



COLLEGE
OF NURSING

**Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
Program Handbook
2013-2014**

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College of Nursing Overview

Introduction

The College of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program Handbook can facilitate DNP student advising by providing information to students and faculty members. Upon admission, each DNP student is assigned a faculty advisor who mentors and guides the student throughout the program of study regarding degree requirements and access to University and College resources. A faculty member will be assigned as a student's advisor during coursework. The same faculty member may continue to work with the student during comprehensive examinations and the practice inquiry, or different faculty members may be selected.

General Information

This publication is for informational purposes and is neither a contract nor an offer to contract. The College of Nursing reserves the right to change any provision or requirement at any time without notice. This material supplements the University of Arizona Graduate Catalog and the Schedule of Classes. Additional information may be found at the following web sites:

[The University of Arizona](#)

[The University of Arizona Graduate College](#)

[The University of Arizona College of Nursing](#)

The DNP Program Handbook is designed as a resource for DNP students and faculty advisors. Relevant policies and procedures of the University of Arizona, Graduate College and College of Nursing are included in this handbook. Much of the information is online; therefore, the actual web sites are listed for the official information on policies and procedures. Where information is not available online, a brief description is provided. Additional information can be obtained from the Office of Student Affairs or from the faculty advisor within the College of Nursing. Students are responsible to know and adhere to all established policies and procedures.

Relationship to Other Documents

The DNP Program Handbook is intended to be used in conjunction with other University documents such as the University of Arizona Graduate Catalog. Students should first consult the DNP Program Handbook from the College of Nursing, and then consult the Graduate Catalog when questions arise. The online Graduate Catalog contains essential information about University Policies and procedures. Individual colleges within the University of Arizona may alter Graduate College policies and procedures when doing so results in the strengthening of an academic program. Therefore, some of the policies and procedures in the DNP Program Handbook are specific to DNP students.

Code of Ethics for Nurses

The College of Nursing faculty subscribes to the American Nurses' Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses as approved by the ANA House of Delegates in June 2001. Students are expected to perform in accordance with this Code. The nine provisions of the ANA Code of Ethics are available free of charge via the [ANA web site](#).

Mission¹

The College of Nursing, a professional college of the University of Arizona, is in accord with the purposes of the University and Arizona Health Sciences Center. The purposes of the College are education, research and scholarship, and service. Within the purpose of service is a commitment to practice as an essential element in the discipline of nursing.

¹ Adopted 4/89, Revised 12/93, 12/96, 11/98, 3/01, Reaffirmed 3/09

The mission of the College is to provide baccalaureate and graduate education, generate and expand nursing knowledge, and provide service to the community.

The College conducts its educational mission by preparing professional nurses who function in various roles related to advancing human health in meeting the health care needs of the people of Arizona and society in general.

The College conducts its research and scholarship mission to generate and expand nursing knowledge by fostering and sustaining programs of research and scholarship directed toward advancing nursing science.

The College conducts its service mission by providing leadership in professional and health-related activities. The service mission incorporates nursing practice in meeting local, regional, national and global health needs.

Vision²

The College of Nursing is a learning community that is committed to excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, and service that enhances the health and well-being of the people of Arizona and society in general. The community values creativity and balance and promotes excellence through identity as nurses and recognition of social responsibility.

Healthcare Professionals' Obligation to Self-Report

Arizona law (A.R.S. § 32-3208) requires licensed health professionals and healthcare professionals seeking licensure to report certain criminal charges to their professional licensing boards within ten (10) working days after a charge is filed. Healthcare professionals subject to these reporting obligations must make these reports *irrespective of whether they believe that patient safety has been compromised or could be compromised by behavior giving rise to such charge*. Failure to make a report to the appropriate licensing board is considered unprofessional conduct.

A list of all reportable offenses can be obtained from your own professional licensing board. A partial listing of such offenses can be found at <http://www.azpharmacy.gov/pdfs/reportable%20criminal%20charges.pdf>

32-3208. Criminal charges; mandatory reporting requirements; civil penalty

- A. A health professional who has been charged with a misdemeanor involving conduct that may affect patient safety or a felony after receiving or renewing a license or certificate must notify the health professional's regulatory board in writing within ten working days after the charge is filed.
- B. An applicant for licensure or certification as a health professional who has been charged with a misdemeanor involving conduct that may affect patient safety or a felony after submitting the application must notify the regulatory board in writing within ten working days after the charge is filed.
- C. On receipt of this information the regulatory board may conduct an investigation.
- D. A health professional who does not comply with the notification requirements of this section commits an act of unprofessional conduct. The health professional's regulatory board may impose a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars in addition to other disciplinary action it takes.
- E. The regulatory board may deny the application of an applicant who does not comply with the notification requirements of this section.
- F. On request a health profession regulatory board shall provide an applicant or health professional with a list of misdemeanors that the applicant or health professional must report.

Health professionals are defined as a person who is certified or licensed pursuant to A.R.S. chapters 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 15.1, 16, 17, 18, 19, 19.1, 21, 25, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 39, 41 or 42 of Title 32, title 36, chapter 4, article 6, title 36, chapter 6, article 7 or title 36, chapter 17.

² Adopted 5/98, Reaffirmed 3/01

Nurse Practitioner (NP) Certification and Licensure

In nearly all states, national certification is one of a number of requirements to obtain a license as a NP. The licensure of NPs is handled at the state level through the Board of Nursing. Information about the student's NP licensure requirements can be obtained by contacting their state Board of Nursing. It is the student's responsibility to investigate certification and licensure requirements in the state where she / he plan to practice and to keep up to date on changes in requirements.

Currently, a Master's degree is required to sit for national certification examination; therefore, UA DNP students are awarded a Master's of Science of Nursing degree after meeting Master's degree requirements and then are eligible to sit for certification examination through one of the following national certifying organizations:

- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (Family NP)
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses Certification Corporation (Adult Acute Care NP, Adult-Gerontology Adult Acute Care NP)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (Adult Acute Care NP, Adult-Gerontology Adult Acute Care NP Family NP, Family Psychiatric Mental Health NP and Pediatric NP)
- Pediatric Nursing Certification Board, (Pediatric NP)

Academic Policies and Procedures for DNP Students

College of Nursing Academic Responsibility and Doctoral Education Statement³

The University of Arizona College of Nursing is an innovative academic community who believes that personal and professional integrity and excellence are paramount to student success. Therefore, we encourage each student to approach academic opportunities in their chosen field with the passion required to learn the existing theories, practices, and methods of the discipline and to apply these in their research, practice, and/or teaching. Doctoral students are expected to demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior in every aspect of their work (classroom, community, bench, and bedside) including adhering to all institutional and governmental policies.

Scholarship is an integral part of doctoral education. Therefore, our community facilitates student engagement in scholarly discourse through colloquia, seminars, and group discussions that are part of the academic program. Doctoral students should also seek opportunities that will facilitate publication and presentation of their ideas.

Doctoral education is an emotional, intellectual and time intensive endeavor. Knowledge acquisition and translation require rigorous concentration, focus, and evaluation. To ensure success, students should devote full time and effort in pursuit of their academic credentials.

Our community believes that a collegial environment promotes learning and discovery. This welcoming environment is evident throughout our college and classrooms. As such, students, faculty and staff alike regard each other with mutual respect.

The College of Nursing is deeply committed to these principles of academic responsibility. In joining our community of scholars, DNP and PhD students promote the integrity of academic pursuits for themselves and the College of Nursing community, as well as for the discipline and society.

University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity

Integrity and ethical behavior are expected of every student in all academic work. This Academic Integrity principle stands for honesty in all class work, and ethical conduct in all labs and clinical assignments. This principle is furthered by the student Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures established by ABOR Policies 5-308 through 5-404, all provisions of which apply to all University of Arizona students. This Code of Academic Integrity is intended to fulfill the requirement imposed by ABOR Policy 5-403.A.4 and otherwise to supplement the Student Code of Conduct as permitted by ABOR Policy 5-308.C.1. This Code of Academic Integrity shall not apply to the Colleges of Law or Medicine, which have their own honor codes and procedures.

Code of Academic Integrity

Student Code of Conduct

The aim of education is the intellectual, personal, social, and ethical development of the individual. The educational process is ideally conducted in an environment that encourages reasoned discourse, intellectual honesty, openness to constructive change and respect for the rights of all individuals. Self-discipline and a respect for the rights of others in the university community are necessary for the fulfillment of such goals. The Student Code of Conduct is designed to promote this environment at each of the state universities. The Student Code of Conduct sets forth the standards of conduct expected of students who choose to join the university community. Students who violate these standards will be subject to disciplinary sanctions in order to promote their own personal development, to protect the university community, and to maintain order and stability on campus.

³ Adopted 11/2/2012

Student Code of Conduct

Use of Social Media

The College of Nursing adheres to the University of Arizona's standards regarding the use of social media in the workplace. The University's policies can be found linked via the [Dean of Students](#) and [Human Resources](#).

Additionally, students in the College of Nursing should review the white paper produced by the [National Council of State Boards of Nursing](#) and the information provided by the American Nurses' Association in an [eBook format](#) and the [Social Media Toolkit](#). Additional information regarding the use of social media in the clinical setting is provided to students in the clinical handbook.

Disruptive Behavior in an Instructional Setting

The University seeks to promote a teaching and learning environment free from material and substantial classroom disruptions. Faculty members and teaching staff have the authority and responsibility to effectively manage their classroom environments. Instructors may determine the time and manner for student questions and expression of points of view in the instructional setting. Accordingly, instructors should establish, communicate and enforce reasonable rules of classroom behavior and decorum via the syllabus and classroom discussion. This policy is not intended to discourage appropriate classroom expression, discussion or disagreement, but to promote respectful interactions.

Policy on Disruptive Behavior in an Instructional Setting

Policy on Threatening Behavior by Students

The University seeks to promote a safe environment where students and employees may participate in the educational process without compromising their health, safety or welfare. The Arizona Board of Regents' Student Code of Conduct, ABOR Policy 5-308, prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one's self. Threatening behavior can harm and disrupt the University, its community and its families.

Policy on Threatening Behavior by Students

Line of Communication

The CON is committed to the creation of an environment which promotes the student learning experience. Open, respectful dialogue between students and faculty is critical to the enrichment of the learning experience.

In order to facilitate the open communication between students and faculty, the CON has outlined a line of communication to resolve academic issues that may arise in the classroom and/or at the clinical site. Student issues or concerns need to be addressed promptly and according to the established line of communication outlined below. Dialog with the next person in the line of communication is necessary only after the prior contact does not lead to resolution.

- Course or Clinical Instructor
- Course Chair (if applicable)
- Program Director or Director of Student Affairs
- Dean of the College of Nursing

The Director of Student Affairs is available to assist the student in this process. Contact the Office of Student Affairs at 520-626-3808 or 800-288-6158.

Academic Progression

Grading and Program Progression

A high level of performance is expected of students enrolled in the DNP program. To remain enrolled in the DNP degree program, a student must be making satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree. In addition to Graduate College policies, the CON requires adherence to the following Graduate Academic Progression policies to reflect high standards of scholarship:

- A. A student must earn an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better to be awarded the DNP degree.
- B. Graduate students in the College of Nursing are expected to earn grades of "A" (4.0) or "B" (3.0). Grades below a "B" (3.0) are viewed as unsatisfactory academic performance for graduate students.
- C. A student with regular status achieving less than a 3.0 grade point average at any point in the program will be placed on academic probation. Students on probation are required to meet with their Faculty Advisor to discuss steps to be taken to resolve the problem that led to probationary status and devise a written plan of action to be submitted to the Director of the DNP Program and the Graduate College.
- D. Students on academic probation for two consecutive semesters will be automatically dismissed. Students must apply for readmission to a degree program once a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 is achieved through additional course work taken in the non-degree status. Additional course work may be taken in the College of Nursing. Readmission must be supported by the Director of the DNP Program and approved by the Dean of the Graduate College.
- E. A student shall be dismissed from the program if more than two final grades of "C" are earned as a final course grade. All instances of "C" grades are considered in this policy, including all attempts of repeated courses.⁴
- F. A student may petition the Director of Student Affairs to repeat a graduate course if a grade of "C" is earned. No more than one course can be repeated. A final grade of "C" earned twice in the same course will result in dismissal (see item E).⁵
- G. A student will be dismissed from the program if a grade of "D" or "E" is earned in a graduate course.
- H. A student with provisional admission status must achieve a grade point average of 3.0 or better in each course within the first nine credits of course work in order to be eligible for regular status. Failure to meet this requirement will result in dismissal from the program.
- I. A student may be dismissed from the College of Nursing for unsafe practice and/or unethical conduct in the program without having been previously warned.

Unsatisfactory Grade Notification Procedure

The College of Nursing provides notification each semester to students who have earned grades of "C" in doctoral courses. Notification is provided via email to the student's University of Arizona account. Students who earn grades of "D" or "E" in courses will be provided with a dismissal notice via email to the student's University of Arizona account.

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⁴ Approved by the CIS-PhD Committee 11/2011; approved by DNP Program Director (T. Rigney) and Administrator (T. Badger) March 2012.

⁵ Approved by the CIS-PhD Committee 11/2011; approved by DNP Program Director (T. Rigney) and Administrator (T. Badger) March 2012.

Grade Appeal

Grades given in graduate courses may be appealed on the basis of fundamental fairness. To initiate the appeal procedure, the student must contact the course instructor no later than the end of the fifth week of classes of the first regular semester after the semester or summer term in which the grade was awarded. The entire procedure to be followed is described in the [University of Arizona Online Catalog](#).

The College of Nursing has the following significant modifications:

Pending appeal or review, a student who has been awarded a failing grade in or been withdrawn from a course on the basis of failing to provide safe patient care may not attend either the theory or clinical portions of the course.

Withdrawal Grades

Withdrawal from a course within the first four weeks after registration will result in the deletion of the course from the academic record. After the fourth week and through the end of the tenth week of classes, the grade of "W" may be awarded to students earning a passing grade at the time of the official withdrawal. If a student is not earning a passing grade at the time of the withdrawal, the grade of "E" will be awarded. Requests for complete withdrawal from the University are initiated through the [Dean of Students Office](#). Students leaving the University without a statement of formal withdrawal will be awarded a failing grade in each course.

Students should review the current term's [Registration Dates & Deadlines Calendar](#) when considering a withdrawal.

Grades of Incomplete

The grade of "I" for "Incomplete" may be awarded only at the end of the semester when all but a minor portion of the course work has been satisfactorily completed. DNP students should discuss with the instructor whether or not their circumstances allow them to receive an Incomplete grade. This should be done at least two weeks before the end of the semester. Instructors should work with the student to document what course work must be completed by the student for the "I" grade to be removed and replaced with a grade. Documentation should include:

- Which assignments or examinations should be completed and when
- How this work will be graded
- How the student's course grade will be calculated.

The instructor may use the University's [Report of Incomplete Grade](#) form to document the agreement. Both the instructor and student sign this agreement and forward the agreement to the Office of Student Affairs.

DNP students have a maximum of one calendar year to remove an Incomplete. An Incomplete not removed within one year is replaced by a failing grade of "E" and counted as an "E" in determining the student's grade-point average. If the coursework cannot be completed within one year, the student may petition to extend the Incomplete. This petition must be submitted before the grade converts to an "E". A Leave of Absence does not extend the one calendar year time frame for Incomplete replacement.

If there is a possibility that the student's cumulative grade-point average will fall below 3.00 through the conversion of Incomplete grades to failing grades, the DNP degree will not be awarded.

Petitions

A student, who believes with good academic reason, that they deserve redress or exception to the University of Arizona Graduate College rules, regulations, or policies can formally petition for an exception. A petition form must be submitted to the Graduate College Degree Certification Office explaining all relevant facts. The

petition form must be accompanied by supporting documents and a letter of support from the student's Faculty Advisor, Director of Graduate Studies, or Department Head. Petition forms are available from the [Graduate College](#).

Leave of Absence

Students may request a Leave of Absence (LOAs) from the College of Nursing and the Graduate College. Requests may be considered for the following types of leaves:

- A. **Academic Leaves:** Academic LOAs (i.e., leaves to take course work at another university, for research, field work, internships, professional development, etc.) are handled on a case-by-case basis by the College of Nursing and the Graduate College.
- B. **Medical Leaves:** With appropriate documentation from their medical provider, graduate students in degree programs may be granted a Medical Leave of Absence by the Dean of the Graduate College. Under extraordinary circumstances, LOAs may be granted retroactively for up to one year. Students will be readmitted without reapplying to the College of Nursing and the Graduate College. Only when the LOA is approved prior to the beginning of the semester for which the LOA is being sought will students be exempted from fees for that semester. Only academic services or facilities available to the general public can be used during the LOA.
- C. **Personal Leaves:** Graduate students in degree programs may be granted a LOA for a maximum of one year throughout the course of their degree program by the Dean of the Graduate College. LOAs may be granted retroactively for up to one year. LOAs are granted on a case-by-case basis for compelling reasons including birth or adoption of a child, personal or family reasons, medical reasons, military duty, or financial hardship. Students will be readmitted without reapplying to the College of Nursing and the Graduate College at the expiration of the LOA. Only when the LOA is approved prior to the beginning of the semester for which the LOA is being sought will students be exempted from fees for that semester. Only academic services or facilities available to the general public can be used during the LOA.

LOAs may affect the status of a DNP student's financial aid. Students are responsible for determining the requirements of their funding agency and / or academic unit prior to applying for a LOA.

Failure to obtain a Leave of Absence or remain in continuous enrollment will result in penalties, as described in the [Continuous Enrollment](#) policy requirements.

DNP students are required to notify the Clinical Coordinators of the DNP Program of any LOA and how long the LOA will last. Because clinical placements are arranged 9-12 months in advance, students must continue to check their official UA email weekly throughout the LOA. Failure to check email weekly, submit clinical forms by the posted deadlines and communicate any clinical placement needs to the Clinical Coordinator may delay clinical placement and progression in the DNP program.

To request an LOA from the College of Nursing, the student should first discuss their intent with their faculty advisor and propose an updated Plan of Study to complete their coursework. If the faculty advisor supports the request, a written request should be forwarded to Graduate Student Services in the Office of Student Affairs via email to CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu. A Coordinator from Graduate Student Services will assist the student in completing the required form for submission to the Graduate College. This includes the written approval of the Program Director. The student will receive confirmation from the Graduate College if the request is approved.

Timelines for Satisfactory Progression & Degree Completion

The College of Nursing enforces the Graduate College's [Time Limitation Policy](#). All requirements for the degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice must be completed within 5 years of passing the Comprehensive

Examination. Should a student not finish within that time period, he or she may be allowed to re-take the Comprehensive Examination with permission of the Curriculum and Instruction Support-Doctor of Nursing Practice (CIS-DNP) College of Nursing, and then proceed to complete other requirements, e.g., the Practice Inquiry (PI).

Satisfactory progression in the doctoral program is expected of all students. Students will be reviewed annually and assessed for satisfactory progression. The following performance benchmarks have been developed to assist faculty and students to determine satisfactory progression. Failure to meet these benchmarks may trigger a review by the DNP Committee. Failure to progress satisfactorily may result in dismissal from the program.

- **Completion of coursework per the Plan of Study:** Students are expected to maintain enrollment and to complete their plans of study as outlined. All students must complete the Plan of Study as developed with the faculty advisor. If the student wishes to change the Plan of Study in a way that will impact the timeline to complete their coursework, the student must consult with the faculty advisor and identify a new timeline for completion
- **Timeline for coursework to comprehensive examinations:** Students are expected to successfully complete their comprehensive examinations within two academic year semesters following completion of coursework.
- **Time line for comprehensive examinations to PI proposal:** Students are expected to successfully present their PI proposal within two academic year semesters following completion of the comprehensive examinations.
- **Time line for PI proposal presentation to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process:** Students are expected to submit their PI proposal for IRB approval within six months following their PI proposal defense, which includes committee approval.
- **Time line for PI presentation (final defense):** Students are expected to successfully present their PI presentation (final defense) within two years following their proposal presentation.

Doctoral Residency Requirement

To meet the minimum Graduate College [Residence Requirement](#), the student must complete a minimum of 30 units of graduate credit in residence at The University of Arizona (9 units of practice inquiry plus 21 units of regular graded coursework taken at The University of Arizona). Regular graded coursework includes all units except for NURS 922 Practice Inquiry units. "In residence" is defined as units offered by The University of Arizona, whether or not they are offered on campus.

Continuous Enrollment Policy / Minimum Enrollment

All students must complete the Plan of Study as developed with the faculty advisor. If the student wishes to change the Plan of Study in a way that will impact the timeline to complete their coursework, the student must consult with the faculty advisor and identify a new timeline for completion.

DNP students must maintain [Continuous Enrollment](#) as defined by the Graduate College's policy. The policy requires that the student must register for a minimum of 3 graduate units each fall and spring term until the completion of all course requirements, comprehensive examinations and the completion of 9 units of practice inquiry. When the above requirements are met, doctoral students not on financial assistance and/or needing to maintain appropriate visa status must register for a minimum of 1 unit each semester until final copies of the dissertation are submitted to the Graduate College.

While DNP students are not required to maintain [Full-Time Graduate Student Status](#), student financial aid may require full-time status. DNP Students receiving funding such as assistantships, fellowships, loans, grants, scholarships or traineeships may be required by their funding source to register for more than 1 unit to meet full-time status requirements, and should check with their program advisor regarding such requirements to ensure that they remain qualified for funding.

If DNP students will be working with faculty during the summer term and using university facilities or resources, the student must register for a minimum of 1 unit and obtain approval from the faculty who will be advising the student. The student and advisor should discuss the number of units required for registration, relative to the activity. Students must be registered for a minimum of 1 unit if they are defending the dissertation during a summer session.

If hired on an assistantship, students must register for six (6) graduate level units (not including audit).

Successful completion of the DNP program requires substantial time commitment. Time commitment includes time spent on homework, assigned readings, online discussion participation, clinical rotations and in personal study. The College of Nursing uses the University of Arizona's policies on the [Definition of a Unit of Credit](#) when determining assigned credits relative to course content.

Non-Enrollment & Readmission to the College of Nursing DNP Program

Students who have been granted an approved Leave of Absence and who return within the approved time period, do not have to apply for readmission.

Students who were previously enrolled in the DNP degree program but have not been officially enrolled for one regular semester or more must re-apply for admission. Readmission requires approval by the DNP Committee and the DNP Program Director or DNP Program Administrator. Only students in good standing will be reviewed for readmission. The student must also reapply for admission to the [Graduate College](#).

Students who do not enroll before the 5th week of courses for each fall and spring term may be withdrawn from the University's systems because of non-enrollment. Graduate Student Services will attempt to contact any student not on an approved Leave of Absence who does not enroll for the next term via email during the first 5 weeks of the term via email.

Students who do not respond to email contact will be sent a formal letter to their address of record in UAccess. If no response is received, the student may be dismissed from the program.

Appeal of Decision of Unsatisfactory Progress

In accordance with College of Nursing policy, the student has a right to initiate a written appeal to the DNP Committee for the unsatisfactory progress decision during the 5 week period following written notification of disqualification from the program. The second and final level of appeal is to the College of Nursing Dean / Dean's designee.

DNP Benchmarks

Committees

There are three types of committees that are vitally important to DNP students. Students can change committee members at any time. The committee that assists with program planning is often the committee that conducts the written and oral portions of the comprehensive examination. Students always have the right to alter their committee as their scholarly interests or needs indicate. Faculty also has the right to remove themselves from a student's committee. This may occur if the faculty member is retiring, going on sabbatical or if the faculty member is not interested in or feels unqualified in assisting with the student's scholarly interests.

Advising/Comprehensive Examination Committee

The Advising/Comprehensive Examination Committee is formed by the end of the first year of coursework. The committee will meet for the first time either virtually or in person at the beginning of the second year of coursework. The purpose of this Committee is to guide the student through the coursework in the Plan of Study and to supervise the Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations.

For this Committee, the College of Nursing requires a minimum of 3 committee members. The committee is usually comprised of the faculty advisor, one member from an advanced practice specialty area and one member representing one of the student's interests.

The Committee Chair and one additional member must be tenured, tenure track or tenure-track equivalent. The third member may be tenured, tenure-track or tenure-track equivalent, or a special approved member. Special members must be pre-approved by the Dean of the Graduate College. Any members beyond the third can also be tenured, tenure-track, tenure-track equivalent or special approved members.

Procedures for special member approval are below. The full Graduate College [Comprehensive Examination Committee Policy](#) is available online.

Practice Inquiry Committee

The student will form the PI Committee by the time the student completes the written comprehensive examination. The PI Committee consists of a Chairperson, one member from an advanced practice specialty area, and another member representing the student's topic of inquiry. The PI Committee may be the same committee as the student's Advising/Comprehensive Examination Committee, or the student may choose to reorganize the committee.

The Graduate College and the College of Nursing require a minimum of three PI Committee members. Two members, including the Chairperson, must be tenured, tenure-track, or tenure-track equivalent. The third member may be tenured, tenure-track, tenure-track equivalent or a special approved member. Special members must be pre-approved by the Dean of the Graduate College. Any members beyond the third can also be tenured, tenure-track, tenure-track equivalent or special approved members. All PI Committee members are expected to attend the final PI Presentation (defense).

Special Members

Special members are either non-University of Arizona professionals or current University of Arizona employees who do not hold an active tenure-track faculty position whose knowledge, skills or experience may compliment the other members of the student's Advising/Comprehensive Examination or PI Committee. Special members must be educated at a doctoral level and have applicable skills and knowledge to apply to the student's work. Special members may be faculty at other institutions or employed by other government entities or the private sector.

To seek special member approval, the student must obtain the approval of the committee chair. Once the committee chair has reviewed the special member's Curriculum Vitae (CV), the faculty advisor should review the CV with the DNP Program Director or Program Administrator. If the Program Director or Administrator approves of the special member request, the individual's CV is forwarded as a PDF attachment to Graduate Student Services (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu) in the Office of Student Affairs. Graduate Student Services will submit the CV and Special Member Request to the Dean of the Graduate College for final approval. If approved, the Graduate College will send an email to Graduate Student Services with the decision and notification that the special member will be made available for use on relevant GradPath forms.

DNP Comprehensive Examination

The DNP Comprehensive Examination policy is based upon the importance of ensuring the competence of DNP students in advanced practice knowledge, scholarly inquiry for evaluating and improving health care delivery, and health policy formation.

Before admission to DNP degree candidacy, the student must pass a general examination in the chosen field of study. This examination is intended to test the student's comprehensive knowledge of the advanced practice registered nurse role and core competencies and DNP Essentials, both in breadth across the general field of study, and in depth within the specialty focus of the area of practice. The examination consists of a written and an oral examination. The student must be registered during the term in which they take all comprehensive examinations.

The Written Comprehensive Examination Policy and Procedure⁶

The written comprehensive examination consists of evaluation of the student's DNP Portfolio, which includes the annual self-reflections completed throughout the coursework phase of the program and the Final Self-Reflection Synthesis. A comprehensive checklist for all DNP Portfolio requirements is available in Doctoral Commons in D2L, as well as exemplars of the annual self-reflections and the Final Self Reflection Synthesis. The Advisory/Comprehensive Examination Committee will evaluate the DNP Portfolio no earlier than during the semester in which the student completes NURS 693A Residency. The written comprehensive examination must be completed successfully to proceed to the oral comprehensive examination.

Preparation for the Written Examination

The student's Advisory/Comprehensive Examination Committee members meet with the student to review the student's plan of study. This meeting enables the committee to determine the student's scholarly and practice interests. The written portion of the Comprehensive Examination is to be based on completed coursework, not the student's planned PI; however, in the Final Self-Reflection Synthesis, the student also should demonstrate the ability to integrate and synthesize knowledge within the context of their scholarly and practice interests.

Prior to scheduling the written examination, the student must complete all forms in GradPath up to, and including, the Comp Examination Committee Appointment Form. Approval of this form is required to proceed with the comprehensive examination.

Scheduling the Written Examination

Students should schedule the written comprehensive examination only after conferring with their Advisory/Comprehensive Examination Committee. The student is responsible for contacting the Chair of examination this committee at least 3 weeks prior to the requested examination start date to schedule the examination. The student should confirm the start date and submission date with the committee one week prior to the start of the examination.

⁶ G: Academic Affairs_ DNP Program_ DNP Comprehensive Examination Policy 3.8.10. Approved by Faculty Association 3-8-10. Rev 9-14-10. Approved by CIS-ASP_10-4-10. Admin Rev Rigney/ Badger 1-28-11, Rigney/ Badger 9-12-11, Rigney/ Badger 10-25-11. Admin rev, Gallek CIS/DNP Chair12-2-11. Admin rev, Rigney 4-5-12. Approved by DNP Committee 4-6-12.

Procedure for the Written Examination

The written comprehensive examination will take the form of a take-home examination.

Taking the Written Examination

Students will have 7 calendar days to complete the written examination. Students may contact the Advisory/Comprehensive Examination Committee Chair or designee with any questions regarding the examination. The student's written examination will take the form of a portfolio evaluation, which includes the Final Self-Reflection Synthesis. In that paper, the student must demonstrate integration and synthesis of all coursework and practice immersion activities, referencing extant literature to demonstrate both depth and breadth of knowledge. The Final Self-Reflection Synthesis is to be no more than 5 single spaced pages, excluding cover sheet and references. APA format is required with a complete reference list.

By the end of the 7 day period, the student will assure that their DNP Portfolio is complete, including submission of the Final Self-Reflection Synthesis, \examination in the Portfolio Dropbox in D2L. At the same time, they should notify Graduate Student Services (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu) and the committee chair that their written examination is completed. The Turnitin feature is enabled for the Portfolio Dropbox, and all documents will be reviewed for an originality report upon submission.

Grading of the Written Examination

The committee chair will notify the committee members that the student's examination is available via the DNP Portfolio is available in D2L for grading. Committee members will find the grading sheet in the Faculty Only section of Doctoral Commons in D2L. The committee has 10 business days to grade the student's DNP Portfolio (including the Final Self-Reflection Synthesis). The DNP Comprehensive written Examination Grading Criteria sheet will be used by all committee members to score the written examination. The grading sheet also is available to students in the Graduate Student Services section of Doctoral Commons in D2L. Review of the grading sheet will provide students with the criteria used for grading the DNP Portfolio.

Results of the Written Examination

The committee chair notifies the student by email or phone of the results and forward's the committee's grading sheets with comments to the student via email. Upon completing the written portion of the examination, the committee chair will then send the completed form and grading sheets to Graduate Student Services (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu) where the results are saved in the student's permanent file.

Retaking the Written Examination

If the examination is not passed, the student may take an alternate version of the examination. The alternate examination must be taken no later than 3 months after the date of the first attempt, unless the committee requires remediation. Failure to pass the written comprehensive examination on the second attempt will result in the student's disqualification from the DNP program.

The Oral Comprehensive Examination

The oral comprehensive examination will be based on the student's DNP Portfolio, as well as addressing relevant questions related to all course work foundational to the student's development as an expert in specialized advanced nursing practice and their ability to conduct the PI.

Scheduling the Oral Examination

The oral examination must be taken within 3 months of successfully passing the written comprehensive examination. The student should consult with all members of their Advisory/Comprehensive Examination Committee to determine a date and time for the oral examination. The student may schedule the dates and times for both the written and oral portions of the comprehensive examination at the same time with permission of the committee.

As soon as a date and time are agreed upon, the student must notify Graduate Student Services via email (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu) so that a room may be reserved for the examination. The student should reserve the room at least 6 weeks in advance of their scheduled examination. Students who will complete the oral examination via teleconferencing, e.g., via WebEx, must still reserve a room in the College of

Nursing as required by the Announcement of Doctoral Comprehensive Examination form in GradPath. The Announcement form must be approved prior to the oral examination.

Taking the Examination

The oral examination will be conducted, either onsite or via teleconferencing, as arranged by the student and the committee, following procedures put forward by the Graduate College. The oral examination must be at least one hour in length. All committee members must be present for the entire examination. The Graduate College [Oral Comprehensive Examination Policy](#) is available for reference and download by both faculty and student at any time. The file includes faculty instructions on recording the results of the examination.

The examination is conducted in closed session. It is not open to the public. All members must be in attendance for the entire examination which must be at least one hour in length, but not exceed three hours. At the conclusion of the Oral Comprehensive Examination (and after the student has left the room), discussion of the student's performance is initiated. Each member of the examination committee is expected to evaluate the student's performance on the basis of the examination **as a whole**, not just on a particular area of questioning or only on his/her own field of specialization.

Results of the Oral Examination:

A student *passes or fails* the Oral Comprehensive Examination. Regardless of outcome, the Chair must record the results of the examination (including results of the written examination) on the Results of Comprehensive Examination form in GradPath. The Chair will receive an email with a link to this form when the student's Announcement form is approved prior to the oral examination.

If the student fails, the Committee has two options which need to be noted in GradPath. The option to be followed is determined by a majority vote of the Committee.

Option 1: Repeat the Oral Comprehensive Examination

Option 2: The Committee votes not to recommend a repeat examination

Retaking the Oral Examination

The oral examination may be repeated once if not passed initially. Failure to pass the second examination will result in the student's disqualification from the program. No student will be permitted a second attempt to pass the Oral Comprehensive Examination unless it is recommended by the examining committee. The second examination, if approved, may not take place until four months after the date of the first examination.

No further coursework is required from students before a re-examination. If a re-examination is recommended, the committee members must be the same as those present at the first examination. If changes are made in the composition of the examination committee, they must be approved by the Graduate College prior to the examination.

Advancement to Candidacy

When the student has an approved doctoral Plan of Study on file with the Graduate College, has satisfied all course work, and passed the written and oral portions of the Comprehensive Examination, they will be "advanced to candidacy" by the Graduate College. The student's bursar account will be billed the fee for candidacy, dissertation processing, and archiving. This is a one-time fee and the student will not be billed again if they change their anticipated graduation date. Copyrighting is optional and carries an additional fee.

Once advanced to doctoral candidacy, students may use the term "DNP Candidate" for professional posters and slides. DNP students may not use the "DNPC" initials on any communication while in the program.

Practice Inquiry Committee Appointment

When the student has an approved doctoral Plan of Study on file, has satisfied all course work, language, and residence requirements, and passed the written and oral portions of the Comprehensive Examination, he or

she must file a Committee Appointment form. This form reports the student's planned PI Committee, PI title (subject to change) and the expected graduation term (may be updated as necessary).

Under normal circumstances, submission of the Committee Appointment Form is expected at least six months before the Final Practice Inquiry Presentation (Final Oral Examination). The Committee Appointment Form must be submitted in GradPath prior to the Defense of the Practice Inquiry Proposal.

DNP Practice Inquiry

After advancement to candidacy, DNP students must complete the PI to graduate from the program.

Practice Inquiry Proposal

The Practice Inquiry Proposal Presentation (defense) consists of a draft of the first portion of the PI (e.g., problem, background, significance, literature review, and methods), including references. When the PI Chairperson has approved the student's draft of the proposal the student will contact all committee members to set a date for the proposal meeting. The student is to provide committee members with copies of the proposal at least 2 weeks before the scheduled proposal meeting. The proposal must be submitted within two academic semesters following the completion of the written and oral comprehensive examinations. **The student has the option of completing the Practice Inquiry Proposal Presentation immediately following the Oral Comprehensive Examination with the permission of the committee.** The student must have an approved Doctoral Practice Inquiry Committee Appointment Form on file in GradPath prior to the meeting.

Following approval of the PI Proposal Presentation, the Chair will complete the Practice Inquiry Proposal Defense Form. The chair will confirm that the student has uploaded the final approved copy of the proposal to the D2L portfolio before obtaining the approval of the DNP Program Director or DNP Program Administrator. The final copy of this form will be forwarded to Graduate Student Services (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu) for inclusion with the student's official academic record. Receipt of this form will allow the updating of the student's Prospectus milestone in GradPath.

Completion of Research and Written Practice Inquiry

Research continues after the committee members approve the written PI Proposal. The student must be registered for NURS 922 units during this process. If the student's Chair is available, the student may continue coursework during the summer term.

The student should use the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) as a format guide in writing the dissertation. Other resources include the University of Arizona's Manual for Electronic Submission of Thesis and Dissertations.

Human Subjects & IRB Compliance

The student must process the proposed study through the Human Subjects Committee, before beginning data collection. Information regarding the Human Subjects process can be found via the [Office of Nursing Research's website](#).

Practice Inquiry Enrollment Policies

DNP students must enroll for a total of 9 units of PI (NURS 922) over the course of their program. If 9 units have been taken and the practice inquiry is not yet completed, students must register for additional units of NURS 922 each fall, spring, and possibly summer semesters, as determined by the student and the advisor, until the PI is complete.

Students engaged in the PI should review the Continuous Enrollment Policies of the [Graduate College](#) and the [University of Arizona](#). Students receiving funding such as assistantships, fellowships, loans, grants,

scholarships or traineeships may be required by their funding source to register for more than 1 unit to meet full-time status requirements, and should check with their funding source regarding such requirements to ensure that they remain qualified for funding.

Final Oral Defense (PI Presentation)

Each student is required to present the PI in an open forum upon completion. The Final Oral Defense consists of a presentation of the PI, questions and a closed session for the student and committee. The closed session follows the presentation, and allows the committee to discuss the PI with the student, and to identify any required revisions prior to submission.

Scheduling the Final Oral Defense

Once the committee feels the student is ready to present the PI, the student should coordinate a time and date for the presentation. After a date and time consensus is reached, it is the student's responsibility to contact Graduate Student Services via email (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu) to reserve a room and the necessary technology for the event. Students are encouraged to reserve room space within the first four weeks of the semester to ensure availability. If a student delays the final presentation, reservations can be cancelled.

Prior to the presentation, students must ensure that all GradPath forms are completed up to, and including, the **Announcement of Final Oral Defense (NURSDNP) Form**. Approval of this form will allow the chair to record the result of the presentation. For instructions on accessing GradPath, please visit Graduate Student Services within Doctoral Commons on D2L. Students may log back into GradPath to check the approval status of forms at any time. The routing path is available at the bottom of each form.

Required Materials

The student should provide the committee members with copies of the penultimate draft of the PI not less than 3 weeks prior to the scheduled date of the presentation. The penultimate draft of a practice inquiry must include:

- All parts of the PI: title page, table of contents, abstract, narrative, references and appendices
- Tables and illustrations typed or ready for professional drafting
- A copy of the Human Subjects Committee Approval form

Results of the Final Presentation (Oral Defense)

The presentation is conducted according to the [Graduate College's policies](#), with the PI Chair presiding. There is no minimum time limit for the Final Oral Examination, but the entire proceedings may not exceed three hours. Members of the committee must be present for the entire examination.

There are four possible outcomes of the examination:

- Pass
- Pass with minor PI revisions (only the Chairperson needs to approve the PI following revisions)
- Pass with major revisions (the entire committee needs to approve the PI following revisions)
- Fail

The Practice Inquiry Chair will record the results of the examination in GradPath on behalf of the committee.

All students have revisions to make after the final presentation. Students should allow a few weeks between presentation and final submission deadlines when scheduling a date.

College of Nursing Submission Requirements

The following requirements are also emailed to the student from Graduate Student Services when a date and time for the final defense is scheduled.

1. Students must submit a copy of the final, revised PI to Melinda Fletcher - Administrative Associate, Community and Systems Health Science Division or Muriel Davis - Administrative Associate, Biobehavioral Health Science Division, for review of formatting compliance with Graduate College/College of Nursing guidelines. Ms. Fletcher/Ms. Davis will contact both the student and the Office of Student Affairs once she approves of the formatting. Students are encouraged to contact the appropriate Administrative Associate prior to the final presentation for assistance with formatting.

2. Students must verify that the required arrangements have been made regarding Human Subjects. All signed consent documents must be submitted to the Office of Nursing Research (Dr. Alice Pasvogel) for storage.

- **If the PI required human subjects approval**, submit the appropriate paperwork to Dr. Pasvogel to conclude the project.
- **If the PI did not require human subjects approval**, contact Dr. Pasvogel with the following information: the title of the PI, the nature of the PI (systemic literature review, developed educational material, etc.) and how it was determined that IRB approval was not needed.

Dr. Pasvogel will notify the Office of Student Affairs once IRB requirements have been satisfied. Students are encouraged to submit the required documentation prior to the final presentation if at all possible.

3. Students must submit an electronic copy of the final, revised PI to the Office of Student Affairs (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu). The document must be submitted as one complete file in a PDF format.

4. Students must complete the online Thesis and Dissertation Agreement on the CON website at: <http://www.nursing.arizona.edu/scripts/ThesisLibraryAll.asp?qtype=DocTitle>. (Click on the link called "Submit My Document" and sign in using your CON username and password.) This online form **must be** filled out and students must either grant or deny permission for their work to be included in the digital repository (online library). The Office of Student Affairs will receive auto-notification once the agreement is submitted.

5. **Students must submit the final, revised PI to the Graduate College by the appropriate [Graduate College Degree Audit Date](#).** Miss this deadline, and the DNP degree will not be awarded for the current term. Students are encouraged to submit prior to the deadline to prevent last-minute errors.

6. Students must complete the DNP Portfolio as required throughout the program. The DNP Portfolio is complete when all required documents have been uploaded, including the final PDF copy of the student's approved and revised PI.

These steps must be completed in order to satisfy all College of Nursing requirements.

Graduate College Submission Requirements

The Graduate College has additional requirements for degree conferral. They are available from [Degree Certification](#).

Both College of Nursing AND Graduate College requirements must be met to receive the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

Graduation

After completion of all degree requirements, graduates are "Hooded" by their PI advisor and the Dean during the College of Nursing Convocation. Attendance at convocation is voluntary, but faculty and students are encouraged to attend. Hooding of doctoral students occurs at the August, December and May ceremonies.

Commencement and College Ceremony information is available online at: <http://commencement.arizona.edu/>.

After graduation, graduates may have access to transcripts of their academic and clinical achievements and upon their request have verified copies furnished a destination of the student's choice via the University of Arizona Registrar. A fee may be charged for photocopying or processing of all transcripts and records.

Records retained by the program after graduation may include grades, certification examination applications, special awards or honors, licenses and certifications (RN, ACLS), etc.

Graduates have the right to expect that a complete, accurate transcript of student educational experiences will be forwarded to the appropriate certification body upon graduation. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to take any post-graduation certification exams.

DNP Program Requirements

Plan of Study

All doctoral students need to complete and submit a doctoral Plan of Study to the Graduate College by the end of the third semester of coursework. The Plan of Study includes any applicable transfer work from other institutions, intended University of Arizona Coursework and expected graduation term. The full summary of the Plan of Study is available from the [Graduate College](#).

The Plan of Study is completed using GradPath, and requires the approval of the student's faculty advisor and the DNP Program Director before being routed to the Graduate College.

Transfer of Graduate Courses from Other Institutions⁷

DNP students may transfer credits from previous graduate programs for use toward the DNP degree. Students entering the DNP program with previous Master's level work may transfer in up to 9 units of coursework toward the DNP degree. Students transferring from other DNP programs are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and may exceed the 9 unit limit.

Students who wish to transfer credit must follow the procedure as outlined below:

Prior to requesting the transfer or substitution of credits into the program, the student must review the policies in the student handbook regarding the maximum number of transferrable units. DNP students have three options for using prior coursework toward the DNP degree:

- 1) **Transfers:** courses from previous programs used to meet elective course requirements
- 2) **Substitutions:** courses from previous programs used to replace a CON-required core course
- 3) **Course waivers:** see policy (included later in the handbook). Course waivers apply only to MS to DNP students who are currently Board Certified Nurse Practitioners. *The course waiver policy is separate from the transfer and substitution process.*

Transfer and substitution requests are processed after accepting an offer of admission to the DNP program, usually prior to RISE in August. The student must fill out the **Petition to Transfer/Apply a Substitution Form** (available on Doctoral Commons in D2L, under Graduate Student Services), and provide the required course syllabi documentation. All documents must be received via email as PDF documents, or they will not be reviewed.

In order to be eligible for transfer or substitution, coursework must:

- Be less than 6 years old at the time of transfer
- Be graduate-level coursework
- Be available on the student's official transcript with a grade of "A" or "B" (grades of "P" or "S" are not accepted by the Graduate College for transfer)

The process for transfer or substitution requests is as follows:

- 1) The student collects the appropriate syllabi for review. If the student experiences difficulties locating the appropriate documentation, the student should contact Graduate Student Services (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu) in the Office of Student Affairs for assistance.
- 2) The student reviews College of Nursing course descriptions to make recommendations for substitution (exact exchange for a required core course) or transfer (elective credits toward degree) to discuss with faculty advisor. Course descriptions are available via the [University of Arizona Catalog](#). Students

⁷ G: Academic Affairs_ DNP Program_ Transfer of Graduate Courses From Other Institutions Policy. Approved by Office of Student Affairs, Director of DNP Program & Administrator of DNP Program _9-22-11.

should choose the appropriate academic year catalog, and then the “course descriptions” link in the left hand navigation bar.

- 3) The student works with the faculty advisor to review the coursework to determine if the coursework is appropriate for transfer or substitution to the DNP program. The faculty advisor may also confer with the DNP Program Director or DNP Program Administrator with questions or concerns.
 - a. If the faculty advisor determines that the coursework is appropriate for **transfer**, the faculty advisor assists the student in completing the Petition to Transfer/Apply a Substitution. The completed form is forwarded to Graduate Student Services (GSS) for inclusion with the student’s file, and updating of the GSS Transfer Coursework Database.
 - b. If the faculty advisor determines that the coursework may be appropriate for **substitution** as a CON-required core course, the faculty advisor directs the student to Graduate Student Services (GSS) (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu) after the student has filled out the Petition to Transfer/Apply a Substitution Form.
 - i. GSS will forward the completed form and syllabi to the appropriate course chair for evaluation
 - ii. Upon review and completion, GSS will notify the student of the result, and update the GSS Transfer Coursework Database.
- 4) Upon notification of approval, the student will fill out the Transfer Credit Form in GradPath. Instructions for using GradPath are located in Doctoral Commons on D2L.
- 5) The Graduate College’s Degree Auditor will review the official transcripts to confirm the grade and validity of the coursework and approve (or deny) the units for use on the Plan of Study.

Transfer of Graduate Courses from Other UA College of Nursing Programs

Graduates of the University Of Arizona College Of Nursing’s Master’s Entry to the Profession of Nursing (MEPN) program may transfer the following coursework into the DNP program:

- NURS 511 (Nursing Informatics from Concepts to Practice) cannot be used as a substitution; a student may wish to transfer this course as a 2 credit elective toward program completion.
- NURS 512 (Nursing Research for Evidence Based Practice) may be substituted for NURS 652 (Methods of Scholarly Inquiry).
- NURS 513 (Leading and Managing in Organizational Systems) cannot be used as a substitution; a student may wish to transfer this course as an elective toward program completion.

Students completing the MEPN program are limited to 9 total units of transfer work, including coursework from prior College of Nursing programs.

Waiver of Graduate Courses for Current Nurse Practitioners⁸

The Course Waiver policy applies only to students entering the DNP program or obtaining a post-Master’s certificate who are currently practicing Nurse Practitioners seeking a different specialty. Each student petitioning to waive courses must fill out the Course Waiver Worksheet, available in Doctoral Commons on D2L. Once the course waiver form is complete, the student will email the form to Graduate Student Services (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu). Graduate Student Services will forward the completed worksheet to the DNP Administrator or Director for evaluation.

The following courses are eligible for waiver requests:

⁸ Post-Master’s Certificate Course Waiver Request Policy drafted 12.9.05. Approved by Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Joyceen Boyle 12.9.05. Revised by Dr. Ted Rigney, Director, DNP Program 8.12.10. Approved by Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Terry Badger 9.12.10. Revised by Dr. Ted Rigney, Director, DNP Program 3.8.12. Approved by Dr. Terry Badger 3.8.12. Revised by A. Gluski, Office of Student Affairs 10.18.12. Approved by Drs. Terry Badger and Ted Rigney 10.18.12. Formatted/revised by A. Gluski, Office of Student Affairs 7.12.13. Updated by T. Rigney 7.13.13.

NURS 572 Pharmacotherapeutics for Nurse Practitioners (3 hrs)

This course may be waived* if the student has taken a 3 hour graduate pharmacology course within the last three (3) years, or has prescriptive authority from their State Board of Nursing. NURS 501, or its equivalent, is a prerequisite for NURS 572.

NURS 501 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology (4 hrs)

This course may be waived* if the student has taken a 4 hour graduate pathophysiology course in the last four (4) years. If student has taken a 2-3 hour pathophysiology course in the last four years or their graduate pathophysiology course was taken longer than four (4) years ago, he or she may request to take an Independent Study for 1-2 credit hours from faculty teaching NURS 501, to equal a minimum of 4 hours of graduate pathophysiology coursework.

If the student has taken a graduate pathophysiology course longer than four (4) years ago and is *not* currently practicing as an NP, they must enroll in NURS 501 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology.

NURS 609A Health Assessment (3 hrs)

This course may be waived* if student has taken a 3 hour graduate health assessment course in the last five (5) years, or is currently practicing in a role where health assessment skills are utilized.

Additional Policies

There is no University credit given for certification or experience in an advanced practice role. Students pursuing a Post-Master's certificate or the DNP degree are seeking new certification which has new clinical and course requirements.

All clinical courses must be taken in appropriate sequence and adhere to the pre and co-requisites. For example, the sequence of courses for the FNP would be: NURS 620A/612, NURS 620B, and then NURS 693a.

Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate Program:

- If the student holds certification as an Adult Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, NURS 629b may be waived.
- If the student holds certification as a Child and Adolescent Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, NURS 629c and NURS 693 may be waived.

DNP Portfolio

DNP students must maintain and complete a digital portfolio. DNP portfolios are housed in the online course system, Desire 2 Learn (D2L). Each student will see their portfolio as a course in D2L. Students in the doctoral programs must complete their portfolio annually. Students are required to submit specific items as coursework is completed to demonstrate progression toward degree completion, including an Annual Self-Reflection. Students should review and complete the DNP Checklist in the DNP Portfolio at the end of every spring semester. Faculty will evaluate this portfolio annually to determine adequate progression toward degree completion.

GradPath

GradPath is the Graduate College's nearly paperless process that will make tracking and monitoring the required Graduate College paperwork much easier. Students will be able to fill in and submit forms online through UAccess Student. Forms have automatic checking built in that will prevent common errors (e.g., typos in course numbers, illegible faculty names, etc.). The automated workflow engine will route the electronic forms to everyone who needs to see or approve each form (faculty advisor, program chair, etc.)—each approver is notified by email when a form is awaiting review and approval. Students may log into UAccess at any time to review the status of individual forms.

Completing forms in GradPath is required to progress through the DNP program, and for ultimate awarding of the DNP Degree. A full explanation of GradPath, including detailed access and use instructions, can be found in the College of Nursing's Doctoral Commons area, under Graduate Student Services.

RISE & On-Campus Program Requirements

RISE is the acronym for "Resident Intensive Summer Experience." RISE is held on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson for 5-10 days in August, prior to the beginning of the fall term or in May in the beginning of the summer term. During RISE, students are immersed in intensive scholarly, role or clinical laboratory experiences punctuated with time for meeting with advisors and committee members. Students have opportunities to become acquainted with other students, faculty and staff, to learn to use a variety of instructional technologies and to learn more about their program and the College of Nursing. Students are **required** to attend RISE either two or three times, depending on their program.

In addition to RISE attendance requirements, DNP students must participate in practical experiences at the College of Nursing in Tucson. Combined with RISE, all on-campus required events include:

- On-campus annually the week prior to the fall semester for RISE I and RISE II
- On-campus laboratory sessions and seminars the weekend prior to the start of the semester NURS 609a Health Assessment is offered, **as well as at the end of the course (near the end of the semester).**
- On-campus laboratory sessions and seminars during the beginning of the student's second clinical course. Depending on specialty, that would be for course NURS 615, 620b or 642b.

Transferring Between Doctoral Programs within the College of Nursing

Students wishing to transfer from one doctoral program to another (PhD to DNP or DNP to PhD) must be in good academic standing in their current doctoral program. Students should first meet with their faculty advisor to discuss the transfer, and then the following documentation must be provided to the appropriate program committee for review:

- A. The student provides a letter requesting the change that contains:
 - a. Requested option
 - b. Rationale for changing options:
 - c. What the student plans to do after obtaining their doctoral degree
 - d. Anticipated area of research or practice inquiry
 - e. Question to be answered by research or practice inquiry
- B. The student's advisor provides a letter of support.
- C. An identified potential mentor in the "receiving" option provides a second letter of support, indicating their willingness to mentor the student.
- D. Requests for transfer must be submitted no later than one month prior to the end of the semester.
- E. The PhD or DNP committee will review the request at their next scheduled meeting and notify the student and advisor of their decision. The student should then notify the Office of Student Affairs of the change and schedule a meeting with their advisory committee to discuss any changes in the Plan of Study. The transfer will take effect the semester following the approval.

Procedure for Changing to Dual Degrees (DNP, PhD) Option⁹

⁹ Drafted 10/15/10 by Terry Badger, Judith Effken, Carolyn Murdaugh, & Vickie Radoye
Discussed and Supported by Admission and Progression of Students-Advanced Specialty Practice Subcommittee on 10/19/10
Discussed and Supported by the Joint Advanced Specialty Practice and Advanced Science Committees on May 3, 2011.

Currently enrolled PhD or DNP students who request admission to the dual degrees (DNP, PhD) option must be in good academic standing in the currently enrolled doctoral program and must satisfy both the DNP and PhD admission and enrollment requirements. Students should first meet with their faculty advisor to discuss their interest in seeking dual degrees.

Students requesting admission to the dual degree should submit the materials listed below to Graduate Student Services (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu) in the Office of Student Affairs. The materials will be forwarded to the appropriate committee for approval. For example, DNP students requesting admission to the dual degrees option will be reviewed by the PhD committee. PhD students requesting admission to the dual degree will be reviewed by the DNP committee.

Application Procedure

- A. The student writes a letter that contains the following:
 - a. Request to complete the dual degrees
 - b. Rationale for requesting the dual degrees option, documenting:
 - i. Career plans
 - ii. How the two degrees will help attain career goals
 - iii. Planned area of research
 - c. Potential research advisor for the proposed research
- B. The student's advisor writes a letter of support.
- C. The identified potential research advisor also writes a letter of support, indicating his/her willingness to work with the student. Note: if the student's current advisor and identified research advisor will be the same person, only one letter is needed.
- D. The request is submitted to the Chairperson of the appropriate committee no earlier than the first four weeks of student's second semester in the program.
- E. The designated committee reviews all relevant materials at the next scheduled meeting and notifies the student, advisor, Office of Student Affairs and the other doctoral committee of the decision to recommend admission to the Graduate College to the dual degrees option.

Post-Approval Procedure

- A. Apply to the Graduate College for Fall term admission to the doctoral program to which he/she is not officially admitted (e.g., if currently enrolled in DNP, application is for PhD or vice versa). This means that submission of an additional Graduate College application is needed; however new transcripts may not need to be resubmitted if copies were submitted earlier to the Graduate College.
- B. Schedule a meeting with the new advisory committee to revise the current Plan of Study to incorporate the added doctoral coursework.

Dual-Degree Program Requirements

Students pursuing the dual degree (DNP/PhD) option must adhere to additional requirements to complete the program.

Committees

Dual Degree students will have the same committee membership and structure as PhD students. Committee membership is outlined in detail in the PhD Student Handbook.

Plans of Study

Dual Degree students must review the information regarding the Plan of Study, available in either the PhD or DNP student handbooks.

Because the Dual Degree student is completing both the PhD and DNP, a Plan of Study for each degree is required. If the student is seeking specialty as a Nurse Practitioner, a third document will be required. The following requirements must be met for the Doctoral Plans of Study:

- 45 units of coursework, which includes the minor units (PhD Plan of Study)
- 34 units of coursework (DNP Plan of Study; regardless of BSN or MS entry into the program)

Dual Degree students may use up to 17 units in common between both the DNP and PhD Plans of Study.

Only coursework is reported on the Plan of Study. Dual Degree students must also complete:

- 18 units of Dissertation (NURS 920)
- 6 units of Practice Inquiry (NURS 922)

The student should complete no less than 86 units total.

Portfolio Completion

The Dual Degree student must complete both the PhD and DNP Portfolios. Specific requirements for each program's portfolios are available in the DNP and PhD Student Handbooks.

Comprehensive Examinations

The student will take a single set of comprehensive examinations to include both a written and oral examination. The written examination will consist of an evaluation of the portfolio (practice components) and writtens that address the DNP program outcomes and meeting the DNP competencies for practice. In addition, the student will take writtens that examine theoretical, substantive and methodological content of the major, and minor content of the minor. After successfully completing the writtens the student will schedule an oral examination to be examined using the same procedure as outlined by the Graduate College. The committee structure will be the same as any dissertation examination committee, to include faculty that represent the major and the minor. One faculty member will be a doctorally prepared NP because of the combined nature of the examination. All knowledge gained from coursework, including practice coursework, will be 'fair game' to discuss in orals.

Dissertation (Final Project)

Dual Degree students complete the PhD Dissertation. Dual Degree students are expected to integrate clinical relevance into the dissertation, and include both DNP and PhD perspectives.

Student Resources

Instructional Technology Requirements

Students are required to have basic computer knowledge prior to enrolling in the DNP program. All DNP students are expected to review, and meet, the criteria on the [Technology Checklist](#). This includes, but is not limited to:

- Basic familiarity with internet and email use
- Access to a dependable computer (iPads and tablets are not recommended) with video and webcam capabilities
- Consistent access to the internet for course completion
- Access to or ownership of a quality printer

Upon admission, all students are given an official University of Arizona email address (@email.arizona.edu). Email sent to this address can be checked remotely, or forwarded to the student's personal email or phone. This address must be checked daily, as it is the official source of communication between faculty, staff and students. Students are responsible for all program updates and requests sent to this address.

All technology related issues should be directed to the Information Technology Group, located in room 351 at the College of Nursing. E-mail help@nursing.arizona.edu or call 520-626-5053 or 1-866-278-1427.

Faculty Advisor

The role of the faculty advisor is to mentor and guide the student throughout the program of study. The advisor will guide the student to determine the plan for completing the degree requirements, facilitate accessing resources of the University and the College of Nursing, and assist the student in understanding relevant policies and procedures. The faculty advisor may or may not be the chairperson of the student's comprehensive examination or Practice Inquiry committee.

Students may change faculty advisors as their research or professional interests change. In order to change advisors, the student must complete the DNP/PhD Program: Change of Advisor Form. The form is available in Doctoral Commons on D2L. Approval from the student's current and new advisor is required, as well as the PhD Program Director. Routing instructions are included on the form.

Office of Student Affairs & Graduate Student Services

The Office of Student Affairs works collaboratively to support the educational mission of the College of Nursing. The Office of Student Affairs is responsible for student services including current student academic advising, recruitment, admissions, progression, academic support services, graduation, student-centered events and College of Nursing scholarships.

Graduate Student Services is located within the Office of Student Affairs in the College of Nursing. Graduate Student Services Coordinators assist students with non-academic procedures and concerns. The Coordinators complement the role of the faculty advisor to ensure students' timely completion to graduation. The Coordinators assist students with admissions and progression issues, paperwork and procedures for comprehensive examinations, dissertations/practice inquiries, and graduation, as well as coordinating student events.

Students may contact the Coordinators via email (CON-OSA-Advanced@email.arizona.edu) or by calling 520-626-3808.

Office of Academic Practice

The Office of Academic Practice (OAP) supports DNP students in the successful completion of clinical practica. The OAP is responsible for assuring students have current Registered Nurse licensure, a valid

fingerprint clearance card, current Basic Life Support certification and have completed all required immunizations and screening tests. The OAP maintains this documentation on file throughout the course of a student's program of study. The Clinical Affairs Coordinators are located in the OAP and manage all clinical placements, verifies preceptor and clinical agency suitability, contacts potential preceptors and secures contracts with the preceptors and their clinical agencies. Specific clinical policies may be found in Doctoral Commons on D2L.

Doctoral Commons

Doctoral Commons is the College of Nursing's resource center for doctoral students. Each DNP student will find Doctoral Commons as an ongoing course in their D2L listing. Doctoral Commons is designed to provide students with the required forms listed in the student handbook, as well as helpful guides to completing the required benchmarks. Students will also find many handouts and videos to assist them throughout the program.

Appendix A: DNP Essentials & Written Comprehensive Grading Information

Rationale for the DNP Written Comprehensive Examination

The DNP Comprehensive Examination process reflects an evaluation of individual student achievement that is reflective of the *Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice* (AACN, 2006) and the *Criteria for the Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs* (NTF/NONPF, 2008). The DNP Comprehensive Examination process includes providing evidence of the attainment of advanced practice registered nurse role and core competencies, as well as competencies specific to the specialty focus of the area of practice.

The purpose of the Comprehensive Examination is to evaluate the student's progression to Doctoral Candidacy, specifically assessing readiness to complete the Practice Inquiry. The Comprehensive Examination is a doctoral milestone, and is not tied to licensure as a nurse practitioner.

The DNP Comprehensive Examination includes both a written and oral examination. The written examination consists of a portfolio, which includes a Final Self-Reflection Synthesis that demonstrates the student's ability to integrate and synthesize coursework and practice immersion activities in meeting each of the DNP Program Outcomes, which are linked to the DNP Essentials and competencies specific to the specialty focus. The written examination is to be based on completed coursework, not the student's planned Practice Inquiry; however, in the Final Self Reflection Synthesis, the student also should demonstrate the ability to integrate and synthesize knowledge within the context of their scholarly and practice interests.

The Portfolio (Written Comprehensive Examination)

The student will use an electronic portfolio to demonstrate their developing competencies throughout the program. The portfolio is reflective of knowledge and skills attained during required coursework and serves as the data to be evaluated for the written comprehensive examination. The written comprehensive examination may be taken in the semester in which the last of the coursework is being completed.

For each 'core' course, the student will include examples of practice or theoretical/ methodological scholarship completed in the course. Practice scholarship can be represented by providing case examples, including evidence-based practice for care management and other examples of meeting the practice hours required for advanced nursing practice certification.

The student will write a self-reflection annually, as well as a Final Self-Reflection Synthesis during the written comprehensive examination, discussing how their coursework and practice immersion activities have advanced their achievement in meeting each of the DNP Program Outcomes, which are linked to the DNP Essentials and competencies specific to the specialty focus.

Because students will be entering the DNP program with varying levels of clinical expertise, including BSN or Master's preparation with or without advanced practice certification, the portfolio should reflect the evolving advanced practice expertise of the student. The following table lists Practice Inquiry development and the CCNE competencies for DNP education together with expected evidence from course materials and the year (for full time study) that a student would reasonably be expected to achieve them:

Comprehensive Examination Content Matrix

Expectation	Suggested Evidence Source(s)	When Expected
I. Application of scientific underpinnings to practice. Practice Inquiry.	Theory course papers/ projects (e.g., NURS 705 & 706); practice residency)	Years 1 - 2; Practice Inquiry
II. Application of organizational and systems leadership for quality improvement and systems thinking	Leadership/ Organizational management; informatics course papers/ projects (e.g., NUS 646 & NURS 650); practice residency	Years 1, 3

III. Application of clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice	Methods of scholarly inquiry; evaluation methods for safety & practice; statistics courses papers/ projects (e.g., NURS 630, 631, 652, 738, 752) papers/ projects; practice residency	Years 1- 3
IV. Application of information systems/technology and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care	Informatics course papers/ projects (e.g., NURS 646) papers/ projects; practice residency	Years 1, 3
V. Application of healthcare policy for Advocacy in health care	Policy and economics course papers/ projects (e.g. NURS 642) papers/ projects; practice residency	Years 1, 3
VI. Application of interprofessional collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes	Emerging diseases & population health; evaluation methods for safety & practice course papers/ projects (e.g., NURS 752, 753) and course papers/ case studies/ clinical notes from clinical courses specific to the population focus of the student's area of study (e.g., NURS 615, 616, 620a, 620b, 642a, 642b, 642c); practice residency	Years 2 – 3
VII. Application of clinical prevention and population health for improving the Nation's health	Emerging diseases & population health; genetics/genomics course papers/ projects (e.g., NURS 644, 753)	Year 2
VIII. Application of advanced practice competencies (for BS-DNP and MS-DNP with Specialty options)	Advanced physiology and pathophysiology, advanced pharmacotherapeutics, advanced health assessment course papers/ projects (e.g., NURS 501, 572, 609a) and course papers/ case studies/ clinical notes from clinical courses specific to the population focus of the student's area of study (e.g., NURS 615, 616, 620a, 620b, 642a, 642b, 642c); practice residency	Years 2 – 3
Certification Examination results	For those currently certified and licensed as advanced practice nurses upon admission to the DNP program and for those who take and pass the certification in an advanced practice specialty during their enrollment in the program, copies of appropriate documentation should be included to the portfolio.	Years 1 – 3

Completing the DNP Portfolio for the Written Comprehensive Examination

The student's portfolio, including the annual self-reflection, is due the last day of final examinations, annually. The DNP Checklist is to be completed annually to reflect progression through coursework.

The student's Academic Advisor or, if the Advisory/Comprehensive Examination Committee has been formed, the Chair of that committee will review the portfolio annually and discuss their assessment with the student **by the next RISE or fall semester**. This will be accomplished by:

- Evaluating the presence or absence of each component by reviewing the student's checklist in the electronic portfolio.
- Developing with the student a plan for correcting any deficiencies.
- Evaluating the student's annual self-reflection (written in the electronic portfolio) for evidence of integration and synthesis of coursework and practice immersion activities in meeting each of the DNP Program Outcomes, which are linked to the DNP Essentials and competencies specific to the specialty focus. The Academic Advisor or the Chair of the Advisory/ Comprehensive Examination Committee will develop with the student a plan for correcting any deficiencies
- Discussing with the student the Practice Inquiry development and synthesis of related course work and making recommendations as needed.