



# GRADUATE PROGRAMS HANDBOOK

## WILSON SCHOOL OF NURSING

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**2020**

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## **University Mission Statement**

Midwestern State University is a leading public liberal arts university committed to providing students with rigorous undergraduate and graduate education in the liberal arts and the professions. Through an emphasis upon teaching, augmented by the opportunity for students to engage in research and creative activities alongside faculty and to participate in co-curricular and service programs, Midwestern State prepares its graduates to embark upon their careers or pursue advanced study. The university's undergraduate education is based upon a comprehensive arts and sciences core curriculum. The understanding that students gain of themselves, others, and the social and natural world prepares them to contribute constructively to society through their work and through their private lives.

### **OUR VALUES:**

- Excellence in teaching, learning, scholarship, and artistic production
- Intellectual curiosity and integrity
- Critical thinking
- Emotional and physical well-being
- Mutual respect, civility, and cooperation
- Social justice
- Civic service
- Stewardship of the environment, and of financial and human resources
- A safe, attractive, and well-designed campus

## **Robert D. and Carol Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services Mission Statement**

In keeping with Midwestern State University's mission to provide students with rigorous undergraduate and graduate education in the liberal arts and the professions, the Robert D. and Carol Dunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services education seeks to be a premier provider of health sciences and humans services education on a state, national, and international level by providing learners with the tools for success through:

- Student-centered undergraduate and graduate professional education built upon a strong liberal arts foundation;
- Engagement in traditional and applied research opportunities alongside faculty across disciplines and within their chosen professions;
- Cutting edge educational programs that meet the needs of our global community;

- Recognition and respect for diversity of thought;
- Interdisciplinary collaboration with professionals in the global community;
- Emphasis on scholarly teaching, practice, scientific inquiry, and service;
- Ethical professional practice and an appreciation for continuous life-long learning.

## **John and Nevils Wilson School of Nursing Mission Statement**

The John and Nevils Wilson School of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

It is the mission of the John and Nevils Wilson School of Nursing at Midwestern State University to prepare nurses who will provide competent and compassionate health care to individuals, families, groups, and communities (IFGC). The nursing faculty values teaching / learning in an individualized, collegial environment inclusive of a variety of teaching methodologies. Building on a liberal arts foundation, this approach to both undergraduate and graduate nursing education develops students as leaders through collaborative identification of issues, and the implementation of innovative, creative solutions to the provision of health services.

## **John and Nevils Wilson School of Nursing Goals**

Successful graduate of the Wilson School of Nursing should be able to:

- Compare favorably with national norms for professional practice
- Be employed in professional practice
- Manage multiple, complex clients in a variety of settings
- Demonstrate leadership within the professional discipline

The Wilson School of Nursing at MSU will provide:

- Student-centered education
- Innovative educational programs that meet the needs of our local and global community
- Interdisciplinary collaboration with the practice community
- Scholarly teaching, practice, inquiry, research, and service

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Student Fees/Tuition**

Student fee information is published each semester in the Schedule of Classes located on the Office of the Registrar's web page. It can also be found in the Graduate Catalog located on the Billie Doris McAda Graduate School webpage. Financial aid information can be found at <http://www.mwsu.edu/finaid> or by calling 940-397-4214.

Information concerning a waiver of non-resident tuition can also be found in the graduate catalog or through the Office of the Registrar. There is a significant difference in the tuition for in-state and out-of-state students. If a class is offered completely online, the tuition is the same as in-state tuition.

### **Scholarships**

Students may apply for a scholarship to help defray some expenses. If an award of at least \$1,000 is received, the student will have a tuition waiver which means the student, if living outside of the State of Texas, will pay in-state tuition. The application for scholarship is located on the Wilson School of Nursing webpage.

### **Additional Required Fees**

Students will be expected to pay for additional fees specific to the graduate nursing programs such as Clinical Log fees. This is a web-based program that tracks your clinical experiences and hours. Students will be expected to pay for testing related fees. These amounts and requirements may change from semester to semester or year to year depending on organizations and institutions providing these services. All fees are paid through the business office or directly to the organization being used.

Liability insurance provides coverage for advanced practice nursing student's clinical experiences. Insurance must be purchased prior to the first clinical rotation. Insurance coverage from other institutions or hospitals or private companies will not meet the MSU requirement for liability coverage. Insurance must be purchased through the MSU Business Office.

The student is also responsible for fees associated with criminal background checks and drug screens.

### **Distance Education**

Midwestern State University is obligated to comply with existing state laws regarding distance education. The Wilson School of Nursing graduate nursing programs considers distance education to include 100% online programs, online programs that require some on-the-ground experiences, and certificate programs delivered to students outside the state of Texas. State laws regarding distance education vary state-by-state, and even program-by-program within a state.

Consequently, compliance with each state authorization requirements is an ongoing process.

All of the graduate nursing programs offered at Midwestern State University trigger a physical presence in the state of residence and may require prior authorization or permission from the student's state of residence before admission to the program. For further information contact the Center for Continuing Professional and Distance Education webpage under the Out of State Instructions page.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

The following is the faculty approved ADA/504 statement: Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act in its admission, accessibility, and employment of individuals in programs and activities.

MSU provides academic accommodations and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined by law, who are otherwise qualified to meet academic employment requirements. Students with a disability must register with Disability Support Services (DSS) before classroom accommodations can be provided. For assistance, call the campus Disability Support Services office at 940-397-4140.

It is the student's responsibility to declare any disabilities. After declaration with the DSS, preferably at the beginning of each semester, the student needs to contact his/her individual instructors to determine any reasonable accommodations that may be required.

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy**

All students are expected to pursue their scholastic careers with honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test or other course work, plagiarism (offering the work of another as one's own), and the unauthorized collaboration with another person. Students found guilty of dishonesty in their scholastic pursuits are subject to penalties that may include suspension or expulsion from the University. Students will be given a zero (0) on the assignment and may be subject to failure of the course as well as dismissal from the program.

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

## **Standards of Professional Conduct**

Students are expected to uphold standards of professional conduct in the classroom, online, and in clinical settings. Failure of a course and/or clinical is given to students who fail to uphold standards of professional conduct, fail to maintain patient safety, or students who fail to complete clinical hours.

Behaviors that will result in a failure of the course and stop progression in the program include, but are not limited to:

- Failure of the clinical component of a course or failure to complete all assigned clinical hours;
- Arriving to a clinical setting unprepared or inappropriately dressed;
- Unprofessional/inappropriate language or gestures;
- Unprofessional/inappropriate behavior such as eye rolling, being disrespectful, chewing gum, using tobacco products in a non-smoking areas, disruptive behavior, failure to comply with a written or verbal instruction, or failure to maintain clinical compliance;
- Non-compliance with the policy to obtain written approval before attending clinical;
- **An error in care or negligence that does not result in harm**
- Cheating, collusion, and/or plagiarism.

Behaviors that will result in dismissal from the MSN or post-graduate certificate program include, but are not limited to:

- Falsifications, omissions, and/or lying about a patient care situation, including patient's current health status and/or patient documentation;
- Testing positive for alcohol, illegal drugs, or unprescribed controlled substances;
- Negligence of a patient or an error in patient care that results in harm to the patient;
- HIPAA violations;
- Failure to report a patient care error; or
- Physical or verbal abuse of a patient, patient's family member, faculty, staff, or other students.
- Failure to report any activity on the RN license and/or any stipulations or restrictions placed on the RN license

## **University Policies**

University policies regarding academic misconduct, discrimination, harassment, grievances, sanctions, and appeals etc. can be found in the MSU Student Handbook located on the MSU home page under the Student Life Menu and/or the Graduate Catalog.

## ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAMS

### Application Process

Applicants desiring admission to the graduate nursing programs must complete two (2) applications. One application is to the University through the Graduate office and the other is the Wilson School of Nursing Application, which is program specific. Both applications are available on the Wilson School of Nursing home page as well as the Billie Doris McAda Graduate School home page. Further information regarding these applications or the application process should be directed to the Billie Doris McAda Graduate School. Official transcripts for all colleges or universities attended must be sent directly to the Billie Doris McAda Graduate School.

### Admission Deadlines

The Family Nurse Practitioner and the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner programs admit full-time master's degree-seeking students in the fall semester. Post-graduate certificate students may be considered for admission in the spring or summer sessions based on space availability. Transfer credit is awarded for previous graduate coursework (up to 12 credit hours).

There are a limited number of student positions available. Prospective students are encouraged to submit the required documentation and applications as soon as possible. The deadline for completed applications and submission of official transcripts is posted on the Wilson School of Nursing website. There will be no exceptions.

### Admission Requirements

1. An earned baccalaureate degree in nursing from a Department of Education recognized accrediting body of nursing program;
2. Current unencumbered RN license to practice in Texas or any compact state;
3. A GPA of at least 3.0 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work exclusive of credit hours awarded by a two-year college;
4. Basic undergraduate statistics course (3 semester hours);
5. Interview with Graduate Coordinator, Program Clinical Coordinator and/or Graduate Faculty;
6. Evidence of basic physical assessment content in undergraduate program or completion of approved physical assessment continuing education course. Students may be required to demonstrate competence in physical assessment skills if most recent content exposure and/or clinical experience occurred more than 3 years prior to admission.
7. Completed Compliance Packet.
8. At least one (1) year of nursing experience in the field (program) in which you are applying (i.e. at least one year of Psychiatric nursing experience if applying to the PMHNP program).

### **Clinical Compliance**

Students admitted to the graduate nursing programs will receive information regarding Castlebranch compliance requirements. The information will include setting up a Castlebranch account, required immunizations, drug screens, criminal background checks, CPR verification, and nursing license verification. It is the student's responsibility to make sure the compliance is completed prior to Midterm of the first semester enrolled in the program. Students will be instructed to access the third party company selected by the Wilson School of Nursing.

Students must maintain compliance through the duration of the program, including maintenance of an unencumbered RN license. If non-compliance occurs during or at the start of a clinical course, the student will be withdrawn from the course. The clinical coordinator for the program will send compliance reminders to students via email prior to the compliance deadline. Students who fail to obtain compliance will be withdrawn from the course.

Information about specific immunization requirements is located on the Wilson School of Nursing homepage. Students who live out-of-state and who plan to complete clinical hours in their state of residence may have additional immunization requirements. Students must be compliant with immunization requirements prior to the start of any course with a clinical/lab component.

The expenses of submitting the required documents for verification and compliance are the responsibility of the student. As part of the process, students will authorize the third party screening company to release results to the Wilson School of Nursing.

### **Conditional/Unconditional Admissions**

Students are admitted with an Unconditional or Conditional admission status. The conditions for admission are listed in Graduate Catalog which can be found on the Registrar's homepage and the Billie Doris McAda Graduate School homepage.

Conditional admission will have additional requirements, courses, grades or time lines that students must meet to satisfy the condition of admission. If conditions are not met as outlined, the student will be subject to removal from the program.

### **Admission Decisions**

Admission decisions are made by the Graduate Coordinator in consultation with the Graduate Curriculum and Standards Committee, and based on the student's GPA, prior nursing experience, essay on the nursing department application, and personal interview scores.

## **Transfer Credit**

There is no automatic transfer of credit hours earned at another institution; however, in general, a maximum of 6 semester hours of approved graduate work completed at another university maybe accepted for transfer credit. Only courses with a grade of “B” or better will be considered for transfer credit.

In special circumstances and with approval from the Graduate Coordinator, the Dean of Gunn College of Health Science and Human Services, and the Dean of the Billie Doris McAda Graduate School, transfer credit for up to 12 hours maybe granted. All requests for transfer credit must be sent to the Graduate Coordinator.

Clinical courses will not be considered for transfer credit. Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pharmacology, and Advanced Pathophysiology courses must have been completed with an earned grade of a “B” or better and taken within the last 5 years to be considered for transfer credit.

Post-graduate certificate students who currently hold an advance practice nurse license, have current prescriptive authority in the state in which they practice, and have practiced in their certified specialty within the last 3 years, may transfer Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pharmacology, and Advanced Pathophysiology with the approval of the Graduate Curriculum and Standards Committee.

Correspondence courses and military educational experience (ACE credit) are not accepted for graduate credit.

## **Full-Time Status**

The Wilson School of Nursing MSN program considers 6 credit hours per semester as full-time status. There are no official part-time tracks in the Graduate Nursing programs.

## **Time Limit for Completion of the Graduate Nursing Programs**

The Masters of Science in Nursing must be completed within four (4) calendar years from the date of enrollment in the first course applied to the degree. Family Nurse Practitioner students who do not graduate at the end of the semester in which they complete NURS 5372/74 must remain continuously enrolled in NURS 6911 in which 64 clock hours of advanced clinicals must be completed each semester. Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner students who do not graduate at the end of the semester in which they complete NURS 5402/04 must remain continuously enrolled in NURS 6911 in which 64 clock hours of advanced clinical must be completed each semester.

Courses completed more than 7 years prior to graduation date may be repeated or replaced unless the student evidences competency as determined by the graduate coordinator and approved by the Graduate Dean.

Post-graduate certificate seeking students must complete the certificate requirements within three (3) calendar years from the date of enrollment in the first course applied to the certificate. Students who do not complete the certificate at the end of the semester in which they complete NURS 5372/74 must remain continuously enrolled in NURS 6911 in which 64 clock hours of advanced clinicals must be completed each semester. Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner students who do not complete the certificate requirements at the end of the semester in which they complete NURS 5402/04 must remain continuously enrolled in NURS 6911 in which 64 clock hours of advanced clinical must be completed each semester

## **DEGREE/COMPLETION PLANS**

### **Degree Requirements**

There are two (2) tracks within the graduate nursing program. Each track has a specific content focus relative to the roles of family nurse practitioner and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. At this time there are no dual tracks offered at MSU.

Once admitted to one of the graduate programs, the student will receive a degree plan created by the program coordinator. Students must agree to the degree plan either by signature on the degree plan or by confirmed consent in an e-mail directed to the graduate coordinator.

The degree plan will then be sent to the registrar's office after appropriate administrative signatures have been obtained. Student's **MUST** adhere to the degree plan as developed. Failure to do so may result in a delay in program completion and/or removal from the program.

Requests to change the degree plan must be cleared with the graduate coordinator prior to registering for courses. If student has registered for a course that is not on the current degree plan, the student may be administratively dropped from that course.

### **Post Graduate Programs**

An applicant who has earned an MSN from a Department of Education recognized accrediting body of nursing programs may be accepted into the Family Nurse Practitioner Program or the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program in pursuit of a certificate. The program consists of advanced nursing practice courses mandated by the Texas Board of Nursing.

### **Course Drop Policy**

If it becomes necessary to drop a course for any reason, the student must notify the instructor in the course as well as the graduate coordinator of intent to drop. The student will then be given a revised degree plan if necessary.

Some courses are only offered once a year or in selected semesters. Dropping a course from the original degree plan can delay graduation or program completion dates.

Repeatedly dropping courses is not recommended and the student may be required to submit a letter to the Graduate Curriculum and Standards Committee to remain in the program. If extenuating circumstances exist and the student must drop a course more than once, the student must consult the graduate coordinator.

### **Progression Policy**

Satisfactory progression in MSU graduate nursing program is defined as a 3.0 or better cumulative grade point average and no grade lower than a “B” in the nursing courses.

1. If a grade of “C” or lower is earned in any graduate nursing course, the course must be successfully repeated the next regular academic semester during which the course is offered. Failure to achieve the minimum grade of “B” when repeating a course will result in dismissal from the program. Students may petition the Graduate Curriculum and Standards Committee to accept a repeated course from another university in advance of enrollment for the course; however, the original grade will remain on the transcript and will be calculated into the grade point average. The only way to remove the grade from the GPA calculation is to retake the course at MSU. If a grade of “C” or lower is earned in any course, progression in the program may be delayed. An amended degree plan will be sent to the student reflecting the change in the course of study. Students cannot progress to the next course or into clinical courses until prerequisites are met. Additionally, if the delay would cause the student to abstain from clinical major courses for a prolonged period, progression would be delayed.
2. A student who fails to successfully complete a nurse practitioner clinical major course either by dropping the course during the semester or by earning less than a “B” will be required to register for and satisfactorily complete (minimum grade of “B”) a one semester credit hour special topics course for each semester until retaking the dropped or failed course. Clinical major courses for FNP students include NURS 5166, NURS 5182/84, and NURS 5372/74. Clinical major courses for PMHNP students include, NURS 5463/5473, NURS 5483/5493, and NURS 5533/5523. The purpose of the special topics course is to maintain clinical competence. The course will consist of 64 clinical hours under the direction of an FNP or PMHNP faculty member. Clinical hours that were earned during the dropped or failed course will be forfeited. Clinical hours earned

during the special topics course will be in addition to the minimum required clinical hours for the FNP and PMHNP Programs.

3. A student who earns lower than a “B” in any two graduate nursing courses either the same course twice or two different courses will be dismissed from the program. Readmission will be considered by the Graduate Curriculum and Standards Committee on an individual basis.

Additional information on the progression policy can be found in the Graduate Catalog.

### **Late Assignment Policy**

Students are expected to submit assignments by the time they are due. Assignments submitted after the due date and time will receive a deduction of 10 of the total points possible for that assignment for each day the assignment is late. Assignments will be accepted, with penalty as described, up to a maximum of three days late, after which point a zero will be recorded for the assignment.

### **Proctored Exams**

Some courses will require proctored exams. Proctor exam forms or instructions will be included in the syllabus or within the course content. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule test times with an appropriate exam site and to pay the fees required of the testing center.

Test times are scheduled by the faculty or instructor and once posted in the syllabus will not be changed except during extreme circumstances such as power outages in areas of severe weather. Students may request a different test date and time for extreme personal circumstances such as hospitalization. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the course faculty if experiencing personal circumstances that prevent taking the test at the scheduled time. Conflicting work schedules will not be considered as extreme circumstances.

### **Attendance**

Each course syllabus addresses the procedures and consequences for absence from required classroom experiences and/or examinations. The student is expected to review these statements and comply with procedures established by the course faculty. Faculty are not required to reschedule classroom time or provide make-up tests.

Some graduate courses require on-campus classroom or presentation times. Please check the syllabus for required class or presentation dates. Total on-line programs may require students to come to campus up to twice during each clinical semester. All travel expenses are the responsibility of the student.

**Immersion on campus are mandatory.** Any student who cannot attend the required immersion on campus will not earn a “B” or higher in the course. Faculty will not reschedule immersions or provide make-up times to this requirement.

## CLINIC EXPERIENCE INFORMATION

Clinical experiences are the responsibility of the student. A student may not start a clinical rotation or complete any hours until approved by the clinical faculty coordinator. Hours completed without approval will not be calculated into the required clinical hours for program.

Clinical hours can be completed in the state in which the student is licensed to practice nursing. Nurse Practitioner (FNP and PMHNP) students are required to obtain a Texas license in addition to their current state license, unless their state of residence is a compact state. FNP and PMHNP students may be required to complete some clinical hours in Texas. Graduate students may be required to complete a portion of their clinical hours with the graduate faculty. Students may also be assigned a specific preceptor or clinical site at the recommendation of the faculty coordinator.

Required clinical hours are posted in the syllabus of the clinical course and on the website. The faculty advisor or program coordinator may require a student to take additional hours beyond those required in the course in special circumstances. The need for additional hours will be discussed with the student and the graduate coordinator.

### **Affiliation Agreements**

The Affiliation Agreement is a mandatory agreement between MSU and any institution, hospital, or clinic where a student is present. Students may not complete clinical hours at any institution that does not have an affiliation agreement signed by that institution’s administration and MSU. Affiliation Agreements may take up to 3 or 4 months for signatures and it is advised students start the process early. The first step is to check with the Wilson School of Nursing to inquire about the pre-existence of an agreement. The agreement is updated as needed and only requires one agreement per institution. If an agreement exists and is current there is nothing more to do. If an affiliation agreement does not exist, the student can retrieve a form from the Wilson School of Nursing Website under Current Student Information. The completed form should be turned into the Wilson School of Nursing secretary. The student will be notified via email once received. This will start the process. The student will then wait until notification by MSU that the agreement has been signed. **It is the student’s responsibility to ensure an affiliation agreement is in place prior to the start of any clinicals.** Hours completed prior to a valid agreement will not be calculated into the required clinical hours for the program.

### **Preceptor Agreements**

All preceptors and clinical sites must be approved through the clinical faculty coordinator. All preceptors must complete and sign the preceptor agreement each semester for each student

**It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have an approved clinical site with an approved preceptor and a signed preceptor agreement.** Students will send the signed agreement to the Wilson School of Nursing. A preceptor agreement must be signed each semester even if the student completes all of their clinical hours for the program with a single preceptor.

### **Clinical Experiences Where Employed**

On occasion, graduate students may have clinical experiences in their places of employment. The MSN programs assume no responsibility for the performance and actions of nursing students while in the clinical setting other than those times specified as a clinical learning experience. It is advised that if possible, the student seek out clinical sites away from the institution of current employment. If that is not possible the following criteria must be met:

1. The clinical hours must be in areas other than the usual work setting.
2. The clinical site must meet the objectives for the clinical component of the master's level course.
3. The clinical site must be approved by the clinical faculty coordinator.
4. The student must not be remunerated (paid) by the institution.
5. No double dipping (on the clock and clocking clinical hours).

### **Required Dress/Uniforms**

Course syllabi provide information about uniform requirements for clinical experiences. If no uniform is specified, the student should dress in a professional manner appropriate to the clinical setting and wear a name tag designating him/her as an MSU graduate nursing student.

Texas law requires a photo ID for students in hospital clinical environments. It is the student's responsibility to know the ID and orientation requirements of each institution *PRIOR* to any clinical rotation.

Standardized name tags are available to BJD Engraving, 2515 Kemp Street, Wichita Falls, TX (940-322-1014). It is the student's responsibility to order the name tag and provide payment. Name tags can be ordered over the phone and mailed to the student. Information on the name tag will include:

First name Last name, credentials (BSN, RN) or (MSN, RN)

Student Status: FNP Student, PMHNP Student

### **Clinical Requirements and Policies**

The curricula for the Bachelor of Science & Master of Science in nursing degrees at the Wilson School of Nursing (WSN) requires courses with a clinical/lab component that occurs within hospitals, clinics, private practices, and other healthcare organizations (Collectively “Clinical Agencies”). Students must complete specified requirements to enter these courses with a clinical/lab component. These requirements are provided to the students the semester prior to entry into the courses with a clinical/lab component by the Program Coordinators.

Deadlines: Failure to meet deadlines established by the Program Coordinator may result in a withdrawal and/or dismissal from the program.

Failure to comply with clinical agency policies and/or WSON policies may result in denial of clinical experience. Clinical agencies may require the students’ signature, verifying their understanding of specific policies.

1. WSON faculty and students are the guests of our clinical agencies. As such, the utmost care is required to adhere to professional dress, conduct and agency policies.

2. Students are expected to comply with clinical agency policies related to identification badges, confidentiality, HIPAA privacy regulations, criminal background check, drug free work environment, health records, immunizations, parking, meals, and mandatory procedural reviews, etc. Failure to comply with clinical agency policies may result in denial of clinical experience/dismissal and/or failure.

3. If the clinical agency and/or WSON faculty person believes the student is not safe, the faculty and/or clinical agencies have the right to remove students from duty when in the judgment of the faculty and/or agency believe they cannot carry out their duties due to physical or mental impairment. If such impairment is suspected to be due to drug and/or alcohol use, the faculty and/or agency may require drug testing and/or alcohol and/or counseling. If the student refuses, the WSON faculty and/or agency may request the student be removed.

4. The WSON may be required to provide agencies with the names and specific records of students. Clinical agencies have the right to bar SON students and/or faculty from the agency. Such an occurrence is to be reported immediately to the Course Coordinator or Program Coordinator, who will then investigate the issues leading to such action.

5. A criminal background check, drug screen/substance abuse screen and immunization verification are required for all nursing students. This process will be done through a third party company selected by the WSON. The expense of all requirements through this third party company is the responsibility of the student.

6. Students are expected to wear the designated WSON uniform, Photo ID badge, to all

clinical rotations, unless otherwise specified by the course coordinator.

7. Students are expected to maintain an unencumbered RN license throughout the program, without stipulations and/or restrictions placed on their license. Failure to report any activity on the RN license and/or any stipulations or restrictions placed on the RN license will result in dismissal from the program.

## CRIMINAL BACKGROUND, DRUG SCREEN/SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCREEN and IMMUNIZATIONS

A criminal background, drug screen/substance abuse screen and immunizations are required for all nursing students. WSON administration will discuss criminal background information, drug screen/substance abuse screen results, and/or immunizations of students on a need-to-know basis. This may include Midwestern State University officials and personnel at Clinical Agencies who are responsible for placement of students. Criminal background results, drug screen/substance abuse screen results and immunization record will be maintained in a file separate from the student's academic file.

Criminal background results and drug screen/substance abuse screen results of licensed nurses are subject to the Texas State Board of Nursing, Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code and Statutes Regulating the Practice of Nursing Sec. 301.410 Report Regarding Impairment by Chemical Dependency, Mental Illness, or Diminished Mental Capacity.

(a) A person who is required to report a nurse under this subchapter because the nurse is impaired or suspected of being impaired by chemical dependency or mental illness may report to a peer assistance program approved by the Board under Chapter 467, Health and Safety Code, instead of reporting to the Board or requesting review by a nursing peer review committee.

(b) A person who is required to report a nurse under this subchapter because the nurse is impaired or suspected of being impaired by chemical dependency or diminished mental capacity must report to the board if the person believes that an impaired nurse committed a practice violation.

The Nursing Practice Act requires that a person report to the Board a nurse suspected of being impaired by chemical dependency or diminished mental capacity if the person believes that an impaired nurse committed a practice violation. A nurse need not be "diagnosed" with an addictive/abusable or dependence problem to be reported to the board for impaired behavior and/or practice.

Impairment or suspected impairment of a nurse's practice by drugs or alcohol or mental illness will be reported under Chapter 467, Health and Safety Code, and the Board for investigation (Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §301.401; 301.402; 301.410; & 301.452).

SB 1058 (2013-2014 83rd Legislature) has made criminal background checks mandatory for students accepted for enrollment in a nursing education program and permits the Board of Nursing (BON or Board) to initiate declaratory orders for eligibility proceedings based on positive criminal background checks; made permanent the Board's authority to impose deferred disciplinary action; clarified that action may be taken against a nurse's license based on action taken by a division of the

United States Military; authorized the BON, in conjunction with a disciplinary action, to require a nurse to abstain from use of alcohol and drugs and submit to random drug testing; provided for limited non-disclosure of disciplinary proceedings that result in a Board order requiring the nurse to participate in a Board-approved peer assistance program to address a problem that the nurse is experiencing with mental illness or chemical dependency; as well as making other changes relating to disciplinary action taken by the Board.

### **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK:**

Policy: The WSON shall assure compliance with conditions for criminal background investigations. Clinical agencies require a criminal background check before students are permitted to engage in courses with a clinical/lab component. Therefore, the Wilson School of Nursing and Clinical Agencies require a criminal background check for all students.

Criminal background checks will be performed by a third-party company selected by the Wilson School of Nursing. This is to be completed during the semester immediately prior to the beginning of courses with a clinical/lab component. Students may be required to complete additional background investigations during their course of study, dependent upon specific agency policies. Such requirements are beyond the control of the WSON. The expenses of all background investigations are the responsibility of the student. Students will be given instructions regarding processes by the appropriate Program Coordinator and are expected to follow instructions for the online background search. As a part of the process, students will authorize the background screening company to release results to the Wilson School of Nursing through the office of the appropriate Program Coordinator.

Failure to meet deadlines established by the Wilson School of Nursing may negatively affect clinical placements. Failure to complete the background check will preclude entry into clinical courses and can result in dismissal from the program. The Program Coordinator will administratively remove noncompliant students from all clinical courses.

Should the criminal background check reveal convictions, further investigation will be undertaken by the WSON through the office Chair. **VIOLATIONS INVOLVING NARCOTICS OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, CRIMES OF VIOLENCE (HOMICIDE, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, CHILD OR ELDER ABUSE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE), OR LISTING ON THE NATIONAL TERRORIST WATCH LIST, OR THE SEX AND VIOLENT OFFENDER REGISTRY MAY PRECLUDE ADMISSION TO CLINICAL COURSES, WHICH WOULD NEGATE COMPLETION OF THE NURSING DEGREE.** Violations of any nature may preclude the Wilson School of Nursing from placing students in clinical agencies, dependent upon the policies in place at such agencies. The Wilson School of Nursing will make every effort to place a student affected by such agency policies. **HOWEVER, STUDENTS WHOSE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND FINDINGS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE CLINICAL AGENCIES WITH WHICH THE SCHOOL OF NURSING HAS EXISTING CLINICAL AGREEMENTS MAY EXPERIENCE DISRUPTIONS TO THEIR PLAN OF STUDY OR, IN EXTREME CASES, MAY BE UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE COURSE OF STUDY IN NURSING.**

Should the criminal background check reveal convictions, further investigation will be undertaken

by the WSON through the office Chair. Any student whose FBI criminal background check includes a felony shall be subject to review and possible dismissal from the program. Student whose background checks include infractions that are potentially incongruent with licensure to practice nursing in the State of Texas shall be required to submit a Declaratory Order to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas and shall write a letter to the WSON Chair attesting that this has been accomplished. Any student with a criminal background finding other than a misdemeanor will be referred to the Chair and Dean of the College for investigation. The student will be notified by the Program Coordinator to contact the Chair directly. The student in question will not be permitted to attend clinical experiences, while the matter is under investigation the Chair will confer with the Dean of the College as needed, and will notify faculty and student of final decision. If a student is not able to complete clinical experiences, the student will be administratively dismissed from the program.

#### **DRUG SCREEN/SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCREENING:**

Policy: The Wilson School of Nursing at Midwestern State University shall assure compliance with conditions for drug screen/substance abuse screen as specified in agency contracts with the Clinical Affiliates where students engage in courses with a clinical/lab component. Therefore, the Wilson School of Nursing and Clinical Agencies require a drug and alcohol screening for all students.

This is to be completed during the semester immediately prior to the beginning of courses with a clinical/lab component. Students who are under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol are deemed to be impaired and, therefore, incompetent to provide care to patients.

Impairment or suspected impairment of a nurse's practice by drugs or alcohol or mental illness will be reported under Chapter 467, Health and Safety Code, and the Board for investigation (Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §301.401; 301.402; 301.410; & 301.452).

Students may be required to complete additional drug screen/substance abuse screening during their course of study, dependent upon specific agency policies. Such requirements are beyond the control of the WSON.

Drug screen/substance abuse screening of a 10-panel urine drug screen will be performed by a third-party company selected by the WSON. The expenses of all drug screen/substance abuse screening are the responsibility of the student. Students will be given instructions regarding processes by the appropriate Program Coordinator and are expected to follow instructions for the online drug screen/substance abuse screening process. As a part of the process, students will authorize the third party screening company to release results to the Wilson School of Nursing through the office of the appropriate Program Coordinator.

Failure to meet deadlines established by the Wilson School of Nursing may negatively affect clinical placements. Failure to complete the background check will preclude entry into clinical courses and can result in dismissal from the program. The Program Coordinator will administratively remove noncompliant students from all clinical courses.

This is to be completed during the semester immediately prior to the beginning of courses with a

clinical/lab component. Students who evidence behaviors consistent with substance abuse shall be subject to for-cause drug screening. Any student with a positive drug screen will be dismissed from the nursing program if the positive finding cannot be related to a prescription held legally by the student.

### **HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:**

Policy: The Wilson School of Nursing at Midwestern State University shall assure compliance with immunization and infection control as specified in agency contracts with the Clinical Affiliates where students engage in courses with a clinical/lab component. Therefore, the Wilson School of Nursing and Clinical Agencies require immunizations verified for all students.

- a) Health requirements are required to meet the contractual stipulations of the clinical agencies in which clinical experiences take place.
- b) Students will be instructed to access the third party company selected by the SON to fulfill these requirements.

Note: Students will be dismissed from the program if health requirements are not completed and they are not "cleared" by the third party company selected by the SON. Students will be responsible to submit all required documentation prior to the specified deadline.

Students must complete prior to enrolling in courses with a clinical/lab component:

- Health/physical examination
- All required immunizations

The expenses of submitting the required documents for verification and compliance are the responsibility of the student. Students will be given instructions regarding processes by the appropriate Program Coordinator and are expected to follow instructions for the online immunizations and clinical requirements documents process. As a part of the process, students will authorize the third party screening company to release results to the Wilson School of Nursing through the office of the appropriate Program Coordinator.

This policy is in accordance with Texas Administrative Code §97.61 - 97.77, which requires all nursing students to complete a health/physical exam completed in the calendar year of admission to WSON and have all immunizations up to date prior to contact with direct patient care and/or exposure to blood or bodily fluids. Students in all nursing programs have patient contact early in the program and must have completed all immunizations prior to enrolling in nursing courses since students will not be allowed to attend clinical rotations without having been immunized.

Note, your immunization record **MUST** be completed by your physician or health care provider and verified by the third party company selected by the SON 30 days prior to the start of the first day of courses with a clinical/lab component that have contact with direct patient care and/or exposure to blood or bodily fluids.

You will **NOT** be allowed to enroll in courses until your immunization record has been received and

all immunizations verified by the third party company selected by the SON.

Students must have the all the following vaccinations before they may engage in courses with clinical activities that require direct patient care with the potential exposure to blood or bodily fluids in educational, medical or dental facilities.

It is the students' responsibility to make sure they are in compliance at all times with these immunizations throughout the nursing program.

- Students seeking admission must be compliant with immunizations.
- Noncompliance with any of the immunizations, the student will be administratively dropped from classes, which in turn may result in a withdrawal and/or dismissal from the program.

Deadlines: Failure to meet deadlines established may result in a withdrawal and/or dismissal from the program.

Required Vaccines for all students enrolled in nursing courses:

#### TETANUS/DIPHTHERIA (Td):

Students can be considered compliant for Tetanus/Diphtheria only if they have documentation of the following:

1. Tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (TD) or Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis) documented in the last 10 years, and at least one dose of Tdap after age 20. The booster may be in the form of a Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis) vaccine.

#### MEASLES (RUBEOLA):

Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of a measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968 (preferably \*MMR vaccine) or documentation of at least one of the following:

1. Born in 1957 or later must show official documentation of immunization with TWO (2) DOSES of measles containing live attenuated vaccine (preferably the \*MMR)
2. Laboratory (serologic) evidence of Measles immunity.

#### MUMPS:

Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of a mumps vaccine or documentation of at least one the following:

1. Born in 1957 or later must show official documentation of immunization with live Mumps virus vaccine with at least 1 dose of mumps containing live attenuated vaccine.
2. Laboratory (serologic) evidence of Mumps immunity.

#### RUBELLA (GERMAN MEASLES):

Students must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of one dose of rubella vaccine documentation of at least one of the following:

1. Born in 1957 or later must show official documentation of immunization with live Rubella virus vaccine with at least 1 dose of rubella containing live attenuated vaccine.
2. Laboratory (serologic) evidence of Rubella immunity.

#### VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX):

Students are required to have received one dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine on or after the student's first birthday or, if the first dose was administered on or after the student's thirteenth birthday, two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine are required. Students can be considered compliant for Varicella only if they have documentation of at least one of the following:

1. Official documentation of one (1) dose of varicella vaccine after 1st birthday and before 13th birthday.
2. Official documentation of two (2) doses of varicella vaccine if initiated on or after 13th birthday.
3. Laboratory (serologic) evidence of Varicella immunity.
4. A written, dated statement documenting the month/day/year of varicella (chickenpox) illness validated by a physician, the student's parent, or school nurse. Use form located at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/docs/c-9.pdf>

#### HEPATITIS B:

Students are required to receive a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine prior to the start of direct patient care or show serologic confirmation of immunity to Hepatitis B virus. Students can be considered compliant for Hepatitis B only if they have documentation of at least one of the following:

1. Official documentation of immunization with THREE (3) DOSES of Hepatitis B vaccine in accordance with the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, prior to the start of direct patient care.
2. Laboratory (serologic) evidence of Hepatitis B immunity.
3. If a non-responder, two (2) complete Hepatitis B series.

Official Documentation of Serologic evidence of immunity to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (\*MMR) Vaccine, Varicella, & Hepatitis B is acceptable. Student must present a valid laboratory report indicating confirmation of either immunity or infection. If titers are negative, a booster along with a valid laboratory report indicating immunity is required. All boosters must be completed and official documentation provided prior enrolling in courses with a clinical/lab component.

Required for Infection Control for all students enrolled in nursing courses:

#### TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST (TST):

Students can be considered compliant for tuberculin testing only if they have documentation of at least one of the following (required annually):

1. Official documentation of negative Mantoux (Step 1) skin test.
2. Persons with a positive TST result must provide official documentation of a negative chest x-ray report and a complete health care evaluation verifying a negative status for tuberculosis. Chest x-ray will be good for 3 years. If submitting a clear chest x-ray for past positive results, you must also include a physician's statement showing that you are clear of TB Symptoms.
3. Active/Latent tuberculosis infection: Documentation of treatment plan, monthly documentation of compliance and documentation of completed treatment. Failure to provide the proper document will result in immediate loss of compliance and will be administratively removed from clinical courses.
4. Refusal of Treatment – unable to register for classes until compliant. This may result in a

withdrawal and/or dismissal from the program.

Yearly Renewal the following is required:

5. Negative 1 step TB Skin test OR if past positive results, submit a physician's statement showing that you are symptom free.
6. Current chest x-ray will be good for 3 years. If submitting a clear chest x-ray for past positive results, you must also include a physician's statement showing that you are clear of TB Symptoms.

#### INFLUENZA:

1. One dose of influenza vaccine annually is required for all students – must receive vaccine in the fall between Sept 1 and Nov 1.

All documents demonstrating proof of vaccine for immunization and Infection Control must be submitted to the third party company selected by the WSON for verification and compliance.

Failure to meet these requirements may result in the student having to withdrawal and/or dismissed from the nursing program.

All documents demonstrating proof of vaccine for immunization and Infection Control must be submitted to the third party company selected by the WSON for verification and compliance.

According to the Texas Administrative Code §97.68 proper documentation of compliance includes:

- a. Vaccines administered after September 1, 1991, shall include the month, day, and year each vaccine was administered.
- b. Documentation of vaccines administered that include the signature or stamp of the physician or his/her designee, or public health personnel, is acceptable.
- c. An official immunization record generated from a state or local health authority is acceptable.
- d. An official record received from school officials, including a record from another state, is acceptable.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS for IMMUNIZATIONS:

If you have not received required immunizations and/or TB testing and/or do not have the necessary documentation to prove that you've had the required immunizations and TB testing, you will NOT be allowed to register for nursing classes.

TB test and/or Chest x-ray must be administered, interpreted, and reported in millimeters (mm) in the United States. Again, you must comply with these requirements before you can register for classes. Please review the recommended adult immunization

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2011.pdf> and recommended adult immunization schedule at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adult-schedule.pdf>

To comply with the Texas Administrative Code §97.61–97.77 all students, enrolled in health-related courses and will participate in coursework or clinical activities involving the contact with direct patient care and/or exposure to blood or bodily fluids must meet compliance with state-mandated immunizations. Students must complete state-mandated and WSON program requirements to engage in courses with a clinical/lab component.

## FOR STUDENT ENROLLED IN NURSING

According to Texas Administrative Code 25 rule §97.64, students who claim to have had the complete series of a required vaccination, but have not properly documented them, cannot participate in coursework or clinical activities involving the contact with direct patient care and/or exposure to blood or bodily fluids in educational, medical, or dental care facilities.

- Students may not participate in coursework activity “...which will involve direct patient contact with potential exposure to blood or bodily fluids in educational, medical, or dental care facilities” until completing all required series.
- Exclusions from compliance with the requirements are found in the Texas Administrative Code Rule §97.62. This includes medical reasons, and/or claims exclusion for reasons of conscience, including religious belief. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/default.shtm> for more information about immunizations. NOTE: Students who claim an exclusion for reasons of conscience may be excluded from school and/or clinical experiences in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of public health and/or if a clinical site and/or institution does not accept a signed affidavit. A signed affidavit for “exclusion for reason of conscience” is valid for only two (2) years. In some instances further documentation may be required.

## MALPRACTICE/LIABILITY INSURANCE

Malpractice/liability insurance is required of all clinical nursing students whose coursework or clinical activities involving the contact with direct patient care and/or exposure to blood or bodily fluids. Proof of malpractice/liability insurance is required with acceptable limits for specialty. This should be purchased through the MSU Business Office webpage. The proof of purchase must then be uploaded to Castlebranch to meet the compliance requirement.

All documents demonstrating malpractice/liability insurance must be submitted to the third party company selected by the WSON for verification and compliance.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

Health care coverage is required for all nursing students.

All documents demonstrating current health insurance must be submitted to the third party company selected by the WSON for verification and compliance.

## CPR REQUIREMENT

A current 2-year certification from the American Heart Association Healthcare Provider or the American Red Cross Association Healthcare Provider (BLS). The course should include 1 man CPR, 2 man CPR, child and infant CPR, management of obstructed airway for both conscious and unconscious victims, and automatic external defibrillation. Students must have a valid CPR card during the entire nursing program.

All documents demonstrating CPR certification must be submitted to the third party company selected by the WSON for verification and compliance.

## HIPAA GUIDELINES

Confidentiality is both an ethical and legal responsibility of all professional nurses. Students are to maintain the confidentiality of all clients. Information concerning any client's identity, diagnosis, treatment, family problem or life style is considered confidential and shall not be discussed or otherwise passed on to any individuals outside of the agency.

## Clinical Requirements for Students Scheduled for Graduate and Undergraduate Clinical Courses

Provided you have met all academic and clinical requirements, you will begin your clinical courses with experiences in a variety of health care settings. The administrators in these agencies have established requirements for students. These requirements must be met for you to participate in required courses with a clinical/lab component.

Requirements will be through a third party company selected by the WSON for verification and compliance. The online company is CertifiedBackground.com

The requirements to be met are as follows:

Student must complete the following in Certified Background.com

- Criminal background check (only for RN to BSN and all Master's Students)
- Drug Screen/Substance abuse screen – 10 panel urine drug screen (all nursing students in the undergraduate and graduate programs)
- Immunizations verification (all nursing students in the undergraduate and graduate programs)

Requirements to be submitted to CertifiedBackground.com: (DEADLINE: 30 days prior to the start of the first day enrolled in courses with a clinical/lab component).

- FBI Criminal Background Check (For Pre-licensure students the blue card issued by the Texas Board of Nursing must be submitted for verification)
- Documentation of each vaccine that demonstrates immunity (See "Immunization & Infection Control Policy").
- Documentation of tuberculosis screening.
- Documentation of annual influenza vaccine.
- Documentation of a health/physical examination within the last calendar year.
- Documentation of proof of Health Insurance Coverage (copies of current coverage)
- Documentation of proof of Malpractice/Liability insurance within acceptable limits for specialty (Must be submitted annually).
- RN license (RN to BSN & Master's Students)
- CPR Certification inclusive of infant, child, adult, 2 person, and AED
- Signed – Student Handbook & Clinical Requirements Policy
- Signed – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Acknowledgement (Must be signed annually)
- Signed – Texas Board of Nursing Eligibility Requirements
- Signed – The Essential Functions for Nursing Practice

- Signed – Photo/Video Release
- Signed – Informed Consent

Please be sure to submit your documentation in advance of the designated deadline of 30 days prior to the start of the first day of courses with a clinical/lab component that have contact with direct patient care and/or exposure to blood or bodily fluids.

## CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

The Wilson School of Nursing adopted the AACN Essentials for Masters Education as the organizing framework for the core curricula of the Master’s Programs. The Nurse Practitioner Programs adopted the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Core Competencies and the Population Focus Specific FNP and PMHNP Competencies. The Nurse Educator Program adopted the National League for Nursing (NLN) Core Competencies for Nurse Educators. Specific *essentials and competencies* are aligned with individual course objectives and can be found on course syllabi.

## CURRICULA FOR THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

All degree-seeking students in the Graduate Programs are required to take a core of nursing courses as listed below. Various options, Family Nursing Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse Educator options are listed on the following pages.

### Family Nurse Practitioner Program MSN Sequence

Year 1			Year 2	
	Course	SCH	Course	SCH
Fall	NURS 5023 - Research in Nursing	3	NURS 5166 - Advanced Practice across the Lifespan	6
	NURS 5043 - Pathophysiology	3	NURS 6853 - EBP 2	3
	NURS 5103 - Theory	3		
Spring	NURS 6843: EBP 1	3	NURS 5182 - Advanced Practicum I	2
	NURS 5133 - Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Nursing Practice	3	NURS 5184 - Advanced Practicum I Clinical	4
	NURS 5123 - Population Health in Graduate Nursing	3	NURS 5283 - Role of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner	3
Summer	NURS 5113 - Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice & Clinical	3	NURS 5372 - Advanced Practicum II	2
	NURS 5111 - HA Clinical	1	NURS 5374 - Advanced Practicum II Clin	4
	Year 1		Year 2	
	NURS 5102 - Diagnostics Studies/Ambulatory Procedures	2		

	Sub-total	24		Sub-total	24
				TOTAL SCH for Degree	48

### Family Nurse Practitioner Post-Graduate Certificate Sequence

Year 1			Year 2		
	Course	SCH		Course	SCH
Fall				NURS 5166 - Advanced Practice across the Lifespan	6
Spring	NURS 5043 – Pathophysiology	3		NURS 5182 - Advanced Practicum I	2
	NURS 5133 - Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Nursing Practice	3		NURS 5184 - Advanced Practicum I Clinical	4
	NURS 5283 - Role of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner	3			
Summer	NURS 5113/11 - Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice & Clinical	4		NURS 5372 - Advanced Practicum II	2
	NURS 5102- Diagnostics Studies/Ambulatory Procedures	2		NURS 5374 - Advanced Practicum II Clinical	4
	Sub-total	15		Sub-total	18
				TOTAL SCH for Certificate	33

### Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner MSN Course Sequence

Year 1			Year 2		
	Course	SCH		Course	SCH
Fall	NURS 5023 - Research in Nursing	3		NURS 5463 – PMH Advanced Practicum I	3
				NURS 5473- PMH Advanced Practicum I Clinical	3
	NURS 5043 - Pathophysiology	3		NURS 6853: EBP 2	3
	NURS 5103 - Theory	3			
Spring	NURS 6843 EBP I	3		NURS 5483 – PMH Advanced Practicum II	3
	NURS 5133 - Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Nursing Practice	3		NURS 5493 – PMH Advanced Practicum II Clinical	3
	NURS 5123 - Population Health in Graduate Nursing3	3		NURS 5283- Role of the APN	3
	Year 1			Year 2	
Summer	NURS 5112 - Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice & Clinical	3		NURS 5523 – PMH Advanced Practicum III	3
	NURS 5111 - HA Clinical	1		NURS 5533 – PMH Advanced Practicum III Clinical	3

	NURS 5102 - Diagnostics Studies/Ambulatory Procedures	2			
		Sub-total	24		Sub-total 24
					TOTAL SCH for Degree 48

### Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Post-Graduate Certificate Sequence

Year 1			Year 2		
	Course	SCH		Course	SCH
Fall				NURS 5463 – PMH Advanced Practicum I	3
				NURS 5473 – PMH Advanced Practicum I Clinical	3
Spring	NURS 5043 – Pathophysiology	3		NURS 5483 – PMH Advanced Practicum II	3
	NURS 5133 - Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Nursing Practice	3		NURS 5493 – PMH Advanced Practicum II Clinical	3
	NURS 5283- Role of the APN	3			
Summer	NURS 5112/11 - Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice & Clinical	4		NURS 5523 – PMH Advanced Practicum III	3
				NURS 5533 – PMH Advanced Practicum III Clinical	3
	NURS 5321 - Diagnostics for Mental Disorders	2			
	Sub-total	15		Sub-total	18
				TOTAL SCH for Certificate	33

### EVIDENCE-BASED PROJECT

Evidence-Based Project (EBP) is for students pursuing a Master’s Degree in Nursing. The implementation project is for the development and planning of an intervention to address practice/clinical issue. The series spans over two (2) semesters: Evidence-Based Project I and II. Once started, the student must complete the series in sequential semesters as outlined in the degree plan. Failure to complete the series or withdrawal from a course will result in the student being required to start over with EBP I.

The EBP project will enable the student to meet the following Master’s of Science in Nursing program objectives:

- Synthesize knowledge from a variety of theoretical perspectives in the provision of comprehensive client-focused nursing services;
- Analyze clinical and non-clinical problems and constructively critique them related to professional literature as a foundation for matriculation to post-graduate and/or

- doctoral programs;
- Integrate current research methods and findings into education, administration, and advanced practice nursing;
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of health care issues as a foundation for collaboration in the advancement of health care policy and the discipline of nursing;
- Integrate ethical-legal principles in the analysis and practical resolution of health care dilemmas; and
- Engage in scholarly activities including oral and written communication.

The final product will consist of a formal comprehensive paper detailing the project plan and a formal presentation to the nursing faculty.

### **Project Approval**

During EBP II, the student will complete an oral presentation to the faculty and students enrolled in the course. The purpose of the presentation is to provide an overview of the proposed project and gain approval from the course faculty.

Presentation of the proposed project:

- a. The student will make a formal presentation of the project following the guidelines provided in the EBP II course syllabus.
- b. The course faculty and students will engage in scholarly discussion with the graduate student until all questions, comments, or ideas about the project have been satisfactorily addressed.

The presentation of the project will constitute the Oral Comprehensive Presentation. The final presentation is open to all faculty, students, and guests. Nursing faculty members will engage in scholarly discussion with the graduate student until members' questions about the project are satisfactorily addressed.

Each course faculty member present will complete a critique of the presentation. Students must score a minimum of 80 (average) on the oral comprehensive presentation to be successful.

When the comprehensive presentation (oral presentation and final paper) is deemed successful, the course faculty will submit a report to the Dean of the Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services.

Outcomes of the final presentation may be:

- a. Approval (with or without editorial changes): all course faculty sign approval
- b. Conditional Approval (with substantive changes): course faculty may request to read the final revised paper.
- c. Approval Denied (work is not yet ready to be approved): a second presentation is required. Students may be required to repeat EBP II