving nursing knowledge, as well as knowledge from other disciplines as the basis for clinical judgment and innovation in nursing practice.
3. **provide** personalized, compassionate, and coordinated **care for** diverse individuals, families, or communities through use of scientific evidence and the nursing process, based on the unique variables that make up the whole person.
4. **embrace** professional nursing values that demonstrate excellence through Christ-centered behaviors of caring, connecting, empowering, integrity, ethics, service, leadership, and personal and professional development

Four Spheres of Care

1. **Disease prevention/promotion of health** and well-being, includes the promotion of physical and mental health in all patients as well as management of minor acute and intermittent care needs of generally healthy patients.
2. **Chronic disease care**, includes management of chronic diseases and prevention of negative sequelae.
3. **Regenerative or restorative care**, includes critical/trauma care, complex acute care, acute exacerbations of chronic conditions, and treatment of physiologically unstable patients that generally requires care in an acute care institution.
4. **Hospice/Palliative/Supportive care**, includes end-of-life care as well as palliative and supportive care for individuals requiring extended care, those with complex, chronic disease states, or those requiring rehabilitative care.

SCHOOL OF NURSING  
END-OF-PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES  
AS, BS, MSN, DNP

**The graduate will:**

<b>Knowledge for Nursing Practice (KNP)</b>	
Integration, translation, and application of established and evolving disciplinary nursing knowledge and ways of knowing, as well as knowledge from other disciplines, including a Christ centered foundation as well as that found in the liberal arts and natural and social sciences. This distinguishes the practice of professional nursing and forms the basis for clinical judgment and innovation in nursing practice.	
<b>AS</b>	Develop knowledge gained from nursing, cognates, and general education courses as the foundation of clinical practice and judgment.
<b>BS</b>	Integrate nursing knowledge and concepts from other disciplines as the basis for understanding the human experience that informs clinical practice and judgment.
<b>MSN</b>	Translate knowledge gained from nursing, other disciplines, and advanced specialty education into ethical decision making, clinical reasoning, innovation, and practice.
<b>DNP</b>	Synthesize evidence from nursing, other disciplines, and advanced specialty education to inform clinical reasoning, innovate and influence ethical practice.
<b>Person-Centered Care (PCC):</b>	
Provision of whole-person, compassionate, coordinated, and personalized care for the individual, family, or community. Through caring, connecting, and empowering, person-centered care is respectful, just, evidence-based, developmentally appropriate, and facilitates healing and restoration. Person-centered care builds on and utilizes the scientific body of knowledge that guides the nursing process regardless of specialty or functional area.	
<b>AS</b>	Provide compassionate and respectful individualized whole-person care utilizing the scientific body of knowledge to guide the nursing process.
<b>BS</b>	Manage care of patients, families, communities, and diverse populations through caring, connecting, and empowering.
<b>MSN</b>	Provide personalized, compassionate, and coordinated care at an advanced practice level that facilitates healing and restoration to well-being through caring, connecting, and empowering.
<b>DNP</b>	Facilitate interpersonal collaboration in healthcare to achieve personalized, compassionate, and coordinated whole person care.
<b>Population Health (PH):</b>	
Use of a wholistic framework to collaborate with, care for, educate and empower diverse groups of individuals, families, and communities to make lifestyle choices within their cultural context that prevent disease, promote human flourishing, and achieve equitable population health policies and outcomes.	
<b>AS</b>	Incorporate wholistic principles of health, disease prevention, and well-being in all aspects of nursing practice.
<b>BS</b>	Engage in interprofessional collaboration to assess, plan, and implement wholistic lifestyle practices that promote human flourishing for diverse individuals, families, communities, and populations.
<b>MSN</b>	Initiate, develop, and oversee interprofessional collaborative efforts to promote health and prevent disease in individuals, families, communities, and populations.
<b>DNP</b>	Contribute to system-level planning, policy development, and evidence-informed practice change within a wholistic framework to achieve equitable population health outcomes.

<b>Evidence-Informed Practice (EIP)</b>	
Synthesis, application, translation, implementation, and dissemination of nursing knowledge to inform clinical decisions and provide high-quality, effective, personalized care, to improve health outcomes and transform health care.	
<b>AS</b>	Provide evidence-informed, high quality, effective nursing care to patients and families.
<b>BS</b>	Utilize current research findings to provide evidence-informed, effective nursing care to patients, families, communities, and populations.
<b>MSN</b>	Integrate quality research findings about a clinical problem to provide high-quality, effective, personalized care in a rapidly changing healthcare environment.
<b>DNP</b>	Synthesize and translate quality research findings and outcomes in the clinical setting to improve identified concerns and transform health care.
<b>Quality and Safety (QS)</b>	
Delivery of health care services that meets established and emerging professional standards of care, minimizes risk of harm to patients and providers, and promotes desirable outcomes. Quality and safety are core values of nursing impacting all domains of care. Quality and safety concerns are addressed through system-based, just, and collaborative, just, and approaches.	
<b>AS</b>	Contribute to established principles and professional standards for patient safety, quality care, and practice within a just culture.
<b>BS</b>	Incorporate a culture of quality and safety that minimizes harm to patients and providers.
<b>MSN</b>	Advance quality healthcare services based on current evidence and professional standards that will minimize the risk of harm to individuals, populations, and providers.
<b>DNP</b>	Create healthcare policy that improves system effectiveness and health outcomes in complex health care systems to ensure the provision of quality, safe, and effective care.
<b>Interprofessional Collaboration (IC)</b>	
Intentional collaboration of professionals through open communication, mutual respect and shared, ethical decision-making to optimize care, empower others, and achieve quality health outcomes.	
<b>AS</b>	Coordinate the nursing care of patients utilizing open communication, shared decision making, and mutual respect to achieve quality patient care.
<b>BS</b>	Collaborate across professions and with care team members in the provision of care to patients, families, communities, and populations.
<b>MSN</b>	Lead collaborative health care teams across professions through open communication and shared decision-making in order to optimize care and strengthen outcomes.
<b>DNP</b>	Empower effective collaboration across professions that optimize, enhance, and strengthen healthcare outcomes.
<b>Systems-Based Practice (SBP)</b>	
Use of systems frameworks to coordinate and manage resources effectively and equitably within complex health networks to achieve quality outcomes across diverse populations.	
<b>AS</b>	Follow rules and regulations of an organization to contribute to system functions and promote positive health outcomes for individuals and diverse populations.
<b>BS</b>	Provide nursing care with consideration of policies, regulatory requirements, performance metrics and cost-effectiveness to promote equitable of care, positive patient outcomes and system well-being.
<b>MSN</b>	Advocate for healthcare economic policies and regulations and evidence-based system improvement strategies to enhance value, quality, cost-effectiveness, and equity of care.
<b>DNP</b>	Analyze internal and external system processes and structures and optimize system functioning through strategic innovation and change to improve delivery of cost-effective, equitable health care for all populations.

<b>Healthcare Information &amp; Technologies (HIT)</b>	
Use of information and communication technologies and informatics processes to gather and analyze data, expand knowledge, provide care, reduce healthcare disparities, promote best practice, increase efficiency, stimulate creativity and innovation, drive decision making, and achieve quality outcomes.	
<b>AS</b>	Utilize information and communication technologies ethically to provide healthcare services.
<b>BS</b>	Utilize information and communication technologies to gather and manage data that will expand knowledge and achieve quality healthcare outcomes.
<b>MSN</b>	Leverage information and communication technologies to manage data and provide safe, effective, and equitable healthcare services through advanced practice nursing roles.
<b>DNP</b>	Analyze data to drive decision-making, promote best practice and innovation, and achieve efficient practices and safe, high-quality outcomes.
<b>Professionalism (P)</b>	
Assimilation of a set of nursing roles, behaviors, and values that include integrity, accountability, civility, clinical judgement, collaborative relationships, clear communication, advocacy, legal and ethical practice, effectively demonstrating Christ-centered excellence through caring, connecting, and empowering.	
<b>AS</b>	Demonstrate a professional behaviors and nursing identity.
<b>BS</b>	Model accountability and perspective that reflect nursing's characteristics and values.
<b>MSN</b>	Assimilate a chosen set of advanced practice nursing roles that effectively demonstrate Christ-centered excellence.
<b>DNP</b>	Advocate for Christ-centered excellence in nursing roles and professional behaviors throughout collaborative teams.
<b>Personal and Professional Development (PPD)</b>	
Adoption of habits that promote personal life balance, resilience, health and well-being; life-long learning, professional growth, maturation, and expertise; and opportunities for outreach, service, and leadership within communities of influence.	
<b>AS</b>	Demonstrate commitment to life balance, entry level nursing competence, and an interest in serving the community. (develop a plan)
<b>BS</b>	Engage in personal health promoting behaviors and opportunities for professional learning, growth, leadership, and service ( implement the plan)
<b>MSN</b>	Foster health promotion strategies, maturity, lifelong learning, leadership, and influence for self, healthcare team members, and communities of interest. (expand the plan)
<b>DNP</b>	Create a culture of well-being, mentorship, resilience and life-balance, personal and professional growth and self-actualization, shared leadership, outreach, and service within spheres of influence. (mentor the plan in others)

### III Graduate Program Emphases

#### DNP EMPHASES

The DNP program is designed for nurses seeking their terminal degree in nursing practice. The DNP degree options are based on the *Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice* guidelines put forth by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN, 2006).

The BS to DNP is a program for the registered nurse (RN) who has completed a bachelor's degree in nursing and wishes to progress rapidly and seamlessly to a doctoral degree. Those enrolled in this program are not awarded the MSN degree. The Family and Acute Nurse Practitioner emphases are primarily a face-to-face program with some online courses. The Nurse Educator, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, DNP/MBA, and Lifestyle Medicine emphases are completely online. **All students, including those in completely online options, are required to register for and attend a DNP seminar each August (Fall Semester) until completion of their program.**

The post-master's DNP degree program is for the registered nurse or advanced practice nurse who has completed a master's degree in nursing and who wishes to expand their scope of practice. All emphases may be taken on either a full-time or part-time basis.

The DNP Specialist Certificate is for individuals who hold a doctoral degree in nursing and who desire to expand their scope of practice in another area of specialty to be eligible to enroll in the DNP Specialist Certificate program.

This DNP program offers campus-based nurse practitioner options and online options for nursing education, lifestyle medicine, and the DNP/MBA programs. All students, including those in completely online options, are required to register for and attend a DNP seminar on campus each fall until completion of their program.

The SON offers six different emphases of graduate study for the DNP program:

- Acute Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (ACAGNP)
- General DNP- (online)
- Lifestyle Medicine (LM) – (online)
- Nurse Educator (NE) – (online)
- Primary Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (PC-AGNP)
- Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner (PC-FNP)
- Primary Care -Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PC-PMHNP) (online)

A dual degree offered by the School of Nursing and School of Business and Management is available:

- Doctorate in Nursing Practice & Master of Business Administration (DNP/MBA)- (online)

The DNP Specialist certificate is available for:

Acute Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (ACAGNP)

Lifestyle Medicine (LM)- (online)

Nurse Educator (NE)- (online)

Primary Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (PC-AGNP)

Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner (PC-FNP)

Primary Care -Psych Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PC-PMHNP) - (online)

Complete information regarding admission requirements and course offerings is found in the *Graduate Catalog*. Students are responsible for meeting requirements listed in the *Graduate Catalog* for the emphasis to which they have been accepted.

### MSN EMPHASES

The SON offers a traditional MSN program for the RN with a baccalaureate degree in nursing. In addition, the SON offers an accelerated RN-MSN program for the RN with an associate degree or diploma in nursing. This accelerated program expedites achievement of advanced practice career goals by combining the BS & MSN curricula, eliminating course repetition, and bypassing the awarding of the BS degree. Post-master's certificate options are also available. The post-masters certificate options allow the nurse with a previous master's degree in nursing to add a different specialty or emphasis by completing specified courses for the desired emphasis, without having to complete the entire MSN curriculum.

The SON offers five different emphases of graduate study for the traditional MSN and the accelerated RN-MSN programs:

- Acute Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (ACAGNP)
- Nurse Educator (NE) (online)
- Primary Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (PC-AGNP)
- Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner (PC-FNP)
- Primary Care -Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PC-PMHNP) (online)

A dual degree offered by the School of Nursing and School of Business and Management is available:

- Master of Science in Nursing & Master of Business Administration (MSN/MBA) (online)

The post-master's certificate is available for:

- Acute Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (ACAGNP)
- Nurse Educator (NE) (online)
- Primary Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (PC-AGNP)
- Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner (PC-FNP)
- Primary Care -Psych Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PC-PMHNP) (online)

Complete information regarding admission requirements and course offerings is found in the *Graduate Catalog*. Students are responsible for meeting requirements listed in the *Graduate Catalog* for the emphasis to which they have been accepted.

## PROGRAM SEQUENCES

Course sequencing information and check sheets for each track, which facilitate both understanding of the program and personal planning for completion of the program, follow in this handbook. A suggested course sequences represents a typical program for the full-time student. Part time students typically enroll in fewer courses each semester, and therefore have a sequence/schedule different from those in this handbook. Modifications to the course sequence should be made in consultation with an advisor. Additionally, modification may be required based on course offerings. Students should visit the university website for academic schedules containing this information. Please note that while course schedules can be accessed at the university website far in advance of a semester, they are NOT reliable until one to two months prior to the actual semester. The graduate program works hard to assure consistency in scheduling, but students should be aware that schedules are subject to change. Students are notified of scheduling changes well in advance when possible.

### **Nurse Educator**

Students enrolled in the Nurse Educator track must specify the area of clinical emphasis they plan to pursue as a part of their MSN curriculum. (See form in appendix). This area of emphasis, once approved, is the basis for practicum experiences and is specified on the student transcript upon graduation. The following are available clinical emphases for nurse educator students:

- Adult Health
- Child Health
- Community Health
- Maternal-infant Health
- Psychiatric-Mental Health

## **BS to DNP Emphases**

The SON offers six different emphases of graduate study for the BS to DNP program:

Acute Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (ACAGNP)

Dual Acute Care - Adult Gerontology/Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner

Lifestyle Medicine (LM) (online)

Nurse Educator (NE) (online)

Primary Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (PC-AGNP)

Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner (PC-FNP)

Primary Care - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PC-PMHNP) (online)

BS to DNP Acute Care Adult Gerontology 2025-2026				Degree Total = 77 hours	
Fall Start				Revised: June 18, 2025	
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0	NURS 527 Theory/Research	4	NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Finance	3
NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3	NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3	Elective	2
NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4	RELB 548 or RELT 545	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
	7		10		6
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 520 Health Promotion	2	NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3	NURS 591 Clinical Orientation	1
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3	NURS 659 ACCS II*	3	NURS 635 Issues HC Qual/Safe	3
NURS 657 ACCS I*	3	NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
				NURS 710 Scholarly Writing	3
	8		9		8
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 671 Practicum I : AC	3	NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA	4	NURS 673 Practicum II: AC	3
~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	Elective	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3
	8		9		7
<b>Fall</b>					
NURS 685 Role Development	1				
Elective	2			*On Campus-Required counts as elective	
NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	1			7 hours of electives are required	
NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2				
NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0				
	5				
		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
<b>Winter Start</b>		NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0	Elective	2
Revised: June 18, 2025		NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3	NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Finance	3
		NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
		NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3		
			10		6
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 520 Health Promotion*	2	NURS 527 Theory/Research	4	NURS 635 Issues HC Qual/Safe	3
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3	NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3	NURS 591 Clinical Orientation	1
NURS 657 ACCS I*	3	NURS 659 ACCS II*	3	NURS 710 Scholarly Writing	3
				NURS 706 DNP Seminar-on campus	1
	8		10		8
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA	4	NURS 671 Practicum I: AC	3
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
RELB 548 or RELT 545	3	NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2
		NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
	8		9		6
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>			
Elective	2	Elective (suggest 600)	2		
NURS 673 Practicum II: AC	3	NURS 685 Role Development	1	*On Campus-Required counts as elective	
~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2	7 hours of electives are required	
NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0		
	7		5		

BS to DNP Acute Care Adult Gerontology NP & Primary Care Family NP 2025-2026					
Fall Start			Revised: June 18, 2025		
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>
NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0	NURS 527 Theory/Research	4	NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Finance	3
NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3	NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3	NURS 556 Fam & Community	2
NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4	NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3	NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe	3
NURS 520 Health Promotion	2			NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
	<b>9</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3	NURS 591 Clinical Orientation	1	NURS 645 Practicum I: PC Adult	4
NURS 657 ACCS I*	3	NURS 659 ACCS II*	3	~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
RELB 548 or RELT 545	3	NURS 662 Primary Care of Children*	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
		NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	NURS 710 Scholarly Writing	3
	<b>9</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>
NURS 671 Practicum I: AC	3	NURS 673 Practicum II: AC	3	NURS 663 Practicum: PC Children	2
~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		~10 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1			NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3
	<b>8</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Fall</b>				<b>Dual Emphasis Degree Total = 82 hours</b>	
NURS 655 Practicum II: PC Adult	4			*On Campus	
~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks					
NURS 685 Role Development	1				
NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2				
NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0				
	<b>7</b>				
<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
Revised: June 18, 2025		NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0	NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Finance	3
		NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3	NURS 556 Fam & Community	2
		NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3	NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe	3
		NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
			<b>10</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>
NURS 527 Theory/Research*	4	NURS 591 Clinical Orientation	1	NURS 645 Practicum I: PC Adult	4
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3	NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3	~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
NURS 657 ACCS I*	3	NURS 659 ACCS II*	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
		NURS 662 Primary Care of Children*	3	NURS 710 Scholarly Writing	3
	<b>10</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>
NURS 671 Practicum 1: AC	3	NURS 673 Practicum II: AC	3	NURS 655 Practicum II: PC Adult	4
~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2
	<b>8</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>		<b>Dual Emphasis Degree Total = 82 hours</b>
NURS 520 Health Promotion*	2	NURS 685 Role Development	1	*On Campus	
NURS 663 Practicum: PC Children	2	NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2		
~10 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0		
NURS 822 DNP Proj Progression	2	RELB 548 or RELT 545	3		
	<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>		



<b>BS to DNP Nurse Educator 2025-2026</b>				<b>Degree Total = 77 hours</b>	
<b>Fall Start 2025</b>				Revised: June 17, 2025	
<b>Fall 2025</b>		<b>Winter 2026</b>		<b>Summer 2026</b>	
EDUC 531 Technology & Educ	3	NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology**	3	NURS 520 Health Promotion OL	2
NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0	NURS 631 Classroom Inst/Eval	3	NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin	3
NURS 621 Nrsrg Curriculum Design	3	Elective	2	NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe	3
				NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
	6		8		9
<b>Fall 2026</b>		<b>Winter 2027</b>		<b>Summer 2027</b>	
Elective	2	NURS 527 Theory/Research	4	Elective	3
NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology**	3	NURS 648 Clinical Simulation	3	NURS 641 Practicum: Area CI Emph	2
RELB 548 or RELT 545	3			NURS 706 DNP Seminar*	1
	8		7	NURS 710 Scholarly Writing	3
					9
<b>Fall 2027</b>		<b>Winter 2028</b>		<b>Summer 2028</b>	
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 555 Adv Assessment**	4	Elective	3
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
		NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3
	5		10		7
<b>Fall 2028</b>				NURS 621 Nrsrg Curriculum Design	
Elective	3	*On Campus-required		offered Fall - odd years	
NURS 643 Ed Role Practicum	3	**On Campus Option Available		NURS 631 Classroom Inst/Eval	
NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2	counts as elective		offered Winter - even years	
NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0	14 hours of electives are required		NURS 648 Clinical Simulation	
	8			offered Winter - odd years	
<b>Winter Start 2026</b>		<b>Winter 2026</b>		<b>Summer 2026</b>	
Revised: June 17, 2025		NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0	NURS 520 Health Promotion OL	2
		NURS 527 Theory/Research OL	4	NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin	3
		NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology**	3	NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe	3
			7	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
					9
<b>Fall 2026</b>		<b>Winter 2027</b>		<b>Summer 2027</b>	
Elective	4	Elective	2	Elective	2
NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology**	3	NURS 555 Adv Assessment**	4	NURS 641 Practicum: Area CI Emph	2
		NURS 648 Clinical Simulation	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar*	1
	7		9	NURS 710 Scholarly Writing	3
					8
<b>Fall 2027</b>		<b>Winter 2028</b>		<b>Summer 2028</b>	
EDUC 531 Technology & Educ	3	NURS 631 Classroom Inst/Eval	3	Elective	3
NURS 621 Nrsrg Curriculum Design	3	NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3
	10		7		7
<b>Fall 2028</b>		<b>Winter 2029</b>			
Elective	2	NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2	*On Campus-required	
NURS 643 Ed Role Practicum	3	NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0	**On Campus Option Available	
NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3	RELB 548 or RELT 545	3	counts as elective	
	8		5	14 hours of electives are required	





BS to DNP Primary Care: Psych Mental Health NP 2025-2026				Degree Total = 77	
Fall Start				Revised: June 17, 2025	
Fall		Winter		Summer	
COUN 556 Theories & Techniques	3	NURS 527 Theory/Research	4	NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin	3
COUN 579 Practicum: Counseling	1	NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology**	3	NURS 583 Practicum II: Coun	1
NURS 502-B Program Orientation	0	NURS 555 Adv Assessment**	4	NURS 613 Neuroscience for MH	2
NURS 520 Health Promotion	2			NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
	6		11		7
Fall		Winter		Summer	
NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology**	3	COUN 521 Adult Psychopathology	3	NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe	3
RELB 548 or RELT 545	3	COUN 593 Child/Adol Probl/Tx	3	NURS 710 Scholarly Writing	3
		NURS 616 Psychopharmacology	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar*	1
	6		9		7
Fall		Winter		Summer	
NURS 591 Clinical Orientation	1	NURS 652 Practicum I: PMH	4	NURS 653: Practicum II PMH	4
NURS 685 Role Development	1	~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3
	7		10		8
Fall					
NURS 625 Issues in PMH	3			*On Campus-required	
NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2			**On Campus Option Available	
NURS 887 Program Finalization	0			counts as elective	
Elective	1			2 hours of electives are required	
	6				
Winter Start		Winter		Summer	
		NURS 502-B Program Orientation	0	NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin	3
		NURS 527 Theory/Research	4	NURS 613 Neuroscience for MH	2
		NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology**	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
		NURS 555 Adv Assessment**	4		
			11		6
Fall		Winter		Summer	
COUN 556 Counseling Th/Tech	1	COUN 521 Psychopathology	3	NURS 583 Practicum II: Coun	1
COUN 579 Practicum: Counseling	3	COUN 593 Child/Adol Probl/Tx	3	NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe	3
NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology**	3	NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar*	1
				NURS 710 Scholarly Writing	3
	7		9		8
Fall		Winter		Summer	
NURS 520 Health Promotion	2	NURS 591 Clinical Orientation	1	NURS 652 Practicum I: PMH	4
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 616 Psychopharmacology	3	~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
		RELB 548 or RELT 545	3	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2
	7		9		7
Fall		Winter			
NURS 625 Issues in PMH	3	Electives (suggest 600)	1	*On Campus	
NURS 653: Practicum II PMH	4	NURS 685 Role Development	1	counts as elective	
~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2	2 hours of electives are required	
NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	NURS 887 Program Finalization	0		
	9		4		

Electives			Revised: June 18, 2025					
<b>FALL Even Years</b>			<b>Winter Odd Years</b>			<b>Summer Odd Years</b>		
BUSD 555 Leadership and Change	3		BUAD 530 Organizational Behavior	3		NURS 540 HC Policy, Econ, Fin **	3	
BUSD 580 Business Analytics	3		NURS 600 Adv Practicum (1-3 hrs)			NURS 556 Family & Community	2	
NURS 600 Adv Practicum (1-3 hrs)			NURS 661 Geriatric Pr & LT Care	3		NURS 600 Adv Practicum (1-3 hrs)		
NURS 728 Intro to Lifestyle Med	2		NURS 728 Intro to Lifestyle Med	2		NURS 613 Neuroscience for MH	2	
NURS 735 Psychosocial Health	2		NURS 734 Health Coaching	3		NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe	3	
RELB 548 or RELT 545	3		RELB 548 or RELT 545	3		NURS 728 - Natural Adjuncts	2	
<b>FALL Odd Years</b>			<b>Winter Even Years</b>			<b>Summer Even Years</b>		
BUAD 555 Leadership and Change	3		BUAD 530 Organizational Behavior	3		NURS 540 HC Policy/ Econ,/Fin **	3	
BUSD 580 Business Analytics	3		NURS 600 Adv Practicum (1-3 hrs)			NURS 556 Family & Community	2	
NURS 570 Emer & Disas Mgmt	2		NURS 631 Classroom Inst/Eval	3		NURS 600 Adv Practicum (1-3 hrs)		
NURS 600 Adv Practicum (1-3 hrs)			NURS 648 Clinical Simulation	3		NURS 613 Neuroscience for MH	2	
NURS 621 Nrsng Curriculum Design	3		NURS 728 Intro to Lifestyle Med	2		NURS 746 Nutritional Approaches	3	
NURS 728 Intro to Lifestyle Med	2		NURS 748 Lifestyle Mgmt Chronic Dz	3				
NURS 742 Exercise Modalities	2		RELB 548 or RELT 545	3				
RELB 548 or RELT 545	3							
<b>Post Master's DNP: A Gap Analysis will be done for you in NURS 502: Orientation to Program</b>								
The Gap Analysis will show if your program has meet DNP Essentials. If you are lacking any essentials - please see the ** courses								
<b>DNP Electives</b> are used to fulfill ALL DNP Essentials								
**If courses not taken in MSN program								
**NURS 635 Issues HC Qual,Saf, Tech	3		**NURS 540 HC Policy, Econ, Finance	3				
# last time course will be offered in Fall - moving to Summer semester								
<b>BS-DNP</b>								
otherwise declare a second emphasis or select from elective courses identified above with approval from your advisor								

# **DNP Emphases**

## **Post Master's Degree**

The SON offers seven different emphases of graduate study for the DNP program (post master's):

Acute Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (ACAGNP)

General DNP

Lifestyle Medicine (LM)- (online)

Nurse Educator (NE)- (online)

Primary Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (PC-AGNP)

Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner (PC-FNP)

Primary Care -Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PC-PMHNP)- (online)





DNP Lifestyle Medicine 2025-2026				Degree Total = 44 hours	
Fall Start				Revised: January 13, 2026	
Fall 2025		Winter 2026		Summer 2026	
NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0	NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 748 Lifestyle Mgmt Chronic Dz	3	NURS 753 Pr: Culinary Medicine	1
NURS 728 Intro to Lifestyle Med	2	NURS 812 DNP Proj. Development	1	NURS 745 Nutritional Approaches	2
NURS 742 Exercise Modalities	2			NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2
	8		7		6
Fall 2026		Winter 2027		Summer 2027	
Elective	2	Elective	2	NURS 706 DNP Seminar*	1
NURS 735 Lifestyle Strat Opt Psych	2	NURS 734 Health Coaching	3	NURS 755 ACLM Board Review	2
NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	NURS 751 Prac: Lifestyle Medicine	2	NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2
RELB 548 or RELT 545	3	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	NURS 887 FNP Program Finalization	0
	9		9		5
<p><b>Pre-Requisite Courses:</b>      <b>Online Options Available</b></p> <p>NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology      3 Winter</p> <p>NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology      3 Fall</p> <p>NURS 555 Adv Assessment      4 Winter</p>					
<b>Winter Start</b> Revised: January 13, 2026		Winter 2025		Summer 2025	
		NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0	Elective	2
		NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
		NURS 748 Lifestyle Mgmt Chronic Dz	3	NURS 745 Nutritional Approaches	2
				NURS 753 Pr: Culinary Medicine	1
			6		6
Fall 2025		Winter 2026		Summer 2026	
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 734 Health Coaching	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
NURS 728 Intro to Lifestyle Med	2	NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	NURS 755 ACLM Board Review	2
NURS 735 Psychosocial Health	2	RELB 548 or RELT 545	3	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3
	8		7		6
Fall 2026		Winter 2027		*On Campus counts as elective 4 hours of electives are required	
Elective	2	NURS 751 Prac: Lifestyle Medicine	2		
NURS 742 Exercise Modalities	2	NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2		
NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3	NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0		
	7		4		
Fall Even Years		Winter Odd years		Summer Odd years	
2026, 2028		2027, 2029		2027, 2029	
NURS 728 Intro to Lifestyle Med	2	NURS 734 Health Coaching	3		
NURS 735 Psychosocial Health	2				
Fall Odd Years		Winter Even years		Summer Even years	
2025, 2027, 2029		2026, 2028		2026, 2028	
NURS 728 Intro to Lifestyle Med	2	NURS 734 Health Coaching	3	NURS 745 Nutritional Approaches	3
NURS 742 Exercise Modalities	2	NURS 748 Lifestyle Mgmt Chronic Dz	3		

DNP Nurse Educator 2025-2026			Total Degree = 42 hours			
Fall Start (odd)			Revised: 7/17/2025			
<b>Fall (odd)</b>			<b>Winter (even)</b>		<b>Summer (even)</b>	
NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0		NURS 631 Classroom Inst/Eval	3	Elective	4
NURS 621 Nrsng Curriculum Design	3		NURS 722 Genetics/Environment	3	NURS 641 Practicum: Area CI Emph	2
NURS 714 Epidemiology & Biostats	4				NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
	7			6		7
<b>Fall (even)</b>			<b>Winter (odd)</b>		<b>Summer (odd)</b>	
EDUC 531 Technology & Educ	3		NURS 648 Clinical Simulation	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1		NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3
			RELB 548 or RELT 545	3		
	4			9		4
<b>Fall (odd)</b>			<b>Pre-Requisite Courses:</b>			
NURS 643 Ed Role Practicum	3		NURS 520 Health Promotion	2	NURS 621 Nrsng Curriculum Design	3
NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2		NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology	3	offered Fall - odd years	
NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0		NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology	3	NURS 631 Classroom Inst/Eval	3
			NURS 555 Adv Assessment	4	offered Winter - even years	
					NURS 648 Clinical Simulation	3
	5				offered Winter - odd years	
			<b>Winter (even)</b>		<b>Summer (even)</b>	
			NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0	Elective	2
			EDUC 531 Technology & Educ	3	NURS 641 Practicum: Area CI Emph	2
			NURS 631 Classroom Inst/Eval	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
				6		5
			<b>Winter (odd)</b>		<b>Summer (odd)</b>	
			NURS 648 Clinical Simulation	3	Electives	2
			NURS 722 Genetics/Environment	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
			NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3
	7			7		6
<b>Fall (odd)</b>			<b>Winter (even)</b>			
NURS 621 Nrsng Curriculum Design	3		NURS 643 Ed Role Practicum	3	*On Campus Counts as elective 4 hours are required	
NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3		NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2		
			NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0		
	6			5		





DNP Primary Care Psychiatric Mental Health NP 2025-2026				Degree Total = 50 hours	
Fall Start				Revised: June 16, 2025	
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
COUN 556 Theories & Techniques	3	COUN 521 Adult Psychopathology	3	NURS 583 Practicum II: Coun	1
COUN 579 Practicum: Coun	1	COUN 593 Child/Adol Prob/Tx	3	NURS 613 Neuroscience for MH	2
NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0	NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4				
	<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 591 Clinical Orientation	1	NURS 616 Psychopharmacology	3	NURS 652 Practicum I: PMH	4
NURS 625 Issues in PMH	3	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3	~24 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	RELB 548 or RELT 545	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
	<b>5</b>		<b>9</b>	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3
					<b>8</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Pre-Requisite Courses:</b>			
NURS 653 Practicum II: PMH	4				*On Campus
~24 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		NURS 520 Health Promotion	2	Summer	
NURS 685 Role Development	1	NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology	3	Winter	
NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2	NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology	3	Fall	
NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0	NURS 555 Adv Assessment	4	Winter	
	<b>7</b>				
<b>Winter Start</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
Revised: June 16, 2025		COUN 521 Adult Psychopathology	3	NURS 613 Neuroscience for MH	2
		COUN 593 Child/Adol Prob/Tx	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar OL	1
		NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0		
		RELB 548 or RELT 545	3		
			<b>9</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
COUN 556 Theories & Techniques	3	NURS 591 Clinical Orientation	1	NURS 583 Practicum II: Coun	1
COUN 579 Practicum: Coun	1	NURS 616 Psychopharmacology	3	NURS 652 Practicum I: PMH	4
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 722 Genetics & Environment	3	~24 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	NURS 705 DNP Seminar F2F	1
	<b>9</b>		<b>9</b>	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2
					<b>8</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>			
NURS 625 Seminar PMHNP	3	NURS 685 Role Development	1		
NURS 653 Practicum II: PMH	4	NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2		
~24 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0		
NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2				
	<b>9</b>		<b>3</b>		

## **MSN Emphases**

The SON offers five different emphases of graduate study for the MSN program:

Acute Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (ACAGNP)

Dual Acute Care - Adult Gerontology/Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner  
Nurse Educator (NE) (online)

Primary Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (PC-AGNP)

Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner (PC-FNP)

Primary Care -Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PC-PMHNP) (online)

MSN Acute Care Adult Gerontology NP 2025-2026			Degree Total = 51 hours					
Fall Start			Revised: June 18, 2025					
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 502-A Orientation to Prog-OL	0		NURS 527 Theory/Research-OL	4		NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin-OL	3	
NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3		NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II	3		NURS 635 Issues HC Qual/Safe-OL	3	
NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3		NURS 659 ACCS II	3				
NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4							
	<b>10</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>6</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 520 Health Promotion*	2		<b>NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>NURS 671 Practicum I: AC</b>	<b>3</b>	
NURS 591 Clinical Orientation-OL	1		<b>~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks</b>			<b>~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks</b>		
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3		NURS 685 Role Development-OL	1		<b>NURS 673 Practicum II: AC</b>	<b>3</b>	
NURS 657 ACCS I*	3		NURS 694 Capstone-OL	2		<b>~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks</b>		
NURS 684 Prep MSN Capstone-OL	0		RELB 548/RELT 545-OL	3		NURS 687 Program Finalization-OL	0	
	<b>9</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>6</b>	
						*must take on campus		
<b>Winter Start</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
Revised: June 18, 2025			NURS 502-A Orientation to Prog-OL	0		NURS 520 Health Promotion-OL	2	
			NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3		NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin-OL	3	
			NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3				
			NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4				
				<b>10</b>			<b>5</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 527 Theory/Research	4		NURS 591 Clinical Orientation-OL	1		NURS 635 Issues HC Qual/Safe-OL	3	
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3		NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3		<b>NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA</b>	<b>4</b>	
NURS 657 ACCS I*	3		NURS 659 ACCS II*	3		<b>~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks</b>		
			RELB 548/RELT 545-OL	3		NURS 684 Prep MSN Capstone-OL	0	
	<b>10</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>7</b>	
<b>Fall</b>								
<b>NURS 671 Practicum I: AC</b>	<b>3</b>					OL= On Line		
<b>~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks</b>						*must take on campus		
<b>NURS 673 Practicum II: AC</b>	<b>3</b>							
<b>~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks</b>								
NURS 685 Role Development-OL	1							
NURS 687 Program Finalization-OL	0							
NURS 694 Capstone-OL	2							
	<b>9</b>							
<b>Part Time Option</b>			Revised: June 18, 2025					
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 502-A Orientation to Prog-OL	0		NURS 527 Theory/Research-OL	4		NURS 520 Health Promotion-OL	2	
NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3		NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3		NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin-OL	3	
NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4							
	<b>7</b>			<b>7</b>			<b>5</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3		NURS 591 Clinical Orientation-OL	1		NURS 635 Issues HC Qual/Safe-OL	3	
NURS 657 ACCS I*	3		NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3		<b>NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA</b>	<b>4</b>	
			NURS 659 ACCS II*	3		<b>~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks</b>		
	<b>6</b>			<b>7</b>			<b>7</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>					
<b>NURS 671 Practicum I: AC</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>NURS 673 Practicum II: AC</b>	<b>3</b>		OL= On Line		
<b>~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks</b>			<b>~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks</b>			*must take on campus		
NURS 684 Prep MSN Capstone-OL	0		NURS 685 Role Development-OL	1				
RELB 548/RELT 545-OL	3		NURS 687 Program Finalization-OL	0				
	<b>6</b>		NURS 694 Capstone-OL	2				
				<b>6</b>				

<b>MSN: DUAL ACNP &amp; FNP 2025-2026</b>				<b>Degree Total = 62 hours</b>	
<b>Fall Start</b>				Revised: June 18, 2025	
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 502-A Orientation to Prog-OL	0	NURS 527 Theory/Research-OL	4	NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin-OL	3
NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3	NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3	NURS 556 Fam & Community-OL	2
NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3	NURS 659 ACCS II*	3		
NURS 555 Adv AssessmentU*	4				
	<b>10</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 520 Health Promotion	2	NURS 662 Primary Care of Children*	3	NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA	4
NURS 591 Clinical Orientation-OL	1	NURS 671 Practicum I: AC	3	~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3	~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		NURS 635 Issues HC Qual/Safe-OL	3
NURS 657 ACCS I*	3	RELB 548 or RELT 545-OL	3		
	<b>9</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>			
NURS 655 Practicum II: PCA	4	NURS 673 Practicum II: AC	3		OL= On Line
~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks			
NURS 663: Practicum PCC	2	NURS 685 Role Development-OL	1		
~10 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		NURS 687 Program Finalization-OL	0		
NURS 684 Prep MSN Capstone-OL	0	NURS 694 Capstone-OL	2		
	<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>		
<b>Winter Start</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
Revised: June 18, 2025		NURS 502-A Orientation to Prog-OL	0	NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin-OL	3
		NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3	NURS 556 Fam & Community-OL	2
		NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3		
		NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4		
			<b>10</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3	NURS 527 Theory/Research-OL	4	NURS 635 Issues HC Qual/Safe-OL	3
NURS 657 ACCS I*	3	NURS 591 Clinical Orientation-OL	1	NURS 671 Practicum I: AC	3
RELB 548 or RELT 545-OL	3	NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3	~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
		NURS 659 ACCS II	3		
	<b>9</b>		<b>11</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 520 Health Promotion	2	NURS 662 Primary Care of Children	3	NURS 655 Practicum II PCA	4
NURS 684 Prep MSN Capstone-OL	0	NURS 673 Practicum II: AC	3	~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA	4	~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		NURS 663: Practicum PCC	2
~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		NURS 685 Role Development-OL	1	~10 hrs/wk x 15 weeks	
		NURS 694 Capstone-OL	2	NURS 687 Program Finalization-OL	0
	<b>6</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>6</b>

<b>MSN Nurse Educator 2025-2026</b>		<b>Degree Total = 44 hours</b>	
<b>Fall Start (odd)</b>		Revised: June 18, 2025	
<b>Fall (odd)</b>		<b>Winter (even)</b>	
EDUC 531 Technology & Educ	3	NURS 527 Theory/Research	4
NURS 502-A Orientation to Program	0	NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3
NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3	<b>NURS 631 Classroom Inst/Eval</b>	<b>3</b>
NURS 621 Nrsng Curriculum Design	3		
	<b>9</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Fall (even)</b>		<b>Winter (odd)</b>	
NURS 520 Health Promotion	2	NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4
NURS 643 Ed Role Practicum	3	<b>NURS 648 Clinical Simulation</b>	<b>3</b>
NURS 684 Prep for MSN Capstone	0	NURS 687 Program Finalization	0
RELB 548 or RELT 545	3	NURS 694 Capstone	2
	<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>
		*On Campus Option Available	
		<b>Winter (even)</b>	
<b>Winter Start (even)</b>		<b>Summer (even)</b>	
Revised: June 18, 2025		NURS 502-A Orientation to Program	0
		NURS 527 Theory/Research	4
		NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3
			<b>7</b>
		NURS 520 Health Promotion	2
		NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin	3
			<b>5</b>
<b>Fall (even)</b>		<b>Winter (odd)</b>	
EDUC 531 Technology & Educ	3	NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4
NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3	<b>NURS 648 Clinical Simulation</b>	<b>3</b>
RELB 548 or RELT 545	3	NURS 684 Prep for MSN Capstone	0
	<b>9</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Fall (odd)</b>		*On Campus Option Available	
NURS 621 Nrsng Curriculum Design	3		
<b>NURS 631 Classroom Inst/Eval</b>	<b>3</b>		
NURS 643 Ed Role Practicum	3		
NURS 687 Program Finalization	0		
NURS 694 Capstone	2		
	<b>11</b>		
		<b>NURS 621 Nrsng Curriculum Design 3</b> <b>offered Fall - odd years</b> <b>NURS 631 Classroom Inst/Eval 3</b> <b>offered Winter - even years</b> <b>NURS 648 Clinical Simulation 3</b> <b>offered Winter - odd years</b>	

<b>MSN: DUAL ACNP &amp; FNP 2025-2026</b>			<b>Degree Total = 62 hours</b>					
<b>Fall Start</b>			Revised: June 18, 2025					
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 502-A Orientation to Prog-OL	0		NURS 527 Theory/Research-OL	4		NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin-OL	3	
NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3		NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3		NURS 556 Fam & Community-OL	2	
NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3		NURS 659 ACCS II*	3				
NURS 555 Adv AssessmentU*	4							
	<b>10</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>5</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 520 Health Promotion	2		NURS 662 Primary Care of Children*	3		NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA	4	
NURS 591 Clinical Orientation-OL	1		NURS 671 Practicum I: AC	3		~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3		~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks			NURS 635 Issues HC Qual/Safe-OL	3	
NURS 657 ACCS I*	3		RELB 548 or RELT 545-OL	3				
	<b>9</b>			<b>9</b>			<b>7</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>					
NURS 655 Practicum II: PCA	4		NURS 673 Practicum II: AC	3				OL= On Line
~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks			~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks					
NURS 663: Practicum PCC	2		NURS 685 Role Development-OL	1				
~10 hrs/wk x 15 weeks			NURS 687 Program Finalization-OL	0				
NURS 684 Prep MSN Capstone-OL	0		NURS 694 Capstone-OL	2				
	<b>6</b>			<b>6</b>				
<b>Winter Start</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
Revised: June 18, 2025			NURS 502-A Orientation to Prog-OL	0		NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin-OL	3	
			NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3		NURS 556 Fam & Community-OL	2	
			NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3				
			NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4				
				<b>10</b>			<b>5</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3		NURS 527 Theory/Research-OL	4		NURS 635 Issues HC Qual/Safe-OL	3	
NURS 657 ACCS I*	3		NURS 591 Clinical Orientation-OL	1		NURS 671 Practicum I: AC	3	
RELB 548 or RELT 545-OL	3		NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3		~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		
	<b>9</b>		NURS 659 ACCS II	3				
				<b>11</b>			<b>6</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 520 Health Promotion	2		NURS 662 Primary Care of Children	3		NURS 655 Practicum II PCA	4	
NURS 684 Prep MSN Capstone-OL	0		NURS 673 Practicum II: AC	3		~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		
NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA	4		~15 hrs/wk x 15 weeks			NURS 663: Practicum PCC	2	
~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks			NURS 685 Role Development-OL	1		~10 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		
	<b>6</b>		NURS 694 Capstone-OL	2		NURS 687 Program Finalization-OL	0	
				<b>9</b>			<b>6</b>	

<b>MSN Primary Care - Family NP 2025-2026</b>			<b>Degree Total = 50 hours</b>					
<b>Fall Start</b>			Revised: June 18, 2025					
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 502-A Orientation to Prog-OL	0		NURS 527 Theory/Research-OL	4		NURS 520 Health Promotion-OL	2	
NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3		NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3		NURS 556 Fam & Community-OL	2	
NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3		NURS 662 Primary Care of Child*	3		NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe-OL	3	
NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4							
	<b>10</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>7</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Finance	3		NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA	4		NURS 655 Practicum II: PCA	4	
NURS 591 Clinical Orientation-OL	1		~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks			~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3		NURS 685 Role Development-OL	1		NURS 663: Practicum: PCC	2	
NURS 684 Prep MSN Capstone-OL	0		NURS 694 Capstone-OL	2		~10 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		
RELB 548 or RELT 545-OL	3					NURS 687 Program Finalization-OL	0	
	<b>10</b>			<b>7</b>			<b>6</b>	
						*Must take on campus OL = On Line		
<b>Winter Start</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
Revised: June 18, 2025			NURS 502-A Orientation to Prog-OL	0		NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin-OL	3	
			NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology *	3		NURS 556 Fam & Community-OL	2	
			NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3		NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe-OL	3	
			NURS 555 Adv Assessment *	4				
				<b>10</b>			<b>8</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 520 Health Promotion	2		NURS 591 Clinical Orientation-OL	1		NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA	4	
NURS 527 Theory/Research	4		NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3		~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3		NURS 662 Primary Care of Child*	3		NURS 663: Practicum: PCC	2	
			NURS 684 Prep MSN Capstone-OL	0		~10hrs/wk x 15 weeks		
			RELB 548 or RELT 545-OL	3				
	<b>9</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>6</b>	
<b>Fall</b>						OL = On Line		
NURS 655 Practicum II: PCA	4					*Must take on campus		
~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks								
NURS 685 Role Development-OL	1							
NURS 687 Program Finalization-OL	0							
NURS 694 Capstone-OL	2							
	<b>7</b>							
<b>Part-Time Option</b>			Revised: June 18, 2025					
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 502-A Orientation to Prog-OL	0		NURS 527 Theory/Research-OL	4		NURS 520 Health Promotion-OL	2	
NURS 550 Adv Pathophysiology*	3		NURS 552 Adv Pharmacology*	3		NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Fin-OL	3	
NURS 555 Adv Assessment*	4							
	<b>7</b>			<b>7</b>			<b>5</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 640 Primary Care Adults I*	3		NURS 591 Clinical Orientation-OL	1		NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe-OL	3	
RELB 548 or RELT 545-OL	3		NURS 650 Primary Care of Adults II*	3		NURS 645 Practicum I: PCA	4	
			NURS 662 Primary Care of Child*	3		~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks		
			NURS 684 Prep MSN Capstone-OL	0				
	<b>6</b>			<b>7</b>			<b>7</b>	
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>					
NURS 655 Practicum II PCA	4		NURS 556 Fam & Community-OL	2		OL = On Line		
~20 hrs/wk x 15 weeks			NURS 663: Practicum: PCC	2		*Must take on campus		
NURS 694 Capstone-OL	2		~10 hrs/wk x 15 weeks					
			NURS 685 Role Development-OL	1				
			NURS 687 Program Finalization-OL	0				
	<b>6</b>			<b>5</b>				



## ACCELERATED RN-MSN

The following requirements apply to ALL of the Accelerated RN-MSN emphases:

- Acute Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (ACAGNP)
- Nurse Educator (NE) (online)
- Primary Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (PC-AGNP)
- Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner (PC-FNP)
- Primary Care -Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PC-PMHNP) (online)

### **General education & cognates that may be transferred per catalog guidelines:**

Chemistry: Survey of Chemistry	3 hr
Communication: Public Speaking	3 hr
Computer: Literacy/skills	3 hr
English Composition I & II	6 hr
History: Elective	3 hr
Religion: Elective	3 hr
RELT 373 Christian Ethics	3 hr
SOCI 349 Aging and Society	3 hr
PEAC 125 Fitness for Life	1 hr

### **BS nursing core courses:**

NURS 315 Health Assessment II	2 hr
NURS 385 Applied Statistics for Health Professions (or MATH 215)	3 hr
NURS 446 Population and Community Health Nursing	4 hr

The RN-MSN student should schedule an appointment with an advisor to determine which of the above courses may be transferred and which courses must be completed as part of the RN-MSN program. It is generally expected that these courses will be completed prior to registering for MSN level courses. Students may petition to take courses off campus to meet some of the above requirements.

Because RN-MSN student programs vary, the student program should be mapped out with the assistance of an advisor to assure that all required BS general, cognate, nursing and MSN core and emphasis courses are appropriately scheduled. Use of the online Student Planning program through the SAU access portal is recommended for long-range planning and tracking. If BS level courses have been completed, the RN-MSN student may follow the MSN sequences in the prior section of this handbook.

# POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE and DNP SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE\* PROGRAMS

The following emphases may be completed as a post-master's certificate or DNP specialist certificate. The entrance requirement for the post-master's certificate is a prior master's degree in nursing; for DNP specialist certificate, a prior DNP degree.

- Acute Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (ACAGNP)
- Lifestyle Medicine (LM) DNP SC only- (online)
- Nurse Educator (NE) (online)
- Primary Care - Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (PC-AGNP)
- Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner (PC-FNP)
- Primary Care -Psych Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PC-PMHNP) (online)

## **Required nursing core classes (may be transferred in from prior program):**

NURS 520 Health Promotion	2 hr
RELT 545 God and Human Suffering OR RELB 548 Jesus as Healer	3 hr

**Practice core** (may be transferred in from prior program if taken within the past 10 years and if the student is actively practicing):

NURS 550 Advanced Pathophysiology	3 hr
NURS 552 Advanced Pharmacology	3 hr
NURS 555 Advanced Health Assessment	4 hr

## **Orientation Courses**

- NURS 502 Orientation to Graduate Nursing Studies – 0 hrs
- NURS 591 Orientation to Graduate Nursing Clinical Practicum – 1 hrs
- NURS 687 Graduate Nursing Program Finalization – 0 hrs

In addition to the above courses, each certificate program requires emphasis classes:

### **Acute Care - Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner**

- NURS 640 - Primary Care of Adults I **3 hours**
- NURS 645 - Practicum: Primary Care of Adults I **4 hours**
- NURS 650 - Primary Care of Adults II **3 hours**
- NURS 657 - Acute Care Concepts and Skills I **3 hours**
- NURS 659 - Acute Care Concepts and Skills II **3 hours**
- NURS 671 - Practicum I: Adult/Gerontology Acute Care **3 hours**
- NURS 673 - Practicum II: Adult/Gerontology Acute Care **3 hours**
- NURS 685 - Role Development for Advanced Practice **1 hour**

### **Lifestyle Medicine (DNP SC only)**

- NURS 728 - Introduction to Lifestyle Medicine **2 hours**
- NURS 735 - Lifestyle Strategies for Optimizing Psychosocial Health **2 hours**
- NURS 738 - Natural Adjuncts for Health and Healing **2 hours**
- NURS 742 - Exercise Modalities or Lifestyle Change **2 hours**
- NURS 746 - Nutritional Approaches to Disease Prevention and Management **3 hours**
- NURS 748 - Lifestyle Management of Chronic Lifestyle-Related Disease **3 hours**
- NURS 734 – Health Coaching for Health Care Professionals **3 hours**
- NURS 751 – Practicum: Lifestyle Medicine **1-2 hours**

#### **Nurse Educator**

- EDUC 531 - Technology and the Educator **3 hours**
- NURS 621 - Nursing Curriculum Design **3 hours**
- NURS 631 - Classroom Instruction and Evaluation **3 hours**
- NURS 641 - Practicum: Area of Clinical Emphasis **2 hours**
- NURS 643 - Educator Role Practicum: Area of Clinical Emphasis **3 hours**
- NURS 648 - Clinical and Simulation Instruction in Nursing **3 hours**

#### **Primary Care - Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner**

- NURS 556 - Family and Community Systems **2 hours**
- NURS 640 - Primary Care of Adults I **3 hours**
- NURS 645 - Practicum I: Primary Care of Adults **4 hours**
- NURS 650 - Primary Care of Adults II **3 hours**
- NURS 655 - Practicum II: Primary Care of Adults **4 hours**
- NURS 661 - Geriatric Primary and Long-term Care **3 hours**
- NURS 664 - Practicum: Geriatric Primary and Long-term care **2 hours**
- NURS 685 - Advanced Practice Role Development **1 hours**

#### **Primary Care - Family Nurse Practitioner**

- NURS 556 - Family and Community Systems **2 hours**
- NURS 640 - Primary Care of Adults I **3 hours**
- NURS 645 - Practicum I: Primary Care of Adults **4 hours**
- NURS 650 - Primary Care of Adults II **3 hours**
- NURS 655 - Practicum II: Primary Care of Adults **4 hours**
- NURS 662 - Primary Care of Children **3 hours**
- NURS 663 - Practicum: Primary Care of Children **2 hours**
- NURS 685 - Advanced Practice Role Development **1 hours**

### **Primary Care - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner**

- NURS 583 - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Counseling Practicum **1 hour**
- NURS 613 - Neuroscience for Mental Health Practitioners **2 hours**
- NURS 616 - Psychopharmacology **2 hours**
- NURS 625 - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Seminar **3 hour**
- NURS 652 - Practicum I: Psychiatric Mental Health Care **4 hours**
- NURS 653 - Practicum II: Psychiatric Mental Health Care **4 hours**
- NURS 685 - Advanced Practice Role Development **1 hours**
- COUN 521 - Psychopathology **3 hours**
- COUN 556 - Theories and Techniques of Counseling **3 hours**
- COUN 579 - Clinical Practicum I **1 hour**
- COUN 593 - Child and Adolescent Problems and Treatment **3 hours**

Student seeking a certificate should schedule an appointment with an advisor for gap analysis – to determine which of the above courses may be transferred in and which courses must be completed as part of the certificate program. Because post-master's student programs vary, the student program should be mapped out with the assistance of an advisor to assure that all required MSN core, practice core, and emphasis courses are appropriately scheduled.

## Dual Degree MBA

The SON offers three Dual Degree MBA programs: (online)

BS to DNP/MBA

DNP/MBA

MSN/MBA

BS to DNP DNP/MBA 2025-2026			Degree Total = 77 hours					
Fall Start			Revised: July 29, 2025					
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0		NURS 527 Theory & Research	4		NURS 520 Health Promotion	2	
ACCT 505 & FNCE 505	6		NURS 638 Adv Nurs Lead/Role Dev	3		NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Finance	3	
RELB 548 or RELT 545	3					NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1	
						NURS 710 Scholarly Writing	3	
	9			7				9
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
BUAD 535 Operations Management *	3		BUAD 510 Acct for Cntrl and Dec.*	3		BUAD 562 Integr. Faith & Business **	3	
BUAD 580 Business Analytics **	3		BUAD 530 Organization Behavior	3		BUAD 570 Strategic Dec. Making *	3	
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4		HADM 532 HC Econ & Finance **	3		BUAD 588 Integrated Bus. Sim *	1	
						BUAD 597 MBA Portfolio **	1	
						NURS 706 DNP Seminar - on campus	1	
	10			9				9
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 654 Pr: Nursing Leadership Res	2		NURS Elective	2		NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe	3	
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1		NURS 785 Pr: Adv Leadership Res	4		NURS 706 DNP Seminar***	1	
Business Elective	3		NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3		NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3	
HADM 552 HC Mrkt & HR **	3							
	6			9				7
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Must Have Pre-requisites: ACCT 505 &amp; FNCE 505 - Taught every semester</b>					
Business Elective	3		* first 8 weeks of semester					
NURS 832 DNP Project Completion	2		** second 8 weeks of semester					
NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0		*** may be used as an elective					
			3 hours NURS electives required					
	5		6 BEXM, BHRM, BUAD, or HADM electives					
<b>Winter Start</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
Revised: July 29, 2025			NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0		NURS 520 Health Promotion	2	
			NURS 527 Theory & Research	4		NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Finance	3	
			RELB 548 or RELT 545	3		NURS 706 DNP Seminar DL	1	
						NURS 710 Scholarly Writing	3	
				7				9
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
BUAD 535 Operations Management *	3		BUAD 510 Acct for Cntrl and Dec.*	3		BUAD 562 Integr. Faith & Business **	3	
BUAD 580 Business Analytics **	3		BUAD 530 Organization Behavior	3		BUAD 570 Strategic Dec. Making *	3	
HADM 552 HC Mrkt & HR**	4		HADM 532 HC Econ & Finance **	3		BUAD 588 Integrated Bus. Sim *	1	
						BUAD 597 MBA Portfolio **	1	
						NURS 706 DNP Seminar - on campus	1	
	9			9				9
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 638 Adv Nurs Lead/Role Dev	3		NURS 654 Pr: Nursing Leadership Res	2		NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe	3	
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4		NURS 785 Pr: Adv Leadership Res	4		NURS 706 DNP Seminar***OL	1	
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1		NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2		NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	
	8			8				6
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Winter</b>			<b>Must Have Pre-requisites; ACCT 505 &amp; FNCE 505 Taught Every Semester</b>		
Business Electives	6		NURS Elective	2		* first 8 weeks of semester		
NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2		NURS 832 DNP Project Completion	2		** second 8 weeks of semester		
			NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0		*** may be used as an elective		
	8			4		3 hours NURS electives required		
						6 BEXM, BHRM, BUAD, or HADM electives		
<b>Electives - Nursing (select 7 hrs)</b>								
NURS 613 Neuroscience for MH - Summer (2hrs)			NURS 631 Classroom Inst/Eval - Winter: even (3 hrs)					
NURS 621 Nrsng Curriculum Design - Fall: odd (3 hrs)			NURS 648 Clinical Simulation - Winter: odd (3 hrs)					
NURS 728 Intro to Lifestyle Medicine - Fall (2hrs)			NURS 734 Health Coaching - Winter (3 hrs)					
NURS 735 LM Psychosocial Hlth - Fall: even (2hrs)			NURS 738 Natural Adjuncts - Summer: odd (2 hrs)					
NURS 744 Exercise Modalities - Fall: odd (3 hrs)			NURS 746 Nutrition - Summer (3 hrs)					

<b>DNP/MBA 2025-2026</b>				<b>Degree Total = 53 hours</b>	
<b>Fall Start</b>				Revised: June 16, 2025	
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
BUAD 535 Operations Management *	3	BUAD 510 Acct for Cntrl and Dec.*	3	BUAD 562 Integr. Faith & Business **	3
BUAD 580 Business Analytics **	3	BUAD 530 Organization Behavior	3	BUAD 570 Strategic Dec. Making *	3
HADM 552 HC Mrkt & HR **	3	HADM 532 HC Econ & Finance **	3	BUAD 588 Integrated Bus. Sim *	1
NURS 502-B Orientation to Program	0			BUAD 597 MBA Portfolio **	1
				NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
	<b>9</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 705 DNP Seminar - on campus	1	NURS 638 Adv Nurs Lead/Role Dev	3	NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe	3
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3	NURS 654 Pr: Nursing Leadership Res	2
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1			NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	3
	<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Fall</b>				<b>Must Have Pre-requisites;</b>	
NURS 785 Pr: Adv Leadership Res	4			<b>ACCT 505 &amp; FNCE 505</b>	
NURS 832 DNP Project Completion	2			<b>Taught Every Semester</b>	
NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0			* first 8 weeks of semester	
				** second 8 weeks of semester	
	<b>6</b>				
<b>Winter Start</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
Revised: June 16, 2025		NURS 502-B Orientation Grad Nurs	0	BUAD 562 Integrating Faith & Bus	3
		BUAD 510 Acct for Control and Dec*	3	BUAD 570 Strategic Dec Making	3
		BUAD 530 Organizattion Behavior	3	BUAD 588 Integrated Business Sim	1
		HADM 532 HC Econ & Finance**	3	BUAD 597 MBA Portfolio**	1
				NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
			<b>9</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>	
NURS 716 Epidemiology & Biostats	4	NURS 638 Adv Nurs Lead/Role Dev	3	NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safety	3
NURS 812 DNP Project Development	1	NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	NURS 654 Pr: Nursing Leadership Res	2
		HADM 552 HC Markt & HR**	3	NURS 706 DNP Seminar	1
				NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2
	<b>5</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Must Have Pre-requisites;</b>	
BUAD 535 Operations Management	3	NURS 785 Pr: Adv Leadership Res	4	<b>ACCT 505 &amp; FNCE 505</b>	
BUAD 580 Business Analytics	3	NURS 832 DNP Project Finalization	2	<b>Taught Every Semester</b>	
NURS 822 DNP Project Progression	2	NURS 887 DNP Program Finalization	0	* first 8 weeks of semester	
				** second 8 weeks of semester	
	<b>8</b>		<b>6</b>		

<b>MSN/MBA 2025-2026</b>				<b>50 hours + 6 hours of pre-reqs</b>			
<b>Fall Start</b>						Revised: June 12, 2025	
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>			
BUAD 535 Operations Management *	3	BUAD 510 Acct for Cntrl and Dec.*	3	BUAD 562 Integr. Faith & Business **	3		
BUAD 580 Business Analytics **	3	BUAD 530 Organization Behavior	3	BUAD 570 Strategic Dec. Making *	3		
HADM 552 HC Mrkt & HR **	3	HADM 532 HC Econ & Finance **	3	BUAD 588 Integrated Bus. Sim *	1		
NURS 502-A Orientation to Program	0			BUAD 597 MBA Portfolio **	1		
	<b>9</b>		<b>9</b>				<b>8</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>			
Elective	3	NURS 527 Theory & Research	4	NURS 520 Health Promotion	2		
NURS 638 Adv Nurs Lead/Role Dev	3	NURS 654 Pr: Nursing Leadership Res	2	NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Finance	3		
		NURS 684 Prep for MSN Capstone	0	NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe	3		
	<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>				<b>8</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Must Have Pre-requisites: ACCT 505 &amp; FNCE 505 - Taught every semester</b>					
Elective	2	* first 8 weeks of semester					
NURS 687 MSN Program Finalization	0	** second 8 weeks of semester					
NURS 694 MSN Capstone	2	5 hours Electives Required from BEXM, BUAD, HADM or NURS					
	<b>4</b>						
		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>			
<b>Winter Start</b>		Elective		NURS 520 Health Promotion			
Revised: June 12, 2025		NURS 502-A Orientation to Program		NURS 540 HC Policy/Econ/Finance			
		NURS 527 Theory & Research		NURS 635 Issues HC Quality/Safe			
		<b>6</b>				<b>8</b>	
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Summer</b>			
BUAD 535 Operations Management	3	BUAD 510 Acct for Control and Dec*	3	BUAD 562 Integrating Faith & Bus	3		
BUAD 580 Business Analytics	3	BUAD 530 Organizattion Behavior	3	BUAD 570 Strategic Dec Making	3		
HADM 552 HC Market & HR**	3	HADM 532 HC Econ & Finance**	3	BUAD 588 Integrated Business Sim	1		
				BUAD 597 MBA Portfolio**	1		
	<b>9</b>		<b>9</b>				<b>8</b>
<b>Fall</b>		<b>Winter</b>		<b>Must Have Pre-requisites;</b>			
Elective	3	NURS 654 Prac: Nurs Leadership Res	2	<b>ACCT 505 &amp; FNCE 505</b>			
NURS 638 Adv Nurs Lead/Role Dev	3	NURS 687 Program Finalization	0	<b>Taught Every Semester</b>			
NURS 684 Prep for MSN Capstone	0	NURS 694 MSN Capstone	2	* first 8 weeks of semester			
				** second 8 weeks of semester			
				^On Campus Option Available			
	<b>6</b>		<b>4</b>				
		5 hours Electives Required from BEXM, BUAD, HADM or NURS					

**IV**  
**GRADUATE PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

SCHOOL OF NURSING RESPONSIBILITY TO THE STUDENT

- A. The student will be provided:
1. the course outline and class schedule for each course.
  2. online e-class support, online library access, learning resources, computer-assisted instruction and audiovisual material.
  3. guidance in planning clinical experiences supervised by qualified preceptors in appropriate community facilities.
  4. academic counseling and other referrals as needed.
  5. a skills lab for practice and return demonstration of advanced nursing assessment skills and advanced practice procedures.
  6. an electronic (eClass) resource site for handbooks and program information Grad Resource Central.
- B. The faculty will:
1. provide an orientation to the University, SON, and graduate nursing program policies and expectations.
  2. provide well-planned learning experiences in an organized manner.
  3. keep appointments with the student or make alternate arrangements.
  4. keep student informed of progress and performance in a timely manner.
  5. encourage student professional development.
  6. listen to grievances and suggestions, and seek constructive solutions with the student.
  7. assist the student in examining alternatives when making decisions and analyzing consequences of such decisions.
  8. communicate program and schedule changes to the student.

9. follow sound educational practice as outlined by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, the Board of Higher Education, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and the Tennessee Board of Nursing

## GENERAL POLICIES

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

Accountability is key to professional nursing. Students must be accountable for their attitudes and behaviors. A high level of professionalism is expected by faculty, students, and peers.

Professional conduct includes, but is not limited to, a teachable attitude, appropriate respect for those in authority, punctuality in attendance, and respect for other people, their property and right to learn.

As a SON graduate student, we expect you to conduct your life in a manner that will not bring criticism to yourself, the MSN or DNP academic programs, or to the University. We request you to observe the following:

1. Hold in strict confidence any information found in a medical record or given to you by a patient or family member (HIPAA regulations). The discussion of a patient's diagnosis and/or treatment, or other clinically related topics must be very carefully guarded. Use of electronic devices (i.e. smart phones, tablets, etc.) for storage of identifiable patient information (including pictures) is prohibited. Legal action may be taken for any violations according to HIPAA/HITECH.
2. Treat all patients with respect and dignity. Do not approach treatment with a frivolous attitude, which may be disturbing to the patient as well as to family members and/or significant others.
3. Graciously refuse any gifts from patients, families, and/or significant others.
4. Reflect a willingness to learn and accept instruction in a manner that is consistent with Christian principles.
5. Assume responsibility for learning (i.e., preparing for classes and clinical assignments). Assume initiative to meet deadlines in completing class and clinical assignments.
6. Demonstrate respectful online interaction and communication as well as classroom and clinical decorum. During class and clinical time, silence electronic devices. Avoid distracting behaviors. Do not bring babies or children to class. Observe SAU dress code.
7. Assume initiative to provide the SON with required documentation of immunizations, CPR, criminal background check, drug screening, and regional orientation within the first semester of classes. Failure to provide the required documentation may result in the inability to register for the following semester.
8. Remain current on any information conveyed by the SON through Eclass, online class discussion boards, or sent privately to your SAU e-mail account. A timely response (24-48 hours) may be required.

9. Demonstrate responsibility for any learning materials or equipment borrowed from Learning Resource Center (LRC) holdings or faculty. Students who check out equipment are required to return it by the specified deadline and will be levied a fee as appropriate for lost or damaged equipment.
10. Accountability includes the responsibility to protect self and others in the case of impaired judgment from any cause (medication/alcohol/extreme fatigue). Inform the professor or preceptor if taking any medication that may impair clinical judgment during practicum/patient care and jointly determine whether or not it is appropriate for clinical practice under such circumstances. If student is suspected of being impaired, they will be required to submit a chemical screening per SAU Substance Abuse Policy (Graduate Handbook 22-23).

### **ATTENDANCE**

Socialization into advance practice nursing is best accomplished by careful attention to program requirements. It is expected that students will be present for all required classes, forums, and events, such as Florence Oliver Anderson Series (FOA), Research Day and Faculty/Student Forums. Course outlines will define the specific policies for individual courses and online communication, interactions and meetings. Students should communicate any unforeseen changes in scheduling or program to persons affected by the change.

DNP students are required to attend a DNP proposal or presentation day every semester they are enrolled in the program. These dates will be communicated through individual courses and through communication from Graduate Resource Central.

### **AWARDS**

Each semester, the Graduate faculty will select recipients who consistently exhibit the noted professional behaviors from the following list of awards:

- **Christian Service** - willing to minister outside of what is required and actively involved in outreach and/or mission experiences.
- **Clinical Excellence** – demonstrates outstanding clinical performance as evaluated by preceptor and faculty.
- **Dean’s Leadership** – demonstrates leadership and is a positive role model
- **Florence Oliver Anderson** – outstanding scholastic achievement and professionalism.
- **Sigma** – demonstrates academic and scholarly excellence in writing, presenting, and making positive changes in the field of nursing research.

### **BLS CERTIFICATION POLICY**

Students must maintain **current** American Heart Association Healthcare Provider BLS certification throughout the graduate program. Proof of current certification must be provided and maintained throughout the academic program. Students who fail to meet deadlines for providing proof of current

BLS certification cannot attend clinical practicum. If documentation is not provided in a timely manner, students are at risk of being dropped from class or from the program.

Students in the Acute Care/Gerontology NP emphasis are further required to have and maintain ACLS (Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support) while in the program.

### **CELL PHONE AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONICS**

Cell phone use policies promote a positive learning environment and demonstrate respect for others. All electronic devices must be silenced or off during on-campus class and during clinical experiences. Text messaging during these appointments is also inappropriate. During quizzes or tests, use of any electronic devices not approved by the professor is considered cheating.

Use of electronic references is common in advanced practice roles. Students should use discretion in use of electronics during patient care activities in the clinical environment. It is ideal to obtain permission from the preceptor for use of cell phone during clinical activities and make the preceptor aware of what applications are being used and why. Agency policies must be followed and professional standards maintained.

### **CIVILITY**

Students, faculty and staff are held to standards of excellence, including civil behavior. Based on ethical, moral, and legal principles and supported by the American Nurses Association position statement (July 22, 2015), nurses are responsible to create a culture of “civility and kindness, treating colleagues, co-workers, employees, students, and others with dignity and respect.” These behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Personal and academic integrity
- Professional behavior inside and outside SON (clinical, classroom, offices, etc.)
- Mutual respect and emotional safety. Manifestation of discrimination, including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, or political belief will not be tolerated.
- Respect for diversity of opinion. Demonstration of willingness to listen is expected, not always to respond, but to understand.
- Acceptance of responsibility and accountability for one’s own behavior when interacting with students, faculty, and staff.
- An open, inviting environment for all.

In keeping with a desired culture of civility -- malice, vengeance or any act that may lead to endangerment (harassment, stalking, violence, threats – verbal and non-verbal, etc.) will not be tolerated.

### **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY**

All students are required to have a criminal background check upon admission into the graduate nursing program. Additionally, students are required to have a background check repeated when they are out of the program for more than one semester.

The SON uses Package SC87 with the background check vendor. The student is required to pay for this package, which includes:

County-Criminal  
Residency History  
Social Security Alert  
NW – Sexual Offender Index  
NW – Healthcare Fraud & Abuse Scan  
NW – Patriot Act  
Verification-Employment  
ST – Abuse Registry – TN  
Verification-Employment

Please follow the instructions listed:

1. Go to <https://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies/docs/forms/SON.background-check.pdf> and click on “Students”.
2. In the Package Code box, enter the package code: SC87
3. Enter your payment information – Visa, Mastercard, or Money Order. Follow the online instructions to complete your order.

NOTE: When a student re-enrolls after an absence of one or more semesters, the background check must be repeated.

#### **DRESS CODE: APPEARANCE**

Students are expected to uphold the SAU dress code (Graduate Handbook 23-24) and School of Nursing dress codes with modest dress according to the dignity of the event to be attended.

#### **SAU Dress Code (overall)**

1. Extremes of hair-styles or color and make-up should be avoided.
2. In keeping with the University dress code, students should limit jewelry to a engagement/wedding band or medically necessary identification.
3. Tattoos and piercings should be kept covered. Visible piercings of nose, lips, eyebrows, or other areas that would be difficult to conceal must be removed.

#### **Virtual classroom or online events:**

General rule of thumb: if your virtual/online appearance would not be appropriate for a face to face class or meeting then change what you are wearing. If you are not sure, err on the side of caution and dress more professionally.

#### **Presentations & Events**

For presentations, such as Campus Research Day, or conferences such as Florence Oliver Anderson, and events such as Dedication – students are expected to dress more formally, as you would if going for a job interview for a job that you really want.

Students who are **attending** campus or online presentations or events should dress more formally, as you would if going for a job interview.

Students who are **presenting** at campus-sponsored events, please follow professional business attire guidelines.

### **Practicum/Clinical**

In the clinical setting, students are expect to maintain the SAU dress code. Additional expectations are listed below:

1. SAU student identification should be worn during practice in student roles.
2. Modest business casual clothing is appropriate for most clinical sites. See University Handbook for further guidelines.
3. It is expected for students to also uphold the facility site dress codes.
4. It is requested that students remove ear rings, other rings, necklaces, bracelets while representing the SON in the clinical environment.

### **DRUG & ALCOHOL SCREENING**

SAU maintains a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free campus. By enrolling at Southern, all students agree to random drug testing (may include testing for **illicit drugs, marijuana, including THC from CBD oils, etc., nicotine and/or alcohol**). **Students must review and sign a “Policy Agreement” upon admission to the graduate program.** The SON along with area medical facilities have a zero-tolerance policy with respect to illicit drug use. A drug screen will be required of any new student accepted into the graduate nursing programs. Students may be screened at any other time for random testing, reasonable suspicion or evidence of alcohol or drug use. The student requiring random testing for reasonable suspicion or evidence of alcohol or drug use will be responsible for laboratory cost. Violation and positive drug screens will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

### **DUE DATES of ASSIGNMENTS and TIME**

All due dates are based on the current time at Southern Adventist University. SAU is in the Eastern Time Zone. All online course submission deadline is Monday at 5 pm Eastern Time.

### **EVALUATION**

To help ensure and maintain a quality nursing program, students are required to complete a number of evaluations during their programs of study.

EVALUATION	SCHEDULE
Professor	Course completion (online)
Preceptor	Completion of time with preceptor
Agency/Facility	Completion of time at the agency

End of program	Program completion
Alumni survey	1 year of certification

### FEES

The Graduate Nursing Program is an intensive program which requires a high faculty-student ratio, special supplies, and extensive equipment for on-campus experience, clinical liability insurance, and student and program evaluation.

Regular tuition charges do not adequately cover the cost of professional nursing education. As a result, additional fees may be attached to some courses and every practicum course in the graduate nursing programs. The fee schedule is found in the *Graduate Catalog* and may be found in course descriptions for applicable courses.

### FLORENCE OLIVER ANDERSON (FOA)

Florence Oliver Anderson (FOA) is a continuing education event in the fall semester, that is provided free of charge to SAU students. It may be available as face-to-face, live streaming, or Zoom with specific details available in eClass on Grad Resource Central.

**Required attendees:** all graduate students (MSN/DNP). Each course the student is registered for will have individual grading requirements. See course syllabi.

### FORUM

Graduate student forum is **held once per academic semester**, usually just before registration opens for the next semester. Forums are designed to advise students of any changes that have been made to the schedule that may affect registration. Forum is open to all students enrolled in the graduate programs. Recorded informational programs will be provided for online emphases. Students are given important information regarding graduate programs and are also encouraged to bring questions and comments for discussion with the faculty.

### GRADING POLICIES

Grades for graduate courses in the SON are determined by the professor in charge of the course and are based on guidelines printed within the syllabus for the course.

Letter grades are assigned according to the SON grading scale:

A	94 - 100	C	75 - 78
A-	91 - 93	C-	72 - 74
B+	88 - 90	D+	69 - 71
B	85 - 87	D	65 - 68
B-	82 - 84	D-	63 - 64
C+	79 - 81	F	00 - 62

**Minimum passing grade.** The minimum passing grade is a “C” or 75%. No more than one course with a C or C+ grade is allowed during the graduate program. A grade of C- must be repeated. Only one course may be repeated in the graduate program.

**Incomplete (I) grades** may be assigned by a professor when a student needs more time to complete course requirements due to extreme extenuating circumstances. Circumstances for which such grades may be recorded include unforeseen health or family emergencies where a grade of “I” may be requested. Courses such as practica with large numbers of hours, include specific provision for “I” grades (primarily for part-time students).

An “I” grade can only be awarded as a final grade and must include an expiration date, not to exceed one year.

**In keeping with university policy, a student must complete any incomplete grade set by the professor or within one year or grade will turn to an “F” grade.**

Students should communicate with faculty and not assume that “I” grades will be recorded. At the time an “I” grade is recorded, a plan, approved by the course professor, must be in place for completion of the course requirements. “I” grades that are not completed the next regular semester by the deadline set by the records office will automatically receive an “F” grade unless the student petitions for an “I” extension. Such extensions must be approved by the course professor.

Students needing extra time for practicum or DNP Scholarly Project courses and who request “I” grades must additionally register for a continuation course until the practicum or project is completed.

**Students having more than one “I” grade must satisfactorily complete those courses prior to registering for additional course work. At no time in the program should a student have more than two “I” grades.**

Nurse practitioner students who fail to complete practicum or other program requirements by one year after having taken the NURS 687/887 MSN or DNP Program Finalization Diagnostic Readiness Test may be required to demonstrate their competency in the testing area.

## **GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS**

### **1. Clinical Instructors**

Clinical Instructors are recommended for hire by the SON. Employment procedures are handled by HR. Clinical instructors may receive tuition credit for graduate classes based on number of hours worked.

### **2. Graduate Teaching Assistants**

A graduate student may be approved to work for the SON as skills, simulation, or clinical instructors or as a freshman advisor in exchange for hourly wages equivalent to that of the

clinical instructor. Arrangements are made with the undergraduate clinical coordinator and dean.

### **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

1. Graduate students are encouraged to openly discuss issues and problems related to their program of study with their professor, advisor, and/or program coordinator. If students believe they have been unfairly or unjustly dealt with by a faculty member and cannot satisfactorily resolve the situation, they may use the "[Academic Grievance Procedure](#)" of the University *Graduate Catalog* or the Discipline section of the *SAU Graduate Student Handbook*.
2. There must be adequate documentation from the student and faculty member that initiation of the grievance procedure is justified.
3. A formal request must be initiated by the student that identifies the problem and provides a rationale for initiating the grievance procedure.
4. A grievance procedure within the SON sequentially involves the following individuals, until resolution is reached:
  - a. Course/clinical faculty
  - b. Program coordinator
  - c. Graduate program coordinator
  - d. Dean of SON
5. If the problem cannot be resolved within the SON, the final step in the grievance procedure is to appeal to the Dean of Graduate Programs, or in the case of non-academic problems, the Vice President for Student Affairs.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

The University recommends all graduate students have adequate accident and health insurance, covering both inpatient and outpatient services. The same coverage is encouraged for spouses and dependents. Graduate students who do not have insurance at the time of enrollment may purchase health insurance through the university. A policy brochure describing benefits, terms, and limits is available on the Risk Management website: <https://www.southern.edu/administration/risk/contact.html>

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Upon admission to the nursing program students are required to have a history and physical examination. Immunizations must be current, following Centers for Disease Control and Occupational Health and Safety (OSHA) requirements. These are:

1. Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccine: Two doses of combined vaccine, the last being after 1980, or proof of immunity to each by titer.

2. Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis Vaccine: Childhood series of 4 doses, and Tetanus Diphtheria booster within the past ten years.
3. Hepatitis B Vaccine: 3 doses *or* 2-dose series of Recombivax® HB (licensed for children aged 11-15 years).
4. TB skin test (PPD) done within last calendar year. Some clinical facilities require a Quantiferon. If TB skin test is positive, chest x-ray is required. If chest x-ray is positive, proof of a full course of treatment is required. Follow up chest x-rays are required every 5 years. After initial TB skin test, TB questionnaire may be completed each year until clinicals begin. Must have a TB or Quantiferon prior to the start of clinicals.
5. Varicella titer is required to show immunity. Otherwise documentation of varicella immunization.
6. FIT mask testing.

Proof of current immunizations must be in place prior to admission to the program, as well up to date documentation prior to the start of practicum. Clearance to participate in clinical practica includes up to date documentation.

COVID-19 vaccines are recommended by CDC and local health department. Some clinical agencies may require the vaccine. Students who are not vaccinated will be accommodated to the best of SON ability, but may experience a delay in program progression if not vaccinated and if vaccination is required by facilities.

## **INTEGRITY**

Honesty and integrity are expected at all times. Purposeful breaches of integrity with respect to academic or clinical issues will result in the student being subject to formal review and action by the SON and/or SAU (see SAU Catalog, Academic Honesty). The guidelines below safeguard honesty and integrity. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Students are to assume that all course work is “no collaboration” unless stated otherwise by the professor.
- B. Exams (may also apply to quizzes)
  1. Students should assume that exams and quizzes are closed book/note and to be done without use of electronic or other resources unless otherwise specified.
  2. On-line students may be required to obtain a proctor for an exam. Proctors must meet specifications of course professor.
  3. Any activity that violates test security or specifications for testing, including discussion or copying of questions and/or answers, printing tests, or unauthorized use of resources and information will be considered an infraction of the integrity policy and grounds for formal

action.

### C. Academic Writing

This policy applies to all graduate students and pertains to all written assignments and any form of written work submitted for academic evaluation.

#### Policy Statement

1. **Original Work:** All written work must be the original effort of the student. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited, including copying text, ideas, or data without proper attribution.
2. **Use of Sources:** Students must properly cite all sources of information, including text, data, images, and ideas. Proper citation practices should follow the guidelines provided by the institution or the specific academic field.
3. As an institution committed to Christian values and the highest educational standards, Southern Adventist University urges faculty and students to prayerfully and critically evaluate how and when we use generative artificial intelligence (AI) and other emergent technologies. Southern Adventist University's policy is that students use generative AI tools only after consultation with their instructor or when specifically invited to use them as part of an assignment. Inappropriate use may be penalized <https://www.southern.edu/academics/online-campus/CoursePolicies.html#accordion-d18e113-2>
- **AI Usage:** The use of AI tools, including but not limited to text generators, paraphrasing tools, and content summarizers, is permitted under the following conditions:
  - AI-generated content must have course professor permission.
  - AI-generated content must be identified and properly cited.
  - The student must understand and critically evaluate any AI-generated content included in their work.
  - AI tools should not replace the student's original analysis, argumentation, or synthesis of ideas.
- **Misuse of AI:** Misuse of AI tools, including passing off AI-generated content as one's own without proper attribution or using AI to bypass original critical thinking and analysis, constitutes academic misconduct.
4. **Collaboration and Group Work:** When collaboration is allowed, the contributions of each group member must be documented. Each member is responsible for ensuring the integrity of the group's work.
5. **Consequences of Misconduct:** Any breach of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as per Southern Adventist University academic integrity procedures.

#### Implementation

- **Support:** Academic support services through McKee Library are available to assist students in developing their writing and research skills.
- **Monitoring and Detection:** The University uses plagiarism detection software and other tools to monitor and ensure the integrity of submitted work.

### D. Clinical Practicum Activities

Expectations include, but are not limited to:

1. Punctual attendance at practicum sites as arranged with clinical preceptor.
2. Preparation for clinical practicum. Lack of preparation may jeopardize the student's placement at a clinical site and their standing within the graduate program.

3. Accurate recording of clinical hours that reflect only the time spent with patients or the clinical preceptor on patient care related activities (i.e. reviewing labs, x-rays, and patient care with preceptor). Driving time and lunch hours when patient care is not occurring are not considered part of the clinical time.
4. Complete and accurate recording of clinical activities via the web-based NP clinical tracking system or other log, as specified by the course faculty.
5. Punctuality in submitting written materials related to clinical practicum. Failure to comply will result in clinical failure.
6. Safe nursing care and safe performance of psychomotor and/or interpersonal skills. Depending upon the incident, a breach in safe care and performance may subject the student to immediate dismissal from the program.
7. Patient confidentiality per current Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines.
8. Please see SAU SON *Graduate Clinical Handbook* for emphasis specific guidelines.

### **JOINT COMMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Agencies utilized for practicum experience require that all nursing students receive yearly Joint Commission inservices. This orientation may be completed through the SON via the Tennessee Clinical Placement System (TCPS) or at the student's workplace. Failure to provide proof of orientation by the stated deadlines will prevent the student from attending classes or clinical practicum and may require that the student be blocked from eClass access or dropped from the course or the graduate program.

### **LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER POLICIES**

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) contains many materials that are of benefit to graduate students. Of primary interest are CDs which may be checked out from the LRC for a two-week period. These audio materials include review courses and other professional presentations that will enhance student learning as they progress in advanced practice roles. Students are encouraged to return materials as noted below in a timely manner in order to facilitate use of materials by classmates.

The student using the LRC will:

1. Check out and return LRC equipment and learning resources. Repair and replacement fees will apply to damaged or unreturned equipment and resources.
2. Bring not food or drink, other than water, into the LRC. Water bottles are allowed on the floor only, never on the desktop.
3. Make appointments for taking exams in the LRC as needed once approved by course professor.
4. Maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and testing.

5. Keep book bags and other belongings accordingly to keep aisles clear and safe.
6. Recognize that the LRC may be closed to all except those testing during test administration.
7. Refrain from changing the desktop or adjust computer features.
8. Log off and leave area neat and clean when through with computer or video player usage.
9. Display honesty and integrity during testing, assignments, and equipment usage.
10. Place cell phones and beepers in off, silence, or manner mode during testing. Electronic devices are not to be used during testing unless specifically authorized, and should be set so that alarms are inaudible.
11. Refrain from bringing children into the LRC.

### **LIABILITY COVERAGE**

Graduate nursing students are protected with malpractice insurance provided through Risk Management of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. This coverage applies only to school-related assignments. Students must be actively enrolled and registered for classes in order to be covered by liability insurance. Students gainfully employed are not protected with this coverage for non-school-related employment activities.

### **ONLINE COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

#### **Student Authentication**

The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 [viewable [here](#); see p. 3325] requires Southern Adventist University to authenticate the identity of all students who enroll in distance education courses offered by the university. Southern requires students enrolled in an online course or program to authenticate their identity at the time of initial registration in their first semester at Southern in order to ensure that a student who is enrolled is the same student who completes and submits work and assignments in that course or program. This process helps protect the integrity of the education provided by Southern Adventist University.

The student should authenticate their identity by using **ONE** of the following options:

1. Authenticate in person at Southern Adventist University.
2. Authenticate online with a secure identify verification ipartner chosen by Southern Adventist University.

Students who do not authenticate their identity during their first semester in which they are enrolled in online classes will receive an incomplete in these course(s). If they do not complete their authentication by the end of the following semester, their final grade will automatically convert into an F. The student will not be allowed to register for further online classes until the authentication process is completed. In addition, non-compliance with the authentication policy may make the student

subject to discipline according to the Procedures for Handling Academic Dishonesty in the Southern Adventist University Graduate Catalog.

### **Live Sessions**

In some courses or presentations, there may be live sessions using Zoom. The student will join the live session by clicking on the link provided in eClass. The link may also be provided at the beginning of the syllabus. We recommend that the student use a computer with a microphone and webcam or at a minimum that is purchased with a [headset](#) with a built-in microphone that has either a stereo jack or a USB plug in, depending on your specific computer. Students without these headsets can struggle to participate fully in live sessions and may experience echoing or other issues when attempting to speak into their computer's microphone. Background noise is also minimized with the use of a headset.

### **Backgrounds/Environment/ Camera**

- Use a quiet space where environmental noise will not be heard.
- Choose a neutral backdrop to avoid distracting your audience.
- Avoid sitting with a window behind you, as well as in an area where other people in the room will be walking behind you. The Zoom Blur background is an acceptable virtual background to hide what's going on behind you.
- Position the camera at or just above eye level.
- Distance yourself from the camera so that you are only visible from the shoulders up. Face should be the main object of focus.

**Additional requirements regarding the specific course will be noted in the course syllabus.**

### **PROFESSIONAL EVENTS**

Professional nursing events are scheduled throughout the academic year to which the public is invited for professional development and continuing education credit. Graduate students have the opportunity to attend these meetings.

The **Florence Oliver Anderson (FOA) Seminar Series** is dedicated to excellence in nursing and is made possible by the generosity of the late Florence Oliver Anderson. Each year the SON invites nationally recognized nursing experts to address the professional community.

**Campus Research Day** (Winter semester) and **SON Research Day** (Fall semester) are set aside to showcase student and faculty research. If your program emphasis is online only, please check with your advisor about attendance.

The following general guidelines apply to these professional events:

- All MSN level students are required to attend FOA and Research Day as scheduled by each class/faculty. Students in purely online programs must verify with current faculty for possible panopto recordings, livestream availabilities, or alternative professional development activities.
- DNP students are required to attend DNP proposal and presentation days in place of Research Day.

- Attire at FOA and Research Day meetings shall be professional at all times. T-shirts, tight-fitting tops, bare midriffs and shoulders, cleavage, mini-skirts, stilettos, jewelry, hoodies, jeans, shorts, caps, and flip-flops are not professional attire and are not acceptable.
- Backpacks, books, magazines, or other reading material are not to be taken into the meeting area. Cell phones, beepers, and other electronic devices should be off.
- Breaks are to be taken only during the regularly scheduled seminar breaks. Students who habitually leave the meeting room will be counted as absent and may be required to make up the FOA or Research Day by attending another approved professional growth seminar at the student's own expense.
- Professional meeting etiquette prohibits talking, getting up and leaving, and other activities which are disruptive to others and disrespectful to the presenter.

### **PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Professional Improvement Plan (PIP) is intended to help the student identify and correct areas of concern and to promote a higher standard of professionalism. While rarely needed at the graduate level, the process is initiated following an infraction of one or more policies contained in the *SON Graduate Student Handbook*. A student may be dismissed from the SON without going through all steps of the PIP if faculty deems the infraction serious enough.

There are three steps in the PIP, which may be applied at any time.

Step I: Written documentation of concern and a conference with professor

Step II: Letter of probation and conference with professor and Graduate/MSN/DNP director

Step III: Dismissal from the School of Nursing

When a faculty member deems it necessary for a student to enter the PIP, appropriate documentation must be completed and signed. The student will be invited to a conference to review and discuss the PIP. If a student enters a PIP, documentation shall be retained in the records.

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Numerous professional organizations are available for graduate students (American Nurses Association, The Tennessee Nurses Association, National League for Nursing, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Chattanooga Area Nurses in Advanced Practice, The American College of Lifestyle Medicine, American Geriatrics Society, etc.). Many of these organizations have discounted membership fees for students, as well as discounted continuing education offers. Some have professional journals associated with membership. Academic and research scholarships are also available from most organizations. It is recommended that graduate students choose at least one professional organization for membership that supports their professional goals during their enrollment as a graduate student.

### **SABBATH POLICY**

SAU and the SON share belief in honoring the Seventh-Day Sabbath as a day of rest, worship, and freedom from academic pursuits. The Sabbath, as celebrated on the SAU campus, begins at sundown

on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday. Please know that your faculty honor the Sabbath as well, and will not be responding to student emails and concerns during this time.

The SON respects the personal beliefs of each student enrolled in nursing, and the freedom to make personal choices about when and how to worship. It is the policy of the SON, however, regardless of personal belief, that the student uphold the values of SAU and the SON in this respect and **not** schedule course-related clinical practice during the Sabbath hours. Failure to abide by this policy jeopardizes student enrollment status.

### **SIGMA, RHO IOTA CHAPTER – NURSING HONOR SOCIETY**

The nursing honor society was established in 1999 under the auspices of Sigma Theta Tau International. Full charter into Sigma Theta Tau was approved November 2001. In 2002, the nursing honor society was established as the Rho Iota Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. Its purpose is to promote research, scholarship, and leadership in the profession. The society sponsors educational offerings and Research Day annually. Membership is open to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students, faculty, alumni and nurses in the community who hold a baccalaureate degree or higher. To be invited into membership, graduate students must be half way through their program and have a GPA of  $\geq 3.5$ .

### **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY (New ANA Statement coming soon)**

Social media is commonly used as a form of communication. Communication of protected information through social media violates the rights of individuals such as patients and their family members, or fellow students. Such events often occur thoughtlessly and without malice, but unfortunately jeopardize patient wellbeing and leave the nurse who inappropriately communicated information subject to legal action. Distribution of sensitive and confidential information is protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). These guidelines apply to traditional means of communication as well as social media.

The American Nurses Association (ANA) provides principles for social networking that form the basis for SON social networking policies:

1. Students/nurses must not transmit or place online individually identifiable patient information.
  - a. Avoid discussing clinical experiences or patients in any public forum.
  - b. Do not post pictures of yourself, classmates, or patients in patient care areas.
2. Students/nurses must observe ethically professional patient-nurse boundaries.
  - a. Avoid “friending” patients in social media; keep relationships professional.
3. Students/nurses should recognize that patients, colleagues, employers, and institutions may view postings made in social network settings.
  - a. Postings are not easily retracted
  - b. Offensive, unprofessional comments or postings that violate HIPPA or other laws may jeopardize your career.
4. Students/nurses should take advantage of privacy settings and seek to separate personal and

professional information online.

- a. Do not assume, however, that high privacy settings are adequate or free you to post information that directly violates privacy acts and laws.
  - b. Keep your professional life off social networks.
5. Students/nurses should bring content that could harm a patient's privacy, rights, or welfare to the attention of appropriate authorities.
- a. Nursing requires a high level of integrity and excellence in patient care.
  - b. Public trust in nursing is high and must be fostered with ongoing vigilance.
  - c. Nurses are patient advocates in all areas, and are thus responsible for protecting patient vulnerability from violations in public/social media settings.

Each student is legally responsible for individual postings and may be subject to consequences for inappropriate or illegal postings. Violation of patient privacy, including the use of social media:

- Will be subject to HIPAA guidelines and consequences. Legal action may be taken for violations according to HIPAA/HITECH.
- May be reported to the Board of Nursing (BON). Disciplinary actions by a BON vary between jurisdictions but are reviewed for unprofessional conduct, unethical conduct, breach of confidentiality, etc.
- Students may also receive disciplinary action including failure in a course and/or dismissal from the program.

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

SON committees are open to attendance by students, and are encouraged to attend. Committees include:

Admissions/Progressions; Evaluation; Faculty Council; Faculty Development; Faculty Search; Missions; Student Events; Student/Faculty Forum; Undergraduate Program; Graduate Program; and Research.

Students may obtain a schedule of meeting times as well as the name of the committee chair from the SON or Graduate program secretary. If a student desires to attend a particular committee, he/she should notify the committee chair. If individual student names or confidential issues are discussed, the visiting student will be asked to leave for that portion of the meeting.

## **SKILLS and ASSESSMENT LAB POLICIES**

The graduate student will:

1. Make appointments for use during normal Skills Lab hours.
2. Leave lab in proper order (including beds -- only change linen when necessary, but leave bed neatly made) with manikins neatly and appropriately draped, covered, or clothed
3. Meet labs punctually or arrange ahead of time for alternate appointment.

4. Check out and in materials borrowed from lab. Late fees/replacement fees will apply.
5. Apply CDC Guidelines in the event of exposure (forms are available)

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Students will arrange for/purchase their own transportation to SAU for classes and to clinical sites for practicum experiences.

All DNP students, including those in online programs, are required to attend an annual fall (August 2025) semester DNP seminar. DNP students are responsible for all transportation and lodging costs associated with attending the seminars. DNP seminar alternates years on campus and virtual.

#### **A. Tickets and Fines**

1. Tickets and/or fines received are the driver's responsibility.
2. Tennessee law requires that seatbelts be worn by drivers and passengers.

B. All students owning/driving autos for clinical experiences must have automobile liability insurance. Refer to SAU insurance policy.

## V **INFECTION CONTROL POLICY**

### **INFECTION CONTROL POLICY**

Concern for the safety of SON students who serve the public has led to the development of this Infection Control Policy. The delivery of nursing care is not without safety hazards. It is the belief of the faculty that with proper education, skills training, and immunizations, faculty and students may be reasonably protected from risk of infections contracted in the course of nursing practice. Further, we wish to prevent discrimination against faculty, students, and staff who may have certain infectious diseases by setting forth some specific protections, which the school will provide its constituents.

The information in this policy is based on currently available information and will be updated as new information is forthcoming from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and OSHA. In the absence of new CDC and/or OSHA directives, the policy will be reviewed annually by the nursing faculty. It is the responsibility of students to familiarize themselves with this policy.

### **Admissions and Hiring**

No qualified graduate nursing student will be denied admission solely because of a positive reading on diagnostic tests for infectious disease. Further, no HIV screening of potential candidates will be required for admission or hiring. Specifically, candidates will not be asked for their HIV antibody status, if known, and will not be required to submit to HIV testing if their antibody status is not known. Persons desiring to be tested voluntarily will be referred to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, their personal healthcare provider, or the SAU Health Center.

Once admitted, persons known to be HIV positive will not be discriminated against in terms of access to usual and normal student activities and privileges over which the SON has control. Reasonable accommodation will be made by the SON to allow continuation of education. Health records pertaining to HIV status will be confidential and separate.

### **Clinical Guidelines for Faculty and Students**

The Code for Nurses states (Updated statement coming soon), "The nurse provides services with respect for human dignity and their uniqueness of the patient unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems." In accordance with the Code, the SON believes nursing professionals including faculty and students have a fundamental responsibility to provide care to all patients assigned to them and that refusal to care for patients with infectious diseases including HIV, HBV, HCV, or AIDS is contrary to the ethics of the nursing profession.

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

The SON contracts with health care facilities to provide safe learning experiences. It is the joint obligation of faculty members and graduate nursing students to assure that appropriate and necessary equipment needed for the safe practice of nursing is available in all settings and to remove students from unsafe practice settings.

## **Standard Precautions and Body Substance Isolation**

Standard precautions apply to **all** body fluids. The following recommendations apply:

1. **All** blood and body fluids from **all** patients are considered potentially infectious regardless of the patient's diagnosis.
2. Wash hands and other skin surfaces before and after patient contact even when gloves are used.
3. Personal protective equipment appropriate for the procedure being performed must be worn when anticipating exposure (i.e., gowns, gloves, face shields or masks, eye protection, and resuscitation equipment).
4. Personal protective equipment will be available for use in the clinical settings.
5. **DO NOT** recap or manipulate needles or sharps in any way!!! Place immediately in puncture resistant container after use.
6. Health care workers with exudative lesions should refrain from direct patient care.

## **Exposure**

If a student has an actual exposure to blood or other high-risk body fluid or tissues, or unprotected clinical exposure to infectious disease, specific post-exposure monitoring, treatment, counseling will be provided. If exposure occurs on the SAU campus, the exposed individual must report to Student Health Service. If exposure occurs in the clinical setting, the student should be provided with the same immediate services as employees of the facility. Long-term follow-up may be jointly shared by the facility and SAU Student Health Service. The student should expect to use their personal health insurance to cover expenses incurred.

If an accidental exposure occurs, students should follow the CDC guidelines for occupational exposure (if needle stick, test for HIV to establish seronegativity first, then retest at six weeks, three months, six months, one year).

A significant occupational exposure is defined as:

1. a needle stick or cut caused by a needle or sharp that was actually or potentially contaminated with blood or body fluids.
2. a mucous membrane (i.e., splash to the eye or mouth) exposure to blood or body fluids.
3. a cutaneous exposure involving large amounts of blood or prolonged contact with blood - especially when the exposed skin was chapped, abraded, or afflicted with dermatitis.
4. infectious disease exposure with inadequate PPE protection (e.g., COVID-19 or TB without proper mask)

## **Follow-up and Fees**

It is the responsibility of the affected student to complete all recommended follow up monitoring and care. The student should expect to use their personal health insurance to cover expenses incurred. Submission of claims to health insurance agency is also the student responsibility.

**Follow-up Notification**

The UHC will be responsible for notifying the student when follow-up lab work is recommended. If the individual has left the area prior to completing follow-up recommendations, a certified letter will be mailed to the individual with follow-up recommendations. It will be left up to the individual to complete the recommendations.

## VI **WRITING GUIDELINES**

The graduate nursing program includes mentoring in the area of research and writing. Most MSN and DNP courses include significant writing requirements. Graduates of the MSN and DNP programs are expected to be able to clearly and concisely express themselves both verbally and in writing. Development of writing skills is facilitated by course assignments and faculty feedback on writing style.

The SON uses current ***American Psychological Association (APA)*** guidelines for formal written papers. Students should follow the guidelines of the most recent APA manual for written assignments unless instructed otherwise.

The academic Writing Center is housed in the McKee library. The Writing Center offers one-to-one, individualized writing tutorial sessions. Writing tutors are dedicated, experienced students, volunteers, and faculty who are trained in the research and writing process and who excel at working with others in a professional academic environment. Tutorial sessions are available by appointment for guiding the graduate student in a) generating and clarifying ideas, b) organizing thoughts, c) creating a thesis statement and topic sentences, d) developing paragraphs and transitions, e) structuring and formatting a paper, f) assuring conciseness, readability, focus, and flow, and g) citing resources.

### **How can I schedule an appointment?**

To schedule a session, go to <https://www.southern.edu/mckee-library/Writing-Center/> for the online scheduler. You will need to register for an account first. After you have registered, you will be able to sign in and schedule an appointment at a date and time that works with your schedule. Immediate scheduling allows you to book even just prior to the desired appointment time. You may make a 30 or 60-minute appointment. Please make sure that you arrive at a scheduled appointment on time. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you will be considered a no-show. If you can't make it to your appointment, please cancel the appointment right away so another student may schedule an appointment at that time. The system will allow you to make appointments up to 14 days in advance. Walk-ins, of course, are also welcome, though scheduling sessions in advance is highly recommended.

## Scholarly Writing

### **Things to Avoid:**

*Contractions:* Scholarly writing does not include words like didn't or couldn't. Instead, use the full words.

*First Person:* In scholarly writing, the author is assumed to have some "distance" from his or her chosen topic. Write as an outside observer, not a participant. This will mean that pronouns such as I, we or you may be used sparingly according to 7<sup>th</sup> ed APA guidelines.

*Excessive Wordiness:* Avoid including the article title and journal from which it came when discussing that article. A simple "author name, (year) found that..." or "...studied...", is best.

*Excessive Quotation:* Graduate students need to hone their skill in translating research and other literature into their own words. The use of multiple direct quotes from the literature leads the reader to wonder if you have anything original to say. Wherever, possible, paraphrase and translate while still give credit appropriately.

*Misspelled words:* Do not rely on spell checker to catch all incorrect spellings. Make sure that you know the difference between "their, there, and they're", "two, to, and too", "affect and effect" and other similar word forms. Sloppiness and errors indicate to your reader that you have not taken the time to correct, or that this isn't serious work.

### **Things to Do:**

*Proofread:* Go back over what has been written again and again. Read aloud. Allow others to read and give feedback.

*Reference and cite properly:* Have an APA manual or online reference handy and refer to it frequently in order to document your citations and references in the correct style.

*Paper structure:* Outline your paper using heading and subheading to reflect a unified flow of thought that is orderly and coherent. Connect concepts with clear transition sentences.

*Argument and analysis:* Support your writing with relevant evidence that is appropriately cited. The paper should be innovative and have potential for advancing the professional body of knowledge.

*Style, clarity, originality:* State your premises clearly and concisely. Make insightful interpretation and application of the research without reliance upon jargon and excessive quotations.

*Grammar, mechanics, spelling:* Create flowing and varied sentence structure without errors in grammar, spelling or mechanics.

**Helpful Resources:**

SAU Mckee Library:

- Grammarly
- Citing APA <https://southern.libguides.com/cite/apa>
- Writing Center: <https://www.southern.edu/mckee-library/Writing-Center/>
- Language and Grammmare Resources: [https://www.southern.edu/mckee-library/Writing-Center/language\\_grammar.html](https://www.southern.edu/mckee-library/Writing-Center/language_grammar.html)

A Step by Step Guide on Writing a Scholarly Paper

[How to Write a Scholarly Paper? | The Definitive Guide 2023 \(freepaperwriter.com\)](https://www.freepaperwriter.com/how-to-write-a-scholarly-paper/)

# Appendix A

## **Forms**

NURSE EDUCATOR TRACK — DECLARATION OF CLINICAL AREA

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

The clinical area which is specified below is the clinical area that will be recorded on the transcript for:  
NURS 585 Nurse Educator Role Practicum: Area of Clinical Emphasis

Clinical Area – Select one:

- Adult Health
- Child Health
- Community Health
- Maternal-infant Health
- Psychiatric-Mental Health

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

